ViPlex Express

LAN-Based Screen Management Software

User Guide

Product Version: V1.1.0

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Change History

Version	Release Date	Description
V1.1.0	2017-11-22	• Added multiple function modules, including brightness adjustment, video source, screen status control, time synchronization management, color temperature, play log and font management. • Modified several function modules, including play management, restart configuration, monitor, network configuration and server configuration. • In the system settings, added the RF management and custom server functions.
V1.0.0	2017-07-20	First release

Contents

1 ViPlex Express Introduction

ViPlex Express is a LAN-based screen management software. It can automatically search and connect to terminals in the same local area network (LAN), and is used for configuring screens, publishing solutions and controlling solution playing. Currently, it is available only for Windows PC.

ViPlex Express is used as the client software on PC for the Taurus series multimedia players.

ViPlex Express has multiple advantages described as follows.

- Friendly user interface: UI design takes full account of users' habits.
- Ease of use: The Taurus series players can be connected wirelessly and accessed easily.
- Synchronous playing: Capable of playing the same content on different screens synchronously.
- Dual Wi-Fi function: Capable of setting Wi-Fi AP mode and Wi-Fi Sta mode.
- 4G connection: Capable of setting mobile data network of the Taurus with 4G module.
- Terminal binding: The Taurus series players can be easily bound to the cloud-based publishing system VNNOX and the cloud-based monitoring system NovaiCare.

2 Installation of ViPlex Express

Before You Begin

- Get the installation package of ViPlex Express.
  How to get: Visit www.novastar.tech.
- Install Framework 4.6.1 or a later version.

Operating Procedures

Step 1   Double click the installer "ViPlex Express V1.1.0 Setup.exe".

Step 2   Click **Next** in the setup wizard.

Step 3   Select installation path and click **Next**.

Step 4   Select start menu folder and click **Next**.

Step 5   Select additional tasks and click **Next**.

Step 6   Click **Install**.

Step 7   After the installation is done, select or deselect **Run ViPlex Express** and click **Finish**.

3 Login of Taurus

Required Information

Get the actual values of the information in Table 3-1.

Table 3-1 Required information

Item	Account Name	Default Password
Connect Taurus Wi-Fi AP	AP+*last 8 digits of the SN* For example: AP10000033	12345678
Log in Taurus	admin	123456

Operating Procedures

ViPlex Express can connect to multiple Taurus series products.

Step 1 Connect PC to the Taurus series products via one of the following methods.

- Wi-Fi AP of the Taurus
- External router
- Ethernet cable

Step 2 Start ViPlex Express.

Step 3 Click **Refresh**, and the screen list appears.

- : Denotes that the Taurus is online and you can log in it.
- : Denotes that the Taurus is offline and you cannot log in it.
- : Denotes that logging in the Taurus is successful.

After Taurus is found by ViPlex Express, ViPlex Express will attempt to log in the Taurus automatically with the default account or the account used for last login.

Step 4 Automatic Login is successful or not.

- Yes. is shown and the operation is finished.
- No. is shown. Then go to Step 5.

Step 5 Click **Connect** next to the screen information.

Step 6 Enter your user name and password, and then click **OK**.

Related Operations

Right click the screen information to see the related operations.

- Logout: Log out of the Taurus.

- Rename: Rename the Taurus.

- Password Modification: Modify the password used for the user "admin" to log in the Taurus.

- Forget password: Delete the user name and password used for last login.

If the user enter the password of the user "admin" to log in Taurus, ViPlex Express will automatically save the account information and the user can log in Taurus automatically in future. In case of selecting forget password, the user will need to enter the account information again while logging in Taurus in future.

4 Solution Management

ViPlex Express supports the media formats shown in Table 4-1.

Table 4-1 Media formats

Media Type	Format
Text	N/A
Image	JPEG, BMP, GIF, PNG, WEBP
Video	MPEG-1/2, MPEG-4, H.264/AVC, MVC, H.265/HEVC, Google VP8, H.263, VC-1, Motion JPEG
Animation	GIF

Creating Solutions

Get the screen size before creating solutions.

Step 1 Click **New**.

Step 2 Enter the solution name, screen width and height, and then click **OK**. The editing page of the solution appears, as shown in Figure 4-2. Each area of the page is explained in Table 4-2.

Figure 4-1 Editing page of a solution

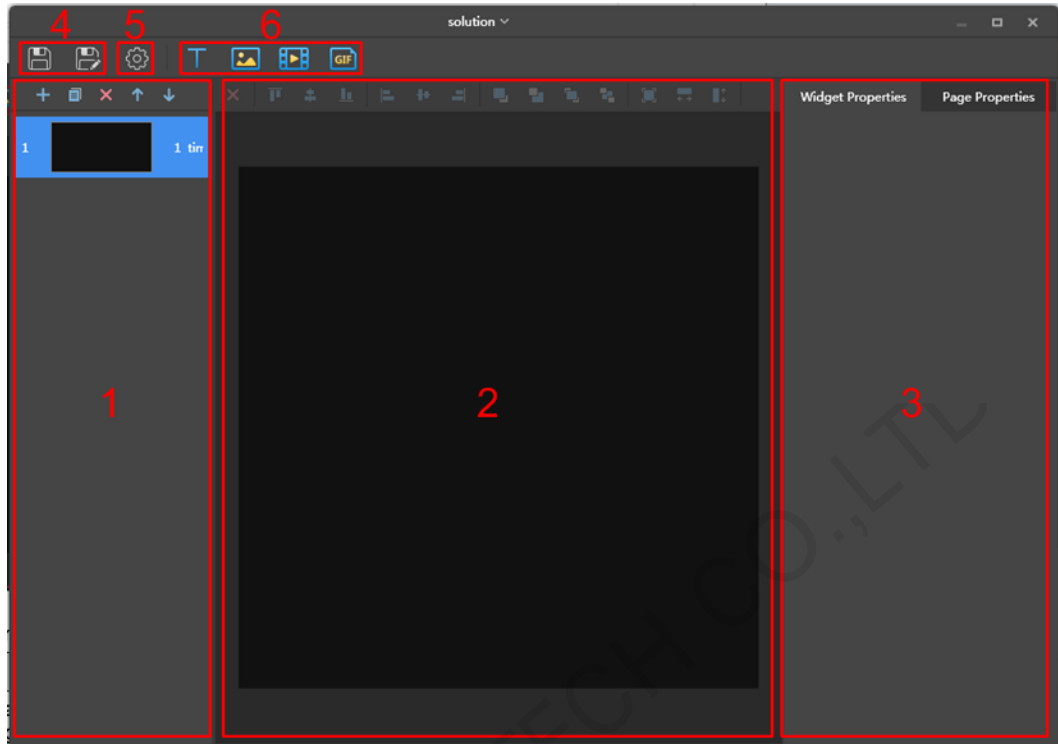Table 4-2 Description of the editing page of a solution

No.	Name	Description
1	Editing area of solution page	Create, copy and delete pages, and adjust the order of pages. Pages are played according to the order from the top to bottom.
2	Editing area of page media	Delete media and adjust media layout. Before operation, click to select the media.
3	Property editing area	Edit widget properties and page properties. Widgets are the media added in pages. Before editing the widget properties, click to select a widget.
4	Buttons for saving	Save a solution and save a solution as another solution.
5	Setting button	Set the default playing duration of a media.
6	Buttons for adding media	Add media to a solution page.

Step 3   After the solution is edited, click 🖫 to save.

Editing Solutions

In the solution list, select a solution and click **Edit** to enter the editing page.

Deleting Solutions

> In the solution list, select a solution and click **Delete**.

Importing Solutions

Step 1 Click **Import**.

Step 2 In the pop-up dialog box, click [···] to select the file path.

Step 3 Click **Next**.

Step 4 When **Progress** shows 100%, click **Done**.

Exporting Solutions

Step 1 In the solution list, perform any of the following operations.

- Exporting a single solution: Click [icon] corresponding to the target solution.
- Exporting solutions in batch: Select multiple solutions and click **Export**.

Step 2 In the pop-up dialog box, click [···] to select the file path.

Step 3 Click **Export**.

Step 4 When **Progress** shows 100%, click **Next**.

Step 5 Select the play mode and solution.

- **Plug and play**: As soon as the USB drive that stores the solution is inserted into the Taurus, the solution will be played. During playing, the USB drive cannot be removed.
- **Copy and play**: After the solution that is stored in the USB drive is copied to the Taurus, the solution will be played. During playing, the USB drive can be removed.

Step 6 Click **OK**.

Step 7 Enter the Taurus login password and click **OK**. If you click **Skip**, the Taurus will not identify the file.

> After the USB drive that stores the solution is inserted into the Taurus, the solution will be played only if the passwords match.

Publishing Solutions

- A solution can be published after media are added to the solution.
- Only one solution can be sent to terminals each time.
- One solution can be sent to multiple terminals simultaneously.

Step 1 Select a solution in the solution list and click **Publish**, or click [icon] next to the solution information.

Step 2 Click **Refresh** in the **Publish solution** dialog box to show the information of terminals which are logged in.

Step 3 Select one or more terminals and click **Publish**.

Step 4   When **Progress** shows 100%, click **Done**.

5   **Screen Control**

5.1 General Function

There is a **Read back** button in each of the functions of screen control to read back terminal inforamtion to ViPlex Express so that the latest date are shown in the software.

5.2 Play Management

Manage the play mode, volume and content of terminals.

Enabling Synchronous Playing

Enabling or disabling the synchronous playing function will restart the terminal.

Step 1   Select the target terminal in the terminal list.

Step 2   Select **Enable** next to **Synchronous Playing**.

Step 3   Click **Confirm** in the pop-up dialog box.

Adjusting Volume in Real Time

Drag the slider or enter a value to adjust volume. Volume can be adjusted only in asynchronous mode.

Managing Terminal Solutions

Playing a solution: Move the mouse to the thumbnail of the solution and click ▶.

Stoping a solution: Move the mouse to the thumbnail of the solution and click ◻.

Deleting a solution: Select a solution in the solution thumbnail list and click **Delete**.

5.3 Brightness Adjustment

Manually adjust the brightness or set rules of smart brightness adjustment.

Manual Adjustment

Step 1   Select the target terminal in the terminal list.

Step 2 Choose **Manual**, and drag the slider or enter a value to adjust screen brightness.

Smart Adjustment

- Timing brightness adjustment: During the time period that you set to enable smart adjustment, the screen brightness will be the fixed value that you manually set.
- Auto brightness adjustment: During the time period you set to enable smart adjustment, the screen brightness will be adjusted automatically according to the auto brightness adjustment table.

The auto brightness adjustment table divides the ambient brightness into several subsections and sets corresponding screen brightness to each subsection. The screen brightness will be automatically adjusted according to the ambient brightness subsection where the current ambient brightness belongs to.

Step 1 Choose **Smart** to enter the smart adjustment page.

Step 2 Perform the following operations based on actual needs.

- Creating a rule: Click ➕. In the pop-up dialog box, choose **Timing** or **Auto**, and then set the corresponding brightness adjustment rules. At last, click **Add**.

- Modifying a rule: Select a rule and click 🖉. Then, modify the rule and click **OK**.

- Deleting rules: Select one or more rules and click ✕. In the pop-up dialog box, click **Confirm**.

- Clearing rules: Click 🧹 and then click **Confirm** in the pop-up dialog box.

- Enabling a rule: In the rule list, turn on the **Enable** switch next to a rule.

- Viewing the current brightness: Click ↻.

Step 3 After configuration, click **Apply**.

5.4 Video Source

Control the video input mode, video source and output offset position.

Manual Mode

Immediately switch between the internal input source and HDMI input source.

Step 1 Select the target terminal in the terminal list.

Step 2 Choose **Manual** and configure parameters.

Step 3 Click **Apply**.

Timing Mode

Switch between the internal input source and HDMI input source at regular time.

Step 1 Select the target terminal in the terminal list.

Step 2 Choose **Timing** and configure rules. Perform the following operations based on actual needs.

- Creating a rule: Click ![+]. In the pop-up dialog box, choose **Internal** or **HDMI**, and then set the time and cycle to use the video source. At last, click **Add**.

- Modifying a rule: Select a rule and click ![edit]. Then, modify the time and cycle to use the video source. At last, click **OK**.

- Deleting rules: Select one or more rules and click ![x]. In the pop-up dialog box, click **Confirm**.

- Clearing rules: Click ![clear] and then click **Confirm** in the pop-up dialog box.

- Enabling a rule: In the rule list, turn on the **Sure to enable** switch next to a rule.

- HDMI parameter configuration: Choose to enable the full screen zoom function or not, and set the position of the playing window.

Step 3 After configuration, click **Apply**.

HDMI Preferred Mode

The HDMI port is preferred for playing the video in the synchronous mode.

Step 1 Select the target terminal in the terminal list.

Step 2 Choose **HDMI preferred** and configure parameters.

Step 3 After configuration, click **Apply**.

5.5 Screen Status Control

Set the current playing status of the screen.

Manual Control

Step 1 Select the target terminal in the terminal list.

Step 2 Choose **Manual** to enter the manual settings page. Then, click **Blackout** or **Normal**.

Timing Control

Step 1 Select the target terminal in the terminal list.

Step 2 Choose **Timing** to enter the timing settings page. Then, perform the following operations based on actual needs.

- Creating a rule: Click ![+]. In the pop-up dialog box, choose **Blackout** or **Normal**, and then set the playing time and cycle of the screen. At last, click **Add**.

- Modifying a rule: Select a rule and click ![edit]. Then, modify the playing time and cycle of the screen. At last, click **OK**.

- Deleting rules: Select one or more rules and click ![x]. In the pop-up dialog box, click **Confirm**.

- Clearing rules: Click ![clear] and then click **Confirm** in the pop-up dialog box.

- Enabling a rule: In the rule list, turn on the **Enable** switch next to a rule.

Step 3 After setting, click **Apply**.

5.6 Time Synchronization Management

Set time synchronization rules of the Taurus.

Step 1   Customize a server. For details, see 6.2 Custom Server.

Step 2   Select the target terminal in the terminal list.

Step 3   Select a time synchronization mode.

- **Manual**: Select a time zone from the **Time zone** drop-down list and the Taurus will synchronize the time according to the time in the selected time zone.
- **NTP**: Choose the custom server from the **Server** drop-down list, and the Taurus will synchronize the time according to the NTP server time.
- **RF**: After you install a time synchronization device, set the following information for time synchronization.
    - **Group ID**: Enter the same group ID for the Taurus units that need time synchronization. That means you put those Taurus units in the same group.
    - Reference device of time synchronization: Other Taurus units in the same group will synchronize the time according to the time of the reference device.
    - Time source of reference device: The reference device can synchronize the time according to the NTP server time.

Step 4   After setting, click **Apply**.

5.7 Restart Configuration

Restart terminals immediately and configure restart rules.

Restarting Taurus

Step 1   Select the target terminal in the terminal list.

Step 2   Click **Restart promptly**.

Step 3   Click **Confirm** in the pop-up dialog box to restart the terminal immediately.

Configuring Restart Rules

Step 1   Perform the following operations based on actual needs.

- Creating a rule: Click ⊞. Set the time and cycle to restart a terminal in the pop-up dialog box and then click **Ad**d.
- Modifying a rule: Select a rule and click 🖉 to modify the time and cycle to restart a terminal and then click **OK**.
- Deleting rules: Select one or more rules and click ✕. Then click **Confirm** in the pop-up dialog box.
- Clearing rules: Click 🧹 and then click **Confirm** in the pop-up dialog box.
- Enabling a rule: In the rule list, turn on the **Sure to enable** switch next to a rule.

Step 2   After setting, click **Apply**.

5.8 Color Temperature

Set the screen display's color temperature, including neutral white, standard white and cool white.

Step 1   Select the target terminal in the terminal list.

Step 2   Select a color temperature type.

5.9 Monitor

Step 1   Select the target terminal in the terminal list.

Step 2   View terminal hardware information and solution play screenshot. Hardware information includes disk size, memory availability, CPU usage and environment brightness.

Clicking **Clear up now** under the disk size will delete all media and solutions, and the screen will be blacked out.

5.10 Play Log

View and export play logs.

Viewing Play Logs

Step 1   Select the target terminal in the terminal list.

Step 2   Choose the time range of the play log that you want to view and then click **Query**.

Step 3   In the paly log list, click a play log name to view the log details.

Exporting Play Logs

Step 1   Select the target terminal in the terminal list.

Step 2   In the paly log list, select the target play log.

Step 3   Click **Export**.

Step 4   In the pop-up dialog box, choose the export path and format.

Step 5   Click **OK**.

5.11 Font Management

Manage the fonts used by the Taurus.

Adding Font Names

Step 1   On the top of the **Font management** page, choose **Font name**.

Step 2   Select the target terminal in the terminal list.

Step 3   Click ⊞ next to **Name** to acquire local fonts on the PC.

Step 4   Select the target font in the pop-up dialog box.

Step 5   Click **OK**.

Step 6   Click **Update**. The update progress will be shown in the **Update result** column.

Adding Font Files

Step 1   On the top of the **Font management** page, choose **Font file**.

Step 2   Select the target terminal in the terminal list.

Step 3   Click ⋯ next to **Name**.

Step 4   Select the path of the font file in the pop-up dialog box.

Step 5   Click **Open**.

Step 6   Click **Update**. The update progress will be shown in the **Update result** column.

Deleting Fonts

Step 1   Select the target terminal in the terminal list.

Step 2   Click **Read back** at the bottom right to read back the fonts on the terminal.

Step 3   Click the link in the **Font** column of the target terminal. The **Font list in terminal** page is displayed.

Step 4   Select target fonts.

Step 5   Click **Delete**.

5.12 Network Configuration

Configure current network, including wired network, Wi-Fi AP, Wi-Fi Sta and mobile network.

Configuring Wired Network

It is required to set static IP address for Taurus while connecting Taurus via Ethernet cable. Set IP address based on actual needs while connecting Taurus to the Internet via Ethernet cable.

Step 1   Select the target terminal in the terminal list.

Step 2   In the **Wired network configuration** area, perform the following operations based on actual needs.

● Select **Enable** next to **Dynamic DHCP** to get IP address automatically.

● Deselect **Enable** next to **Dynamic DHCP** and configure static IP address.

Step 3   Click **Apply**.

Configuring Wi-Fi AP

The default SSID of terminal Wi-Fi AP is "**AP +** *the last 8 digits of the SN*" and the default password is "**12345678**".

Step 1   Enter the SSID and password of terminal Wi-Fi AP.

Step 2   Click **Apply**.

Configuring Wi-Fi Sta

If the external router is connected to the Internet, terminals can access Internet via the external router after Wi-Fi Sta is configured.

Step 1   Turn on **Wi-Fi** in the **Wi-Fi configuration** area.

Step 2   Double click the Wi-Fi information of the external router, enter password and then click **OK**.

Configuring Mobile Network

Terminals with 4G module can access Internet via the mobile network.

Step 1   Insert 4G card into the slot.

Step 2   Turn on **Mobile network**.

5.13 Server Configuration

Bind VNNOX Player and NovaiCare.

Binding VNNOX Player

Step 1   View player authentication information.

1.   Visit http://www.vnnox.com and click **Login** at the top right of the page.
2.   Select a server node and click **Ok**.
3.   Enter your account name and password, and then click **Login**.
4.   Choose **Organization Management** > **System Management** in the ▦ pop-up menu at the top right of the page.
5.   Select the **Player Authentication** tab and view server address, certified user name and password.

Step 2   Customize a server. For details, see 6.2 Custom Server.

Step 3   Select the target terminal in the terminal list.

Step 4   In the **Configure parameters for connecting screens to VNNOX** area, select the custom server address and configure player authentication information. The authentication information must be the same as the information that you viewed on VNNOX.

Step 5   Click 🔄 next to **Player** and select a player.

Step 6   Click **Bind**.

Binding NovaiCare

Step 1 In the **Configure parameters for connecting screens to NovaiCare** area, select **Enable** next to **NovaiCare configuration**.

Step 2 Select the custom server address and configure the login user name of the NovaiCare server.

Step 3 Click **Send**.

5.14 Screen Upgrade

Upgrade the application software and system software of terminals.

Note: Keep the power on during upgrade.

Upgrading Application Software

Step 1 Select **Screen software**.

Step 2 Select upgrade package path.

Step 3 Select one or more terminals in terminal information list and click **Upgrade**.

Upgrading System Software

Step 1 Select **Screen system**.

Step 2 Select upgrade package path.

Step 3 Select one or more terminals in terminal information list and then click **Upgrade**.

5.15 Screen Information

Show terminal IP address, system software version, application software version, etc.

6 System Settings

At the top right of the software user interface, click ![down arrow icon] to show the system menu and choose to edit a menu item.

6.1 Menu Introduction

Menu	Description
Language	Set system language, including Chinese, English and Japanese.
Setting	Set the storage path of ViPlex Express files, including the configuration files, data, temporary files, etc.
RF management	Manage the playback of all Taurus units except the reference device when the RF time synchronization mode is enabled. Before operation, enter the password "**admin**".
Custom server	Add, modify or delete custom servers.
Help	View *ViPlex Express User Guide*.
About	Show the version of ViPlex Express and the official website of NovaStar.

6.2 Custom Server

On the function pages of binding VNNOX, binding NovaiCare and setting NTP time synchronization, users can select a custom server.

Procedures of customizing a server:

Step 1 On the **Custom server** page, click ![plus icon] to enter the **New** page.

Step 2 Enter the server name and address, and choose the server type. Then, click **Add**.