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Going live on SonicPanel and VoxStream: BUTT, Mixxx or SAM with server, port and password

VPS & Servers

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The short answer: to go live you need a broadcasting program (the **encoder**) on the studio computer, and three details: the **server address**, the **port** and the **broadcast password**. If your radio runs on an **Icecast** server, add the **mount point** and the username `source`. Your real details are in the e-mail you received when the radio was created; this article uses `stream.yourdomain` and port `8000` only as an **example**. When the encoder connects, the live broadcast takes over from the AutoDJ; when it disconnects, the AutoDJ comes back. It works this way on SonicPanel and on VoxStream.

Which program to use

Program	Runs on	Good for
BUTT	Free; Windows, macOS and Linux	Anyone who just wants to plug in the microphone and mixer and broadcast. Simple and light: it does one thing well.
Mixxx	Free; Windows, macOS and Linux	DJs who mix live, with two or more decks, and want to broadcast from the same program.
SAM Broadcaster	Paid; Windows	Studios that run their own schedule on the computer, with jingle carts and plenty of local automation.
RadioBOSS	Paid; Windows	Similar to SAM: automation on the studio computer, broadcasting to the server.
VoxStream WebDJ	In the browser, nothing to install	VoxStream only: broadcast from any computer with no program. Handy for a quick live slot away from the studio.
Browser microphone on SonicPanel	In the browser, depending on the panel version	A short live moment without an encoder. If your panel version does not have it, use one of the programs above.

Connecting the encoder, step by step (BUTT as the example)

1. **Have the radio e-mail at hand:** server address, port, broadcast password and, for Icecast, the mount point. The broadcast password is **not** the password you use to sign in to the panel.

2. **In BUTT, open Settings > Main > Server > Add.** Give it a name, type the address (in the example, `stream.yourdomain`), the port (in the example, `8000`) and the broadcast password.

3. **Pick the server type:** Shoutcast or Icecast, whichever your radio uses. For Icecast also type the mount point and the username `source`. Not sure which you have? See **Shoutcast or Icecast on SonicPanel**.

4. **In Settings > Audio, choose the format and quality:** MP3 or AAC+ work on both panels. The quality (bitrate) must fit the plan: up to 128 kbps on Streaming Pro, 192 kbps on Plus and 320 kbps on Ultra. More in **audio formats and quality on each panel**.

5. **Press the broadcast button** (the play button). BUTT shows it is connected and starts counting the time on air.

6. **Check as a listener:** open the listening link on another device, for example your phone on mobile data. You should hear yourself, with a short delay, which is normal.

7	**In Mixxx and SAM** the same details go into the broadcasting options (in Mixxx, “Live Broadcasting”). The names change from program to program; the details are always the same.

The broadcast password is the key to your radio. Anyone who has it can put anything on air under your station’s name. Do not send it to people who do not need it, keep it out of shared screenshots and, when a DJ leaves, change it or delete their account. See **a strong password and a password manager**.

Will not connect? Nearly always it is one of three things: the password has an extra space, the server type is wrong (Shoutcast instead of Icecast or the other way round), or the studio network blocks the port. To test the last one, connect the computer to your phone’s internet and try again.

Encoder will not connect, or listeners cannot hear you? Tell us the program you use, the server type and the error you see (a screenshot helps).

Open a support ticket

SEE ALSO

Shoutcast or Icecast on SonicPanel: the differences and which to pick

AAC+, MP3, FLAC or OGG: audio formats and quality on each streaming panel

DJ accounts on SonicPanel: permissions, the live DJ widget and automatic recording

First steps with VoxStream: signing in and getting your radio on air

Streaming Server: first steps with SonicPanel

How to take a screenshot or record your screen to show support a problem

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