



Multicast With Algo IP Endpoints

Feature Guide

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1. GENERAL

1.1. Introduction

Using RTP multicast, any number and combination of Algo IP Speakers, Intercoms, Visual Alerters, and other devices can activate simultaneously to broadcast a voice page announcement, ring event, emergency alert, scheduled bell, or background music, etc. There is no limit to the number and combination of IP endpoints that can be configured to receive a multicast. The Algo paging system can be easily scaled to cover any size room, building, campus, or enterprise environment.

All Algo IP Speakers, Paging Adapters, and Visual Alerters can be configured for multicast, where the device is designated as a **Transmitter** or **Receiver**. Only the endpoint designated as the Transmitter is registered to the telephone system. Receivers do not require SIP registration. This minimizes the costs associated with additional endpoint extensions in a hosted / cloud environment, or SIP licensing, which may be required in a premise-based telephone system.

**Note**

Network bandwidth is minimal in a multicast configuration as only one copy of the network packets (~64kb) is sent from the Transmitter regardless of how many Receiver endpoints are listening to a given IP multicast channel / zone.

Zones are created in the Algo paging system using a multicast IP address. Each multicast IP address configured in the Transmitter endpoint will stream audio to the specific group of Receiver devices configured. Receiver devices can be members of any number of multicast zones, including All Call.

IP endpoints configured as Receivers require PoE and network connectivity to receive multicast, wired as a home run to a network PoE switch. No additional Algo hardware or software is required.

1.2. Basic Multicast Configuration – Single Zone

This example shows how two or more devices can be used simultaneously in order to cover a large area for All Call (single zone). Only the Transmitter device will require a SIP registration.

1.2.1. Part 1: Configuring the Transmitter

1. Log into the web interface by typing the device IP address into the web browser. For device-specific instructions to discover the IP address, check its respective [User Guide](#). Use the Network Device Locator for getting the IP address of the device.
2. The Transmitter device will have to be configured according to one or more options below:
 - Paging/ringing/emergency alerting with a SIP extension
 - Input relay activation
 - Analog input via the Aux-In or Line-In (only available in the 8301 SIP Paging Adapter & Scheduler)
3. Navigate to Basic Settings → Multicast and check the “Transmitter (Sender)” option in Multicast Mode. Configure the Sender Single Zone to the appropriate zone (Default Zone 1).

Status
Basic Settings
Additional Features
Scheduler
Advanced Settings
System
Logout

SIP
Features
Multicast

Multicast Settings

Multicast Mode

Multicast Mode None Transmitter (Sender) Receiver (Listener)
ⓘ Multicast Zone Definitions can be found in "Advanced Settings > [Advanced Multicast](#)".

Multicast Type Regular (RTP)
 Polycom Group Page
 Polycom Push-to-Talk
 Regular RTP + Polycom Group Page
 Regular RTP + Polycom Push-to-Talk
ⓘ Regular mode uses RTP audio packets compatible with all Algo SIP endpoints, and most multicast-enabled phones.

Number of Zones Basic Zones Only Basic and Expanded Zones

Transmitter (Sender) Zone Settings

Zone Selection Mode DTMF Selectable Zone Single Zone
ⓘ For additional capabilities allowing unique SIP extensions per zone, see "Additional Features > [More Page Extensions](#)".

Transmitter Single Zone Zone 1 ▼
ⓘ If "DTMF Selectable Zone" is selected above, then this single zone setting will not apply to Paging (since the zone can now be dynamically selected per call using DTMF), but it will still apply to the Ring Extension and Relay triggered events, including the analog audio input.

Speaker Playback Zones
 Priority Call All Call Music
 Zone 1 Zone 2 Zone 3
 Zone 4 Zone 5 Zone 6
ⓘ Allows Multicast Transmitter device to play audio for selected zones only. This is useful if using DTMF Selectable Zone mode (or [More Page Extensions](#) per zone) and wishing to make the Transmitter a member of only certain zones.

✔ Save

Figure 1: Multicast sender configuration

4. The "Speaker Playback Zone" setting allow the Transmitter device to play the announcement locally on the selected Zones.
5. Press **Save**.

Advanced multicast configurations are found under Advanced Settings → Advanced Multicast. For typical setups, Algo recommends using the default settings.



Note

Algo devices configured as Multicast Transmitters can send only one stream at a time to one single zone. If the application requires two simultaneous streams, please contact Algo support.

1.2.2. Part 2: Configuring the Receiver(s)

1. Navigate to Basic Settings → Multicast and check the “Receiver (Listener)” option in Multicast Mode.
2. Configure the Basic Receiver Zones to subscribe to the desired zones.

The screenshot displays the 'Multicast Settings' configuration page. At the top, there are navigation tabs: Status, Basic Settings (selected), Additional Features, Scheduler, Advanced Settings, System, and Logout. Below these are sub-tabs: SIP, Features, and Multicast (selected). The main content area is titled 'Multicast Settings' and is divided into two sections: 'Multicast Mode' and 'Receiver (Listener) Zone Settings'. In the 'Multicast Mode' section, 'Receiver (Listener)' is selected, and a note indicates that Multicast Zone Definitions can be found in 'Advanced Settings > Advanced Multicast'. In the 'Receiver (Listener) Zone Settings' section, 'Priority Call', 'All Call', and 'Zone 1' are selected. A note at the bottom of this section states: 'A multicast to the Priority Call zone will override all other events on the device, except for a direct call to a Priority Page Extension in the More Page Extensions tab.' A 'Save' button is located at the bottom right of the form.

Figure 2: Multicast receiver configuration

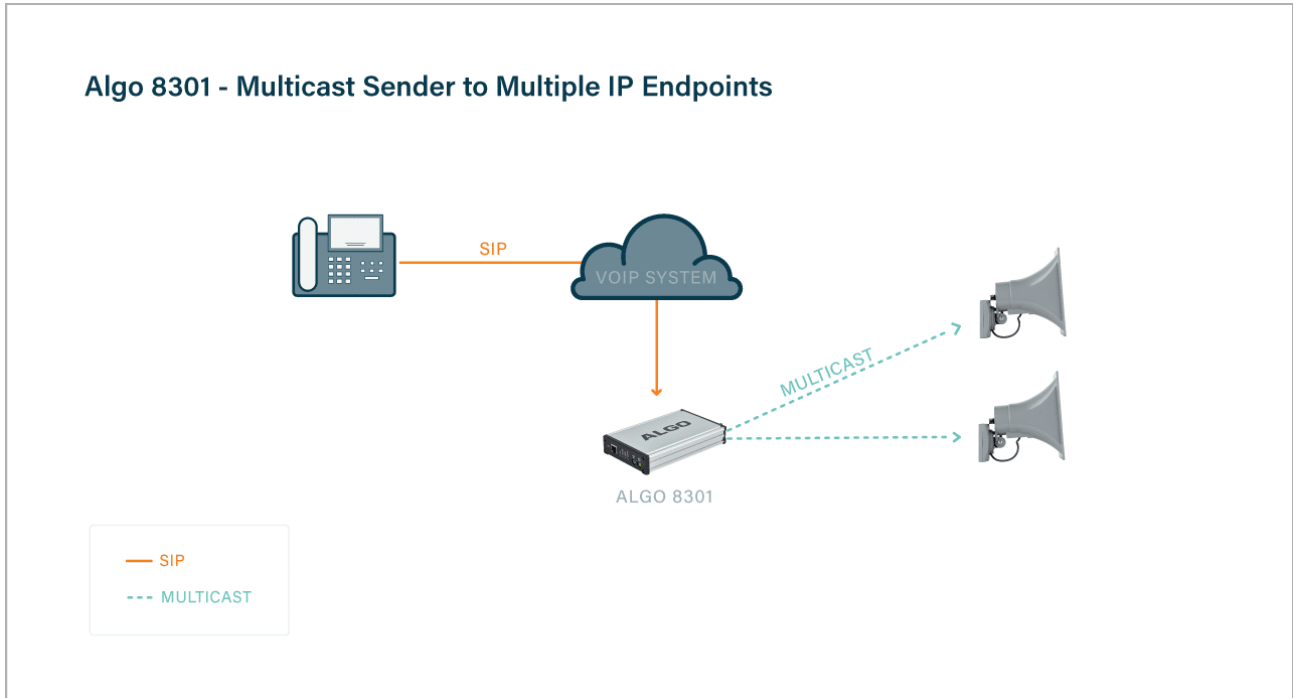
3. Press **Save**.

Test to confirm all devices are working as expected. Please follow the troubleshooting section if there are any issues or contact Algo support.

1.3. Advanced Multicast Configuration – Multiple Zones

There are two ways to configure a Transmitter device for voice paging with multiple Zones:

1. Registering a SIP extension per multicast zone:
 - a. Navigate to Additional Features → More Page Extensions
 - b. Enable the desired zones and enter the SIP credentials to register it
2. DTMF Selectable Zones: Once the Page Extension is dialed, the user is able to use DTMF tones to select a single Zone numbered 1-50 (using the telephone keypad).
 - a. Navigate to Basic Settings → Multicast
 - b. Change the Zone Selection Mode to DTMF Selectable Zone



Algo 8180 - Scale via Multicast

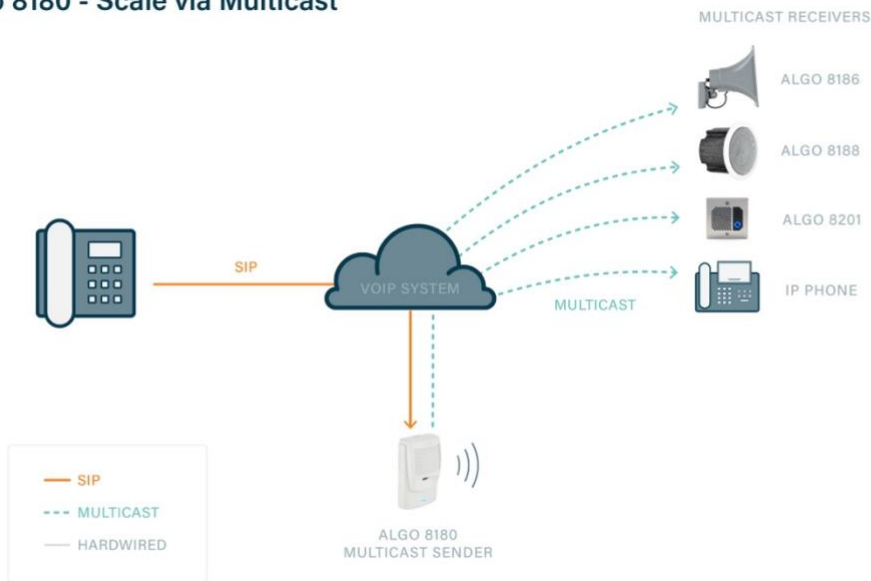


Figure 3: Multicast to multiple zones

1.4. Multicasting Scheduled Events with the Algo 8301

The 8301 can be used as a scheduler to alert of events such as the start of the day, lunch, breaks between classes, etc. These events can then be sent to specific zones via multicast.

1. Create a schedule by navigating to Scheduler → Schedules.



Note

The 8301 will have to be set as the Transmitter to be able to multicast the scheduled event.

2. Select which zone you want each event to be played to.
3. Navigate to Scheduler → Calendar and apply the schedule to each day and month the schedule applies.

The screenshot shows the 'Scheduler' tab in the software interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs: Status, Basic Settings, Additional Features, **Scheduler**, Advanced Settings, System, and Logout. Below these are sub-tabs: Calendar, **Schedules**, and Data. The system time is displayed as 'Fri 13 Jan, 2023 11:37:15 (System Time)'. The main area is divided into a table for schedules and a detailed view for the 'Current Schedule: Regular Weekday'. The table has columns for Colour, Schedule Name, and icons for edit and delete. It lists 'Regular Weekc' (green) and 'Friday' (dark green). The detailed view shows fields for Event Description ('Lunch Bell'), Time ('12:30:00'), Audio ('bell-na.wav'), and Page Zone ('1'). There are also 'Start' and 'End' time pickers. A message states 'This schedule currently has no actions.' At the bottom, there are buttons for 'Create Schedule', 'Add Event', 'Add Action', and 'Save'.

Figure 4: Schedules in the 8301 Scheduler

1.5. Audio Streaming from Audio Input via Multicast

Primarily used to play background music, this feature will multicast the input audio to the Sender Single Zone (located under Basic Settings → Multicast), as well as stream audio to the Line Out and Aux Out (if applicable).

1. Navigate to Additional Features → Input/Output tab and enable Audio Always On.
2. The input port and volume can be configured in the same tab.
3. In the Basic Settings → Multicast tab, select the Master Single Zone.



Note

A call to the page extension, alert extension, or scheduled event will interrupt the audio.

1.6. Custom Multicast Zone Address

Custom Multicast IP addresses and port numbers can be set for each one. To update the default addresses, navigate to Advanced Settings → Advanced Multicast. Make sure the address is within the range below and verify the transmitter and receiver(s) zone definitions match.

- Multicast IP addresses range: from 224.0.0.0 to 239.255.255.255
- Port numbers range: 1 to 65535

Default Multicast IP addresses: 224.0.2.60 port numbers 50000 – 50008



Note

Make sure that the multicast IP address and port number do not conflict with other services and devices on the same network.

1.7. Adjusting TTL for Multicast Traffic

Algo IP endpoints configured as Multicast Transmitters use a TTL (time to Live) of 1. This can be modified to allow more hops in order to prevent packets from being dropped.

To adjust this setting, navigate to Advanced Settings → Advanced Multicast and adjust the Multicast TTL setting as required.

Configuration problems

Make sure the following settings match the configuration of your device (this is dependent on Multicast Mode setup).

- Multicast Mode (Basic Settings → Multicast)
 - Sender = Transmitter
 - Receiver = Listener
- Multicast Type (Basic Settings → Multicast)
 - Sender = Regular / RTP
 - Receiver = Regular / RTP
- Zone Number (Basic Settings → Multicast)
 - Ensure the Zone # selected on the Sender is also ticked under the speaker playback zone on the Receiver. To have the page play on the Sender device, select the same zone for the Sender device itself.
 - A proper configuration will ensure the Receiver is listening to the Zone to which the Multicast packets are being sent.
- Zone Definitions (Advanced Settings → Advanced Multicast)
 - Ensure the IP Address and Port # matches, on both the Sender and Receiver, for the zone being used.

Network Related Problems

If the configuration on the Sender and Receiver(s) devices is correct, any remaining problem should be related to the local network. Below are some items to be aware of:

- Ensure all devices in the Multicast Zone have IP addresses valid on the same subnet (if applicable).
- Ensure all devices are in the same VLAN (if applicable).
- Confirm all devices are reachable by paging them.
- Make sure the network switches have Multicast enabled.

Information Notices



Note

Note indicates useful updates, information, and instructions that should be followed

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Algo Technical Support

1-604-454-3792

support@algosolutions.com

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