

XPlay

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XPlay

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Welcome

Part



XPlay is a unique audio player designed specifically for use with .DAF audio files created for XStudio and Wide Orbit's (originally Computer Concepts) DCS™ and Maestro™ audio systems. Standard features include real-time playback of MPEG-II and linear .DAF files, with apt-X™ file playback available as an option. XPlay runs on a standard Windows PC equipped with a standard sound card, making playback of DCS & Maestro-created audio available on any desktop that has access to the audio files. Typically, access is gained through the ACP server audio volume, but could also be made directly to a shared volume on a host Maestro unit. A simple user interface allows rapid selection of an audio cut for play, and multi cut carts are organized and displayed with true start and stop dates for each cut.

XPlay is an ideal solution for auditioning commercials for advertisers, checking content in the production department, and auditioning music in the programming department.

XPlay can be used with no dependencies on the host XStudio, DCS or Maestro system, other than access to audio files created by the system. This means that audio files could be placed on a laptop and subsequently played back on-site at an advertiser location, as an example.

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Features

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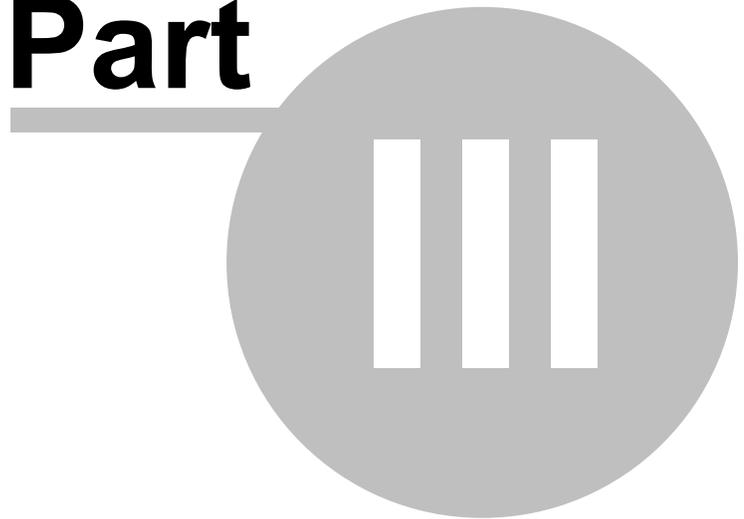


XPlay is a unique audio player designed specifically for playing .DAF audio files. Here are a few of the key features:

- Play PCM, MPEG, and/or apt-X™ XStudio, DCS or Maestro files from a standard desktop PC.
- Play just the intro, the end or skip around in the audio on-demand.
- Full cart information is displayed, including multi-cut cart details.
- Can build its own inventory list or use an existing XStudio, DCS or Maestro inventory data file (CMINVxx.DAT) for fast start-up with large amounts of audio.
- Simple, intuitive user interface.
- Ideal for auditioning audio to customers.
- No dependencies – users do not need to interact with the host system (either DCS or Maestro). All that's needed is access to the audio files created by the host system.

What's New in XPlay

Part



This section documents changes and enhancements to XPlay by version number.

NOTE:

XPlay is a legacy application that uses the original Windows Help file (.hlp). Windows 10 does not support this help format and if you select Help from the application, it will not launch. As a workaround, a Windows HTML Help file (XPlay.chm) is included in the installation and a Windows menu item is created for it. Additionally, the manual is installed as a PDF document.

Version 1.2.2.77 – 11/05/2008

1. **Fix.** If an audio item had regional distribution settings set to distribute carts to all regions (all on), XPlay would misinterpret the file as an MPEG file.
2. **Fix.** Fast forward and rewind buttons now work as expected when playing back MPEG files.
3. **Fix.** If a cart was flagged as a multi-cut cart and had no available cuts, XPlay would display an error when trying to access the cuts list.

Version 1.2.2.75 – 02/01/2006

1. Support for playback of CCC v1.4 .DAF files has been added.
2. A problem where the application would occasionally AV on exit has been corrected.

Version 1.2.2.73 – 12/15/2003

1. Support for playback of 44.1 and 48 kHz PCM (linear files) has been added.
2. A bug where the displayed file type (PCM, MPEG, apt-X) was incorrect when using the Intro and Outro buttons has been corrected.

Version 1.2.2.70 – 02/28/2003

1. The ability to play back apt-X™ encoded audio files has been added. This feature requires the optional apt-X Encoder software module.
2. XPlay will now build its own inventory information or can use an inventory data file created by a DCS or Maestro unit. Using an inventory data file improves the application start-up time since XPlay does not have to locate and catalogue every audio file on the audio drive.
3. The inventory display has been revised and now includes all available cart information – description, agency tape information, start and end dates. The inventory list can be sorted by column and features a type-ahead search.
4. XPlay registration now requires a machine ID as a part of the process. Users of previous versions will need to have their registration re-issued.

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Part



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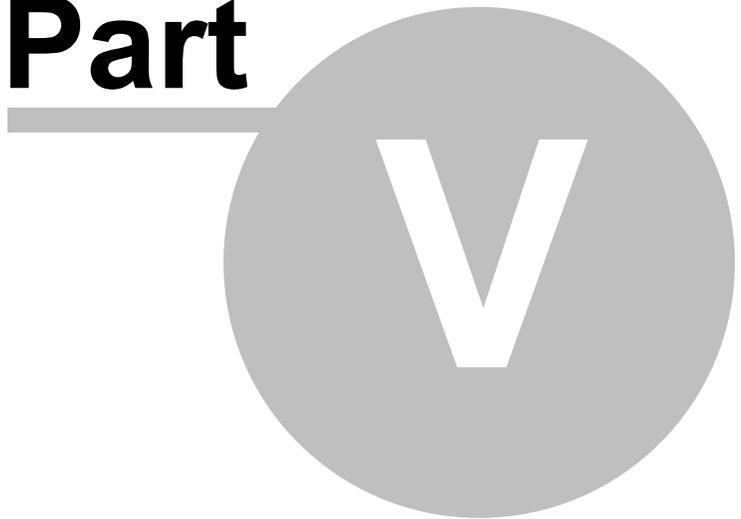
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Installation & System Requirements

Part



In order to use XPlay successfully, certain hardware and Windows operating system requirements must be met. You must also install the XPlay software on the PC, using an installation program.

This section documents the system requirements for XPlay and covers the process of installing, updating and removing the XPlay software.

5.1 System Requirements

XPlay requires a PC that supports Microsoft Windows™ XP Pro, Vista or later operating system along with the following:

- 128 MB RAM (Windows XP), 1GB RAM (Vista and later)
- At least 6 MB free disk space for this application only.
- An audio card supported by the operating system with WDM drivers.
- Compatible VGA, super VGA, XGA or 8514/A monitor, with adapter, running 800x600 minimum display resolution
- Microsoft mouse or compatible pointing device.
- A LAN card (NIC), known to be working (if you will be connecting to a LAN to access audio files).

5.2 Installing, Updating or Removing XPlay

The XPlay installation program provides step-by-step instructions on every screen displayed during the installation. Follow the instructions on each screen to install XPlay.

Before you install

1. Close all other programs, including any anti-virus programs.
2. Log on to your computer with administrator privileges.



You must have administrator privileges to perform an installation or a software update.

Installing XPlay

XPlay is distributed as a downloadable installation program. The latest version of the software is always available on our [web site](#) on the XPlay product home page and the general downloads page.

1. After you have downloaded the installation program to your computer, locate the setup program, **XPlaySetup.exe**, in the folder to which you downloaded the file. [**Double-click**] on the setup program to begin installation.
2. Follow the instructions on each screen to install the software.

Updating XPlay

1. If you have downloaded or otherwise received a revision for XPlay, the process for updating the software is virtually identical to the initial installation. However, the installation dialogs may be a bit different. When updating, you are not typically given an opportunity to select the target folder for installation, as that choice has already been made in a previous installation.
2. You may be prompted that an old version of XPlay has been found and that it must be uninstalled (removed) before continuing with the update. If you see this prompt when updating XPlay, you should answer "Yes" to remove the old version, and if prompted to confirm the removal of the old version, again answer "Yes".
3. On occasion, updating XPlay may require some additional tasks be performed during the update. Such tasks might include validating and/or updating your registration and making adjustments to your preferences settings. If these tasks are needed, you will be prompted for any input required and notified if the update task could not be completed successfully.



You must have administrator privileges to perform an update.

To Uninstall XPlay

To remove XPlay from your PC, select the Control Panel applet Add/Remove Programs. Select XPlay and click on the [**Remove**] or [**Uninstall**] button. Follow the prompts to uninstall the software.



Only files originally installed are removed. Event log files and your preferences files are not removed. See the topic on [application-created files](#) for more information on files that are installed or created by XPlay.

Notes for Novell Netware Users

1. Audio files can be located on all versions of a Novell Netware server. The logged-on user must have the appropriate user rights for the volumes and folders used.
2. The latest Microsoft operating systems, starting with Vista, **do not include a Netware client**. This means that you cannot directly access a Novell Netware server with a PC running these operating systems. A possible workaround is to implement usage of Microsoft's Gateway Services for Netware, available on Windows 2000 Server. However, using Gateway Services for Netware may negatively affect performance.

Configuring XPlay

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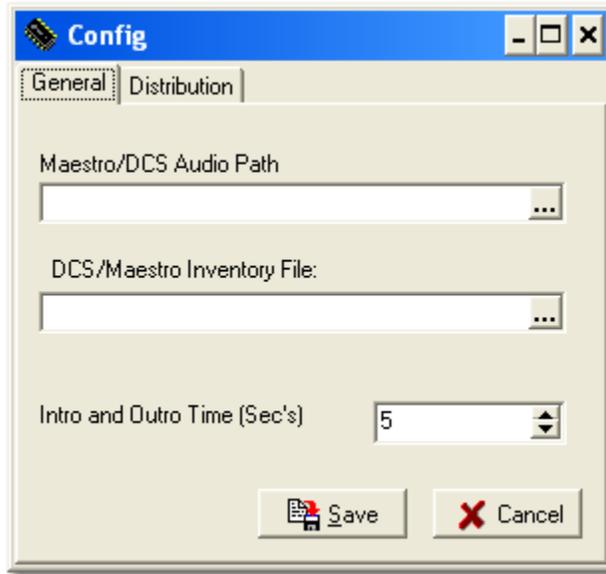


Before you begin using XPlay, you need to set up the program so it knows where to find source audio files that will be played, among other things. To set up XPlay, select the main menu item **Edit | Preferences**. A dialog will be displayed, containing a number of tabs and sections.

This section provides details on each of the available preference settings, organized as they are displayed.

6.1 General Settings

When the XPlay preferences dialog is first opened, the **General** settings tab is displayed.

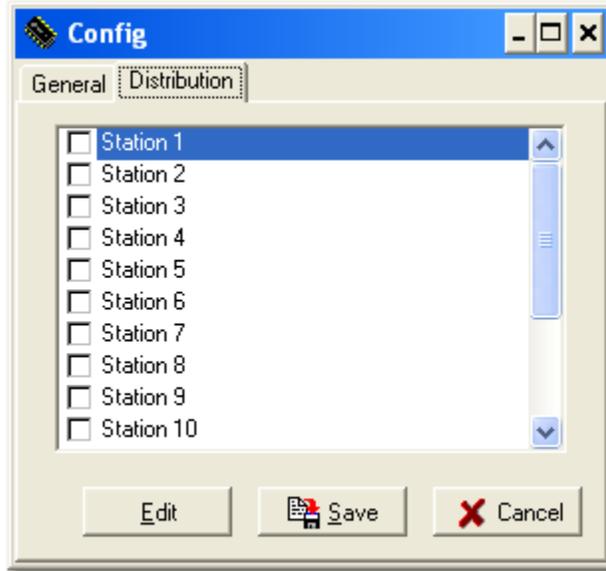


There are a minimal number of properties that need to be set. Items with a check mark in the **REQ** column require user entry, while unchecked items have default values which can optionally be changed.

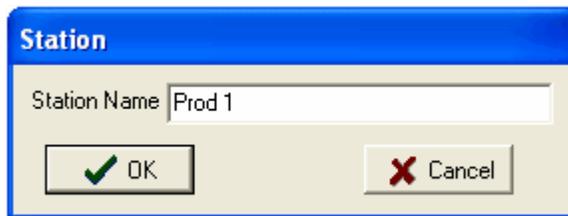
<u>Property</u>	<u>REQ</u>	<u>Description</u>
Audio Path	✓	This is the physical location of audio files that will be played. The location could point to an ACP server audio volume, a shared volume on an XStudio or Maestro unit, or a folder location of your choosing that contains audio files created for XStudio, Maestro or DCS.
Inventory File		The fully-qualified path and filename of an XStudio, DCS or Maestro inventory file. Use this field if you want XPlay to initially load the cart list quickly rather than scanning the entire audio path. The default value is <blank> , meaning XPlay will scan the Audio Path and build a list of available carts on its own.
Intro & Outro Time		The value, in seconds, used to play the first part or the last part of the audio. The default is 5 seconds.

6.2 Audio Distribution Settings

Optionally, you can identify the work stations in your host XStudio, DCS or Maestro system. This information is used only for displaying the “owner” of a given cart (audio item).



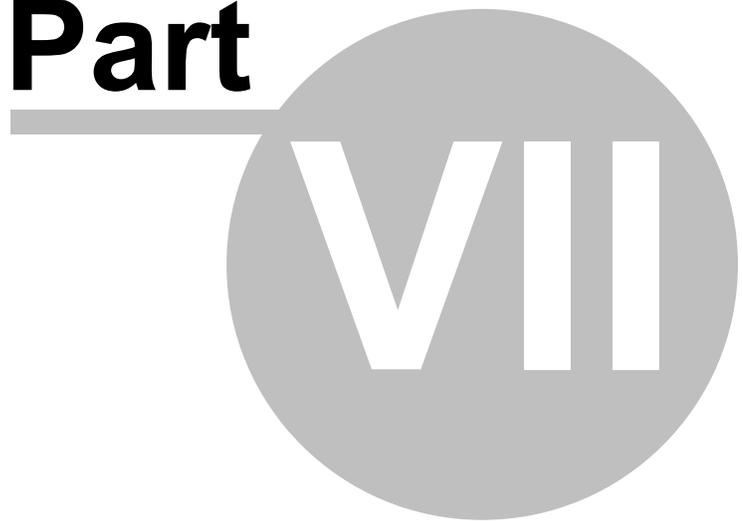
To change a station name, select the station you wish to change by clicking on the item. Then click on the [**E**dit] button. A simple dialog appears, allowing you to enter the text of your choosing:



When entry of the new name is complete, click on the [**O**K] button.

Using XPlay

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Using XPlay is simple – just launch the application from your **Start Menu**. Normally, XPlay is located at **Start | Programs | XPlay**. When XPlay starts up, it will either load an XStudio/DCS/Maestro inventory file (and be ready for use immediately) or it will scan the audio path defined in [Preferences](#) and build its audio list manually. If XPlay is scanning the audio path folder to build the list of available carts, there will be some delay in start-up, determined by the number of audio files in the audio path.

Note: Be sure to set up XPlay by selecting the menu item **Edit | Preferences**. Otherwise, XPlay won't know where to find audio files for playback.

Main Display

Once started, you will see a display similar to the example here:

Hint: Float your mouse over the example display for information about each area of the display.



The main display is organized into three sections – a display of information about the current audio item (cart) being played, transport controls to control playback of audio, and a list of carts available for playback. The list of carts will have a different appearance if XPlay has scanned the audio path to build the list:



Navigating the Cart List

The cart list is initially displayed sorted by cart number in ascending order. You can change the list sorting by clicking on any one of the column headers. Clicking on a header will sort the list in ascending order, clicking again sorts in descending order.

To locate a cart (audio item) you wish to play, you can simply use the scroll bar on the cart list to scroll to the item. You can also find the item by typing the first few characters of the cart number or text associated with the current sorted column.

To select a cart, click on the item. The item will be highlighted, indicating the selection.

Playing a Cart

To play a cart, you must first select it. Once selected, you can start playing by clicking on the **[Play]** transport button. You can also **[Double-Click]** on an item to start playing it immediately.

Stopping Play

To stop play, click on the **[Stop]** transport button. The audio playback will immediately stop.

Pause/Resume Play

To suspend playback, click on the **[Pause]** transport button. To resume play, click on the **[Play]** button.

Hint: Clicking on the [Play] button a second time after resuming play will restart playback from the beginning of audio.

Fast Forward in a Cart

You can jump ahead in playback while a cart is playing by clicking on the [**Fwd**] transport button. XPlay will jump ahead ~3 seconds and continue playing. You can click on the button several times to move further, if desired.

Rewind in a Cart

You can jump backward in playback by clicking on the [**Rew**] transport button. XPlay will move back from current playback position ~3 seconds and continue playing. You can click on the button several times to move further back, if desired.

Play Cart Intro

To play just the first few seconds of a cart, click on the [**Intro**] button. Playback will start at the beginning of the audio and continue for the number of seconds you've set in Preferences.

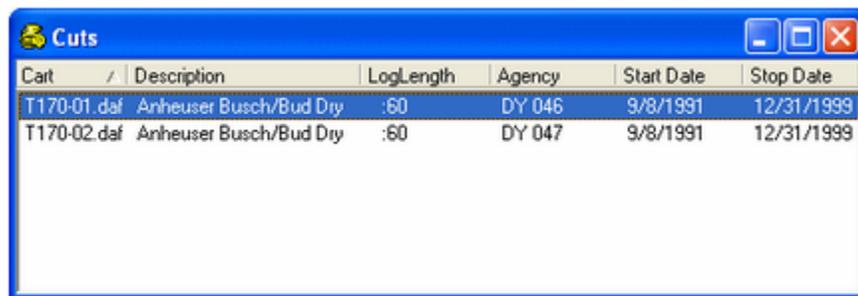
Play Cart Outro

To play just the last few seconds of a selected cart, click on the [**Outro**] button. Playback will start a few seconds from the end of the cut. The number of seconds is determined by your playback settings in [Preferences](#).

Working with Multi-Cut Carts

XStudio, DCS and Maestro support having multiple "cuts" (more than one piece of audio) associated with a cart number. XPlay will detect carts that have multiple cuts and, if you wish, display information about the cuts. You can also select a particular cut for playback instead of the default "next to play" cut that would normally be played.

To work with a multi-cut cart, select the cart in the list and [**Right-Click**]. A pop-up menu will appear. If there are cuts available, the pop-up menu items will be enabled. Select the menu item [**Show Cuts**]. A dialog will appear, similar to the example here:



Cart	Description	LogLength	Agency	Start Date	Stop Date
T170-01.daf	Anheuser Busch/Bud Dry	:60	DY 046	9/8/1991	12/31/1999
T170-02.daf	Anheuser Busch/Bud Dry	:60	DY 047	9/8/1991	12/31/1999

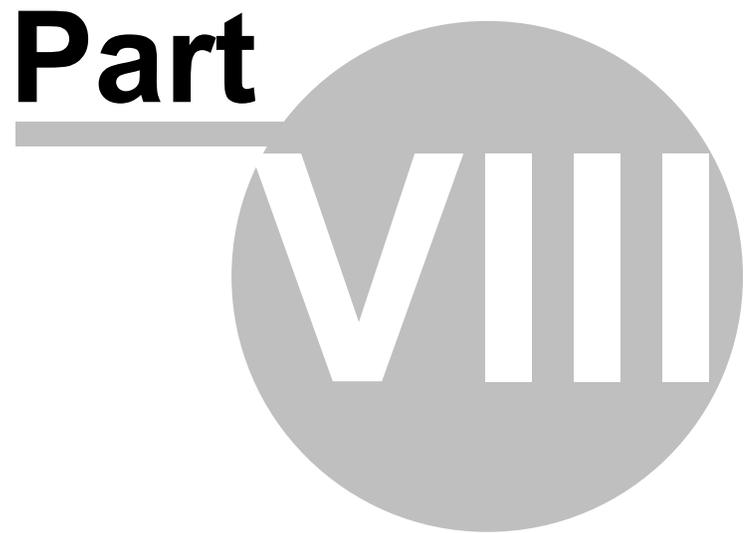
One of the handy features of XPlay is the full display of all information about each cut, whether or not it is currently in XStudio, DCS or Maestro's sequence list.

To play a cut, simply [**Double-Click**] on the cut you wish to play. The cuts window will close and the selected cut will begin playing. Once playing, you can use the rest of the transport buttons to stop, pause, rewind, fast forward, play the intro or play the outro, just like any normal, single-cut cart.

To select a different cut to work with, repeat the cut selection process described earlier.

Contacting dcsTools.com

Part



VIII

If you need to contact dcsTools.com, you can do so using one of the following methods. We are here to help, so do not hesitate to communicate with us when needed.

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Voice: 952-949-9450

FAX: 952-949-9448

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Appendices

Part



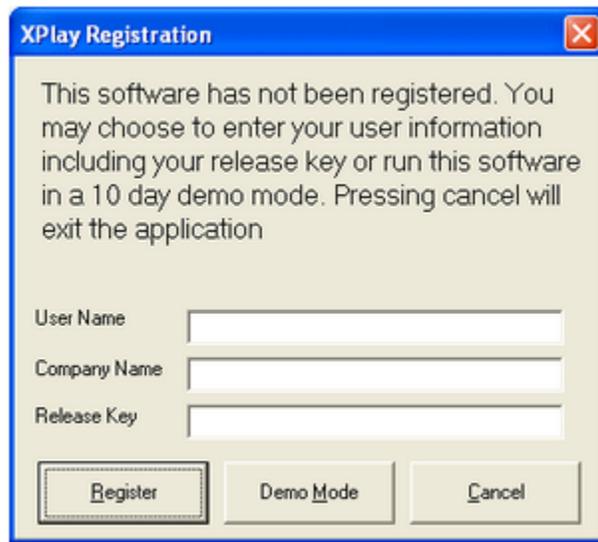
The topics in this section are supplemental to the XPlay documentation and contain information that may not be used on a day-to-day basis.

9.1 Registration

XPlay requires a valid registration code to enable full use of the product. If you have purchased XPlay, you should have received a registration code or instructions on how to obtain your registration code with your installation materials. The registration code contains the product serial number and is unique to each PC on which XPlay is installed. Depending on whether or not you have additional encoding options installed, you may need to register the options as well.

XPlay Application Registration

Enter registration information by selecting **Help | Register** from the main menu. You'll be presented with a dialog similar to the following:



Fill in the **User Name** and **Company Name** fields as desired, and then enter the **Release Key**, exactly as it was supplied to you. Click on the **[Register]** button to save your registration information.

Hint: If you received your registration release key electronically, you can copy it from the source document and paste it into the **Release Key** field. Copy the key information in the source document, select the **Release Key** field in the XPlay Registration dialog, and use **[Ctrl-V]** to paste the key.

apt-X™ Encoder Registration

If you have the apt-X encoder software installed with a product, you must register this software module separately. The encoder software is machine-specific. This software can only be registered **after** it's installed on the PC.

When first installed, the apt-X encoder will pop up a trial run dialog when the host application is run. The dialog includes the option to register the software. The dialog will be similar in appearance to the sample below:



To get the registration process started, copy both the **MID** and **Site Code** information displayed on the trial dialog. You can use a mouse to select and copy each of the two codes to the Windows clipboard, if you wish, to avoid handwriting the information.

Both the **MID** and **Site Code** need to be sent to your supplier so the registration unlock code can be generated.



The apt-X registration dialog normally closes after several seconds if no action is taken by the user. To keep the dialog from closing while you copy down the needed information, select the "**Unlock Application**" radio button, which prevents the dialog from closing.

Soft apt-X™ Registration Step-by-Step

1. To register, select the "**Unlock Application**" radio button when the apt-X registration dialog is displayed. This stops the dialog from disappearing after a few seconds, giving you the time to write down both the **MID Code** and the **Site Code**, which appear across the top of the display.
2. When you have written down both codes, select the "**Enter Application**" radio button and click on the **[Continue]** button.
3. E-mail the Mid Code and Site Code information you've written down to your supplier, or alternatively, use our [on-line product-specific contact form](#). To better identify your request, write "**Soft apt-X Registration**" in the Subject line of your e-mail.
4. You will receive by return e-mail the necessary **Init Code** to register the apt-X software. You will also receive a **Remove Code**, which may be needed at a later time. Be sure to keep both of these codes for future use.

5. When you receive the **Init Code**, launch the application that uses the apt-X software. The apt-X dialog will again appear. Select the “**Unlock Application**” radio button and enter the **Init Code** you received. Click on the [**Continue**] button. The registration information is recorded and the apt-X software is now registered.



If you decide to move the software that uses apt-X and the apt-X encoder software to another machine or substantial changes occur on the PC running with the apt-X software, the apt-X registration will have to be transferred or updated. In order to do so, you will need the **Remove Code**. Be sure you have saved both the **Init Code** and the **Remove Code** in a safe place!

9.2 List of Files

When XPlay is installed, a number of files are placed on your computer. All files are placed in the application directory - the folder where XPlay was installed.

XPlay Core Files

These are the files that placed on your system when XPlay is installed, listed alphabetically.

<u>File Name</u>	<u>Description</u>
aptx100.dll	apt-X 100 decoding module (if option installed).
aptX_RegDlg.exe	apt-X registration application (if option installed).
mmmpeg32.dll	MPEG decoding module.
pcgw32.dll	apt-X decoding support module (if option installed).
unins000.dat	XPlay uninstall data file.
unins000.exe	XPlay uninstall program.
XPlay.chm	XPlay HTML help file.
XPlay.cnt	XPlay WinHelp contents file.
XPlay.exe	The XPlay program.
XPlay.hlp	XPlay WinHelp file.
XPlay.ini	XPlay settings file.
XPlayQSG.pdf	XPlay Quick Start Guide.
XPlay_Manual.pdf	XPlay manual in PDF format.

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