

Control Room Solutions

Signal Distribution and Visualization for 24/7 Critical Environments



A Control Room is the center of your organization's operations. With an efficient structure, a control room enables you to plan, manage, analyze, and even recover day-to-day activities. Black Box® can help you build a modern control room using IP-based solutions that ensure maximum security in a multi-HMI environment. Live monitoring empowers operators to visualize and share critical, real-time data and content with key stakeholders in your organization, as well as make instantaneous decisions to avert problems.

Drawing on over 45 years of experience, Black Box can equip your control room with modern and redundant video wall controllers, keyboard-mouse (KM) sharing devices, keyboard-video-mouse (KVM) switches and extenders, control panels, power management, and other AV, IoT, and KVM product solutions to streamline workflows and optimize productivity.

Embrace the future and stay one step ahead of the competition with Control Room Distribution Solutions from Black Box.

Black Box Solutions for Control Rooms



Signal Switching, Extension, and Control

High-performance KVM solutions switch and extend critical sources.

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AV Management and Control

Make informed decisions from an easy-to-manage, shared video wall.

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Operator Workspace and Control

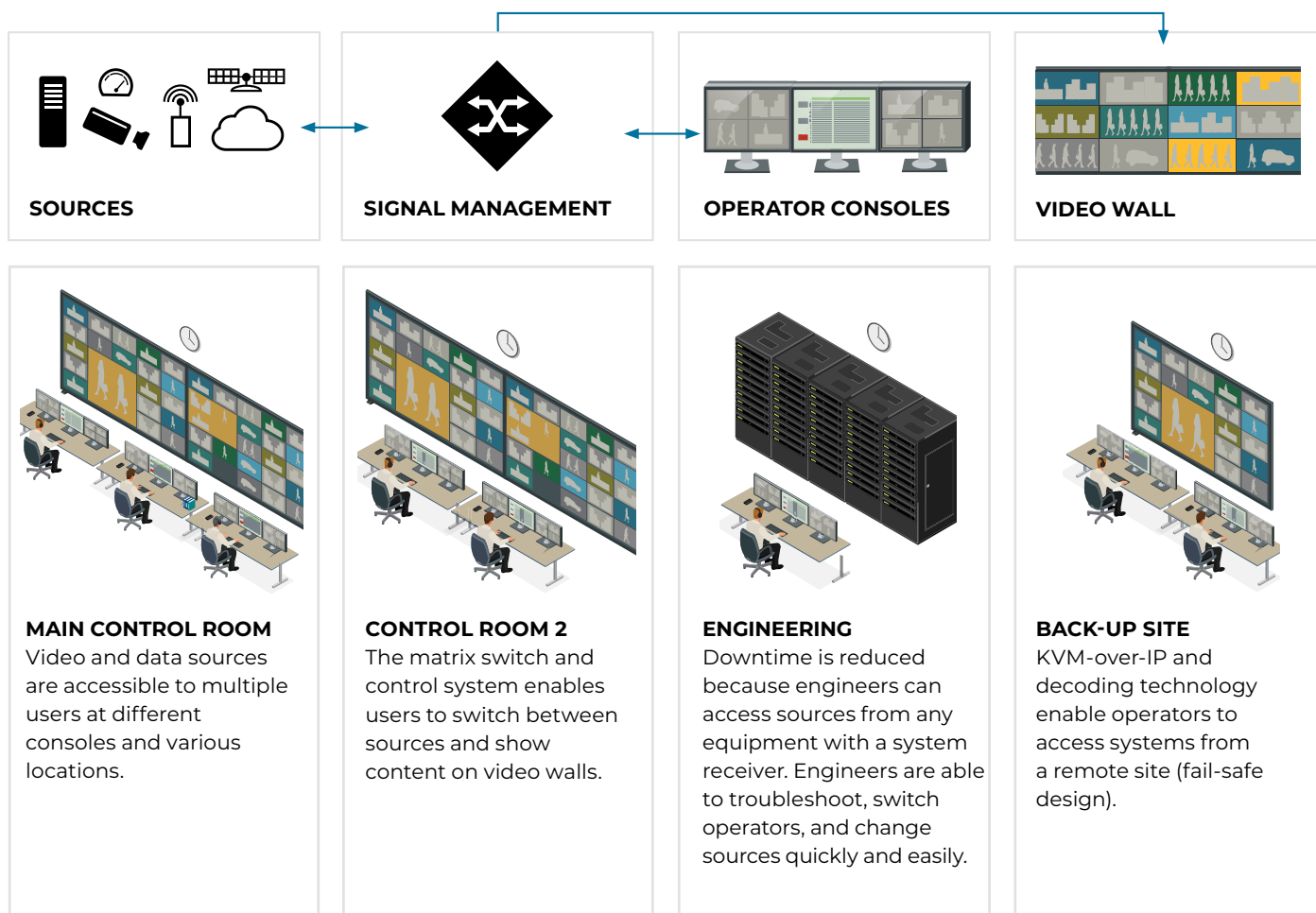
Real-time monitoring tools and room control solutions optimize operator workflows.

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Control Room Signal Flow





Signal Switching, Extension, and Control

KVM matrix switching gives operators access to remote computers, production assets, and virtual machines. It also allows users to monitor processes and provides flexible control of visual elements on common shared screens and video walls.

KVM signal extension enables organizations to place PCs, servers, and workstations in clean and secure locations. KVM technology can incorporate multiple levels of redundancy to ensure a fail-safe operation, and advanced security features to keep critical information safe. It also optimizes workflows by giving operators quick access to remote sources from their local workstations. Black Box® offers KVM solutions that transmit pixel-perfect 4K video, USB, serial, and audio signals over CATx, fiber, and even IP.

Emerald – 4K KVM Matrix Switching over IP

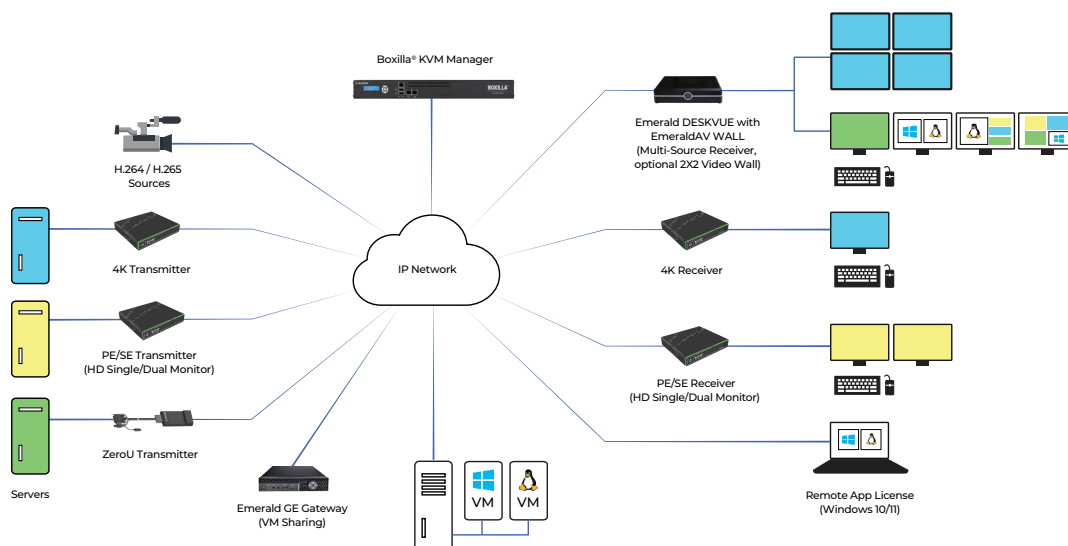
Emerald® KVM over IP is an award-winning zero-client-based KVM extension and matrix switching platform that supports both point-to-point extension and IP-based KVM matrix switching of an unlimited number of users and computers. Distributing HD or pixel-perfect 4K video signals, with full interoperability high-speed USB 2.0, and bidirectional analog audio, it can connect users with both physical computers and virtual machines. Use managed IP switches to connect all end points and provide fast and reliable remote computer access as far as your network reaches – or even over the internet. An extremely low bandwidth Emerald Remote App turns any Windows® 10/11 device into a software KVM receiver, eliminating the need for additional hardware receivers.

To learn more about Emerald, visit blackbox.com/emerald ▶

- Switch and extend HD or pixel-perfect 4K video, bidirectional analog audio, and up to four USB 2.0 devices.
- Create a KVM matrix that supports up to 32 end points through the built-in management interface, or use the Boxilla® KVM Manager to construct matrices with hundreds of users and servers.
- Use Black Box-tested or third-party standard IP switches to build a KVM matrix.
- Get real-time virtual machine access and VM sharing via RDP 8.1/RemoteFX or PCoIP/PCoIP Ultra.
- Enlist dual network ports for fail-safe operation (Emerald 4K, Emerald PE).



Emerald KVM over IP



Emerald DESKVUE

KVM users today need to view, monitor, and interact with multiple clients that can reside on various networks with different work information like post-production editing, IPTV, live feeds, email, and rendering jobs.

In a completely new concept in KVM over IP, Emerald® DESKVUE enables these users to arrange their individual workspace for optimal simultaneous interaction with up to 16 different systems. It supports connections to physical systems via Emerald transmitters, Virtual Machines using RDP, PCoIP, PCoIP ultra, standard H.264/265 sources, and Virtual Network Computing (VNC).

The Emerald DESKVUE receiver – as part of the Emerald KVM family and Boxilla® KVM Manager - uniquely allows users to tailor their own workspace by connecting a single keyboard, mouse, audio, and up to four 4K monitors, with one of the four supporting 5K. Each system's information can be positioned across the screens with predefined layouts and freely movable windows. Interacting with each system is as simple as moving the mouse over the window. In this way, each operator has complete situational awareness and full control within easy reach, via a fully personalized workspace.

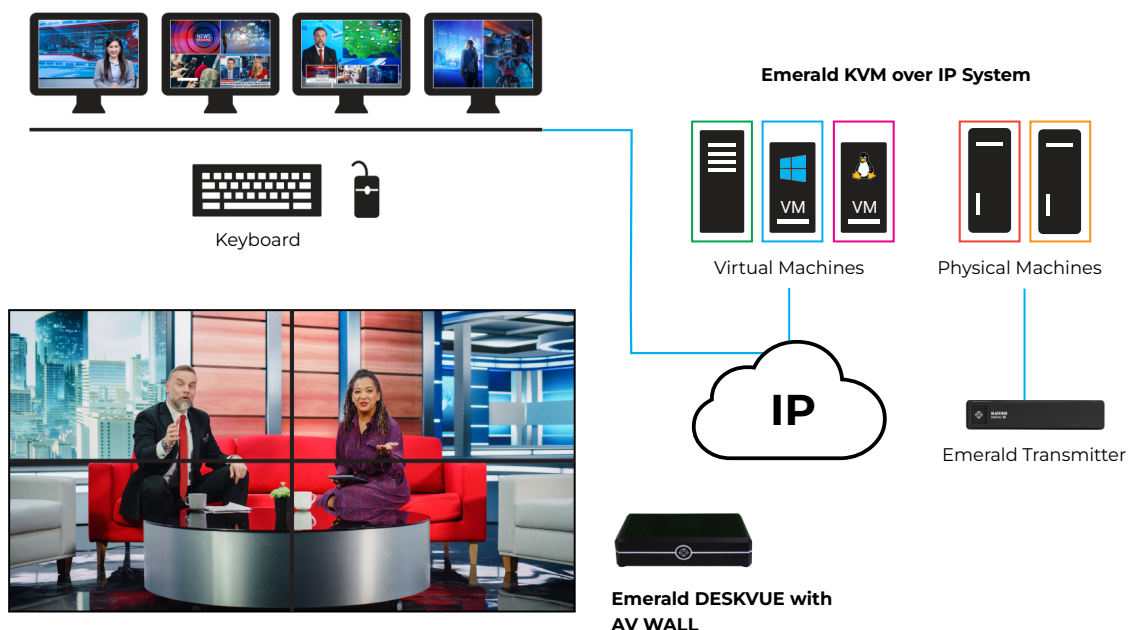
Emerald®AV WALL, a software feature of Emerald® DESKVUE, simplifies the display of a single source from an Emerald system on a 2x2 video wall, creating an immersive viewing experience for enhanced collaboration.

To learn more about DESKVUE, visit blackbox.com/deskvue ▶

- Interact with up to 16 systems simultaneously.
- Connect to physical systems via Emerald transmitters, and Virtual Machines using RDP, PCoIP (Ultra), H.264/5, and VNC.
- Tailor your individual workspace.
- Freely place and size your your systems across up to four monitors; view and interact with them in the most efficient way.
- Supports up to 4K/5K video resolutions.
- Attach up to four HDMI screens with resolutions up to 5120 x 1440, or work with the latest ultra-wide curved monitors.
- Provides highly secure IP KVM.
- Fully integrates with Emerald KVM over IP and the Boxilla KVM manager for device configuration, monitoring, and authentication.
- Design follows user needs.
- Silent operation and an extremely small footprint combined with various mounting options ensure a clean, well-organized workspace.
- AV WALL software adds support for a 2x2 video wall.



Concept Diagram Emerald DESKVUE Workspace



DKM – 4K Proprietary KVM Matrix Switching

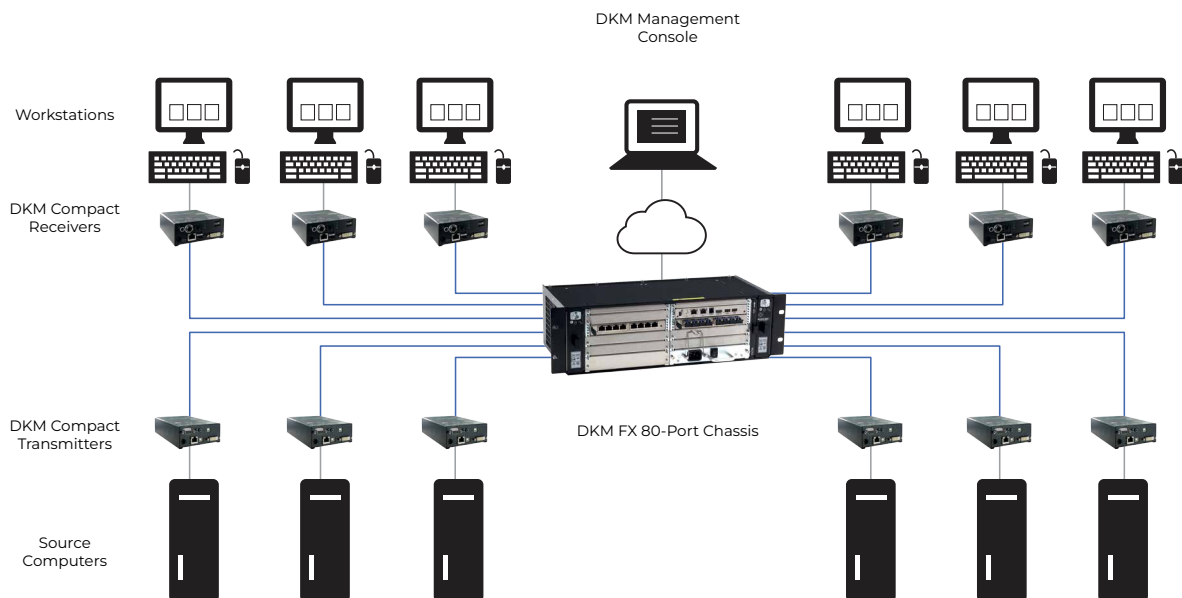
DKM is a proprietary (non-IP) high-performance KVM matrix switching platform that allows cross-point switching and extension of up to 4K video, peripheral, audio, and serial signals. Choose from chassis-based matrix switches in multiple sizes (DKM FX), compact CATx, fiber or hybrid switches (DKM Compact II), and (modular) DKM extenders. The multilevel redundancy of the DKM family offers high reliability for 24/7 operation in critical environments, such as control rooms. DKM supports full redundant power, redundant link, and hot-swappable modules so you can perform field upgrades without interrupting signal flow.

To learn more about DKM, visit blackbox.com/dkm ▶

- Choose DKM Matrix Switch chassis with 48, 80, 160, 288, or 576 ports.
- Use DKM Compact Switches with 8 up to 160 ports.
- Select from a variety of I/O cards for the switch or extender chassis to fit your application's requirements.
- Use preconfigured or modular extender units to connect sources/switches and switches/user stations.
- Supports multiple signal types, including DisplayPort®, DVI, HDMI, VGA, digital or analog audio, USB 1/2/3, and serial.
- Manage via Controller Card and Java Management Tool.



DKM FX Modular Chassis



DKM KVM matrix switching setup connects multiple source PCs and operator workstations





Video Wall Management and Control

High-performance video processing solutions convert and scale video signals to the required single-screen or multiscreen display format. With video or data sources connected to the processor, it is possible to create individually tailored video wall solutions that deliver high-resolution images to all displays in your control room.

Radian - Dynamic Video Wall Solutions Custom-Configured to Operational Needs

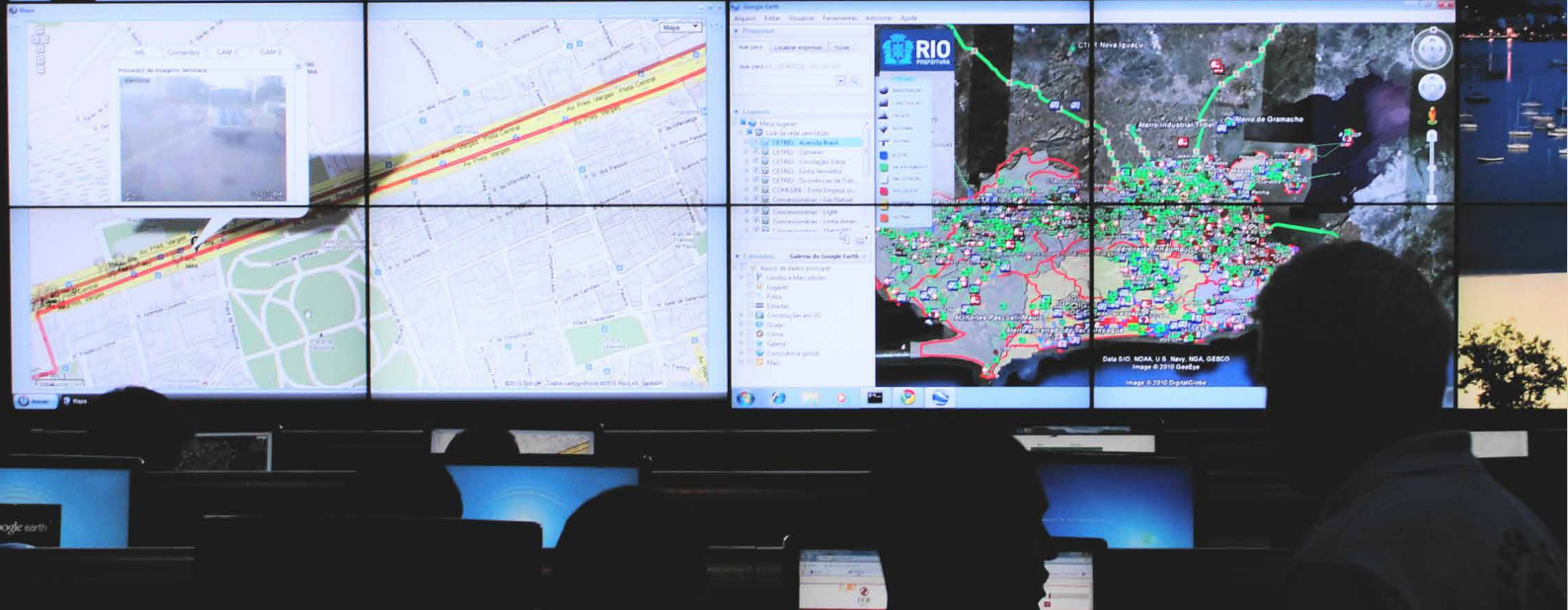
Radian provides a highly flexible, premium-performing video wall solution to meet the demands of command and control in mission-critical applications. With expandability designed in, the controller system can grow as requirements change. Selecting from a wide array of component options, a system is built by choosing a processor chassis and a combination of capture, streaming, and graphics cards that meet the technical requirements of the user facility. With the addition of management software, you end up with a Radian Video Wall Controller purpose-built to provide mission-critical content visualization.

To learn more about Radian, visit blackbox.com/radian ►

- Customized video capture, processing, management, and display for outcome-driven content visualization
- Up to 11 cards of capacity, processor options from i5 to i9 and Xeon, sizable onboard memory/storage
- Increase capacity with 11-Slot expansion chassis
- Up to PCIe Gen3, 6GB/s capture capacity; DVI, DisplayPort, HDMI, H.264/265 options; 1080p to 4K60
- PCIe Gen3 x8 cards; 1080p HD or 4K UHD outputs, with pixel-perfect, tear-free video quality
- Full control of streams, captures, and local content displayed on one or more walls via intuitive GUI



Radian Video Wall Controller



MCX – Advanced AV Distribution and Video Wall Control

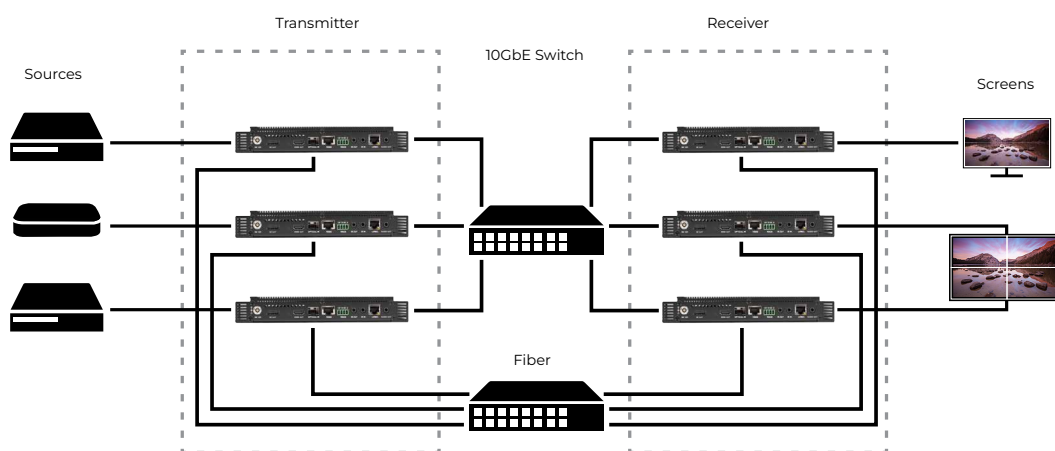
MCX is the next-generation AV-over-IP solution that delivers up to 4K 60 Hz 4:4:4 video with the lowest latency and fastest switch times available in the AV marketplace. MCX makes it possible to handle video walls, video extension (point-to-point and point-to-multipoint), and digital signage on an IP network. It also gives you intuitive control over how content displays on every screen. This networked AV system brings versatility to video wall deployments with advanced video scaling options, such as multi-view, picture-in-picture, split screen, and more.

To learn more about MCX, visit blackbox.com/mcx ▶

- Supports an unlimited number of displays without sacrificing latency, video quality, or bandwidth.
- Overcome source to display latency with glass-to-glass encoding and decoding that happens in real time (less than 0.03 milliseconds).
- Switch between video sources in less than 100 milliseconds with no artifacts or screen blink.
- Increase versatility in video wall deployments with advanced video scaling options, such as multiview, picture-in-picture, and split screen.
- Developed with Software-Defined Video over Ethernet (SDVoE™) – the latest software-based AV-over-IP platform for extension and control of AV systems.



MCX AV-over-IP System



MCX application diagram





MediaCento AV over IP 1G

The MediaCento audio/video distribution solution uses existing standards-based Ethernet technology and TCP/IP protocols to unicast HDMI HD / 4K UHD video signals on your Gigabit Ethernet network. In a multicast configuration, one transmitter can drive multiple receivers with no extra network load.

To learn more about MediaCento, visit blackbox.com/mediacentro ▶

- Transmitters and receivers install directly into your existing LAN infrastructure. There's no need to configure any IP settings or run expensive dedicated links from a back room.
- Plug-and-Play Setup, Just connect your source, your display(s), and a network switch. It's ready to go!
- The extender transmits video up to 100 m per link, but goes even longer when additional network switches are added to the mix. Use fiber with media converters to go several kilometers, if needed.
- MediaCento IPX HD/4K features an extended display identification data (EDID) copy function, which ensures that the proper video settings are maintained, and is HDCP 2.2 compliant.
- Use the standalone MediaCento IPX Controller with any network switch for full flexibility including dual network and video wall support, up to 8 x 8 (64 screens).



MediaCento-AV-over-IP Extension



Operator Workspace and Control

Workspace and control solutions allow operators to use their systems and applications more efficiently. Black Box® solutions range from AV control systems to KVM Multiviewers to keyboard mouse switches. With these solutions in place, operators can focus more closely on their work, rather than on the equipment affecting their work.

Freedom KM Switches

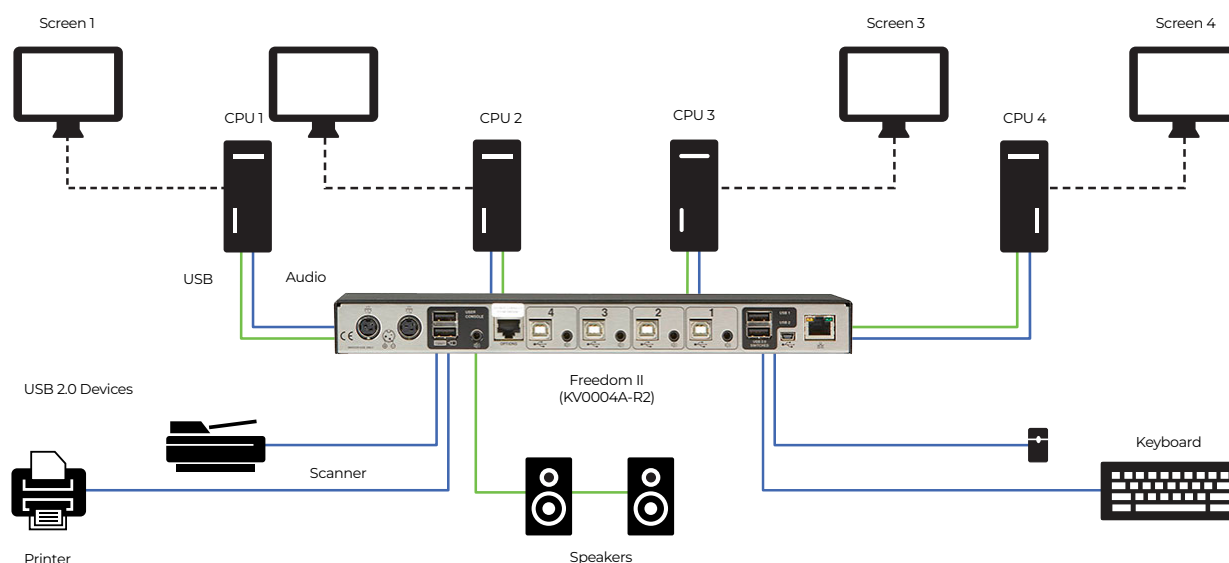
Freedom KM Switches enable you to switch between four or eight computers by moving your mouse cursor from monitor to monitor. With only one KVM receiver, keyboard, and mouse required to operate four to eight computer systems, desk space becomes more ergonomically effective.

To learn more about Freedom, visit blackbox.com/freedom ▶

- Monitors maintain direct computer connections. Only USB and audio switch between source PCs.
- Require no additional software or drivers on your computers.
- Models supporting either up to four or eight PCs available.



Freedom KM Switch



KM switches allow you to switch between multiple PCs by moving a mouse cursor from screen to screen



ControlBridge® – Multisystem and Room Control

- Control AV systems, room automation, software applications, KVM networks, and video wall controllers via Ethernet, serial, IR, digital I/O, and relays.
- Multiple control processors and touch screen devices benefit any control application.
- Control applications with an unlimited number of touch screens, pushbuttons, and mobile devices (iOS, Android™).
- Individual presets tailored to your application allow 1-click control room setups and personalized display configurations to automatically discover, set up, and control DKM and Emerald® solutions.
- To learn more about ControlBridge, visit blackbox.com/controlbridge ▶



ControlBridge 12" Touchscreen



AlertWerks AW3000

AlertWerks AW3000 is a wireless IoT product available from Black Box®. It is a new unique solution providing you with an all-in-one-box solution for IoT that leverages modern LoRaWAN® radio transmission technology.

AW3000 is the only IoT Wireless solution that gives you a common database for multiple AW3000 units to build up an IoT Web domain. This futureproof IoT Web solution grows as your projects and needs change.

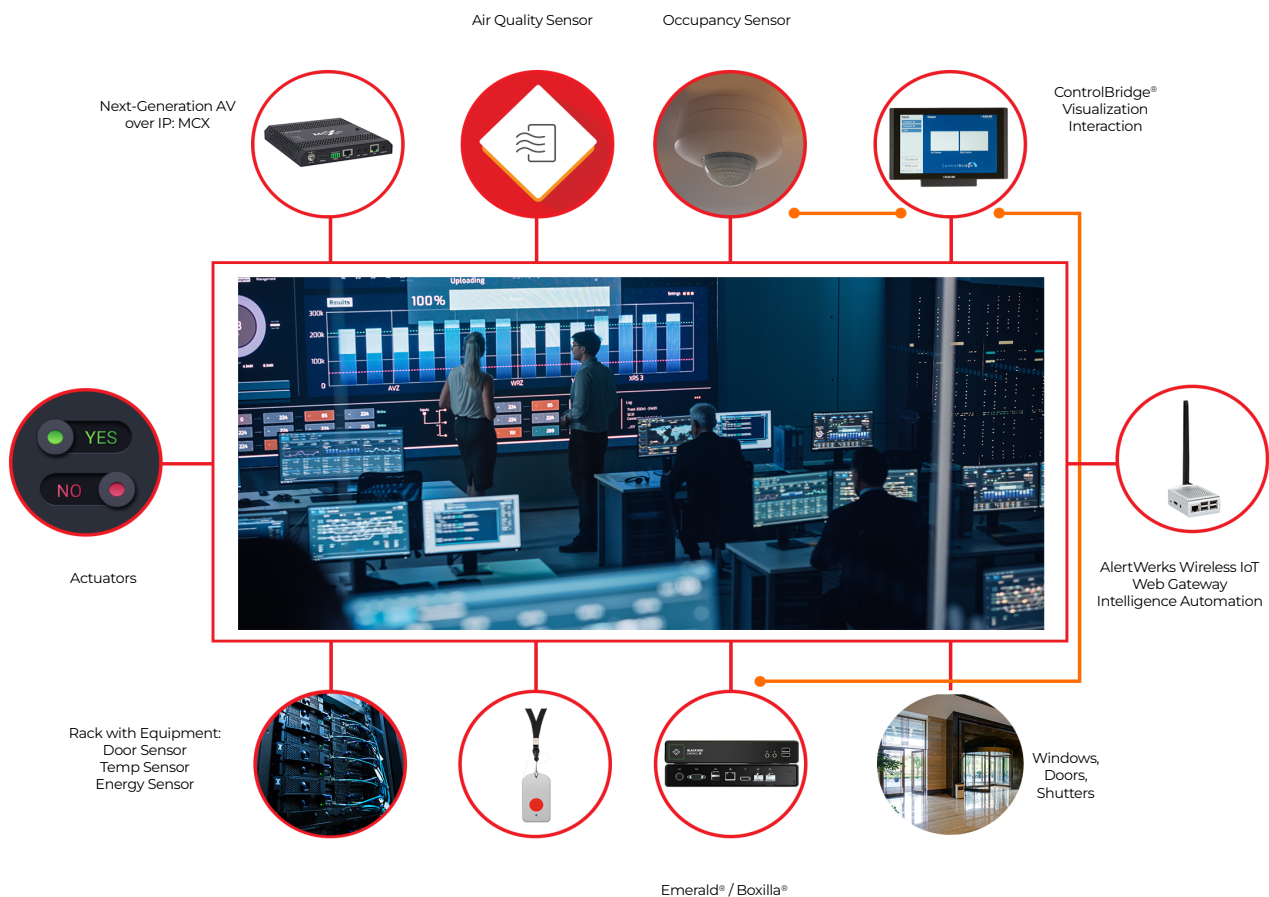
Since it works on an open platform, AlertWerks AW3000 enables you to use any LoRaWAN 1.0.x sensor on the market. It has a very easy connection (join) procedure to get LoRaWAN data from your sensor flowing into the system. It offers rich features to set up virtual sensors, actions, and notifications. Multiple dashboards can be set up and used.

LoRaWAN operates on sub 1-GHz frequencies using multiple modern technologies to transmit data wirelessly on a kilometer scale. It offers end-to-end encryption and security for your valuable data.

As a Linux® device with HDMI output and USB ports, AW3000 can connect to a touch monitor to visualize data directly from the unit. There is no command-line editing or Linux knowledge necessary, since AlertWerks AW3000 boots directly into a graphical user interface.

AlertWerks AW3000 gives you highly customizable dashboards with world maps, floor plans, and more. Interactivity, drill-down functionality, and more is possible. All data is stored on a SQL database.

To learn more about AW3000 visit blackbox.com/alertwerks ▶



Case Studies

Police Station Command and Control Room

The Challenge

As part of the move to a new building, a police department in Norway planned to overhaul their command and control room equipment. Their existing control room used legacy analog technology and was a mix of KVM point-to-point extensions (VGA-PS2 and VGA-USB) and small desktop KVM switches. This setup only provided single-user access to one or two remote systems.

The Solution

The police department needed fast switching times, redundancy, and hot swappability to avoid potential downtime. Black Box® suggested the DKM FX Matrix Switching System. Because of their scalability and flexibility, DKM FX Switches are great for command and control rooms. These switches provide multiple users with access to multiple computers and the ability to work over a mix of structured cabling (copper and fiber).

The DKM FX solution was configured with two video walls, one 4-by-2 and one 2-by-2. This setup connected multiple users throughout 24/7 shifts.

A Black Box MediaCento Control System was integrated with the DKM FX to add touchscreen

compatibility for switching and control of video walls. The larger video wall has a tile function that allows a user to send an image to a 2-by-2 area. Operators have a mix of extension systems on their desks, enabling some of them to transmit to the video walls, while others are simply connected to remote servers.



FOX Sports - Remote Production During the Pandemic

The Challenge

To broadcast NASCAR 2020 safely during the pandemic, FOX sports had to rearrange multiple roles. The usual team of 150 people was limited to 50 overall, which led to specific problems.

FOX reached out to Black Box for a bandwidth-efficient IP-based solution for broadcast video and control signals via the public internet.

The Solution

Black Box provided FOX Sports with an Emerald® PE to extend video and transmit USB 2.0 and audio signals over the internet with lossless video frame compression. With one team working at a central facility during production of various live events, FOX can bring greater consistency to its broadcasts and establish a more collaborative creative environment, where talent working in other locations can more easily contribute to the broadcast.



Case Studies

Thales Germany Installs DKM KVM in a Berlin Underground Control Room

The Challenge

With plans to relocate its office, Thales Germany needed to construct a new control room for Berlin in cooperation with BVG local transports. An important customer specification was to use fiber optic cabling to foster immunity to electromagnetic interference (EMI). They also wanted to create better working conditions and use futureproof technology. To round out their requirements, Thales requested a redundant system.

Thales recognized Black Box® as a well-known problem-solver in the IT industry and reached out to us to build the control room. Doris Fritz, the project officer at Thales, claimed Black Box to be a “technology pioneering partner.”

The Solution

To create a highly secure and redundant control room, Black Box recommended switching to a digital system (DVI) and provided the client with the requested fiber optic cabling. We installed 30 DKM KVM extenders for increased security and greater flexibility. This KVM technology flawlessly transmits digital video signals with resolutions of up to 2048 x 1152, as well as keyboard and mouse information. The

DKM KVM extenders also freed up more space in the control room by locating the computers 40 meters away in a secure room. The larger video wall has a tile function that allows a user to send an image to a 2-by-2 area. Operators have a mix of extension systems on their desks, enabling some of them to transmit to the video walls, while others are simply connected to remote servers.



India's Largest Electric Company Deploys Black Box KVM to Control Processes

The Challenge

The electric company wanted more than just a reliable KVM matrix switching system to provide remote access to 16 servers. The desired solution also had to provide remote access to at least 4 users and support user authentication, distortion-free HD video at the user workstation, smooth switching, and a high MTBF rating. To guarantee access to LVS machines in the control room, the company demanded a KM switch, which also had to be able to extend signals 30 to 40 meters in order to space the USB peripherals and monitors properly. The Indian company reached out to Black Box because they knew we have some of the most reputable high-performance KVM and KM products on the market today.

The Solution

Black Box recommended a solution that also preserves the pre-existing setup. They installed the ServSwitch CX KVM to support the 16 servers and 4 users and extend the KVM signals up to 50 meters over CAT5e cable. The solution offers the requested user authentication and 1920 x 1200 video resolution on the monitors. To access the LVS machines, Black Box created a custom KM solution (using a Freedom KM Switch), exceeding the client's expectations.

Users now can remotely access and switch between 16 servers in the control room from their workstations for streamlined workflows and tremendously increased productivity. The employees now have a simpler workday and perform tasks with ease. The ServSwitch supports 1920 x 1200 video and displays crystal-clear images on the screens. User authentication ensures that important data is kept safe at all times.



WHY BLACK BOX

Expertise

Black Box® project engineers can assist with system assessment, design, deployment, and training.

Breadth

Black Box offers the most comprehensive suite of engineered KVM, AV, and infrastructure solutions in the industry.

Support

Reflecting our commitment to complete satisfaction, our dedicated team of highly trained support technicians is available by phone free of charge.

Service Level Agreements

Our service level agreements give customers access to technical support, product training, dedicated application engineers, and more.

Experience

Providing leading technology solutions since 1976, Black Box helps more than 175,000 customers in 150 countries build, manage, optimize, and secure IT infrastructures.

Warranties

Multi-year warranties with multi-year extensions and replacement options are available.

Center of Excellence

Black Box offers a Center of Excellence, featuring professional services and support agreements that help optimize customers' systems and maximize uptime.