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How to setup Skype with Dante Virtual Soundcard in a SymNet conferencing system

This Tech Tip will explain the process of integrating Skype software with Symetrix hardware, using Dante Virtual Soundcard in a video conferencing system.

Skype is a Voice over IP service and Instant Messenger Client, currently developed by Microsoft-owned Skype Technologies. Skype allows users to communicate with peers by voice using a microphone, video by using a webcam, and instant messaging over the Internet. Phone calls may be placed to recipients on the traditional telephone networks. Calls to other users within the Skype service are free of charge, while calls to landline telephones and mobile phones are charged via a debit-based user account system. Skype has also become popular for its additional features, including file transfer, and videoconferencing.

What you will need:

1. SymNet Composer
2. SymNet Radius, Radius AEC, or Edge processor
3. Dante Controller
4. Dante Virtual Soundcard (or DVS)
5. Skype

Open Dante Virtual Soundcard (DVS).

1) Start > All Programs > Audinate > Dante Virtual Soundcard.

2) Turn on the DVS by pressing the green power button.

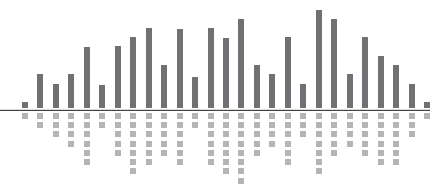


Open Dante Controller located at Start > All Programs > Audinate > Dante Controller.

The Dante Device Network Name of the PC or MAC running Dante Virtual Soundcard (DVS) should be visible on the Routing page in Dante Controller.

In this example the name of the Dante network device is cpainter-It1.

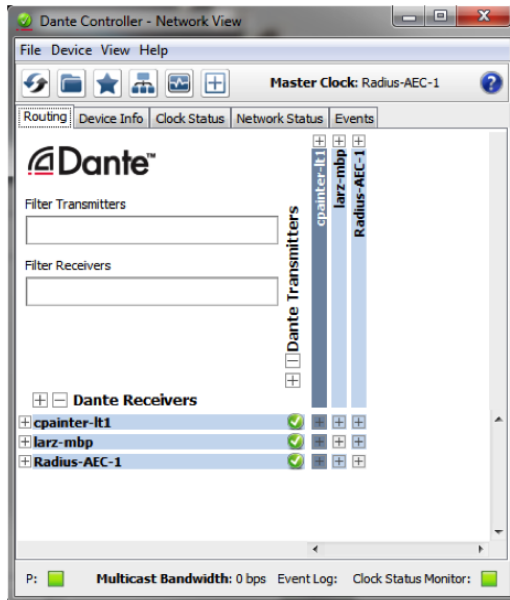
Write this name down for a later step.



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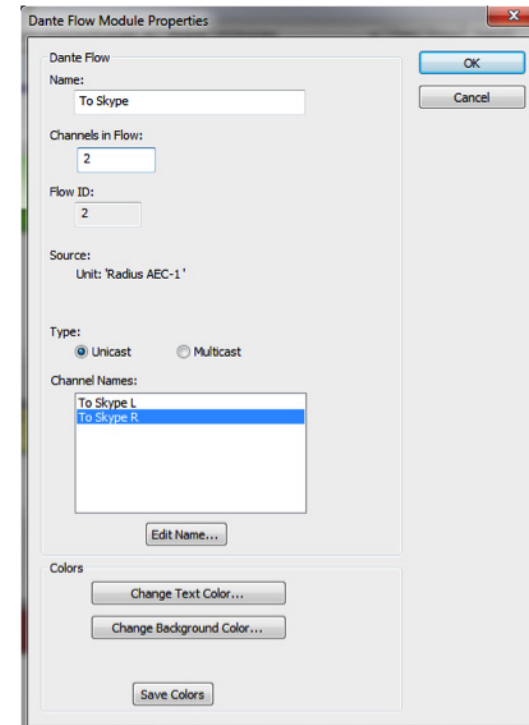
We will need Dante audio going both directions in this case so we can hear the far end speaking to us, and so the far end can hear us speaking to them. So the Site File will have both transmit, and receive Dante Flows.

Creating your Dante Flow from Composer to Skype:

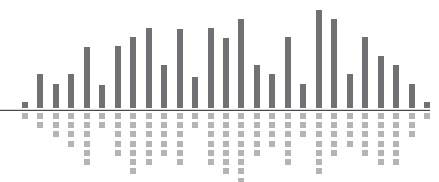


- 1) Connect your computer to your EDGE or Radius unit via the Ethernet port.
- 2) Open SymNet Composer
- 3) Select Tools>Dante Flow Manager.
- 4) Select New Dante Flow.
- 5) Enter your Dante Flow name, select the amount of channels you need, and label them.
- 6) Select OK.
- 7) Drag the Dante Bus from your Toolkit into your Design View.
- 8) Wire your audio source into this transmit Dante flow.

Creating your Dante Flow from Skype back to Composer:



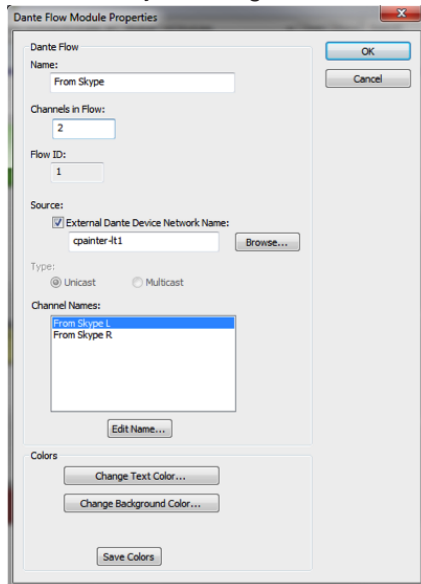
- 1) Select Tools>Dante Flow Manager.
- 2) Select New Dante Flow.
- 3) Enter your Dante Flow name, select the amount of channels you need, and label them.
- 4) Check the Source box for External Dante Device Network Name, and enter the Network Name we got earlier from Dante Controller.
- 5) Select OK.
- 6) Drag the Dante Bus from your Toolkit into your Design View.



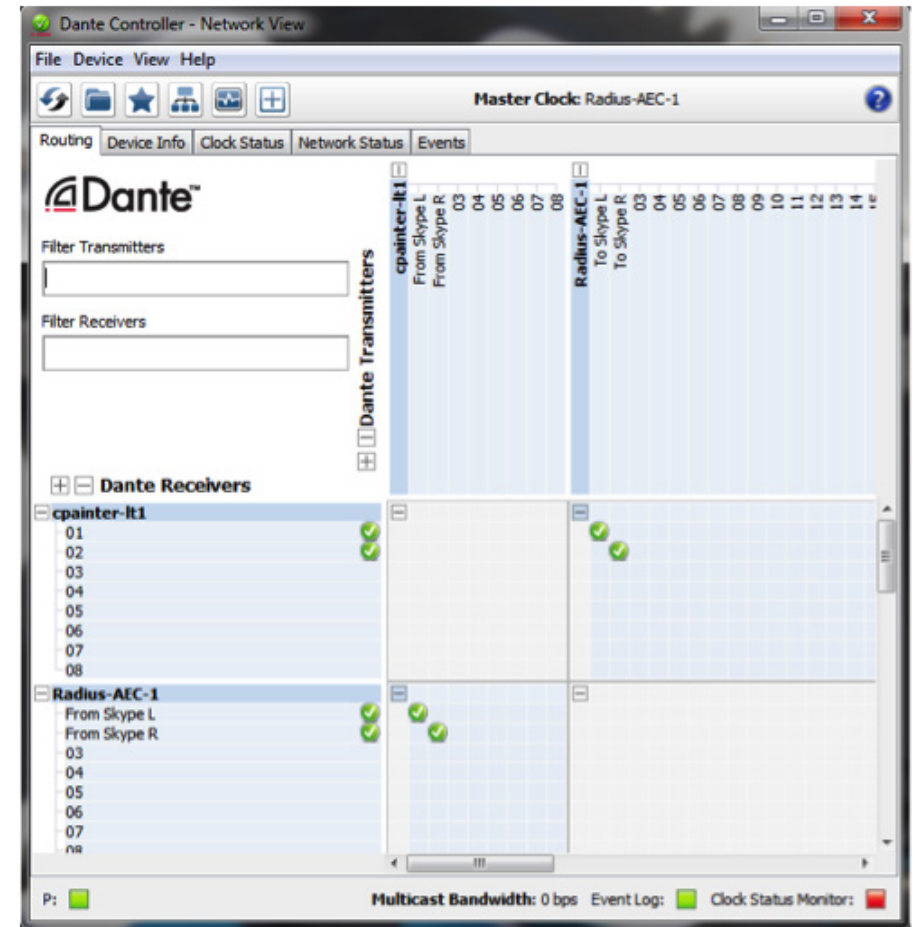
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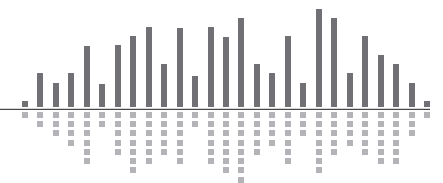
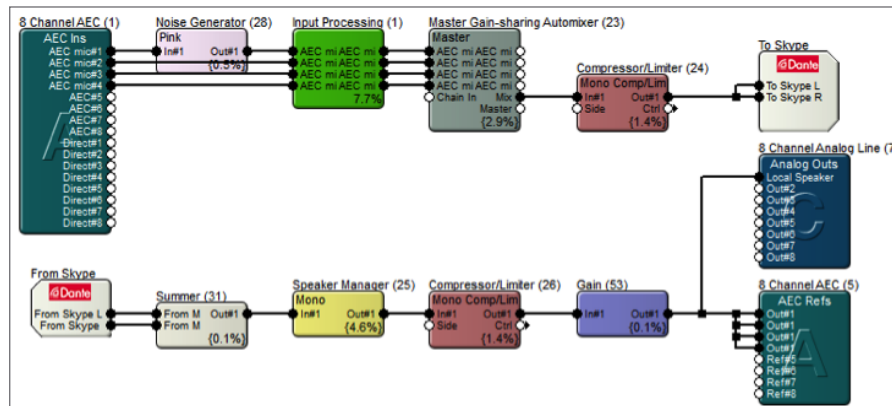
Wire this receive Dante flow into your design.



In Dante Controller it shows cpainter-It1 Transmitters connected to Radius-AEC-1 Receivers (From Skype). It also shows the Radius AEC transmitters (To Skype), connected to cpainter-It1 Receivers.



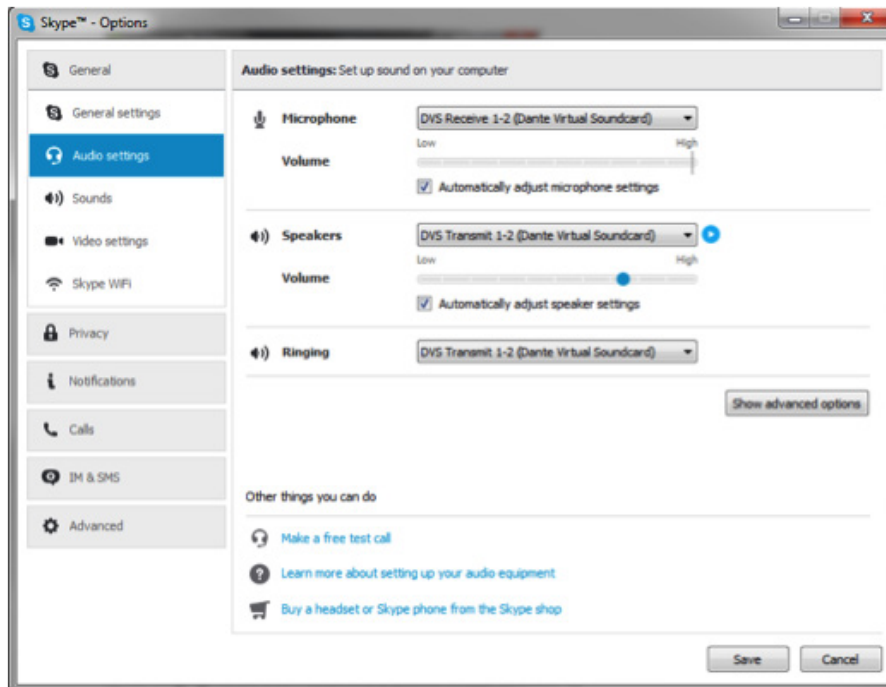
Here is the site file that we are working with for this example.



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Finally open Skype software

- 1) Start > All Programs > Skype
- 2) Click on the Tools Menu > Options
- 3) Click on Audio Settings in the left column
- 4) For Microphone, Select DVS Receive 1-2 (Dante Virtual Soundcard)
- 5) For Speaker, Select DVS Transmit 1-2 (Dante Virtual Soundcard)
- 6) For Ringing, Select DVS Transmit 1-2 (Dante Virtual Soundcard)



Optional: The Automatic Gain Control (AGC) in Skype can be disabled so all dynamics processing can be managed in SymNet. If you wish to disable the AGC in Skype, uncheck the box that says: Automatically adjust microphone settings. Automatically adjust speaker settings can also be disabled.

Furthermore, Skype's echo cancellation mode can be disabled. The Acoustic Echo Cancellation in SymNet will achieve superior results than Skypes built in echo cancellation mode. When using the Acoustic Echo Cancellation in SymNet, we recommend disabling Skype's built in echo cancellation mode. We have stand alone document specifically for this procedure.

<http://www.symetrix.co/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/2014-08-DisableSkypeEcho.pdf>

At this point you can make a call on the system and start dialing in the gain structure for good AEC results.

