

## Switched Network Features

Supported by RAVE™ and other CobraNet™ devices

CobraNet now supports Ethernet communications via network switches. What this means to the system designer is that the number of audio channels that can be distributed over a *single* network segment is now theoretically limitless. With switch network capability comes CobraNet audio, “control and monitoring”, conventional data communications and unregulated network system traffic in coexistence on the same LAN. In addition to larger network diameters, the designer also gains extensive configuration possibilities. The system designer or system manager now have the ability to control the priority of audio communications relative to other forms of traffic on the network. With switched networks, one also gains the ability to control the distribution of audio between nodes, to partition the network to suit the needs of the application and to build robust redundancy into the network configuration. All of this can be done with vendor-specific applications provided by the switch manufacturer or via common off-the-shelf network management software. Additionally, CobraNet now offers a set of device configuration variables accessible via Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP). SNMP allows network devices from different manufacturers to share a common set of objects. These objects can be controlled, or managed, through software common to all devices supporting SNMP.

Another feature embedded into the switched network release of CobraNet is the ability to upload code remotely using Trivial File Transfer Protocol (TFTP). TFTP allows a CobraNet device on the LAN to communicate with a PC or server and upload the latest CobraNet code. Code upgrades can be performed over a LAN or WAN connection due to CobraNet’s support of Internet Protocol (IP). In the future, remote code upgrades could be password accessible from the QSC website.

It is clear that the latest CobraNet efforts from Peak Audio have opened up a new feature set with switched networks allowing greater flexibility in network design and management capabilities for the audio industry. All of these new enhancements do not require that we discard our existing repeater LAN technologies, as the feature set required for repeater networks continues to be supported by the CobraNet protocol.

All RAVE products shipping today offer full CobraNet compliance on network repeaters and switches. With the “s” and “s-24” series RAVE platforms, it is possible to create a small repeater network routing just a few audio channels or configure a large-scale LAN consisting of hundreds of audio channels, managed control and desktop computing all sharing the same network resources.