Connect an RTSP encoder to Wowza Streaming Cloud

Originally Published on 07/14/2016 | Updated on 01/08/2020 10:41 am PST

The Wowza Streaming Cloud™ service can connect to any H.264 encoder that supports the RTSP network protocol. This article describes how to use an RTSP-based encoder as the video source for a Wowza Streaming Cloud live stream.

You can set up the encoder first, or set up the live stream in Wowza Streaming Cloud first. Either way, when you start the live stream in Wowza Streaming Cloud, it will periodically try to connect to the encoder until the encoder comes online.

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Create a live stream that uses an RTSP-based encoder as the video source

1. Sign in to Wowza Streaming Cloud.
2. Click the Live Streams menu, and then click Add Live Stream.
3. On the Live Stream Setup page, enter a Live Stream Name, choose a Broadcast Location, and then click Next.
4. On the Video Source and Transcoder Settings page, select Other RTSP as the camera or encoder you want to use to connect to Wowza Streaming
5. Specify how the encoder will communicate with Wowza Streaming Cloud: Select **Push Stream** if your encoder will push the stream to Wowza Streaming Cloud or select **Pull Stream** if your encoder requires that Wowza Streaming Cloud pull the stream the encoder.

6. Do one of the following:

   - For push streams, select **Push directly to Wowza Streaming Cloud** to send the stream to the transcoder at the live stream’s **Broadcast Location**.

     If you have problems with the direct connection to Wowza Streaming Cloud, select **Push to a stream source** to route the stream through a CDN endpoint as an alternative.

   - For pull streams, enter the encoder’s **Source URL**. See the encoder’s user guide for information about its URL. The hostname or IP address in the URL must be publicly accessible. If authentication information, such as username and password, is included in the source URL, it can only contain alphanumeric, period (.), underscore (_), and hyphen (-) characters.

   **Note:** By default, Wowza Streaming Cloud uses TCP port 554 for RTSP streaming. If you don’t use the default port, be sure to indicate that in the source URL.

7. Specify other video source settings, and make sure to select the same **Aspect Ratio** that you use in your encoder.

8. Click **Next**, and complete the steps to finish creating the live stream.

   **Note:** For more information about live stream settings, see the **Help** panel on the right side of each page.
Wowza Streaming Cloud creates the live stream and displays the **Overview** tab of the live stream detail page.

## Set up the encoder

Make sure you have the latest firmware for your encoder installed. See the encoder’s user guide for details about how to update firmware as well as how to operate the device and how to specify settings such as resolution, bitrate, and frame rate.

See the **Source Connection Information** on the **Overview** tab of the live stream detail page for server, port, and other details your encoder may need to connect to Wowza Streaming Cloud.

**Note:** Wowza Streaming Cloud accepts streams over RTSPS on port 443, if your camera or encoder can deliver over it.

## Test the connection

1. In Wowza Streaming Cloud, select the live stream that uses the RTSP encoder as its video source.
2. Click **Start Live Stream** at the top of the live stream detail page.
3. Click **Start** to confirm that you want to start the stream.

Wowza Streaming Cloud opens the stream and connects with the encoder.

4. Start the encoder.
5. In Wowza Streaming Cloud, confirm that the stream is working by looking at the **Video Thumbnail** on the **Overview** tab of the live stream detail page.

The **Video Thumbnail** displays a frame from the live stream every five seconds. The started date and time appear at the bottom of the thumbnail. Connection, transcoding, and delivery metrics begin to update in the **Statistics** panel.
6. Click **Stop Live Stream** at the top of the live stream detail page to end your test stream, and then stop the encoder.

**More resources**

- Get started with Wowza Streaming Cloud
- Wowza Streaming Cloud user guide
- Encoding best practices for Wowza Streaming Cloud