

Producer Assistant - Video Follow Audio

The Video Follow Audio model of the Skaarhoj Producer Assistant core, provides functionalities for automated switcher control, based on logic inputs, such as an audio meter.

This can be used in simple scenarios, such as a debate or radio program, to automatically cut to a camera on the person speaking.

This is an advanced topic. To configure the system, knowledge of Skaarhoj Device Core parameters and IO References is expected.

How it works

The Video Follow Audio system, works by monitoring a device core parameter for each person (called participants) in the system. It checks periodically if a new participant is talking more than others, and then cuts to that participant. If the person have been talking for a long time, it will periodically cut to a wide shot (if setup) or the participant previously on as a listening shot.

Requirements

For the system to work, it requires an input parameter for each participant. This will often be an audio meter for the mic the participant is using.

Not all devices provides the same quality of audio meters. Some have a slow update rate, some have a high latency and some are not too precise. This means that though it might work in theory, some parameters are less than ideal for reliable switcher control. If possible, please try it out before you buy the license.

Configuration

To use the Video Follow Audio system, some initial setup has to be done in the device WebUI. In the device configuration menu

Most of the configuration happens in the Device WebUI. To open it, open the device configuration of the home page of Reactor, and press 'Open Device WebUI'. It can also be found in the packages menu.

Video Follow Audio
Video Follow Audio provides camera switching based on a logic input, such as audio levels reaching a certain value.

Configure your device settings here

Active

Endpoint

The host of the cores to connect to, leave empty to connect to local cores

Name

Device Id

Model Id

Description

Parameter List
Open Device WebUI
Core Logs
Core Settings

Delete Save

The configuration page consists of 3 parts.

When you are finished editing the configuration, remember to press save on the bottom of the page! This will trigger a restart of the system.

Switcher Setup

This page provides the main parameter for controlling the switcher. In this case it is using a Atem switcher and controlling the Program Input Video Source parameter.

It is also possible to provide Safe Sources. These are input numbers with cameras that can also be cut to, for example a wide or audience shot.

– Switcher Setup

Switcher IORef

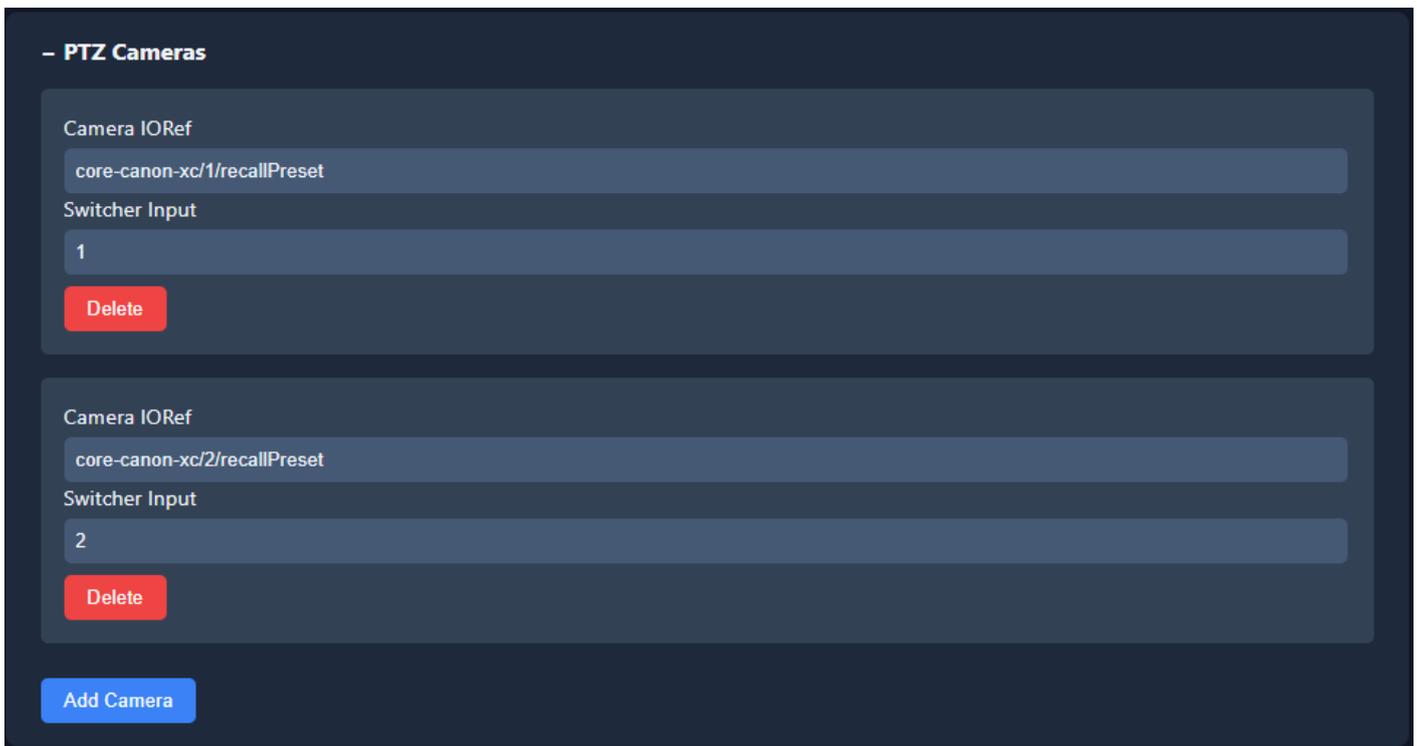
Safe Sources

Comma seperated list of input numbers that are always safe to cut to. Eg. A wide shot.

PTZ Cameras

PTZ Cameras can be used to film specific participants, so you don't need a fixed shot on each person. Multiple cameras can be configured. Each camera has an IOReference for how to recall presets and a switcher input number.

In this case we have two Canon Camera using the Canon-XC core. The camera with device index 1 is found on the first input of the switcher and the camera with device index 2 is found on the second.



The screenshot shows a configuration interface titled "- PTZ Cameras". It contains two camera configuration blocks. Each block has a "Camera IORef" field with the value "core-canon-xc/1/recallPreset" and a "Switcher Input" field with the value "1". Below each block is a red "Delete" button. At the bottom of the interface is a blue "Add Camera" button.

Participants

This is where you setup each participant in the system. A participant will need at least a input reference with a logic statement and an action.

Input reference

Each participant have a IO Reference for how the system will read if the participant is talking or not. In most cases this will be an audio meter. They can also have a condition setup. This uses standard logic signs to express how the IO Reference should be checked.

In this example, the IO Reference is a channel meter from a Behringer X32 audio mixer, and the participant will be assumed to be speaking, every time the channel meter is over -18.

Actions

Each participant will need one or more actions to be configured. An action can be either a still camera or a PTZ camera. Both types would need a Switcher Input to specify what source the

switcher should cut too. A PTZ camera will also require a preset number, to know what preset to recall, before the camera is selected.

In this example, the participant has both a still camera and a PTZ camera configured, so the system will pick a random of the two.

A PTZ action needs to have a camera configured in the 'PTZ Cameras' section with a matching switcher input for it to work. If a participant only have PTZ cameras configured, the system will try to use a camera that is not currently live. If only the live camera can be used, the system will try to cut to a safe source, before recalling the preset.

- Participants

Participant

Name

Host

IORef

DC:core-x32/1/meter_Channel/1/

Condition:

> -18

Actions

Type

Still

Switcher Input

5

Delete

Type

PTZ

Switcher Input

1

Camera Preset

1

Delete

Add Action Delete Participant

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