



# Audio Watchdog

[the reliable audio back-up solution]

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## Introducing BP Audio-Watchdog

In order to be on-air, radio stations that operate from multiple transmitter sites must develop effective and efficient means to distribute their studio output.

Many radio stations rely on satellite transmission for their Studio Transmitter Link (STL) connection. In many ways, this is a very efficient method, as any transmitter site is capable of picking up the audio source with a simple satellite dish.

However, as history has shown, satellite also has its drawbacks: either weather conditions (such as snow or heavy rain) may impair clear and uninterrupted transmission or reception, or the satellite itself spins out of orbit. In other cases, transmitter sites pick up their primary audio source from cable connections or even FM transmission from a neighboring site.

Regardless of the transmission method, the show must go on, no matter what. Listeners expect their favorite radio station to be on-air 24/7, while advertisers want their money's worth. In short, a (temporary) black-out is a burden to any radio network executive.

Hence, it is always wise to have a back-up available when the primary audio source fails. The most reliable secondary sources include ISDN codecs or direct radio-beam links. For cost-benefit reasons, most stations choose ISDN. As the signal is carried in digital form, this requires an identical codec at both the transmitter site and the studio.

Different configurations are available:

- ✓ **Weather back-up**  
As weather conditions differ from site to site at any given point in time, in this configuration 1-2 codecs per 10 transmission sites are operational
- ✓ **Full back-up**  
Stations either use a single codec signal divider for every 15 transmission sites or use a full-redundant solution where every site has its own codec in the studio as well.

## Features

BP Audio Watchdog is a radio network management solution that guards the primary audio feed of the transmitter.



The radio network management solution BP Audio Watchdog consists of both software and hardware:

- ✓ The VTR424 hardware connects to the primary/secondary audio source and a regular on-air tuner. This device also allows for manual switch-over.
- ✓ The BP Audio Watchdog software is installed on any remote PC and connected via a regular modem (or a full-duplex ISDN-codec) to the VTR424 device on the site.

## Applications

In most configurations, the primary source is connected to a satellite receiver while the secondary source is connected to an ISDN codec. A third input on the VTR424 device is connected to an air-tuner at the site itself, tuned to the same frequency. This provides the following benefits:

- ✓ **Automatic back-up switching:** with built-in audio detection, BP Audio Watchdog automatically switches to one alternative source when the audio quality of the primary source is degrading or fails completely.
- ✓ **Remote STL control:** aside from emergency management, BP Audio Watchdog also allows for a check of the primary audio source on a specific site from any remote location equipped with an ISDN codec.
- ✓ **Remote air-check:** likewise, the remote ISDN codec may listen in on the signal attached to the air-tuner at the particular site. This can be done in high quality (via ISDN) or in low quality (via GSM).
- ✓ **BP Site Console integration:** BP Audio Watchdog is available separately, but is also integrated as a function for the remote radio network management solution BP Site Console.

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