BLACK BOX®

Coalesce™

Release Notes: For Coalesce Current and Previous Versions

Coalesce - Release Notes - Version 1.3.1 - Released - 11/30/2016

Fixes and Enhancements

- Resolved issue where RSS reader would fail to handle high bit depth png images.
- Enhanced RSS reader to load feeds more quickly.
- Fixed issue where very long text in an RSS item could create layout/visual artifacts.
- Fixed issue in the Emergency Message feature that was not handling certain formatting characters properly.

New Features

- Streaming Optimization for Adverse Network Conditions. Coalesce will monitor and detect variations in network performance and dynamically optimize video/audio streaming to accommodate a broader range of network c onditions. Jitter/choppiness is significantly reduced and audio video synchronization is significantly improved.
- Support for Browser LookIn Screen Key Authentication. When the Browser LookIn feature is enabled for Coalesce and the user authentication mode set to Screen Key, users will be required to enter Coalesce's Screen Key in order to view Coalesce in their device browser.
- Option to Run Coalesce at Startup for Windows and Mac Clients. For Windows and Mac users that download or update to the 1.3 Coalesce client app, the app will automatically launch at startup of the client device. The default launch at startup option can easily be disabled in the client settings menu.
- Streaming Performance Improvements for High Resolution Devices. When sharing desktop/screen to Coalesce from a high resolution device, throughput (fps) is significantly improved and less network bandwidth is used.
- Support for 24 Hour Time Format. The clock in the lower right corner of Coalesce can now be set to 24 hour time formatting via the Coalesce Configuration Panel or Coalesce Central.

New Enterprise Edition Features

- RSS Feeds Added to the Coalesce Central Message Center. Coalesce Central's Message Center can now accept RSS feeds as content for the bulletin message ticker posted to Coalesce. Bulletin messages can now show multimedia content from RSS feeds and animate between sources. An unlimited number of RSS feeds can be curated with existing messaging features. Enterprise Edition Coalesce will ship with a default RSS feed enabled that provides helpful information to get started with Coalesce.
- Support for Coalesce Software Updates Behind the Firewall via Coalesce Central. The 1.3 version of Coalesce Central can deploy software updates to managed Coalesce behind a network firewall. This greatly improves the ease of updating Coalesce that do not directly have internet access due to network firewalls.
- InProduct Software Update Path for Coalesce Central. Coalesce Central now provides direct links to new versions when available.
- More Configuration Options for Quick Connect. In Coalesce Central, a new option exists to disable automatic connection to Coalesce when Coalesce client apps are downloaded directly from Coalesce.

Fixes and Enhancements

- Coalesce Central efficiency enhanced to reduce CPU usage.
- Coalesce Android app has improved user experience for keyboard input.
- Resolved issue where shared desktops periodically appear as blank posts on Coalesce.
- Resolved issue where certain configuration options were not being saved properly.
- Resolved issue where participants could be disconnected after an iOS device is mirrored.
- Improved stability of AirPlay mirroring from Mac OSX desktops.
- Resolved issue where certain video files would not share from Android devices.
- Resolved issue that can cause Coalesce to become unreachable on some networks based on certain DHCP configurations.
- Resolved issue where Coalesce's display output could get in a frozen state.
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Coalesce App Fixes

- Fixed problem on Coalesce Mac app that could result in unreadable text in certain parts of the UI.

Coalesce - Release Notes - Version 1.2.2 - Released 10/06/2016

- Stability and bug fixes:

- Resolved issue that would occasionally cause Coalesce to freeze and become unusable after a certain period of time.

- Resolved issue that would unexpectedly disconnect users attached to Coalesce's wireless access point.

- Resolved issue where Coalesce would go offline after losing signal from a display or long periods of inactivity.

Coalesce - Release Notes - Version 1.2.0 - Released 9/06/2016

New Features

- Client Discovery List Search. Coalesce users now have the option to search for a display for connection by name in their Coalesce client discovery list. Users simply enter text into a search field, allowing them to dynamically search for a specific Coalesce display by name.
- Broader Support for Client Video File Sharing on Coalesce. Client video file sharing to the Coalesce display has been expanded to support additional video file formats. Supported video codecs are: H.263, H.264, H.265/HEVC and supported file formats are: .mp4, .mov, .3gp. The number of simultaneous video files that can be shared to Coalesce has increased from 1 to 4.
- Support for Simultaneous iOS Mirroring Posts. Coalesce will now support up to four simultaneous iOS mirroring posts via AirPlay. Users attempting to mirror additional iOS devices (beyond four) will be asked to wait until at least one iOS mirroring post is removed from the screen.
- Robust Restart Management Services. Coalesce has been equipped with a self-monitoring capability that, in the event of a system failure, will attempt to restart Coalesce automatically. This can be useful if Coalesce experiences an unforeseen network event that causes the Coalesce service to fail.
- Optional Software Update for Connected Clients. Coalesce users may now opt to be notified when a software update is detected for their Coalesce client app. When users enable the new client update notification option in the Coalesce client settings menu, they will be prompted to update their client software when they connect to a Coalesce display that has a more recent software version number than their Coalesce client app. Windows and Mac client updates will be downloaded from the Coalesce display host, and the client app will restart and reconnect to the Coalesce display. In the case of mobile clients, users will be redirected to the app store 'install' page for the most recent version.
- Remove Media when PC is Locked/Sleeps. When a PC is explicitly locked (via ALT-CTRL-DEL for example) while still connected to Coalesce, any posts from that user will be removed from the display.
- Display “No Network” in Presence Bar on Network Loss. The words 'No Network' will appear in the presence bar of the Coalesce display interface when Coalesce loses network connectivity, even when the IP address is disabled for viewing on the welcome screen.

New Features

- Discovery Tags - Dynamic Discovery Filtering. Discovery tags allow Coalesce users to filter a list of available displays for connection in their client devices by selecting one/multiple display group 'tag(s)' to filter by. A discovery tag denotes a logical group for a set of displays - such as location, department, etc. - and are created and applied to Coalesce displays via Coalesce Central. Multiple tags can be applied to Coalesce displays.
- Full Welcome Screen Customization and Branding. Coalesce Central now presents a larger set of customization options for the Coalesce welcome screen design. In addition to modifying the background image for the welcome screen, all other welcome screen elements can now also be modified. Each element can be shown/hidden and aligned left, right, or center. Color values can also be assigned to text and other elements to better match organizational branding.
- Quality of Service - Differentiated Network Traffic Support. Coalesce network traffic will now be augmented to utilize the IETF defined quality of service (QoS) header information. By configuring a 6-digit QoS bit string in Coalesce Central, the Coalesce deployment can implement the TCP/IP QoS headers that are utilized by the enterprise network to differentiate and prioritize network traffic.
- Coalesce Central Update Notification and Warnings. Coalesce Central admins will now be warned when they attempt to update Coalesce to a software version that will make Coalesce unsupported/unmanageable via their current Coalesce Central version. When this occurs, Coalesce Central admins will be prompted to update their Coalesce Central software first, and a download link for the newest Coalesce Central update will be provided. This warning dialog will appear before the Coalesce update is applied.

Fixes and Updates

- Desktop and app window posts from Microsoft Surface Pro client devices will now maintain correct orientation on Coalesce when the client device is rotated between landscape and portrait orientations.

Coalesce - Release Notes - Version 1.2.0 - Released 9/06/2016 (continued)

- On Microsoft Surface Pro and Windows 10 high-resolution clients, the UI and text sizes have been adjusted and scroll bars have been added so that all of the options are readable and visible in the client UI window.
- A "cancel" option has been added to the Coalesce Central admin password dialog to allow the user to return to operation of the Coalesce Central if the admin password is not known.
- Android and iOS users that have already installed the Coalesce client app on their devices are no longer redirected to the app stores when they connect to Coalesce via Quickconnect from a web browser. Instead, the installed client app is detected and launched.
- A proxy test error has been resolved. The proxy test no longer passes when invalid authorization credentials are provided. Now the test fails in these cases.
- Coalesce users with Galaxy S6 client devices can now share photos correctly via the share media option.
- Support for sharing Microsoft Office applications to Coalesce from Mac clients has been improved. The applications update correctly on Coalesce when the Office application is advanced to subsequent pages/slides on the client device.
- Windows 10 client screens with lower resolutions than Coalesce now appear correctly when shared to Coalesce.
- A blinking graphics artifact no longer appears on Coalesce when the access control setting is changed from moderated to open mode during a Coalesce session.
- AirPlay connections from Mac OS X clients to Coalesce no longer freeze.
- The performance of status checks of Coalesce from Coalesce Central has been improved.
- Users can now share Internet Explorer 11 app windows from Windows 8 clients to Coalesce.
- Mac OS X clients no longer show corrupted text in the discovery panel.
- File selection for media files has been updated to allow file names with "diacritical marks" such as accents, umlauts, cedillas and tildes. Examples would be é, ã, ä.

Coalesce - Release Notes - Version 1.1.2 - Released 6-26-16

Fixes and Updates for Version 1.1.2

- Video File Playback with high bit rate videos is improved. Sharing video files larger than 200 MB that are encoded at high bit rates is now possible. These videos will periodically buffer but still continue to play properly through the "Media Share" option.
- Video file frame rate is improved when looping video. When looping a video, a frame rate drop was possible previously. The frame rate is now consistent when looping a video file multiple times.
- Text and high-resolution image quality is greatly improved. When sharing desktops from PC-based clients (OS X® and Windows®), image quality should be noticeably improved from previous versions.
- Keynote App Window sharing now works properly in full-screen and presentation modes. Presentations are now displayed correctly when a user switches to full-screen or presentation mode.
- Periodic audio drops on networks with variable quality have been fixed. Audio streaming has been improved when the "Desktop Audio" toggle is used. Previously, periodic drops of audio occurred when network jitter was significant. This has been addressed.
- Coalesce™ units can now be configured to SSID networks as a wireless client.

Coalesce - Release Notes - Version 1.1.2 - Released 6-26-16 continued)

- Client software connectivity is more resilient to network variability. If poor or variable network connectivity is experienced between the client and Coalesce, clients could easily lose connectivity. Clients will now attempt to reconnect automatically if network conditions improve.
- Coalesce connectivity is more resilient to network variability. Coalesce units are now more resilient to situational network variability in certain network circumstances where they would have previously lost network connectivity.
- Long-term connection stability on both OS X and Windows clients has been improved.
- PC client software no longer crashes when the client PC goes into sleep mode. In certain OS configurations, if a client PC went to sleep while the Coalesce client was active, the Coalesce client could crash. The user is now disconnected and the client software remains running.
- Improved support for application window sharing on OS X when those applications are in full-screen mode including, Keynote, Safari®, and PowerPoint®.
- OS X® client no longer crashes when disconnecting from AirPlay® while sharing a desktop.
- Display now returns to "Align to Grid" mode after the last user disconnects. If "Align to Grid" was turned off during a session, "Align to Grid" will now automatically turn back on after the last user disconnects from the Coalesce.
- Moderator mode client items are now removed after a client disconnects. Previously, when non-moderator users disconnected while in Moderator Mode, their items would remain on the display. Items are now removed when the client disconnects.
- Moderator control over video playback. Moderators can successfully operate video playback controls of guest video items once they have been accepted from the moderator queue.
- Desktop audio will wait for moderator acceptance. Audio will not play from guests who share desktops with audio until the moderator accepts the item.
- Chrome® version 50 and above now displays properly when using App Window sharing in Windows 10. Windows 10 clients attempting to use App Window sharing in Windows 10 would display a black share window on the display. Chrome is now properly displayed.
- PC clients can continue to use the Coalesce client after changing the primary display in system settings.
- User is now warned if changing OS X audio device while sharing audio. Previously, if a user changed audio devices (i.e. plugging or unplugging headphones) while the Coalesce client was running, audio sharing would not work properly. Users are now warned if this occurs.
- Coalesce units are now compatible with a wider range of CEC-enabled displays. Previously some CEC implementations would cause the Coalesce to not come back up after the display was turned off. The Coalesce is now more resilient to variable CEC implantations.
- Splash screen IP address changes to "No Network" accurately. The IP address on the Splash Screen is automatically refreshed to read "No Network" when Coalesce is not attached to a valid network.

Coalesce - Release Notes - Version 1.1.0 - Released 4/19/2016

New Features

- Low-latency audio/video streaming for desktop and app window sharing. The latency between the user's device and Coalesce has been reduced by 75%.
- Increased video frame-rates for multiple, simultaneous desktop shares. Frame-rates for multiple posts on the display at the same time have increased. For example, frame-rate has improved by 50% for four desktops at 1080p over the previous version.
- 802.1X Enterprise Wireless Support. Coalesce now supports 802.1X EAP protocol when connecting to wireless networks. This option allows the use of a username/password credentials for connecting to an authentication server at deployment time.
- Web Proxy support for Coalesce over-the-air software updates. Coalesce can now be configured with a Proxy server IP Address for internet traffic access. This allows customers who have deployed behind a secure Web Proxy to still reach the over-the-air update server. Options include Username/password credentials for secure access and port 80/443 traffic can be routed to different Proxy server locations on the network.
- Updated user-interface workflow for iOS Mirroring. Users tapping the 'Mirror my Device' button on the iOS device will now see an instructional animation that shows how to select and mirror to Coalesce from the AirPlay menu.
- Coalesce Central control over splash screen elements. Coalesce Central allows administrators to control which on-screen instructional elements are visible. In order to fine tune a custom splash screen, users can independently control the appearance of Display Name, Host IP Address, and Screen Key for both the main splash screen as well as the presence bar.

Fixes

- Improved Audio Synchronization from Mac OSX devices. Synchronization accuracy is now on par with performance levels from a windows-based device.
- QuickConnect with Dual-network works on both interfaces. Users connecting to the "second" network in dual-network mode, no longer have to re-type an IPAddress to get the client to connect. QuickConnect will automatically connect users from either network and populate their most-recently-used list correctly.
- Sharing Office Suite Applications from Surface Pro devices corrected. Office suite applications will correctly share to the display. Users no longer need to answer a dialog box asking "Did your application share correctly?"
- Coalesce Goes to Sleep when connected to a Display that is Powered Off. Consumer Electronic Control (CEC) commands no longer send Coalesce to a sleep state when the display is powered down. Coalesce can remain active and manageable when displays are powered on and off.
- iOS Mirroring Proxy Settings. Rebooting a windows host that has iOS mirroring proxy enabled will no longer cause the proxy setting to be lost. Users will be able to continue to connect and mirror to Coalesce through reboots under these conditions.
- Stability of iOS Mirroring with Dual-Network Modes. Enabling the iOS Mirroring proxy feature will no longer require a Coalesce restart.
- Coalesce loss of wireless settings. Intermittent loss of wireless settings when powering down Coalesce has been fixed.
- Ethernet IPAddress/Screen Key visibility. The Screen Key and IP Address will both continues to be displayed on screen correctly when selecting customization options in Coalesce Central.
- Sharing multiple application windows/desktop from Surface Pro. Sharing more than one desktop application window will no longer cause the second application window to appear as a white screen on the shared display.
- Audio streaming quality while sharing videos from the Safari browser. Noisy, choppy audio due to resource contention while playing YouTube videos in the Safari have been fixed.
- Audio repeating on OSX Desktop Shares. Repeated audio looping when sharing desktop audio from an OSX device no longer occurs.

Coalesce - Release Notes - Version 1.1.0 - Released 4/19/2016

- iOS Mirroring Service Stability. A stability issue that could cause the iOS mirroring service to stop on Coalesce has been resolved.
- Touch sensitivity and selection of media playback elements. Controls related to video file playback (seek/pause/mute) are easier to select when using a touch screen.
- Unselecting a Display in the AirPlay menu no longer prompts for a Password. When the screen key is enabled and a user stops mirroring an iOS device to the display by unselecting it, the screen key password dialog no longer appears.
- Clicking Meeples using Touch or Mouse on Display. Issues that made it difficult to correctly click a meeple to open its menu on the display have been resolved.
- Play/Pause Synchronization. The icon that depicts video play/pause when sharing a video file remains in the correct state even when looping a video multiple times.
- Long-term use of both network interfaces on Coalesce. Potential issues where Coalesce could become unresponsive over long periods of time when both network interfaces were being used have been fixed.

Coalesce - Release Notes - Version 1.0.7 - Released 3/23/2016

Improvements

- Coalesce will now automatically avoid over-use of client device CPUs. This will improve performance on lower-end devices and extend battery life on all clients.

Fixes

- Intermittent lockups and long delays on the display related to dropped video packets under variable network conditions have been fixed. Users should no longer see their shared content lock-up intermittently.

Coalesce - Release Notes - Version 1.0.5 - Released 02/24/2016

- Initial release of Coalesce

Coalesce Release Notes

About Black Box

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