



# BULLETIN

## ***Communications Compatibility between PodWare and Devices***

11<sup>th</sup> December 2006

### **Scope**

This bulletin refers to device firmware with the following model numbers:

**SharcPod:**

1227

**Loudspeaker System Controller:**

1308

1309

1310

1311

1312

### **Overview**

A change was made to the low-level communications protocol in the firmware of the above products in order to improve communications reliability and speed. The two versions of protocol are not compatible. Later versions of PodWare (V4.00.0 onwards) are able to recognise, and communicate with either variant, but cannot communicate with both types on the same network.

SharcPod V1.200 onwards and Loudspeaker System Controller V1.260 onwards use the new form of communications protocol. Previous versions used the old form of communications protocol.

### **Details**

- V4.00.0 PodWare or later must be used to ensure that any variant of device can be communicated with. Older versions of PodWare will not discover or show in the device tree any devices which have the new firmware in.
- When PodWare V4.00.0 goes online to a system consisting entirely of 'old' protocol devices, it will advise the user to update the firmware in the devices. The user can however ignore the suggestions and continue working normally.
- When PodWare V4.00.0 goes online to a system containing a mixture of 'old' and 'new' protocol devices, it will initially only discover the 'old' protocol devices and will advise the user to update the firmware in the devices. The user can ignore the suggestions and continue working normally on these 'old' devices, but the 'new' protocol devices will not be discovered or shown in the device tree.
- After updating firmware in a device from 'old' protocol to 'new' protocol, the node for the device in the PodWare device tree will remain coloured red indicating that PodWare is not communicating with it. An offline, online operation must be performed so that PodWare can discover the devices using the new protocol.
- When PodWare V4.00.0 goes online to a system consisting entirely of 'new' protocol devices, operation will be completely normal.