



NewTek TalkShow® VS 100 – Update

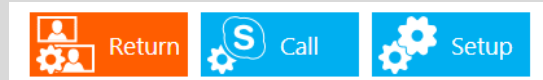
PREFACE: WHAT IS THIS UPDATE ALL ABOUT?



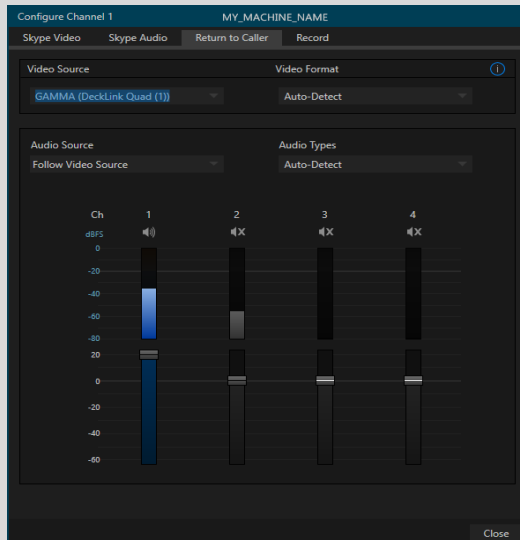
CONNECTIONS



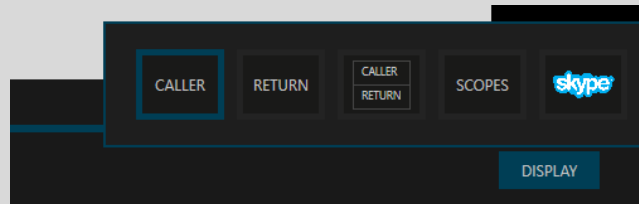
SYSTEM SETUP



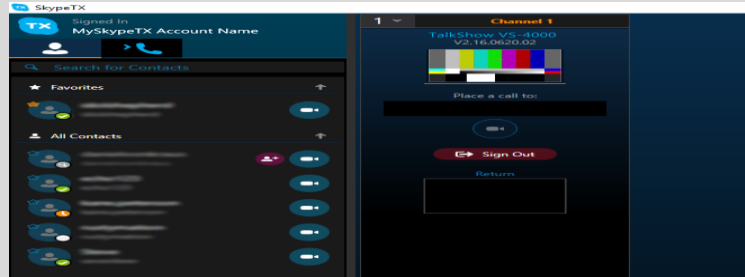
SKYPE RETURN CONFIGURATION



MONITORING



SKYPE TX CONTROL



NDI (NETWORK DEVICE INTERFACE)

NDI™

Preface (What is This Upgrade All About?)

Since the introduction of NewTek's innovative TalkShow® VS 100 about a year and a half ago, much has changed. You may have seen articles in the press with headlines like "Huge changes are coming for Skype users!", "Microsoft announces upcoming changes to Skype", and "Skype finalizes its move to the cloud."

As a TalkShow VS 100 owner, you're probably wondering how these adjustments – introduced with a view to better supporting the massive number of Skype users worldwide, and presenting an even more robust communications solution – would affect you.



During the same period (and with an eye to the future) NewTek released TalkShow VS 4000™, offering 3 more Skype channels and a completely redesigned interface and workflow based on the new Skype TX 4 platform. In this newer design, Microsoft's Skype TX Controller Application – which enables a single operator to control multiple Skype TX units – plays an *expanded role.

- * In the original SkypeTX edition (which provided the foundation for TalkShow VS 100), Skype call management and contacts were handled in an integrated SkypeTX client running on TalkShow. The use of the supplemental Skype TX control application to manage calls was optional. Soon, however, due to impending infrastructure changes affecting the entire Skype network, this platform *and software based on it* will be retired.

In view of these changes and to preserve your current TalkShow functionality, NewTek prepared this software upgrade for your TalkShow VS 100. This version embodies the very latest Skype TX technology, and will bring your system into feature parity with the top of the line VS 4000 model.

Things You Should Know

As this update necessarily introduces revised workflows and completely new software, there is a bit of a learning curve, and you're well advised to allow some time to become familiar with this version before using it in production.

Generally, the audio and video functionality, features, and related controls in the new software version are similar to those in the original TalkShow VS 100, though their presentation is often cosmetically different. However, in this new version the Skype TX control application is always used initiate and manage your Skype calls. If you haven't used Skype TX control before, you'll definitely want to become acquainted with it.

Getting Started

User Guide

The unified interface shared by TalkShow VS 4000 and the newly upgrade VS 100 will make it easier to use both products with ease and confidence.

Naturally, changes this profound call for new documentation. You can find the updated User Guide at “C:\Program Files\NewTek\NewTek TalkShow\Documentation”, or open it from the TalkShow group in the Windows “All Apps” list.

Connections

Good news – although you’ll want to configure you’re a/v input sources and output settings in the new software, any hardware i/o connections you’ve previously made will continue to serve your needs as before.

System Setup

Previously, configuration and preferences for various system settings such as Video Standard (NTSC/PAL), Genlock, etc., were found in the Setup tab (see Figure 3).

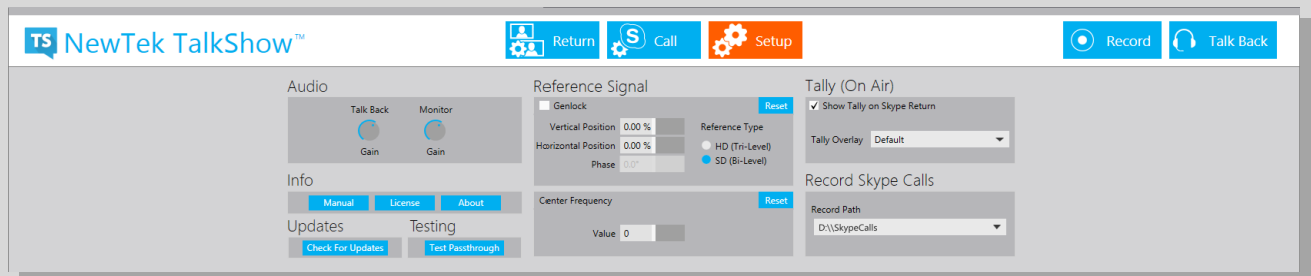


Figure 3

These settings are now found in a new *Setup* panel.

To access the new *Setup* pane, click the configuration icon (gear) located next to the clock in TalkShow’s titlebar (Figure 2).

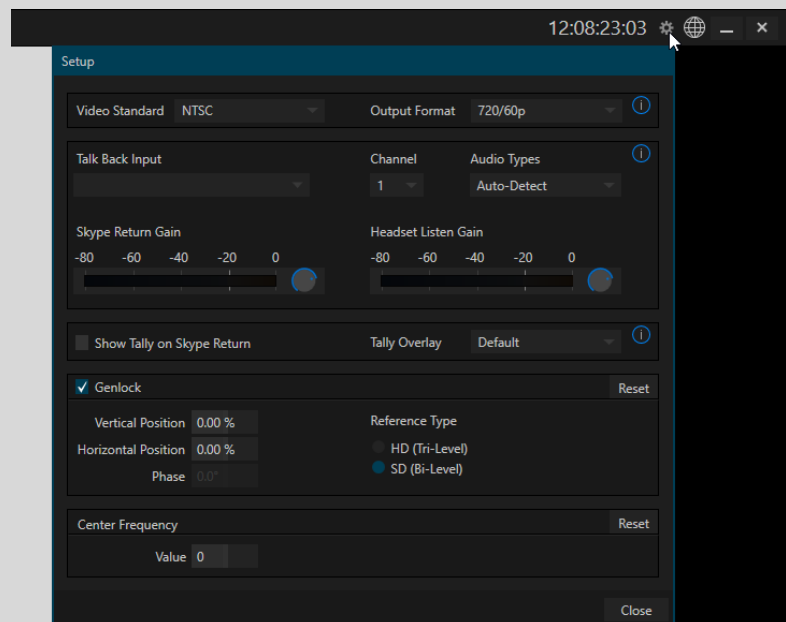


Figure 2

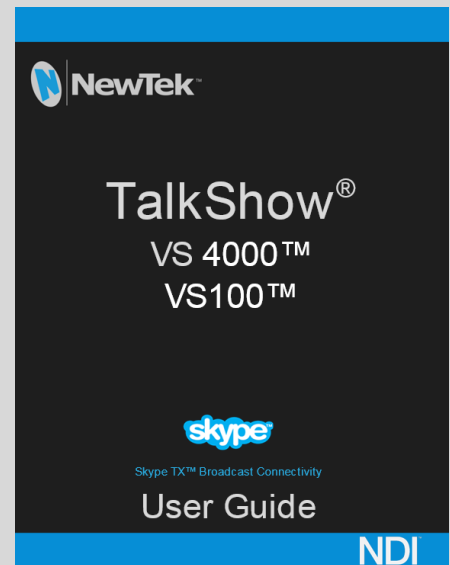


Figure 1

Skype Return Configuration

In the original software interface, you may have taken advantage of the ability to supply a single program return stream over SDI or NDI to supply the audio and video needs for two different TalkShow VS 100 units.

Since properly supplying audio to each remote caller requires two unique ‘mix minus’ feeds, the *Connection* menu in the VS 100 *Audio* group allowed you to choose between *SDI Embedded* (channels 1 and 2), or *SDI Embedded 3, 4*.

TalkShow now takes advantage of the fact that the Skype returns mono audio to the caller to allow additional mix minus returns on a single feed.

Figure 2 illustrates this arrangement. The first embedded audio channel carried by the selected a/v source has been prepared (upstream) with a mono mix minus intended for this VS 100 caller. The other three audio channels are simply muted in the *Return to Caller* tab for this TalkShow channel.

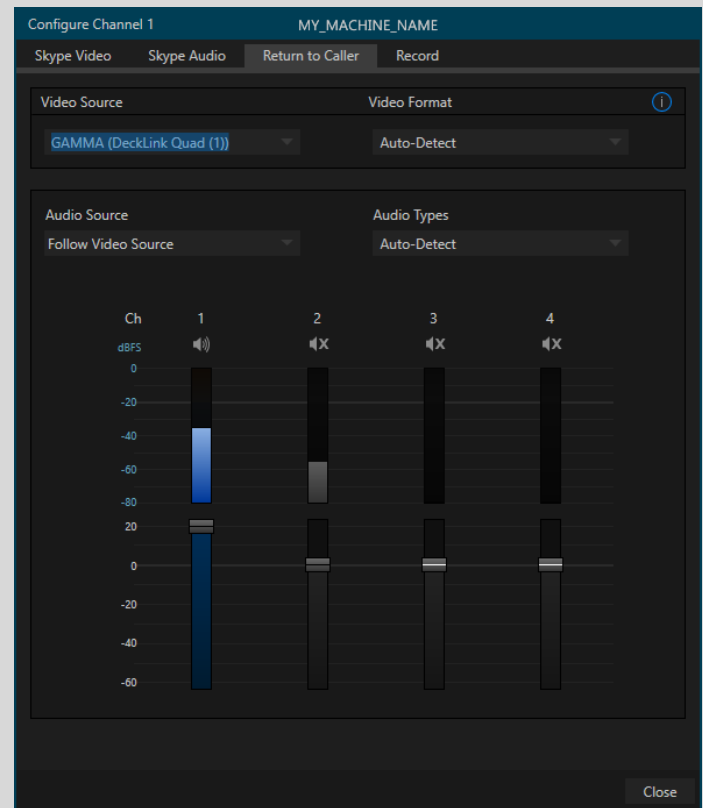


Figure 4

Thus a remote caller will hear only the appropriate sound (i.e., with his own voice removed), leaving the other three channels free for other purposes (typically, to supply mix minus returns for three more Skype callers).

NOTE: For consistency across the TalkShow family, Return Audio Gain is a global setting, provided in the Setup panel referred to earlier (Figure 3).

Monitoring Options

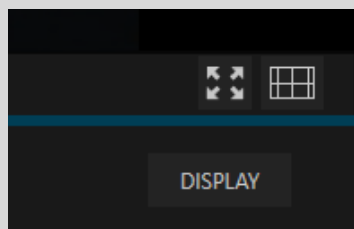


Figure 5

Fullscreen

Click the *Fullscreen* button, above the *Display* control at right below the main Skype caller display viewport to toggle a useful high quality, full screen output. Press ESC or click to return to the standard display mode.

Overlays

Viewports now include *Picture-in-Picture* support along with *Title Safe*, *4:3 Safe* and (audio) *VU* overlays. An overlay menu opens when you click the button at right beside the *Fullscreen* icon.

Display Options

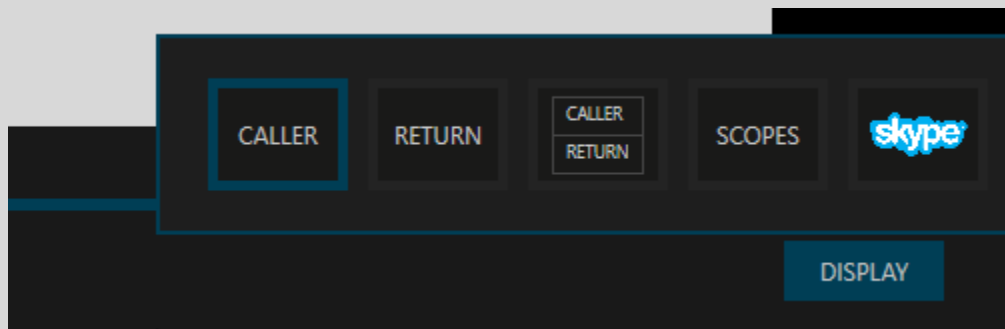


Figure 6

Click the *Display* button in the same area to select between optional display modes, to access the Scopes screen, or to launch the (now vital) Skype TX Control application.

Hint: It is best to run Skype TX Control on a suitable external computer, but note that – launched in this manner on the local TalkShow host – you can locate the control interface on a second monitor connected to TalkShow.

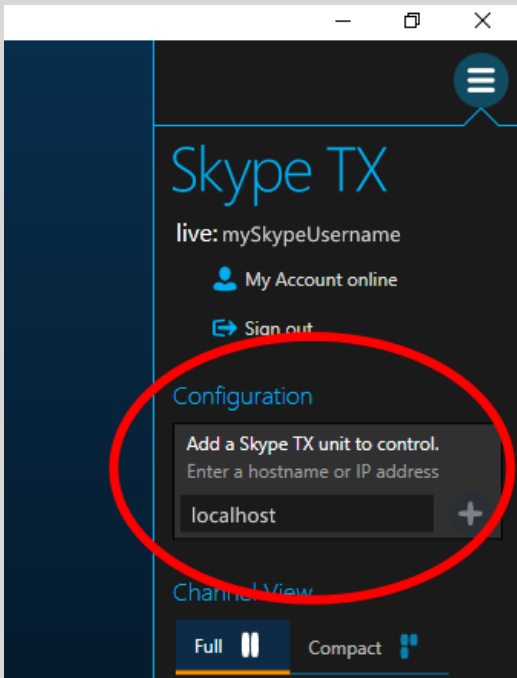
Skype TX™ Control



Figure 7

As mentioned at the outset, this supplemental application is now your central ‘switchboard’ for initiating and managing Skype calls for use with TalkShow. The User Guide provides full details of its use, but we’ll touch on a few introductory points here.

Connecting to TalkShow



On launch, Skype TX Control will ask you to enter the login credentials for the Skype account you intend to use. Afterward, the control application must be configured to control the individual Skype TX channels you wish it to manage.

If you run Skype TX Control locally on your VS 100, connect directly to the local TalkShow by entering “localhost” into the *Add a Skype TX unit to control* box at upper right in the application (Figure 8).

Otherwise, enter the IP address for a remote VS 100 on the same network.

Figure 8

Continue to set up the application by selecting the channel(s) you wish to control (see Figure 9).

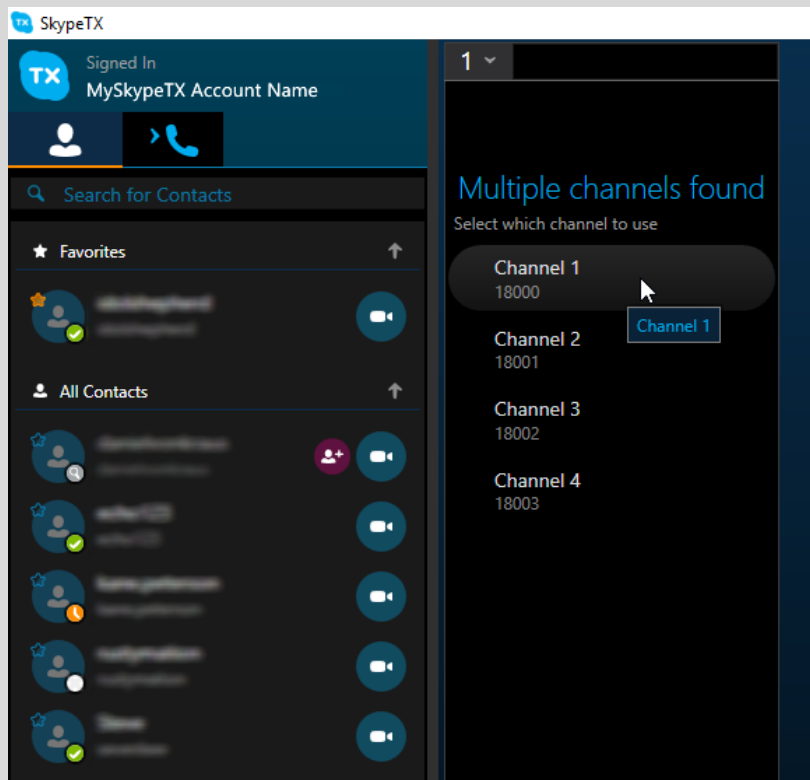


Figure 9

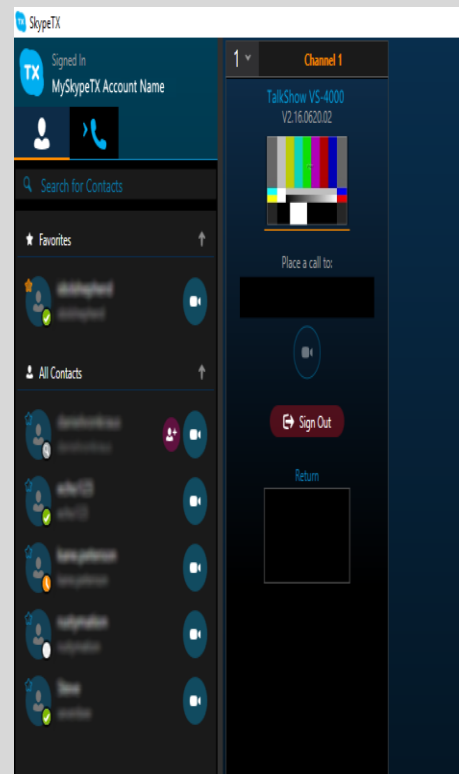


Figure 10

Subsequently, a new column is added to the application with addition controls for the selected channel – see Figure 10.

Contact List

In contrast with earlier Skype TX design, which mandated a unique contact list for the unit, the left-most column of the control application now displays the standard Skype contact list for the account you used to log in - Figure 11.

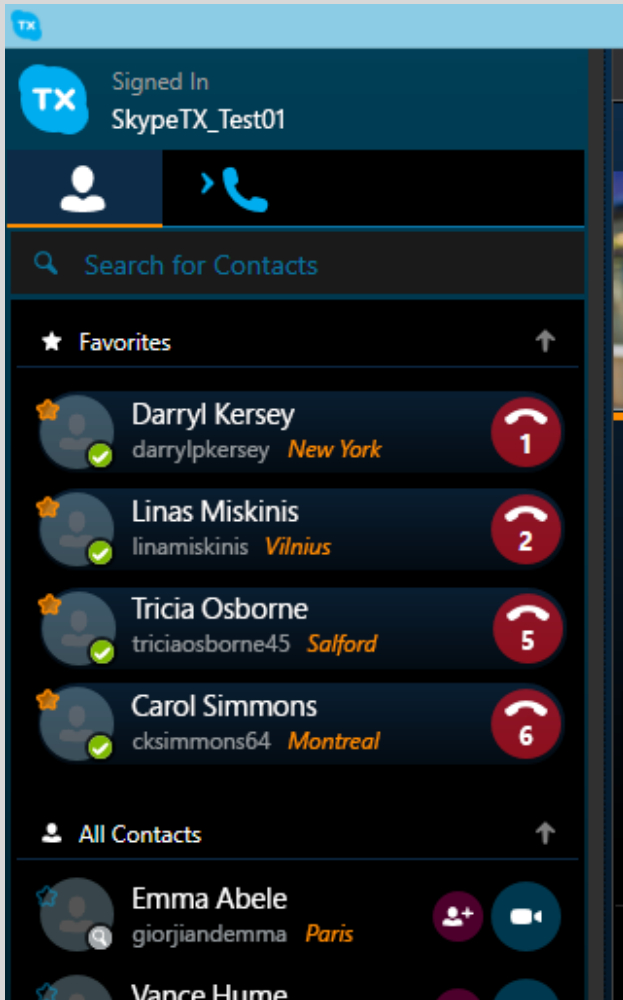


Figure 11

Calls can be flexibly initiated and managed using controls in both the *Contact* list or in an individual channel control column.

Hint: If you are running the control application locally and using a single monitor for display, its interface can become hidden behind the TalkShow Desktop. You can minimize the Desktop to access it, or press ALT + Tab on the keyboard to cycle between the two applications.

(For more information on Skype TX Control, please refer to the User Guide.)

NDI (Network Device Interface)

One of the changes that has taken place alongside other TalkShow advancements is the rise of NDI™ (Network Device Interface). NDI is, without fear of successful challenge, by far the most ubiquitous standard for live production IP workflows over Ethernet networks. A bi-directional standard that can operate over a GigE local area network, NDI allows systems and devices to identify and communicate with each other, and to encode, transmit, and receive high quality, low latency, frame-accurate video and audio over IP in real time.

TalkShow now supports NDI, providing more flexible options for your Skype TX and production workflow. TriCaster also now supports NDI, making a natural pairing that is unrivalled – a single network connection can easily provide all i/o transmission needs for both systems.

Beyond this, NDI support provides many additional workflow benefits.

With NDI, location and distance are no longer obstacles. You don't have to directly attach devices, wrangle cables when changing locations, or sacrifice sources for devices with limited hardware inputs.



A standard GigE LAN infrastructure is all that's needed to accommodate NewTek's efficient, live IP video workflow. For more information on the benefits of NDI and IP workflows, please visit the URL below:

<http://www.newtek.com/solutions/advanced-ip-workflow.html>