
# Media Distribution Family FAQs

## HDMI Matrix Switch

**Q)** What is HDBaseT?
**A)** HDBaseT is a connectivity standard for whole-home and commercial distribution of uncompressed HD multimedia content. HDBaseT technology transmits uncompressed, full HD digital video, audio, 100BaseT Ethernet, IR and RS-232 through a single LAN cable to a video display up to 328 feet away.

**Q)** What is EDID and why do I need it?
**A)** Extended display identification data (EDID) is a data structure provided by a digital display to describe its capabilities to a video source. EDID is used in HDMI signaling to tell the audio/video source what type of audio and/or video the receiver or display is capable of handling.

**Q)** How does the EDID management work?
**A)** The HDMI Matrix Switch calibrates to all displays and receivers that are connected to the eight output zones. Each zone's capabilities are placed into the HDMI switch memory to improve performance when switching between different sources. In addition, the EDID management maintains consistency amongst the different types of displays so that video and audio performance is not degraded during an active session.

**Q)** Why is Zone Locking important?
**A)** Zone locking allows the switch to pass maximum resolution video and audio (e.g. 3D, Dolby Digital, etc.) to zones that can support it. During normal operation the EDID management system will keep the output zones at the best possible video and audio based on the lowest resolution capabilities of video displays or AV receivers connected to the HDMI matrix.

**Q)** How can I ensure that multi-channel audio, such as DTS or Dolby Digital, is passed through to a particular zone?
**A)** Taking advantage of the zone-locking capabilities of the HDMI Matrix Switch will ensure that multi-channel audio capabilities are passed between the source and receiver. However, you must ensure that both the source and receiver are capable of multi-channel audio.

**Q)** When should I use the local HDMI Outputs?
**A)** Two local HDMI outputs on the HDMI Matrix Switch can be used to connect a standard HDMI cable to video displays or AV receivers that are close to the HDMI Matrix Switch. While the HDBaseT connections provide the ability to run audio and video over long distances, there are often times where a local display or AV receiver can take advantage of a simple, short-length HDMI cable.

Control4™

# Media Distribution Family FAQs

**Q)** Can I use outputs 7 & 8 for both HDMI and HDBaseT?
**A)** No. It is not possible for HDBaseT outputs 7 and 8 to function at the same time as HDMI outputs 7 and 8. They are either/or outputs.

**Q)** Are the 3.5mm audio outputs compatible with multi-channel audio, such as DTS or Dolby Digital?
**A)** The audio outputs are stereo only and do not down-sample multi-channel audio such as 5.1 DTS or Dolby Digital.

**Q)** Does the HDMI Matrix Switch send commands out of the IR or RS232 ports?
**A)** No, the IR and RS232 ports on the HDMI Matrix Switch are pass through ports only. In order for commands to be sent, there will need to be a controller connected to the IR/RS232 ports of the HDMI Matrix Switch or at the HDBaseT Receiver location.

**Q)** Is the HDMI Matrix Switch compatible with CEC?
**A)** Yes. CEC will be passed directly from the source to the display or AV receiver.

**Q)** Why are there 9 individual Ethernet ports on the HDMI Matrix Switch?
**A)** The main Ethernet port is listed as “IP”, which is the control port for the HDMI Matrix Switch. The remaining Ethernet ports are used as pass-through ports to directly connect to Ethernet-capable devices or a switch at the far end through an HDBaseT Receiver.

## Audio Matrix Switch

**Q)** How does the new Audio Matrix Switch differ from the previous model?
**A)** The new Audio Matrix Switch comes in a smaller 2RU chassis and provides higher audio quality and performance than the previous version. It also provides wider dynamic range, as well as 1/2 dB steps, which are seen as 1% increments on the Control4 Navigator screens. And finally, it comes with a source-leveling feature that allows customization of input volume levels, providing uniform volumes across all input sources.

**Q)** Does the new Audio Matrix Switch replace the previous model?
**A)** We anticipate that the current Matrix Switch will be available for purchase for a few more months, but longer term the new Audio Matrix Switch will replace the current model.

**Q)** What are the benefits of the input gain or source-leveling feature?
**A)** Source-leveling allows the installer to match input volume levels. This provides a more pleasant experience when the user switches between different audio sources, avoiding large jumps in volume levels.

**Q)** Can I still use the Control4 Matrix Amplifiers with this new Audio Matrix Switch?
**A)** Absolutely. In cases where the Control4 Matrix Amplifiers are used, it is recommended to set the Matrix Amplifier to a direct pass-through, but configure the Matrix Amplifier as the Audio End-Point and Volume End-Point. You can also take advantage of the Audio Matrix Switch “unity gain” and “source-leveling” features, to optimize source volume levels through the Audio Matrix Switch.

**Q)** How do I take advantage of the SDDP feature?
**A)** SDDP, or Simple Device Discovery Protocol, is a configuration feature that allows the installer to easily add the Audio Matrix Switch to a project within Composer.

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## 100 Series Amplifiers

**Q)** Do the new Amps replace the current Control4 matrix amplifiers?
**A)** No. The new 100 Series Power Amplifiers are an addition to the current Control4 amplifier product line.

**Q)** How are the new amplifiers different from the current Control4 amplifiers?
**A)** The primary ways that the 100 Series Power Amplifiers differ from the current Control4 matrix amplifiers is that these new amps do not have matrix switch, preamp or graphic equalizer capabilities and therefore require a separate matrix switch or preamp to share sources in each zone and for volume and tone control. The 100 Series Amplifiers do have some features that the matrix amps do not, like bridging and buffered line outputs.

**Q)** In what ways are the new amplifiers configurable and controllable?
**A)** The 100 Series Power Amplifiers are not controllable via RS232 or IP. However, they do include a standby state that is controlled via a dedicated trigger or automatic signal sensing. They also include manual control of input sensitivity, bridging and input selection (Global vs. Zone).

**Q)** Why would I use bridging?
**A)** Bridging allows the installer to provide twice as much power to a particular audio zone. This is very useful in large rooms or when amplifying outdoor zones. When using bridge mode, the zone can only be used as a mono zone, therefore two zones will be required to create a complete stereo zone.

**Q)** How does the Global input get used?
**A)** The Global input can be used to configure a single or multiple zones to output the same stereo audio. This is especially useful for large rooms, or light commercial establishments, such as restaurants, bars and offices.

**Q)** Do the 100 Series Amps automatically turn on when audio is presented to the unit?
**A)** The 100 Series Amps do have an Auto-Sense feature that allows the amp to turn on automatically when audio is presented to any of the inputs. Likewise, when audio is removed from the inputs, the unit goes to standby mode after three minutes.

**Q)** Are the Line-Level Outputs buffered?
**A)** Yes. This allows for daisy-chaining multiple amplifier zones together with no loss of signal integrity.