HOW TO.

Start using

AXIS Camera Station
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Introduction

The following document is to help you get started with using AXIS Camera Station. The document will highlight key features and how to complete common tasks.

AXIS Camera Station is an intuitive piece of software and this will help you very quickly become a competent user.

The document explains the commonly used software features:
- Live view
- Review
- Export of video

Prerequisites
AXIS Camera Station 5.20.007

Please note that Axis doesn’t take any responsibility for how this configuration may affect your system. If the modification fails or if you get other unexpected results, you may have to restore the settings to default.
**Initial client set up**

Before using the AXIS Camera Station Software follow the steps below for the best user experience.

**Viewing modes**

AXIS Camera Station has two viewing modes “basic” and “tree”. Tree view is better suited for larger systems and is easier to navigate folders.

Click on the + icon from the top, select Configuration. Within the “Customize” menu tick the “Tree view navigation system” box.

**Video Scaling**

To display the complete camera image select “Scale to best fit” to avoid cropping video.
User interface – Live view overview

The image below shows the different key functions within the Live view workspace. It is recommended you spend some time become familiar with its operation.

1. Tabs are used for live views, recordings, smart search, configuration, hot keys and logs. Multiple tabs can be opened and can be used for easy access to cameras. The + icon enables you to open a new tab of your choice.

2. The “Views” tab presents the system to the operator. Folders can be created to organize the system into a logical workspace for the operator. Cameras, Views, Sequences, Maps and Web pages can be shown in this space. The “Cameras” tab shows just cameras with thumb nail images for easy identification of cameras. Both tabs have a search field to quickly find the device you are looking for.

3. Add, Edit and Delete views. This is where you can add views, sequences and web pages.

4. The replay icon toggles between live and replay for the selected camera.

5. The camera name and recording method is displayed here. Blue dots indicate constant recording, red dots indicate alarm recording and a yellow dot indicates manual recording. Action buttons associated with the camera and the Audio volume control icons appear when you hover on the image.

6. Pan, Tilt and Zoom (PTZ) Control.

7. Alarms and notifications are shown in this pane. This informs the operator of important events, if there is an associated recording it will be shown as a film canister. Click on the film canister to view the recording. The alarm events are also shown in the logs.

8. On screen controls is used to automatically show device features.

9. The manual recording icon creates a recording in addition to the configured recording profile. The instant replay icon will play back the camera 5 secs from the live view. This is for instant verification of the video content. Note the time of the connected client will have an impact on the feature.

10. Full screen mode and display main menu which contains addition server connections and the help files.
User interface – Recordings

The image below shows the different key functions within the Recording view workspace. It is recommended you spend some time become familiar with its operation.

1. Tabs are used for live views, recordings, smart search, configuration, hot keys and logs. Multiple tabs can be opened and can be used for easy access to cameras. The + icon enables you to open a new tab of your choice.

2. The “Views” tab presents the system to the operator. Folders can be created to organize the system into a logical workspace for the operator. Cameras, Views, Sequences, Maps and Web pages can be shown in this space. The “Cameras” tab shows just cameras with thumbnail images for easy identification of cameras. Both tabs have a search field to quickly find the device you are looking for.

3. Toggle between live and recording workspaces.

4. Go to a specific date via the calendar.

5. Bookmarks and export. Bookmarks are used to mark important or interesting pieces of video so that they can be easily found out a later date. Export is used to share the video with authorities and third parties. AXIS File Player is exported with the video and used to replay the video without the need to install additional software.

6. Controls used to replay the video.

7. The recording time line. Constant recordings are show a continuous blue line, alarm recordings are shown and red lines and manual recordings are shown as yellow lines.

8. Full screen mode and display main menu which contains addition server connections and the help files.
Replay functionality

When replaying a camera you can drag the timeline to demonstrate fast observation of the recording (Scrubbing). Scrubbing is an easy way of finding when an event happened such as when a vehicle arrived or left the scene.

You can also increase the playback speed. Don’t forget to return this back to 1x after use.

You can select multiple camera by using +ctrl or +shift and then dragging the selection into the viewing space. This also works in the live workspace as well.
Included within AXIS Camera Station is a “Smart Search” function. Smart Search enables the operator to define an area and search for motion within that area. Click on the + icon from the top of the interface and select Smart Search.

For best results the “Include analytics data for Smart Search” has to be enabled in the streaming profiles configuration on the server.

Select a camera. Draw a search area where you want to investigate (in general try and keep the search box small). Define the start and end time and press search.

A number of matching hits will be displayed as thumb nail images on the left hand side. You can hover your mouse on the thumb nail image and get a larger preview. Double click the thumb nail image to play the event.

Note that the time line shows the search range (start to end time) and highlights the hits with black markers.

A nice operator feature is the ability to right hand click on a thumb nail image and either export the clip or add a bookmark.
Bookmarks

An important aspect of any surveillance system is the ease of finding and exporting important information. Bookmarks are used to identify important video clips.

Right hand click on an alarm video recording and select “Add Bookmark”. You can then add a comment to the video to enable you to easily find the clip at a later date. Locking the recording will lock the complete recording block (approximately 10 minutes). You can also export the video, this is discussed in the next section.

Click on the “show all bookmarks” icon to show all bookmarks created on the camera. You can filter the list by typing key words.

The comments are also exported with the video and can be shown within the AXIS File Player when reviewing the video.
Exporting video

There are two main methods of exporting video. By using the export markers which is best for exporting a constant recording or by right hand clicking on a recording and selecting export which is generally best for exporting alarm created recordings.

Using the export markers

Click on the export markers icon and drag the markers to contain the desired video to be exported.

Observe how the video changes when you drag the markers showing you the start and end video that will be exported. This makes it simple to select video without entering the date and time information.

Right hand click export

Right hand click on a video clip and select export.

Multiple clips using either method can be selected and added to the export list to build your evidence case.
AXIS File Player

Once all of the required clips have been added to the Export list you can export the video. Add notes to help explain why the video clips have been exported.

When the video is exported a folder will be created with the video and the AXIS file player which is used to play the video.

The notes associated with the video export can be observed as a pop up window.
Considerations and limitations

AXIS Camera Station is constantly evolving and the screen shots contained within this document may not reflect the current release.
To learn more about the operation of AXIS Camera Station use the context sensitive help guide within the software (F1).

For more information: