

Videstra

Get the Most From
Your Micro Local Cameras



Managing Overlays

WITH VIDEISTRA

WARRANT

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Videstra Overlay Scheduler/Manager

This document outlines the use and management of overlays as they apply to the HD-SDI video output of your Videstra system. This video output is provided by the Videstra V-Streamer™. Overlays discussed in this document *do not apply* to overlays that appear on your web pages or live streams. For overlays on your web page images or live streams from Videstra cameras see our Web Publishing document available from the Videstra website.

Types of Overlays in your Videstra System

You can set up overlays in Videstra as any one of the following options. Each Camera Panel in Videstra can be set uniquely.

Overlay Type	Behavior
None	No Overlay
Dynamic	Users can select any available overlay placed in C:\Videstra\VestraView\SDIOverlays on the V-Manager
Enforced	A single preselected overlay will always be shown on the video output for this camera panel
Scheduled	The system will consult a schedule to determine the overlay assignment for each panel. The schedule can mean different overlays can be used for different dayparts.

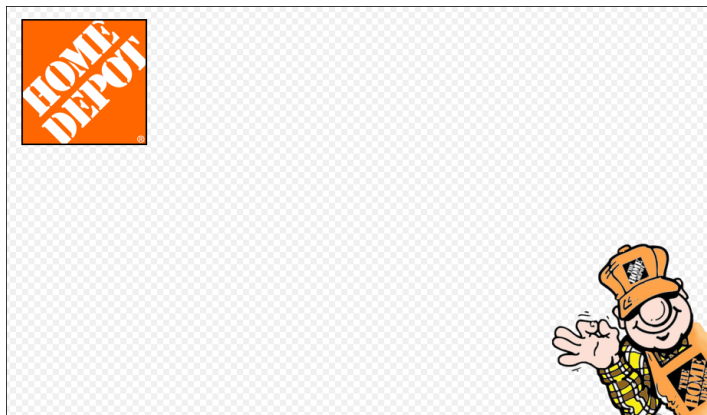
Overlay Images

All overlay images are PNG files with transparency. Videstra only supports overlays as png files with transparency. Overlays must be either 1920x1080 (preferred) or 1280x720. Other sizes are not supported.

The entire image should be transparent *except for* the logo or branding you want to see. Essentially place the logo/image in the position on the raster where you want it to appear.

Semi-transparency is supported.

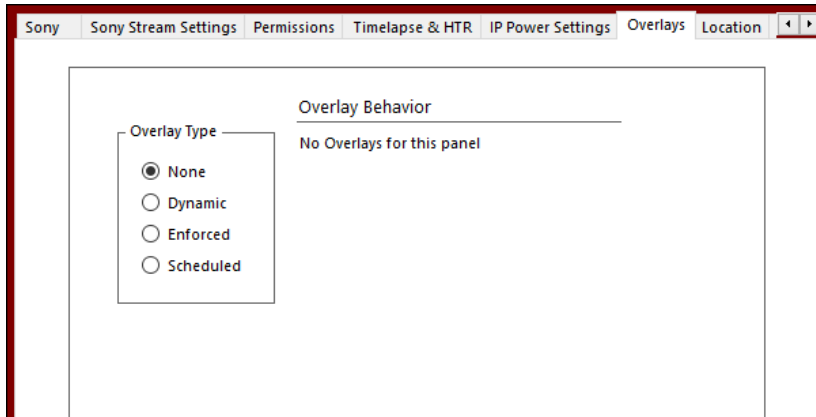
An example of a proper overlay image is installed with your system and is called HomeDepot_UL.png



This image is purposely exaggerated for this example...

Overlay Types/Behaviors

Each panel lets you choose its overlay behavior. By clicking the Gear Icon on the VestraView Client and selecting Setup Panel you can navigate to the Overlay tab and choose a behavior.



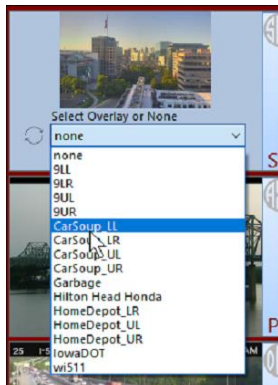
See the chart above for how each selection behaves. Here are some specific notes on Dynamic and Enforced behaviors:

Dynamic

When you select dynamic the users can select any of the PNG overlays that have been placed into the C:\Videstra\VestraView\SDIOverlays folder on the V-Manager. There are no restrictions. The thumbnail of the camera will have a small button at the bottom labelled "OVL"



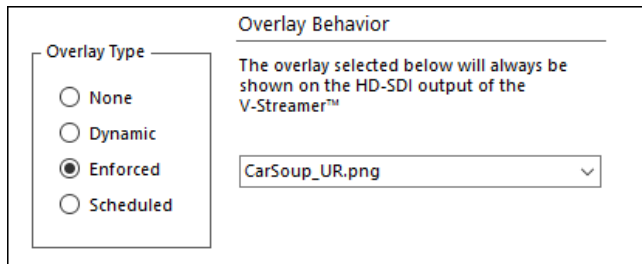
This OVL button only appears on panels set up for Dynamic overlays. Clicking on it will shrink the image and reveal the overlay selector.



From here you can select any overlay.

Enforced

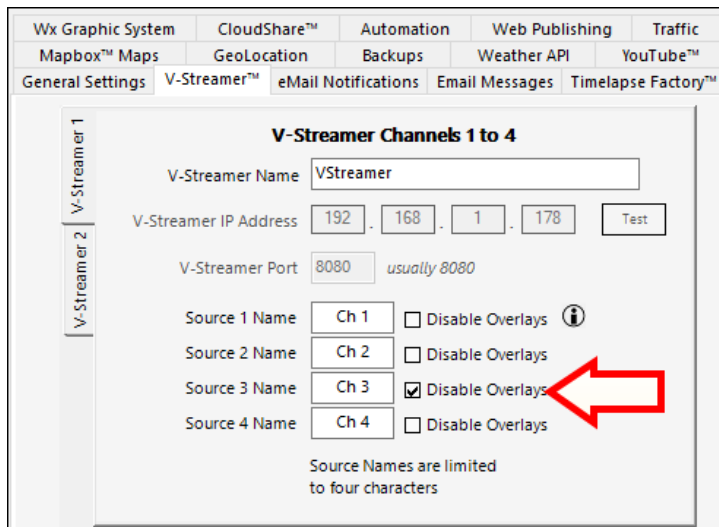
When you select the enforced behavior you must then select the overlay you *always* want to appear with this camera on the Video output of the V-Streamer.



The selected overlay will now always appear on the HD-SDI output of the V-Streamer for this camera. No option to select any other, or to remove this overlay is presented to the users.

Option for a Clean output on a selected V-Streamer channel (never overlays)

There is an option to designate any V-Streamer channel(s) as clean. If a V-Streamer output is designated as a clean output no overlays will ever be shown on this channel. This is useful for when you want the output to be used in a scenario where any overlay may be inappropriate or distracting. For example, if you have designated one V-Streamer output to feed a background monitor that appears behind your News/Weather/Sports anchors in the studio. In this case you may not wish to have the overlay appear. For this you can disable overlays on any channels in the V-Manager/V-Streamer settings. On the V-Manager navigate to: File→Settings→V-Streamer.



In this example Ch 3 is always a clean output

Scheduled Overlays with the Videstra Overlay Scheduler/Manager

The Videstra Overlay Scheduler/Manager is a tool that allows you to set up daypart groups to schedule specific overlay images.

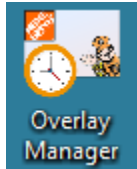
This allows you to have different sponsors for your cameras for different day parts without the risk of forgetting to set the correct overlay, or sponsor logo.

Using the Overlay Scheduler only makes sense if you have two or more *different* overlays you wish to schedule for different day parts. If there is only one overlay – then using the Enforced Overlay option is a better choice.

The Videstra Overlay Scheduler/Manager is installed on your V-Manager computer in versions 2.3.20 and above. If you do not have Videstra version 2.3.20 or above please contact Videstra about an upgrade. Upgrades are free for customers who have paid for annual support.

Using the Overlay Manager

The Overlay Manager icon should be on your V-Manager desktop. It looks like this:



Note: You can only run the Overlay Manager on the V-Manager computer – it cannot be installed on other machines.

Once launched the application looks like this:

The screenshot shows the Videstra Overlay Manager/Scheduler application window. The interface is divided into several sections:

- Daypart Group:** A text field containing "Mornings with Megan".
- Days Active:** A row of checkboxes for days of the week (Su, Mo, Tu, We, Th, Fr, Sa) and an "All" checkbox, all of which are checked.
- Start Time:** A dropdown menu showing "09:25 AM".
- Buttons:** "Create", "Delete", and "Apply" buttons.
- Table:** A table with columns for Daypart Group, Start Time, and Days. The "Mornings with Megan" row is highlighted in blue.
- Right Panel:** A section titled "Panels Managed in this Group [Mornings with Megan]". It includes a "Panel" dropdown menu set to "STAMFORD", an "Overlay" dropdown menu set to "None", and "Add", "Remove", and "Apply" buttons. Below these are two tables: one listing panels (Test Camera, WYFF Hilton, STAMFORD) and their overlays (9UL.png), and another showing a preview of the STAMFORD panel with a "None" overlay.
- Footer:** A message "You must save the Schedule after making any changes!" and "Save Schedule" and "Cancel/Close" buttons.

Daypart Groups

The left side of the Overlay Scheduler is for creating Daypart Groups.

Daypart Group	StartTime	Days
AM Cutins	12:01 AM	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa
Mornings with Megan	9:25 AM	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa
Noon News	11:55 AM	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa
Mid Afternoon	3:25 PM	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa
Early Evening	4:55 PM	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa
Late News	9:54 PM	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa

Each group represents a portion of your broadcast day and only one Daypart Group should be active at any given time. The name you give any Daypart Group should reflect the show(s) that air directly following the Start Time you define for the Daypart. For example: a good name for a Daypart Group built to assign overlays for use during your noon, or mid-day show would be “Noon News” or “Midday News.” Each Daypart Group lets you assign overlays to some, or all your panels in VestraView.

The Start Time you set is when the Daypart Group becomes active. Once active any panels with assigned overlays will use the assigned overlay for your broadcast. You want a Daypart Group to become active at least a few minutes before you want the overlays to be applied to the VestraView Panels.

Panel Manager

Within each Daypart Group the Panel Manager on the right lets you define one or more VestraView Panels and their associated Overlays in the groups panel list.

Panel	Overlay
Test Camera	9UL.png
WYFF Hilton	9UL.png
STAMFORD	9UL.png

Panel List for the current Daypart Group

You can add a panel and its associated overlay into the grid by selecting a panel, then an an overlay and clicking on Add. You can put a panel into a Panel list only once. Using the other buttons, you may delete and apply changes to any of the items in the panel list. The list of available panels will only include panels that have been marked as “Scheduled” in the panel settings in VestraView.

During the Daypart Group *time frame* the panels and their assigned overlays will become active. A *Daypart Group time frame* is defined as the time set as the Daypart Group Start Time, and when the next Daypart Group Start Time begins. In the example above the Daypart Group time frame for **Mornings with Megan** begins every day at 9:25 AM and ends every day at 11:25 AM (When **Noon News** begins).

For viewing convenience all Daypart Groups are listed in the grid by their Start Time.

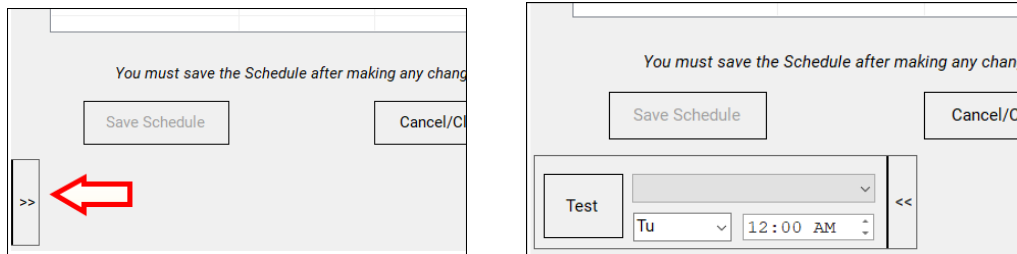
You will notice that the Panel Manager (on the right) does not become usable until you select a Daypart Group on the right. Once a Daypart Group is selected (or created) you may begin to add panels and associate overlays with them. You can also modify them as necessary.

Daypart Dead-Zone

All Dayparts begin each day at midnight. If no Daypart Group is defined between midnight and the first Daypart group, no overlays are scheduled. Any panels set up to use the Scheduled Overlay option will not show any overlays at all – unless scheduled to do between midnight on the active day and the current time current time.

Testing your Schedule

At the bottom of the Overlay Manager you can reveal an overlay tester.



With the overlay tester you can select a panel, enter a fake time of day, or a fake day (defaults to the current day) and check to see what overlay will be assigned for output on the Videstra system. This is a quick and easy way to make sure you have set up a schedule properly.

Specifying None as an Overlay

If during a Daypart Group you have a panel with which you do not want an overlay to appear you can either make sure it is not referenced in the Daypart Group, or you can specify an overlay of "None." It is preferable to not have the panel in the Daypart Group, however the lack of a sponsor may be *temporary* and you can simply set it to None during the time there is no sponsor, and then set it to the appropriate overlay once a sponsor is secured.

Days Active

If your show sponsorship changes on a daily basis (such as having different sponsors for the weekends vs weekdays) then you can create a more complex set of Daypart Groups that specify the days any given Daypart Group is active. This can be quite complex and hopefully you will not need this feature – however it is available if necessary. If you do not have different sponsors on different days, just select **All** for each Daypart Group.

Visualizing the Panel & Overlay

The combination of a sample image from the VestraView Panel and any selected overlay will appear below the panel list.



You may click on the little box next to the image to see a larger version.

Saving the Schedule

Once saved, the schedule becomes immediately active for all panels set to Scheduled Overlays. Always remember that you must save the schedule after making any changes. You may make changes to several panels before saving, but you must always save before exiting if you, indeed, want to save the schedule. There is no automatic save.