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Radio Bridge User Guide

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Product Name: Voisus

Radio Bridge User Guide

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Revision history

Date	Revision	Version	Comments
4/19/2017	B	0	Updated "Virtual-to-live radio bridge" and "Live-to-virtual radio bridge" topics; made minor style and grammar edits to content.
7/13/2017	B	1	Updated screen shot in "Configure Voice Rx/Tx settings."
2/12/2018	C	0	Fixed broken hyperlinks to <i>ACENet Technical User Guide</i> on Support site. Added "(Optional) Create a radio relay" and "Configure an ED-137 radio." Made minor style and grammar edits to content. Added Rockwell Collins FSR configurations to "Install live radios."

Contents

1.0 Introduction	1
1.1 Voice Rx/Tx	1
1.2 Radio Bridge features	2
1.3 System architecture	3
2.0 Voice Rx/Tx operation	4
2.1 Live-to-virtual radio bridge	4
2.2 Virtual-to-live radio bridge	5
2.3 Live-to-Virtual and Virtual-to-Live transition	6
3.0 Radio Bridge setup	7
3.1 Install live radios	7
3.2 Configure hardware	9
3.2.1 Configure an ACENet audio distribution device	10
3.2.2 Configure an ED-137 radio	11
3.3 Create and run a scenario	12
3.4 Edit Comm Plan settings	13
3.5 Configure DIS settings	13
3.6 Configure Voice Rx/Tx settings	13
3.6.1 Add a live radio	13
3.6.2 Advanced configuration	14
3.7 (Optional) Create a radio relay	14
4.0 Remote control	17
4.1 Equipment	17
4.1.1 Hardware	17
4.1.2 Radio control kit	18
4.2 Remote control setup	18

1.0 Introduction

The Voisus Radio Bridge performs two major functions:

- *Voice Rx/Tx*: connect real radios to your network and stream live, over-the-air traffic to and from Voisus operators and the Distributed Interactive Simulation (DIS) network.
- *Remote Control*: remotely control live radios over the network.



Figure 1: Remote Control diagram

1.1 Voice Rx/Tx

ASTi's Voice Rx/Tx connects live and simulated training environments, distributing live, over-the-air voice traffic via data networks. It is officially supported for the following radio transceivers (RTs):

Description	Model
SINGGARS, SIP	RT-1523C/D
SINGGARS, ASIP	RT-1523E/F
Falcon II	PRC-117
Multiband Inter/Intra Team Radio (MBITR), JTRS Enhanced MBITR (JEM)	PRC-148
LOS Transceiver	URC-200

Table 1: Radio transceiver types

Other radio types are supported by manually configuring In Gain, In Threshold, Out Gain, and Rx Delay. ASTi recommends that manual configurations are done with support to ensure optimal performance.

1.2 Radio Bridge features

Voisus Radio Bridge includes the following features:

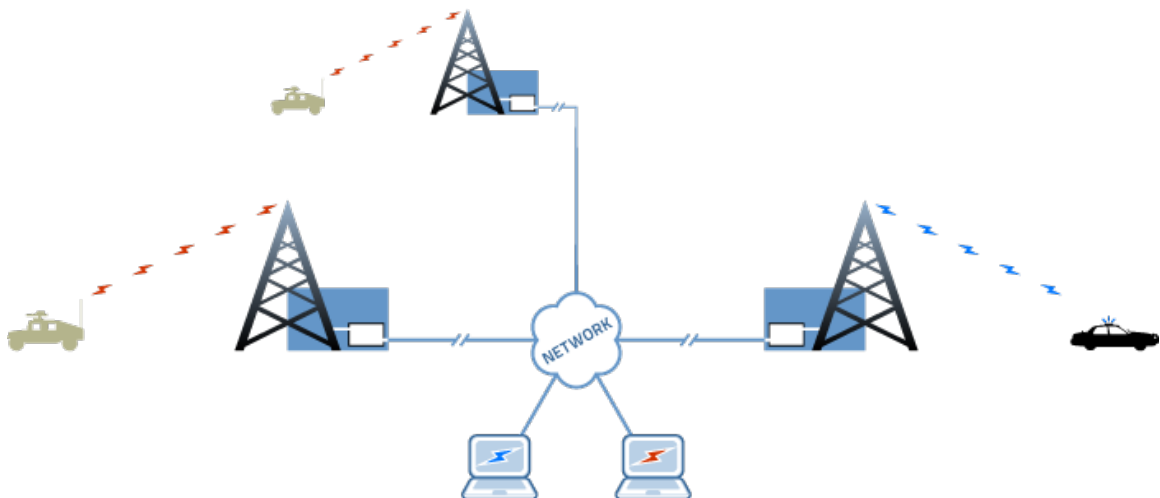
- *Radio retransmission*: extends live radio communication among distant sites through data networks.



- *Radio interoperability*: bridge incompatible radio systems and join multiple radio nets into conferences.



- *Flexibility*: combine a wide variety of live and simulated radios.



1.3 System architecture

Live base radios connect to ACE-RIU or AI-S devices, linking the live radios to the simulated training environment over the network.

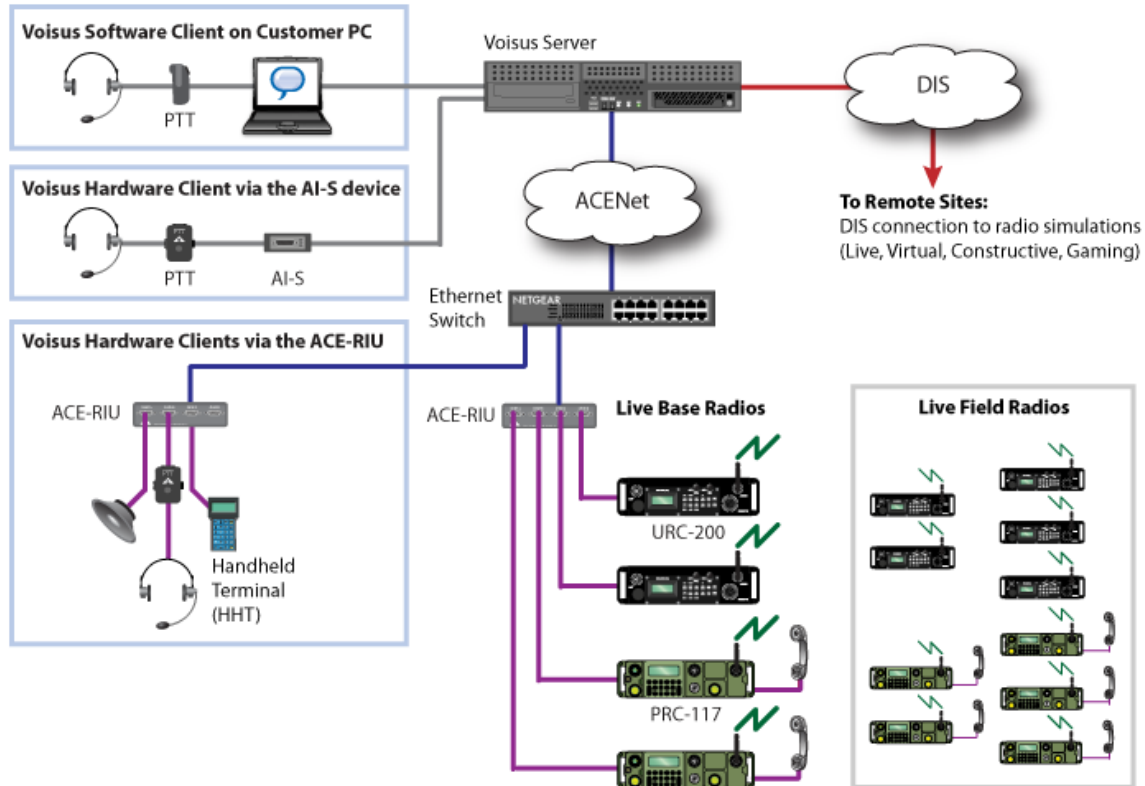


Figure 2: Radio Bridge diagram

2.0 Voice Rx/Tx operation

The following figure shows the Voice Rx/Tx process:

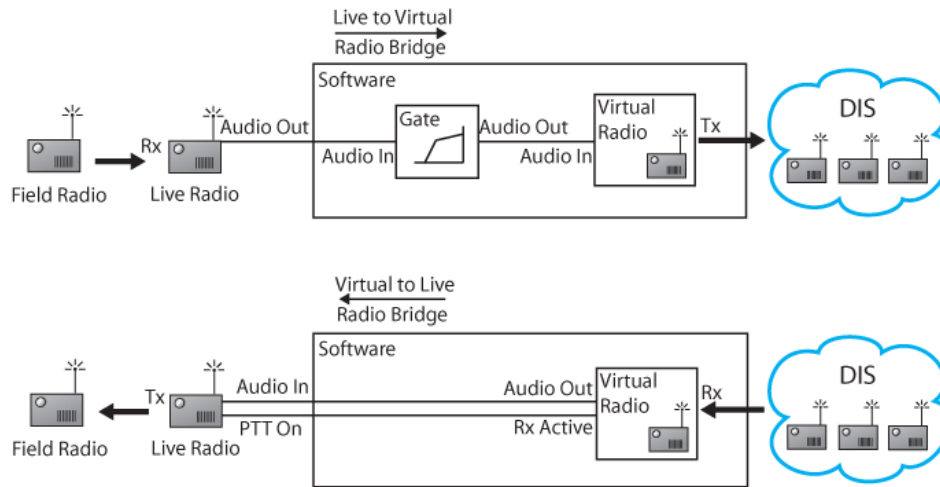


Figure 3: Voice Rx/Tx

2.1 Live-to-virtual radio bridge

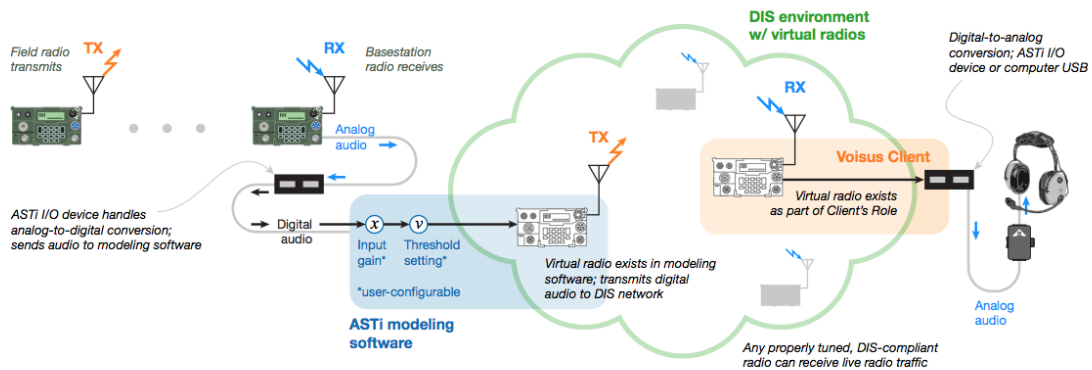


Figure 4: Live-to-virtual radio bridge

When the base station radio receives a transmission, the following sequence of events occurs:

1. A live field radio transmits audio to a base station radio, which is connected to an ASTi input/output (I/O) device (e.g., AI-S, ACU2, ACE-RIU).
2. The I/O device converts the audio from analog to digital and sends it to the ASTi modeling software.
3. The I/O device relays the digital audio to a virtual radio in the ASTi modeling software.

4. The ASTi modeling software contains input gain and threshold settings. The input gain controls the audio level, while the threshold setting determines whether or not the virtual radio transmits.
5. When the live radio is idle, the audio falls below the threshold. When it is actively receiving, the audio rises above the threshold. As a result, the virtual radio only transmits when the live radio is actively receiving.
6. The ASTi modeling software sends the audio to an in-tune virtual radio in the Distributed Interactive Simulation (DIS) environment. This virtual radio exists as part of the Voisus client's role.
7. An ASTi I/O device or computer USB port connects the receiving operator to the Voisus client. The I/O device or computer converts the digital audio back to analog.
8. The operator receives the audio in his or her headset.

2.2 Virtual-to-live radio bridge

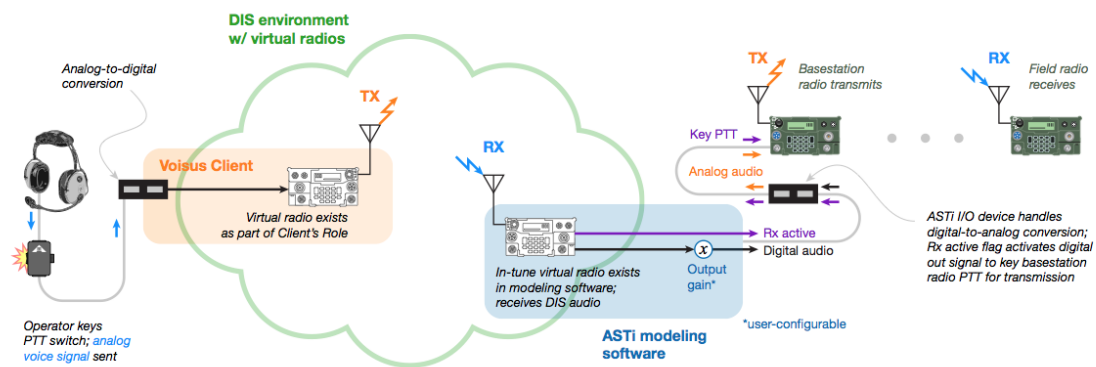


Figure 5: Virtual-to-Live Radio Bridge

When an operator transmits audio using a radio bridge, the following sequence of events occurs:

1. The operator presses the press-to-talk (PTT) button and speaks into his or her microphone.
2. The PTT device transmits the analog voice signal from the headset to the input/output (I/O) device (e.g., AI-S, ACU2, ACE-RIU).
3. The I/O device converts the audio from analog to digital and sends it to the Voisus client.
4. The Voisus client sends the digital audio to a virtual radio that exists as part of its role.
5. The virtual radio transmits the audio to an in-tune virtual radio in the ASTi modeling software.

6. The ASTi modeling software adjusts the audio's volume according to the configured output gain setting.
7. The I/O device receives the digital audio and converts it back to analog.
8. When the base station radio receives the analog signal, the digital keying signal replicates PTT functionality, allowing the radio to transmit audio.
9. The live field radio receives the audio from the base station radio.

2.3 Live-to-Virtual and Virtual-to-Live transition

Transitions between transmit states occur after a period of measured inactivity. If a live radio is sensed as actively receiving, it must cease receiving before it can transmit. Likewise, if a virtual radio is actively receiving, it must cease receiving before it can transmit.

3.0 Radio Bridge setup

The following sections describe how to set up a Radio Bridge device:

1. Install live base and field radios.
2. Add and name new hardware channels.
3. Manage scenarios.
4. Edit the Comm Plan.
5. Configure Distributed Interactive Simulation (DIS) settings.
6. Configure Voice Rx/Tx settings.
7. *(Optional)* Create a radio relay.

3.1 Install live radios

Follow the steps below to install and configure the live base radios and live field radios. The live base radios are the radios that are connected to audio distribution devices (i.e., ACE-RIU and AI-S devices). The live field radios are the remote radios out in the field. To install a live radio, follow these steps:

1. Configure the following settings on the live base radio:

Setting	SINGARS RT-1523C/D	SINGARS RT-1523E/F	PRC-117	PRC-148	URC-200
Volume	Max (Full CW)	9	9	4	Max (Full CW)
Mic Gain	Whisper = OFF	Whisper = OFF	N/A	Mic Lvl = High	N/A
Squelch	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON
Model	SC or FH	SC or FH	SC or FH	SC or FH	SC or FH
COMSEC	PT or CT	PT or CT	PT or CT	PT or CT	PT or CT

Table 2: Base radio settings

For the Rockwell Collins Fixed-Site Radio (FSR), configure the following settings:

Setting	Value
Handset	70
Rx Master	50
Volume Rx	61
Volume Tx	19
Mute	OFF
Squelch	ON
Model	SC or FH
COMSEC	PT or CT

Figure 6: Rockwell Collins FSR settings

2. (Optional) The PRC-148 requires additional configuration:
 - a. Set MODE/Audio Path to TOP AUDIO.
 - b. Disconnect the PRC-148 from the ACE-RIU or AI-S.
 - c. Switch the Audio Path to TOP AUDIO. "Hot switching" the radio's audio path may cause the ACE-RIU to go offline, requiring system reboot.
3. Connect the base radio's handset connection point to an ACE-RIU or AI-S device using the appropriate cable:

Device	ASTi Cable
ACE-RIU	CA-D9M-NC6M-25-C
AI-S	CA-D15M-NC6M-25-C

Table 3: Base radio cables

4. Ensure that the ACE-RIU or AI-S device is connected to the Voisus server.



Note: The ACE-RIU connected to the live radio must be labeled "ACE-RIU Radio," indicating that its jumper settings are configured to interface with live radios. For more details, see "ACE-RIU Configuration for Radio Bridge and Remote Control" in the [ACE-RIU Technical User Guide](#).

5. Configure unique SC frequencies or FH net settings for each base radio. These settings must be unique to ensure proper system performance.
6. If MODE-FH or COMSEC-CT settings are selected on any of the radio nets, follow the proper procedures for loading the FH Data or COMSEC Keys into the base and field radios. For fill procedure details, refer to the radio's manual.

7. Ideally, the base radio should be installed so that a high-fidelity radio link with field radios is established using LOW transmit power on the base radio. OE-254 (i.e., tower) antennas are highly recommended for increasing ranges, improving RF link fidelity and greatly reducing the chance of Radio Frequency Interference (RFI).

The base radio may be set to MEDIUM transmit power, but the possibility of RFI between the base radio and the ASTi system is increased. If system malfunctions occur, such as spurious transmissions or increased audio noise, reestablish the base radio to field radio links using LOW power.

Base radios should not use HIGH transmit power. RFI will occur between the base radios and the ASTi system.

8. Configure the nets on field radios with MODE and COMSEC panel settings that match the corresponding nets on the base radios.
9. The final step in the live radio installation procedure is to perform a standard radio check between each set of base and field radios as part of the system operational checkout.

3.2 Configure hardware

Next, you must set up your hardware in the Voisus web interface. Voisus supports two types of hardware:

- ASTi audio distribution device, such as an ACU2 or AI-S
- ED-137 radio

If your configuration uses an audio distribution device, see Section 3.2.1, "Configure an ACENet audio distribution device" on the next page. If your configuration uses an ED-137 radio, see Section 3.2.2, "Configure an ED-137 radio" on page 11.

3.2.1 Configure an ACENet audio distribution device

To add and name new AI-S or ACU2 hardware channels in the Voisus web interface, follow these steps:

1. From the toolbar on the right-hand side, click **Manage** , and then click **Hardware Devices**.

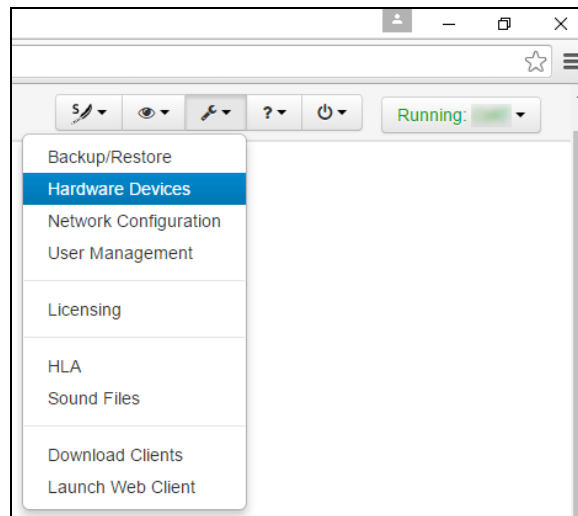


Figure 7: Hardware Devices navigation

2. On the **AI-S** tab, under **Other AI-S devices**, locate the new ACENet device, and select the corresponding check box. Devices are listed by MAC address.

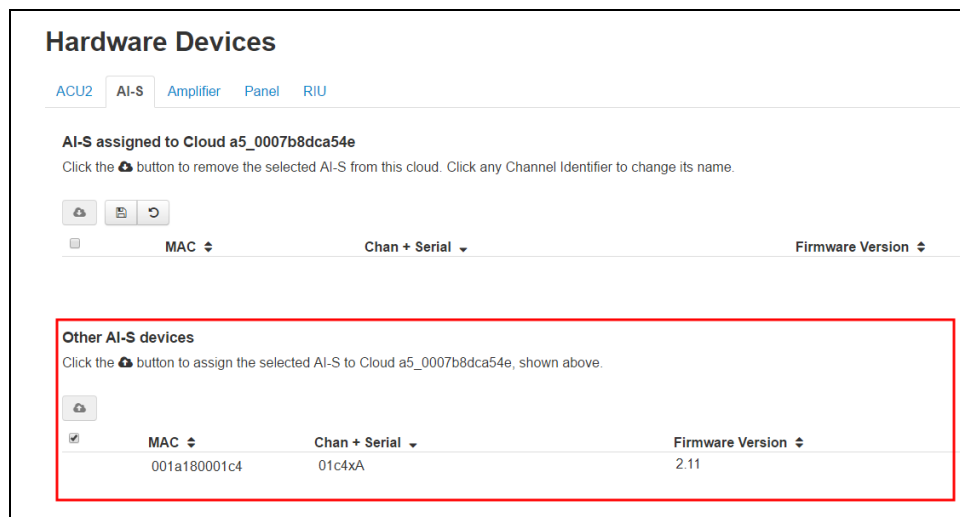


Figure 8: Other devices

3. Click **Add to Cloud** , and the AI-S appears under **AI-S assigned to cloud**.

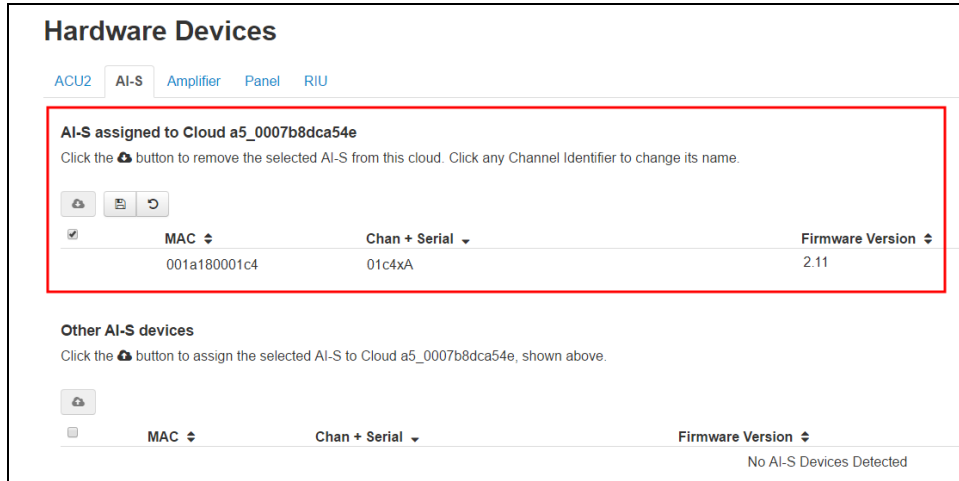


Figure 9: Assigned to cloud

4. Create a unique channel identifier for each channel connected to a base radio.

3.2.2 Configure an ED-137 radio

The **ED-137** page manages network connections and press-to-talk (PTT) settings for radios compatible with the ED-137 standard. The following instructions apply to the Rockwell Collins Fixed-Site Radio (FSR) suite of live radios (i.e., RC-721S).



Important: *ASTi has only tested the ED-137 standard with Rockwell Collins FSRs. ED-137 radios from other vendors may require additional testing and/or modifications. For more information about ED-137 compatibility, contact ASTi.*

The following figure shows the **ED-137 Radio** page:

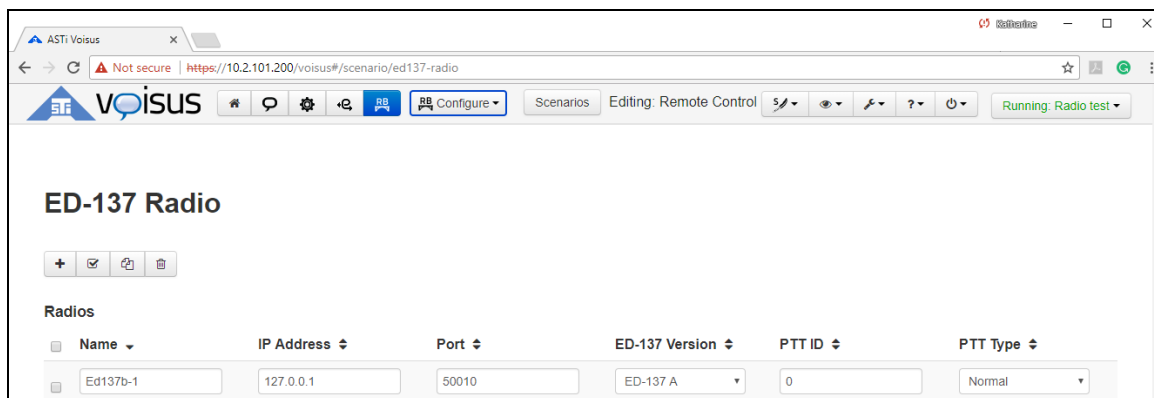


Figure 10: ED-137 Radio page

To configure a hardware channel for an ED-137 radio, follow these steps:

1. From the top-left navigation bar, click **Radio Bridge** , and then click **ED-137 Radio**.

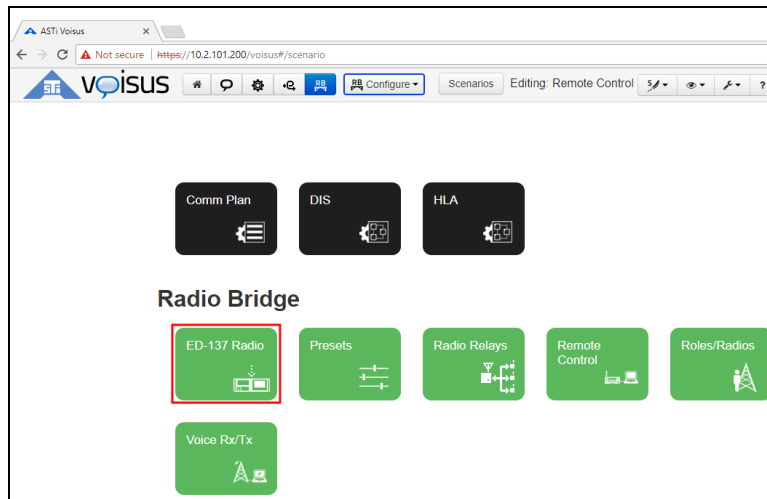



Figure 11: ED-137 Radio navigation

2. To add a new radio, click **Add ED-137B Radio** . A new radio appears among the listed options. The radio's default name is **ED-137b-N**, where *N* represents the next available number (e.g., ED-137b-1).
3. (Optional) Under **Name**, type a unique name for the radio.
4. Under **IP Address**, type *xxx.xxx.xxx.xxx*, where *xxx.xxx.xxx.xxx* represents the radio's IPv4 address.
5. **Port** sets the radio's User Datagram Protocol (UDP)/Real-Time Transfer Protocol (RTP) port number. In the **Port** box, type **50010**.



Note: Voisus automatically sets the Real Time Transfer Control Protocol (RTCP) port one value higher than the RTP port.

6. Click the **ED-137 Version** drop-down box, and then click **ED-137 A**.
7. **PTT ID** assigns a unique ID to the radio's associated press-to-talk (PTT) device. The ED-137 standard uses this value to identify which operator is triggering the PTT button. For best results, leave the default value of **0**. Acceptable values range from 0–15.
8. Click the **PTT Type** drop-down box, and then click **Normal**, which labels the transmission as a standard PTT event.

3.3 Create and run a scenario

To create and run a new scenario, follow these steps:

1. Create a new scenario. If desired, use the **RadioBridge4** or **RadioBridge8** example scenarios, which are preconfigured with virtual nets in the Comm Plan.
2. Run the scenario, and open it.

3.4 Edit Comm Plan settings

If necessary, edit the net names, frequencies, waveforms, and other parameters to match the virtual radio nets that will bridge to the live radio.

3.5 Configure DIS settings

Configure the Distributed Interactive Simulation (DIS) settings for your specific exercise.

3.6 Configure Voice Rx/Tx settings


On the **Voice Rx/Tx** page, map the live radio's channel identifier to a virtual net.

The screenshot displays the 'Voice Rx/Tx' configuration window. At the top, there are icons for adding, editing, and deleting, along with a 'View Presets' button. Below this is a table with the following columns: Radio Name, Channel Identifier, Virtual Net, and DIS Exercise. The first row is checked and shows 'Radio_bridge-1', 'Op13bObs', 'AM_Net1', and 'default_domain'. To the right of the table is a 'Hide Options' button. Below the table are three sections: 'Preset' with 'Load...' and 'Save as...' buttons; 'Settings' with 'Cancel' and 'Save' buttons, and fields for 'In Gain' (1), 'Use Digital Input' (checked), 'Out Gain' (1), and 'Rx Delay (secs)' (0.5); and 'Status' with 'Device audio input level (RMS): -97.3 dB' and a signal strength indicator.

Figure 12: Voice Rx/Tx

3.6.1 Add a live radio

To add a live radio in the Voisus web interface, follow these steps:

1. To add a new radio, click .
2. Click the radio name to edit it.
3. Click the **Channel Identifier** drop-down box, and then click the channel identifier associated with the live radio. Channel identifiers are named on the **Hardware Devices** page.
4. Click the **Virtual Net** drop-down box, and then click the virtual net for communication between the live radio and virtual radios. The live radio will now be able to communicate with simulated radios over the virtual net.

3.6.2 Advanced configuration

The **Show Options** button displays advanced settings that can be used to fine-tune the audio characteristics of the live radio interface. In most cases, with a standard, supported live radio, you shouldn't need to modify these parameters. Use the following advanced settings for advanced configuration:

- **Preset:** if changes are made to the settings, click **Save As...** to save them for future use. **Load...** applies presets saved to your server.
- **Settings:** fine-tune the audio characteristics of the live radio interface.
 - **In Gain:** a gain multiplier applied to live radio receive audio. This gain is applied before the audio gets to the detection logic. A larger value results in network operators receiving live radio audio at a higher level.
 - **In Threshold:** a value in dB used as a threshold for detecting receive audio from the live radio.
 - **Out Gain:** a gain multiplier applied to live radio transmit audio. A larger value results in live radio operators (e.g., in the field) receiving transmissions from network operators at a higher level.
 - **Rx Delay:** a delay value in seconds used to prevent spurious live radio retransmissions (i.e., "chatter") that can occur with certain radio types. This is sometimes referred to as "hang time" or "drop out delay." In most cases, you won't need to adjust this value.
- **Status:** view Rx/Tx status for live-to-virtual communications.

3.7 (Optional) Create a radio relay

Radio relay receives audio on a specified main (i.e., relay) net and retransmits it to one or more member net(s). Likewise, member nets can also receive and transmit audio back to the relay net. If a member net receives and transmits audio to the relay net, other member nets do not receive the transmission. The radio relay technique can extend the radio signal longer distances. Radio relay is also applicable to cross-banding and radio aggregation. If multiple member nets receive audio simultaneously, the audio is mixed and sent to the relay net for retransmission.

The following figure shows an example of a radio relay configuration:

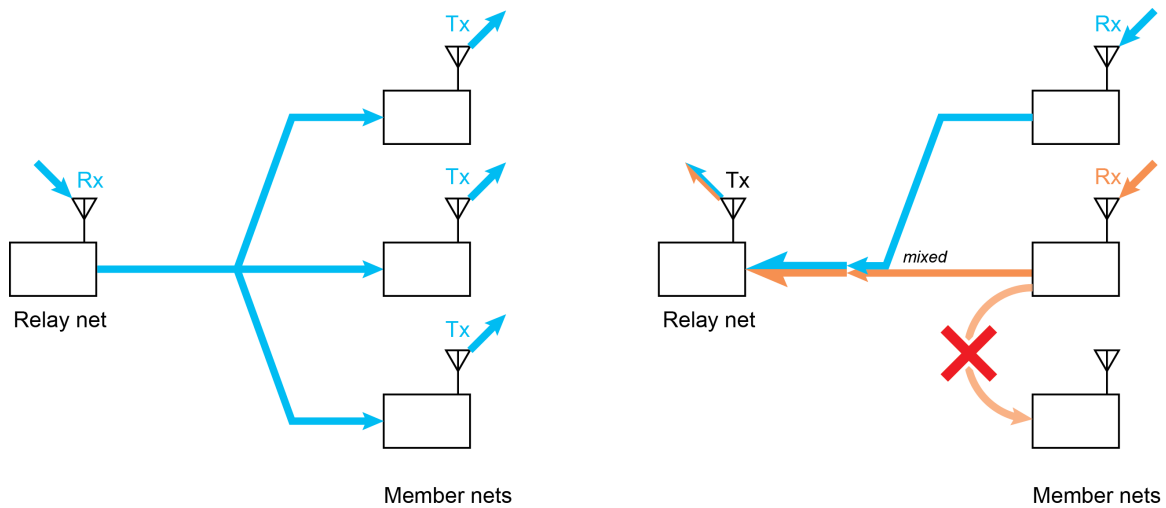


Figure 13: Radio relay diagram

To create a new radio relay, follow these steps:

1. From the top-left navigation bar, click **Voisus Clients** , and then click **Radio Relays**.

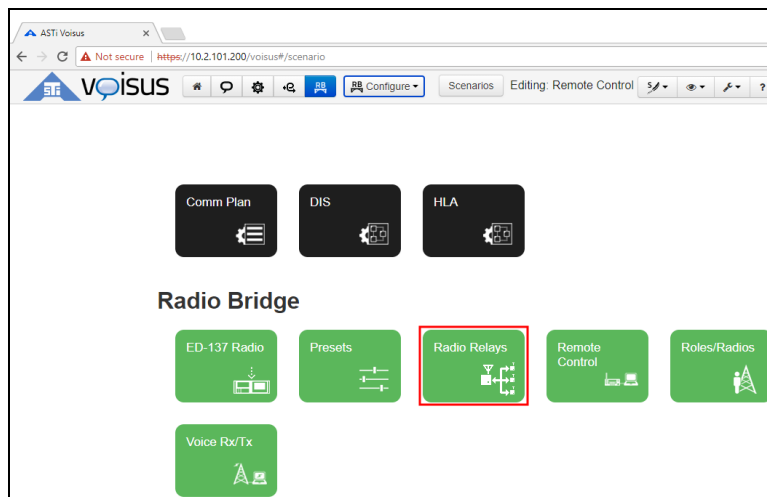



Figure 14: Radio Relays navigation

2. To add a new relay, on the **Radio Relays** page, click **Create Relays** .
3. In the **Relay Name** box, type a unique name for the relay.
4. To enable or disable the relay net, click **On** or **Off**.

5. Click on the **DIS Exercise** drop-down box, and then click on the desired domain. The default setting is **default_domain**. DIS exercises are configured on the **DIS Networking** page. For more information about DIS, see "DIS settings" in the *Voisus Client User Guide*.
6. Click the **Relay Net** drop-down box, and then click the desired net. These net are configured in the Comm Plan. For more information about the Comm Plan, see "Comm Plan" in the *Voisus Client User Guide*.
7. To add a member net, click the **Member Net(s)** drop-down box, click the desired net, and then click . Member nets are configured in the Comm Plan. For more information about the Comm Plan, see "Comm Plan" in the in the *Voisus Client User Guide*.

The screenshot shows a configuration window titled "Radio_relay-1". It contains the following fields and controls:

- Relay Name:** A text input field containing "Radio_relay-1".
- Relaying:** Radio buttons for "On" (selected) and "Off".
- DIS Exercise:** A dropdown menu with "default_domain" selected.
- Relay Net:** A dropdown menu with "Select a net..." selected.
- Member Net(s):** A section containing a dropdown menu with "Select a net..." and a "+Add" button.

Figure 15: Radio Relay page

4.0 Remote control

ASTi's Remote Radio Control has the ability to control live radio assets remotely through the Voisus web interface and the Voisus Client for Desktops & Tablets. Live radios may operate in the same room or in a facility miles away. Quickly and conveniently configure radios over the network from any computer with a suitable web browser. Make changes on the fly without interrupting training, and monitor the radio state to ensure radios are functioning correctly.

Remote Radio Control is currently available for the following radios:

- URC-200
- PRC-117F
- PRC-117G
- PRC-152
- Rockwell Collins Fixed-Site Radio (FSR)

To learn more about other live radios, contact ASTi.

4.1 Equipment

The following sections describe hardware and radio control kit equipment needed for remote control.

4.1.1 Hardware

The following hardware is required for remote radio control:

- Voisus server
- Audio distribution device



***Note:** Label the ACE-RIU connected to the live radio "ACE-RIU Radio," indicating that its jumper settings are configured to interface with live radios. For more details, see "ACE-RIU Configuration for Radio Bridge and Remote Control" in the [ACE-RIU Technical User Guide](#).*

4.1.2 Radio control kit

ASTi sells a radio control kit for each supported radio, which includes the following:

- *Serial Data Cable*: connects the live radio to the Serial Data Converter.
- *Serial Data Converter*: a compact module that converts serial data protocol from radio RS-232 to RIU RS-422. It is powered through the serial data line.
- *Modular Data Cable*: connects the Serial Data Converter to the ACE-RIU serial data port.

Live Radio	Conversion Kit P/N
URC-200	RCK-URC-200-01
PRC-117F	RCK-PRC-117F
PRC-117G	RCK-PRC-117G

Table 4: Radio control kit cables

4.2 Remote control setup

If remote control qualifies as part of your solution (as ordered from ASTi), its setup documentation is included on the ASTi Docs CD that shipped with your system(s). If you cannot locate it, contact ASTi to receive a new CD or individual documents at your request.