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Medi1.com, broadcasting live

International Mediterranean Radio (Medi 1) is a bilingual, generalist, French-Arabic radio station providing international news, services and light entertainment. Since 1997, Medi 1 has decided to enter into the numeric era with NETIA's complete Radio-Assist system. Today, the audience reaches 25 million listeners during the vacation period and crosses frontiers thanks to its Internet site, MEDI1.com.

A fully digital radio of international influence. Since its origin, **MEDI 1** has put together a music collection with a richness and diversity unique to North Africa. This radio station is divided into two services: the occidental record collection that comprises all European and American productions, and the oriental record collection. Many radio stations are dedicated to the introduction of music from audio CDs.

It is in this way that the Music server, with a capacity of 7,000 hours (stereo format, 256 k, 48khz), is automatically fed audio files and meta data in French and Arabic. It is worth noting that the operating system is bilingual and accepts the capture of titles in both Arabic and Latin.

The News server stocks up to 1,000 hours of audio documents related to current events. With about 50 journalists, the editorial staff of **MEDI 1** produces more than 35 daily news programs. Equipped with 20 or so radio stations carrying Radio-Assist, this department is fully computerized.

Many editing rooms are dedicated to the news. From the same interface, the latter records, edits and directly puts the sound "RTB" (ready to broadcast) into the numeric cartridge with just a simple drag & drop. Medi 1 has complete production studios for the creation of jingles and advertisements. The workstations of these studios possess many different levels of editing, from the most simple (cleaning) to the most complex (mixing), this way each technician can choose the editing method that adapts the best to his work.

Three studios are specialized in broadcast preparation. With a very ergonomic tool for the preparation of the cartridge, the presenter or programmers prepare their programs. **CartStack Prep** is a remarkable tool, user-friendly because of its simplicity.



From a simple Drag & Drop, the presenter lists the set of sounds that will be necessary to him at the time of the broadcast. In each sound, there are many associated text zones where the presenter writes down all of the information necessary to the commentary he will need while broadcasting.

For the night broadcast, the programmer prepares a playlist from 11.00PM to 6.00AM. A "Voice Over" function offers the presenter the possibility to personalize his programming, while integrating his own voice between two tracks, the commentary is placed exactly how the technician would want it, like over the intro. for example... International Mediterranean Radio has two different types of broadcast.

The daytime broadcast is entirely manual and the technicians use the Cart Stack Onair. As soon as the technician selects one or several carts in the database, all the programmed sounds are thus instantaneously ready for broadcast, with just one click of the mouse. At night, the playout system **Air Playlist** automatically assures all broadcasting.

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*www.medi1.com, live or prerecorded:*

Since 1999, **MEDI 1** has chosen to reach a global target of listeners with a direct broadcast onto the Internet. The range of **Radio-Assist** contains many tools for broadcasting on the Internet: live broadcasting or broadcasting "on demand".

For several years, NETIA has positioned itself as an ISP (Internet Service Provider), with a complete service : conception, development, hosting and maintenance. The site offers to the international listeners of the world either the direct broadcast of Medi 1 or the consultation <<on demand>> of audio documents.

Two products of the **Radio-Assist** 7 range respond to these methods of broadcasting: Stream In for direct broadcasting and Web Dispatcher for the automatic arrangement of documents on the site. Web Dispatcher automates the placement on-line of the selected audio news for an Internet site.

Directly taken out of the sound banks, the auditory documents destined to be broadcasted on the Internet are converted to the Real G2 and/or MP3 format and then transferred onto the Internet server by the FTP protocol.

At the same time, the **Web Dispatcher** automatically exports the associated datum to the XML format and to the MOS 2.0 (Media Object Server) standard.

The websurfer can choose the report that he wishes to listen to, all by consulting the news associated to his sound.

**Stream In** is a machine oriented towards live Internet broadcasting. Stream In automatically manages the conversion and export of audio data and/or video data.

Stream In carries out on the fly the compression and the direct transfer of the audio/video files on the site. All the characteristics of the broadcast are regulative: automatic or manual broadcasting, addressing of the Internet site, format encoding, compression standards...

Owing to the Real Audio G2 technology, the received flux adapts itself automatically to the flow of the websurfer's line, which erases all possibilities of broadcast interruption and gives good sound quality.

*Reliability and security on all levels:*

In the domain of radiobroadcasting, two notions become unavoidable: security measures and reliability. In reference to security measures, professionals expect the minimization of the risk of intrusion by techniques involving the filtering of data, passwords, firewall, routing, etc...

The notion of reliability conceals the technique of excellence: no breakdowns, 'No Single Point of Failure', etc?

To more closely respond to these two preoccupations, for **RMI**, NETIA has put in place a safeguard system on the DLT bands. This system, composed of a dedicated server and a safeguard automat, maintains a permanent copy of the audio, music collection files and News files.

The objective of this safeguard is to be able to remedy a severe material failure of the Music server and to thus avoid the loss of music titles already seized. In parallel to this system, the Music server assures the security of news documents by acting as a mirror of the News server.

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Lastly, the News domain has an active redundancy that assures a broadcast without interruption in the case of a failure of the main data system or of the sound server. On the level of materials, the servers are made around RAID 5 architecture.

Moreover, the Music server has a backup disk that automatically enters on line in the case of a disk failure. The broadcasting studios are switched on in a way that always assures to have an operational studio in the case of the failure of a hub, of a network card or of a connection.

NETIA has just consolidated the infrastructure of Internet broadcasting by doubling its servers, the main server is based at NETIA's hosting platform and the second server is in the **RMI** local in Tangier. As soon as the principal server is declared "down", the system automatically switches over to the backup server.

This solution offers great flexibility at the time of updating or maintenance operations. For the web-surfers, the site progressively becomes a true link with the current events and news of the Maghreb, a link that will always prove to be valid and faithful.

