



## HiQnet Overview, Jeff Phillips, Sound Marketing Central

*Fresh back from two days of training on Harman Pro's HiQnet and System Architect software, I offer this short synopsis to our system designers, installers and users.*

Our industry has **migrated** to products that are increasingly **software-based**. From microphones to processing, routing, amplification and to speakers, **everything** has a **network port** and a **GUI** these days! **HiQnet** promises an **integrated** way to **configure, control, monitor** and **manage** software-based products. It looks to solve the issue of too many computers, too many interfaces to learn, too much time spent on configuration. The goal is **flexibility** for the designer, **accuracy** for the engineer and **simplicity** for the user. HiQnet is proceeding thoughtfully toward these goals.

Ultimately, the **single interface** for all HiQnet products is called **System Architect**. You may download version 1.0 today, from the link at the right. System architect takes the place of Crown's time-honored **IQ** and **IQwic** software, and is the control software for new products such as the **dbx DriveRack 4800** processor, and the **JBL DrivePack powered&processed** loudspeakers. As new products are introduced from Harman Pro companies, they will use HiQnet as their control interface. Likewise, many existing products will be moved to the HiQnet platform, including **AKG's WMS4000** networked-wireless system, and the **BSS Soundweb-London** scalable DSP system.

As it exists right now, HiQnet is most helpful in **Touring** applications, and will be increasingly useful to the **Installed** market. Please note that HiQnet is a control protocol, not an audio transport protocol. Harman Pro endorses the industry standard **Cobranet** for digital audio transport.

Driving the HiQnet protocol is a special engineering task force called **SDIG**, or System Development and Integration Group, based at the HMG facility in Sandy, Utah, where **BSS** is now **built**. SDIG authorizes and coordinates control development across Harman Pro brands, to assure **consistency** and **reliability** of operation. Within SDIG's guidelines, each brand is able to optimize its own control software.

HiQnet is **already in use**. The first HiQnet **performing arts** center is the **Aotea Center** in New Zealand. The **Hong Kong**

### HiQnet Links:

[HiQnet Description](#)

[System Architect Software 1.0](#)

[ProSoundNews review](#)

[Infocomm review](#)

**Stadium** is the first HiQnet sports facility. Conference support, **business** communications are handled by HiQnet at the **MaRS Discovery District** in Toronto, and our very own Dave Kaiser from Sound Marketing West pioneered HiQnet's use at the **Gibson Amphitheatre** in Universal City, CA.

Here are more **key features** of **HiQnet**, that will make a difference in your systems: 1) **Venue** (global) **presets** for events such as system-wide on/off, game/lecture/concert modes; 2) **Event** Scheduling; 3) **Grouping** Macros for controlling system subsets; 4) Easy **screen customization**; 5) Tiered **Security: Permissions** Matrix allows specific Users and Roles; 6) **Rich visual** design capabilities; 7) standard connectivity: **UPnP** compliance, **DHCP** addressing, **SNMP** reporting, for full integration into existing facility **infrastructure**; and much more.

HiQnet allows full **event logging** and amplifier/impedance **monitoring**, without a costly third-party system. Reporting can be automatic via email, or on-screen at a security desk, or a simple flashing light that says, "a device needs attention!" You can set up specific **thresholds** and types of alarm, periodic **auto-tests** and system checks.

Without a doubt, Harman Pro's HiQnet and its System Architect software are bringing you and your customer **new, powerful tools** to build and control your audio systems. In this paper, I have merely scratched the surface. I invite the opportunity to **meet** with **you** and discuss **HiQnet** in person; let's see what **capabilities** and **economies** it can bring to the unique systems that you build!