EPG & parental control

The greatest thing of digital television, is the huge capacity that traditional operators can get from digital tv compression and are beginning to appreciate.

When you switch from a single analog service to many digital services, you buy at least four time the capacity you were used to have and you can think of new services, like tematic programs, special events, and so on. Or maybe you can host on your network some external content provider.

So, you have plenty of new content but you should let your potential viewer aware of all these goods.

Here it comes the **Electronic Program Guide** (**EPG**), the technology that publish on the user decoder, in a fairly standard way, the schedule of all the services in the mux.

A Digital Tv network without an EPG, is like a thick book without an index, useless and boring after some quick browsing of the first pages.

So you need an EPG and a flexible one, with links to your Play out server and to binding to external data source (from thirdy party play out systems of hosted content provider)

Basic and advanced features of Avalpa EPG server

EPG is a DVB network service, it runs on the well know **PID 18**. The Epg server could send also the TOT/TDT on **PID 20** for proper event sinchronization.
Our solution server runs next to the multiplexer and feed the network with "**now and next event infos**" for all the programs on the same mux and/or other (linked) muxes of the bouquet.
You can input the event details to the EPG server in many ways:

- with a simple and effective web interface (see right)
- with an integration to your playout system (already made for selected softwares)
- with a file polling of a simple XML formatted exchange file

On the user decoder, the event info can be made available both on the integrated EPG application and through **a more graphical interactive application** (you'll need the MHP carousel module for this option to work).

When you have an **EPG** in place, you can set up also event rating for **parental control** to work, as provisioned by law in many countries, for example, with regard to adult content. Parental control means that the decoder shuts off and ask for a pass code when adult only content is on air.

Standard features available on Avalpa EPG Server

Linux server	The system runs on a stable, reliable, affordable Operative System, it uses rack mountable HW for a solid setup into broadcaster premises.
No moving part	To achieve a greater service availability, there are less moving parts (the one that break down for first in every set up), i.e. No hard disk, but a solid state disk.
DVB interface	We use an ASI interface to feed the service info about your network into the multiplexer. It's the standard and most realiable link.
Configuration	The EPG setup should be done during the installation, when the system is in place.
Management	The system can be remotely controlled from an IP network with standard tools (ssh, ftp) and managed with web interface
Upgrade	The system can be upgraded remotely without bring the device out of the rack.

EPG standard and technicalities

EPG Server is compliant with the features described in the DGTVI D-BOOK ver 1.

Call to action now!

If you want to stand out the pack in the digital tv crowd, the **EPG server** is something you can't miss. **Don't wait too much;** your audience could be already fading away without an index of your event schedule!

If you want more info, talk about your specific issues, have a demo of the system in action or get a quotation for a solution tailored to your exact requirements, please write us at info@avalpa.com or phone at **+39 0514187531**.