

AGVCR for Recording AG Meetings

A tutorial guide from the
Access Grid Support Centre

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Introduction

AGVCR can record audio and video streams from Access Grid meetings. Recordings are stored on the same PC that is running AGVCR and play back at the original quality of the recorded meeting.

NB: Before recording a meeting, it is recommended consent is obtained from all meeting participants.

1. Connecting to Access Grid Meetings

Access Grid meetings take place in virtual rooms referred to as Virtual Venues. The AG Toolkit (and IG Meeting) software client allows users to navigate to Virtual Venues (VV) which are translated (via Virtual Venue servers) into an IP address and two Port numbers. This translation is needed by the AG software to connect to a meeting. AGVCR also uses these same IP addresses and Port numbers to allow an AG meeting to be recorded.

The AGSC maintains a table (Figure 1) of Virtual Venue with their associated IP address and Port numbers (one for Audio and one for Video).

Venue	Audio Multicast Address	Audio Port	Video Multicast Address	Video Port
Bar	233.3.18.32	57004	233.3.18.32	57006
Beech	233.3.18.37	57004	233.3.18.37	57006
Ben Brierley	233.3.18.57	57004	233.3.18.57	57006
Cross Keys	233.3.18.49	57004	233.3.18.49	57006
Dean Brook	233.3.18.56	57004	233.3.18.56	57006
Flemish Weaver	233.3.18.47	57004	233.3.18.47	57006
Footage and Firkin	233.3.18.39	57004	233.3.18.39	57006
Gardeners Arms	233.3.18.55	57004	233.3.18.55	57006
Half Way House	233.3.18.59	57004	233.3.18.59	57006
Hilary Step	233.3.18.36	57004	233.3.18.36	57006
Lass O Gowrie	233.3.18.34	57004	233.3.18.34	57006
Marble Beer House	233.3.18.33	57004	233.3.18.33	57006
Metropolitan	233.3.18.41	57004	233.3.18.41	57006
Midland	233.3.18.53	57004	233.3.18.53	57006
O Sheas	233.3.18.40	57004	233.3.18.40	57006
Old Wellington Inn	233.3.18.45	57004	233.3.18.45	57006
Red Barn	233.3.18.54	57004	233.3.18.54	57006
Royal Oak	233.3.18.52	57004	233.3.18.52	57006
Samuel Platts	233.3.18.46	57004	233.3.18.46	57006
Shakespeare	233.3.18.43	57004	233.3.18.43	57006
Sinclairs Oyster Bar	233.3.18.42	57004	233.3.18.42	57006
The Woolpack	233.3.18.48	57004	233.3.18.48	57006
Thomass Chop House	233.3.18.51	57004	233.3.18.51	57006
VRVS - Courtyard (previously Witchwood)	233.3.18.50	57004	233.3.18.50	57006
VRVS - Rooftops (previously Varsity)	233.3.18.44	57004	233.3.18.44	57006
VRVS - Sand Bar (previously Sand Bar)	233.3.18.35	57004	233.3.18.35	57006
VRVS - Urbis (previously Trevor Arms)	233.3.18.38	57004	233.3.18.38	57006
Whey Pat Tavern	233.3.18.60	57004	233.3.18.60	57006
Whitegate	233.3.18.58	57004	233.3.18.58	57006

Figure 1: The IP Address and Audio/Video Ports of the UK Shared Virtual Venue

2. Overview of Usage

The basic principle of AGVCR is that it connects to an AG meeting and records the audio and video streams being sent to that meeting.

Recordings are stored on the local PC as raw data and can the data can only be played back (Figure 2) using AGVCR (cannot be converted into another format, e.g. AVI or MPEG4) either into a Virtual Venue (VV) for viewing by remote AG users or locally on a PC.

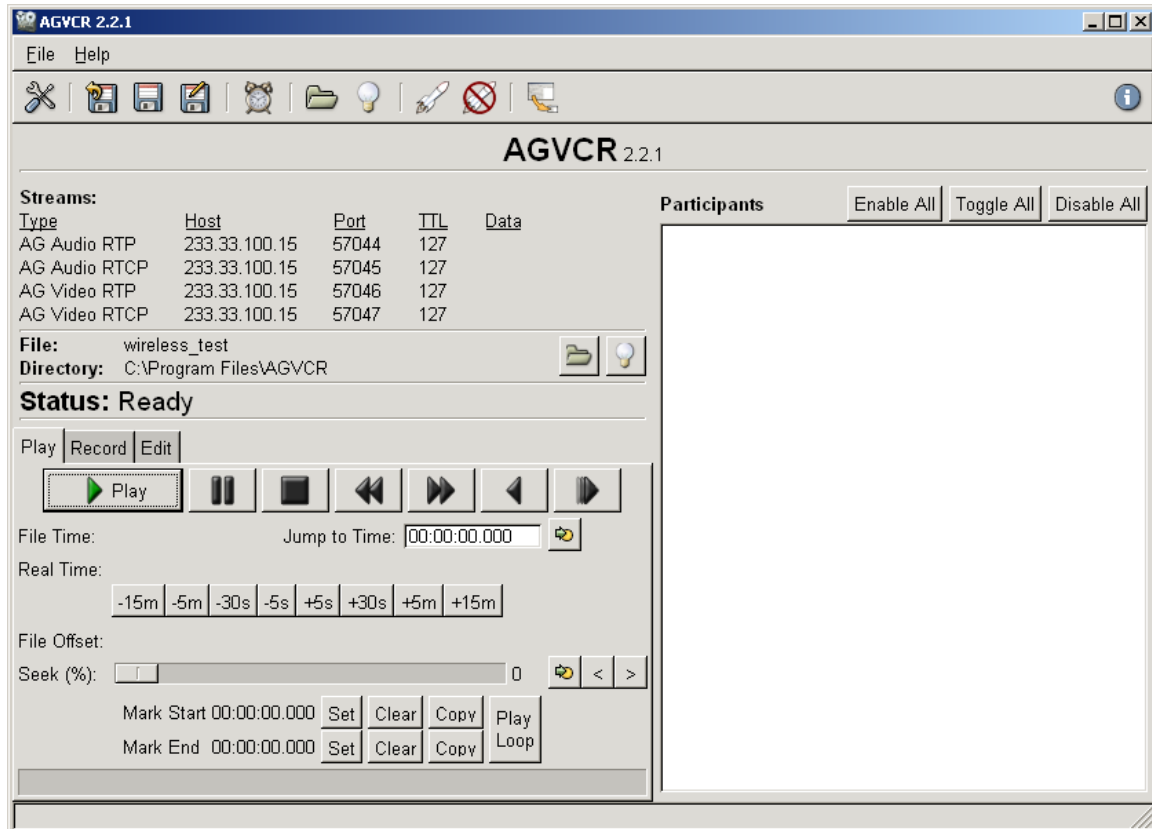



Figure 2: The main AGVCR control window

Before a recording can be made, an 'AGVCR Configuration' must be created. Clicking on the 'Set Config' icon  (Figure 2) opens the AGVCR Configuration window (Figure 3).

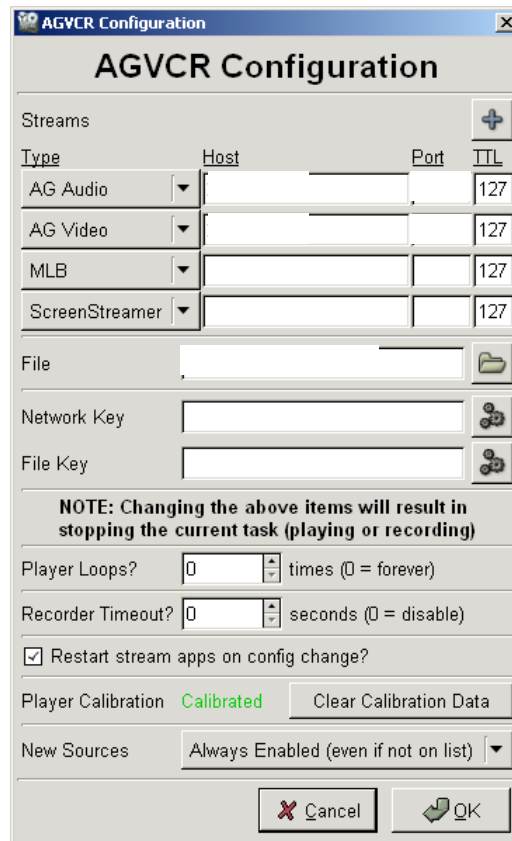


Figure 3: The AGVCR Configuration window

To fill in the blank fields, users need to choose and input the IP address and the Audio/Video Port numbers of the Virtual Venue (VV) in which they are meeting (Figure 1 or <http://www.ja.net/services/video/agvc/services/virtualvenueaddresses.html>).

3. Example of a Recording

A meeting is taking place in the 'Sinclair's Oyster Bar' Virtual Venue and needs to be recorded:

1. Find the IP address and Audio/Video port number of the Sinclair's Oyster Bar' Virtual Venue (Figure 1).
2. Type these values into the AGVCR Configuration window (Figure 4)
3. The Virtual Venue IP address is put into the 'Host' field for both audio and video.
4. The Audio Port is put into the 'AG Audio' Port field.
5. Then change the type of the 2nd row to 'AG Video' and put the Video Port number in the 'Port' field.
6. Type a filename into the 'File' field. This will be the name of the recording.

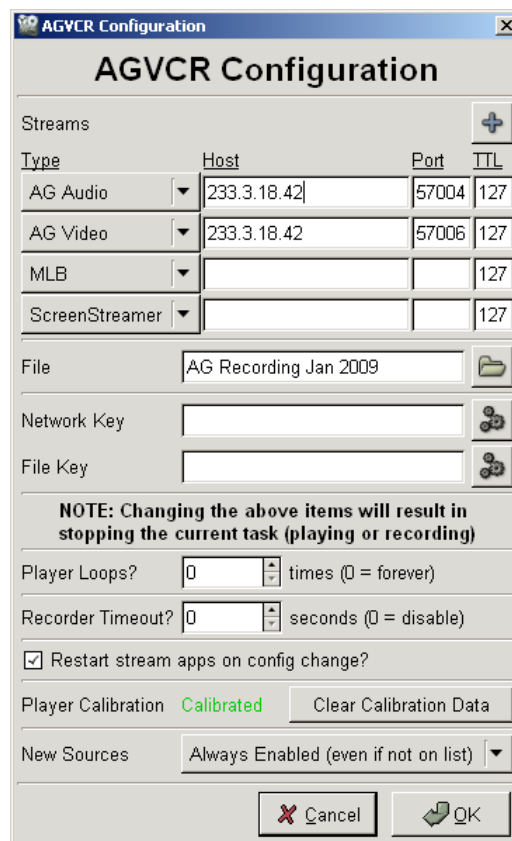


Figure 4: AGVCR Configuration window – Sinclair's Oyster Bar details

Clicking 'OK' closes the window and allows the configuration to be automatically loaded, ready for immediate use during a current meeting. Configurations are **not** automatically saved but may be saved for future use by clicking on 'File' and select 'Save Config As'. AGVCR configurations are saved as files with a .conf file extension, e.g. AG Recording Jan 2009.conf.

AGVCR is now ready to record an AG meeting.

A recording is started by clicking on the 'Record' tab' then the 'Record' button (Figure 5). Each AG node connected to the meeting will then show up in the 'Participants' list.

Each participant listed will have one AG Audio stream and an AG Video stream for each device. It is possible to choose which camera feeds are to be captured within the recording by un-ticking the box for unwanted streams.

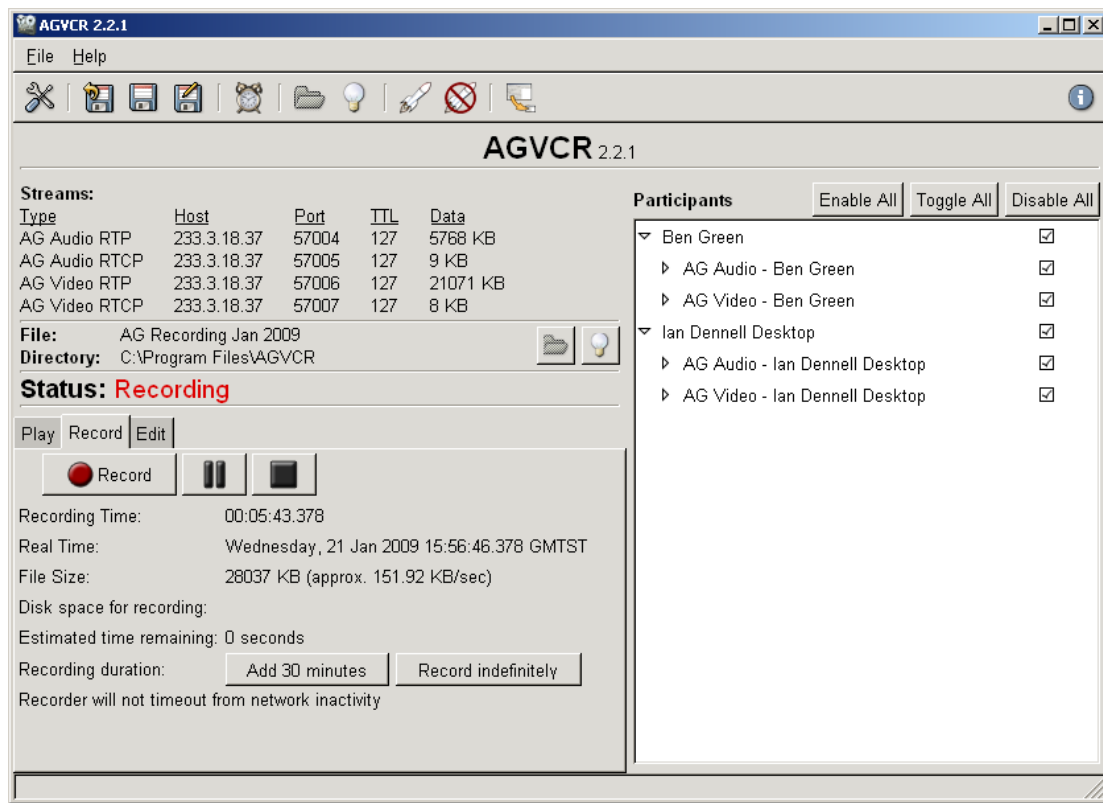


Figure 5: Starting a recording

4. Playing Back Recordings

Recordings may be played back to a Virtual Venue (VV) or locally to a PC.

Playing back a recording to a VV requires:

1. AGVCR to be configured using the IP address and Audio/Video port number of the VV users want to play back to.
2. A file path of where the recording is located (default location for recordings is C:\Program Files\AGVCR\ on the local PC).

If the recording in Figure 5 is played back the Audio and Video streams would be sent to the Beech Virtual Venue (IP – 233.3.18.37)

Important: When playing back a meeting into a Virtual Venue, ensure that it is not already being used.

When playing a recording back on a local PC, users need to create a new AGVCR configuration (Figure 6) using the 'internal' IP address of the PC which is referred to as 'localhost' (127.0.0.1). By creating a 'localhost' configuration, AGVCR can play back the recorded audio and video streams to the same PC running AGVCR.

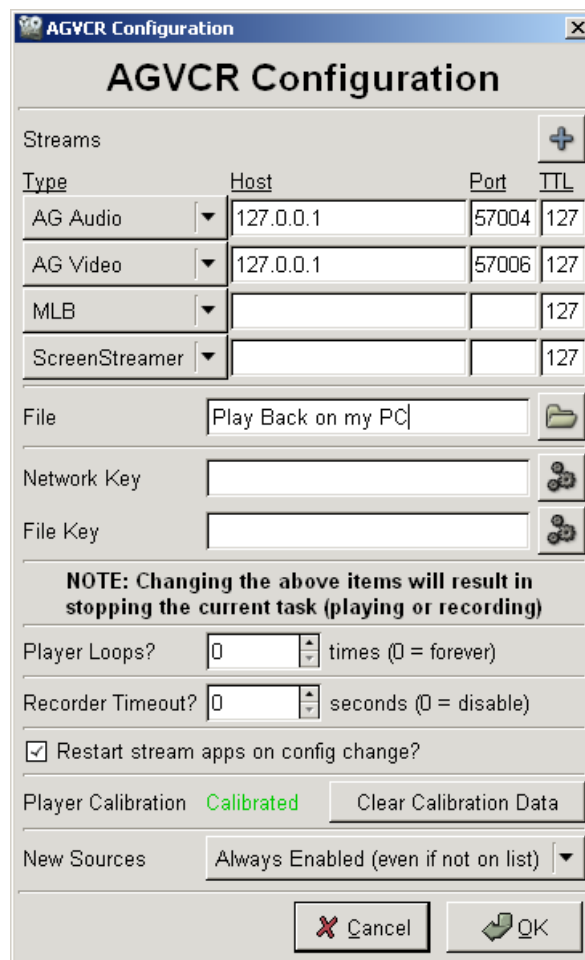


Figure 6: Configuration to play back recordings locally

Note: When AGVCR is installed, two icons are placed on the desktop: 'AGVCR' and 'AGVCR – Local Playback'. The latter is simply a shortcut to AGVCR with a localhost configuration pre-loaded, allowing recordings to be played back locally.

Users will find the 'Play' button within the 'Play' tab (Figure 7). It is also possible to fast forward, rewind or jump to a specified time during the recording.

As with recording a meeting, it is possible to 'un-tick' the Audio or Video stream of an individual meeting participant if their stream is not required during playback.

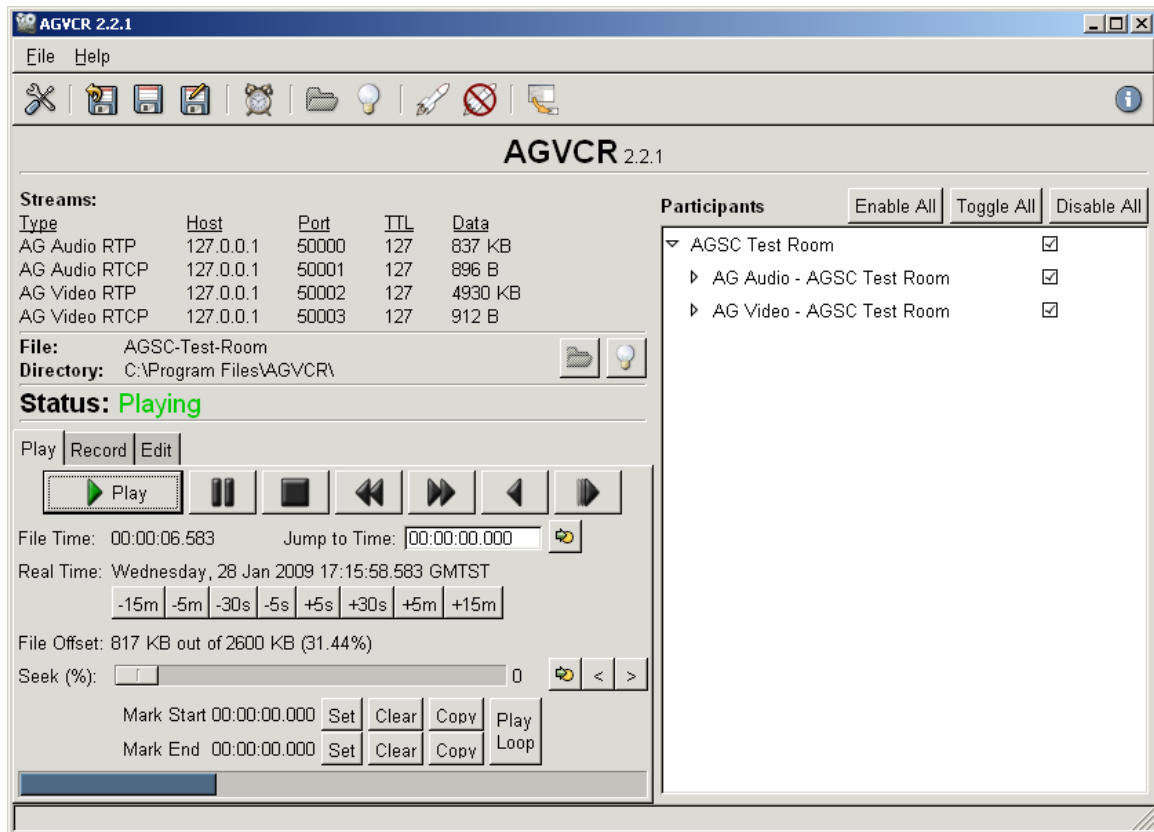


Figure 7: Playing back a recorded meeting

5. Playback without an AG Client

An Access Grid client isn't required to view recordings locally on a PC. AGVCR uses the VIC and RAT components of the AG Toolkit client to play back the audio and video streams but these two software components are automatically installed onto the PC during the installation of AGVCR. Once downloaded, no configuration is necessary to enable VIC and RAT to display recordings.

Note: The AG Toolkit application is based on VIC and RAT, so Toolkit users will already have these components installed. It is recommended that AGVCR is installed prior to AG Toolkit to ensure that the latest version of VIC and RAT will be present.

Video streams are played back through the VIC component (Figure 8). VIC displays a thumbnail of each video stream present and clicking on a thumbnail will open a larger video window. Also, by pressing 's', 'm' or 'l' while a video window is selected will resize that window to a small, medium or large video display.

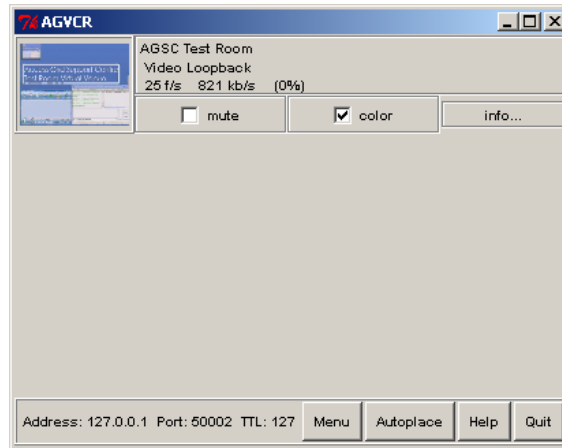


Figure 8: The VIC component

Audio streams are played back through the RAT component (Figure 9). Playback volume may be adjusted using the horizontal slider beneath the 'Listen' tick box. It is also possible to change the audio level for individual meeting participants by adjusting the horizontal slider next to each participant name.

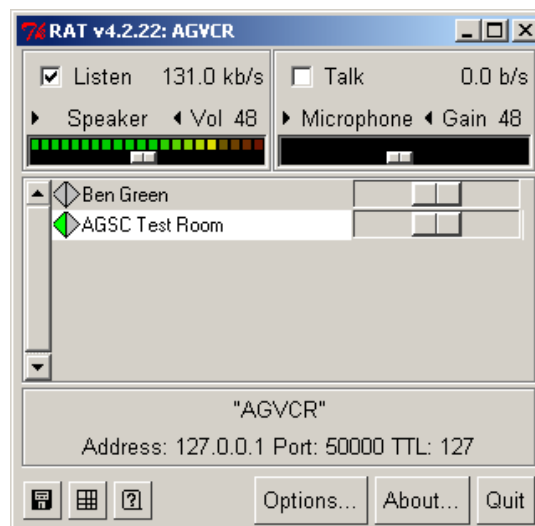


Figure 9: The RAT component

6. Where to Find AGVCR

AGVCR will install with AG Toolkit if the 'all in one' installer is used for the AG Toolkit client installation.

Alternately, for users who already have an AG client or don't want an AG client but want to play back recordings, go to <http://www.agvcr.indiana.edu/> for the stand alone download.