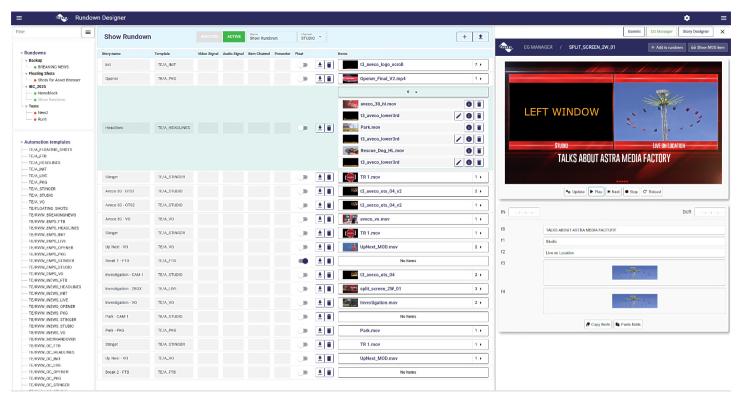


AVECO Rundown Designer

White Paper





The Rundown Designer is AVECO's latest addition to the always expanding ASTRA Studio feature set. With the Rundown Designer, we're getting rid of the necessity to deploy an NRCS system alongside ASTRA Studio so that everyone is now able to take advantage of the studio automation capability of AVECO's ASTRA Media Factory.

Gamechanger

While ASTRA Studio continues to support all major NRCS brands and retains the capability to tightly integrate with newsroom systems such as Octopus, ENPS or iNews in order to produce large scale shows where the whole newsroom staff collaborates using the NRCS, we're now adding the possibility to use AVECO's own Rundown Designer tool as an alternative way of creating a complete show rundown for ASTRA Studio.

The initial release version of the Rundown Designer already comes with a great set of features to get you started and take a complete show on air, leveraging integration with other AVECO products, such as GEMINI, CG Manager and Story Designer. The Rundown Designer can also use customer's existing ASTRA Studio Templates created in the Template Editor, making the integration into any existing system quick and intuitive.

The Rundown Designer is also compatible with ASTRA News, providing a web-interface for rundown scheduling in addition to the already existing NRCS and local user-block support.

Use cases

The main purpose of the Rundown Designer is to allow the ASTRA Studio to be used without an NRCS system, however the Rundown Designer can run alongside any existing or future newsroom integration as well, serving as an alternative or backup.

The most common use-cases include:

- Build a show rundown in the Rundown Designer web-based UI, send the rundown to ASTRA Studio via MOS, assign it to a PCR and run the show from ASTRA Studio as usual.
- Build complete show rundowns in your existing NRCS and create additional rundowns in the Rundown Designer, keeping those ready to be used at any time, managed completely from the ASTRA automation, without the reliance on NRCS. Use cases include situations such as Breaking News or Technical difficulties when the studio production must go on but the NRCS is not available or flexible enough.
- Use the Rundown Designer as a standby backup or disaster recovery solution to always be able to go on air with a great looking show from ASTRA Studio, relying on the ASTRA Studio Templates.

Opening up ASTRA Studio to customers without NRCS

For the first time ever, it's possible to use the full feature set of ASTRA Studio without any NRCS. The Rundown Designer allows scheduling of ASTRA Studio Templates, clips, graphics, lights, robotic cameras, macro recalls and anything else required for a great automated show.

The Rundown Designer currently supports AVECO's HTML5 plugins:

- the new Story Designer, used to schedule automation directives (such as, but not limited to, cameras, lights, jingle players)
- CG Manager plugin for Redwood White graphics scheduling
- GEMINI for clip browsing and insertion into the rundown

For customers without GEMINI, an alternative way of inserting media assets into the rundown is also possible, thanks to ASTRA's default built-in, yet very powerful, MAM functionality.

Add-on for customers who already have an NRCS

The Rundown Designer can be the only source of rundowns or it can work together with the customer's existing NRCS system. ASTRA Studio is capable of receiving rundowns from multiple sources at the same time, broadcasting a rundown from Octopus or ENPS in one PCR, while using another PCR to broadcast a show created in the Rundown Designer.

Thanks to ASTRA Studio being a multi-studio system, all this is achievable using a single or mirrored automation server, which means it's even possible to share device resources, media assets as well as client stations and control panels across multiple PCRs.

On top of this, the users can take advantage of the Rundown Append feature of ASTRA Studio to combine a rundown from Octopus with another one from the Rundown Designer and jump between stories from both rundowns seamlessly.

Deployment

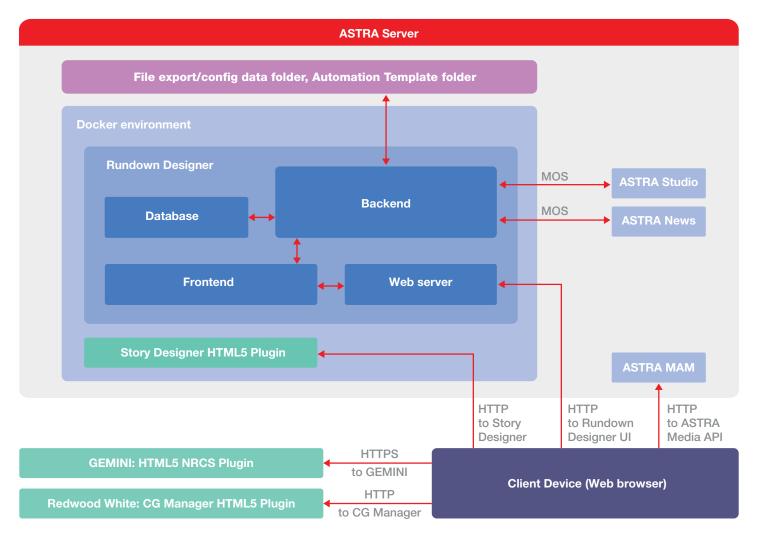
The Rundown Designer is ready to run internally, directly on the ASTRA automation server in order to make the experience as much seamless as possible, limiting cybersecurity hassle. However, Rundown Designer's architecture allows for flexible deployment in virtualized environment as well.

The Rundown Designer maintains its own database of rundowns and uses the ASTRA server connectivity to retrieve the list of ASTRA Studio Templates and media assets. HTML5 plugins access makes scheduling story items simple.

Users working with the Rundown Designer use web-based interface, available from any device connected to the network.

Internet access is not required for the Rundown Designer to work.

Rundowns are sent to ASTRA Studio using the MOS protocol, ensuring lightning-fast story updates, even to the next/on air story.



Rundown Designer use-case schematics