

PREVUE INTERNATIONAL PC

Version 2.5 Release

This release includes:

- Release Document (this document)
- Prevue Junior Software
- Prevue Argentina Software
- Prevue Junior Spanish Software
- Primestar PC Software

Version:

Version 2.5 - 31 JAN 1997

- * Language table format changes.
- * 110 baud control commands support.
- * Sports Summary format changes.
- * Support for custom order information.
- * Support for TV ratings and conversion of Amiga special symbols.
- * User configuration of the laser script format type.
- * Display of default graphic when specified ad cannot be displayed.
- * Detection of video insertion dropout.
- * Adjustment of SBS parenthetical show times.
- * Highlighting enhancements.
- * HP configuration control of military time.
- * HP configuration control of display language.
- * Custom color configurations.
- * Text ad enhancements.
- * Support for Remote Modem ad management.

Disk Changes:

The following files should be present on the installation diskette for each system:

- Install.bat
- Pcepgzip.exe
- Pcepg.ini
- Pcepgsys.ini
- Colors.ini
- Fonts.ini
- Wingdng3.fot
- Wingdng3.ttf

Testing:

For this release (Version 2.5), the essential tests must cover:

1. Verification of Spanish, French, German and English program guide text .
2. Correct timing and display of promotion tags using 110 baud control data.
3. Verification of correct formatting of and display information within the program summaries.
4. Reception of custom order information commands.
5. Display of custom order information.
6. Conversion of special characters to their parenthetical equivalents.
7. Display of TV ratings when present within the program data.
8. Run time change of the laser script format type.
9. Verification of the display of the default graphic when ads are specified but not present or when video insertion is prematurely interrupted.
10. Display of highlighting by source and by program for the various highlight flags.
11. Verification that the display of military time can be controlled by the HP configuration.
12. Verification that the display language can be controlled by the HP configuration.
13. Selection and display of differing color schemes.
14. Editing, display, and loading of text ads.
15. Loading graphic and text ads via the Remote Modem software package.
16. Updating ad ratios via the Remote Modem software package.

(1) Language table format changes.**Specification:**

The system's display language is set by and can be changed by the 'Language' field in the new look configuration command. Upon startup or whenever a new look configuration command is received, the value in the 'Language' field will be matched against values in the PCEPG.INI language section to determine what the display language will be.

Test Conditions and Results:

The unit was initialized with the language flag set to 'E' (English) and then sent new configurations with the language flag set to different values. After each language change the program grid, summaries, weather, and promotional tags were cycled and the text checked to make sure that the language had changed and that the translations were accurate.

Developer's Notes:

Only text generated by the system which appears on the program guide screen is affected by the language flag. Text contained within the maintenance screens, and the program listing text are not changed in response to the language flag.

Many of the available translations appear only when a laser script or 110 baud commands are controlling the promotional area. In order to test the widest variety of translations it is necessary to run the system with a laser script which causes a variety of show times to be displayed in the tags.

(2) 110 baud control commands support.**Specification:**

The following 110 Baud control commands are supported by the system:

- Ctrl-A1 – Display quarter screen promotion with quarter screen tag.
- Ctrl-A3 – Display half screen national ad.
- Ctrl-A7 – Display tag transition.
- Ctrl-C – Display default graphic.
- Ctrl-D – Set default side.
- Ctrl-E – Set event type.
- Ctrl-L1 – Display text or graphic ad.
- Ctrl-L3 – Display half screen national ad.
- Ctrl-Q – Set promotion titles.

The Ctrl-E command supports the following event types:

- '0' – Perform title lookup
- '1' – Display title as showing on Monday
- '2' – Display title as showing on Tuesday
- '3' – Display title as showing on Wednesday
- '4' – Display title as showing on Thursday
- '5' – Display title as showing on Friday
- '6' – Display title as showing on Saturday
- '7' – Display title as showing on Sunday
- '8' – Display title as showing on Weekdays
- '9' – Display title as showing on Weeknights
- ':' – Display title as Coming Soon
- ',' – Display title as showing This Month
- '<' – Display title as showing Next Month
- '=' – Display title as showing This Fall
- '>' – Display title as showing This Summer
- '?' – Display title as showing on Tuesdays & Fridays
- '@' – Display title as showing on Mondays & Saturdays
- 'A' – Display title as showing on Weekends
- 'B' – Display title as showing Every Night
- 'C' – Display title as showing Every Day
- 'D' – Display literal text
- 'E' – Display a regional ad
- 'F' – Display v1 or page 1 of system default order information.
- 'G' – Display v1 or page 2 of system default order information.
- 'H' – Display title as showing on Mondays thru Saturdays
- 'I' – Display title as showing on Mondays thru Thursdays
- 'J' – Display title as showing on Weekday Mornings
- 'K' – Display title as showing on Weekday Afternoons
- 'L' – Display title as showing on Tuesdays & Thursdays

'M' – Display title as showing This Week

Test Conditions and Results:

The unit was loaded with one or more day's data. Appropriate sequences of commands for desired responses were transmitted to the box and the resulting displays were compared to the expected results. Required sequences to test all of the supported commands and event types were sent and verified.

Developer's Notes:

Special hardware is required for the implementation and testing of this requirement. At present PC modified Amiga demod and audio switching boards are being used.

(3) Sports Summary format changes.

Specification:

The Sports Summary will be formatted similar to the Summary By Source program summary. All of the sports programs beginning from the current time and extending out a number of time slots equal to the Sports Summary look ahead value in the new look configuration file will be included in the Sports Summary. The entries in the Sports Summary will be listed chronologically by source, with all of the sports programs for a given source being listed before listing the programs for additional sources.

Test Conditions and Results:

The unit was loaded with program data containing sports programs which were on air during the time of the test, or within a number of time slots after the time of the test as specified by the Sports Summary look ahead value. The unit was loaded with configuration values to specify the look ahead value as well as the frequency of the Sports Summary. When the Sports Summary appeared in the grid rotation it was verified that the sports programs which met the time range criteria were present within the summary ordered by air time and source. The air times were verified for duplicate showings and parenthetical time adjustments.

Developer's Notes:

(4) Support for custom order information.

Specification:

The system will accept, process and store custom order information from the v1, v2, v3, and j commands. When present and timely, custom order information for a program will be displayed in the promotional tag. When a program for which custom order information is available is displayed in the grid, the custom order information will also be placed in the grid if the program has started in the current time slot, and extends the full width of the grid. Programs present in program summaries will include custom order information if it is available.

Test Conditions and Results:

The unit was configured with a select code which receives program data with custom order information. The program data was loaded and the display was checked to ensure that the order information was present in the appropriate locations within the grid, the program summaries and the tags. Order information was checked for both laser configurations, satellite configurations and pie chart configurations.

Developer's Notes:

v2 and v3 commands are currently transmitted only to sneak. The tests were performed with custom order information contained within the v1 and j commands. Tests with local test data were performed to test the processing of the v2 and v3 commands.

(5) Support for TV ratings and conversion of Amiga special symbols.

Specification:

Character codes which have been defined on the Amiga as ratings, captioning, and stereo symbols will be translated to textual equivalents on the PC system for on screen display. The TV ratings will be received, stored, and displayed in the same manner as movie ratings.

Test Conditions and Results:

The test unit was set up with a Canadian laser select code and sent data. It was verified that the symbols did NOT show in the promotional tags, but were converted to parenthetical text instead.

The test unit was loaded with program data containing TV ratings. It was verified that the ratings were displayed in both the grid and the promotional tags.

Developer's Notes:

Canadian laser data was chosen for testing since the Canadian laser scripts are sent containing ratings symbols instead of parenthetical text ratings.

At the time of test no 'live' data was available which contained TV ratings. The test was performed with locally inserted TV ratings.

(6) User configuration of the laser script format type.**Specification:**

Allow the user to change the laser script format type from the diagnostics screen. The laser scripts will reload based upon the selected format type, the promotion cycle will begin at the start of the cycle, and the configuration file will be updated with the selected format.

Test Conditions and Results:

The test unit was started with the script format type specified in the configuration file. After the promotions began playing, the script format type was changed in the diagnostics dialog. The unit restarted the promotion cycle at the beginning of the new format cycle.

Developer's Notes:

Determination of the proper sequence for a laser script is difficult. The sequence of types in the script is complicated by the presence of multiple alternate types for each type. It is often difficult, if not impossible, to determine if the sequence is playing correctly without the use of a software debugger. The error messages which are placed in the program log window indicate which types were unable to play and can sometimes be used to determine the promotion sequence.

(7) Display of alternate type in laser script file when a local ad type is unable to display.

Specification:

During laser promotions, the system will attempt to display alternate types whenever a local ad type is unable to play, instead of skipping to the next type.

Test Conditions and Results:

The unit was configured as a laser system and loaded with data. All local ads were removed from the system to force the local ad promotions to fail. A laser script was modified to contain known good and bad alternate types for each of the local ad types. The unit was started and allowed to cycle through the laser promotions. The promotion tags and log window were examined to ensure that the correct alternate types were playing in the correct order.

Developer's Notes:

Determination of the proper sequence for a laser script is difficult. The sequence of types in the script is complicated by the presence of multiple alternate types for each type. It is often difficult, if not impossible, to determine if the sequence is playing correctly without the use of a software debugger. The error messages which are placed in the program log window indicate which types were unable to play and can sometimes be used to determine the promotion sequence.

(8) Detection of video insertion dropout.

Specification:

During video insertion segments, the system will monitor the on air signal, checking once per second to ensure that the insertion is still active. If at any time during the insertion segment, the insertion is not on air, the default graphic will be displayed until the end of the segment. Dropout detection is done only on systems configured to use the on air signal.

Test Conditions and Results:

The test laser unit was configured for video insertion and was cabled to the video insertion equipment as per Prevue Argentina documentation. Several 'normal' insertions were run to verify the proper functioning of the equipment. During the test insertion, the video player was prematurely stopped. The default graphic was displayed for the remainder of the insertion segment.

Developer's Notes:

Early laser units were not configured with a video insertion card installed. Prevue Junior units do not contain an insertion card.

(9) Adjustment of SBS parenthetical show times.

Specification:

The show times listed in the program summaries will be adjusted to reflect parenthetical time offsets.

Test Conditions and Results:

A unit was loaded with program data and configured to display program summaries. It was verified that the parenthetical times of programs listed in the grid were the same as the show times listed in the summaries.

Developer's Notes:

(10) Highlighting enhancements.**Specification:**

The system will highlight portions of the source row in the listing grid as determined by the highlight settings in the 'Grid Parameters' section of PCEPG.INI and the settings of the source and program highlight flags within the program data. When source highlight flags are set the channel box, the time slots in the grid, or the entire source row can be set to a highlight color as defined in the COLORS.INI file. When the program highlight flags are set, the program to which the flag belongs can be set to a highlight color as defined in the COLORS.INI file. When highlighting is enable for both a source and a program within that source, the 'Highlight Precedence' value determines whether the program highlighting will override the source highlighting or not.

For source highlighting, the highlight, alt highlight, and Pay-Per-View flags affect highlighting. For program highlighting, the alt highlight, movie, and sports flags affect highlighting. Each of these flags has an associated color definition in the COLORS.INI file as well as a highlight setting in PCEPG.INI. For more information about the PCEPG.INI highlight settings, see the comments above the highlight settings in PCEPG.INI.

Test Conditions and Results:

The unit was loaded with data which contained sources with all three types of highlight flags set, and programs with all three types of program flags set. The program highlight settings in PCEPG.INI were tested while set to NONE and PROGRAM. The channel highlight settings were tested while set to NONE, CHANNEL, and CHANNEL BOX. The highlight precedence was set first to PROGRAM and then to CHANNEL. For each combination of settings, the program grid was examined to verify that the setting worked as expected.

Developer's Notes:

(11) HP configuration control of military time.

Specification:

The system will switch to and from 24 hour (military) time based upon the 'Military Flag' in the HP-provided new look configuration file.

Test Conditions and Results:

The system was configured for 12 hour time and started. Configuration commands containing both Y and N values for the military flag were sent to the system. It was verified that the system displayed 24 hour time when the military flag was set to Y, and 12 hour time when the military flag was set to N.

Developer's Notes:

Within the context of the PC system, the implementation of the military flag is an emulation of the Amiga methodology. The system actually provides a 'normal' time format and an 'alternate' time format. The setting of the military flag in the configuration command tells the system which of the two formats to choose. Either of the time formats can be changed within the PCEPG.INI file to be any format allowed by the CTime class format function (which also provides the documentation for the format strings).

(12) HP configuration control of display language.

Specification:

The system will switch display languages based upon the 'Language' field in the HP-provided new look configuration file. The languages currently supported by the configuration command are: English, Spanish, French, and German.

Test Conditions and Results:

The test unit was sent configuration commands with the language field set to each of the valid values. It was verified that the display language changed in accordance with the configuration values.

Developer's Notes:

The PCEPG.INI file contains a language section wherein each of the configuration values is assigned a language in order to support the HP configuration command language field. The system is designed to support any language which uses Arabic characters simply by providing a translation tables and indicating which table to use. While the legal range of values in the HP configuration command limits the languages to English, Spanish, German, and French. The language assignments to those values can be altered from the standard four languages to any other languages for which translation tables exist.

(13) Custom color configurations.

Specification:

The system will provide a dialog box from which the user may select one of a number of predefined color schemes. The color schemes are identical to the COLOR.INI file in format, excepting that they contain different colors and background settings for the display than the COLOR.INI file. By selecting a color scheme, the user can customize the colors for that unit without restarting the system..

Test Conditions and Results:

The COLOR.INI files for Prevue Junior, Prevue Argentina, and Prevue Junior Spanish were used as test color schemes. The unit was started using the default colors. Each of the color schemes was selected from the 'Choose Color Scheme' option on the main menu. After each color scheme selection, the unit was returned to the program grid to verify that the color change took effect.

Developer's Notes:

As of this date no color schemes other than the standard colors for each system have been designed. A color scheme file can be created by starting with a COLOR.INI file, making any desired changes, then renaming the file so that it has a .CLR extension. The color scheme files are currently kept in the PREVUE\DATA sub directory.

(14) Text ad enhancements.

Specification:

The text ad edit dialog will allow the user to enter up to six lines of text per ad. Each line can be justified to the left or the right or centered. The user will be able to cycle through all of the available text ad numbers, and will be able to add, change, or delete text ads at any given number.

Test Conditions and Results:

The unit was configured for keyboard entry of text ads. Using the Activate Text Ads selection from the File menu, text ads were added, changed, and deleted. Between each text ad change, the program guide display was viewed to ensure proper recording and display of the text ads.

Developer's Notes:

The system does not support the display of colored text ads. In order to receive text ads from the Remote Modem software, it was necessary to implement support for the little 't' command. While colored text ads can be received and stored by the system, display of text ads continues unchanged from previous versions.

(15) Support for Remote Modem ad management.

Specification:

The system will be capable of receiving text and graphic ads from the Remote Modem ad maintenance software. Reception of text ads via Remote Modem will be configured as from Satellite delivery, where the 'KYBD' field of the configuration file is set to 'N'.

Test Conditions and Results:

The unit was configured as for satellite delivery of text ads. Using the Remote Modem software, text ads were created and sent to the unit. By cycling through the promotions and using the Shift-A key to force the display of text ads, it was verified that the ads sent from Remote Modem had been received.

The unit was configured for the display of graphic ads. Using the Remote Modem software, graphic ads were created and sent to the unit. By cycling through the promotions and using the Shift-A key to force the display of graphic ads, it was verified that the ads sent from Remote Modem had been received.

Developer's Notes:

(16) Updating ad ratios via the Remote Modem software package.

Specification:

The system will be capable of receiving updated ad ratios from the Remote Modem ad maintenance software. The ad ratio file sent via Remote Modem will be formatted identically to the ad file generated by the system. The updated ad ratio file is placed in the \PREVUE\UPDATE directory by the Remote Modem software, where it is detected by the system. The system then copies the new file over the old ad ratio file and changes the ad ratio within the system as it is executing.

Test Conditions and Results:

The unit was configured to use the 'PIE' promotion type. Via the Remote Modem software, all legal values for ad ratio were sent to the unit. By cycling through the promotions on the unit, it was observed that the ratio of ads to tags was changed with each Remote Modem update transmission.

Developer's Notes: