
Customising Vista Display

Vista



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About Vista

Vista Entertainment Solutions develops software for the Cinema Exhibition industry. The Vista software system consists of a number of integrated products that cover almost all aspects of managing and operating cinemas. The product line is scalable so as to be suitable to exhibitors who run from one cinema to hundreds of cinemas.

The Vista Point of Sale and Vista BackOffice (base Vista) provide all Cinemas level function for Box Office and Concessions. At least one installation of Base Vista is required for all Vista customers. All other modules are optional.

The optional modules are:

- **Web Ticketing** - a customisable system that enables ticket sales on the Internet along with display of show times and movie information.
- **IVR Ticketing System**- an automated touchtone phone booking system.
- **Vista Kiosk** - a customisable ATM ticketing system that features touch screen and state of the art multimedia technology for remote ticket sales either on or off-site.
- **Call Center** - provides a central web based application for booking and selling seats across a circuit of cinemas.
- **MobilePOS** - utilises a Pocket PC based PDA's to sell tickets and concessions while connected to the Vista system via a wireless network.
- **Vista Signs** - manages configured animated messages on cinema signs including LED, TV Monitors and Plasma.
- **Vista Projection** - controls the export of cinema show-time schedules to automated projection systems.
- **Vista Air Conditioning** - provides an interface between base Vista and the air conditioning system to regulate air circulation and temperature depending on head count information stored in the Vista database.
- **HeadOffice** - provides central maintenance of key cinema data, uploading of cinema performance data to HeadOffice, a film settlements system and a business intelligence system for analysing circuit wide performance.
- **CashDesk** - a companion product for Vista BackOffice for cinemas that wish to have higher levels of cash and treasury control within the cinema.
- **Employee Scheduling** - provides a graphical employee roster system at cinema locations, along with a HeadOffice module that consolidates all roster information.
- **Film Programming and Scheduling** - a companion product to HeadOffice. It is a system for planning and booking films across a circuit from a central location. The booking system generates best fit schedules to download to the cinema.
- **Voucher Management** - a companion product to Vista HeadOffice that controls the ordering, stocking, transfer, and redemption of coupons, vouchers and passes.

Loyalty - a customer relation management program for the creation, maintenance and evaluation of loyalty programs.

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CHAPTER 1

Introduction

This document is aimed at the Installers of the Vista Display Module at cinemas. The Vista Display Module can be run in 3 different modes:

Creates an Output text File by use by other Display Signs products based on what is defined in a template

- 1** Can control specific models of Active Moving Signs LED Textlights
- 2** Can control specific models of Multitext Signs (Door Signs only)

Most cinema use Vista Display to create an Output file that can be read by software that controls their LED Textlights (or even a TV system).

A standard used by many Display/TV systems is the BLOAD standard.

CHAPTER 2

Components of the Vista Display System.

Vista Display typically is installed on the fileserver, as it uses little resource.

The Vista Display program is called VistaDsp.exe and resides in \\Vista\VistaDSP\

An icon should exist on the Desktop called 'Vista Display Module' and should point to D:\Vista\VistaDSP\VistaDsp.exe

This is what will be run to use the Display Module.

Vista Utilities Server

This is what the Vista Display Module uses to get session times and details.

You must have configured Vista Utilities Server, before Vista Display Module will work (see Vista Utilities Server installation manual).

Vista Utilities Server typically runs on the Cinemas Fileserver and Vista Display uses DCOM to access it (unless Vista Display is also installed on the fileserver, then DCOM does not need to be configured).

Error Logs

The Vista Display Module error log is in \Vista\VistaDSP\Log.

Vista Utilities Server also has an error log under D:\Vista\UtilsSrvr\Log

As Vista Utilities Server uses VistaDBEngine to access the database, it's errors will be generated in D:\Vista\VistaDBEngine\Log

CHAPTER 3

Setting up for the Vista Display System

This section deals with changing relevant configuration and template files to allow the smooth running of the Vista Display Module.

Back Office System Settings

The following system settings are used by the Vista Display Module.

Start Vista Backoffice

Select Environment

Select System Settings

The Following System Settings are available:

These Settings are use by all 3 types of signs, ie Templates, Active Moving Signs and Multitext.

Setting Name	Setting Value	Setting Description
SignsBrand	Template	Select the type of LED signs hardware you are using. Select from Active Moving Sign, MULTITEXT and Template
SignsSessionExportFileFolder	C:\Vista\VistaDSP\Export	The folder name of where the session export file is created by Vista Display
SignsSessionExportFile	Perfdata.txt	The filename of the session export file created by Vista Display for use with other brands of signage
SignsTimeFormat	h:mm 12	How to display times on session signs
SignsFilmNameLength	15	Maximum number of characters to show of film name
SignsRefreshRate	5	Refresh signs info every n minutes
SignsShowCensorRating	(Y)	Whether to include censor rating after film name on Signs main session board (only affects Vista signs display prog). Only show censor if there is a Y here. The Y is replaced with censor rating. Symbols surrounding the Y appear on session board as here

The following settings are not used by template mode (ie Only used by Active Moving Signs and Multitext modes):

Setting Name	Setting Value	Setting Description
SignsStartDoorSigns	20	Put message on Door Signs this many minutes before movie starts
SignsSessionsRemainOnSigns	20	Drop session time off sessions board this many mins after session starts

SignsDayRolloverStartTime	360	Number of minutes before start of next 'cinema day' that the main session board should start showing session times from the next day's screening. Also see setting SignsDayRolloverLookaheadTime.
SignsDayRolloverLookaheadTime	360	If SignsDayRolloverStartTime setting is NOT 0, then this is the number of minutes to lookahead into the next cinema day for sessions to include on today's session board
SignsDoorTimeText	Starting at	Text to be displayed beside the start time of the film
SignsDoorTimeAltText	Starting at	Text (alternate language) to be displayed beside the start time of the film
SignsDoorPauseDuration	3	The length of time the information is displayed on the LEDs before the information is redisplayed.
SignsCommPortNo	1	Number of comport on Vista server that signs are connected to (only relevant if Vista signs display prog is used)
SignsCommPortSetting	1200,n,8,1	COM port settings to use when sending to signs
SignsType4TimeLookahead	45	For type 4 session board (those with limited time lookahead eg foodcourt), only present sessions starting within this time (mins) from now
SignsSessBoardLineKeepInterval	4700	The measured time, in MILLI-seconds, that a set of session times is held on a sign panel before that line is replaced by another line of session times (if any). Applies to Main Session board control only, and affects synchronisation of paging of films.
Sign_intNoRows	6	Number of rows in MAIN SignBank
Sign_intNoCols	3	Number of columns in MAIN SignBank

Vista Display Configuration

The configuration file for the Vista Display Module is VistaDSP.ini

This is in the folder D:\Vista\VistaDSP

Included in this file are default language and help file settings.

In the [General] section.

BackUpMsg

This setting when turned on, will display a reminder message when the Vista Display module is started, to change the tape in the tape device.

As the Vista Display module is probably started each morning and may be run on the fileserver, it can be a convenient reminder to staff to change the tape.

To turn on:

BackUpMsg=Yes

To turn off:

BackUpMsg=No

In the [Languages] section.

BaseLanguage

The Vista Display Module program can display everything in a number of languages eg International English or Latin American Spanish

The language files must exist in the folder:

\Vista\VistaDisplay

Eg

INTENG_S.ini for International English

SPNLAT_S.ini for Latin American Spanish

To set:

BaseLanguage=INTENG - For International English

BaseLanguage=SPNLAT - For Latin American Spanish

Template File Creation

The template file is called DisplayTemplate.txt and must reside in the same folder as the Vista Display program i.e. \Vista\VistaDsp\

The [Definitions] Section

In the first section, we specify our delimiters and constants as below

{Delimiter}	=,
{DelimiterReplacement}	=-
{True}	=Y
{False}	=N
{EndOfDetailCharacter}	=013010
{CR}	=013
{LF}	=010

We also have a section dealing with our output format, called Fieldlayout.

{FieldLayout}	=1,21,25,33,37,47,49,52,55,65,85
---------------	----------------------------------

* If there is nothing after the = sign then the system makes a delimited field output. The delimiter used is defined by {Delimiter}

* If there is data after the = sign it means the output uses fixed field positions.

The list is numbers separated by commas, where each number is the START position of the 'next' field.

Note an exception at the end. The last number (not followed by a comma) is the position of the LAST character of the last field.

eg {FieldLayOut}	=1,9,24,28,32,34,35,38,67
------------------	---------------------------

1st field starts at position 1

2nd field starts at position 9

3rd field starts at position 24

Last field starts at position 38 and ends at position 67

By knowing where the next field starts you infer the length of the field.

Data is truncated to fit into these field sizes.

Eg

Field 1 (starting at 1) is length $9-1+1 = 8$ characters long

Field 2 (starting at 9) is length $24-9+1 = 16$ characters long (i.e. covers character positions 9-23)

The [Formats] Section

This section specifies the output formats, of various types

{ SessionDate }	=	yyyymmdd
{ FilmTitle }	=	LEFT(20)
{ SessionStartTime }	=	hhmm
{ SessionID }	=	0000000000

Dates can be formatted using the yyyymmdd type formatting and times formatted using hhmm. Strings can be formatted using the LEFT() or RIGHT() key, this allows truncating to the left, or the right. We can also format numbers by specifying the required length eg. 0000000000 will ensure the number is 10 digits 0 fill.

The [Details] Section

{ CR }	Do a carriage return
{ SessionDate }	Session Date
{ FilmTitle }	Film name Title
{ FilmNameSign }	Name of the Film
{ FilmNameSignAlt }	Alternative Film name that is used for signs
{ FilmTitleAlt }	Film Title – Alternative Language
{ CensorRating }	Censor Rating
{ SessionStartTime }	Session Start Time
{ ScreenNo }	Cinema Screen Number
{ SoldOutFlag }	Sold Out Flag
{ FilmDuration }	Film Duration
{ TimeBandNo }	Which session this is, i.e. 1 for first session in this screen, 2 for second session in this screen for the day
etc	
{ NoSeatsSold }	No. of seats sold
{ NoSeatsAvailable }	No. of seats available
{ PrivateScreeningFlag }	If private screening or not {e.g. 0 for no, 1 = yes}
{ CensorRatingAlt }	Censor Rating Alternative Language
{ FilmContent }	Film Content
{ FilmContentAlt }	Alternative Film Content
{ SessionFinishTime }	Session Finish Time
{ FillingFastFlag }	Filling Fast Flag
{ SessionFeatureTime }	Session Feature start time
{ SessionIntermissionTime }	Session Intermission Time
{ OperatorName }	Cinema Name
{ OperatorShortName }	Cinema Short Name

CHAPTER 4

Appendix A: Example BLOAD Format template

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## [Definitions]

|                          |                              |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| { Delimiter }            | = ,                          |
| { DelimiterReplacement } | = -                          |
| { True }                 | = Y                          |
| { False }                | = N                          |
| { EndOfDetailCharacter } | = 013010                     |
| { FieldLayout }          | = 1,4,7,12,17,22,27,29,32,47 |

## [Formats]

|                      |            |
|----------------------|------------|
| { ScreenNo }         | = 00       |
| { TimeBandNo }       | = 0        |
| { SessionStartTime } | = hhmm     |
| { FilmDuration }     | = 0        |
| { NoSeatsSold }      | = 0        |
| { NoSeatsAvailable } | = 0        |
| { FilmNameSign }     | = LEFT(15) |

## [Detail]

|                      |
|----------------------|
| { ScreenNo }         |
| { TimeBandNo }       |
| { SessionStartTime } |
| { FilmDuration }     |
| { NoSeatsSold }      |
| { NoSeatsAvailable } |

0





## CHAPTER 5

# Appendix B: Example Multimedia Format template

## [Definitions]

|                          |                            |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| { Delimiter }            | = ,                        |
| { DelimiterReplacement } | = -                        |
| { True }                 | = Y                        |
| { False }                | = N                        |
| { EndOfDetailCharacter } | = 013010                   |
| { FieldLayout }          | = 1,9,24,28,32,34,35,38,67 |

## [Formats]

|                      |            |
|----------------------|------------|
| { SessionDate }      | = mmdyyy   |
| { FilmNameSign }     | = LEFT(15) |
| { SessionStartTime } | = hhmm     |
| { ScreenNo }         | = 00       |
| { FilmDuration }     | = 000      |
| { FilmTitleAlt }     | = LEFT(30) |

## [Detail]

|                      |
|----------------------|
| { SessionDate }      |
| { FilmNameSign }     |
| { CensorRating }     |
| { SessionStartTime } |
| { ScreenNo }         |
| { SoldOutFlag }      |
| { FilmDuration }     |
| { FilmTitleAlt }     |



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