

Zephyr Xstream 3.X.X - Ethernet Streaming

Types of Connections

Pull-Only

The connection in this type of stream is initiated by the listener (client). The client contacts the sender (server), requesting a stream to be sent. The server sends a stream to the client, and the client sends no further messages to the server until the user disconnects. At disconnect time, the client sends a message to the server requesting that no more data be sent.

Push-Only

The audio stream, in this instance, is initiated by the sender. The user specifies the client to which to send the stream, and the data is sent without any negotiation. The client decodes the audio it is sent, but has no control over when it starts or stops. The stream must be disconnected by the send-side user.

Bidirectional

Uses some combination of the above to initiate a stream in both directions. The user at either end can initiate the connection, and the software will negotiate both the push and the pull involved. Either end's user can likewise disconnect the call.

Zephyr Xstream Streaming Versions

2.7.1p and Prior

Though regular "frontpanel" streaming and HTTP streaming are available, the ZXS uses *Pull-Only* in both cases. In the case of HTTP streaming, the Zephyr acts only as a server - it has no HTTP client.

3.0.1p and Later

Starting with 3.0 (and its betas, the 2.9.XXXi series), three different streaming modes are available:

HTTP

The familiar *Pull-Only* HTTP remains. The Zephyr is still a server only, not a client. HTTP streaming is used primarily with desktop players (Media Player, Audioactive Player, WinAmp, etc.) for confidence audio. It is not to be used on the public internet due to limitations in the Zephyr's TCP stack. If long-range/long-term HTTP streaming is required, a shoutcast server (or other stream replicator) can be used as a client.

RTP

Real-Time Protocol streams are *Push-only*. One server can send to several clients, who decode the audio if they are also in RTP streaming mode. RTP is a transport protocol, not a connection protocol, which is why it works in this way. The "connection protocol" is the user hitting the Dial button.

SIP

Unlike RTP, SIP is a connection protocol, not a transport protocol. SIP negotiates a bidirectional connection between the two units, behaving much like a telephone or ISDN call. Progress is related to the far side as well as the local user. The far end unit may be reported as busy (unlike RTP, which sends regardless of the readiness of the receiver), etc.

SIP uses RTP as its transport protocol. What this means, basically, is that SIP negotiates for each side of the connection to send an RTP, push-only stream to the other side. The result is a bidirectional connection.

Ports

IP ports to be used by the streaming system are listed on Tel(4) in all modes.

SIP Port (Default 5060)

SIP uses a TCP port, as its communication is bidirectional. The SIP port is what is used for the connection protocol, that layer that initiates the two RTP streams. The SIP port must match on both ends of a connection.

UDP Port (Default 9150)

RTP streams are sent and received over the UDP port. This port is used for both RTP and SIP modes, as SIP negotiates the creation of RTP streams. The UDP port must match on both ends of a connection.

HTTP Port (Default 8080)

The TCP port used for HTTP streaming only (normal web-pages are also served over HTTP, but these are sent over port 80, the usual port to which a web browser connects). A player which supports HTTP streams can connect using the usual port notation (e.g. `http://www.xxx.yyy.zzz:PORT`).

Note that prior to 3.0.1p, the Zephyr Xstream used port 8000 for HTTP streaming.

TCP Port (Default 8800)

This port is currently unused.

Firewalls and Routers

The Internet works because there is a central authority for doling out IP addresses. Any given connection to the internet is permitted to use some number of designated addresses which can be accessed by any machine that is also connected to the Internet. Most connections are limited to one IP, with many more machines needing access to the network. This is the basic purpose most routers.

Port Forwarding

Port forwarding is very simple. When you have two connected networks, with different numbering schemes, they must be connected by a router. The machines on either side of the

router cannot access each other. The router itself can be accessed by machines on either network, however.

Port forwarding is basically telling the router that when it receives packets from the Wide Area Network on a given port, from those packets should be forwarded transparently to the specified address on the Local Area Network.

NAT

NAT (Network Address Translation) is a scheme by which a private network can make connections into a public network (such as the Internet) using only one address on the public net. An example is having 3 computers behind the a router/firewall on a residential DSL line. The three computers have separate addresses on the local network, but only the Router's WAN IP is visible on the outer network.

NAT works because the router knows the format of TCP/IP packets. It can substitute its own IP into the packets that are outbound, then reinsert the proper LAN IP when a packet comes inbound from the WAN. This works because TCP is connection-based, so the router knows that all traffic on a given connection is destined for the machine that initiated it.

The Zephyr Xstream Behind a Firewall

There are two Xstreams to consider. For this discussion, we'll assume that the *remote* Zephyr Xstream is properly configured already. That way, we only need to discuss the considerations for the local machine. If each operator does this, both end up configured properly.

To begin, for all of the scenarios presented below, the following should be done:

- Give the Zephyr an IP on the LAN. Usually, this is done by simply picking an unused address.
- Set the LAN subnet mask (usually 255.255.255.0 - get these numbers from the IT administrator)
- Set the gateway to the LAN address of the router
- Set the DNS to the server specified in the WAN/DHCP area of the router's information pages (optional)

HTTP Mode

Not recommended for use over the public network. If it's behind a router, it really shouldn't be used.

RTP Mode

Sending

After configuring the Xstream as above, there are no special settings required to send an RTP stream only. Take the IP address given to you by the person you're calling. Press Dial. Enter the IP address. Press Dial again. Contact the operator on some other channel to confirm receipt of the stream, as there is no reverse communication

Receiving

To receive an RTP stream from behind a firewall, you first need to set that firewall for port forwarding. On the router setting page, forward UDP port 9150 to the ip address the receiving Xstream. Contact the remote operator, and give him or her the WAN address of the router (retrieved from the router status page or IT admin). When the remote operator sends a stream to your machine, the router will automatically forward it. Note that you can only forward a port to one IP at a time, so if you are behind a firewall and you need to receive multiple streams, you'll have to forward other ports and have the remote admin change their UDP port to match yours.

SIP Mode

Since SIP mode is bidirectional, we'll discuss Dialing and Answering, rather than Sending and Receiving.

Answering

After configuring your xstream, you'll need forward TCP port 5060 to the Xstream you wish to use. When this is done, follow the instructions for RTP Mode (Receiving) - forward UDP 9150 to the Xstream and give the remote operator the router's WAN address.

Dialing

Configure your Xstream as with SIP Mode (Answering). With your unit in Ethernet (SIP) mode, go to Codec(3). The field "RouterIP" (Renamed in current development build as "WAN IP") should be set to the router's WAN address, as shown on the router's status page. SIP includes IP information in its own protocol, above the TCP/IP layer, which cannot be automatically changed by the NAT router. If there is no router, or the Xstream is on a publicly-available IP address, the WAN IP should be set to 0.0.0.0.