

COLUMBINE CONFIGURATION

WHAT FIELD SHOULD POWER-LINK USE FOR CART NUMBER: Enter the letter for the field being used to access the cart number, the audio reference value that will be passed on to the automation system. Valid answers are: R for Rack Number, A for Audio Field and V for Video field.

FLAG 'MOVED' SPOTS AS "AIRED BUT WITH TECHNICAL DIFFICULTY": Should Power-Link instruct Columbine to mark moved commercials with the airplay status line of aired but with technical difficulties? This 'status' of Aired but with technical difficulty is a status that was used with TV systems and was the original way that PL flagged events that were aired but considerably out of time-range.

PROMPT IF SPOT'S CART NUMBER IS EMPTY? If Power-Link detects a non-spot event with no assigned cart number should it top and prompt the user to enter one? Typically the call late copy function in Columbine will fill all event's with cart play instructions but if the instructions are not known at the at point Columbine will continue to schedule the event but leave the cart number empty. During scheduling when PL detects that it is empty it is a good point to warn the user that they are passing an event that needs immediate attention if it is to be played. Turning this question to (Y)es is usually a prudent option that can give you a "heads up" at a point that allows a last minute correction/attention on the missing cart information.

PASS PROGRAM LINES? Program lines in the .trn file are identified by the letter "P" that is found as the first character of the line. If these lines are to be considered for transfer then turn this question to (Y)es.

PROMPT IF EMPTY? Only if the "PASS PROGRAM LINES" question is turned to (Y)es then this question asks if when PL is passing program lines, should PL stop and prompt the user for PROGRAM lines that do NOT contain a cart number in the configured cart field (RACK, AUDIO or VIDEO). Since Program lines are put in on a more long term basis it is very rare that this option is used.

PASS IF EMPTY? Again like the above "PROMPT IF EMPTY" parameter, this is applies in the event that the "PASS PROGRAM LINES" parameter is (Y)es. If the desire is to pass only Program type lines that do have a cart number then leaving this at (N)o will accomplish that.

PASS COMMENT LINES? Comment lines in the .trn file are identified by the letter "C" that is found as the first character of the line. If these lines are to be considered for transfer then turn this question to (Y)es.

PROMPT IF EMPTY? Only if the "PASS COMMENT LINES" question is turned to (Y)es then this question asks if when PL is passing comment lines, should PL stop and prompt the user for COMMENT lines that do NOT contain a cart number in the configured cart field (RACK, AUDIO or VIDEO). Since comment type lines are put in on a more long term basis it is very rare that this option is used.

PASS IF EMPTY? Again like the above "PROMPT IF EMPTY" parameter, this is applies in the event that the "PASS COMMENT LINES" parameter is (Y)es. If the desire is to pass only COMMENT type lines that do have a cart number then leaving this at (N)o will accomplish that.

PASS AVAIL LINES? Comment lines in the .trn file are identified by the letter "A" that is found as the first character of the line. If these lines are to be considered for transfer then turn this question to (Y)es. NOTE: The manner to get an AVAIL type line to appear (at all) in the transfer file is accomplished by the mere fact that in the creation / configuration of that avail line something (anything) has been placed in the title field. This is to say that an avail created in Columbine with nothing in the title field will not be present in the outgoing transfer file. To make an avail show up in the outgoing transfer file, there must be some value given to the title field.

PROMPT IF EMPTY? Only if the "PASS AVAIL LINES" question is turned to (Y)es then this question asks if when PL is passing AVAIL lines, should PL stop and prompt the user for AVAIL lines that do NOT contain a cart number in the configured cart field (RACK, AUDIO or VIDEO). Since AVAIL type lines are put in on a more long term basis it is very rare that this option is used.

PASS IF EMPTY? Again like the above "PROMPT IF EMPTY" parameter, this is applies in the event that the "PASS AVAIL LINES" parameter is (Y)es. If the desire is to pass only AVAIL type lines that do have a cart number then leaving this at (N)o will accomplish that.

FORCE ORIGINAL LOG SPOT ORDER: When the file is being converted must Power-Link retain the original spot order from Columbine even if the chronological sequence is incorrect. In rare cases events will come through to the transfer file and appear to be out of chronological order. If left alone PL will resort these resulting in a loss of order, turning this question to (Y)es will enable PL to check for this and make corrections to subsequent events so as to preserve the order of the events on the log. PL accomplishes this by not allowing any events to back up in time and simply will change to the schedule time to the time of the latest event scheduled. This is usually a matter of just a few seconds and is not of significant consequence except that it will accomplish keeping the events in the correct order. In reconciliation the actual air time will be returned so the slight time alteration usually is of no negative consequence.

PASS COMMENT LINES AS PLAYABLE ITMES: Should Power-Link treat comment lines from Columbine as potential playable events?

DELETE LOG FILES RETURNED TO COLUMBINE FOR RECON: During the clean-up operations of Power-Link should the files that were returned for closed loop reconciling be deleted.

USE VIDEO FILED FOR BILLBOARDS AND TAGS: Must Power-Link use the Video field to look for billboard and tagging events. This is a handy system for placing a billboard or tag event before or behind an event on the automation export. To affect this, simply place (in the Video field) either a B or T for Billboard or Tag as the FIRST character in the field then the remaining 4 characters are used as the cart number to assign to that Billboard or Tag. The result will be an event that is created by PL (for a Billboard) preceding or behind (in the case of a tag) the affected event. The title will be preceded either by a BB: or TAG: and the duration will be always set to 5 seconds.

RECONCILE ALL NON SPOT EVENTS AS "MARKED AS PLAYED"? As a practical convenience, this can easily mark all non commercial events to a Marked as Played status. This is very practical because Columbine doesn't perform any reconciliation functionality on these events anyhow.

UPDATE AIRTIMES OF MOVED EVENTS ONLY? As some users find it preferable to only update the times of the moved event thus leaving the scheduled time on the Aired OK events, turning this question to (Y)es will accomplish that.

CHARACTOR TO PLACE IN FRONT OF CART NUMBER ? If a static character is needed to be placed in front (preface) all cart numbers, there is where it can be configured.