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Black Box Releases Next Version of Award-Winning iCOMPEL™ Digital Signage Platform

Version 8.0.2 enhances the digital signage platform's drag-and-drop user interface and HTML player

PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA, January 13, 2011 — Black Box Corporation (NASDAQ:BBOX), an industry-leading provider of voice communications, data infrastructure, and networking products, today announced the release of new software that enhances the management and creative control of digital signage content displayed through the award-winning iCOMPEL™ platform.

Version 8.0.2, now available for download at blackbox.com, boasts new features that simplify and streamline the process of content design for high-impact, attention-getting digital signage.

"iCOMPEL already had one of the most intuitive content-management interfaces anywhere," said Keith Kazmer, Digital Signage Product Manager. "Now, we've made it better, so it's even easier to use."

Digital signage administrators, when adding content into the iCOMPEL playlists and content library, can now drag and drop multiple content files from their desktop directly into the playlists and folders of the iCOMPEL software. Image thumbnails are shown within the playlist and file manager pages.

Also with this update, the iCOMPEL HTML player now supports the latest WebKit open source layout technology used by the Apple® Safari® and Google® Chrome™ browsers while adding HTML5 and SVG graphics support to the platform.

"With these HTML player improvements, content designers can achieve sophisticated creative effects for their digital signage content," Kazmer said. "Professional effects can be achieved without the use of expensive professional Flash programmers or HTML and CSS developers. For instance, the background of an HTML page can be set up as a transparent image, and tables within a digital screen can have a transparent border and background—which can make for a really impressive presentation of menu boards, airport information boards, and event schedules."

The upgrade brings other improvements to the platform, including:

• The ability to quickly back up and restore all media and settings on the iCOMPEL using an external USB disk.
• No restrictions on file naming when using the iCOMPEL Web user interface.
• An improved screen status page that shows connection state, the serial number of the digital display, and the CPU and disk temperature history.
•XML Web services allowing HTML and Flash to access features on the iCOMPEL.
• More customizable "ad-hoc" content-control capabilities, which enable iCOMPEL users located at a remote screen to tailor messaging to a local audience.
• For improved security, a Web interface that uses secure digest authentication instead of the weaker basic authentication.
• A more advanced maintenance menu.

The iCOMPEL family of browser-based, networked players gives businesses and organizations of any size an affordable solution for improving internal and external communications through relevant, dynamic digital signage. With it, users can stream recorded or live video, Flash animation, RSS news and stock ticker feeds, and other Web media.

As an integrated hardware/software solution, iCOMPEL comes preloaded with design tools for assembling and distributing HD-quality multimedia content to digital signs. It includes tools for playing stored and live media in multiple screen zones, and menus for scheduling content distribution by time and location. There are no additional software fees for current iCOMPEL owners.

For more information on the iCOMPEL product line, visit http://www.blackbox.com/go/iCOMPEL.

The Black Box iCOMPEL is one of the Company's many solutions for digital signage. Black Box also offers LCD and plasma displays, and AV extenders, splitters, switches, and converters, all of which can be found at http://www.blackbox.com/go/AV. To see more than 270 digital signage and multimedia solutions, view the Company's e-catalog at http://www.blackbox.com/go/DS10ec. All products are backed by free, live, 24/7 Tech Support at 724-746-5500 or at http://www.blackbox.com.

About Black Box

Black Box is a leading technical services company dedicated to designing, building, and maintaining today's complicated data and voice infrastructure systems. Black Box services 175,000 clients in 141 countries with 195 offices throughout the world. To learn more, visit the Black Box Web site at http://www.blackbox.com.

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