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Software datasheet #ADJ



Auto DJ manual (Tutorial about serverbased playlist)

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1.1	A. Bardonski 15.04.2008	K. Werner 20.04.2008	Text changes and adaptations
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1.3	A. Bardonski 30.03.2010	K. Werner 31.03.2010	New: Chapter 6 - Time control

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1. Introduction

The Auto DJ can be explained best with the term "serverbased playlist":

- **Serverbased** because the playback and the upstream of the titles takes place directly on the streaming server. The livestream between local computer and the server is void.
- **Playlist** stands for rendering list or playing sequence.

The Auto DJ function allows to operate a 24/7 Internet-Radio without permanent connection of a live source. You just need to upload the prepared music archive per TFP onto the server and to prepare and select a playlists. Then you start the Auto DJ and you stop it again when the regular scheduled live programme should be continued.

2. Preparing MP3 music archive and FTP upload

2.1 Information about MP3 archive

Please copy all titles which should be used for your music archive into a directory on your local hard disk. In the next step you will prepare the MP3s for Auto DJ operation as described below.

a) File and directory names

Naming your MP3 files or creating subdirectories on your FTP server, please don't use country-specific special characters. Take only the following characters in upper and lower case:

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ, 0123456789
space | _ underline | - dash/hyphen | . dot | , comma

Using the "&"-character in the meaning of "and" is not possible!

b) MP3 Bitrate

Our recommendation: Convert once locally all selected MP3 files into an equal bitrate. That bitrate should fit the quality of the regular live DJ programme, e.g. in 128/44. Software tools like RazorLame or CDex will help you doing this.

Advantage of this procedure: You save storage capacity on your FTP server because why keep the titles in 192 or maybe 320 kbps when your Internet-Radio is operated by all members in 128 kbps as default.

If we take the statistic value as a basis that a music title (single) has an average length of 3:20 min (200 seconds) then the MP3-files need the following disk space depending upon bitrate:

Bitrate [kbps]	File size (*300s / 8 bit / 1024KB)	2500 MB Quota storage for approx.	5000 MB Quota storage for approx.
128	3,125 MB	800 titles	1600 titles
192	4,688 MB	533 titles	1066 titles
256	6,250 MB	400 titles	800 titles
320	7,813 MB	320 titles	640 titles

The real disk space usage of your music archive you can read in your local file manager (Windows Explorer).

c) MP3 volume (optional)

Normalizing¹ your music archive you will serve your listeners a homogeneous sound and you avoid that some of the MP3s sound quieter or louder than other titles.

(e.g. with the free tool: MP3Gain, <http://MP3gain.sourceforge.net>)

¹ MP3 Normalizing: Adaptation of volume

2.2 FTP Transfer

Inside the customer area under the link „Server Administration | FTP data“ you will find the your FTP Server access data, use these data for your FTP client.

Please upload all you prepared MP3-files to the home directory which you enter automatically after the FTP-login. At your first time you will find an empty directory.

3. Creating playlists

With a playlist you define which MP3 titles should be played by the Auto DJ. On the configuration page you can decide as well if the titles should be played according to the given order of the entries (sequential) or randomly.

3.1 Playlist-Generator

With click on the link „Playlist-Generator“ a new window (popup) opens in your browser:

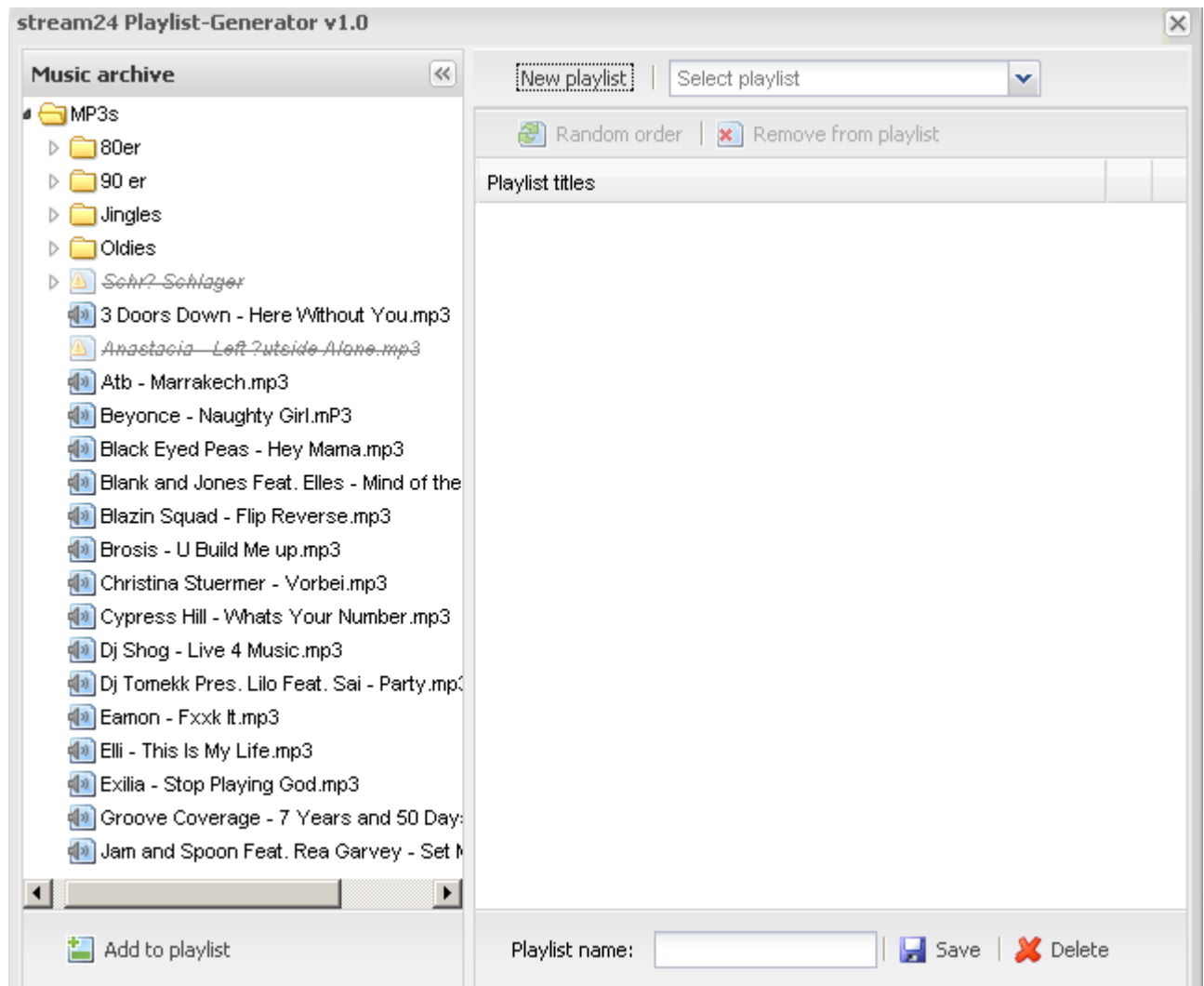


Fig. 1 Playlist Generator face

The Playlist-Generator is built of two columns, the left side shows your MP3-archive which you have created before over FTP. On the right side the content of the playlists is displayed.


With the Playlist-Generator you can:

- create new playlists and
- load and edit existing playlists

Important notes to MP3-archive (left side):

- If a directory or MP3 is displayed grey and struck out then the name contains not allowed characters (e.g. special characters, umlauts). Please rename it over you FTP client.
- Basically subdirectories and MP3-titles can be only created, renamed or deleted over FTP client.

3.2 Create new playlist

- Click on [New playlist], the light-grey playlist area changes to white.
- Now you have the possibility to drag and drop by mouse whole directories as well as single MP3-titles from the archive to the playlist and to change the order of the titles on the right side.
- If you have inserted complete directories, the function „Random order” will help you to resolve the alphabetic sequence.
- Afterwards enter the playlist name into the provided field and save the list.
- You leave and close the Playlist-Generator with click on the small cross  at the top right side.

Example: Four steps to a global playlist:

1. Click on [New playlist]
2. Select directory „MP3s“ and pull it from left to right into the playlist
3. Click on [Random order]
4. Enter playlist name and + [Save] → Ready!

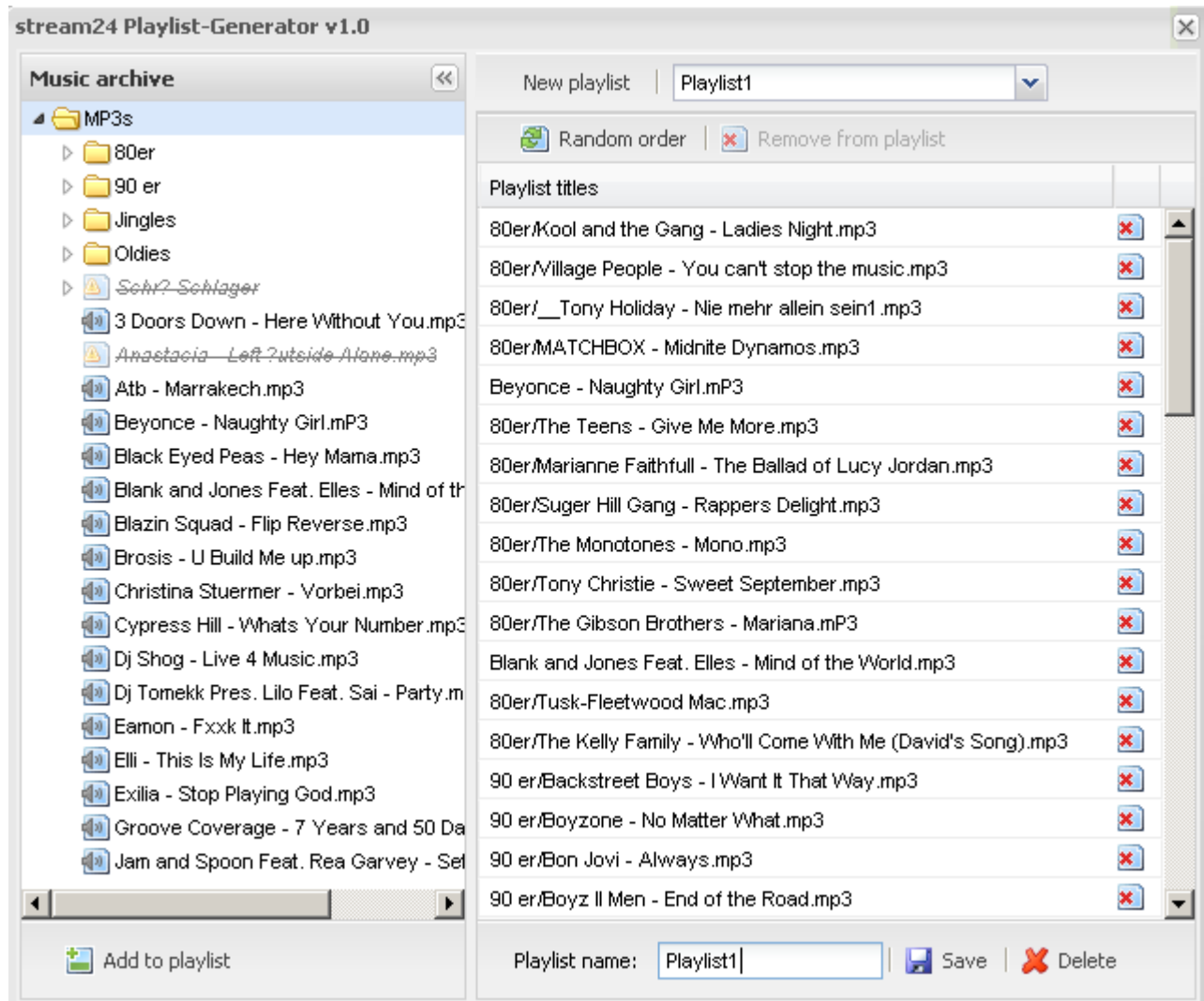


Fig. 2 Demo global playlist

3.3 Edit existing playlist

You have the possibility to load already existing playlists and to change its content.

Select for that purpose the wanted playlist out of pull-down menu, the list will be loaded afterwards.

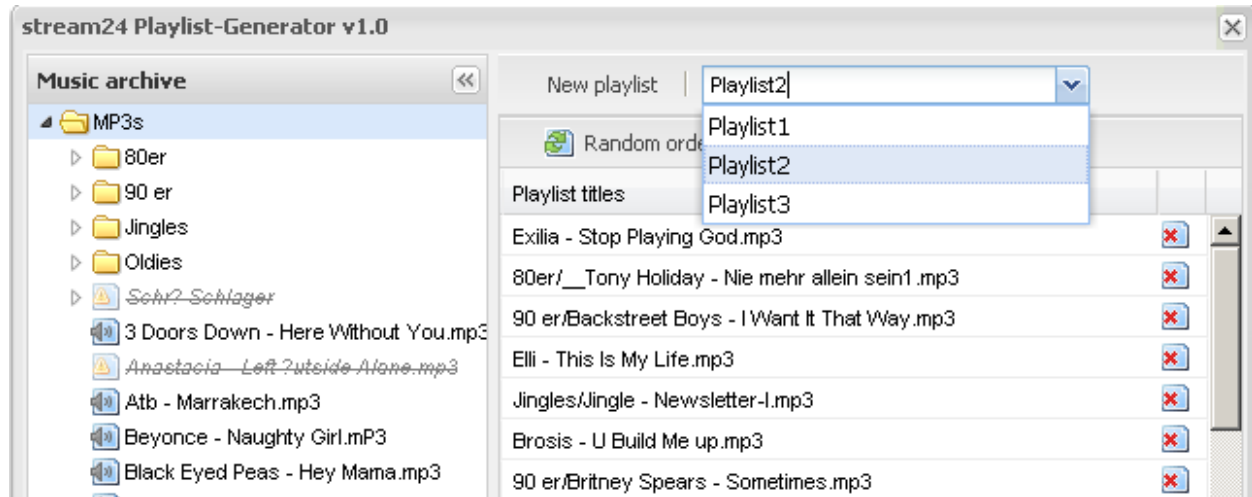



Fig. 3 Load playlist

Tip: You can create different playlists while you save the loaded playlist under a new name. Doing so you just need to change the sequence of the titles each time before saving with a click on the [Random order] button.

You leave and close the Playlist-Generator with click on the small cross  at the top right side.


Important notes to playlist (right side):

If an entry is displayed grey and struck out then this means that the associated MP3 file is not more placed at its origin server path, it was maybe deleted or moved.

→ The Auto DJ will not find and not play this title, so please delete them out of the playlist.

4. Auto DJ configuration

After you have uploaded the prepared MP3 archive and the created playlist(s), you can finalize the Auto DJ setup and select a list which should be played.

The meaning of the other settings on the configuration page is described behind the Help-Link Icon .

After you have saved the configuration you can start the Auto DJ over the [ON] button. Before starting, please make sure that your destination streaming server is switched on and free. (green server status LED)

5. Error FAQ

5.1 Starting of Auto DJ failed

Basically this error occurs when:

- The in the playlist mentioned MP3-titles could not be found on the server. (Because the MP3 were moved or deleted afterwards)
- The chosen destination server is switched off or already occupied by a Live-DJ.

5.2 FTP login not working

“Wrong Login” - Login to FTP server is not possible.

- Please check at first the login-data.
- Check the status of your FTP account inside the customer area on the page “FTP data”, maybe it is deactivated.
- Firewall? - Read you firewall messages and check the settings.
- Please note: Basically just one concurrent connection to the FTP account is possible. If another active connection to your FTP server already exists, you will find a corresponding error message in the FTP log.

Please contact our support team if you were not able to locate the source of error with our advices mentioned above.

5.3 No further upload possible

“Quota exceeded / reached” - Your disk space booked is full.

Delete some files you don't need any more or order a disk space upgrade.

6. Time control function

The time control function allows you to start and stop the Auto DJ at a certain time or to schedule the automatic playlist change.

With the time control manager you prepare so-called actions (jobs) which are executed automatically at the defined time stamp.

Important! The time control function must be set to “activated” in order the scheduled jobs can be executed. (see configuration on page “Time control”)

6.1 Time control manager

On the page „Time control“ you will find the link „Open Time Control Manager“ which opens as popup window.

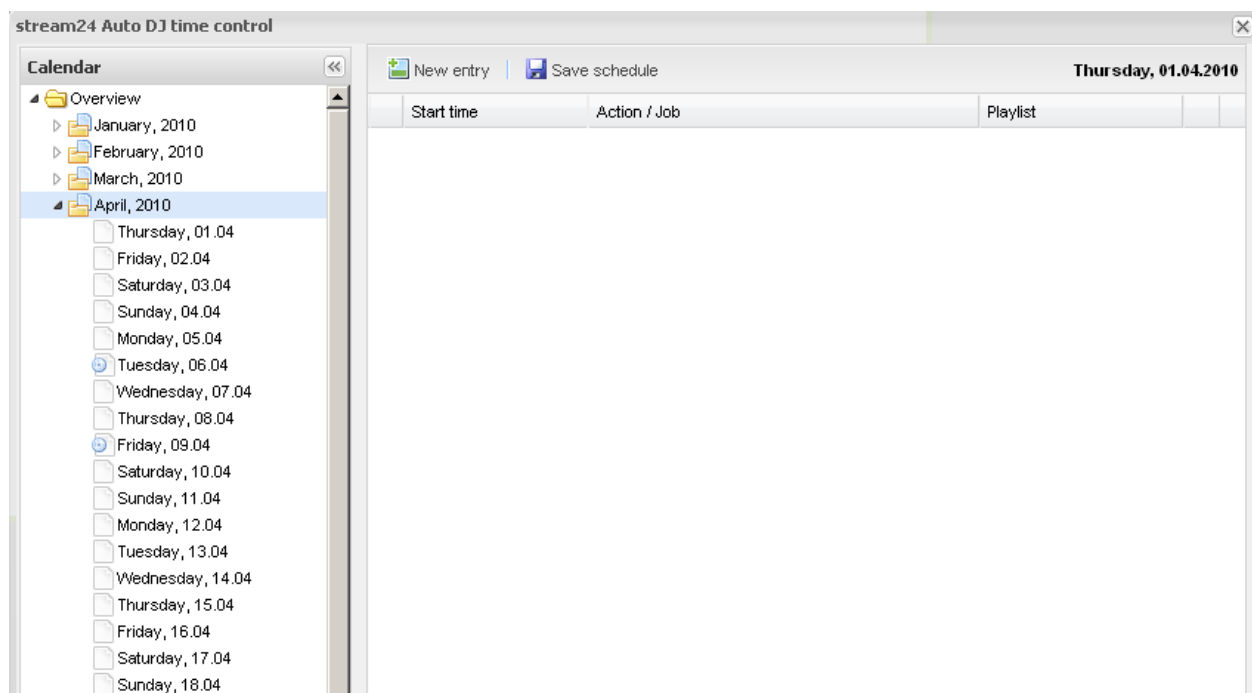


Fig. 4 Auto DJ time control

On the left side the calendar is mentioned. The manager starts always with the current date. Days which include already entries are labelled with an icon. Dates in the past are shown as well but they cannot be edited afterwards.

On the right side the action (jobs) are displayed.

6.2 Create schedule

Step 1: Select on the left the date.

Step 2: Click on the right side on the top on the button [New entry].
A new line „Please select...“ appears.

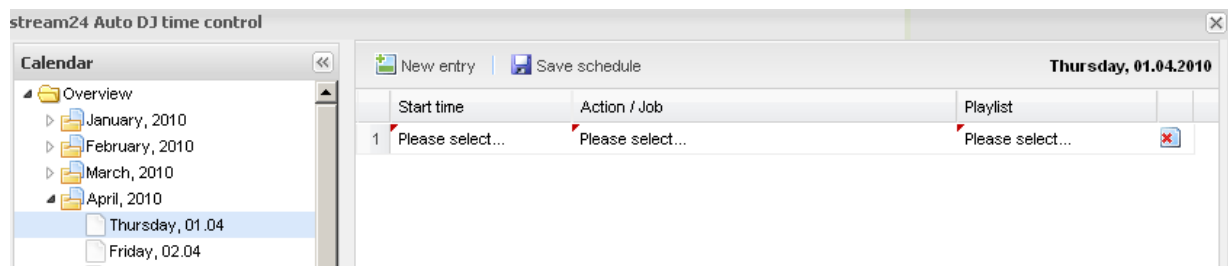


Fig. 5 New entry

Step 3: In the column [Start time]: Click on “Please select...”.
A pull-down menu opens, select the time stamp.

Step 4: In the column [Action / Job]: Click on „Please select...“.
A pull-down menu opens, select the action wished.

Step 5: If you have chosen as action “Auto DJ start / Playlist change” so you have to select in the next column a playlist out of your playlist archive² as well.

*Please repeat the steps 2 to 5
if you like to add further jobs for the same day.*

Step 6: At the end of the day plan: Click on [Save schedule].

Important! Only complete entries are considered for saving. If you select „Auto DJ start / Playlist change“ but you don’t set a playlist, the entry will be not saved.

² Playlists are managed over the Playlist-Generator. (see Auto DJ configuration)

6.3 Edit/delete daily plan

Select on the left side the date and you get displayed the respective daily plan. Now you can edit the entries, add new lines or remove items.

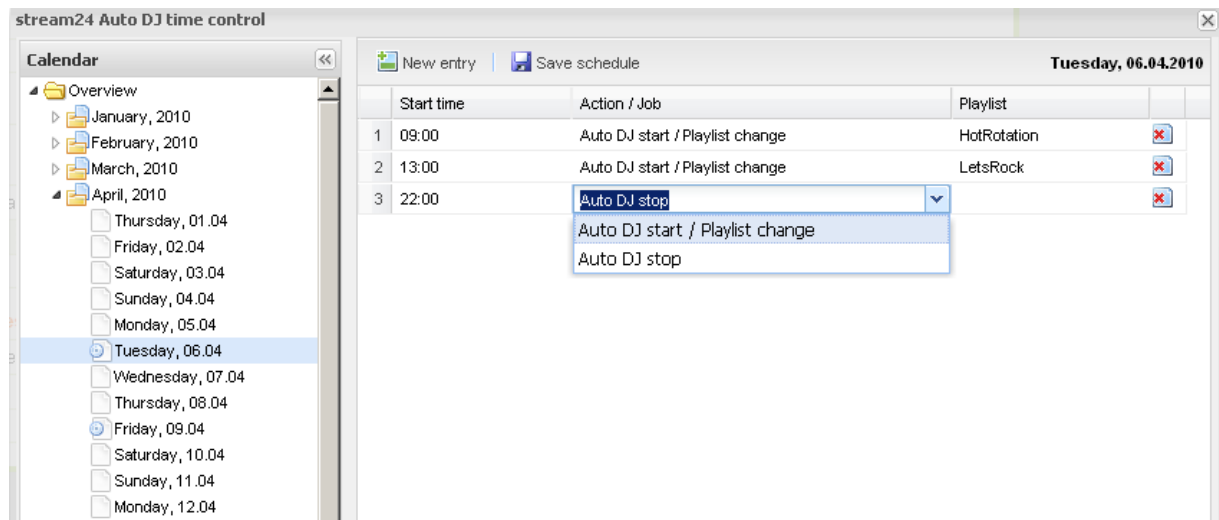


Fig. 6 Edit schedule

Leaving schedule: Click on [Save schedule].