

The d&b Venue database

Frequently asked questions

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Contribution to the d&b Venue database

Is there some documentation that explains the criteria and the process for submitting a venue?

Yes. Please have a look at the Downloads section of the ArrayCalc product page on the d&b website. The ['d&b Venue database - requirements for venues'](#) document that can be found there explains the formal and legal requirements. Please also have a look at existing entries in the Venue database which to get an additional feeling for the level of detail required.

Is it required to /can I send CAD drawings of a venue to d&b?

No. We only accept dbacv files and the associated metadata as described in the ['d&b Venue database - requirements for venues'](#) document that available from the Downloads section of the ArrayCalc product page on our website.

Is there a validation process for venues that are submitted to d&b?

There is a validation process with regard to the formal criteria only. I.e., we double-check whether the naming and colour palette criteria have been met and whether or not the mandatory metadata has been provided etc. We cannot check whether or not a venue model is accurate, as we were not there when the measurements were taken. If there are obvious peculiarities, we will naturally get in touch with the contributor and double-check, but in the end, it is all based on mutual trust.

Should you discover any inaccuracies, please let us know at support@dbaudio.com.

How long from submitting a venue until it appears in the database?

New venues will appear in the database as soon as they are quality checked. It should normally not take longer than very few days at most. As such, the database will be updated as soon as new venues are submitted to d&b and as fast as working time allows. Because it is an "online only" feature and does not require additional software to be downloaded or installed, all updates to the content will be available to everybody automatically as soon as they are added to the database by d&b HQ.

Does d&b clear the data in the Venue database with venue owners?

No. It is the responsibility of the contributor to make sure no rights have been infringed. E.g., some venues only supply CAD drawings that an NDA has been signed for. We do not expect any issues in this regard but are of course open to dialogue should there ever be an issue. The ['d&b Venue database - requirements for venues'](#) document gives a couple more insights on the legal background.

Is the documentation on how to contribute available in other languages than English?

The documentation will be available in multiple languages in the future. Please note that while the explanations will be translated, the working language in which a contributor has to fill in the forms and in which information will be shown in the venue database will always be English only as that is the "system language" of the venue database.

I see some of these venues don't have walls drawn in. Is that something that needs to be considered when submitting drawings?

Walls or any structural elements do not need to be included on a general basis. They are relevant and welcome if they are relevant for purposes of rigging, sightlines or visual orientation. It might be useful to represent a proscenium arch in a theatre or major ceiling beams and permanent house trusses, but there is rarely a reason to put in back or side walls that cannot be an obstruction to sightlines. So while it is absolutely not forbidden to do so, please always consider the work involved and the associated additional plane count versus the practical utility.

Will there be a reward for contributing venues?

No, not in a monetary sense. The Venue database is a community effort. Consider it a "pay it forward" principle. A venue file that you submit today might help somebody else tomorrow, and in a similar way, hopefully somebody else has submitted content that is later helpful to you. The reward is that the community helps each other out.

Would it be your preference to include "ghost planes"¹ for Array Processing data for larger venues?

We have come to the conclusion that providing ghost planes throughout the entire venue file when for every system design only a small handful will actually be used creates too much extra work and unnecessarily increases the plane count. Therefore, they are not required in a venue file that is submitted. It is the responsibility of the system tech of the respective show to decide upon and place the ghost planes. For the typical amount of ghost planes actually required, this takes about a minute vs. potentially an hour to put in all ghost planes which are theoretically possible. After all, ArrayProcessing only considers planes which are intersected by the main axis of an array.

¹ "Ghost planes" are necessary when ArrayProcessing is in use and when the on-axis of the coverage needs to be overshoot to achieve better coverage at higher elevation angles off-axis. This (overshooting on-axis for better coverage off-axis with high tiered seating) is a common practice in arena shows and long predates ArrayProcessing.

When overshooting the listening planes, the main axes of some loudspeakers at the top of the array are not aimed at anything, confusing the ArrayProcessing algorithm. Therefore, artificial audience planes, the so-called ghost planes, are added above the end of the actual audience areas to present a "target" to ArrayProcessing.

d&b Venue database content and operation

Whom at d&b should I ask for a venue file for a specific venue?

There is only one source for this kind of information – the Venue database. Everything that we have and that we can share is in there, and because of its online nature, it always reflects the most current data. Naturally, you might need a venue that is not (yet) available. But maybe this could be **your** next contribution?

Do venues that have installed d&b systems show existing loudspeakers, e.g. for tying in delays?

Not at this moment. Currently, the Venue database only delivers the venues themselves (the equivalent of a dbacv file). It be an idea for the future, though.

Is the metadata of a venue only visible online?

Yes, except for the bits that the contributor has also noted in the Comments field in the Venue editor.

Is there a limit to the number of venues that can be stored in the Venue database?

No.

Can users rate the quality of a venue?

Not that this moment, but maybe in the future.

Can downloaded venues be edited?

Absolutely. From the moment a venue is imported into the Venue editor, all operations are possible.

Can venues be stored offline?

Yes, by exporting them from the venue editor.

Is it possible to export a venue as dxf?

No.

Is the venue database the only functionality that requires ArrayCalc to be online?

No. Both the venue database and automatic software update require ArrayCalc to be online (connected to the internet).

Many venues show a lot of detail – what was the process of getting there?

There are different ways to get to that level of detail. The best source of data are usually CAD drawings, but even they might be outdated or incomplete due to undocumented renovations of a venue. One way is to use the ArrayCalc Exchange Sketchup extension to convert CAD to a venue file.

Another is to open them in the CAD package of choice, isolate the elements that are acoustically relevant and manually copy the dimensions across to ArrayCalc. As a variant of this technique, only copy across the plan view dimensions and then add elevation data for each element on site with the help of a laser distance finder/inclinometer.

There are also laser-measurement tools that take distance, azimuth and elevation measurements at once and can cross-load those into CAD packages, resulting again in 3D geometry that could then be further processed to result in an ArrayCalc venue.

Whichever way you go, a crucial element is always simplification - the level of detail provided in a CAD drawing is typically far in excess of what is needed or meaningful in ArrayCalc. E.g., it is not necessary to represent each stair of tiered seating when the whole tier is a continuous slope.

Feedback to d&b

What if I have feedback or questions on the Venue database?

The point of contact for all questions and feedback, not only regarding the Venue database, is support@dbaudio.com.

What if I can provide a better venue model than what is currently available in the database?

Should you have a better or more accurated model of a venue that you would like to submit instead of an existing one, please follow the process described in the documentation. Please do include an explanation of what you have improved. If in doubt, please contact us first at support@dbaudio.com

What if I have suggestions for new features for the Venue database?

The current state of the Venue database is just the beginning of the journey. It will develop further in the future. We suggest that you use the feature for a while first to better make up your mind about what else might be nice to have.

Should you have an idea, please address it to support@dbaudio.com only. Please describe

- what the desired functionality would be (don't worry about where the buttons would go, that is the job of the developers)
- and why it would be a benefit to have that functionality.

The more concise your description is, the better it can be evaluated and possibly implemented. Please understand that while we are really super-thankful for all and any input, we can give no guarantees. At any given point in time, there are far more ideas than we could realize in a lifetime, so we always have to pick and choose carefully.