

Polycom® VSX™ Release 8.0

Frequently Asked Questions

What features are new in VSX Release 8.0?

	V500	VSX 3000	VSX 5000	VSX 7000s	VSX 7000e	VSX 8000
H.264 up to 768Kbps	■	■	■	■	■	■
Baseline mode configuration	■	■	■	■	■	■
Adjustable bandwidth for content	■	■	■	■	■	■
Document camera and VCR/DVD as content source		■	■	■	■	■
Transparent RS-232 port now over H.323			■	■	■	■
Single monitor XGA support			■	■	■	■
Pro-Motion™ H.264						■
6-site multipoint						■
H.264 in internal multipoint calls						■

Here is a brief description of each function:

H.264 up to 768Kbps – All VSX products currently support the H.264 algorithm up to 512Kbps. With version 8.0, H.264 is supported at data rates up to 768Kbps. This gives the user better video resolution and clarity at any given data rate. VSX systems will automatically negotiate to the best possible data rate for each call, so users can be assured of consistently high quality video.

Baseline Mode – Now it is easier than ever to communicate with legacy systems or systems from other vendors that do not employ the latest video and audio standards. In the web user interface, any VSX system can be set to "baseline mode" which uses basic communication standards, H.261 for video and G.711 for audio. This setting can be turned on and off as needed.

Adjustable Bandwidth for Content – Now you can choose how much bandwidth to dedicate for your data versus the people talking. Settings include 90% for Content and 10% for People; 10% for Content and 90% for People; or leave it with factory settings installed, which are 50/50%. Additionally for the VSX 7000e and VSX 8000 series, you can now view Content statistics which will show you the bandwidth used by content, any packet loss, etc.

Document Camera and VCR/DVD as Content Source – Now you can view images from document cameras and VCR/DVDs as Content. This means that in a dual monitor configuration, the speaker will be on one monitor and the document camera or VCR/DVD images will show up on the second monitor. At no time will the data or Content being shown replace the person(s) speaking.

Transparent RS-232 port for H.323 – the RS-232 ports on VSX systems have traditionally had transparent by-pass support for H.320. This release adds support for H.323. The most common application for this feature is telemedicine, where medical peripherals such as stethoscopes can be attached to the VSX system and the image can be shared with the remote site(s). This will also be used to offer additional solutions from Polycom Custom products like instruction student response system, annotation tools and white board integration.

Single Monitor XGA Support – On the VSX 5000, VSX 7000s, VSX 7000e and VSX 8000, users can opt to connect either an XGA display or a TV display in single monitor mode. In dual monitor mode (supported on all VSX products), the first display must be a TV, and the second display can be either an XGA or a TV display.

Pro-Motion™ H.264 – Now, in the VSX 8000 series, Polycom brings enhanced Pro-Motion support, providing the highest quality video available at data rates from 384Kbps to 2Mbps, whether the H.264 or H.263 algorithm is used. The system will choose the most appropriate standard for the data rate selected to provide optimal video clarity and resolution.

Enhanced Multipoint Capabilities – Now in the VSX 8000 series, the MCU option includes support for up to 6 sites, plus 1 audio add-in. Participants can dial in over ISDN, IP, SIP or V.35. This internal MCU now supports H.264 as well as audio transcoding and cascading.

Which products will benefit from this software release?

VSX Release 8.0 is applicable for the V500™, VSX 3000, VSX 5000, VSX 7000s, VSX 7000e, VSX 8000 series.

Are all of the features available on every product?

No. Feature enhancements to the products vary slightly. Consult the chart listed above for specific system support



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Is there a charge for VSX Release 8.0?

Yes. The VSX Release 8.0 is chargeable for customers who are outside of their first year of service or whose service agreement has expired. Customers that purchased upgrade services are entitled to this release and customers who are still within their one year warranty are entitled to this release.

Note: Please refer to the Product Bulletin "Polycom Announces VSX Video Software Upgrade Pricing Policy" for upgrade entitlement.

How do customers receive this upgrade?

Customers who have registered their systems on the Polycom website will receive an e-mail notification on the download process. This e-mail will include thorough instructions on how to download and install the new software.

Note: Please refer to the Product Bulletin "Polycom Announces VSX Video Software Upgrade Pricing Policy" for upgrade entitlement.

When will the VSX 8.0 software release be available?

VSX Release 8.0 software release will be available early Q3/2005.

Are any hardware upgrades required to run the software?

No. All shipping systems are well equipped to take advantage of the new, feature set.

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