

Soft Panels

Software Routing System Control Panels

Instruction Manual

Software Version 3.1



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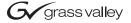
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Contents

Section 1 — Introduction	7
Overview	
Soft Panels Requirements	
Soft Panels Console and GUI	8
Section 2 — Soft Panels Installation	9
Installing with the Soft Panels Installer	
Installing with Encore/Prelude Software Installer	
mountaing with Encoro, a rotatic destinate mountain vivia vi	
Section 3 — Encore System Soft Panel Configuration	15
•	
Soft Panel Licensing for Encore Systems	
Encore Soft Panels Configuration Overview	
Encore Soft Panel Names	
First Time Quick Configuration with Encore	
SMS7000 Soft Panel Configuration	
one, our part contract contrac	
Section 4 — Prelude System Soft Panel Configuration	21
•	
Soft Panel Licensing for Prelude Systems	
Prelude Soft Panels Configuration Overview Background Information	
Prelude Soft Panel Names	
NetConfig Agent	
First Time Quick Configuration with Prelude	
Requirements	
Procedure	
Soft Panel Only Prelude Systems	28
Multiple Control Systems on the Same Network	29
Section 5 — Control Panel GUIs	31
Panel Type Drop Down Menu	
Soft Panel Types	
Encore/Prelude	
Kalypso	
Acappella	33
SMS7000 (Encore Soft Panels Only)	34
Jupiter (Encore Soft Panels Only)	37
Editing Button Labels and the Dynamic Keycap Feature	
Dynamic Keycap Off	37
Dynamic Keycap On	
Line Breaks	38

Section 6 — Soft Panels Console	. 39
Soft Panels Console Overview	. 39
Console Password.	
Connection Lock	
Encore Soft Panels Console	
Connect Button	. 40
Panel Type	
Panel Name	
Recv Port, Send Port	
Local IP Address	
Primary and Redundant IP Address:	. 41
Apply Config	
Restore Config	
Dynamic Keycap	
Always on Top	
Poll Timeout.	. 41
Menu	. 41
Exit	. 43
Prelude System Console	. 44
Prelude Console Control Differences	
Connect Button	. 44
Send Matrix Cfg Button	. 44
Prelude Soft Panel Communications Settings	
Broadcast/Multicast	. 45
Matrix Port	. 45
Multicast IP Fields	. 45
Hardware Control Panel Keycap Legend Generation	. 45
Keycap Legend Generation	. 46
Keycap Legend Preparation	. 46
Keycap Legend Replacement	
Index	40

Introduction

Overview

Soft Panels are virtual versions of physical control panels used with Encore and Prelude routing systems. Soft Panels operate on PCs connected to that system's network.

Soft Panels feature a Graphical User Interface (GUI) that represents the various specific panel types supported. The button labels on the Soft Panels GUI can automatically be updated with the current names of Sources, Destinations, Salvos, etc. using the Dynamic Keycap feature. The button labels can also be edited manually.

Once configured, each Soft Panel type operates the same as the corresponding hardware panel. Soft Panels are treated by the routing control system the same as their hardware panel equivalents.

Soft Panels are sold separately from the routing system and are individually licensed.

On Encore systems the total number of all hardware panels plus all Soft Panels cannot exceed 127 per Encore SCB. On Prelude systems the total number of all panels cannot exceed 32.

Soft Panels Requirements

The Soft Panels application runs on Windows 2000 or Windows XP operating systems. It has also been tested to work with Windows 7, provided the user logs in with Administrator privileges. Soft Panels have also been successfully tested for operation on the Macintosh (Intel Duo) platform running the Parallels application to generate a Windows XP virtual machine.

Note Soft Panels do not work on Windows NT, ME, or 95/98 PCs.

The Soft Panels application requires a monitor display setting of 1024 horizontal pixels or more.

Note

Soft Panels running on a PC with more than one monitor may display an extra window. Attempting to close the extra window closes the Soft Panel application. Clicking on the frame of the extra window may allow it to be moved off screen. However, the video driver application may have a configuration option forcing all windows to display on screen. Disabling this option (if it is available) can permit hiding the extra window off screen.

Soft Panels Console and GUI

The Soft Panels application has a Console that controls how the Soft Panel application connects to the routing system and what type of GUI panel will be used. Two Consoles are available, one for Encore (Figure 1) and another for Prelude (Figure 2). The Console type is selected with the labeled radio buttons on the left.

Figure 1. Encore XY Soft Panel with Console Connected



Figure 2. Prelude XY Soft Panel with Console Disconnected



On Encore systems running 1.7.4 or newer software, multiple Soft Panel instances can be launched, allowing the use of multiple Soft Panels types simultaneously.

On Prelude systems, only one Soft Panel application can run on a PC at a time, and only one Soft Panel GUI at a time can be displayed and used on each PC. However, any of the available panel types can be dynamically selected, connected, and used with the associated routing system at any time.

The Soft Panel application must connect before it becomes operational. On Encore systems the connection is made to an Encore Panel Server. On Prelude systems the connection is made to the Matrix being controlled.

Soft Panels Installation

Note

Soft Panels operate on a PC that is on the same network as the control system or matrix to which it will connect. For example, with an Encore system if the SCB is on network 192.168.0.x then the PC needs to be on network 192.168.0.x.

The Soft Panels application is included on the Encore and Compact Router Control System software CDs, and is available for download from the Grass Valley Support web site. Soft Panels can be installed onto any number of PCs, but must be licensed and configured before they become operational.

On Encore systems the first Soft Panel instances launched will be operational (up to the number of licenses purchased). Any additional Soft Panels launched will not be allowed to change router crosspoints. Closing unused Soft Panels will free up licenses for use elsewhere on the Encore network.

On Prelude systems Soft Panels are individually licensed on each PC.

Installing with the Soft Panels Installer

- **1.** Acquire the Soft Panels software. It can be downloaded from the web onto any convenient media (hard disk, thumb drive, or burned to CD).
- **2.** Access the **Soft Panels** directory and run **Setup.exe**. The Soft Panels install program will launch.
- **3.** Click **Next**, accept the license agreement, and click **Next** again (Figure 3).

Welcome to Soft Panels Setup program. This program will install Soft Panels on your computer.

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Figure 3. Initial Soft Panels Installation Screens

4. Screens subsequently appear that allow you to choose the installation destination and backup existing files (Figure 4). Default settings are recommended, selected by clicking **Next**.



Figure 4. Subsequent Soft Panels Installation Screens

5. A Start Installation screen appears next, which lets you choose the level with **All Users** and **Administrator** settings (Figure 5).

Figure 5. Subsequent Soft Panels Installation Screens

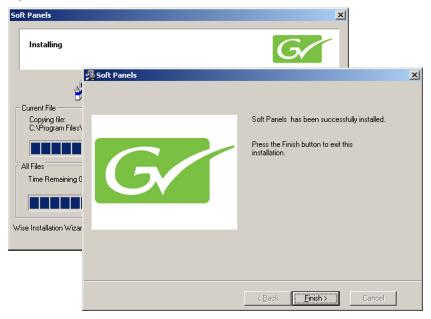


- Selecting the default **Administrator** setting will allow anyone logging in to use the Soft Panels application on that PC, but only users logged on as administrator will be able to perform advanced functions (creating and updating the .ini file, etc).
- Selecting All Users will allows anyone logging in to use the Soft Panels application and also permits everyone access to the advanced functions. This access is removed if Soft Panels is uninstalled.

After making your selection click Next.

6. A progress bar screen will appear indicating the software is being loaded, and a success screen displays when complete (Figure 6). Click **Finish** to exit the installer application.

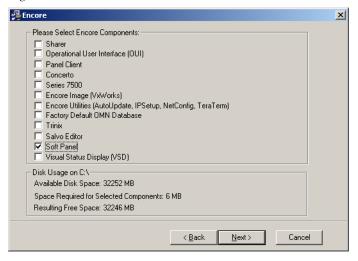
Figure 6. Final Installation Screens



Installing with Encore/Prelude Software Installer

A check box for Soft Panels is available during an Encore or Prelude control system software installation process. You can choose to install Soft Panels on the PC along with the control system software if you wish, or you can select only that checkbox to install just Soft Panels (Figure 7 and Figure 8).

Figure 7. Encore Installer Checkboxes



Select Components

In the options list, select the checkboxes for the options that you would like to have installed.

The disk space fields reflect the requirements of the options you have selected.

Disk Usage on C:\
Available Disk Space
Space Required for Selected Components

Acappella
Prelude
NetConfig
Concerto
VSoftPanels
VSD

Disk Usage on C:\
Available Disk Space
Space Required for Selected Components

11MB

Figure 8. Prelude Installer Checkboxes

When selected, the Soft Panels installer (as described earlier) will launch.

Encore System Soft Panel Configuration

Soft Panel Licensing for Encore Systems

Encore system Soft Panels are activated with a license. The license is tied to Encore System Controllers (SCBs) running the Encore system's Panel Servers. For example, if five licenses are purchased, up to five Soft Panels (of any type) can be can run at a time on five different PCs connected to the Encore system, provided Soft Panel software has been installed on the PCs. The total number of all hardware panels plus all Soft Panels cannot exceed 127 per Encore SCB.

Soft Panels licenses are purchased through Grass Valley Sales and the keys are issued by Grass Valley Customer Support. After purchasing your licenses, you will need to provide the Device ID(s) of the Encore SCBs running the Panel Server to Customer Support so they can generate the key.

 Using NetConfig or an internet browser, display the web page of the SCB and select the System Controller Description (Figure 9). Write down the Device Id number displayed on the screen.

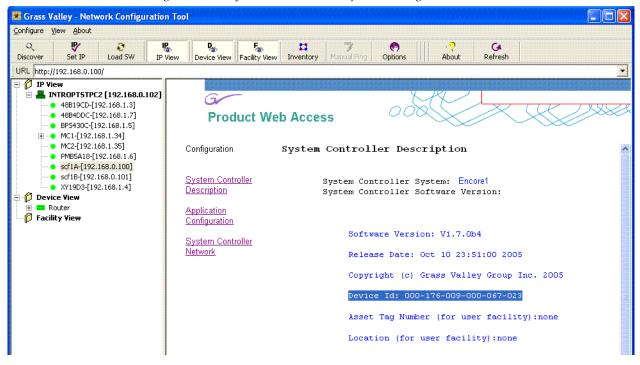


Figure 9. SCB System Controller Description Web Page

- **2.** If you have redundant SCBs, access the web page of the secondary SCB and write down its **Device Id** number.
- **3.** Contact Grass Valley Customer Support, confirm the number of licenses purchased, and give them the SCB Device ID(s). You will be given a license key number.
- **4.** Go to the SCB web page display and select **Application Configuration** (Figure 10)

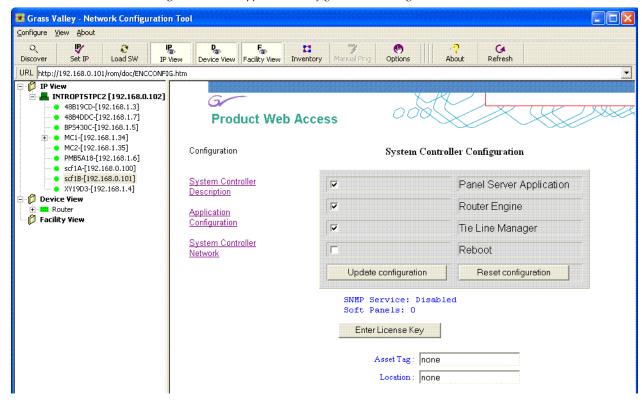


Figure 10. SCB Application Configuration Web Page

The following is displayed in the bottom area of the window:

Soft Panels : N

N is the number of enabled floating Soft Panel licenses. N = 0 if no Soft Panel licenses have been enabled.

5. Select **Enter License Key** to open the following window (Figure 11).

Figure 11. License Key Menu



- **6.** Enter the supplied key, including the dashes, and select **Submit**.
- **7.** A confirmation prompt reports entry of a valid key. Click **OK**. The number of licenses will then be displayed on the web page.
- **8.** Repeat Step 4 through Step 7 on the secondary SCB, if present.

Encore Soft Panels Configuration Overview

Background Information

Soft Panels used with Encore systems are configured and managed similar to hardware panels. Soft Panels seen by the Encore Panel Server on the network are automatically detected by their assigned name. If the Panel Server database has a configuration with that name, it is sent to the Soft Panel and that panel acquires that defined functionality. Changing the name of the Soft Panel to a different existing configuration immediately changes the Soft Panel's functionality to those new settings.

CAUTION Every panel (hardware or software) on the Encore network must have a unique panel name. Do not use an existing hardware panel name for the name of a Soft Panel. Unpredictable panel behavior may result.

You use the Panel Server OUI to edit panel configurations, which can then be used by Soft Panels. Soft Panel functional configurations are not defined by the Soft Panel application itself, except for an initial Soft Panel name, IP address settings, and some GUI settings. These settings are adjusted using the Soft Panels Console, and they apply only to the Soft Panels instance running on that PC.

Encore Soft Panel Names

A Soft Panel instance must be detected on the network before it can receive a configuration. If a Soft Panel connects to the Panel Server and a configuration for that named panel doesn't exist, a default configuration for that panel type will be loaded to it. This default configuration name consists of the panel type and the last four hexidecimal digits of the MAC address of the PC running Soft Panels. The helps ensure every panel instance is unique. Once that Soft Panel with the default configuration exists, you can use the Panel Server to edit that configuration or apply a template to that configuration.

An alternative Soft Panel naming convention is to use the panel type as a prefix and the last octet of the PC's IP address as a suffix. For example, if the PC has a 192.168.0.133 address and you are using an XY Soft Panel, the panel name could be XY-133. A PC's IP address is easier to determine than the hexidecimal MAC address. You can also edit a Soft Panel configuration to give it a descriptive name, for example XY-Edit1

CAUTION Do not create duplicate Soft Panel names on different PCs. Each panel must have a unique name. To create multiple panels that behave the same, use the Panel Server to create a template with the desired functionality and apply that template to different panels.

First Time Quick Configuration with Encore

You can use the following procedure to quickly get a GUI panel up and running after Soft Panels has been installed and licensed. Configuration details are presented later in this manual.

1. Launch the application by double-clicking on the Soft Panels icon and click **OK** to the password prompt.

This will display the Soft Panels Console and, when the application is first run, a virtual version of an XY panel. The panel will not be operational and none of the buttons will tally (Figure 12).



Figure 12. Initial Soft Panels Console and XY Panel

- 2. Select the desired Panel Type (48B, BPS, etc.).
- 3. Enter a Panel Name.
- **4.** Enter the **Primary IP Address** of the SCB running the Master Panel Server application.
- **5.** If you have redundant SCBs, enter the **Secondary IP Address** of the SCB running the Mirror Panel Server application.
- **6.** Click **Apply Config** to save the configuration.
- **7.** Click on **Connect to Server**. The Panel and Server lights will flash and a line will connect them when communications has been established.
- **8.** The Soft Panel will now be operational, such that Sources can be routed to Destinations and the buttons will tally. The default configuration for that panel type will be used (Figure 13).

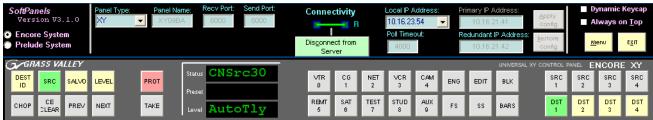


Figure 13. Operational Soft Panel XY Panel

9. The Dynamic Keycap feature (checkbox on the upper right of the console) determines what button legends are displayed.

CAUTION Do not enable the Dynamic Keycaps option if using Soft Panels with Encore V1.7.2.2 or earlier.

- **a.** When the Dynamic Keycap feature is on, all the Soft Panel button labels will automatically show their functions, Source and Destination names, etc.
- b. When the Dynamic Keycap feature is off, the buttons will be labeled with generic names that probably will not match their actual functions. The Soft Panel's button labels will need to be edited to reflect the function of the button assigned by the Panel Server. Right click on a Soft Panel GUI button and enter the text for that button. Use a backslash (\) character to force a new line of text. Remember that changing the text of the button does not change its function; it only changes the label for that button.
- **10.** To close the Soft Panel application, click on **Exit**, or right click on the panel and choose **Exit application**.

If the Soft Panel application was connected to the SCB when Exit is selected, the connection will be restored automatically when the Soft Panel is re-launched.

Note Default panel configurations have all Salvos disabled. Panel reconfiguration is required before it can execute Salvos.

Soft Panel functionality can be changed with the Panel Server. Using the Encore OUI log onto the primary CP Server that the Soft Panel application is connected to. From the OUI select Soft Panel category and type being run on the PC, then select the name of the Soft Panel to edit. Make the changes you wish for that panel. The changes will be sent immediately to that panel.

SMS7000 Soft Panel Configuration

SMS7000 Soft Panels are modeled on hardware panels controlled via coaxial cabling connected to Encore SCBs equipped with optional GSC mezzanines. On Encore systems, a GSC mezzanine must be installed in an SCB before SMS7000 Soft Panels will operate. This is the case even if no actual GSC hardware panels exist in the system. While the PC running Soft Panels uses Ethernet communications, an Encore SCB needs a GSC mezzanine in order to generate SMS7000 GSC panel commands.

Prelude System Soft Panel Configuration

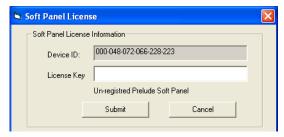
Soft Panel Licensing for Prelude Systems

Prelude system Soft Panels are activated with a license. The license is tied to a network interface card (NIC) of the PC where the Soft Panel application will run. Only one Soft Panel instance can run on each PC, but any panel type can be selected. The total number of all hardware panels plus all Soft Panels cannot exceed 32 per Prelude system.

Soft Panels licenses are purchased through Grass Valley Sales and the keys are issued by Grass Valley Customer Support. After purchasing licenses, you will need to provide Device IDs to Customer Support so they can generate the key. You need to have installed the Soft Panels application on the PC to get the Device ID.

- **1.** If not already present, install the Soft Panels application on the PC (see *Section 2-Soft Panels Installation*).
- **2.** Launch the Soft Panels application on the PC.
- 3. Select the Prelude radio button on the Soft Panels Console.
- **4.** Go to **Menu**, **Options**, **Help**, **License Information** to display the Device ID of the PC (Figure 14).

Figure 14. Prelude System Soft Panel License Key Menu



5. Write down the **Device Id** number displayed on the screen.

- **6**. Repeat Step 1 through Step 5 above on all the PCs you will use to run Soft Panels.
- 7. Contact Grass Valley Customer Support, confirm the number of licenses purchased, and give them the Device ID(s). You will be given license key numbers for each purchased Soft Panel.
- **8.** On each PC, return to the Prelude system Soft Panel License Key Menu and enter the supplied key, including the dashes, and select **Submit**.
- **9.** A confirmation prompt reports entry of a valid key. Click **OK**.

Prelude Soft Panels Configuration Overview

Background Information

Soft Panels used with Prelude systems are configured and managed similar to hardware panels. The Soft Panel application needs to receive a copy of the Router configuration, to know what Levels, Sources, and Destinations are present. Each Soft Panel instance must also receive a panel configuration to define that panel's capabilities. These configurations are sent to the Soft Panel application and individual panel instances with the Prelude user interface incorporated into the NetConfig application.

A Soft Panel instance must be detected on the network before it can be sent configurations. When the PC running Soft Panels is on the same network as the Prelude system, the NetConfig application within which Prelude runs will be able to detect the Soft Panel application, provided a Soft Panel is connected. Clicking the **Connect to Matrices** button of a newly installed Soft Panel announces the presence of that Soft Panel on the network, making it accessible to NetConfig, and so able to receive configurations.

After the Soft Panel receives its configurations, clicking the **Connect to Matrices** button uses the IP information in its loaded router configuration to connect to the Prelude system matrices that the Soft Panel will control.

Prelude Soft Panel Names

Each Soft Panel instance has a name. A configuration for a Prelude Soft Panel instance name can be sent to the PC where Soft Panels is running. This allows different settings for the same type of Soft Panel. Renaming a Soft Panel's name draws that named panel configuration from the PC.

The default Soft Panel instance name consists of the panel type and the last four hexidecimal digits of the MAC address of the PC running Soft Panels. The helps ensure every panel instance is unique.

You can edit a Soft Panel instance to give it a descriptive name, for example XY-Edit1. If you change the name of an Soft Panel, you will need send the newly named panel a panel configuration before it will be operational. Configurations sent to a Soft panel from Prelude will replace the locally stored configuration for that panel saved on the PC.

NetConfig Agent

The Prelude version of the Soft Panel application has a NetConfig agent, which NetConfig uses to discover the Soft Panel device just like any other device. This is designed to work even if the Soft Panel and NetConfig applications are running on the same PC. However, VPN services such as "Check point securemote" must not be running on the PC for this to work.

- **1.** Go to Control Panel > Administrative Tools > Services.
- **2.** Uncheck the VPN protocol such as Chekpoint Securemote from the NIC's property page.
- 3. Restart the Prelude Soft Panel.

Now clicking on the **Connect to Matrices** button will list the Soft Panel device in the NetConfig application.

First Time Quick Configuration with Prelude

You can use the following procedure to quickly get a GUI panel up and running on a Prelude system. Configuration details are presented later in this manual.

Requirements

This procedure assumes:

- The Prelude system is installed and configured for normal operation, which includes the creation of a router configuration file. For this example the Prelude system has one matrix and at least one hardware control panel.
- Soft Panels has been installed on the PC, and the PC is on the Prelude network.
- Soft Panels has been licensed for use with Prelude on that PC.

Procedure

- **1.** Launch the application by double-clicking on the Soft Panels icon and click **OK** to the password prompt.
 - This will display the Soft Panels Console and, when the application is first run, a virtual version of an XY panel. The panel will not be operational (**No Comm** status) and none of the buttons will tally.
- **2.** If not already selected, choose the Prelude System radio button on the left to bring up the Prelude version of Soft Panels (Figure 15).



Figure 15. Initial Prelude Soft Panels Console and XY Panel

- **3.** If desired, select a different **Panel Type** (48B, BPS, etc.). The default XY panel type provides access to all system crosspoints and is a good one to use for initial Soft Panel operational testing.
- **4.** If desired, enter a **Panel Name** and then click **Apply Config** to rename that panel instance.

Note Every panel (hardware or software) in a Prelude system must have a unique name.

5. Click **Connect to Matrices**. The Panel and Server connectivity indicator lights should flash, but the Soft Panel will not yet be operational.

6. Launch NetConfig, select the **Prelude** button at the top of the screen, and make sure the **Levels** tab below is selected (Figure 16).

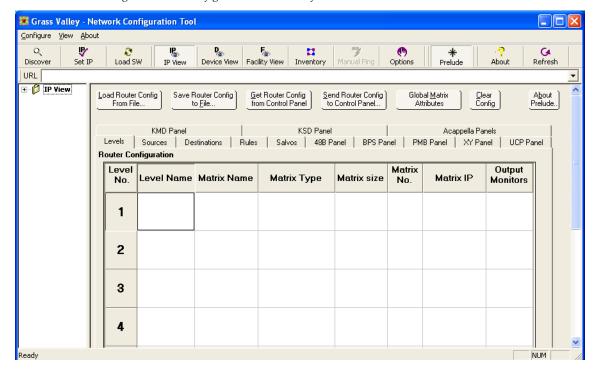


Figure 16. NetConfig Prelude User Interface

- **7.** Load the current router configuration into the Prelude user interface. This can be accomplished in various ways.
 - Click Load Router Config from File and select the copy of the router configuration file currently being used by the Prelude system, and click Load. Be sure to select the correct file.
 - or -
 - If you are not sure what router configuration file to use, and your Prelude system has an operating hardware control panel, click Get Router Config from Control Panel button and select a working panel's router configuration to bring into the Prelude user interface.

Note Identical router configurations should be used on all Prelude system hardware and software control panels.

8. With the router configuration loaded (Levels, Sources and Destinations should be displayed), click on **Send Router Config to Control Panel**, make sure the Soft Panel name is selected on the list, and click **OK** (Figure 17)

Figure 17. Soft Panel Selected for Router Configuration Send.



Note All panels discovered by NetConfig will be selected by default, and it is generally OK to send the router configuration to all panels. However, they will all reset if the **Reboot when complete** box is checked.

9. Select the tab of the Soft Panel type you are configuring (XY, for example), click **Load Panel Config from File**, select **Default**, and click **Load** (Figure 18).

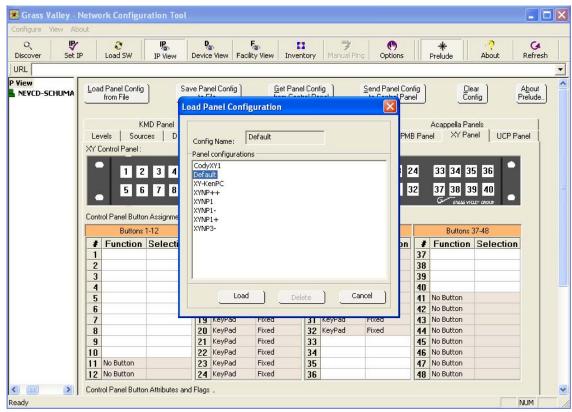


Figure 18. Default Panel Configuration Selected for Load.

- **10.** With the default panel configuration loaded (Functions and Selections will be displayed), click **Send Panel Config to Control Panel**, and select just the Soft Panel name.
- 11. Make sure the Re-Boot when complete box is checked, and then click **OK**.
- **12.** After reset, the Soft Panel will now have a router and panel configuration and become operational. Sources can be routed to Destinations and the buttons will tally (Figure 19).



Figure 19. Operational Default Prelude Soft Panel

- **13**. The Dynamic Keycap feature (checkbox on the upper right of the console) determines what button legends are displayed.
 - **a.** When the Dynamic Keycap feature is on, all the Soft Panel button labels will automatically show their functions, Source and Destination names, etc.
 - **b.** When the Dynamic Keycap feature is off, the buttons will be labeled with generic names that probably will not match their actual functions. The Soft Panel's button labels will need to be edited to reflect the function of the button assigned by the Panel Server. Right click on a Soft Panel GUI button and enter the text for that button. Use a backslash (\) character to force a new line of text. Remember that changing the text of the button does not change its function; it only changes the label for that button.
- **14.** To close the Soft Panel application, click on **Exit**, or right click on the panel and choose **Exit application**.

If the Soft Panel application was connected when **Exit** is selected, the connection will be restored automatically when the Soft Panel is relaunched.

Note Default panel configurations have all Salvos disabled. Panel reconfiguration is required before it can execute Salvos.

You can now use the Prelude user interface to create a new configuration for that Soft Panel. Sending that configuration to the Soft Panel with the **Re-Boot when complete** box checked will change that panel's functionality.

Soft Panel Only Prelude Systems

A Prelude system can operate without any hardware panels, using only Soft Panels. In this situation, matrices will need to get their configuration sent to them from the Soft Panel application. To accomplish this, the **Send Matrix Cfg** button needs to be checked on at least one operating Soft Panel. This panel will then automatically send its copy of the router configuration to the matrix whenever that Soft Panel resets. This mimics the behavior of hardware Prelude panels, which automatically send their router configuration when they reboot.

The **Send Matrix Cfg** button is off by default, and should remain off when Soft Panels run on a Prelude system that has hardware panels. This helps prevent the loading of an old router configuration file to matrices when the PC reconnects to the Prelude network.

See the separate *Prelude Instruction Manual* for additional information.

Multiple Control Systems on the Same Network

Multiple Prelude systems can be configured to operate independent of one another on the same network. Prelude systems can also be configured to operate on the same network as an Encore routing system. To avoid conflicts, these systems need to be isolated from one another. This can be accomplished using Multicast communications, specifying different ports, and selecting different System IDs on hardware control panel and routing matrix web pages. Because Soft Panels do not have webpages, these controls reside on the Prelude System Console.

See *Prelude Soft Panel Communications Settings* on page 45 and the separate *Prelude Instruction Manual* for more information.

 $Section \ 4 - Prelude \ System \ Soft \ Panel \ Configuration$

Control Panel GUIs

Panel Type Drop Down Menu

Clicking on the **Panel Type** arrow opens a list of the available Control Panels, sorted by type (Figure 20).

Figure 20. Control Panel Type Drop Down Menu



Soft Panel Types

The Graphical User Interfaces of the Encore Control Panels currently available are shown below. These panels operate the same as their hardware counterparts.

Encore/Prelude

Figure 21. 48B Soft Panel



Figure 22. BPS Soft Panel



Figure 23. Encore/Prelude UCP Soft Panel



Figure 24. Encore CLN (Client) Soft Panel



Figure 25. PMB Soft Panel



Figure 26. XY Soft Panel



Kalypso

Figure 27. KMD Soft Panel

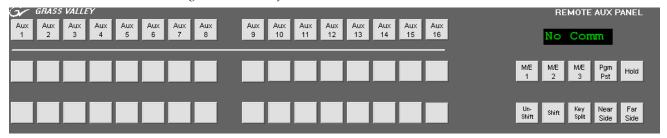


Figure 28. KSD Soft Panel



Acappella

Several different Acappella Soft Panels exist, with different numbers of Sources and Destinations. Three representative GUIs are shown below.

Figure 29. Acappella 16x16 Soft Panel

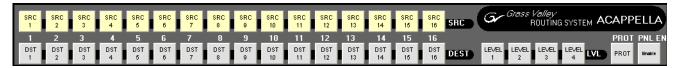


Figure 30. Acappella 16x8 Soft Panel

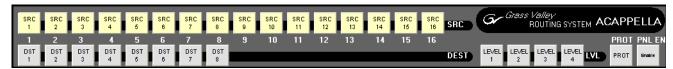


Figure 31. Acappella 8 x1 Soft Panel



SMS7000 (Encore Soft Panels Only)

Figure 32. SMS7000 CLN Soft Panel

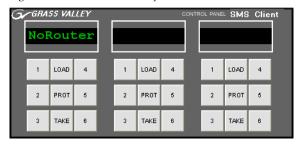


Figure 33. COS Soft Panel

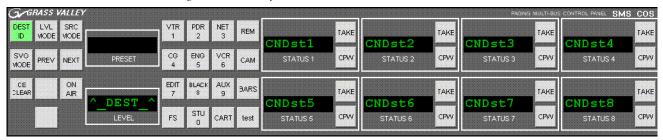


Figure 34. EDP Soft Panel



Figure 35. MB8 Soft Panel

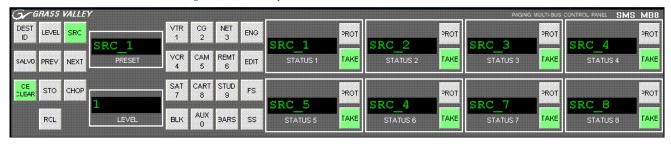


Figure 36. MCO Soft Panel

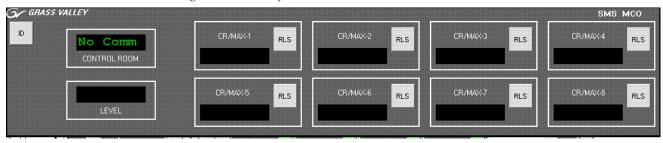


Figure 37. P32 Soft Panel



Note The P32 panel type was formerly identified as BPS32.

Figure 38. P48 Soft Panel



Figure 39. SVR Soft Panel

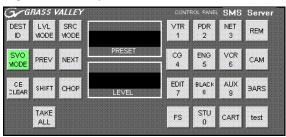


Figure 40. UCP Soft Panel



Figure 41. SCP Soft Panel



Figure 42. PXS Soft Panel



Figure 43. PXD Soft Panel (works only in a group)

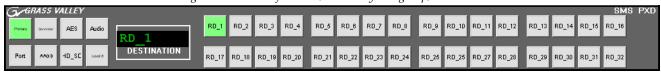


Figure 44. PXYE Soft Panel (works only in a group)



Figure 45. UMD 1 (Single Under Monitor Display)!



Figure 46. UMD 2

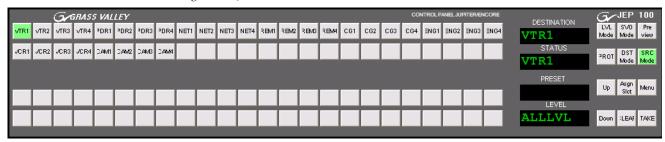


Figure 47. UMD 31



Jupiter (Encore Soft Panels Only)

Figure 48. JEP-100l



Editing Button Labels and the Dynamic Keycap Feature

Most button labels can be edited using the Soft Panel application by rightclicking on the virtual button and entering the desired text.

Note Editing the label of a Soft Panel button does not change the actual function of that button, it only changes the text displayed on that button.

The following button labels cannot be edited:

- PMB panels: Take/Load, and Protect/Hold
- EDP panels: Prev, Next, Take/Load, and Protect/Hold
- MB8 panel: Protect and Take
- COS panel: Protect and CPW
- MCO panel: RLS

User edited text can have both upper and lower case letters. Dynamic Keycap text is always all upper case.

Dynamic Keycap Off

When the Dynamic Keycap feature is turned off, edited Soft Panel button labels are persistent if that panel instance is disconnected and then reconnected to the Server. The edited button text is saved on the PC running Soft Panels. This means that button labels may be different for the same Soft Panel configuration of a panel type when they are loaded onto different PCs. This allows customizing each panel's button labels depending on where it is being used.

Dynamic Keycap On

Button label editing is still available when the Dynamic Keycap feature is turned on, but the names will revert to those contained in the Panel Server configuration for that panel if it is disconnected and reconnected, or if the Dynamic Keycap feature is turned on.

Line Breaks

A button label text line break can be forced by entering a backslash (\) character, which can increase readability.

Soft Panels Console

Soft Panels Console Overview

The Console is primarily used to connect that Soft Panel instance to the Encore Panel Server or Prelude system routing matrix, at which time the Soft Panel can become operational. It is also used to assign a name to the Soft Panel, control some aspects of the GUI display (size, placement), and on Prelude systems specify network communication settings.

Two different Consoles exist, one used with Encore systems and the other with Prelude systems. Most of the controls and indicators are the same on both Consoles.

Console Password

The Console can be password protected to lock the usage of that Soft Panel instance on that PC. The password window opens when Soft Panels is launched (Figure 49). By default there is no password; just click **OK**.

Figure 49. Console Password Window



Click **Change Password** to enter a password. Once password protected, the Soft Panel will launch and operate with its last settings, but the Console will be hidden and button labels will not be editable.

If a panel is password protected, right clicking on the panel brings up a menu with **Show Console**. Clicking on that item and entering the password will open the Console to permits full Soft Panel control.

Connection Lock

Some of the Console controls are locked when the Soft Panel application is connected. When disconnected, these Console fields can be edited. During the editing process the characters are displayed in red text.

The Panel Type, Disconnect from Server, Dynamic Keycap, Always on Top, Menu, and **Exit** Console Controls remain active when connected.

Encore Soft Panels Console

Figure 50. Encore Console Disconnected (Controls Unlocked) Connectivity

Encore System Connect to Server

Connectivity

Figure 51. Encore Console Connected (Controls Locked)

Connect Button

Encore System

In the center left of the Console is a button labeled **Connect to Server** when the Soft Panel is not connected to the Encore Panel Server, and labeled **Disconnect from Server** when connected. Above this button is a display that shows a line when connected, and blinking indicators report an active link.

Panel Type

Opens a drop down menu of the various GUI panels that can be selected. The panels are grouped by their type (Encore/Prelude, Kalypso, SMS7000. Acappella).

Panel Name

Allows the entry of a name for the current Soft Panel. The Apply Config button is used to apply the entered name.

Recv Port, Send Port

The **Port** fields report the current port and are not editable.

Local IP Address

Reports the IP address of the PC on which that Soft Panel application is running. The drop down menu supports PCs running multiple network interface cards.

Primary and Redundant IP Address:

Allows entry of the IP Addresses of the SCBs running the Master and Mirror Panel Server.

Apply Config

Saves changes made to the Console fields. Note that this only involves settings for the Console (IP address, Panel Name, etc.). Changing the panel name can indirectly change its functionality of the Soft Panel, provided a panel configuration has been created with that name and been sent to the Soft Panel PC.

Restore Config

Click on this button if, during the editing of Console fields, you wish to return to the last settings that had been saved for the Console.

Dynamic Keycap

When checked, dynamically updates the panel's keycap button labels (Source, Destination, Level, Salvo, Keypad Set, etc.) with the currently defined names from the Panel Server (see *Editing Button Labels and the Dynamic Keycap Feature* on page 37 for more information).

Always on Top

When checked, forces the Soft Panel and Console to always be displayed in front of any other windows on that PC.

Poll Timeout

This setting can be left at the default 4000.

Menu

Opens a drop down menu with **Create Shortcut**, **Export Keycap Configuration**, and **Options** selections.

Create Shortcut

Creates a shortcut on the Windows desktop, allowing quick access to that specific SoftPanel type. The shortcut is name is the configuration of that panel. When selected, the SoftPanel will automatically connect to its configured Panel Server.

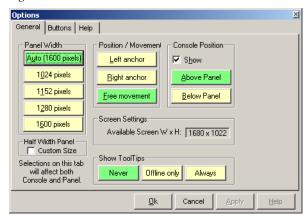
Export Keycap Configuration

A keycap file suitable for Encore and Acappella hardware Control Panels button legends can be created using this control. A navigation window opens, allowing you to name the file, and choose a location to save the file, or create a new folder for the file. See *Hardware Control Panel Keycap Legend Generation* on page 45.

Options

Clicking on **Options** opens a menu with three tabs. **General** settings are shown in Figure 52. The SoftPanel application requires a display setting of 1024 horizontal pixels or more.

Figure 52. General Menu



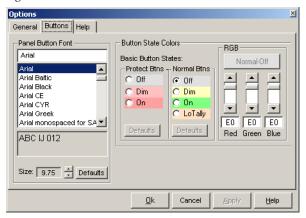
Note Buttons for Panel Width settings not supported by the monitor's current resolution are grayed out. Minor visual artifacts may appear at 1152, 1280, and 1600 pixel settings.

The various controls on this menu allow adjustment of the size, placement, and information display of the SoftPanel to meet personal preferences.

The Half Width Panel **Custom Size** checkbox allows the resizing of a half width panel, by dragging the corner of the display.

The Options **Buttons** settings are shown in Figure 53.

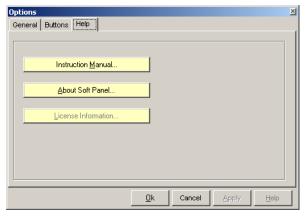
Figure 53. Button Menu



The Button Coloring section of this menu allows the "state color" to be changed as desired. In the above example, the arrow indicates the button that would be selected to edit the "on" state color for the Protect button. With this button selected, the Red, Green, and Blue sliders can be used to edit the color, which is then Applied.

The **Help** window is shown in Figure 54.

Figure 54. Help Menu



The Options **Help** menu offers access to the *Soft Panels Instruction Manual* (.pdf file) and the Soft Panel application version number.

The License Information button is not operational on Encore systems. Encore Soft Panels licensing is tied to the Encore Panel Server.

Exit

Exits the Soft Panel Application

Prelude System Console

Figure 55. Prelude Console Disconnected (Controls Unlocked)



Figure 56. Prelude Console Connected (Controls Locked)



Prelude Console Control Differences

The Prelude system Console controls and indicators are mostly the same as those on the Encore version. Refer to *Encore Soft Panels Console* on page 40 for specific information.

The most significant Prelude Console differences are:

- No server IP Address fields, which are not used on Prelude systems because connection is made directly to the matrices.
- **Send Matrix Cfg** button, used to make the Soft Panel send its router configuration to the matrices when the panel connects.
- Additional communications settings, for isolating Prelude network communications.

Connect Button

In the center left of the Console is a button labeled **Connect to Matrices** when the Soft Panel is not connected, and labeled **Disconnect from Matrices** when connected. Above this button is a display that shows a line between the Panel when connected, and blinking indicators report an active link.

Send Matrix Cfg Button

When this box is checked, the Soft Panel application will always send its router configuration to the matrices whenever it connects. This mimics the behavior of Prelude hardware panels. Leave this control in the default Off state if hardware panels exist on your Prelude system. This control is required for Soft Panel only Prelude systems (see page 28).

Prelude Soft Panel Communications Settings

Prelude systems can be configured to use different methods that increase communications efficiency and allow multiple systems to operate independent of one another on the same network.

Note

All components on an individual Prelude system (hardware control panels, software control panels, and matrices) must use the same Broadcast/Multicast and port number settings.

Broadcast/Multicast

Multicast increases message bandwidth efficiency for larger Prelude systems, or systems running on busy networks. The default **Broadcast** setting is appropriate on Prelude systems with up to three control panels.

Matrix Port

Different Matrix Ports can be used to isolate systems from one another. You can use the default port number, increment the port number by 1-5, or select Manual and enter a different port number.

See the separate *Prelude Instruction Manual* for more information.

Multicast IP Fields

If the Prelude Soft Panel is being used with a Concerto matrix configured for Multicast operation, the IP addresses for the **Reference Server** and **Matrix Status** can be entered into this fields.

Note

Concerto matrices operating under Prelude control must be set to match. From the Concerto Network Configuration web page, select **Use Multicast**, and then select **Manual Select** to enter matching IP addresses.

Hardware Control Panel Keycap Legend Generation

Control Panel keycaps suitable for Encore and Acappella hardware panels can now be printed. A Microsoft Word template file is available that can be populated with keycap legends using the Soft Panels application. The resulting keycap file can be printed onto a clear sheet, cut to size, and inserted into the hardware panel buttons.

The cut lines in the provided template work only for Encore and Acappella panels. Buttons on other model panels (SMS7000, JEP-100, Kalypso) are sized differently. Templates for other model panels are not available, but with careful work you may be able to reformat another model's generated keycap file using Microsoft Word to fit into that panel's button size.

Keycap Legend Generation

- 1. If necessary, use the Encore Panel Server to create a configuration for the hardware Control Panel that includes the desired dedicated Sources, Destinations, and button functions.
- **2.** Rename the Default template for that panel type to create a copy, using a descriptive name (e.g., XYLgnd) to create a working legend template.
- **3.** Copy the hardware Control Panel configuration from Step 1 above to the legend template.
- **4.** Launch the Encore Soft Panels application and choose that model of Soft Panel. Identify the name of that Soft Panel instance (for example, XY09BA).
- **5.** From the Panel Server, copy the legend template you created to that Soft Panel instance.
- **6.** Ensure the Soft Panels **Dynamic Keycap** box is checked.
- **7.** Right click on the Soft Panel GUI (or click the **Menu** button on the console), and then select **Export Keycap Configuration**.
- **8.** A navigation window opens, allowing you to name the file, and choose a location to save the file, or create a new folder for the file. The default save location is C:\Program Files\Grass Valley Group\Soft Panels.
- **9.** Enter a name for the keycap legend file, navigate to the save location, and click **Save**.

The file (a .doc MS Word document) can now be opened and used to print keycap legends.

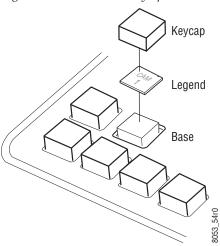
Keycap Legend Preparation

- 1. Access the .doc file from the saved location and without changing the document's formatting print it without any scaling onto a clear sheet.
- **2.** Using the guide lines, carefully cut the keycap legends from the sheet. A sharp knife and straight-edge works well for this operation.

Keycap Legend Replacement

1. Using your fingers or rubber-mouthed pliers, carefully pull a keycap out of the Control Panel (Figure 57).

Figure 57. Control Panel Keycap



- **2.** If the keycap has an existing legend, remove it from the base or carefully extract it from the inside of the keycap without scratching it.
- **3**. Insert the new legend into the keycap in the proper orientation.
- **4.** Press the keycap back onto its base in the panel.
- **5**. Repeat the above steps for all the keycaps to be updated with new legends on that panel.

Index

Numerics	to Prelude matrix 8
48B panel GUI 31	Connect button 40, 44
_	Connect to Matrices button 44 use after configuration 22
A	use before configuration 22
Acappella 33	Connect to Server button 40
Acappella panel GUI 33 Administrator Soft Panels permissions 11 All Users Soft Panels permissions 11 Always on Top button 41 Apply Config button 41	Console Encore 8 Encore detailed description 40 general description 8 locked when connected 40 overview 39 password 39 Prelude 8 Prelude detailed description 44
_	Prelude differences from Encore 44
BPS panel GUI 32	control panel maximum with Encore 7, 15 maximum with Prelude 7, 21
Broadcast 45	COS panel GUI 34
button label line break 38	Create Shortcut menu item 42
button legends 7	
Buttons	D
Options 43 Buttons menu item 43	default configuration of panel 18
C	default panel configuration Salvos disabled 20, 28
Change Password 39	default panel instance name 18, 22
Check point securemote 23 CLN panel GUI-Encore 32 CLN panel GUI-SMS 34 communications settings Prelude 45	Device Id number Encore SCB 15 Prelude PC 21 Disconnect from Matrices button 44 Disconnect from Server button 40
configuration 18 first time for Encore panel 19 first time for Prelude panel 23 SMS7000 GSC mezzanine 20 using Encore Panel Server 20 connect	documentation online 4 Dynamic Keycap off 37 on 38 Dynamic Keycap button 41 Dynamic Keycap feature 37
to Encore Panel Server 8	, , ,

E	IP address
editing Soft Panel name	entry field 41
Encore 18	primary SCB 19
Prelude 23	secondary SCB 19
EDP panel GUI 34	
Encore	J
configuration overview 18	JEP-100 GUI-Jupiter 37
maximum number of panels 7, 15	-
Soft Panel names 18	Jupiter JEP-100 GUI 37
Encore CLN panel GUI 32	
Encore UPC panel GUI 32	K
Encore/Prelude 31	Kalypso 33
Exit button 43	
Export Keycap Configuration button 42	keycap legend generation description 45
Export Reycap Configuration button 42	generation procedure 46
_	preparation 46
F	replacement 47
FAQ database 4	KMD panel GUI 33
frequently asked questions 4	KSD panel GUI 33
The state of the s	1
G	L
General Menu	license key
Options 42	Encore 17
General settings 42	licensing 7
Get Router Config from Control Panel 25	procedure with Encore 15
Grass Valley web site 4	procedure with Prelude 21
GUI	purchase 15, 21
Soft Panels 7	line break
Soft Funcis /	on button label 38
	Load Router Config from File 25
Н	Local IP Address field 41
Help Menu	
Options 43	M
Help window 43	
•	Macintosh (Intel Duo) 7
	Matrix Port 45
1	Matrix Status Multicast IP 45
Identical router configurations	MB8 panel GUI 34
for Prelude 25	MCO panel GUI 35
installation 9	Menu configuration screen 41
Encore installer 12	monitor
Prelude installer 12	display setting 7
Soft Panels installer 9	Multicast 45
Instruction Manual	Multicast IP Fields 45
Soft Panels 43	

multiple control systems 29	drop down menu 31
multiple Soft Panel instances 8	Encore/Prelude 31
-	Kalypso 33
N	SMS7000 34
IN .	Panel Type button 40
name	Panel Width settings 42
of panel 18	Parallels application 7
unique for each panel 18	password
naming convention 18	Console 39
NetConfig 15	PC
NetConfig agent	Prelude runs one Soft Panel 21
used with Prelude 23	permissions
network requirements 9	Administrator 11
	All Users 11
0	PMB panel GUI 32
U	Poll Timeout 41
online documentation 4	Port field 40
Options	Prelude
Buttons 43	communications settings 45
General Menu 42	configuration overview 22
Help Menu 43	detecting panel on network 22
Options menu item 42	identical router configurations 25
•	maximum number of panels $7,21$
P	Soft Panel names 22
Г	using only Soft Panels 28
P32 panel GUI 35	PXD panel GUI-SMS 36
P48 panel GUI 35	PXS panel GUI-SMS 36
panel	PXYE panel GUI-SMS 36
default configuration 18	•
panel configuration	0
editing with Panel Server 18	Q
quick for Encore 19	quick Encore panel configuration 19
quick for Prelude 23	quick Prelude panel configuration 23
panel instance name	
default 18, 22	D
panel name 18	R
must be unique 18	Reboot when complete box 26
Panel Name entry field 40	Reference Server Multicast IP 45
panel names	Restore Config button 41
Encore 18	O
Prelude 22	0
panel naming convention 18	S
Panel Server	Salvos disabled
editing panel configuration 18	default panel configuration 20, 28
panel type	SCB
Acappella 33	primary IP address 19
	± ,

secondary IP address 19	VPN services 23
SCP panel GUI-SMS 36	
Send Matrix Cfg button 28,44	W
Show Console 39	
SMS CLN panel GUI 34	web site documentation 4
SMS SVR panel GUI 35	web site FAQ database 4
SMS UCP panel GUI 34	web site Grass Valley 4
SMS UMD 1 GUI 36	web site software download 4
SMS UMD 2 GUI 36	Windows 2000 7
SMS UMD 3 GUI 36	Windows 7 7
SMS7000 34	Windows 95/98 7
SMS7000 GSC mezzanine 20	Windows ME 7
Soft Panel	Windows NT 7
detected on Prelude network 22	Windows XP 7
Soft Panel name	
changing for Encore 18	X
changing for Prelude 23	YV papel CIII 22
Soft Panels	XY panel GUI 32
Administrator permissions 11	
All Users permissions 11 Encore configuration overview 18	
general description 7	
GUI 7	
installation 9	
licensing 7	
one instance on Prelude PC 21	
Prelude configuration overview 22	
Soft Panels Instruction Manual 43	
Soft Panels type 31, 33, 34	
software download from web 4	
SVR panel GUI-SMS 35	
U	
UCP panel GUI-Encore 32	
UCP panel GUI-SMS 34, 35	
UMD 1 GUI-SMS 36	
UMD 2 GUI-SMS 36	
UMD 3 GUI-SMS 36	
V	
-	
version number Soft Panel application 43	
virtual control panel 7	
1	