

September 2023 Webmaster Report

I haven't had a lot of time for website work. It has come to my attention that there are problems with the permissions granted to various categories of users which prevent some people from posting images and other media to their posts, and accessing or editing howto.kpfz.org at all. It will take several hours to straighten this out.

I'm awaiting specific information about programming changes from the Program Director before attempting to update the schedule.

Otherwise the site is reliable. I'd like to see more content generated by management and programmers, to keep the site lively.

September 2023 Technical Report

I have shipped the three defective board input channels to the manufacturer for repair. He believes he may be able to fix all three in one hour of shop time at \$100 per hour. I also have ordered a kit to replace the broken meter, and kits to convert channels for microphone use.

I was speaking with Chloe a couple of weeks ago, and she opined that there was zero interest in maintaining the 'zoom' setup. She granted me permission to dismantle it. I have since spoken with Betsy, who is interested in using it. I see great possibilities for this setup, given some development. Having a computer connected to a board channel could serve many functions, to include:

- Remote content via zoom or other services.
- Playback of material from the web (probably deserves a policy regarding intellectual property issues).
- Storage of material such as music on (or access through) this computer, and playback via a playlist (provide a rationed amount of disk space for each programmer, or programmers bring their library in on a USB drive or other media).
- Convenient web browsing whilst programming.
- Playback of spot announcements (note that CD's take twenty seconds to load, plus time for track selection, and are proving to be unreliable).
- Extra drives for playing CD's.

I wrote John Saare a while ago with some of these ideas. He responded positively in principle but did not respond to specifics; I suspect that the 'zoom' computer had been conceived by Alan at that point. This message is copied below. Note that using services such as Zoom eliminates the need to provide custom software for this, so all we need to do is enable the hardware.

My experience with this setup is limited to the one time I tried to turn it on and it crashed.

Meanwhile, I believe that there is support for refining the current setup, and relocating it to the shelves in the rack next to the boardop's left knee, which I understand were procured for this purpose. As it sits, it serves only to prove the existence of the Flying Spaghetti Monster. Refining the associated documentation is also in order. **Conversations with management prompt me to ask the board for direction. So tell me, should I move this setup where it belongs, or just put it into a box in the office?**

Speaking of spaghetti monsters, the digital cabling on the floor between the guest table and the rear of the board is a disaster waiting to happen. There is a compartment in the furniture below the board where this could go nicely. This would involve construction of shelves and provision of vent holes in the furniture.

I may or may not be available during the meeting.

Heh..., on battery power at the moment. Will respond later, but very generally..., "yes". ;)

-- John

On 1/7/22 12:37 PM, David Lark wrote:

> Given the new covid protocols, and that this could go on in waves for the foreseeable future, I think we should start thinking about alternatives to show hosts using telephones.

> This is what I envision:

> A server at the station with the following capabilities:

> Sound output

> Accepting multiple AOIP feeds

> Providing a low-latency AOIP monitor signal back to the feed sources

> Ability to control the phone hybrid

> Secure remote login into assigned time frames.

> Software for programmer's home computers with the following capabilities:

> Mixer

> Media player

> Metering/compression

> Cross-platform (or a bootable environment)

> I'm assuming that the AOIP capability is out there as FLOSS. Perhaps other building blocks exist also. Although I have an e-book about ALSA, I haven't dug into this. It seems like simple summing and routing. Controlling the phones would require a UI and a device interface (probably relay contacts). Cross-platform would include Windoze, MacOS, Linux, Android, and IOS. Or handing out bootable disks. I haven't yet thought about the audio signal routing issues associated with combining phones with AOIP.

> This could be incorporated into the playback computer, although I'd hate to do this in Windoze. A better solution might be to combine the remote server with one of the several FLOSS station automation programs which are out there. Could be undertaken incrementally. I know our airstaff is sensitive to changes in their cage.

> A lot to chew on. I'm just looking into the future. Call if you feel like it.

> David

> A glossary, for those eavesdropping:

> AOIP: Audio Over Internet Protocol

> FLOSS: Free (as in beer), Libre (as in liberty) Open Source Software

> ALSA: Advanced Linux Sound Architecture

> UI: User Interface