Avid® Thunder® Select

Installation and User's Guide

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Using This Guide

The *Avid® Thunder Select Installation and Configuration Guide* is an instructional manual for installing and configuring Avid Thunder Select.

If you are responsible for installing and configuring Thunder Select for use with iNEWS or ENPS, carefully follow the instructions in this guide.

References to the Newsroom Computer System, or NCS, apply to ENPS® from Associated Press and to iNEWS® from Avid Technology. Specific references to ENPS or iNEWS are made only where there is a difference.

The documentation describes the features and hardware of all models. Therefore, your system might not contain certain features and hardware that are covered in the documentation.

Symbols and Conventions

Avid documentation uses the following symbols and conventions:

Symbol or Convention	Meaning or Action
📋	A note provides important related information, reminders, recommendations, and strong suggestions.
⚠	A caution means that a specific action you take could cause harm to your computer or cause you to lose data.
⚡	A warning describes an action that could cause you physical harm. Follow the guidelines in this document or on the unit itself when handling electrical equipment.
>	This symbol indicates menu commands (and subcommands) in the order you select them. For example, File > Import means to open the File menu and then select the Import command.
▶	This symbol indicates a single-step procedure. Multiple arrows in a list indicate that you perform one of the actions listed.
Italic font	Italic font is used to emphasize certain words and to indicate variables.
`Courier Bold font`	Courier Bold font identifies text that you type.
Ctrl+*key* or *mouse action*	Press and hold the first key while you perform the mouse action. For example, Ctrl+drag.

If You Need Help

If you are having trouble using Thunder Select:

1. Retry the action, carefully following the instructions given for that task in this guide. It is especially important to check each step of your workflow.

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   - If the latest information for your Avid product is provided as printed release notes, they ship with your application and are also available online.

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Using This Guide

Chapter 1
Welcome to Thunder Select

Thunder Select is an ActiveX plugin that allows a journalist to select, view, and preview media assets (stills and clips) on a Thunder, and add them to their story in iNEWS or ENPS.

Thunder Select allows the journalist to preview stills and clips in a read-only format.

- For stills, right-click on the still and select Show Picture from the menu. You will get a full screen hi-res view of the graphic.
- For clips, right-click on the clip and select Preview from the menu. The Proxy viewer opens which enables you to play video and hear audio for the clip. You can also scrub through the read-only clip. No editing can be done.

Chapter 2
Installing Thunder Select

This chapter contains information on installing Thunder Select for both ENPS and iNEWS.

Setting up a Thunder system in an ENPS environment requires three steps: setting up the Thunder broadcast device to communicate with the ENPS server via MOS, installing the ENPS client software on a workstation, and configuring that workstation to use Thunder Browse and the ThunderX ActiveX control.

Compatibility with Prior Versions

In order for Thunder Select to work correctly, your Thunder Server must be running version 7.1.0 or later.

If you are upgrading to version 7.1 from a version prior to 7.0, you must ensure that your Thunder server is running 7.1 or higher. You must also upgrade your SQL database. Please run the "updateDatabase.sql" script that is included on the software CD.

Installing the Software

Due to the nature of a MOS newsroom computer system, the easiest method to install the Thunder Select client software is not via the CD. We suggest you copy the Thunder Select software installer onto a shared network drive and run the installer remotely from each machine. This reduces your total installation time because you have a large number of client machines that need to be updated all at the same time. Our suggestion is to do the following:

1. Create a shared folder on your SQL server.
2. Copy the installer to that folder.

3. Browse to the installer from each client.

4. Run the installer from there.

Because iNEWS and ENPS use different methods to access different Thunders, installing Thunder Select for iNEWS or for ENPS is done through different procedures.

For more information, see the following topics:

Please select the appropriate installation and read the entire section before beginning your installations.

Installing Thunder Select on iNEWS Clients

When installing Thunder Select for iNEWS, there are three files that are required during the Thunder Select client software installation.

- ThunderSelectSetup.exe - Installs the Thunder Select ActiveX client and necessary files.
- ThunderMOS.cfg - Contains master data for the Thunder Select client to change databases. Must reside on a shared network folder (one file per iNEWS system).
- ThunderMOS.ini - Provides a path to the ThunderMOS.cfg file. A copy must reside on every client (one file per client).

Configuring the ThunderMOS.cfg File

The ThunderMOS.cfg file contains information that allows the Thunder Select client to find your various Thunder servers and browse their respective MOS databases. This information is set up in a line per Thunder server.

The .cfg file can reside on any shared network folder, as long as every client can access that folder. However, we recommend that it resides on the SQL server for easy maintenance reasons.

For each Thunder server that you want your iNEWS clients to access using Thunder Select, configure the ThunderMOS.cfg file.

To configure the ThunderMOS.cfg file:

1. Add a line in the ThunderMOS.cfg with the following information:

   - An arbitrary name for the Thunder that the journalists at the clients will easily recognize. This can be any name. Examples are "Control Room A," "Morning News," "Sports,", and so on.

- The MOS ID. This must match the name in the MOSconfig.xml file on the iNEWS server.

- The full UNC path to the Thunder database specified when you set up the MOS protocol.

📑 *Each of these values must be separated by a semi-colon and all be on one line.*


ThunderA;MOSIDTHDR_A;\\ThxlxxA\E\5PM\5PM.pff

This part is seen in the drop-down list of the iNEWS client.

This is the MOS ID. It should match the MOS ID in the iNEWS MOSconfig.xml.

This is the full path to the Thunder database. Make sure it corresponds to the Thunder specified in the MOS ID.
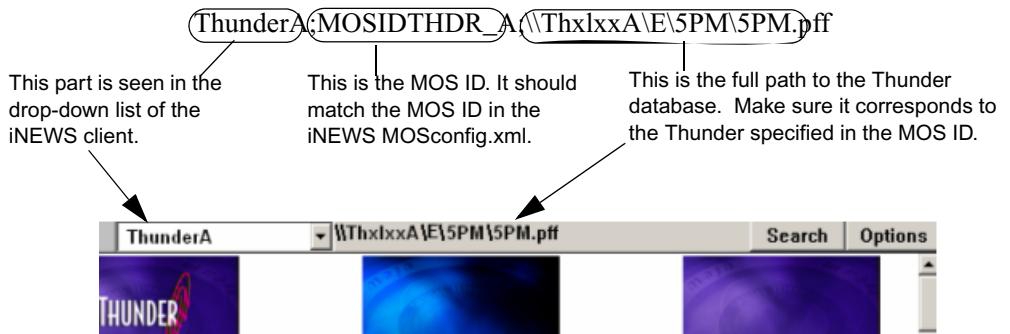
📑 *Due to the nature of the MOS configuration, you can only have one database per Thunder server. While you can add multiple databases in the cfg file and the clients will browse the databases correctly, the MOS metadata will not be properly transmitted between the iNEWS server and the Thunder server.*

2. If you:

▸ Have a security database, type the correct path on a separate line below the Thunder lines.

▸ Do not have a security database, delete the whole line starting with "SecurityDB="

Your finished ThunderMOS.cfg file might look like this:


```
ThunderMOS.cfg - Notepad
File  Edit  Format  View  Help
ThunderA;MOSIDTHDR_A;\\Thxlxxa\E\5PM\5PM.pff
ThunderB;MOSIDTHDR_B;\\Thxlxxb\E\MorningNews\MorningNews.pff
SecurityDB=\\Thxlxxa\E\Security\security.dbc
```

3. Save the ThunderMOS.cfg file.

4. On the SQL server create a folder called "ThunderCFG" and make sure it is shared to everyone for read access.

5. Move the ThunderMOS.cfg file into the ThunderCFG folder.

Configuring the ThunderMOS.ini

To configure the ThunderMOS.ini file:

1. Type the full path to the cfg file you just created.

2. Copy this .ini file to the same place as the ThunderSelectSetup.exe installer for now.

3. Run the ThunderSelectSetup.exe installer.

4. Copy and paste this ThunderMOS.ini file into the c:\Thunder folder on every client.

   Your finished ThunderMOS.ini file might look like this:

5. Repeat the installation of the ThunderSelectSetup.exe installer on each client.

6. After the setup has finished, copy the ThunderMOS.ini file into the c:\Thunder folder of each client.

Installing Thunder Select Software on ENPS Clients

Before you install Thunder Select on ENPS clients, you must have installed the ENPS clients. For more information, see your System Administrator for installation of the ENPS client. The system administrator must add you as a new user to the ENPS user database before you can log in to ENPS, and can also verify that the ENPS client is licensed properly.

To install the Thunder Select software on ENPS clients:

1. Double-click on ThunderSelectSetup.exe from each client and follow the dialog boxes.

   Database settings for multiple Thunders are saved in order to move back and forth between multiple Thunders with different settings. The database information for each Thunder is saved and used to bring up the correct settings and database when a specific Thunder is accessed.

This setting is only necessary if you have more than one Thunder and wish to switch between them. If you are only running one Thunder, or do not wish to switch between multiple Thunders using MOS, then setting the User ID is not necessary.

2. Start the ENPS client and go to MOS Configuration.

3. In the Default Settings box, do the following:

  ▶ Assign the machine name of each Thunder. You must add "USERID=name"
    including the quotation marks (where 'name' is your Thunder name) into the
    Default Settings field.

	Default Settings	MOS
1	"USERID=ThunderCtrlRmA"	v1.0
1	"USERID=ThunderCtrlRmB"	v1.0

  ▶ Type the IP Address of the Thunder workstation.

  ▶ Type the name of the Active X control.

4. Click Save and then close Thunder Select and the MOS client.

5. Restart your system.

Chapter 3

Configuring the Thunder Server and Thunder Select Client

This chapter contains information on configuring Thunder Select for both iNEWS and ENPS.

See the following topics:

- Configuring the Thunder Server
- Configuring the Thunder Select Client
- Launching Thunder Select from ENPS

Configuring the Thunder Server

The procedure for configuring the Thunder server is the same for both iNEWS and ENPS configurations.

To configure the Thunder Server:

1. Launch Thunder.

2. Configure a MOS connection by selecting File > Preferences > Protocol Setup.

    The Protocol Setup dialog box opens.
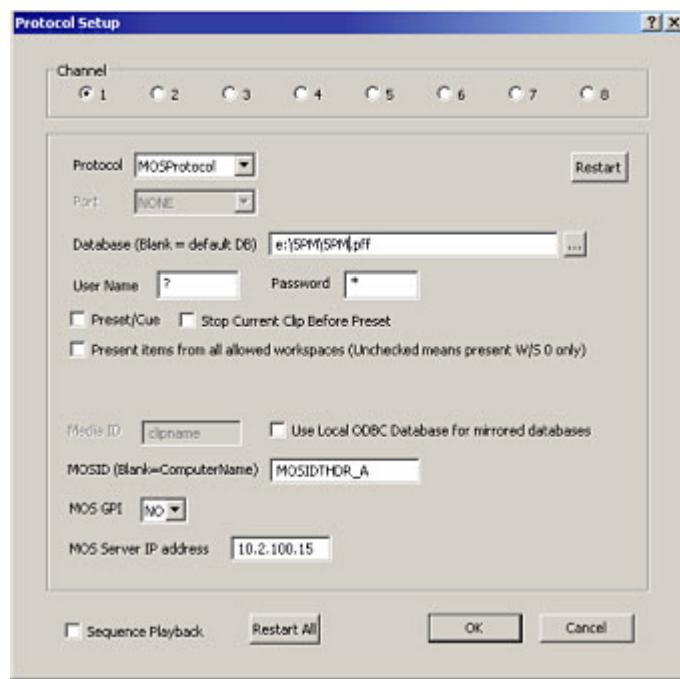
3. In the Protocol Setup dialog box, do the following:

    -   Select a channel (1-8) in the Channel area.

    -   Select MOSProtocol from the Protocol menu.

    -   Select a database from the Database (Blank = default DB) field.

    -   Type in the IP address of the MOS (or ENPS) server in the MOS Server IP address field. For details on determining the IP address of the ENPS server, see "Determining the IP Address" on page 37.

    -   (Option) Thunder Select can use the computer name as the MOS ID to identify the Thunder. However, you may assign a different name in the MOSID field.

    -   (Option) If you want MOS to be playable by GPIs, select a GPI trigger from the MOS GPI list.

4. Click the Restart button, then click OK. If you want to restart all, click the Restart All button.

5. If you selected a MOS GPI, the GPIs must also be configured by selecting File > Preferences > Assign GPIs.

The Assign GPI Triggers dialog box opens.
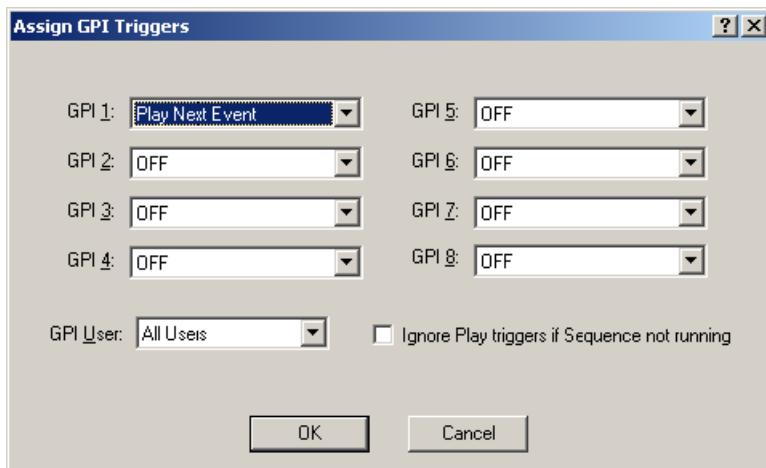
6. Set this trigger to issue a Play Next Event command, and click OK.
7. Enable the GPI(s) by selecting File > Preferences > Enable GPI triggers.

Configuring the Thunder Select Client

Thunder Select requires a SQL server and ODBC connection. If you get an error that the "Datasource name not found," check your ODBC setup.

For information on SQL server and ODBC configuration, see the *Avid Thunder Products User's Guide,* and the *Avid On-Air Graphics Setup and Configuration Guide*.

To configure the Thunder Select Client:

1. Open the MOS connection:

   The first time that a new MOS connection is opened, the Setup Menu dialog box opens.
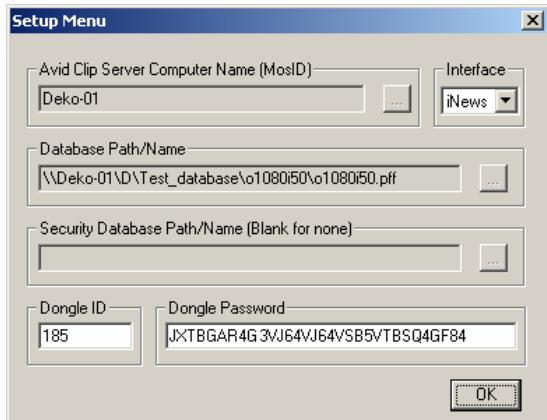
2. Select the interface, either iNEWS or ENPS, depending upon the newsroom computer system that you are installing into.

📄 *If you are installing into an iNEWS system, the fields will be grayed out and populated according to the information you supplied in the ThunderMOS.cfg file.*

3. If you are installing into an ENPS system, you must do the following:

   - Type the Thunder name in the Avid Clip Server Computer Name (MosID) field, or browse to the Thunder by clicking on the ellipsis ("…") button.

   - Select File > Preferences > Protocol Setup, and browse to or enter the database that was set up on the Thunder.

4. Type the Application key (dongle) information in the Dongle ID and Dongle Password fields. If your Thunder system is a:

   - ThunderXL or LT system, use the dongle ID and password of the dongle on the Thunder server.

   - ThunderMX, HD, or HY system, use the dongle ID and password that was printed on the options letter which shipped with your ThunderMX/HD/HY software CD.

📄 *The number of Thunder Select client licenses is controlled by the dongle on the server, and is determined by the number of client licenses that you purchased.*

5. Click OK. The database connects, and you will see thumbnails of clips and stills appearing in the Thunder database. You can now drag and drop this media into an iNEWS or ENPS story.

Once this setup information has been entered, it should not need to be reconfigured. However, if the dongle is removed, or for any other reason the data has changed, a warning dialog appears and the setup information will need to be reconfigured.

Changing the Database in ENPS

If you are working in ENPS, you can change the database at any time while in the Thunder Select application.

▸ This can be done by pressing F9 or clicking the Advanced button in the Options dialog box.

After you have entered the dongle password or ID, or changed the database, you must close Thunder Select and then restart it.

Setting Up the ENPS Client to Use Thunder Select

Install ThunderX on the client machine by running either the Thunder Browse or ThunderX installer.

To Set up the ENPS client to Use Thunder Select:

1. To configure the ENPS client to see the ThunderX ActiveX control, click on the fourth folder's rover (the green dot in the upper left of the folder) and select System Maintenance > MOS configuration.

2. Click New in the dialog. The ENPS (New ID) dialog box opens.

3. Type a name for the new ID and click OK.

📑 *The ID can either be the computer network name of your Thunder or Lightning or a different name that you set up in the MOSID field in the Protocol Setup dialog box.*

ID	ThunderA
Description	ThunderCtrlRmA
IP	192.168.100.11
ActiveX	ThunderX.ThunderXCtrl.1
Program	SYSTEM
Default Settings	"USERID=ThunderA"
MOS Version	v1.0
Local DragDrop	Off
Modal UI ActiveX	
Modal UI Default Settings	
Auto Create	

OK   Cancel
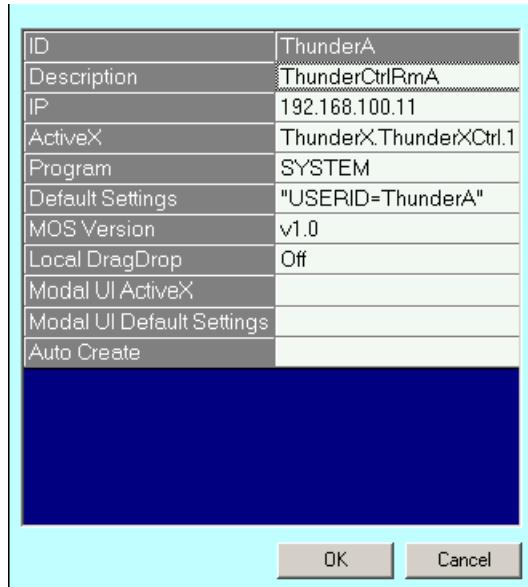
4. Complete the fields in the dialog box as shown in the following table:

Thunder Configuration

Field	Value
Description	Type a description to help you identify your Thunder.
IP	Type the IP address of the Thunder/Lightning broadcast device. For information on how to obtain the IP address, see "Determining the IP Address" on page 37.
ActiveX	Type **ThunderX.ThunderXctrl.1** for Thunder running version 5.2 or later. Or, type **LightningX.LightningXctrl.1** for Lightnings or if you are running Thunder version 5.1 or earlier.
Program	Enter the folder ID for the ENPS folder where the Thunder MOS items will be stored.

Thunder Configuration

Field	Value
Default Settings	This setting is only necessary if you have more than one Thunder and want to switch between them. If you are only running one Thunder, or do not want to switch between multiple Thunders using MOS, then configuring this setting is not necessary.
	If you are setting up more than one Thunder, ENPS can be set up so that ThunderX can switch between the different Thunders easier.
	Type the machine name of each Thunder. You must add "USERID=name" including the quotation marks (where 'name' is your Thunder name) into the Default Settings field.
	The database information for each Thunder is now saved and used to bring up the correct settings and database when a specific Thunder is accessed.
Local DragDrop	OFF.

5. Click OK to save your changes and close the dialog box.

Launching Thunder Select from ENPS

Once all software components have been installed, and the ENPS MOS configuration has been completed, you can launch the Thunder Select plug-in from ENPS.

To launch Thunder Select from ENPS:

1. Click on the Media rover and select the desired Thunder system.

The first time you launch Thunder Select from ENPS, you might get a series of three error messages.

2. Option: If you get any error messages, click OK on each error message dialog box.

The Thunder Select plug-in window opens. The first time it opens, the window will be blank (you will not see any thumbnails of clips and stills from the specified Thunder database).
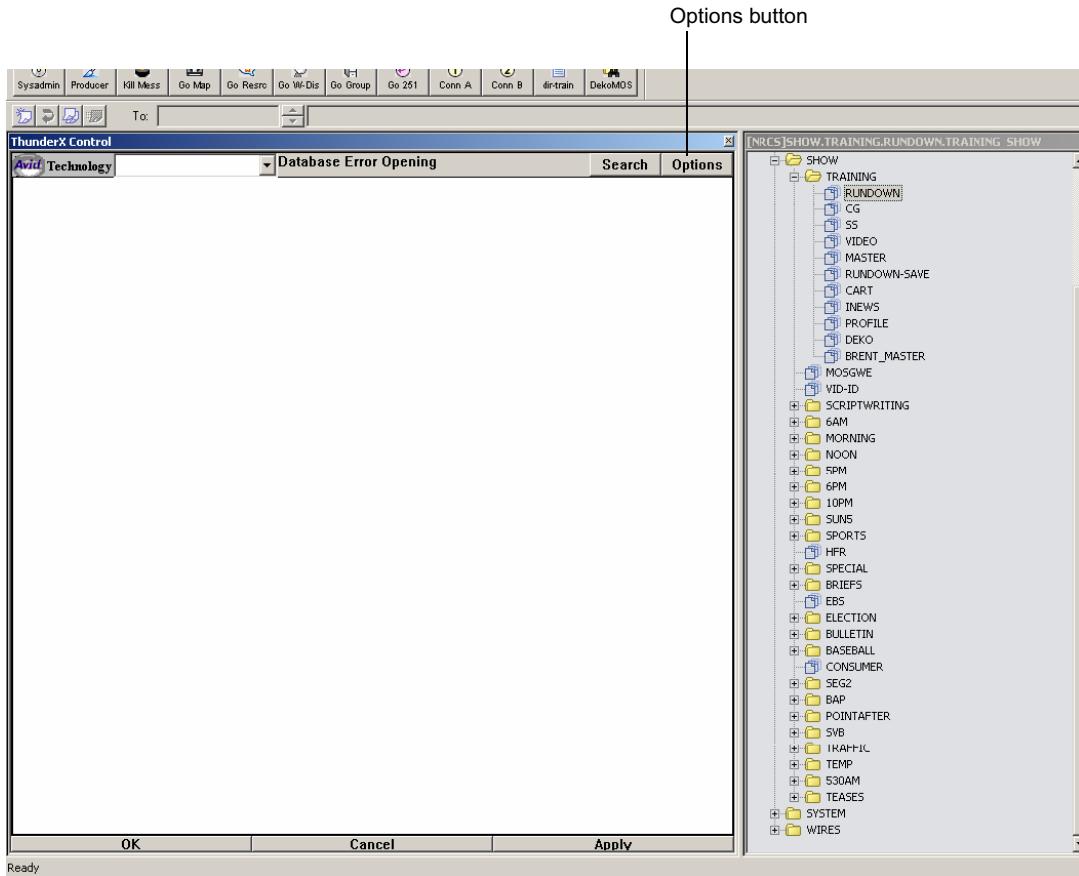
Options button

3. Click on the Options button.

📖 *If another error message dialog box appears, click OK to close the error message dialog box.*

The Setup Menu dialog box opens.
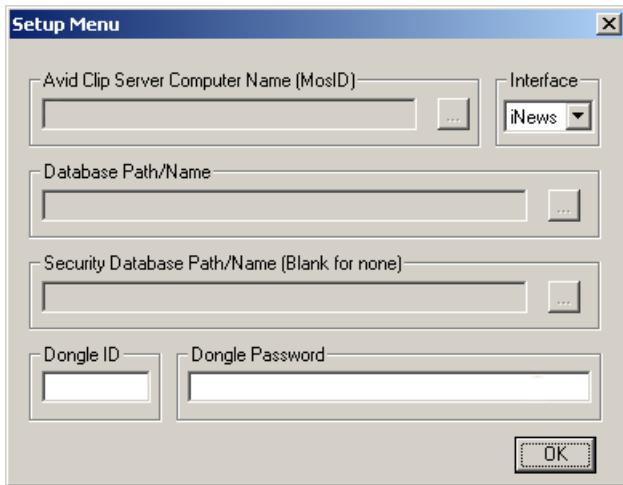
4. Select ENPS from the Interface list. This activates the fields in the window.

5. Type the Thunder name in the Avid Clip Server Computer Name (MosID) field, or browse to the Thunder by clicking the ellipsis ("…") button.

6. In the Database Path/Name field, type the name of the database that was set up in the Thunder Protocol Setup Window, or browse to that .pff file by clicking on the ellipsis ("…") button.

7. In the Dongle ID and Password fields, type the Application key (dongle) information of the dongle that is currently connected to the Thunder server (not the dongle on the client Browse workstation). If your Thunder system is a

▸ ThunderXL or LT system, use the dongle ID and password of the dongle on the Thunder server.

▸ ThunderMX, HD, or HY system, use the dongle ID and password that was printed on the options letter which shipped with your ThunderMX/HD/HY software CD.

📖 *The number of Thunder Select client licenses is controlled by the dongle on the server, and is determined by the number of client licenses that you purchased.*

8. Click OK. The database connects, and you will see thumbnails of clips and stills from the specified Thunder database. You can now drag and drop this media into an ENPS story.

Once this setup information has been entered, it should not need to be reconfigured. However, if the dongle is removed, or for any other reason the data has changed, the warning dialog will appear and the setup information will need to be reconfigured.

9. Option: If you want to change the database at any time while in the ThunderX application, press F9 or click on the Advanced button in the Options dialog box.

10. After you have entered the dongle password or ID, or changed the database, close ThunderX and restart it.

   The database will open in a window in the bottom edit window of the ENPS client software.

Chapter 4

Using Thunder Select with ENPS in a Live-to-Air Environment

This chapter contains information on using Thunder Select with ENPS in a Live-to-air environment.

ENPS is a considerably flexible program that enables the user to perform different steps to create the same result. For more information, refer to the sections "Writing Stories" and "Using MOS" in the ENPS Help.

This topic contains one possible method to create a new story and rundown and play to air from ENPS.

See the following topics:

Creating a Story in ENPS

To create a story in ENPS:

1. Drag a MOS object into the upper-right edit window to start a new story.
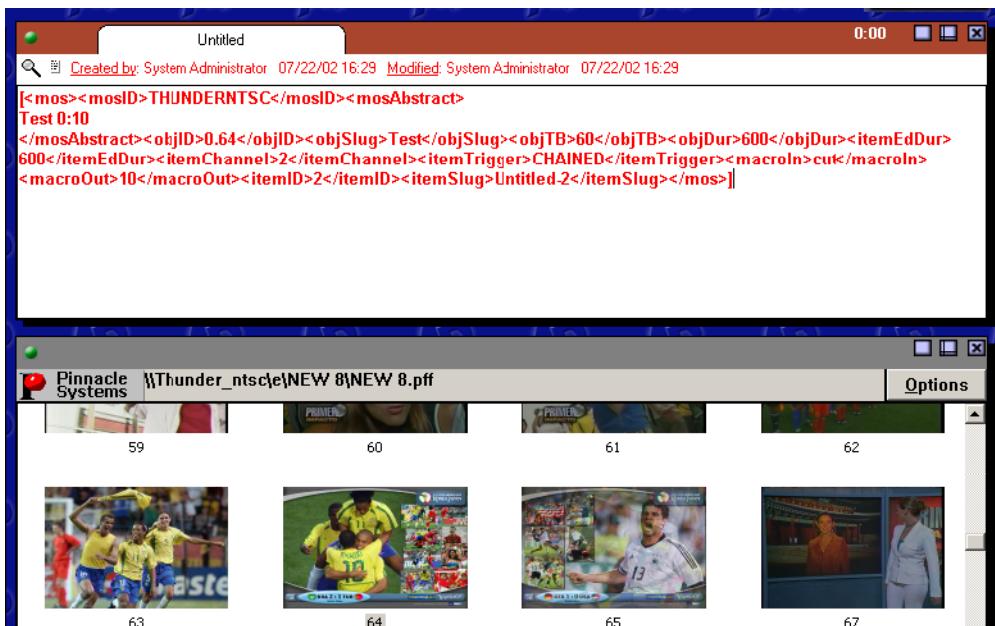
2. Write the script for the story.
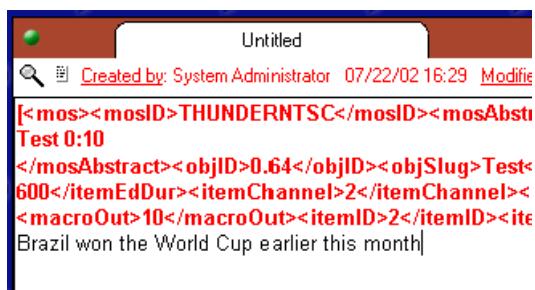
3. Retitle the script by doing the following:

  ▶ Double-click on "Untitled" in the tab above the story.

  ▶ Type in the new title.

  ▶ Press Enter.
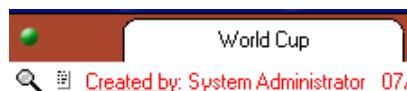
The new title is displayed in the tab. Now, you must add the story to a rundown. For more information, see "Adding a Story to a Rundown in ENPS" on page 27.

Adding a Story to a Rundown in ENPS

To add a story to a rundown in ENPS:

1. Create a new rundown by clicking on the third folder's rover and selecting New > Rundown.

2. Add a title for the rundown in the Program field, and make any other changes, such as start or end times.
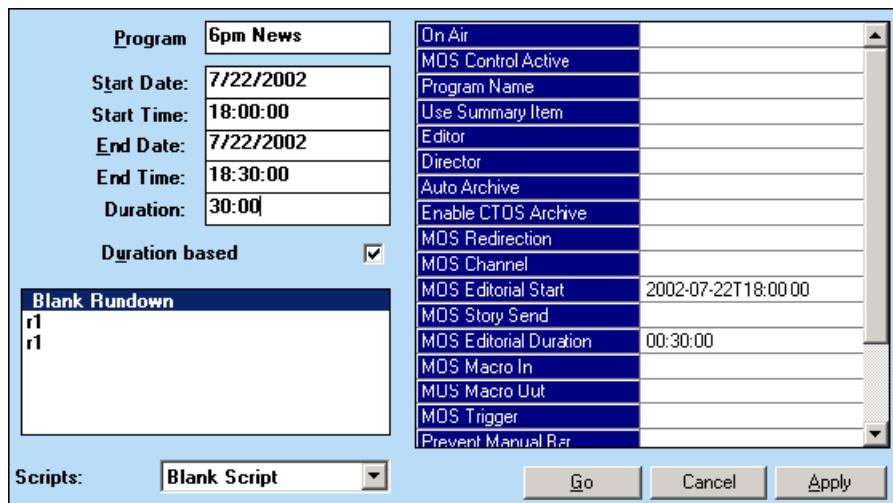
3. Click the Go button.

   The new rundown displays along the top of the window.
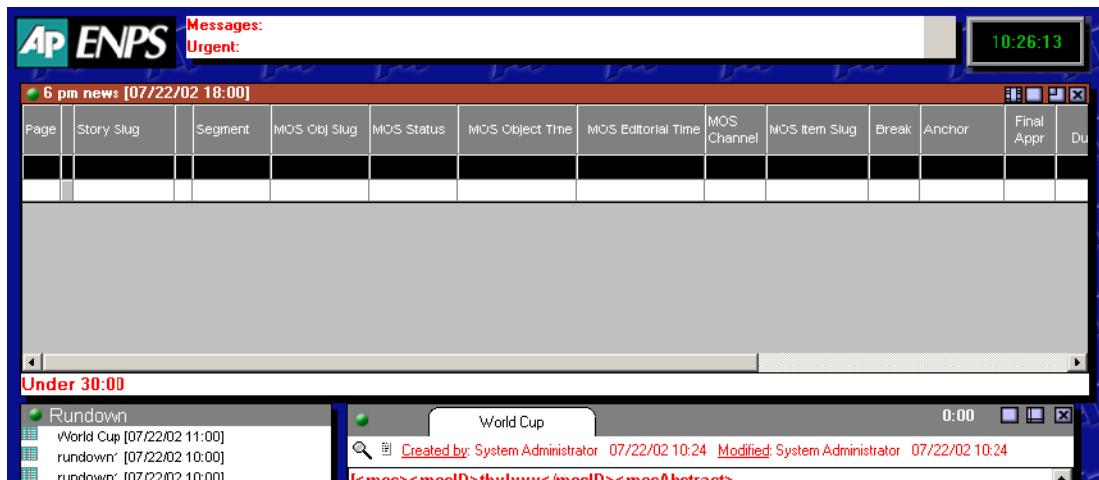
4. Add story to the rundown by dragging the tab of the story into the rundown list.

   The story name appears in the Story Slug column.

5. Option: Add other stories to the rundown, and reposition them as desired.

Now you can play your stories to air in ENPS. For more information, see "Playing Stories to Air in ENPS" on page 29.

Playing Stories to Air in ENPS

To play stories to air in ENPS:

1. When the rundown is ready to be played to air, click the rundown rover and select Properties.

2. Click in the MOS Control Active box.

Make sure that a '+' appears in the box.
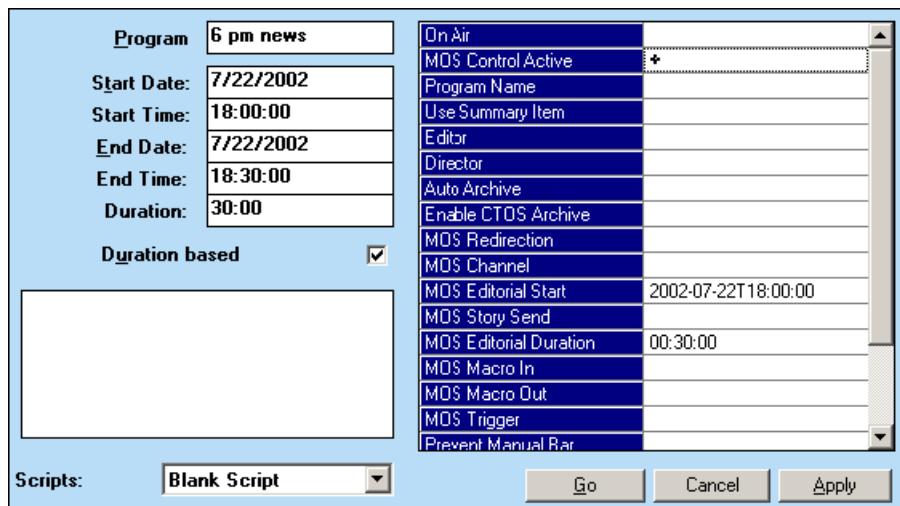
The MOS Status column changes from blank to "NOT READY" with a red background. This indicates that there is MOS communication with the Thunder broadcast device, but that rundown is not ready to air.

Page	Story Slug	Segment	MOS Obj Slug	MOS Status	MOS Object Time	MOS Editorial Time	MOS Channel	MOS Item Slu
A1	World Cup			NOT READY	0:55	0:55	2	Untitled-2
A2	WC script							
A3	Health Watch		title	NOT READY	0:21	0:21	2	Untitled-2
A4	HW script							
Z1	Celebration in th							
Z2	park		title		0:11	0:11	2	Untitled-2

Under 29:59

On the Thunder, a new sequence has been created with the clips, but has not yet been cued.

3. Click on the rundown rover and select MOS Ready to air.

📄 *Setting the rundown ready to air cues the sequence on the Thunder.*

The MOS Status column should display "READY."

Page	Story Slug	Segment	MOS Obj Slug	MOS Status	MOS Object Time	MOS Editorial Time	M C
A1	World Cup			READY	0:55	0:55	2
A2	WC script						
A3	Health Watch		title	READY	0:21	0:21	2
A4	HW script						
Z1	Celebration in th						
Z2	park		title		0:11	0:11	2

Any stories that are above the black line are considered active. Stories can be dragged from below the black line to above the black line and automatically added to the rundown.

6 pm news [07/22/02 18:00]							
Page	Story Slug	Segment	MOS Obj Slug	MOS Status	MOS Object Time	MOS Editorial Time	MO CH
A1	World Cup			READY	0:55	0:55	2
A2	WC script						
A3	Health Watch		title	READY	0:21	0:21	2
A4	HW script						
A5	Celebration in th						
A6	park		title	READY	0:11	0:11	2

Chapter 5
Troubleshooting

This chapter contains information on troubleshooting any problems you might find after your Thunder Select installation and configuration. Also included is information on how to access Avid online support, and Avid Technical Support.

See the following topics:

- Common Setup Problems and Checklist
- Limitations
- Accessing Online Support
- Technical Support Information

Common Setup Problems and Checklist

After you have setup Thunder Select, you might get one or more error messages. The following table provides some possible error messages and troubleshooting.

Setup Error Troubleshooting table

Error Message	Description
• Error readingThunderMOS.ini file • Error reading ThunderMOS.cfg file • Can't open database	If all of the files are in the correct folders as described in the setup procedure, these errors can be caused by user permission restrictions. One way to test this is to browse to the shared folder using Windows Explorer. If a logon dialog box appears, then the user you are logged in as does not have the proper permissions.
Data source not found	This is caused by the client not having the ODBC connection set up to connect to the Thunder SQL Server. Make sure the system DSN points to the Thunder SQL Server. For more information on using SQL with Thunder, see the *Avid Thunder Products User's Guide*. In addition, verify that the latest Microsoft Data Access Components (MDAC) drivers are installed on each client. MDAC version 2.8 installer can be found on your ThunderMOS installation CD.

Checklist

Use the following checklist to make sure you have performed the basic setup steps for each software component:

- SQL Server:
    - Set up tables. If there already is a SQL server configured, no changes are necessary.
    - Copy the ThunderSelectSetup.exe installer to a shared folder for easier client installation.
- iNEWS:
    - Make appropriate changes to ThunderMOS.cfg, and place it in a shared folder.
    - Make changes to ThunderMOS.ini pointing it to the folder where you just copied ThunderMOS.cfg.
    - Copy ThunderMOS.ini to the same folder as ThunderSelectSetup.exe.

- Thunder Server:
  - Install Version 7.1 of Thunder software
  - Configure MOS protocol with correct NRCS server IP address and database.
- Thunder Select client workstations (perform on each client):
  - Install Thunder Select ActiveX software by running ThunderSelectSetup.exe, preferably by running the installer remotely from the SQL server.
  - Set up an ODBC connection to the SQL server.
  - iNEWS: copy the ThunderMOS.ini into the c:\Thunder folder.
  - Run NRCS client software and then Thunder Select ActiveX plug-in.
  - Configure dongle ID and password and test connection.

Limitations

The following is a limitation found in Avid Thunder Select:

- If you switch the Thunder Select client from ENPS to iNEWS and have just a single database in the ThunderMOS.cfg file, you may sometimes not see the proper database in the client. To work around this, add a second line in the ThunderMOS.cfg file similar to the first. This should allow you to select the proper database.

Accessing Online Support

Avid Online Support is available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Search the Knowledge Base to find answers, to view error messages, to access troubleshooting tips, to download updates, and to read/join online message-board discussions.

To access Avid Online Support:

▶ Go to www.avid.com/onlineSupport/.

Technical Support Information

Most products feature a number of coverage options. Avid Assurance service offerings are designed to facilitate your use of Avid solutions. Service options include extended telephone coverage, automatic software maintenance, extended hardware warranty, and preferred pricing on replacement parts. Offerings and options may vary by product and are not available for all products.

For more information regarding Avid's service offerings, visit www.avid.com/support or call Avid Sales at 800-949-AVID (800-949-2843).

Program availability and details might vary depending on geographic location and are subject to change without notice. Contact your local Avid office or your local Avid Reseller for complete program information and pricing. However, if you need help locating an Avid office or Avid Reseller near you, please visit www.avid.com or call in North America 800-949-AVID (800-949-2843). International users call 978-275-2480.

Appendix A
Obtaining IP Addresses

This chapter contains information on getting IP addresses when configuring your Thunder Select installation.

Many NT networks use a DHCP server to assign IP addresses, rather than giving fixed addresses to each machine. Under DHCP, the IP address for each machine is dynamically allocated, meaning that it can change. However, our experience has been that these addresses are stable, especially if the machine is left on. For more information on this subject, see your System Administrator.

Determining the IP Address

There are two easy ways to determine the IP address of a machine. Both ways are accessed from the Command prompt.

1. Go to Start > Run and type **cmd** in the Run dialog box, and click OK.

2. If you want to determine the IP address of

   ▸ This machine, type **ipconfig** and press Enter.

   This will provide the IP Address of this machine, (In this example, 10.22.1.29.

▶ A remote machine on the network, type **ping** and the network name of the desired machine, e.g. "ping enps_server", and press Enter,

This results in the output ***Pinging enps_server [10.22.1.26]…*** which reveals that the IP address for enps_server is 10.22.1.26.