Audio-Visual TV / Info Channel System
Independent Analysis
Systems listed in order of preference

Software Name	Comments
Midas Viewpoint	As demonstrated this is the most capable system as far as range of features and uniqueness of software design. This is the ONLY software to play ALL Multimedia source, including Macromedia Flash, AVI, MPEG1 & 2 (up to Broadcast spec datarate), Bitmaps, PNG, JPEG., etc., Text and Graphics Overlay. Genlock, External/Local database ODBC links, etc. The system runs up to 16 Screens with different textual and graphical content, or 4 Screens with video, or mixed information and video; SENTEL-AVC strongly recommends that a maximum of 2 Screens be used with one ePC for video playback. SENTEL-AVC's hardware is largely INTEL based and as such seems to be very reliable. SENTEL-AVC recommends its ePCs on the basis that they provide enhanced performance and reliability through standardisation; performance IS excellent. Scheduling and Scripting facilities are comprehensive. Probably the only system reviewed that allows Central and Local inter-action with Display monitors. Good Diagnostics and BEST monitoring facilities of all the systems (ANY tcp/ip connection) Pricing is excellent. Web site Demo Software is fully featured, but is time-limited.
Imagine Graphics /Visual Circuits – POPVideo Server	For MPEG2 (up to near Broadcast spec datarate) VIDEO ONLY this is an excellent solution. Well thought out and presented software which will interface with FTP, Sat Uplink and other updating systems. This Software offers multichannel synchronisable outputs (>8 in one unit) that can be Genlocked to external Video feeds. Hardware is from USA and supplied as rack mountable fully integrated units. Price is medium for Video Server Technology (£4000 for 4 Channels). Software seems reasonable. USA manufacturer, but UK exclusive distributor. Good Diagnostics and BEST dedicated hardware analysing watchdog card.
On-Show	Up to 4 Screens from one PC BUT these are intended to be in "Video wall" configuration rather than as separate monitor display channels in various locations. Updating of each "display" is "sequenced" and Video (mpeg) is only supported on "master" Channel. This software needs bringing up to Windows Conventions and lacks some effects – Graphics with Text over screens and limited effects. AVI and Mpeg1 for Video. There have been some problems with faster MPEG2 streams. That remains to be solved. Remote Diagnostics – seem to be limited to PCAnywhere – which means that the "public" display is interrupted. Hardware Watchdog reset card is an option. NOT able to utilise FLASH or Macromedia Modules.
Concourse-Vision	4 Stream MPEG and Single Stream Retail Player – Currently offering <2.5Mbps MPEG1 clips only – with a unique method for generation of Still frames from short MPEG clips which hold for required display time. ALL generation and effects via Video Edit system and MPEG Encoding. Software "rental" only as CCL seems reluctant to set a price or Licence fee. Runs on the most economic PC hardware. Uses Either Visual Circuits 4Reel Card or Optibase VideoPlex Express Mpeg card. Some development is required to bring Multi-site scheduling and communication software up to date although trials with FileBroadcast have been successfully integrated. Diagnostics are handled via DUN (or WAN) and PC-Duo monitoring software.
Future Software "DIGI-Show"	MPEG Video stream/Server system using Optibase Decoder cards. Similar in principle to Imagine graphics/Visual Circuits system. From demonstrations the text based Script "Playlists", "Scheduling" and updating seem to be designed and implemented on a per-project basis as an application specifically written for each client at a cost. VERY expensive both for H and S. Licence per yr. MPEG 1 or 2 only.
Info-Onscreen	Still awaiting communication from Australia – LOOKS expensive to implement.
Granada Ascari	Similar to On-Show – To our knowledge this was a buyout of Source Code at an earlier stage and Granada have developed the package along similar lines.