

# SeaChange® VODlink® Platform Suite

QuickSpec

Version 3.5

SeaChange® VODlink® Platform Suite software package is a collection of server software tools and set top box engine that enable digital cable and IPTV providers to create channel overlays, portals, new services and applications that incorporate full motion video and can deliver video on demand (VOD) sessions. VODlink operates modally with an electronic programming guide (EPG), middleware or as a plug-in.

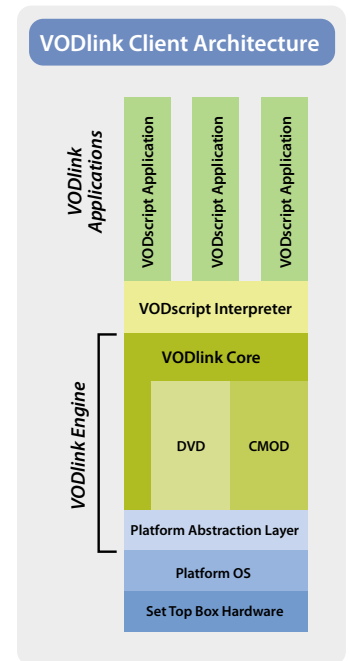
VODlink enables set top box applications to operate and play on-demand assets across a large array of set top box environments such as Scientific-Atlanta (Cisco) and Motorola, as well as EPG's such as Liberate to TVGuide, MSTV and other open systems.

## HOW IT WORKS

The service or application is created using the VODlink Developer Suite software package, made available to the home or business subscriber through their digital television or IP infrastructure. As subscribers interact with their EPG or middleware, VODlink is invoked as part of the channel overlay, portal or application by well-defined triggering mechanisms that can be configured on a site-by-site basis. VODlink then manages the set top box and its resources (tuner, on-screen display, remote control, etc.) until terminated based on the customer interaction. Control is then passed back to the EPG or middleware and VODlink goes into a dormant yet listening state.

VODlink applications are delivered to the set top box (STB) from the VOD server. These applications are built into the data product identifier definition (PID) of a VOD asset and streamed in-band to the STB's, providing a scalable and cost-effective application delivery platform that leverages MPEG video as part of the user interface for the application. These specialized VOD assets are called Blended File Assets (BFA).

BFAs are constructed by VL MediaMerge software component of the VODlink Platform Suite hosted on the Asset Manager machine. This combines static graphic backgrounds and videos barkers with movie posters and videos taken directly from the video server based on business rules evaluated when the BFA is generated. VL MediaMerge can be configured to regenerate BFAs on a scheduled basis so that the content of the most current BFA accurately represents the asset content and structure of the video server.



## SEACHANGE VODLINK PLATFORM KEY COMPONENTS:

- **VODlink Core and VODscript Interpreter** – executes VODlink applications developed using the VODlink Developer Suite and compiled into a compact bytecode and packaged into archives with graphics, fonts, and other resources. Application archives are delivered to the set top in the data PIDs of a BFA. Once activated, these software components interpret the compiled bytecode in order to execute it.
- **Compact Movies on Demand module (CMOD)** – part of the engine that communicates with the VOD server. It requests metadata for currently available VOD assets, performs session management and stream control. Command and control capabilities are built into CMOD to handle fault tolerance, fail-over, and other set top required features for a robust VOD environment.

- **DVD on Demand module** – part of the engine that provides DVD on Demand capability to the VODlink platform, to create a fully interactive experience like that of the original DVD. This module controls the streaming of DVD on Demand video assets from the VOD server. Stream control is affected by encoded DVD on Demand program codes delivered in the asset, and user control codes that result from the user using a remote control to interact with the DVD on Demand content. DVD on Demand functionality, including a DVD Player interface, is available as an optional licensed component of the VODlink Platform Suite.

- **Platform Abstraction Layer (PAL)** – provides the glue between the VODlink Platform Suite and the EPG, middleware and set top box hardware. The PAL enables VODlink to be ported to multiple configurations.

- **VL MediaMerge** – a service that executes on the Asset Manager server that is configured to generate BFAs on a scheduled basis. BFAs combine static graphics, video barkers, dynamic graphic and video content from the video server, and VODlink application archives into MPEG video assets that are hosted on the video server. VODlink selects the most recent copy of the BFA available for delivering applications with full-color video backgrounds to the set top box.

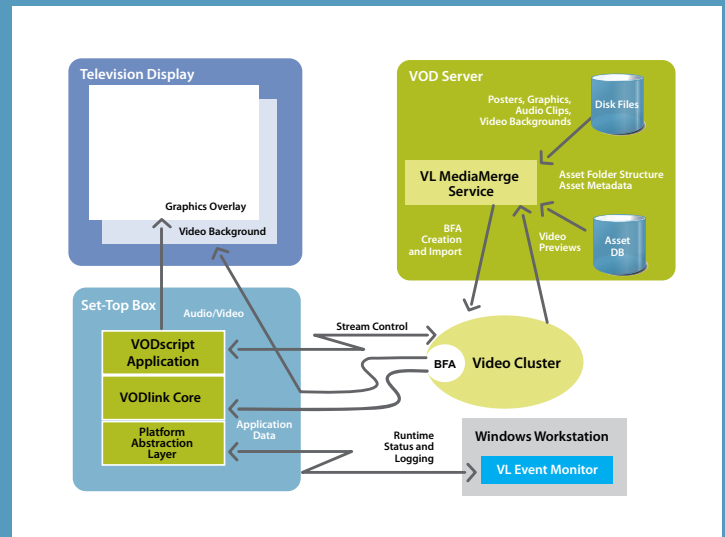
- **VL Designer FE** – software program that allows the content and configuration of a BFA definition to be modified by the provider in an intuitive, graphical user interface. Configurable graphics such as logos and informational graphics can be replaced on-site without the intervention of a developer. Applications within the BFA can be applied to new content in the Asset Manager folder structure.

- **VL Event Monitor** – monitoring utility allows the execution state of a VODlink application running on a set top box to be monitored remotely from any Windows system on an accessible network

### VODLINK LAUNCH MECHANISMS

There are a number of means to invoke the VODlink platform and its applications:

- Tune to a virtual channel
- By the subscriber, through an associate remote control key
- On the request of the EPG or middleware platforms



### SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS FOR THE VODLINK DEVELOPER SUITE:

- Processor: Athlon®, Duron®, Celeron®, Pentium® II, Pentium III, or Pentium 4; SEE enhanced Intel® Pentium 4 Processor recommended
- Processor speed: 400 MHz minimum (1 GHz recommended)
- Windows® 2000 Professional or Windows® XP Professional
- 256 MB of RAM
- 2 GB of available disk space
- 256 color monitor capable of 800x600 resolution
- Available USB port
- CD-ROM drive

### SAMPLING OF SUPPORTED EPG'S

- Aptiv Digital Passport DCT & Echo (multiple releases)
- Humax
- Intel
- Liberate 2.4/Source IPG
- Pace
- SARA, J-SARA

### SAMPLING OF SET TOP BOX SUPPORT

- Amino 110
- Humax
- Motorola: various series such as DCT17xx/18xx, DCT2xxx, DCT51XX, DCT6xxx, DVR and non-DVR ASTBs
- Panasonic DCH5xx/1000
- Scientific Atlanta: all Explorer releases

The list above evolves as new platforms become available - check directly with SeaChange for specific environment support.

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