

Analog Video Capture from Multiple STB's with Firewire Channel Changing via the ExeMultiTuner Plugin

These instructions are intended to assist you in the configuration multiple STB's for recording through analog tuner cards in SageTV using a firewire connection for changing channels. The ExeMultiTuner Plugin is used for changing channels within SageTV.

This document assumes that you have already installed the firewire drivers for all applicable STB's and have installed the necessary analog capture/tuner cards and appropriate drivers.

The ExeMultiTuner plugin can be located at this [link](#).

Read the following instructions completely before beginning installation.

1. Exit SageTV (and shut down service if running)
2. Install the firewire drivers for your STB. I will assume that Bohica's instructions (available [here](#)) were used.
3. Verify that you can change channels. From Bohica's instructions:

"Open a command prompt and change to the directory where you installed the support for your set top box. Mine is [c:\GetHD](#). In there you will find two programs – channel.exe and channelw.exe. Execute the following:

Channel /v

Your output will show you the tuners and the panels you have installed in the system, and tell you the control numbers for them. For most, it will tell you that the tuner is device 1, and the panel is device 2. You change the channel through the panel device. To test – execute channel /v 2 704. I use 704 as an example for channel 704. Substitute as you need for the panel number and the channel. You should be changing the channel on your set top box."

4. Write down the control numbers for the panels. Change the channels on all STB's you have connected and note which panel control number is associated with each physical box.
5. Connect the STB's to your analog tuner cards (preferably via s-video) and turn off all of the STB's.
6. Extract ExeMultiTunerPlugin.dll into ...\\Program files\\SageTV\\Common\\
7. Make a backup copy of ...\\Program files\\SageTV\\SageTV\\sage.properties before proceeding.
8. (Note: This step is optional, but will simplify setup later) Open Sage.properties and locate the lines beginning with mmc/encoders/... Delete all of the listed encoders. Save and exit Sage.properties.
9. Start SageTV. You should be taken directly to the encoder configuration wizard. If not go to 'Setup Video Sources' under the Setup menu. (Note: It is important to set up each STB/tuner completely following the steps below before configuring the next one.)

10. Select the first analog tuner that you wish to use with an STB. Configure the digital cable lineup and select s-video as the desired input.
11. When you see the video preview window, turn on each of the STB's one-by-one until you see a picture in the preview. Note which STB is connected to that tuner card (and its panel control number) and turn off all other STB's.
12. Complete the configuration for that tuner, choosing the ExeMultiTunerPlugin as the means of changing channels when prompted.
13. When finished setting up the first encoder, exit SageTV (and stop the service if running) and open Sage.properties.
14. Look for mmc/encoders/... Find the encoder you just set up. Find the 'device_name=' property for the tuner you just set up (It may be set to StubDevice) that has a matching number sequence to the tuning_device property that is set to use EXEMultiTunerPlugin.dll. It should look something like this:

mmc/encoders/1642691032/3/0/device_name= StubDevice

...

mmc/encoders/1642691032/3/0/tuning_plugin= C:\\Program Files\\SageTV\\Common\\EXEMultiTunerPlugin.dll

(Note the matching number sequence)

15. Enter the panel control number for the STB that you noted is attached to this tuner. Save and exit Sage.properties. In the above example, it would now look like this if your panel control number for the current STB is 2:

mmc/encoders/1642691032/3/0/device_name= 2

16. Open SageTV and repeat steps 10 – 14 for each additional tuner to be used with a STB.
17. When all STB's are set up in SageTV, turn on all STB's and proceed with setting up any/all other encoders.
18. Go to C:\\Program Files\\SageTV\\Common\\RemoteCodes\\ and locate the file named StubDevice.ir
19. Make a copy of StubDevice.ir for each of your STB's and rename them to **[Panel Control Number].ir**

(i.e. **2.ir** and **4.ir** for two STB's with panel control numbers of 2 and 4. Make sure you create a new file for each of your STB Panel Control Numbers.)
20. Open each of the new files you just created and replace the term 'StubDevice' with the Panel Control Number you used in the filename. (i.e. the contents of the .ir file might read 'StubDevice 38000 400 3'. This should be changed to '2 38000 400 3', where the '2' corresponds to the panel control number for this device.) Save each file when done.
21. Move the files to the EXEMultiTuner subfolder, overwriting any .ir files that may already be present.

22. Copy and paste the bold section below into a text editor (i.e. Notepad) and save as 'Exemultituner.reg':

Windows Registry Editor Version 5.00

[HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Frey Technologies\Common\EXEMultiTunerPlugin]
"command"="c:\getHD\channelw.exe %DEVICE% %CHANNEL%"

(The file location assumes you used Bohica's instructions. Modify as necessary)

23. Double click on the 'Exemultituner.reg' file you just created to add the key to your registry.
24. Open Regedit via the Run... start menu item and locate the registry key you just created. It should be a **string** key with

Value Name: command

Value Data: c:\getHD\channelw.exe %DEVICE% %CHANNEL%

If the registry entry does not match this, make any necessary corrections and exit Regedit. When finished, reboot the computer.

25. Start SageTV and test viewing live TV and changing channels.

If all went well, everything should be working. I found that the most difficult thing in setting up multiple STB's was keeping track of the associations of physical hardware (STB's and tuners) and software references (Panel control numbers and tuner references). These instructions are designed to assist you in keeping track of all of this. I think it is a good idea to keep a written record of your configuration for future reference. Labeling STB's with the panel control number and the associated SageTV encoder number will also help greatly in any future troubleshooting.