

Prompter (prompter control client)

Module Prompter	Client
Prompter	

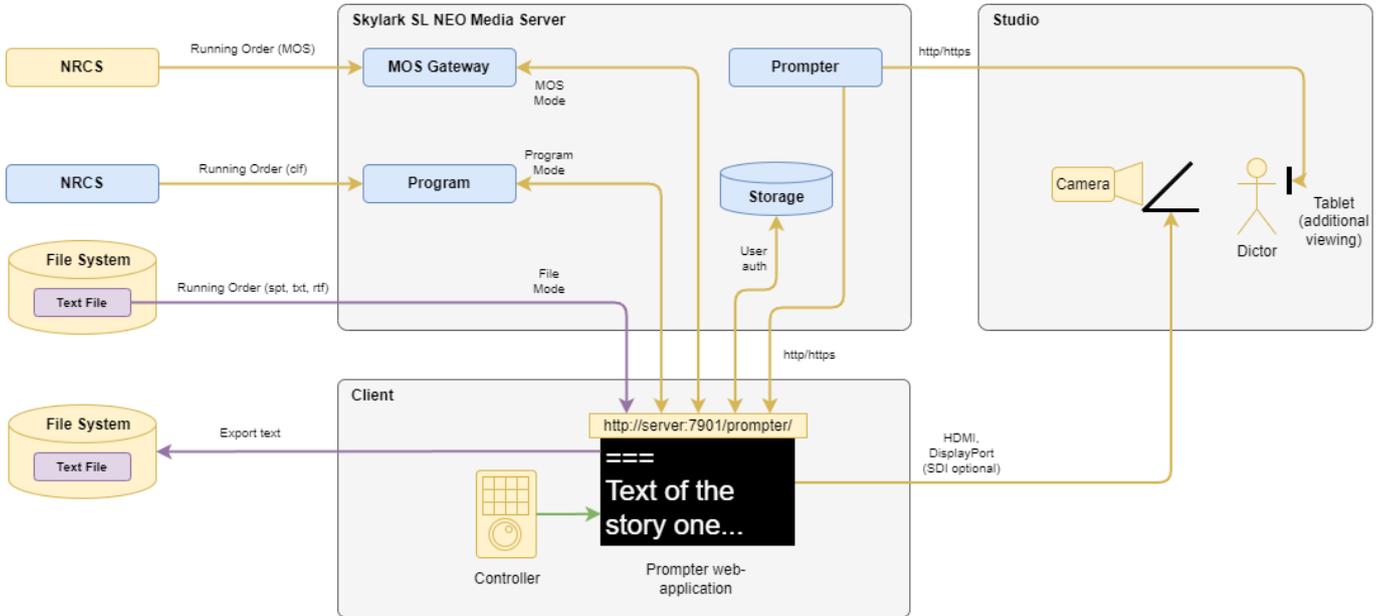
Prompter is a feature-rich client-side web application for news studios to upload, edit and manage the output of prompter texts.

Features

- Smooth text scrolling in two directions (16 speeds);
- Hot keys for quick navigation through 'stories';
- Support for navigation by 'markers' within 'stories';
- Support for Unicode and Right-to-left languages;
- Work with NRCS systems via MOS protocol;
- Work with NRCS system Skylark, in conjunction with Program module;
- Automatic rundown update;
- Support for hardware controller with Jog & Shuttle and function keys;
- Text file work, including support for "story" and "marker" tags;
- Autonomous isolated operation mode for emergency situations;
- Multi-user work;
- Two text display modes (prompter and preview);
- Support for hot text editing;
- Quick switch to the active 'story';
- Selecting any 'story' from the list by its name or by its number;
- Changing font size;
- Support for reading field indication for presenter's convenience;
- Support for text start and end indicators;
- Support for text alignment;
- Support for horizontal and vertical text mirroring;
- Support for micro-screen for operator when working in mirroring modes;
- Support for global user presets;
- Support for hotkey combinations for quick operation;
- Support for selecting interface localisation;
- Automatic segmentation of text into blocks when working with MOS;
- Presenter's name output for text blocks received from MOS.

Scheme

The image shows an example of possible interaction between software modules when using the Prompter module.



First Launch

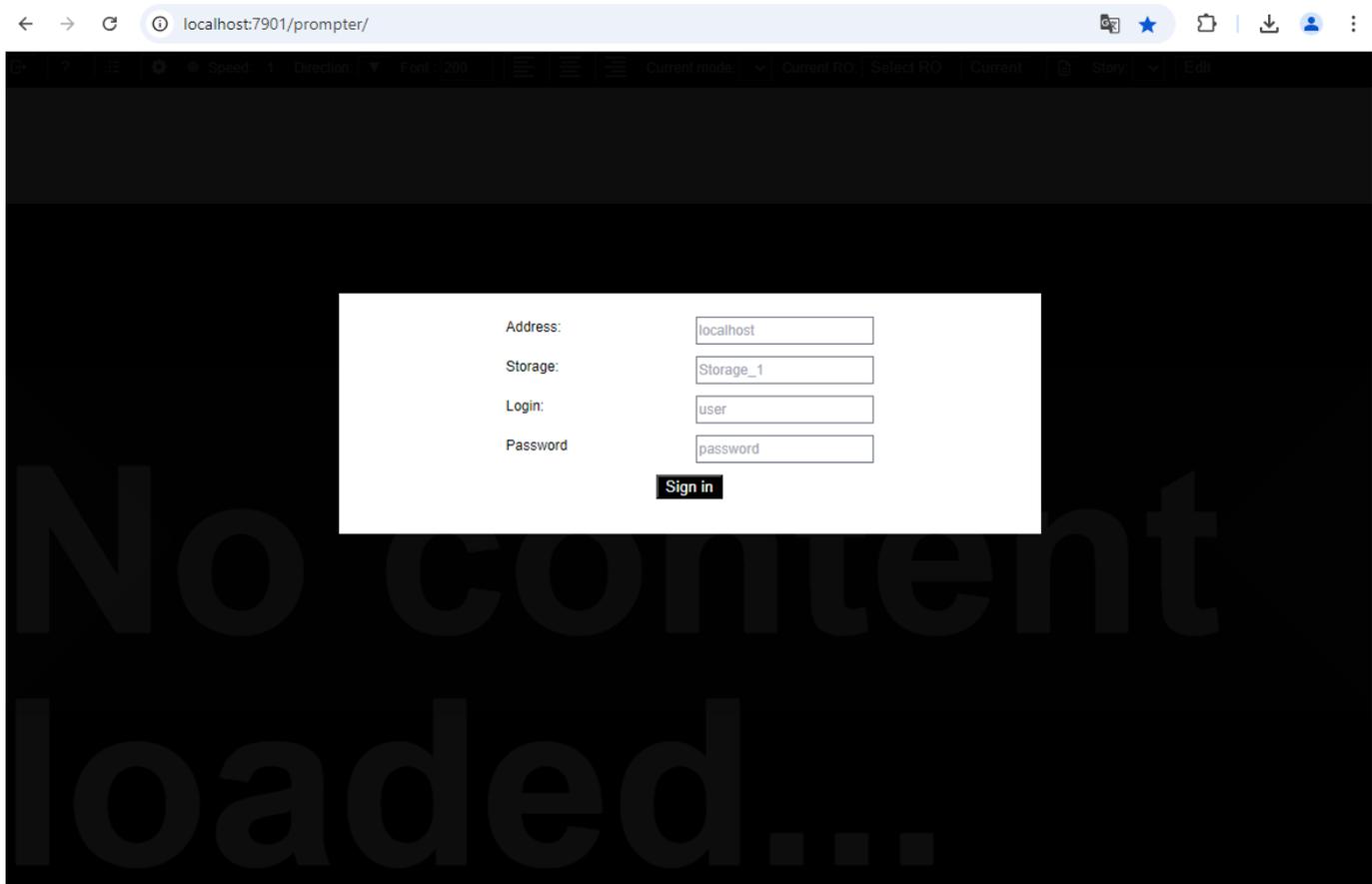


Make sure you have done the [first configuration](#).

The Prompter web application interface can be accessed from Chrome or EDGE web browser. Type in the address bar: http://ip_address:7901/prompter/. If everything is entered correctly, the application login interface will be opened.

Authorisation

The image shows the login window.

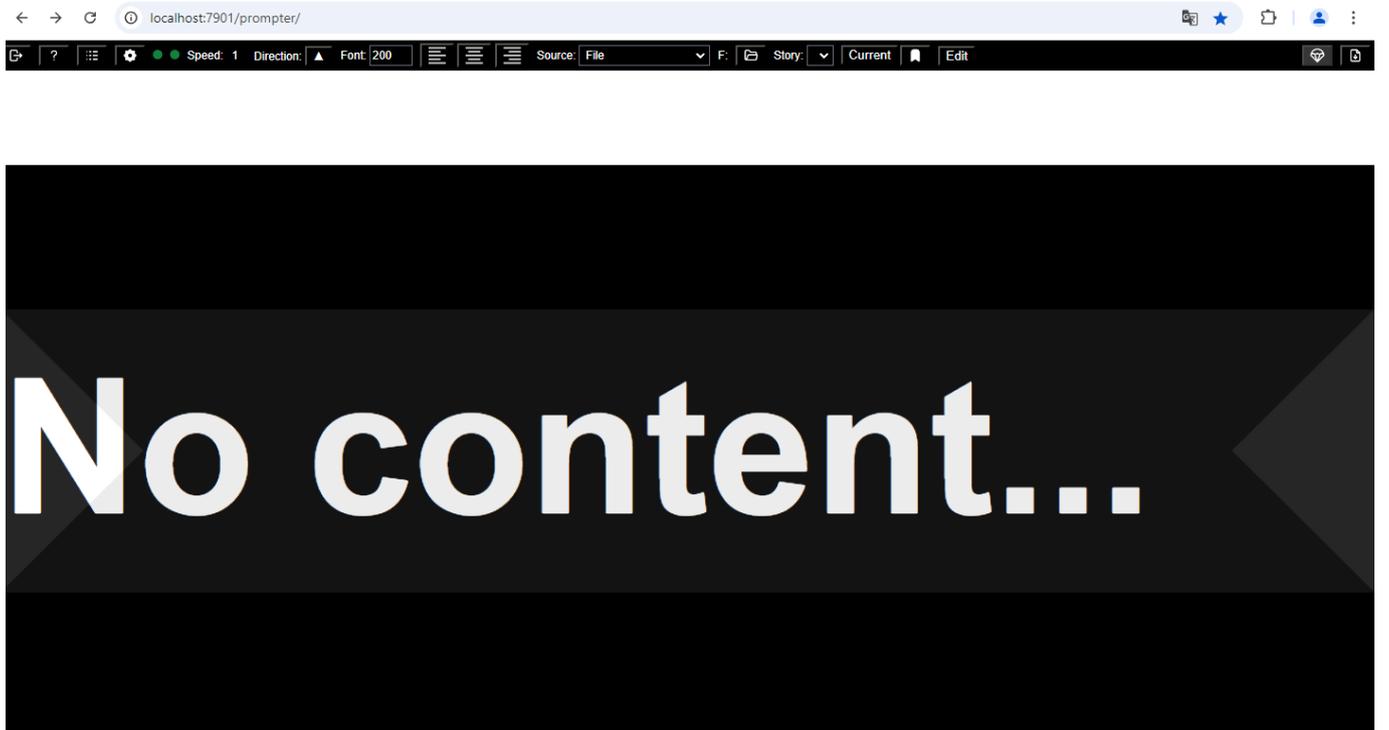


When logging in to the Prompter web application, you need to specify:

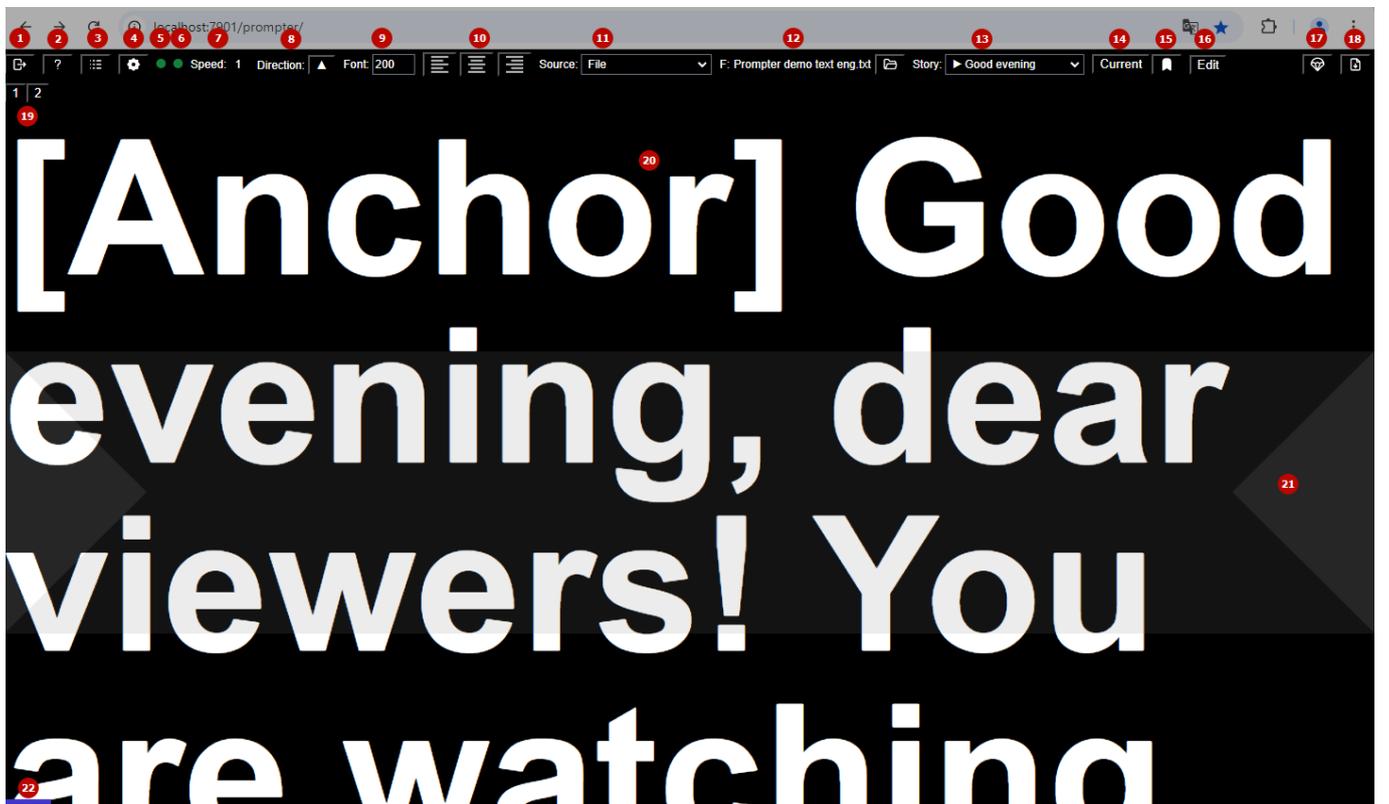
Parameter	Description
Address	Address of the server with media storage that will be used for authorisation and saving Prompter configuration.
Storage	The name of the media storage on the server. The name of the media storage can be seen in the server control panel: Administrator Control Panel→Manage→Storages→Storage_N→Name
Login	The name of the user in the media storage. For a successful login, the user must be a member of one of the Prompter_* groups created during first setup .
Password	User password

Possible errors during authorisation: * “An unexpected error occurred. Please try again.” - check if the Address and Storage fields are filled in correctly. * “Unauthorised access. Please check your credentials.” - check if the user credentials are entered correctly and if the user is included in the appropriate groups. * “Cannot connect to the server. Please check Address and Storage name. (404)” - check if the IP address of the server and media storage name are specified correctly.

If the authorisation was successful, you will see the working interface of the application.

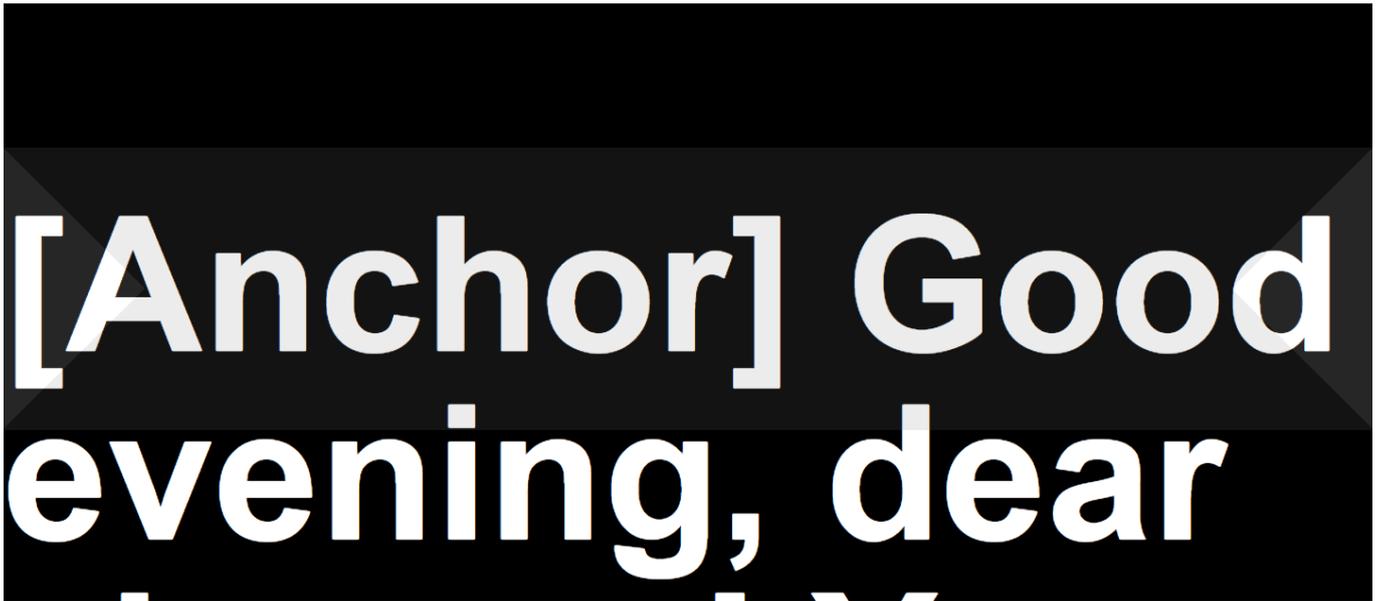


Interface





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Element	Description
1	Logout button. If you have finished working with the prompter, it is recommended that you end the session to prevent unauthorised access to the system.
2	Button with a hint of the available key combinations used to control the prompter.
3	Button to open the Event Log window, which displays system errors.
4	Button to open the Settings window.
5	Indicator of connection activity to the Storage module used for authorisation. Possible options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online - connection to the Storage service is active, the system is running normally. Offline - connection to the Storage service is not available. In this case, the prompter enters the offline mode. A countdown timer is started until automatic shutdown. Auto logout in: 56:22 Do not reload the page, as you will not be able to continue until the connection is back up and running.
6	Indicates that the connection to the selected text source is active. Possible options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online - the source is connected and ready to work Offline - the source is not available. Do not switch - this may result in the text loss. Buffer - the Emergency Buffer source is active
7	Indicator of the text speed to be used at the start of scrolling.
8	Indicator of text scrolling direction. The arrow indicates the direction of text movement.
9	The current font size indicator. This area allows you to make quick adjustments to the size if required.

Element	Description
10	Buttons for quick alignment of text on the screen. Possible options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • left margin, • centre, • right margin.
11	Source selection field from the list. This area allows you to quickly switch between the preset sources.
12	The functional elements of the area depend on the current operating mode of the selected source: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • File - The area displays the file selection button and the name of the downloaded file prefixed with "F:".  • Program - The area has no additional elements.  • MOS - Area shows the Running Order selection button and the name of the currently loaded Running Order prefixed with "RO:". 
13	The area to select the story to display. The area displays a list of stories loaded from the source, allows you to switch between them, and displays the current story with the corresponding marker. For mode: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • File - the Story separator is =====, • Program - each playlist item in the Program module creates an item in the Story list, • MOS - each element in the Story list corresponds to a Story in NRCS. Story components are automatically separated by === markers. 
14	
15	Button allows you to set the marker of the current story, which allows you to quickly return to it after navigating through the stories. In Program mode this button is not available, as the position of the current story is taken automatically from the programme channel playlist.

Element	Description
16	Table with text editing buttons. Editing is available in File and Program modes. Function buttons: * Edit - switches the viewing area to text editing mode. In this mode a smaller font size can be used for convenient editing (set by the Editor font size option). * Save - button to save the edited text. In Program mode the text is saved to the Comment column of the edited playlist line. In File mode, changes are not automatically saved to a file on disc for security reasons. Use the Save to File button. * Cancel - button to cancel edit mode without saving changes.
17	Button to restore text from the emergency buffer. The function is useful when the correct text has been lost due to erroneous editing or switching sources.
18	Button to save loaded running order text to a structured *.spt file.
19	The area displays a list of markers found in the story text and allows you to switch between them.
20	Area for scrolling through the news text
21	Optional reading field indicator, which can be switched on in the settings.
22	Indicator of the scrolling process. Allows you to understand the current position in the scrolling block of text.
23	The wide white bar is an indicator of the beginning and end of the text in the displayed block.

Settings

The configuration window is opened via the settings button in the toolbar or via the key combination: Shift + F1.

View

The tab contains interface and display settings.

Prompter settings

X

View
Sources
About

Mirroring: Off Horizontal Vertical Both

Micro-screen size:

Middle line

Presenter font size (SHIFT + 1):

Review font size (SHIFT + 2):

Language:

Save
Save as default
Reset to defaults

Close

Parameter	Description
Mirroring	Enables mirroring mode
Micro-screen size	Sets the micro-screen size for the operator in mirroring modes.
Middle line	Controls the visibility of the reading field display for the presenter's convenience.
Presenter font size	The size of the text in prompter display mode.
Review font size	The text size in text view mode.
Language	Select a language pack to set the interface language.
Save	Saves changes.
Reset to defaults	Restores the settings to default values. The values will be taken from the default profile stored on the server. If the server is unavailable, the default settings will be used.
Close	Closes the window without saving the changes.
Save as default	Changes the default profile saved on the server. Be careful when using this option. The action is available only for users with 'Prompter_Admin' group permissions.

Sources

The tab contains settings of text sources to be displayed. The configured sources are saved on the server and are available to all users. Changing the sources is available only for users with permissions of the 'Prompter_Admin' group.



Prompter settings

View
Sources
About

Select source:

File

▼

Source type:

File

▼

Address:

localhost

Service number:

1

▼

Create...
Update
Delete

Close

Parameter	Description
Select source	Select a previously saved source to view and change its settings.
Source name	User name of the source. If an existing source name is specified, its settings will be updated when you save it.

Parameter	Description																																				
Source type	Select the text source mode:																																				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> File - Load news release texts from a text file with *.spt extension (*.txt or *.rtf are also supported). The file must contain UTF-8 encoded text. Program - In this mode, news release texts are loaded from the playlist of the Program module. This mode is useful when the NRCS system uploads Running Order with texts directly to the playlist. The Prompter system loads lyrics from the Comment column. MOS - In this mode, loading of news release texts is performed from the MOS Gateway module, which receives active Running Order from the NRCS system via MOS protocol. 																																				
	The type of source selected determines the available capabilities. Mode Comparison:																																				
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Option</th> <th>File</th> <th>Program</th> <th>MOS</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Support for story navigation</td> <td>+</td> <td>+</td> <td>+</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Support for marker navigation</td> <td>+</td> <td>+</td> <td>+</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Automatic running order update according to NRCS</td> <td>-</td> <td>+</td> <td>+</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Automatic detection of the current story</td> <td>-</td> <td>+</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Support for hot text editing</td> <td>+</td> <td>+</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Save the result of editing to the server</td> <td>-</td> <td>+</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Save uploaded texts to a file</td> <td>+</td> <td>+</td> <td>+</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Automatic output of information about the presenter</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>+</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Option	File	Program	MOS	Support for story navigation	+	+	+	Support for marker navigation	+	+	+	Automatic running order update according to NRCS	-	+	+	Automatic detection of the current story	-	+	-	Support for hot text editing	+	+	-	Save the result of editing to the server	-	+	-	Save uploaded texts to a file	+	+	+	Automatic output of information about the presenter	-	-	+
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Service number	Program or MOS Gateway service number (depends on the selected mode). The field is available in Program and MOS modes.																																				
Save	Saves the new source with the name specified in the Source name field.																																				
Update	Saves changes to an existing source.																																				
Delete	Deletes the selected source. The last available source cannot be deleted. Real-time changes will be displayed in the application window where the deletion occurs. Other clients will receive an updated list of sources when the application interface reloads.																																				

About

The tab contains information about the application version and licence settings.



Prompter settings

View Sources About

Server Version: 2.10.158.99
 Prompter Version: 1.0.34 (20241021)

License info

Prompter Clients: 2
 Prompter Channels: 2

Close

Parameter	Description
Server Version	The version of Skylark on the server
Prompter Version	The version of the Prompter web application.
Prompter Clients	Maximum number of clients running simultaneously.
Prompter Channels	Maximum number of sources that can be used simultaneously.

Function Description

View Mode

The viewing mode allows to display the texts of stories with reduced font size, which is convenient for pre-air familiarisation with the text and their editing.

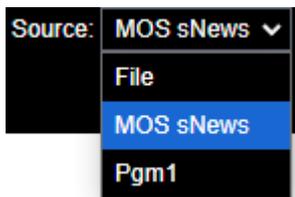


[Anchor] Good evening, dear viewers! You are watching the news on [Channel Name], and I am [Anchor's Name]. Tonight's headlines:
[Pause]
 ===
[Anchor] Let's start with the main events of the day. Today the leaders met to discuss important issues of global economy and security.
[V/O] The leaders discussed measures to combat climate change and strengthen international cooperation.
 ===
[Anchor] More on this from our correspondent [Correspondent's Name].

The mode is enabled by pressing the combination Ctrl+2 or Ctrl+M.

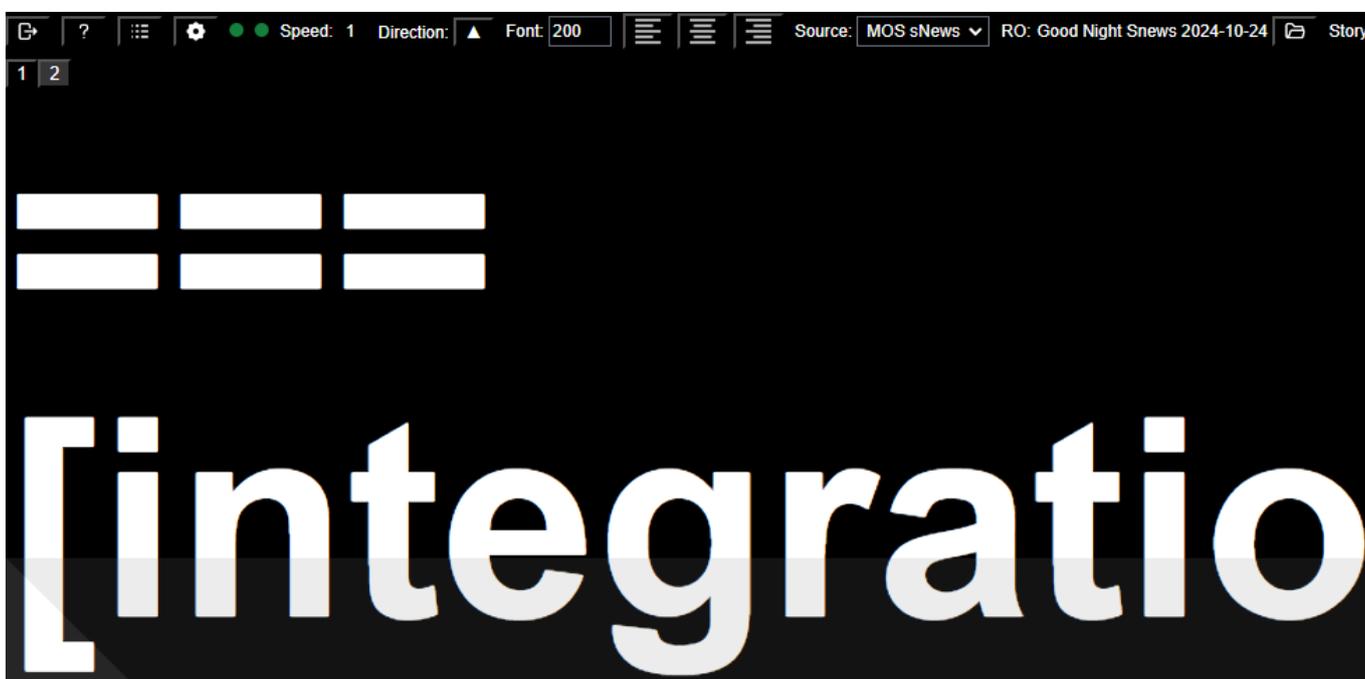
Switching Sources

The operator can quickly switch between sources of different types directly from the toolbar.



Navigating Through Markers

Prompter interprets the sequence === in the Story text as a marker. Also, when working in MOS mode, when receiving storyPresenter data, a marker is automatically set and the presenter's name is displayed so that the operator and presenters can easily navigate the text.



The operator can switch through markers within a story using on-screen buttons, hotkeys, or buttons on the remote.

Marking the Current Story

A current story is a story that is currently playing on air or is ready to be shown. During a break, the prompter operator can navigate through the story texts to familiarise with the texts. The current story mark feature allows you to return to the story that is marked Current with a single tap, saving time on navigation.



- Marks the current story in the list of stories. - Use the button to navigate to the current story. - Use the button to mark the current story (available in File and MOS modes). In Program mode, the current story is automatically determined based on the playlist data.

Text Mirroring

When displaying the Prompter interface on a computer screen, on-camera teleprompter or tablets, you may need to display text on the screen in different ways. The following modes are supported:

Mirroring	Appearance	Micro Screen
Off	[Anchor] Good evening, dear viewers! You are watching...	-
Horizontal	VIEWERS! YOU EVENING, DEAR [ANCHOR] GOOD	+
Vertical	GOOD [ANCHOR] GOOD evening, dear viewers! You are watching...	+
Both	VIEWERS! YOU EVENING, DEAR [ANCHOR] GOOD	+

When one of the mirroring modes is activated, a micro-screen that displays text without mirroring effects is additionally displayed for operator convenience.

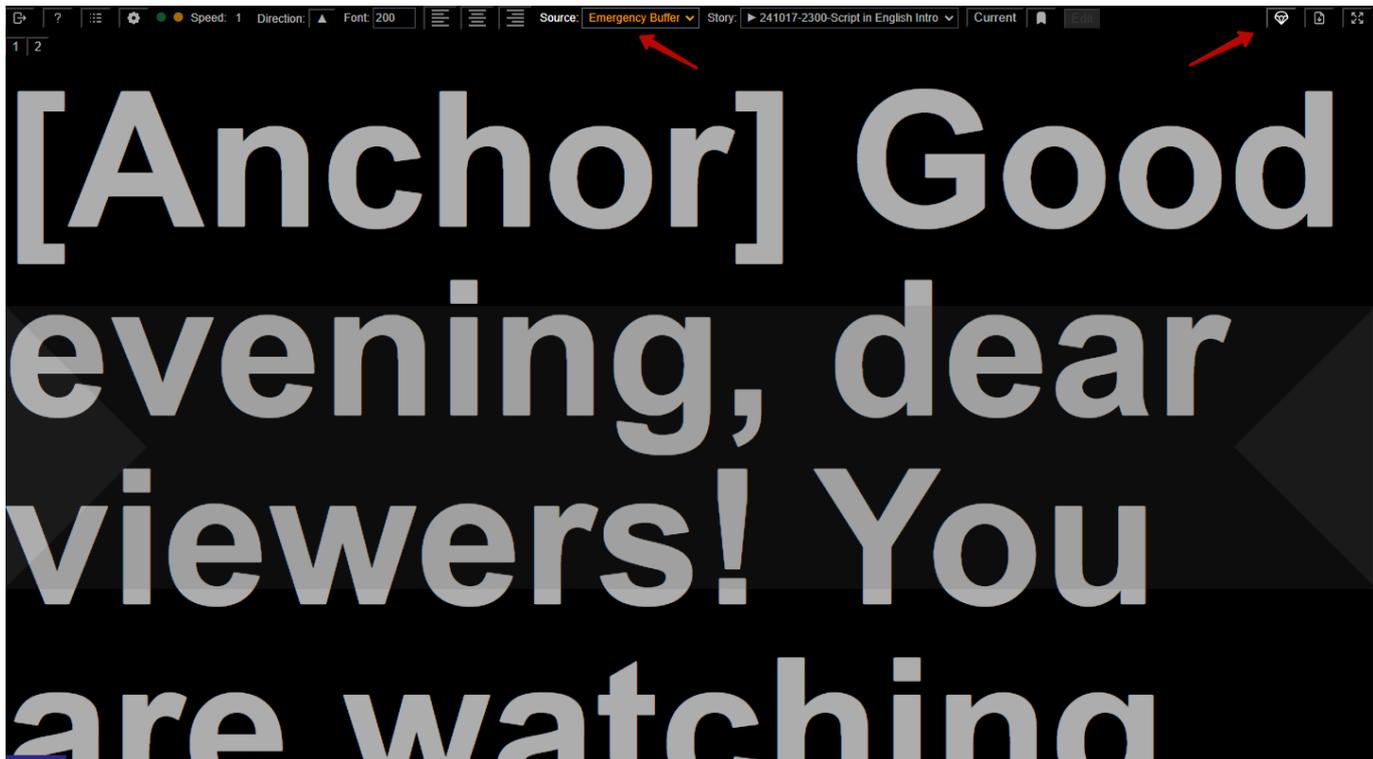


Emergency Buffer

The function of restoring text from the emergency buffer works automatically and serves to prevent possible loss of displayed texts due to abnormal situations or erroneous actions of operators.

All texts of the current running order are written to the emergency buffer in the following cases:

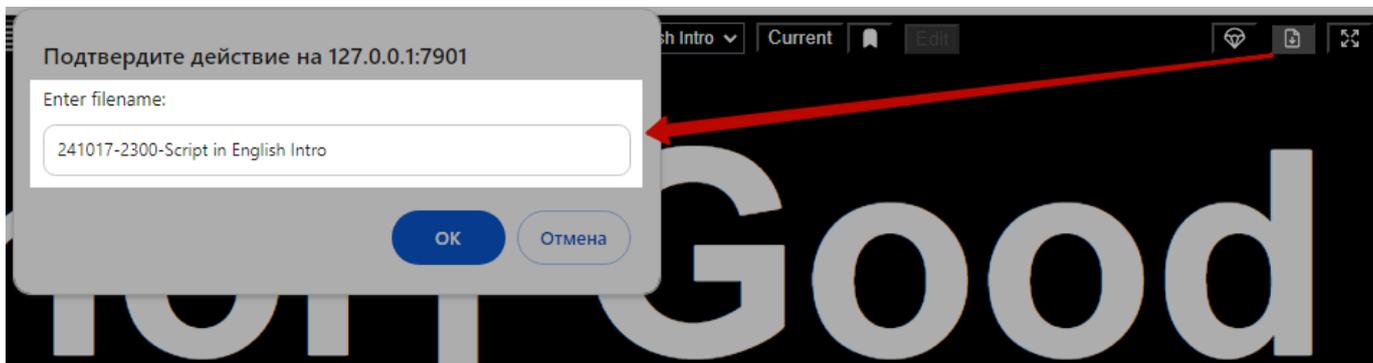
- before updating the running order at the moment of switching between Story,
- when changing Source,
- when changing the Running Order,
- when saving a text after an editing operation.



Restoring text from the buffer is done by pressing a single button. In the Emergency Buffer mode, the Emergency Buffer is displayed in the source list.

Saving texts

The save texts feature allows you to save running order texts loaded from any source into [spt file](#).



Management

Hotkeys

Prompter web application supports [hotkey combinations](#) for quick access to all application functions, as well as convenient operator's work.

Control Console

Prompter application supports control using the hardware controller [X-Keys XK-12 Jog and Shuttle](#).

The image shows an example of the function key layout for the default preset. Information on [firmware X-keys XK-12 remote for Prompter](#).



Action	Description
View Mode	Turns to a live view of the entire story text.
Full Screen	Switch between normal and full screen mode. Use to switch the prompter to the operating position.
Play/Pause	Start and stop automatic text scrolling.
GoTo Begin	Go to the beginning of the text of the selected story.
GoTo End	Go to the end of the selected story text.
Prev Marker	Go to the previous marker in the story text.
Next Marker	Go to the next marker in the story text.
Prev Story	Go to the text of the previous story.
Next Story	Go to the text of the next story.
Set Current	Set the current story marker.
GoTo Current	Go to the current story.
Fast Backward	Rotate the Shuttle wheel (external) counterclockwise to fast-forward text.
Fast Forward	Clockwise rotation of the Shuttle-wheel (external) fast-forwards text.
Slower	Turning the Jog wheel (internal) anti-clockwise decreases the text scrolling speed until it stops.

Action	Description
Faster	Clockwise rotation of the Jog Wheel (internal) provides a smooth increase in text scrolling speed to the maximum speed.

Methodology

General Approaches:

- Set the prompter to full-screen mode before starting.
- Select a working source with text or load text from a file.
- Select the first story to start and mark it current if necessary.
- Start working by turning the Jog wheel slightly to the right. Accelerate the text, bringing the speed to a comfortable level.
- When using the Play/Stop button, the current speed will be stored.
- If you need to navigate through stories during a break, remember to mark the current story with the Set Current button.
- If you make a mistake and for some reason lose text that needs to be broadcast quickly, use the emergency buffer function.

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Last update: **2024/10/24 10:30**

