



Q: Hey Codec Answer Guy! What's shakin' this year from Comrex?

A: Plenty! The "product previews" from NAB 2018 are shipping (or about to), we have a new web interface for our old and new codecs, a new way of backing up dedicated links with wireless, and a new version of Comrex Opal that is super easy to set up.

Q: Let's start with the new products. Refresher and update please?

A: We've had a busy year getting all these new products ready!

EarShot IFB is a way for stations who use lots and lots of old fashioned POTS lines for ENG IFB to consolidate them into the VoIP domain and save on phone costs. It delivers selectable audio to up to 30 callers and delivers wideband audio to our smartphone app. It's shipping now.

ACCESS NX Rack is our new "flagship" codec that talks to everything in all modes, including POTS, Wi-Fi and 4G. It replaces the venerable ACCESS Rack and adds compatibility with AES67 compliant studios. NX Rack will ship sometime in Spring 2019.

ACCESS MultiRack adds to the line by supporting five independent codecs in a single box. AES67 I/O is required. MultiRack will ship in Spring 2019.

EarShot IFB



ACCESS NX RACK



ACCESS MultiRack



Q: OK, Great! Now to address my problems: I'm using BRIC-Link IIs for my STL, and having issues with the downtime on my Internet connection at the transmitter. It goes out once in a while, and I need an automatic temporary backup.

A: Got ya covered! A new feature available in new ACCESS/BRIC-Link II firmware provides a function we call "HotSwap". Attach one of our Comrex Connect 4G modems to the USB port on these products, and the codec will switch over to the modem when (and only when) the primary link starts to fail. It will give an alarm status during the event and switch back seamlessly when the primary is restored. Details are covered in the HotSwap Tech Note, so ask for a copy.





Q: So Cool! Up next, the web interface on your ACCESS / BRIC-Link codecs uses Adobe Flash. I'm very concerned about longevity and security. Flash is going away, I think.



A: Fixed that for ya! Current firmware for these products offers an alternative interface that uses HTML5 web services instead of Flash. All new, modern, and shiny. Check out our NAB demo.

Q: Sounds Good! Next issue: The Comrex Opal looks like a good way to take high-quality calls from contributors who don't have codec hardware. So simple for them! But not for me. In the studio, Opal requires public IP connections, a domain name, and certificates. My IT guys say "No way!". What can I do?

A: Ask us about Opal Cloud. It's a new option in Opal firmware that takes away the complexity on the studio side. It uses a cloud server maintained by Comrex (subscription required) and removes all the IT complexity of the setup. Opal Cloud is available now for demo and will be available in the fall.



Q: Love it! What else ya got?

A: The new ACCESS NX Portable codec is making waves. Maybe you've noticed it if you've been at any major events. Customers are telling us having one on the desk makes everyone stop, notice, and ask about it.



Our VH2 VoIP hybrid is solving lots of problems with folks abandoning POTS lines. It perfectly emulates the workflow of having a legacy hybrid in the studio or newsroom.

And don't forget to check out our LiveShot video codec. The small form factor, ease of use, and two-way video make it a champ in the field of TV ENG or anyone who needs low-delay HD video.



And as always, have a great show!