



Priority Video Alert System

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Priority Video Alert System

Video is the best way to communicate important information, but only if the target audience is watching. In an emergency, it may be vital to communicate important information to everyone via a live video broadcast or via a prerecorded video message. How can you cause your video to instantly appear on any Windows desktop without user action? Whether you are seeking to provide school students and staff with vital information, inform corporate employees about breaking news, or deliver a compelling message to via the public Internet, the Video Alert System is the answer.

Video Alerts

Simply install the Video Alert application on all Windows computers and the software constantly monitors your VBrick video. When an official presses a control button, ALL desktops play your live or pre-recorded video without user action. Even computers that are not on your local area network can receive your video alerts via the public Internet, so remote students and their parents, and remote corporate employees receive your video alerts.

The desktop Video Alert system operates in two modes: visible and invisible. In the visible mode, the user has a small icon in their system tray and they may disable or reconfigure the alert system. In the invisible mode, there is no icon and user cannot normally disable the system.

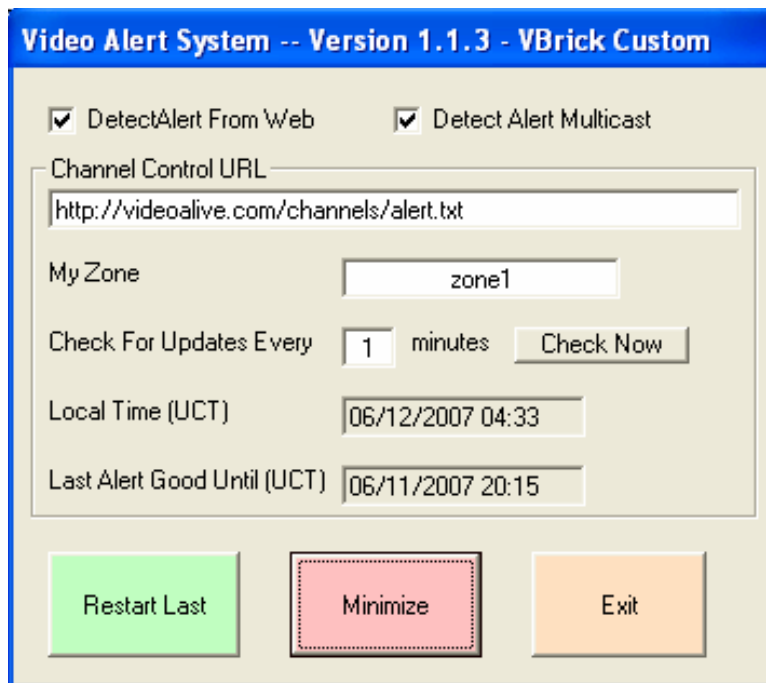
The Video Alert system obtains alert information by monitoring VBrick multicast video announcements, and/or by a reading information from a web server.

Video Alert Operation – Visible

The Video Alert Viewer sits in the system tray on a viewer's computer. Right-click on the icon and select "Configure". If you wish to only detect local Alert video via multicast, check "Detect Priority Multicast". If you wish to only Alert video via a web server, select "Detect Priority From Web". You may select both.

Each desktop user must be in a “zone”. For example, the first floor of a building may be “zone1”, the second floor “zone2”, etc. You may use any name you wish for these zones. For example, in a University, parents in their homes may be in the “parentszone”, while each campus building may be a different named zone. The zone information is used to provide very granular control of who gets the alert.

For web use, you must enter the URL where the priority instruction is located. Set the “Check For Updates” time to 1 or more minutes. The application will use the update time setting to determine how often to read the entered URL. The URL tells the application what web page or video to display, and when it is expired. If the alert is expired, the alert will not launch. Note that all date/times are in Universal Coordinated Time (UCT, formally GMT), and your local UCT time is displayed.



Video Alert Operation – Invisible

To make the Video Alert invisible, simply create a text file called “config.txt” and place it in the same directory as the application (e.g. c:/program files/videoalive/ video alert/config.txt). The presence of this file can cause the Video Alert program to run without an icon in the system tray and it provides the necessary configuration information. The config.txt file must have the following form:

```
DetectMulticast|DetectWeb|WebURL|CheckMinutes|Visibility|UserControl|Zone|
```

where 1=true and 0=false. For example, the following tells the Video Alert to detect multicast alerts, web alerts, to receive the web alerts from <http://192.168.1.11/server/alert.txt>, to check the web once a minute, to be invisible to the user, to allow user control, and to set this computer to zone1:

```
1|1|http://192.168.1.11/server/alert.txt|0|1|zone1|
```

Video Alert Control

Video alerts are created using the Video Alert Control program. Pressing the “Alert!” button instantly creates an alert, and is cancelled by pressing the “End Alert” button. The desired zones may be entered or modified for each alert.



Select “Setup” to enter or modify the alert settings.

The screenshot shows the 'Video Alert Control' application window. It features a blue title bar and a menu bar with 'Setup' and 'About'. The main area is divided into four panels:

- VBrick Appliance (Multicast):** Includes fields for Host/IP (192.168.1.109), port (80), Username (operator), and Password. It has radio buttons for 'Live Slot 1', 'Live Slot 2', and 'File VBSTAR'. Below is a list of video files to play: 'The Dream Is Alive.mpg', 'SnowEmergency.mpg', 'Evacuation.mpg', and 'WeatherEmergency.mpg'. There are 'Enable', 'Set Alert', and 'Reset Alert' buttons.
- StreamPump:** Includes fields for Multicast IP & Port (239.1.1.101, 4444), File (full path) (C:\video\Dance Party.mpg), and Program Name (VBrick Alert). It has 'Enable', 'Set Alert', and 'Reset Alert' buttons.
- Web Server (Internet):** Includes fields for Host/IP (videoalive.com), Username (name), Password, and Rmt Dir (channels). It has a 'Channel Control File Name' field (alert.txt) with a 'Set Alert SUCCESS' message. It also has 'Alert URL' (http://www.vbrick.com) and 'Expire at UTC Time' (+1 Hour) and 'Current UTC Time' (06/12/2007 05:01) fields. It has 'Enable', 'Set Alert', and 'Reset Alert' buttons.
- SMS Cell Phones:** A simple panel with an 'Enable' checkbox and a 'Setup' button.

At the bottom, there is a 'Zone(s)' field containing 'zone1, zone2, zone3'.

Each section sets and controls different alert methods. If the section “enable” is checked, then that section will be implemented when the main alert button is pressed. Alternately, each section can be independently controlled from the setup screen.

VBrick Appliance (Multicast)

This section controls a VBrick appliance, MPEG-2, MPEG-4, or WM. For the MPEG-2 type with hard drive (VBSTAR), this section is used to start or stop the multicast playback of a video file.

StreamPump

This section controls an integral MPEG-2 multicast video transmitter.

Web Server (Internet)

This section controls alerts via a web server, and therefore has no multicast dependency and can be used for the public Internet.

SMS Cell Phones

Sends a message to a list of cell phones via SMS (text message)

VBrick Appliance (Multicast) – The source for MPEG-2, MPEG-4, or WM multicast video.

VBrick Host/IP – IP address and management port number of the VBrick appliance. LEAVE BLANK for no multicast.

VBrick Username – The VBrick username (default: operator)

VBrick Password – The VBrick password (default: operator)

VBrick Live Slot 1, Live Slot 2 – Select the source of a live video alert for slot 1 or slot 2

VBrick VBSTAR – Select VBSTAR to use a MPEG-2 recorded video to be used for your video alert. When selected, slots for four possible video file names are displayed.

VBrick Video File To Play – When VBSTAR is selected, you may enter the video file name that is already present on your VBSTAR. Select the file that you wish to use for the video alert.

StreamPump – Starts/stops delivery of a MPEG-2 recorded file via multicast directly from (this) application.

Multicast IP & Port – The multicast IP address and port for the StreamPump

Full Path Name – The full path to where the MPEG-2 video file is located on your computer

Program Name – The name of the program as it should appear in StreamPlayer, Soft Top Box, MCS, and similar video multicast players

Web Server – For public Internet use and for locations that do not have multicast, you may use virtually any web server. The web server must have an FTP account to which you can upload a file

Web Server Host/IP – The Web Server Host or IP address. LEAVE BLANK for no web server.

Web Server Username – The Web Server FTP Username

Web Server Password – The Web Server FTP Password

Web Server Remote Directory – The Web Server Remote Directory (the remote directory must exist)

Web Server Control Filename – The name of the file used for the alert.

Web Server Alert URL – The viewing URL for Internet viewers.

Video or Web Page – Select if the Alert URL is a web page or a video

Web Server Expire At UCT Time – The UCT time when the alert will expire (in case you forget to cancel the alert)

SMS Cell Phones – Sends preformatted text messages to a list of cell phone numbers

Add – Adds an entered cell phone number to the list (format NNNNNNNNNN)

Message – The text message that will be sent

Include Web URL – Includes the Internet video URL in the text message

Send – Sends the message to all numbers on the list

Set the Web Server Alert URL to the URL that your Internet viewers can receive. Commonly, this will be the VBrick WM video that is “reflected” to the public Internet by a VBrick reflector, WM server, or service. The following are possible entries:

- mms://Server/StreamName -- A live WM video stream
- mms://Server/StreamName.wmv -- A stored WM video from a WM server
- http://Server/video.aspx -- A live or stored video referenced in a .aspx file
- rtsp://Server/StreamName -- A live MPEG-4 video (do not use rtsp for WM)
- http://webpage -- A standard web page (the Video Alert System will display only the web page without video)

EtherneTV

The Priority Alert system works with or without a VBrick EtherneTV System Media Control Server.

The EtherneTV Media Control Server has built-in “script” capability that allows you set the “author” field of a target VBrick appliance to the zone text (e.g “zone1”). When the VBrick Program Guide (“Announce”) is set to the zone, then all Windows desktops running the Video Alert System that can receive multicast will show that video. Note: MCS before version 4.1 can currently only “schedule” script actions and cannot implement them immediately.

Internet Use

Because VBrick video can go everywhere, you can now enable desktops anywhere in the world to detect your priority video and instantly display it. Beyond video, the Video Alert system allows you to display virtually any web page, VBPresenter presentation, PDF document, or movie on any number of desktops around the world at your command.

Applications

The number of applications for the Video Alert system is limited only by your imagination:

School / College / University

- Weather Alerts (Tornado, Snow, etc.)
- Fire Evacuations
- Emergency Situations

Corporate

- Weather Closings
- Fire Evacuations
- Important news
- Urgent Financial Announcements for traders
- Mandatory executive broadcasts with VBPresenter

Government

- Law Enforcement
- Emergency Situations

Frequently Asked Questions

What causes the multicast video to become active on my desktop?

When the VBrick appliance multicast video source "Author" field is changed to a matching zone, the video is automatically shown on your desktop.

What happens if I am not logged in to my computer?

Nothing. Your Windows computer must be logged in and active.

How many viewers can receive an emergency video alert?

Unlimited for multicast viewing in the enterprise (typically, within a building or campus). For Internet viewing, the number of viewers depends entirely on how much bandwidth has been provisioned for the target viewing URL, and this can range to tens of thousands.

What happens if I'm viewing a different video when the alert happens?

The Video Alert does not affect what you are already doing on your computer. If you are viewing a different video, then the priority video will play in addition to the one you were watching. If both videos are high bandwidth, you should close the previous video.

What else must be installed on users computers?

For MPEG-2 and MPEG-4, each target computer must have VBrick StreamPlayer (or equivalent) installed. For VBrick WM, there is no additional software required.

How many cell phone text messages can I send?

The text messages are sent via a subscription service. The cost is approximately \$50/month to send up to 5,000 messages. Other rate plans are available.



12 Beaumont Road
Wallingford, CT 06492 USA

P 203.265.0044
F 203.265.6750

www.VBrick.com