



Automotive Workshop XV Notes

14th November 2023, Berlin

Nick Piggott (RadioDNS) and Rosie Smith (WorldDAB) introduced the meeting, saying that this is the first in-person Automotive Workshop since 2020 and although it has now become a hybrid meeting, it is the first step towards the goal of having interested parties in the same room twice a year, discussing current problems and trying to find a fix. The agenda for these meetings is created by submissions from attendees. During the meeting there were lots of discussions, these notes capture the essence of what was discussed and any decisions made.

Station List Ordering: what the driver sees when they turn on the radio

There is no common way to list stations. Nick Piggott asked if there is a consensus on consistent station listening and how we implement it. There was a discussion on the current approaches, and how they are often legacy approaches.

Laurence Harrison (Radioplayer) said that he thought the station list should be alphabetical for ease for the user. Keith Briggs agreed that alphabetical would be best for the driver. It was suggested that the list should be listed by A-Z, 0-9 and then punctuation to stop misuse of punctuation to take a station name to the top of the list and it was agreed that advice given would be that stations should be listed this way, with guidance on best practice.

Regional Variations of Radio Stations

Currently when radios automatically switch between regional variations of the same station, the listener is not always informed. Some manufacturers do not automatically switch between regional variations as they think it will be too distracting for the driver, and they also don't understand when the change should happen from one station to another. Laurence Harrison suggested this could be taken to the RadioDNS Technical Group or the WorldDAB User Experience Group and Rosemary Smith and Nick Piggott said that guidelines need to be harmonised but we need a consensus on when to switch between regional variations, if at all, for consistency.

Delivering large numbers of logos over the air

Some DAB ensembles/multiplexes now deliver a very large number of logos over the air, including logos for other ensembles and Nick Piggott asked if sending this many logos is OK. It was agreed the reality of how it is being done at the moment doesn't work very well as it requires long acquisition times, even though the technical specifications are correct and there are guidelines, including making the logos persistent through caching. Education is required to explain the best way to broadcast and receive large numbers of logos using DAB SPI.

Controlling access to metadata

Originally broadcasters were providing all of their metadata openly but they are now wanting to keep more control over their metadata. The question was asked if there is a general understanding of why this is happening and what to do, and it was agreed that there isn't.

Some broadcasters now control access to audio streams with technologies like short-lived tokens but there is not a standard approach to this and there has yet to be any feedback on if this is causing issues. Michael Reichart (BR) gave the BR user case as an example and the BBCs approach to logged in listening was also given.

It was agreed that conceptually there is a problem but no one at the workshop had encountered it yet.

Visual content

Operating systems like Android Automotive support broadcaster provided images in a square "album art" format, but most existing DAB slideshow images are not square.

Would (or could) broadcasters change or add a square format for visual content and if not, what is the recommendation to manufacturers on how to adapt what is already being provided. There should be guidance on what to do when an image aspect ratio doesn't fit and what happens when an image isn't scalable.

There is an action to describe the problem and to find out how this is being dealt with, and also flag as an issue for implementing DAB Slideshow in Android Automotive.

Switching to Broadcaster Provided Apps

In Android Automotive, it's possible for broadcasters to provide their own apps and there was a discussion on how easy it would be to go to and from broadcaster to radio apps, how they are installed, updated and triggered, plus what will the OEM's want as they could have their own apps too.

Investigation is required on how to trigger a broadcaster app to launch from an action in a manufacturer provided radio app, and how to return to the radio app after the action is completed.

Radio and "Ignition On" action in EVs

Nick Piggott introduced this subject by saying that ordinarily, the radio turns on with ignition. Kristian Karlsson Gonzalez (Cariad) said that when you sit in the seat in an Audi, it has the capacity for the radio to start. Keith Briggs (Bauer Media) said that when getting into an EV you use the brake pedal and the audio could start then. Michael Reichart said that even in old cars there are different scenarios and there was further discussion on this. Nick Piggott said that theoretically the audio dashboard could replicate the last state on starting but would this be a recommendation. Rosemary Smith noted that in consumer surveys, ease of use comes up as a very important requirement.

Personalised Radio

Rosemary Smith said WorldDAB are trying to find the best personalised radio experience, and asked the group for some help. She asked what we can do to personalise radio and Nick Piggott asked the group to think about the 3 most interesting personalisations from manufacturers and broadcaster pov.

Workshop Format and Structure

Nick Piggott said that face to face Automotive Workshops are better for discussion and thanked the group for their effort, saying the plan is to do two face to face and two online meetings per year with the in-person meetings being longer. The topics for the meeting are

currently proposed without attribution, and wondered if people would be happy in future to host the discussion around the topic they have raised.

Laurence Harrison said that raising the question is better than not raising it, and this might put someone off, so if someone proposes a topic they could choose to present it, or ask the meeting chair to present it.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be in March, probably in Germany.

Attendees:

Laurence Harrison, Radioplayer

Songi Jeong, Cariad SE

Kristian Karlsson González, Cariad SE

Maximilian Knop, Konsole Labs GmbH

Michael Reichert, ARD/BR

David Sice, Intermedia CBTS

Suraj Sahnán, Intermedia CBTS

Nick Piggott, RadioDNS

Rosemary Smith, WorldDAB

Rosie Kendrick, RadioDNS

Keith Briggs, Bauer UK

Magnus Andersson, Volvo Cars