

This quick guide explains basic Venus® Control Suite installation and setup from a hosted server (remote, cloud-based). For information on creating display content, tags, playlists, and running reports, refer to the **Venus® Control Suite Quick Guide (DD3016537)**.

Venus® Control Suite is a platform-based control system software package that provides interactive display control. For this installation method, access Venus® Control Suite from a hosted server.

Note: Configure devices (players and video processors) for use with Venus® Control Suite before launching the control software. If display devices are configured, go to **First-Time Venus® Control Suite Login (p.1)**. If devices are not configured, displays will not appear in the **Display** menu of Venus® Control Suite; go to **Configure VIP (p.5)** and **Configure DMP (p.6)** to configure display devices.

First-Time Venus® Control Suite Login

Ensure that the Venus® Control Suite computer or mobile device uses one of the following web browsers:

- Google® Chrome® – latest version
- Mozilla® Firefox® – latest version
- Microsoft® Internet Explorer® – version 11
- Microsoft Edge™ – latest version
- Apple® Safari® – version 9.1 (or later)

1. Navigate to <https://venus.daktronics.com>.
2. Enter the email and password provided by Daktronics into the **Email** and **Password** text boxes and click **Log In**. Refer to **Figure 1**.
3. Type a new password in the **Update Password** window. Refer to **Figure 2**. This step is required only for first-time Venus® Control Suite login.
4. Update the account information fields under the **User Information** and **Additional Information** sections and click **Save**.

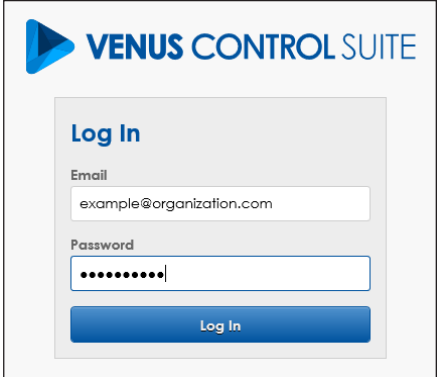


Figure 1: Venus® System Login

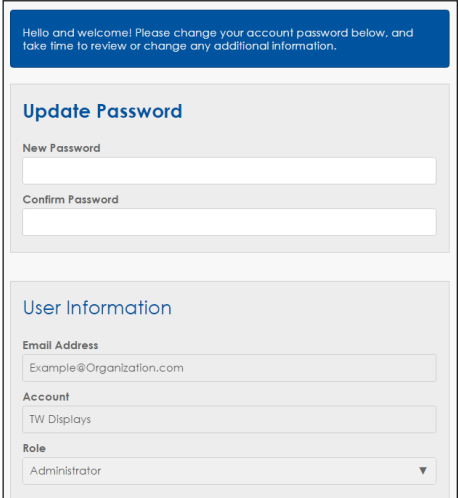














Figure 2: Update Information Prompt

Venus® Menu Overview

After initial login, the **Dashboard** window opens showing status files for each display in the system. Click **Menu**  in the upper-left corner of the screen to open the main menu. Depending on the specific system setup and level of user access, these options may not be available for all users. Refer to the table below.

Menu Item	Description
 Dashboard	Shows status files for each display and any associated devices such as players, video processors, or webcams.
 Media	Opens the Media Library where uploaded media files and generated presentations are tagged, stored, and assigned to an account.
 Playlists	Creates a playlist of media files to play in a specified order on a selected display.
 Sales	Creates a sales grid schedule for a selected display.*
 Reports	Produces proof of play and scheduled content reports for displays at specified dates and times.
 Data	Loads installed data packages (e.g. loads RSS feeds).
 Scripts	Opens the Script Library where display commands are created and stored (e.g. sets brightness levels for displays).
 Accounts	Creates new accounts for advertisers and associates content with a specific account.
 Users	Lists current user profiles and enables system administrators to update passwords or add/remove user profiles.
 Displays	Lists all available displays and provides management tools to include configuring durations, scheduling mode, and setting hours of operation.
 Settings	Updates firmware files for players and video processors. Contact Daktronics customer support for more information on updating firmware.

*Only available in certain Venus® Control Suite packages.

Venus® System Setup

Add a Display to Venus® Control Suite

1. Select **Displays** from the main menu.
2. Click **Add New**. **Add Display** opens. Refer to **Figure 3**.

Configure a Display

1. Enter the display name into the **Title** text box.

Note: The title should include the site or display name.

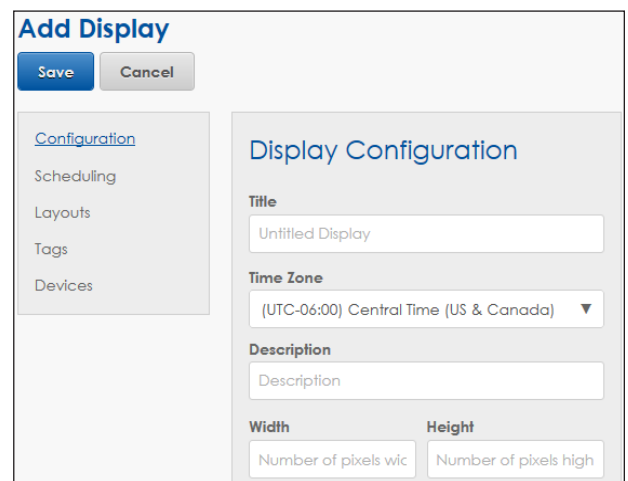


Figure 3: Add a Display

2. Choose an associated account from the drop-down list if desired.

Note: This option may not be available if the display is being added from within an account.

3. Select the correct time zone for the display from the **Display Time Zone** drop-down list.
4. Enter a description of the display in the **Description** text box.
5. Enter the size of the display (in pixels) in the **Width** and **Height** text boxes.
6. Choose the correct display **Color Depth** from the drop-down list.
7. Adjust the **Temperature Offset** if the sensor reads slightly too high or too low.
8. Toggle between **Automatic** (using a light sensor) or **Manual Brightness Mode**. If toggled to **Manual** mode, set the display brightness under the **Brightness Setting**.

Schedule a Display

To set a display schedule, select **Scheduling** to enable scheduled content or animation files to play. Refer to **Figure 4**.

Note: If content is scheduled to play but **Schedule Mode** is set to **Off**, the content will not play. If an animation file is part of a playlist but **Animated Content** is set to **Off**, the animated file will be skipped.

- **Image Duration:** sets how long images show on the display and how often webcam images update
- **Ad Grid Slots:** sets how many slots per day are available for scheduling in the **Sales** menu
- **Total Exposures:** lists the total number of times media files are played on the display; this number is calculated automatically based on the image duration and the number of ad grid slots
- **Exposures Per Slot:** lists the number of times media files are played on the display in an ad grid slot; this number is calculated automatically based on the image duration and the number of ad grid slots
- **Hours of Operation:** sets the times that the display can show content; any content scheduled outside of these hours of operation will not be shown on the display

Scheduling

Schedule Mode
Allow scheduled playback on the display.
 On Off

Animated Content
Allow scheduled animated content to play on the display.
 On Off

Image Duration
10 Seconds

Ad Grid Slots
8 slots

Total Exposures
8640

Exposures Per Slot
1080

Estimated exposures per day based on Image Duration and Ad Grid Slots.

Hours of Operation

Start Time 12:00 AM **End Time** 12:00 AM

Figure 4: Enable Scheduled Content

Tag a Display

1. Select **Tags** to add any descriptive tags.
2. Select as many tags are appropriate for the display, or create a new tag by typing in the **Tags** text box.

Associate a Device to a Display

1. Click **Devices** and then **Add Device** to add the associated DMP-8000s and VIP-5X60s. Refer to **Figure 5**.

Note: Select primary and backup players and any video processors controlling the display.

2. Click **Save**.

Devices		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DMP-8000 1024 x 768 Added Apr 9, 2016 11:32 AM	061A2076-234F-4 KHAN 172.31.11.123

Figure 5: Select Associated Devices

Configure Additional Display Options


After initially adding a display and saving, more options will appear in the selected display menu.

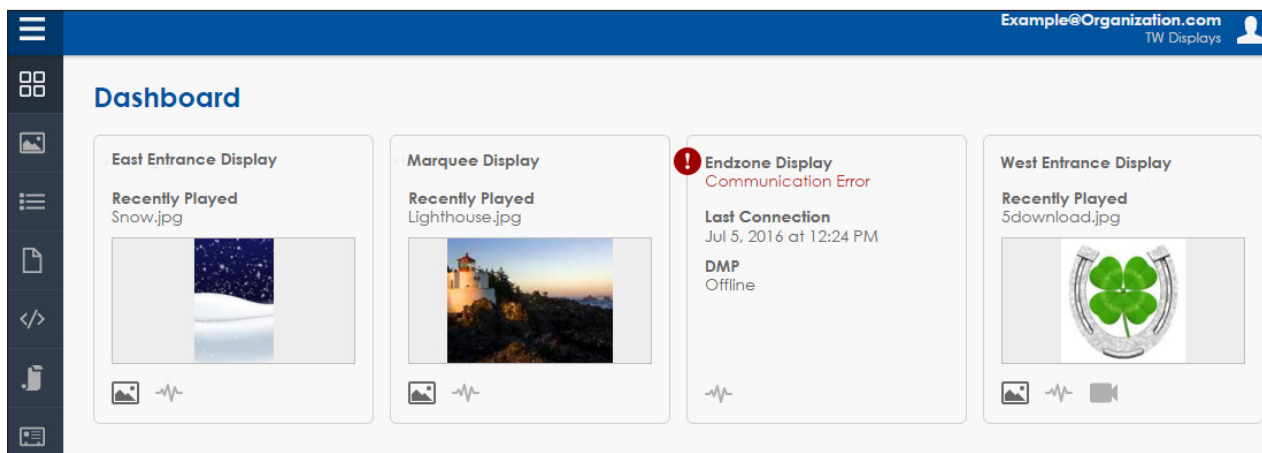
1. Click **Emergency Alerts** to configure the display for an AMBER Alert subscription.

Note: At a minimum, the sign must have a width and height greater than 144 x 96 and an aspect ratio less than 5. If the display does not meet the minimum requirements, the **Display** menu will not show **Emergency Alerts** in the list of configurable options.

2. Click **Troubleshooting** to update the firmware for an associated device if necessary.
3. Click **Web Cams** to add a webcam associated with a display if necessary.
4. Click **Save**.
5. Repeat the following sections, **Add a Display to Venus® Control Suite (p.2)** and **Configure Additional Display Options (p.4)**, for all additional displays.

View Display Status

The **Dashboard**  shows status tiles for each display. These tiles show thumbnails of the scheduled content and connection information. Any displays with connection errors have an exclamation point icon at the top of the status tile and a **Communication Error** message. Refer to **Figure 6**.




The dashboard screenshot shows a navigation menu on the left and a header with the user email 'Example@Organization.com' and 'TW Displays'. The main area contains four display status tiles:

- East Entrance Display:** Shows 'Recently Played' content 'Snow.jpg' with a thumbnail of a snowy landscape.
- Marquee Display:** Shows 'Recently Played' content 'Lighthouse.jpg' with a thumbnail of a lighthouse.
- Endzone Display:** Features a red exclamation point icon at the top, indicating a 'Communication Error'. It shows 'Last Connection' on 'Jul 5, 2016 at 12:24 PM' and 'DMP Offline'.
- West Entrance Display:** Shows 'Recently Played' content '5download.jpg' with a thumbnail of a green four-leaf clover.

Figure 6: Dashboard Display Tiles

Configure VIP

1. Verify the VIP is powered on and all its applications are running properly.
2. Log in to the VIP web interface (Example: 172.28.5.10:85/ux) and set the static IP on the VIP. Refer to the **VIP-5000 Series Operation Manual (DD2773152)** for more information.
 - a. Open a web browser window and enter the VIP IP address into the address bar. Refer to **Figure 7**.
 - b. Type "Dak" in the **Username** text box and "DakPassword!" in the **Password** text box to confirm changes. Refer to **Figure 8**.
3. Access the configuration settings by clicking **Configuration**  on the left side. Refer to **Figure 9**.
4. Click **Services**, and then select **Venus – Hosted** from the **Add Client** drop-down list.
5. Enter a **Host**.
6. Click **Save**.
7. Log out of the web interface and close the browser tab.

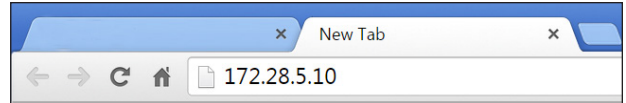


Figure 7: VIP Access

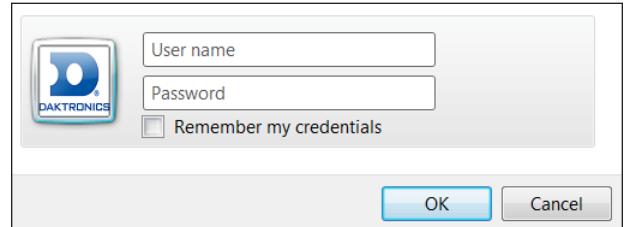


Figure 8: Login

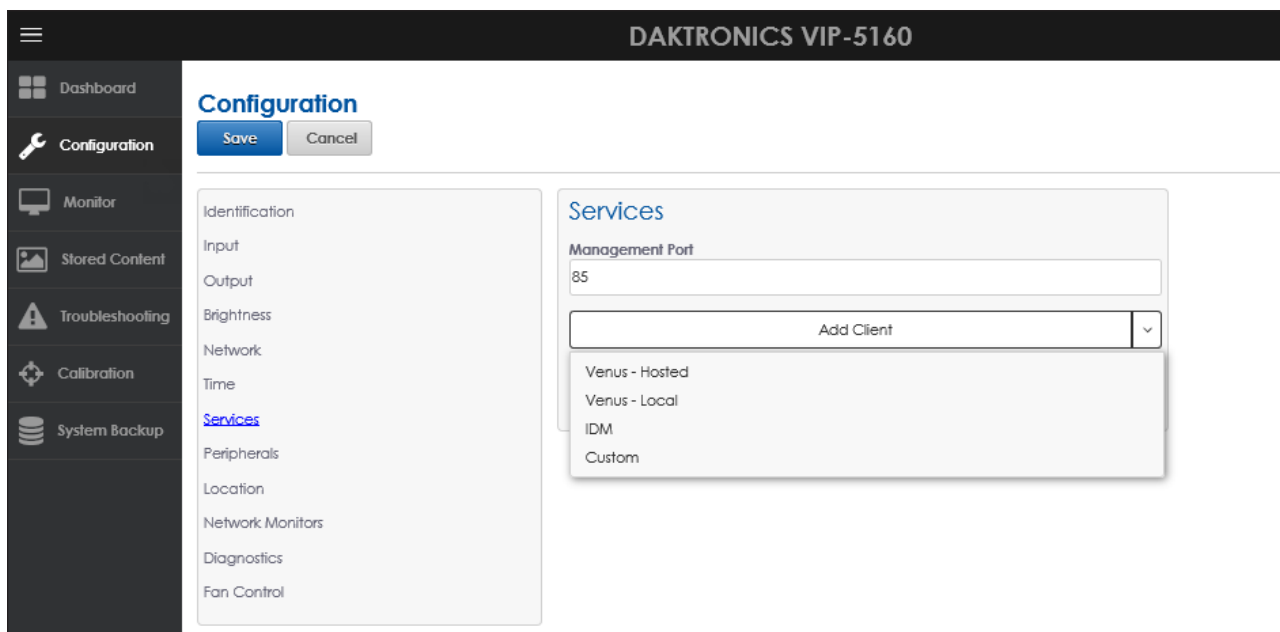



Figure 9: VIP Configuration Settings

Configure DMP

Refer to the **DMP-5000/8000 Series Operation Manual (DD1881645)** for more information.

1. Open a web browser and enter either the computer name or the DMP IP address (Example: 172.28.5.10/new-ui) into the address bar to connect to the player web interface. Refer to **Figure 10**.
2. Access the configuration settings by clicking **Configuration**  on the left side. Refer to **Figure 11**.
3. Click **Services**, then click the **Media Management Server** drop-down list and choose **Venus**.
4. Type the "venus.daktronics.com" in the **Host** text box.
5. Select the port number **443** from the **Port** drop-down list.
6. Click **Save**. This will prompt a login.
7. Type "Dak" in the **Username** text box and "DakPassword!" in the **Password** text box to confirm changes. Refer to **Figure 8**.
8. Log out of the web interface and close the browser tab.

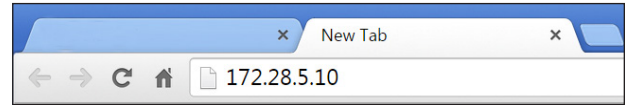


Figure 10: DMP Access

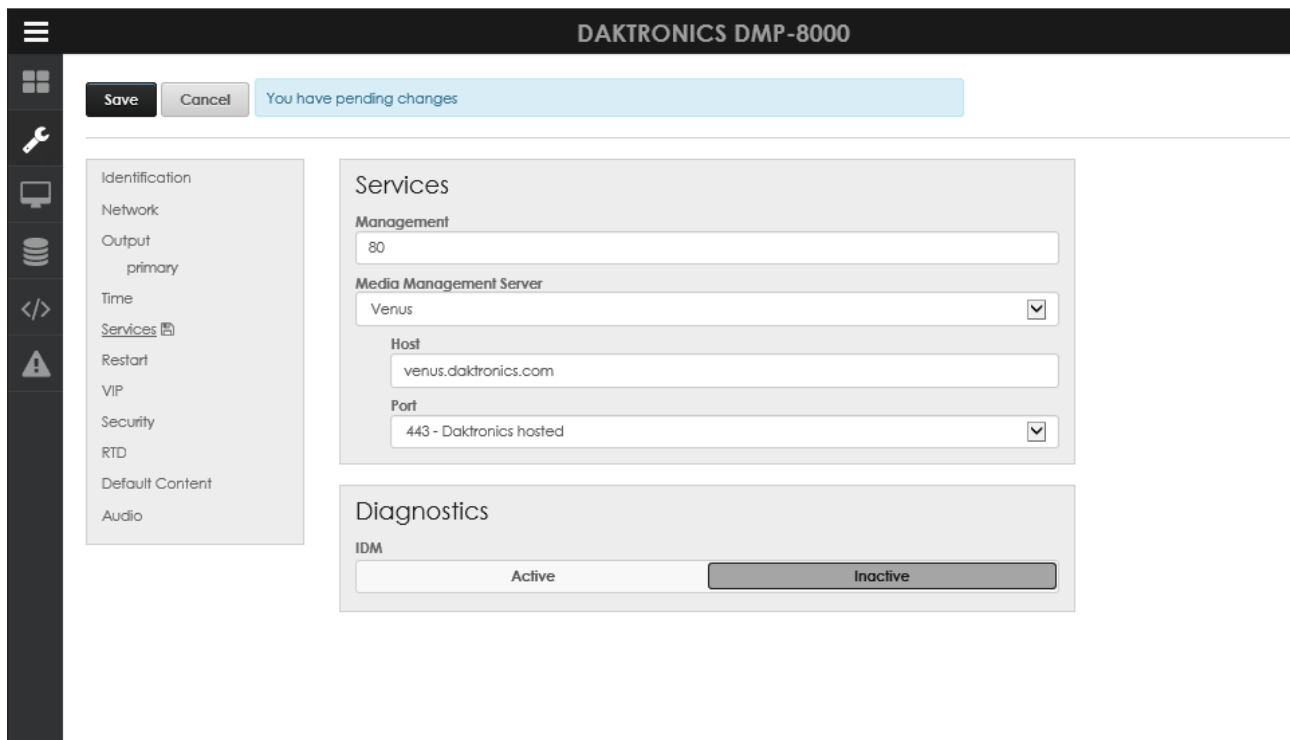


Figure 11: DMP Configuration Settings

Contact Info and Where to Get Help

Daktronics contact information and Venus® Control Suite account information is available by clicking the current username in the upper-right corner. Refer to **Figure 12**. Click **About** under the username to open a support window with links to customer support services. Refer to **Figure 13**.

Select **Search our knowledge base** to open the Daktronics knowledge base results in a new window.

View training videos online that explain basic Venus® Control Suite functions:

- www.daktronics.com/venus

Reach Daktronics customer support online:

- www.daktronics.com/support

For further assistance, Daktronics Customer Service is available 7:00 am to 7:00 pm CST, Monday to Friday via telephone.

- Domestic (U.S. and Canada): 1-800-325-8766
- International: +1-605-697-4000

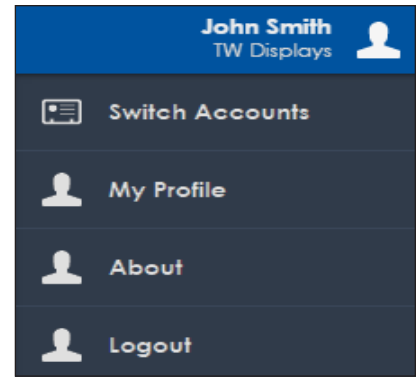


Figure 12: Account Information

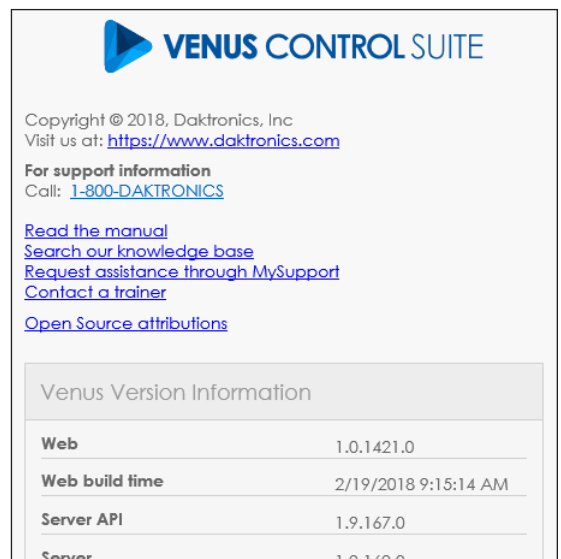


Figure 13: Contact Information