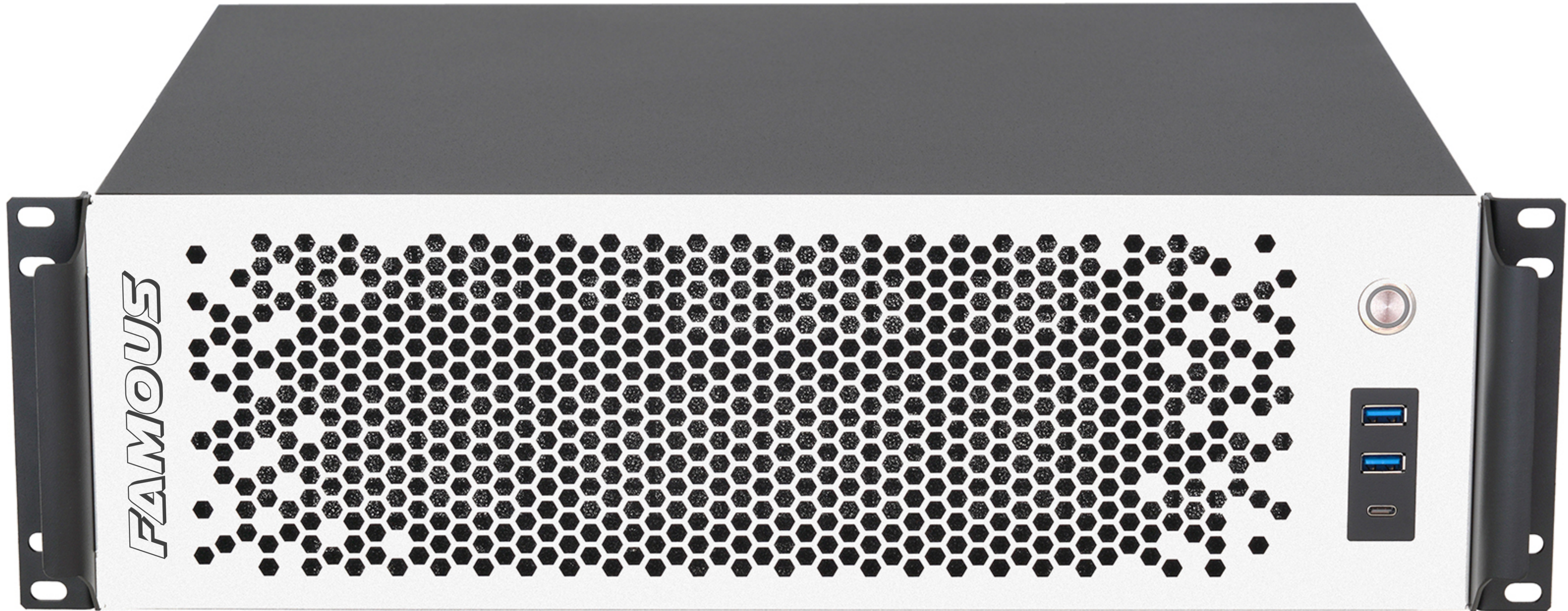


A.P.E

by

***FAMOUS***<sup>TM</sup>  
***ENGINEERING***



The Famous A.P.E plugin server

# What is the Famous Engineering Audio Performance Engine?

Otherwise known as the Famous A.P.E, we believe we have created the world's most power plugin server, specifically optimised for use on live productions.

## Why does the Famous APE exist?

There are only a couple of other plugin servers available that are capable of hosting any VST3 plugin. After repeatedly attempting to use these servers on live productions, and being let down by what we determine as poor build quality, improper testing and a disregard for the importance of having a stable system, it became clear something new was needed.

Upon review of the competitors' product specifications and price point, it was decided the key aim would be to double the processing power, halve the price and provide confidence to the user.

## What makes the Famous A.P.E better?

It's not often the people that use these products also get the opportunity to design and build them as well. This is exactly what happened with the Famous A.P.E; designed and engineered by a person that is out on the road and knows the requirements.

What we've ended up with is a thoroughly tested plugin server that features dual-redundant power supplies, an optimised cooling system and redundant sync with another Famous A.P.E server.

## How was it made better?

The initial prototype was built in to a 19" 2U case, which is also what the competitors utilise with their products. However, whilst doing shows in the Deep South USA, in horrendous heat and humidity, we noticed the CPU cores were running extremely hot. On occasion, we heard little 'clicks' in the audio and CPU spikes, which is also what we'd noticed in the competitors' products. We attributed this to the unit running too hot, which was confirmed by our processor core temperature monitors.

A re-designed 3U chassis, along with a highly-efficient, fully-optimised cooling system, and 700W PSU ensures the Famous A.P.E will not struggle the same way the competitors do.

# Is the Famous A.P.E ready for the road?

ABSOLUTELY! We know how important it is to have confidence in your equipment, especially when it's so integral to the show. Failure is not something we accept and so we made sure this thing has been tested to no end.

We know we built something that works and is sturdy, but to make sure it would survive the inevitable fate of being “man-handled” around the world, we sent the Famous A.P.E on a 7-week tour of North America and then a 5-week tour of South America with no means of protection but that of a Pelican 1610, plastic case. Did it sustain any injuries? Not a single one! It was loaded on and off trucks and planes, as well as thrown upside down and sideways by inexperienced local crews, but it returned to the UK in the same condition it left.

We also found the most CPU-intensive plugin we could find, the API-based Defeedback plugin by Alpha Labs, and managed to run 22 instances over 12 hours with very minimal sample drops. The competitor servers have been reported to manage 4 instances.

# TECH SPEC



## Hardware Specs

- CPU: Intel Core i9-14900K (13th Gen)
- RAM: 64GB DDR5-5600
- Cooling: Noctua Active Cooling
- HDD: 1TB NVMe
- PSU: 700W 1+1 Redundant Dual Module PSU

## Audio Connectivity

### Option 1: MAD I & Milan

- Capable of 192kHz / 24 Bit Resolution
- 2x Coaxial BNC I/O (MADI)
- 2x Gigabit Ethernet RJ45 (Milan AVB)
- 1x MIDI I/O
- Word Clock I/O

### Option 2: Dante

- Capable of 192kHz / 24 Bit Resolution
- 2x Gigabit Ethernet RJ45 (Dante)
- 1x MIDI I/O

### Option 3: MAD I & Dante

- Capable of 192kHz / 24 Bit Resolution
- 2x Coaxial BNC I/O (MADI)
- 2x Gigabit Ethernet RJ45 (Dante)
- 1x MIDI I/O
- Word Clock I/O

## Wireless Connectivity

- Intel Wi-Fi 7 module [2.4GHz / 5GHz / 6GHz\* (320MHz) up to 5.8Gbps]
- Bluetooth 5.4

## Operating System

- OS: Microsoft Windows 11 (heavily optimised)
- Host: Audioström Live Professor (redundant with second machine)

## User Interaction

- Touchscreen-ready (Iiyama ProLite T2254MSC-B1AG recommended)
- Works with a KVM switch to allow the use of a single monitor, keyboard and mouse, shared between two Famous APE servers
- A custom-built Stream Deck XL profile allows for easy interaction and shortcuts to be utilised with Audioström Live Professor

## Redundancy

- 2x Famous APE servers can be networked to work redundantly
- Main and backup servers can sync when using Audioström Live Professor as the plugin host
- Separate MADI connections and separate PSUs (4 in total) mean both systems are kept separate. In the event of the main server failing, the backup can be engaged to carry on

## Technical Notes

- 512 channels @ 48 kHz/24 bit
- 256 channels @ 96 kHz/24 bit
- 128 channels @ 192 kHz/24 bit

Audioström Live Professor will support a maximum sample rate of 192kHz

MADI roundtrip measured at 1.9ms (96kHz)



# ***PHYSICAL SPEC***

## Front

- 1x USB 3.2 Type-C (5Gbps)
- 2x USB 3.2 Type-A (5Gbps)
- 1x 16mm Power Button
- 1x Power Status LED

## Rear

- 1x Intel® 2.5Gbps LAN port
- 2x USB 2.0 Type-A (40Mbps)
- 2x USB 3.2 Type-A Gen 1 (5Gbps)
- 2x USB 3.2 Type-A Gen 2 (10Gbps)
- 1x USB 3.2 Type-C (20Gbps)
- 1x HDMI 2.1
- 1x DisplayPort 1.4

## Material

- Chassis: 20 Gauge Galvanised Steel
- Front Panels: 18 Gauge Galvanised Steel
- Rack Ears: 14 Gauge Galvanised Steel

## Finish

- Semi-gloss fine texture powder coat finish
- Powder coat is an outdoor architectural grade polyester epoxy

## Dimensions & Weight

- 382mm x 432mm x 132.5mm [DxWxH]
- Depth from front rack post is 378mm
- 11.7Kg



# ***CONTACT***

Jonny 'Famous' Williams

Tel: +44 7939 689344

Email: [jonny@famous-engineering.com](mailto:jonny@famous-engineering.com)



**A.P.E**

by

***FAMOUS***<sup>TM</sup>  
***ENGINEERING***