

JAZLER SOFTWARE - NOVEMBER 2015 WHITE PAPER

PRODIGY IMPORT PLAYLIST FILTER

AFFECTS: Jazler RadioStar 2, version 2.10.7 and higher. White paper revision 3

Description:

The Prodigy Import Playlist Text filter is a new filter implemented in Jazler RadioStar 2, to be able to import playlists from an external playlisting program. All the text file content is based on playlister codes and is not recognized by either song titles, filenames etc.

What to do first:

To be able to run this filter, all tracks of Jazler (either songs, jingles, sweepers, events, spots) that are going to be used, must have their playlister code field filled with a desired code. It is recommended to use a code that starts with a letter and then a four digit number. Ex S0015 for a song, J0020 for a jingle, SS0004 for a sweeper etc. The same thing must be done on your playlister program.

Text file filename syntax:

The filename of the text file instructs Jazler and the user, the date of broadcast in the format of "MMDDYY.txt"

Example: "110209.txt" is for November 02, 2009. The time of the playlist start is instructed in the contents of the text file.

Syntax of the playlist text file:

PLAYLIST START HOUR ANNOUCEMENT

A playlist in a playlist file starts always with the hour announcement. (ex 00:00, 13:00, 22:30, 14:45). This is a 24h format hour that instructs Jazler when the playlist will be inserted into the program.

PLAYLIST BODY

In the very next line after the playlist hour announcement you start putting the playlister codes of the tracks you want to play. These can be codes by whatever database of Jazler.

Example:

S0004

S3465

J0004

S6883

The special sweeper command

If you want to insert a sweeper on a song, (*usually a dry jingle that is overlapping a song at a specific time*) you have to put the command SW1, SW2, SW3, SW4 first, then leave a blank character and then write the playlister code of the sweeper. (ex. SW1 SS0045).

What do the SW1, SW2, SW3, SW4 commands do?

The SW commands instruct Jazler WHERE to overlap a sweeper on the song.

SW1 = Start of the song

SW2 = Just before the end of the INTRO of the song (if there is an intro)

SW3 = Just before the end of the song. (The sweeper ends simultaneously with the song)
SW4 = The sweeper works as a “bridge” between the current song and the next song. Half the sweeper is heard at the end of the current song and while the sweeper is playing, the next song starts.

Full example:

02 : 00
S0045
S0135
SW2 SS0043
S3487
END

In this example, we have a playlist that is programmed to play at 2:00am. The playlist consists of three songs (S0045, S0145 and S3487). The second song though has also a sweeper overlapping it before the intro (SS0043). The SW2 command in front of the sweeper playlister code instructs Jazler to put the sweeper before the intro.

END, END OF PLAYLIST, END OF HOUR PLAYLIST

All three commands do the same thing. Instruct Jazler to create the playlist and save it to the database. If this command is not at the end of the playlist, the playlist will be lost.

Ok, as we have all things explained, let’s show you a playlist file that consists of two playlists programmed to play at 00:00 and 01:00 respectively that consists of songs, jingles, sweepers and commercials (spots). The text filename is 112609.txt (programmed for November 26, 2009)

00 : 00 Hour announcement (tells Jazler when to insert the playlist)
S1576 Song 1
S3474 Song2
J0005 Jingle
S4532 Song3
S6756 Song4
SW1 SS0004 Sweeper that overlaps Song4 at the start (They start together)
S3434 Song 5
P1212 Spot
END End of playlist command. Saves the playlist into the database
01 : 00 Hour announcement (tells Jazler when to insert the playlist)
P0055 Playlist starts with a SPOT
P0254 Spot2
J0034 Jingle
S3454 Song1
S1414 Song2
S3344 Song3
SW4 SS4700 Sweeper that will bridge Song3 and Song4
S8765 Song4
END End of playlist command. Saves the playlist into the database

If the playlist duration of 00:00 is bigger than one hour, then the playlist of 01:00 will overlap and delete the tracks remaining after 01:00. The next thing that will be heard after 01:00 will be the first track of playlist scheduled for 01:00.

INGESTING COMMERCIAL BREAKS INTO THE PLAYLIST

Since version 2.10 of Jazler RadioStar, the Prodigy Import Filter can also import commercial breaks into the playlist. The commercial breaks must already be present into the Jazler database, either programming them natively from the Jazler Spots/Commercials database, either from importing them from an external commercials playlister. You just need to insert the line **COMBREAK XX:XX** so the commercial break of **XX:XX** will be ingested into the playlist. Where **XX:XX** is the exact time of the declared commercial break set in Jazler.

00:00 Hour announcement (tells Jazler when to insert the playlist)

COMBREAK 00:00

S1576 Song 1

S3474 Song2

J0005 Jingle

S4532 Song3

COMBREAK 00:30

S6756 Song4

SW1 SS0004 Sweeper that overlaps Song4 at the start (They start together)

S3434 Song 5

P1212 Spot

END End of playlist command. Saves the playlist into the database

This will result with a playlist that will also contain two commercial breaks taken from the spots database. As you might notice, there is no date in the COMBREAK command, as the date is taken from the format of the filename of the playlist text file (MMDDYY.txt)

After importing the playlist, if you make changes to a commercial break outside the playlist, the changes **WILL NOT BE REFLECTED** in the playlist. You have to either open the playlists containing this break and edit the break, or re-import the playlists so Jazler can re-ingest the updated commercial breaks.

REMARKS AND USEFULL TO KNOW INFO:

Time zone changes (daylight savings scenarios)

Scenario 1, time changes from 03:00 to 03:00 again (time goes back one hour)

In this case, make a TWO HOUR PLAYLIST for 03:00. At the second time that the computer time goes to 03:00, Jazler will not recall the playlist again. It will continue playing the playlist called at the actual 03:00 hours.

Scenario 2, time changes from 03:00 to 05:00 (time goes forward one hour)

In this case, the playlist of 04:00 will never be heard. You do not need to make a playlist for this time-slot.

Things you need to know:

- If a line of the playlist text file contains a plain number, Jazler will interpret it as a JAZLER SONG ID CODE (not playlist code) and will search to find a SONG that has the same JAZLER ID code for it. This is why you also MUST have at least one LETTER in the playlist code.
- Playlist codes can also contain dashes or underscores (-,_)
- Playlist codes must not contain empty characters.
- Do not have playlist codes more than 20 characters; this will make the import process slower. Jazler can accept though a playlist code up to 49 characters.
- Do not use characters like asterisk, question mark, semicolons as they might result in weird behaviors.

Author: Chris Valasellis

Created at November 26, 2009, Jazler Labs, Mitilini, Greece

Revision on August 30, 2016, Jazler Labs, Mitilini, Greece