

Opening ASIO/Coreaudio/Mac AV Songs on a DAE/DTDM System

by Nikolaus Sieveking

So you are nearly finished with your latest project, already have the songs in a „finishing-touches“ state with automation, important effects and overall balances and you are about to go to mix it on a ProTools system ... problem is:

You will not be able to just take your harddisk, plug it in, open the song and press play...

ProTools hardware runs via the DAE, a proprietary audio-driver that uses the DSP on the PCI-cards for processing.

Problems you will encounter are:

VST-plugins and instruments are not supported.

EXS instruments are missing.

Only 16bit OR 24bit audiofiles are supported.

Interleaved stereofiles are not supported.

Logic will not convert your songfile to DAE without compromising to lose plugins and settings, routing and software-instruments.

The one option you have is to bounce all tracks and effects seperately and build a new song with these bounces. You will have to commit FX-settings and programmings.

This option is the preferable one, especially if someone else is going to mix the song, or the song will be mixed on another software platform like ProTools or Nuendo.

Second option is to transfer a song with EXS and software instruments, interleaved stereo-files, mixed bit-depths, inserts on busses and loads of VST-plugins from your basement studio to a „professional“ studio running Logic on ProTools hardware.

...and still being able to change FX, MIDI-programming and sounds „in the mix“

- if this were a good thing is a different question...

To run native processing on a DAE-system DTDM is needed, so the idea is to transfer the song to DTDM first. DTDM is a native audio-driver in Logic that can feed 8 tracks to the DAE via the DirectConnect plugin – the bridge between native processing and DAE.

This is not an easy task, but a manageable one.

This is based on experience by switching from ASIO to DAE/DTDM on Logic 6.43 under OS 9.2!

Logic 7 has a new routine for converting Songs with different Audio-drivers, so some steps might become obsolete or slightly different. The basic settings and procedures remain the same:

These settings need to be set correctly **before** starting the procedure:

- DAE and DTDM need to be enabled in the Audio-Hardware and Drivers page.
- ESB and Direct-Connect need to be installed.
- Used VST/AU-Plugins need to be present and correctly installed on the Target-system.
- Used EXS instruments and corresponding samples need to be in the Sampler-Instruments folder of the song or the system.
- Has the Song been saved in **Universal Trackmode**? - DTDM needs to be in the **same setting** as on the Source-system!
- DTDM needs to have as many maximum Tracks enabled as on the source system.
- The Source-song **must not** contain Audio-objects with multiple different Audio-drivers (only one kind allowed)

Ready?

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Here we go:

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1. Quit Logic.
2. Open the Song with double-click and keep control pressed until you get to a dialog-box asking for Audio-drivers.
3. **Do not** start DAE, start DTDM only.
4. You want to let logic **convert all Audio-objects to DTDM!**
5. Save the song under a new name.

Repeat these steps for all Songs you want to convert before continueing

6. Now **activate DAE** in the Audio-Hardware and Drivers page.
7. Go to the Environment and copy any 4 Audio-objects (Alt - Drag) and set the copies driver to DAE in the Parameter-box and make them Aux1-2 through Aux7-8. (Aux Stereo)
8. Set up ESB in those Objects and assign them to DTDM-Outputs 1-8
9. You might have to change several Bus/Track/Instrument Output-assignments to 1-8, but the song will now play through ESB on the respective DAE Aux-tracks on a maximum of 8 physical Outputs.
10. To switch tracks to DAE for additional outputs you just have to change the Audio-driver from DTDM to DAE in the Parameter-box. - This works for mono-tracks only, since DAE does not support Interleaved Stereo-files. Plugins will not be converted for DAE.

That's about it...

One more tip:

Create DAE output-objects in the environment to be able to bounce DTDM tracks for use on DAE tracks.

Questions and comments are welcome: niko@loktownstudio.de