

But it is in its most basic intended function — cleaning up listener phone calls — that Jaxon screams through his tasks ... or would that be *howls*?

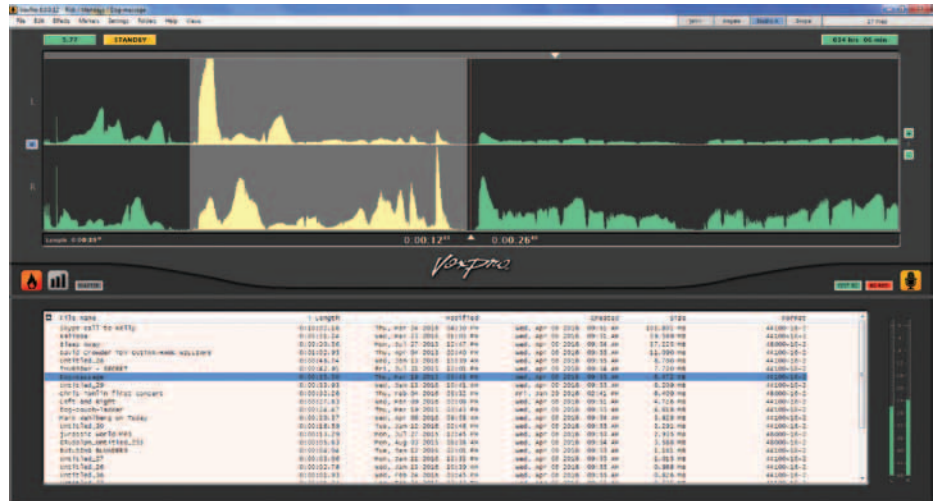
“Because our station is ‘The Wolf,’ I ask my contest winners to howl like a wolf,” Jaxon told us. “Sometimes it takes a little coaching and a few tries.”

After a few super-quick edits, the feeble tries are gone. The caller’s howl is strong, the call is tight and ready for air. “It makes the whole contest more fluid and fun,” he said.

Since VoxPro6 has tight integration with the Wheatstone’s WheatNet-IP audio network architecture, files can be shared from studio to studio; a morning show associate producer (aka “intern”) doesn’t have to hog the studio unit. They can run down the hall and cut a “greatest hits of the morning” bit montage using audio files from the system.

GOTTA KEEP THEM SEPARATED

The VoxPro records L+R binaural files, but allows the user to independently edit and modify each channel, and even time-slip the channels against each other. This is a feature found indispensable by Mark Morris, PM drive host at CITI(FM)/92.1 in Winnipeg,



A VoxPro6 background recording being edited.

Manitoba.

“I record phone sessions with the caller on the left channel and my voice on the right,” he said. “In a fast-paced show, it’s easy to talk over the caller’s voice.”

Instead of allowing the interview to sound sloppy and interruptive, Morris uses Voice Slip to give everyone’s voice equal time.

“I section the recording where we are both talking and instantly separate them,” he said.

One of Morris’ handiest VoxPro tools

is the Beep Function. “We’re a rock station, and sometimes callers might say a swear word,” he said. “I can block it off, hit CTRL-B and it’s replaced by a beep.”

Morris also uses the Beep Function for rapid-fire topical call-ins. “I might ask, ‘Which team are you on, Superman or Batman?’ then take five or six calls.”

He then edits out the set-up on each call, flies in the beep, and airs a montage consisting of each caller blurting out their choice, separated by the tone burst. “It really gets



This image shows VoxPro6 with floating Hotkeys window on top.

listeners interested,” he said.

Meanwhile, back at The Wolf in Kansas City, “Shotgun” Jaxon sometimes drops in a beep even if there is no NSFW word spoken in the call, just to keep the audience guessing.

On the topic of beeps and other effects: of note is VoxPro’s Advanced Effects menu. Here, you’ll find some generous bread-and-butter effects to spice up — and clean up — phoners. A parametric EQ can notch out an annoying background whine on crummy phone connections. A bit of compression can tame that scream from the winner that somehow clipped the hybrid/interface.

But there are a lot of creative possibilities too. A big political gag right now is Donald Trump’s pronunciation of the word *huge* (“Yoooge!”). Get a caller to say that magic word, dial up the onboard high-quality

Waves reverb function and drop it in at the right moment, and said caller sounds like the voice on the mountaintop.

MAJOR LEAGUE TRACKING

Perhaps the best new feature in VoxPro6 is that it is now a multitrack editing environment.

Lots of software being used in radio production today comes from the pro recording industry — DAW environments such as Avid Pro Tools and Adobe Audition are typical. But in the heat of battle, there can be too many features and menu options getting in the way of a finished production.

The form and function of VoxPro6 is dedicated entirely to radio broadcast and rapid assembly. Drag and drop music tracks, sound bites and sound effects into the multitrack window, add fades and effects all at

top speed. Pull a track into a side window for additional editing before returning to the multitrack window (a key feature found in other programs such as Cool Edit and Audition).

When done, the mixdown can immediately be assigned to a Hot Key, all inside the same environment.

As we’ve found out from our users, a lot of functionality can be derived from older versions of VoxPro. But don’t hold back. There are many exciting new features to be found in VoxPro6; you can check them out — along with a few compelling videos — at <http://voxpro.wheatstone.com>.

Alan Peterson is production director for Radio America, a Washington-based producer and syndicator of national network talk radio programming. Reach him at apeterson@radioamerica.com.