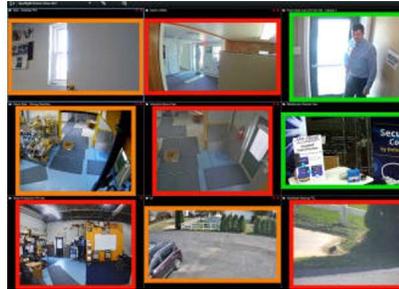




Spotlight™  
Plug-in



# Spotlight™ Plug-in

for

## Milestone XProtect Smart Client

### User Guide

*Automatic / hands-free ...*

*XProtect Smart Client visual cues and view changes  
along with user-defined, alarm-specific audio announcements.  
Never miss an alarm with Spotlight™.*

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August 2023

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The **Spotlight™ Plug-in** for the Milestone XProtect Smart Client captures operator attention with visual and audio alerts based on XProtect event and/or alarm keyword matches.

With Spotlight, the XProtect Smart Client dynamically responds to new events and alarms with visual on-screen alerts and text-to-speech audio announcements. Spotlight uses alarm keyword matches to trigger XProtect Smart Client actions that draw attention to important alarms in real-time, as they occur.

Spotlight SHOWS and TELLS you when and where attention is required. This speeds up the response time to important alarms and reduces the likelihood of missed alarms due to inattention or distraction.

Be alert, aware, and attentive with Spotlight™.

## Summary

This document provides a basic overview as well as installation and operating instructions for the **Spotlight™ Plug-in** for the Milestone XProtect Smart Client.

## Table of Contents

|  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Plug-in Overview .....  | 3 |
| 1.1. Features .....  | 3 |
| 2. Spotlight Plug-in Installation and Initial Setup .....  | 2 |
| 2.1. Installation .....  | 2 |
| 2.2. Licensing .....   | 2 |
| 3. Spotlight Interface Screenshot .....  | 3 |
| 3.1. Sample Spotlight™ screenshot with typical configuration settings .....                                      | 3 |
| 3.2. How to manually clear Spotlight™ bounding boxes and audio alarms.....                                       | 3 |
| 4. Spotlight Settings Overview .....   | 4 |
| 4.1. Explanation of settings options.....  | 4 |
| 5. Configuring Spotlight Audio and Visual Cues.....  | 6 |
| 5.1. Configuration overview.....   | 6 |
| 5.2. Explanation of basic configuration options .....  | 6 |
| 5.3. Configuring View Changes and Floating Windows (advanced).....   | 7 |
| 5.4. Spotlight™ Text-to-Speech Repetition Options.....   | 8 |
| 6. FAQ.....  | 6 |
| 6.1. Do I also have to install or manage plug-in components in the Management Client? .....                      | 6 |
| 6.2. I installed the Smart Client, but it does not seem to be working after the license key is activated. ....   | 6 |
| 6.3. I want to install the Spotlight™ Plug-in on another workstation. How do I do that?.....                     | 6 |
| 6.4. I made changes to my keyword settings, but they are not instantly being shared with other workstations..... | 6 |
| 6.5. I entered a keyword into a field, but it is not generating a bounding box. What do I do?.....               | 6 |
| 6.6. I want to create a custom audio announcement for several different alarm types. How do I do that? .....     | 6 |
| 6.7. How do I generate an audio announcement for a system event? .....   | 6 |
| 6.8. What if two keywords of interest are very similar to one another? How do I differentiate?.....              | 6 |
| 6.9. Can an event or alarm clear a bounding box?.....  | 6 |
| 7. Legal .....   | 7 |
| 7.1. Surveillance Privacy.....   | 7 |
| 7.2. Disclaimer .....  | 7 |

## 1. Plug-in Overview

The Spotlight™ Plug-in provides visual and audio cues within the XProtect Smart Client user environment to notify an operator that a particular event or alarm of interest has occurred.

Visual alerts include color-coded bounding boxes around live camera cells to indicate the device on which the alarm occurred. Spotlight can also initiate on-screen view changes and floating “pop-up” windows based on the alarm type. With this feature, the operator automatically views relevant cameras / views, without the need to manually identify relevant views and navigate to them.

Spotlight also generates user-defined, alarm specific audio announcements from the XProtect Smart Client workstation PC speakers. Spotlight associates XProtect event / alarm keyword matches to pre-typed phrases. When a qualifying alarm occurs, text-to-speech is used to read the phrase aloud – and repeat it if necessary – to alert the operator to a new alarm and audibly provide contextual information about the nature of the event / alarm.

Spotlight is easy to use and manage. Simply enter an event/alarm keyword of interest and choose which features are activated by a keyword match. Any subsequent event/alarm containing the keyword will trigger the pre-defined XProtect Smart Client response.

The Spotlight™ Plug-in is ideal for use with XProtect Smart Walls and other heads-up displays where operators monitor video without direct contact with the XProtect Smart Client. Spotlight™ alerts are automatic and hands-free, requiring no user engagement to activate.

Settings can be shared globally or set individually on each workstation.

### 1.1. Features

Spotlight plug-in provides the following functionality in the Milestone XProtect Smart Client Live View tab:

- Trigger color-coded bounding boxes around live camera cells based on XProtect event and/or alarm keyword matches.
  - o Users or admins choose the color scheme.
  - o The color scheme used can represent severity, type, location, zone, etc.
- Play text-to-speech audio announcements based on event and/or alarm keyword matches.
  - o Users or admins specify a phrase which will be read aloud upon a keyword match.
    - Voice types, languages, and accents are downloadable.
    - Specify the number of repetitions to be used and the pause length between those repetitions.
    - “Speech anytime” feature plays audio announcement for any XProtect event/alarm, even when not associated with a live on-screen camera.
- Change the on-screen XProtect Smart Client view, or “pop-up” a floating window when an event / alarm keyword match occurs.
  - o Users or admins optionally select a XProtect Smart Client View by associating an alarm keyword with a view.
    - Choose to either change the on-screen view or launch the view as a “floating window”.
    - A keyboard shortcut can be used to return the display to a “home” view.
- Clear color-coded bounding boxes and audio announcement manually or automatically.
  - o To clear alerts manually, users click on the camera view of interest and select “clear”.
  - o To clear bounding boxes automatically, a duration can be set (in minutes).
  - o Event and/or alarm keywords can be used to clear alerts.
    - An example of this would be: Trigger bounding box and audio message on keyword “Door Open” but clear on keyword “Door Locked”.
- Share Spotlight™ Plug-in setting locally on each workstation or globally across XProtect Smart Clients on your network.
  - o Use radio button to indicate whether to share settings globally or isolate locally.
  - o If using shared settings, changes to Spotlight settings will be made on all XProtect Smart Clients whose radio button is also set to “Shared Settings.”

## 2. Spotlight Plug-in Installation and Initial Setup

### 2.1. Installation

The Spotlight™ Plug- plug-in installs locally on individual workstations. Installation is easy and straightforward.

Simply copy the Spotlight directory provided by App-Techs or an authorized reseller directory and place into the following directory:

- C:\Program Files\Milestone\XProtect Smart Client\MIPPlugins

Close and restart the XProtect Smart Client. (Upon start, the XProtect Smart Client finds and activates its plug-ins.)

Note: Based on your Windows security settings, an unzipped copy of Spotlight may have its read-access blocked. To unblock, right-click on each file contained in the Spotlight directory. Under the attributes sub-menu, check unblock.

### 2.2. Licensing

The Spotlight™ Plug-in is **licensed per workstation**.

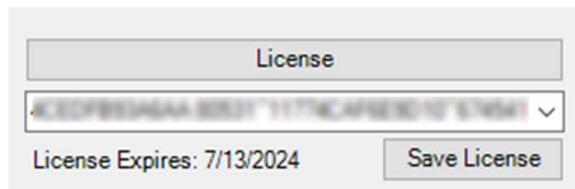
Contact App-Techs or a certified reseller to generate license keys for each of your XProtect Smart Client workstations.

License generation requires a MAC address for each workstation using Spotlight.

- To load a license key:
  - o Open the XProtect Smart Client ...
    - Expand the left-side vertical panel / menu. ...
  - o In the “MIP plug-ins” section of the panel, the Spotlight interface should appear.
  - o Click the “Settings” button.



- o In the “Spotlight Settings” window ...
  - Paste the license key in the field below the “License” button.

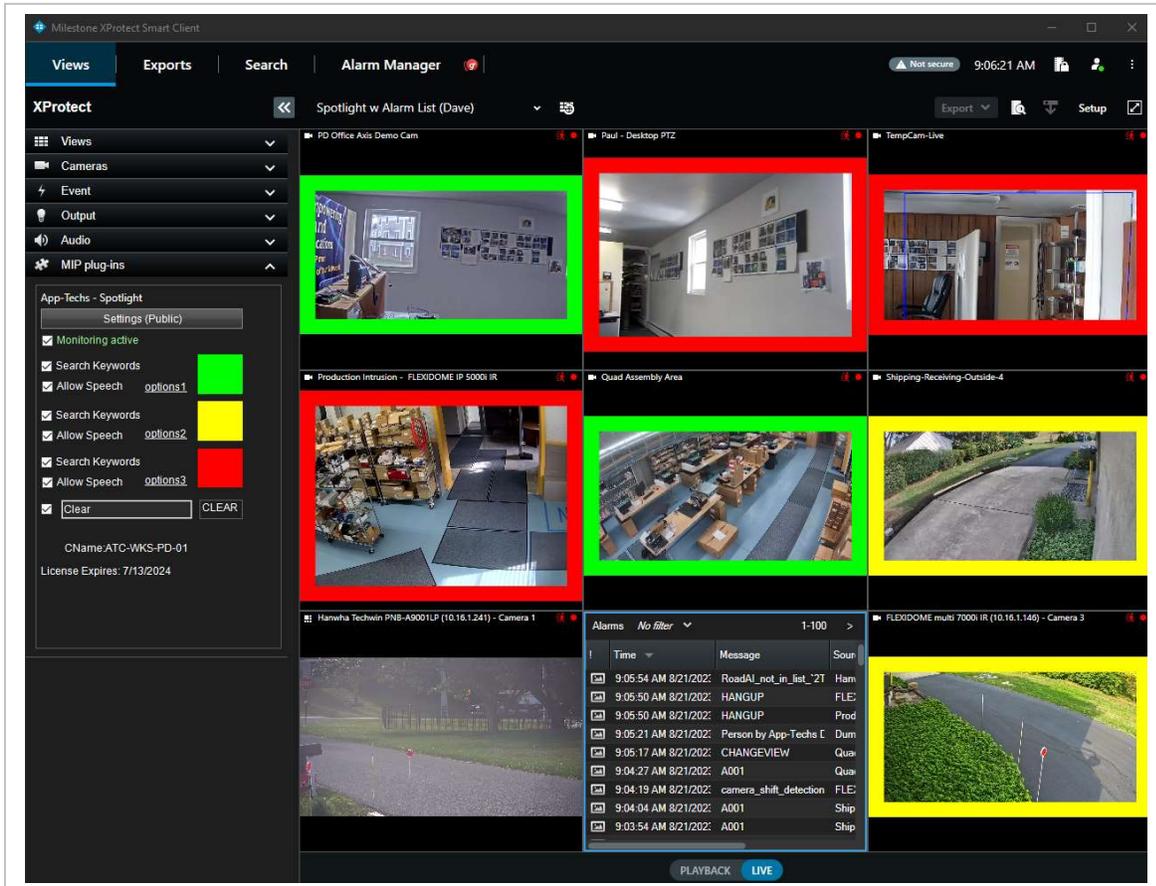


- o After pasting-in the license key ...
  - Click the “License” Button to load the license.
  - Then click the “Save” button to activate the license.
  - Close the “Spotlight Settings” Window
  - Make sure the “Monitoring active” button is checked
- o We recommend closing and re-opening the XProtect Smart Client after entering your license key to make sure it successfully saved.

### 3. Spotlight Interface Screenshot

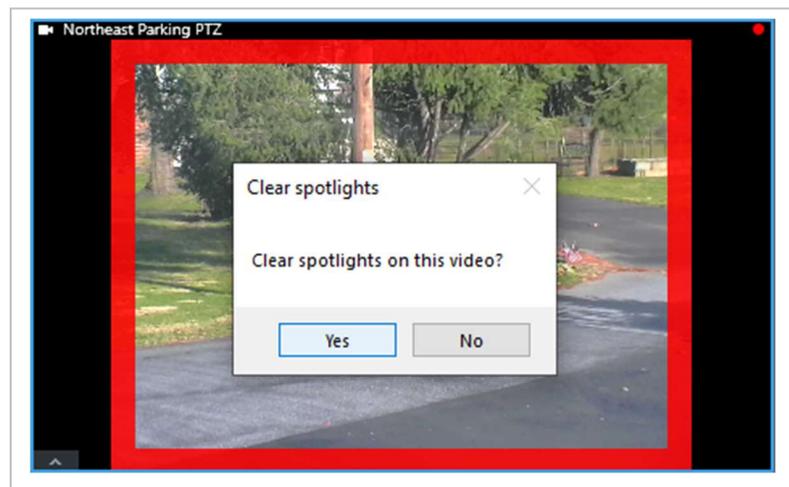
#### 3.1. Sample Spotlight™ screenshot with typical configuration settings

Below is a standard XProtect Smart Client live view featuring triggered Spotlight™ bounding boxes.



#### 3.2. How to manually clear Spotlight™ bounding boxes and audio alarms.

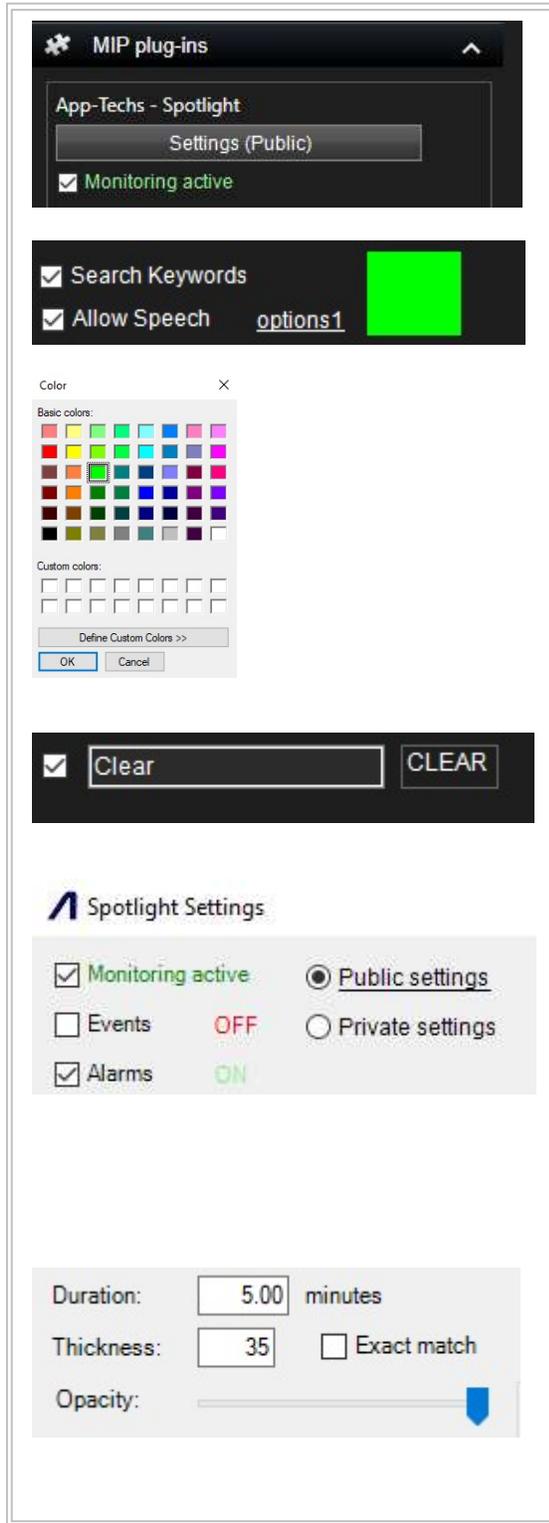
Click on the active live camera view pane to bring up the “Clear Spotlights” prompt. Shown below.



## 4. Spotlight Settings Overview

Spotlight configuration settings are managed entirely within the XProtect Smart Client “MIP plug-ins” user interface. Below is a guide on configuration settings available in the plug-in.

### 4.1. Explanation of settings options



**Settings (Button)** – Access Spotlight general settings

**Monitoring active (Checkbox)** – Toggle all spotlight notifications on or off. If unchecked, all spotlight features become inactive.

**Search Keywords (Checkbox)** – Independently toggle spotlight notifications on or off for options1, options2, and options3. If unchecked, Spotlight will take no action for the option selected.

**Allow Speech (Checkbox)** – Independently toggle text-to-speech audio announcements on or off for options1, options2, and options3. If unchecked, audio announcements are muted for the option selected

**Color Square (Button)** – Click the color square to choose a preferred bounding box color for options1, options2, and options3.

**Clear (Checkbox / Text Field)** – This field automatically clears all spotlight bounding boxes and audio announcements when an incoming message contains a keyword match. For example, if a DOOR OPEN alarm keyword triggers a bounding box (indicating a door is open), then one could use a DOOR CLOSED alarm keyword to automatically clear the bounding box.

**Monitoring active (Checkbox)** – Toggle all spotlight notifications on or off. This applied to option1, option2, and option3.

**Events (Checkbox)** – Choose whether to monitor XProtect events for event keyword matches.

**Alarms (Checkbox)** – Choose whether to monitor XProtect alarms for alarm keyword matches

**Public Settings / Private Settings (Toggle)** – Public settings are universally across all instances of Spotlight on your network. Private settings are local to the workstation.

**Duration: minutes** – Set a timer to automatically clear color bounding boxes after *n* minutes. Minutes may be expressed in decimals.

**Thickness:** – Choose the thickness of the bounding box. Width is in Pixels.

**Opacity:** - Choose the transparency of the bounding box. A smaller value increases the transparency of the bounding box.

**Exact Match (Checkbox)** – Choose to require an exact keyword match. Default configuration for Spotlight is to accept a partial keyword match.

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Fields to examine</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Hdr.Name<br/><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Message<br/><input type="checkbox"/> Source<br/><input type="checkbox"/> Tag<br/><input type="checkbox"/> Type</p> | <p><b>Fields to examine (Checkbox)</b> - Choose which event or alarm field(s) to search for keyword matches. "Message" is the most commonly-used option.</p>   |
| <p>Microsoft Zira Desktop   Female   en-US ▾</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Speech anytime <input type="text" value="1"/> Max per event</p>   | <p><b>Choose Language / Speech (Dropdown)</b> – Choose which Windows language / speech preferences will be used by Spotlight to generate text-to-speech messages. To make changes to the Speech options, go to Windows Settings &gt; Language.</p>                                     |
| <p><b>Floating Window</b></p> <p>Max # of Windows</p> <input type="text" value="3"/>  | <p><b>Speech Anytime (Checkbox)</b> – If checked, Spotlight will make audio announcements for any alarm, even those tied to cameras that are NOT included on the current on-screen display. To limit audio announcements to on-screen cameras only, uncheck this box.</p>              |
| <p><b>License</b></p> <input type="text" value="4CEDFB93A6AA:80531^11774CAF6E9D10^674541 ▾"/><br>License Expires: 7/13/2024 <input type="button" value="Save License"/>   | <p><b>Max # of Windows</b> – Limit the number of floating windows that can be active. (Floating windows with many live camera feeds can consume hardware resources of the XProtect Smart Client workstation. This feature provides a method to avoid overtaxing system resources.)</p> |
|   | <p><b>License</b> – Refer to section 1.3. <i>Licensing</i> on how to activate a Spotlight license</p>  |

## 5. Configuring Spotlight Audio and Visual Cues

### 5.1. Configuration overview

Spotlight works by identifying keyword matches in the Event / Alarm record data when a new alarm populates the XProtect Smart Client “Alarm List.”

Users specify which keyword(s) will initiate Spotlight features in the “Keyword” column show below. Spotlight’s default is to only require a partial keyword match, i.e. if the new event / alarm record CONTAINS the character string listed. Users may also require an exact keyword match.

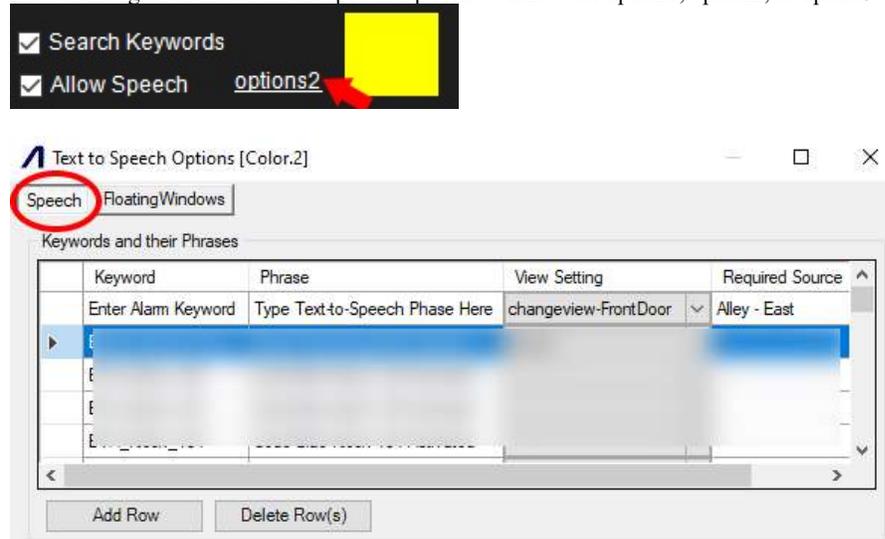
When a new Event / Alarm Record contains a keyword match, and based on user-defined settings, Spotlight provides the following options:

- 1) Draw colored bounding boxes around live camera cells if a keyword match occurs in the “Keyword” column.
- 2) Read the “Phrase” field – as shown below – as a text-to-speech audio announcement when a keyword match occurs. Settings are available to repeat announcements.
- 3) Change the on-screen view or trigger a “floating” pop-up window based on the “View Setting.”
- 4) For device-specific announcements, use the “Required Source” column to limit the Spotlight response only to alarms associated with a specific camera.
  - a. This is useful to achieve device-specific announcements and visual cues.
  - b. By selecting a camera in the “Required Source” field, Spotlight will only draw a bounding box, read the phrase, and initiate view commands IF the alarm record contains a keyword match AND is associated with the camera listed.

Most of the alarm keyword mapping is completed in the “Text-to-Speech Options” window, as shown below.

### 5.2. Explanation of basic configuration options

How to navigate to the “Text-to-Speech Options” window for option1, option2, or option3.



**Keyword Column** - Enter the character string that will be considered a keyword match. Spotlight’s default is to search for partial keyword matches. See Section 4.1 on how to require exact matches.

**Phrase Column** - Enter the preferred phrase to be read as text-to-speech when a keyword match occurs.

**View Setting Column** - Select from a list of user-defined XProtect Smart Client view settings. See Section 5.3 for instructions on creating XProtect Smart Client view commands.

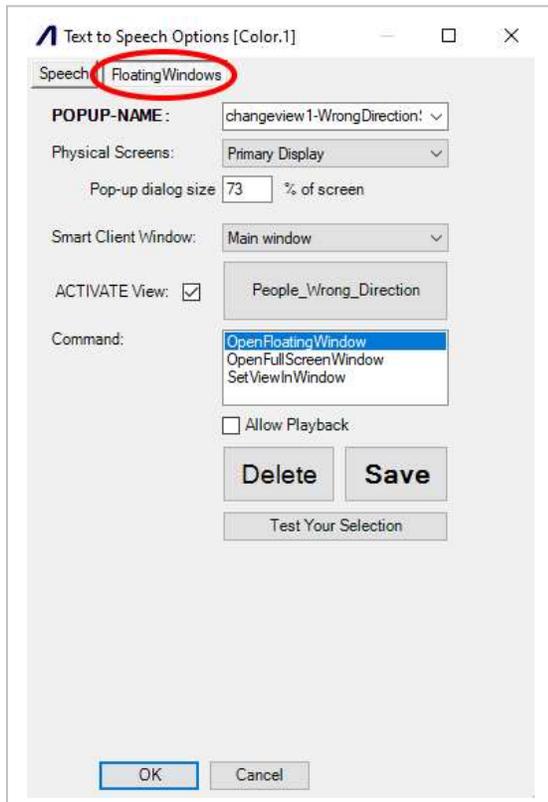
**Required Source** - **\*Optional\*** - Double-click your mouse on the cell, and select a camera from the list. This will limit Spotlight actions to events and alarms associated with this camera. The default is [blank], with Spotlight initiating commands for events / alarms associated with ANY camera.

**Add Row (Button)** - Add a new row to the table.

**Delete Row(s) (Button)** - Delete row from the table.

### 5.3. Configuring View Changes and Floating Windows (advanced)

Below is a guide on how to configure adaptive view changes for the XProtect Smart Client when a keyword match occurs.



**“POPUP-NAME:”** - Type a new name in the “POPUP-NAME:” field to create a new view, or choose an existing entry to modify it.

**“Physical Screens:”** - Choose which display to execute the view commands with the “Physical Screens:” dropdown. You may initiate commands on different monitors.

**“Pop-up dialog size”** – If you are choosing to trigger a floating window, this is where to specify its relative size.

**“Smart Client Window”** – If the user has multiple instances of the XProtect Smart Client open, this command will allow you to specify which instance to run the change view commands.

**Activate View: On / Off toggle** - To disable change view commands, uncheck this box.

**Select View Button** - Choose the view that will be associated with the change view command.

**“Command”** – Choose whether to activate a Floating Window, Full Screen Window, or Change View (SetViewInWindow)

**Allow Playback** – When launching a floating window, this checkbox controls whether Playback is included as an option in the new window.

**Delete** – Delete the current view settings.

**Delete** – Save view settings.

**Test** – Save view settings.

Return to the “Speech” tab to associate the view settings to an alarm keyword.

## 5.4. Spotlight™ Text-to-Speech Repetition Options

Spotlight can be configured to repeat audio phrases. This can be useful in the instance of a missed alarm, or in situations where the operator is momentarily away from the monitoring station. Spotlight will repeat the audio announcement until cleared by the user, or until the pre-defined settings have been met.

Below is a guide on how to configure adaptive repeating audio announcements when a keyword match occurs.

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>Applies to All Three Patterns<br/>Speak phrase 1 times (using selected pattern)</p> <p>Patterns to Choose From</p> <p>One Phrase at a Time<br/><input checked="" type="radio"/> Simple 4 second pause between each phrase.</p> <p>Groups<br/><input type="radio"/> Groups of 3 with 30 second pauses.</p> <p>Plateau<br/><input type="radio"/> Increase pauses to a plateau of 60 seconds.<br/>Fewer (but larger) steps <input type="range"/> More steps</p> <p>Defaults</p> <p>OK Cancel</p> | <p><b>Speak phrase [ ] times (using selected pattern)</b> – Select “1” to repeat the phrase only once. If “2” or more, repetitions will follow pattern selected in the “Patterns to Choose From” box.</p> <p><b>One Phrase at a time</b> – Phrase will repeat each time at a fixed interval until max number of repetitions is met</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ex. “Fire Alarm”... .. “Fire Alarm” ... ..<br/>“Fire Alarm... .. Fire Alarm”... ..</li> </ul> <p><b>Groups</b> – Phrase will repeat n times consecutively with a pause of x seconds between groups until the maximum number of speak phrase times has been reached</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ex. “Fire Alarm”, “Fire Alarm”, “Fire Alarm”<br/>... .. “Fire Alarm”, “Fire Alarm”, “Fire Alarm”<br/>... .. “Fire Alarm”, “Fire Alarm”, “Fire Alarm”</li> </ul> <p><b>Plateau</b> – Phrase will repeat with a lengthening pause between steps until a plateau of n seconds is achieved. After plateau has been reached, phrase will repeat every x seconds until max number of repetitions has been met.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ex. “Fire Alarm”... “Fire Alarm”... ..”Fire Alarm”... .. Fire Alarm”... .. “Fire Alarm”... .. “Fire Alarm”... ..</li> </ul> |
|--|---|

## 6. FAQ

### 6.1. Do I also have to install or manage plug-in components in the XProtect Management Client?

A: No. The plug-in self-contained within the XProtect Smart Client interface.

### 6.2. I installed the XProtect Smart Client, but it does not seem to be working after the license key is activated.

A: It is generally recommended to restart the XProtect Smart Client after loading the licenses. This ensures that all features are properly activated. Upon restarting, check to make sure the license key is shown. Section 2.2 provides an overview on how to properly enter and save your license key to the workstation.

### 6.3. I want to install the Spotlight™ Plug-in on another workstation. How do I do that?

A: Installation is simple. Simply copy the Spotlight™ directory from a workstation where Spotlight™ is currently installed. Directory can be found at: c:\Program Files\Milestone\XProtect Smart Client\MIPPlugins\Spotlight.

*Note: A valid license key is required for each workstation on which the Spotlight™ Plug-in is installed. Contact App-Techs to purchase a license key.*

### 6.4. I made changes to my keyword settings, but they are not instantly being shared with other workstations.

A: Changes to settings will be shared if the second workstations runs the Spotlight “Reload Server Configuration.” New settings will also be shared if the second user logs off of the session and logs back in.

### 6.5. I entered a keyword into a field, but it is not generating a bounding box. What do I do?

A: After entering a keyword, be sure to use the TAB key to leave the text field of interest. After doing so, the bounding box should appear when an event/alarm keyword match enters the system.

### 6.6. I want to create a custom audio announcement for several different alarm types. How do I do that?

A: If you want to generate bounding boxes and audio alerts for many alarm types, we recommend managing your keywords under the options1, options2, or options3 tables(s).

Note: If you are not hearing alarms, make sure the “Allow Speech” checkbox is “checked”.

### 6.7. How do I generate an audio announcement for a system event?

A: In the options1, options2, or options3 tables, enter the event or alarm keyword(s) for the system event. Next type in the preferred audio phrase that will accompany the event or alarm. Click “OK”. If it is a XProtect event, make sure the “Events” checkbox is checked under “Monitoring Active”.

### 6.8. What if two keywords of interest are very similar to one another? How do I differentiate?

A: In this case, we recommend using the Exact Match feature. This will only generate a bounding box when the event/alarm message exactly matches the keyword entry.

### 6.9. Can an event or alarm clear a bounding box?

A: Yes. In this case, enter the clearing event/alarm keyword in the ‘Clear’ text field.

## 7. Legal

### 7.1. Surveillance Privacy

Always use discretion when installing video and / or surveillance equipment especially when there is perceived privacy, or an expectation of privacy. Inquire regarding federal, state and / or local regulation applicable to the lawful installation of video and / or audio recording or surveillance equipment. Party consent may be required.

### 7.2. Disclaimer

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