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The Internet's Satellite Resource

FIRST LOOK SERIES:

DIRECTV
MULTI-ROOM VIEWING

MULTI-ROOM VIEWING

Multi-Room Viewing is one of the most anticipated new features for DIRECTV subscribers. It's a game-changer for many people... just like the ability to record and skip commercials, the ability to watch anything in any room with a DIRECTV receiver is a great benefit! It's easy to set up and easy to use!

The DBSTalk Cutting Edge team has been testing Multi-Room Viewing for several months, and are proud to present this First Look document with instructions and screen captures for enabling multi-room viewing on any current DIRECTV DVR or HD receiver.

The Basics: What You'll Need

- Server: MPEG-4 DVR (HR2x or R22) running software 0x0395 or higher
- Client: MPEG-4 DVR (HR2x or R22) running software 0x0395 or higher
            or MPEG-4 receiver (H21 or H23) running software 0x4395 or higher
- Network: Wireless, wired or powerline, capable of sustained 40Mbps transfers
            (Wireless-G may not work)

Helpful Links at DBSTalk.com: Click to open

HR2x Networking 101

Step-By-Step Router/Bridge/HR2x Network Configuration Doc

Free registration may be required

NETWORKING /LOCATION NAMING

In order to use Multi-Room Viewing, you must be networked. At the time you connect, you may be give the option to name your receiver. If you are already networked, give each of your receivers a "friendly name by going to MENU ⇨ Parental, Fav's and Setup ⇨ System Setup ⇨ Multi-Room ⇨ Location Name to set the friendly name for your receiver.

OPTING IN TO THE BETA

With its initial release, Multi-room viewing is being offered as an unsupported beta test. This means that while you may use this service, the customer service department at DIRECTV cannot help with your setup or operational issues.

More details can be found at http://www.directv.com/multiroom. Please visit DBSTalk.com for user-to-user support.

It's also strongly recommended that you have some knowledge of home networking or know someone who can help diagnose networking issues.

In order to opt in to the beta for multi-room viewing, follow these steps on every receiver:

MENU ⇘
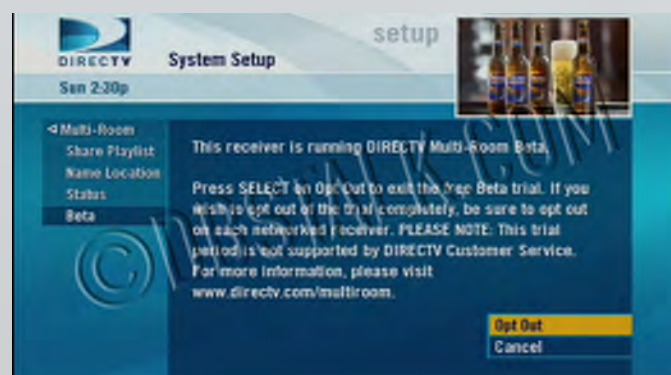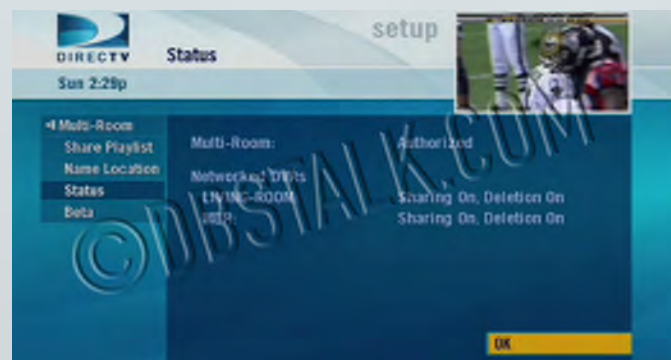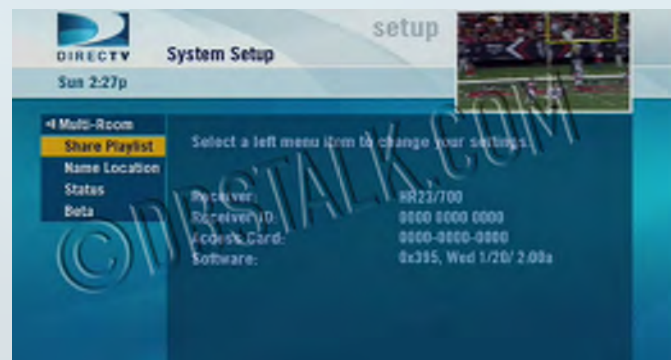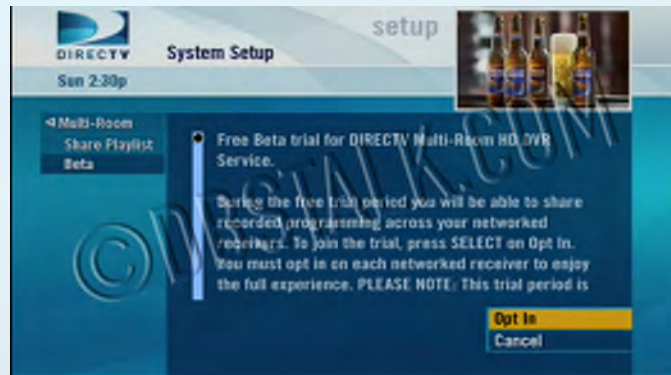Parental, Fav's and Setup ⇘
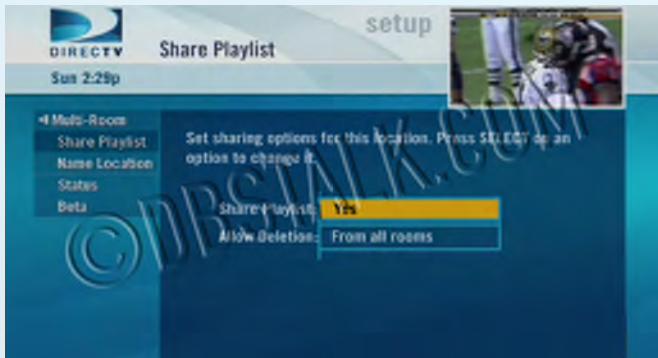System Setup ⇘
Multi-Room ⇘
Beta

After reading the disclaimer, press **Opt In** to start Multi-Room Viewing.

Once you have opted in, you will see the Share Playlist and Status Menus.

Go to the same menu if you wish to opt out of the beta.

SHARING PLAYLISTS

You must share the playlist on the DVR in order to see recorded shows on other receivers. To share a playlist, go to the Share Playlist menu:

MENU ⇨ **Parental, Fav's & Setup** ⇨ **System Setup** ⇨ **Multi-Room** ⇨ **Share Playlist** ⇨
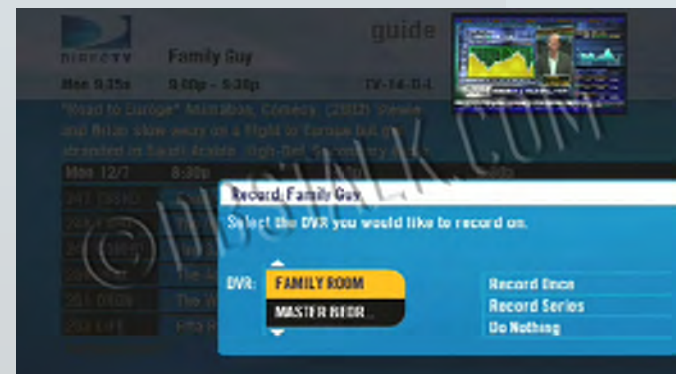
You may choose whether or not to share the playlist and whether to allow remote deletion. Note that this menu does not exist on non-DVRs. When you have shared a playlist, you may check the Status menu on other receivers to see if location sharing has been successful.

SCHEDULING RECORDINGS REMOTELY

Using an H21 or H23 receiver, you can schedule recordings on any DVR in the home. Note: this option is not available on DVRs, although it may be added later.

Set a program to record the same way you would on a DVR, and you will be presented with a menu giving you the choice of all DVRs available for recording. If you try to schedule a recording but a conflict exists, you will be given the option to change DVRs or cancel.

You can set a series link on a remote DVR the same way.

CHOOSING A PROGRAM TO WATCH

LIST brings up a "unified" playlist showing all the programs on all DVRs. Note that program descriptions include the name of the receiver where the program was recorded.

When a local recorded selection is highlighted, the Location Name is NOT displayed in this field. The List from an HD receiver is almost exactly the same as on a DVR.

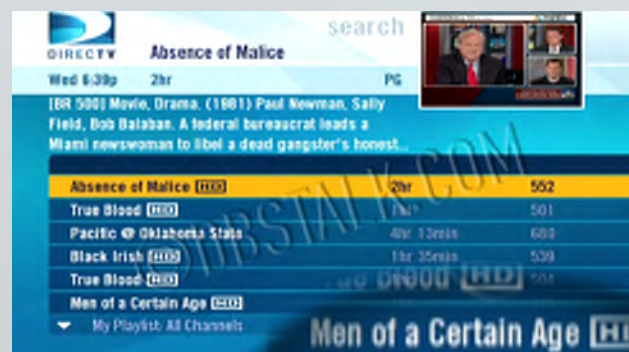Playlist on a DVR.

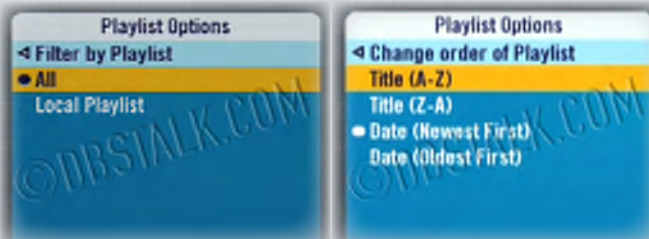Playlist on an H21/H23 receiver.

CHOOSING A PLAYLIST

When viewing the playlist via the LIST button, the option to filter/sort the playlist is obtained using the Yellow button on the remote. As seen, the list can be set to All or individual DVR named equipment.

DVR Option Screens

H21/H23 Option Screens

Sort programs
by category
"All" gives the display
shown at the bottom of the screen.

TIPS AND TRICKS

Multi–room viewing is still in development. Some or all of the information in this document may be different when multi–room viewing moves from beta to final release. These tips might be helpful.

- Multi-Room Viewing is only available to receivers on your local network.

- Using MRV (multi-room viewing) should have no effect on local viewing on the "server" DVR. You can watch one program in one room and another program in a different room.

- You may see this symbol: 🚫 in the playlist. This indicates that a program is unavailable. There are several reasons this can happen, including:
  1. The DVR is already serving a program to another room.
  2. The program is in the process of being deleted
  3. Miscellaneous errors (remember, this is a beta test.)

- Trickplay will be less responsive during MRV since the commands must be sent from the client over the network back to the server, and coming out of FFWD may not backtrack enough during MRV to make up for overshoot.

- If a server disappears from your client list, resetting usually brings it back.

- Sometimes, the playlist will appear empty for 1-2 seconds before populating. This is completely normal.

- Universal Plug-n-Play (UPnP) is not required to be enabled on a home network router for MRV operation.

- Server order in the client Playlist seems to be random.

- "Resume" in MRV starts playback where the local DVR playback stopped rather than where MRV playback stopped.

- There is no indication of where a folder resides when it's highlighted in the playlist.

- Space available is always for the local unit,even when looking at just a remote playlist.

Since its inception in 2001, DBSTALK.com has grown to represent the satellite communities for DIRECTV, Dish Network, Sirius/XM and Free-to-Air satellite reception. We provide user-to-user support for tens of thousands of users and are read by millions across the Internet, giving us the title of
"The Internet's Satellite Resource."

DBSTALK.com is home to the Cutting Edge forums,
where users actively participate in testing pre-release software for DIRECTV receivers.
The resulting rapid-deployment development method allows for faster fixes and abundant new features.

Please note that some DBSTalk.com testers and staff members may have received free equipment from DIRECTV or its partners for the purpose of evaluation and testing.