

WHAT'S NEW ...

SCOUT VERSION 2.1

Scout Version 2.1, scheduled to be released in late 2011, brings enhancements to the dispatchers' experience, to VPGate drivers, and to Outpost.

Dispatcher Enhancements

Several new features added to Scout Version 2.1 aid the dispatcher in the workplace.

Supervisory Takeover

Typically used in a dispatch environment with a hierarchical management structure, the Supervisory Takeover feature allows a supervisor to take control of an endpoint, if necessary, using the Takeover function pad. The endpoint can be in any state, in simul-select, a member of a talkgroup, or even a member of a patch when the takeover occurs. The supervisor takes over the endpoint by activating the Takeover function pad to gain exclusive use of the endpoint. While other consoles might keep the endpoint active, only the supervisor can transmit. When the supervisor relinquishes control of the endpoint, other dispatchers can transmit as usual. Console configuration determines which Scout Systems display the Takeover function pad; any dispatcher's console with the Takeover function pad can take over another endpoint as described.

Automatic Answer for Telephone Calls

A new feature for the Scout System with Version 2.1 is the capability to answer phone calls automatically. Known as "Answer on Ring," this feature allows the Scout System to answer an inbound telephone call. When the system answers the call, the call indications continue to display for the dispatcher and the Scout System plays a tone to let the caller know that his call is in queue, waiting to be answered by a dispatcher. Once the dispatcher selects the call to answer it, normal processing occurs. This capability is configured on a per-endpoint basis.

Local Mute Enhancement

Local Mute is an existing Scout feature that eliminates a dispatcher's inbound unselect audio from his transmit audio. Configured in advance to mute certain local audio, Local Mute is triggered by PTT. Before now, the muted audio included voice audio, but it did not include paging or alert tones. With this enhancement, Scout mutes paging tones and alert tones as well as voice audio when local mute is in effect.

Connectivity Enhancements

Scout Version 2.1 continues to expand its radio connectivity capabilities.

Kenwood TK-5710 Support

Scout Version 2.1 adds support for the Kenwood TK-5710 radio, a radio that can connect to a P25 conventional, P25 trunked, or analog radio system. To support the radio, the Scout System connects it to an Outpost device to control the radio through its auxiliary port using serial commands. Enabled radio features include the following:

- VOX indications
- Continuous Tone-Coded Subaudible Squelch Control (CTCSS) (for Analog mode only)
- Emergency Calls / Emergency State
- Talkgroup / Frequency Changes
- Inbound and Outbound ANI (for P25 mode only)
- Inbound and Outbound Unit Calls (for P25 conventional mode only)
- Push-to-Talk (PTT)
- Transmit and Receive Group Audio (Talkgroups for conventional P25 and Groups for P25 trunked)

Enhanced Support for the Motorola URC-200 Radio

While Scout currently supports the URC-200 radio, this release adds functionality to the support. In previous Scout versions, users could set the URC-200 radio's squelch level by radio, meaning that the same squelch level applied to all of the radio's frequencies. In Scout Version 2.1, users can set the URC-200 radio's squelch level by frequency.

Outpost Enhancements

Scout Version 2.1 also brings two new enhancements to Outpost:

- Outpost sends the Diagnostic Logger an alarm when Outpost exceeds its recommended internal high temperature. Outpost also sends an alarm clear message to the Diagnostic Logger when the temperature drops to a safe level.
- Outpost has the ability to tone key a tone remote control radio and energize the Outpost's PTT relay at the same time. Simultaneous Tone and Relay Keying is configured through the Outpost web page.

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