

VDR Replay

User Guide

For Use with Replay Software Version v1.3.5.13

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Application Overview

The purpose of the VDR Replay application is to give as close an account as possible of the events leading up to an incident involving the vessel.

Accessing the Data

For the X2, X-VDR, X-MDR systems.

Downloading of the data for playback should be carried out using the VDR Remote Software application direct to your PC, or via the USB download option and connecting to your PC.

Further details may be found in the document '08009 - Remote Data Download Tool - User Guide'

For the X-VHFR, X-VCR systems.

Eject the Removable USB drive and connect to your PC.

Recorded Data

The data is recorded in one-minute segments, saved as ZIP files.

The X-VDR.xml configuration file and log files are also downloaded with the data for analysis and playback purposes.

X-VDR/X2 System

Each ZIP file contains:

- 1 x NMEA data file, saved as a text file format.
- Up to 10 x Audio files (1 per channel), saved as WAV files.
- Up to 6 x Radar and ECDIS image files are saved as PNG files.

X-MDR System

Each ZIP file contains:

- 1 x NMEA data file, saved as a text file format.
- Up to 8 x Audio files (1 per channel), saved as WAV files.
- Up to 2 x Radar or ECDIS image files are saved as PNG files.
- Up to 8 x Camera Video saved as MP4 files.

X-VHFR System

Each ZIP file contains:

- 1 x NMEA data file, saved as a text file format.
- 1 x Audio file (Stereo channel), saved as a WAV file.

X-VCR System

Each ZIP file contains:

• 1 x NMEA data file, saved as a text file format.

Replay Installation Requirements

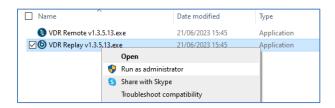
Install the software on a windows computer running Windows 7 or above, with administrator privileges. Once installed, click on the program icon to run the software.

User License

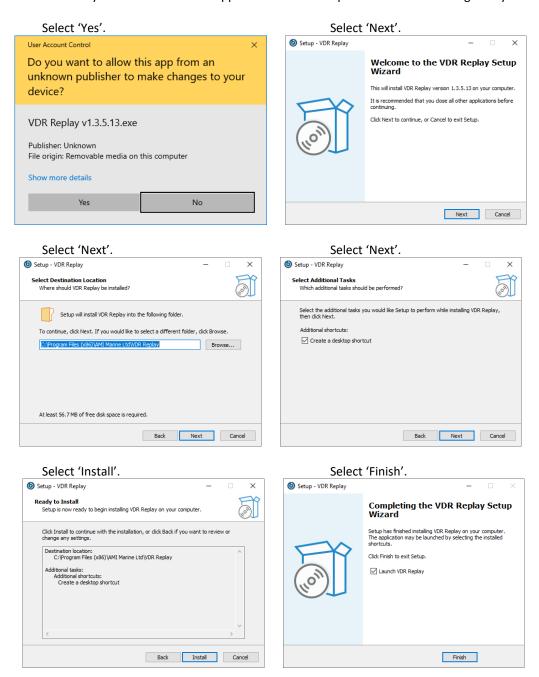
The VDR Replay is license free for investigative authorities but should not be reproduced or distributed without prior written consent of AMI Marine Ltd.

Installation of the VDR Replay Application

Locate the file, right click on the file a select 'Run as Administrator'.



You will then be asked 'Do you want to allow this app from an unknown publisher to make changes to your device?.



X-VDR/X2 & X-MDR Data Selection Wizard

The VDR Remote application download procedure allows the complete data set to be downloaded as a single zip file. This option may have been deselected and the data will be downloaded and available as previous releases.

On opening the VDR Replay application, **Step 1** of the Data Selection Wizard will be displayed to assist with selecting the items required for replaying of the data.

The dataset's folder structure for v1.3.5.13, as follows:

The dataset Folder (imonumber-yymmdd-hhmm) Note! This is the date and time is of when the download was conducted, and that older Datasets from v1.3.5.12 and earlier do not have the IMO Number in the folder name.

Minimum Required Folder structure

Occasions have occurred that after a vessel has downloaded the data from the VDR, they have not passed on all the necessary folders and files to a third party i.e., the office or investigating authorities, this section details the minimum data download and folder structure to be able to complete a playback operation.

The Archive folder with the Data and the Config and Master folders, both with the Approvals.xml and X-VDR.xml configuration files.

If for instance you only have data zip files in an hourly data folder '1100'.

This '1100' folder is required to be in a folder named 'YYYYMMDD' for e.g. in the below screen '20230522'.

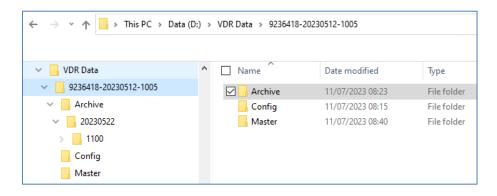
This '20230522' folder is now required to be in a folder named 'Archive'.

The 'Archive' folder is required to be in a root folder e.g. in the below screen '9236418-20230512-1005'.

This folder name is not important and can be the vessels name.

Then into the folder named '9236418-20230512-1005' along with the 'Archive' folder, copy the 'Config' and 'Master' folders.

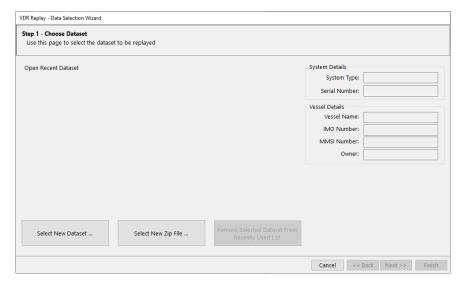
Note! no other folders are necessary.



Step 1 - Choose Dataset

A dataset can be selected by choosing one of the following 3 options.

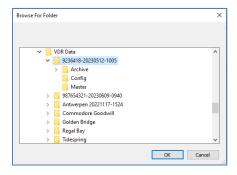
- 1. Select New Dataset ...
- 2. Select New Zip File ...
- 3. Selecting a dataset from the 'Open Recent Dataset' list



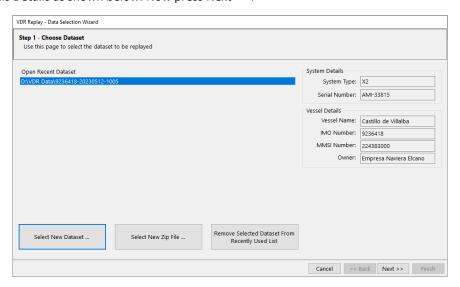
The 'Open Recent Dataset' list is initially empty until at least one dataset has been Replayed.

Select New Dataset.

When Select New Dataset is chosen a folder browser dialog will open, as shown below:



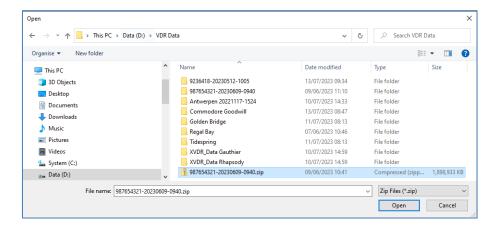
Select the required dataset then press OK. It will now be available in the 'Open Recent Dataset' list and populate the System and Vessels Details as shown below. Now press Next > >.



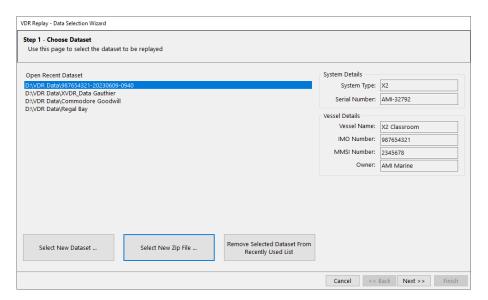
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Select New Zip File.

When Select New Zip File is chosen a browser dialog will open, navigate to the location of the zip file as shown below:



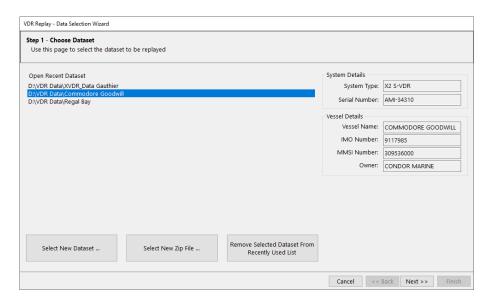
Click on Open, the Folders and Files will be extracted from the zip file to a folder of the same name and be made available in the 'Open Recent Dataset' list and populate the System and Vessels Details as shown below.



Select the extracted dataset then press Next > >.

Open Recent Dataset

An example of a populated list is shown below:



As can be seen above, selecting a dataset populates the System Details and Vessel Details.

The Dataset dropdown window holds up to a maximum of 20 datasets.

If a dataset is no longer needed, it can be removed from the list by selecting the specific dataset in the list, then clicking the 'Remove Selected Dataset from Recently Used List' button.

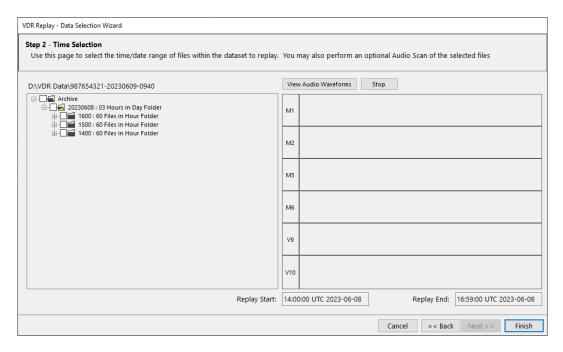
To proceed with the dataset selected for replay select the Next button to go to the next page of the wizard.

Double-clicking on a dataset in the MRU will select it and go straight to the next page.

If you need to remove Datasets from the list highlight the dataset and select 'Remove Selected Dataset From #Recently Used List'.

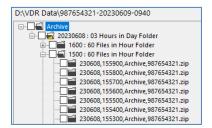
Step 2 - Time Selection

The Data Selection Wizard shows an overview of the dataset's structure, as shown below:

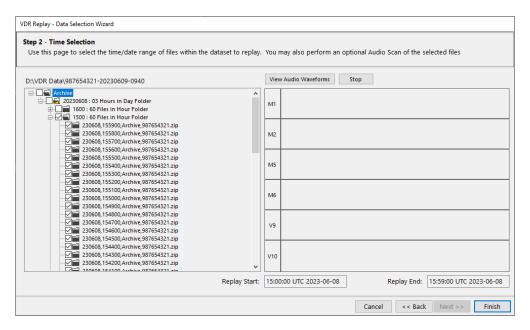


Navigating the Folder Tree

Selecting the '+' I next to a folder will expand and the '-' I button will collapse it.



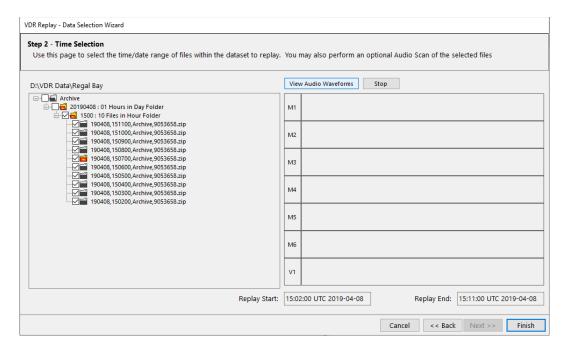
Checking the box next to a folder will select that folder for playback; if no folders are checked, the whole dataset shown will be played back.



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The Replay Start and Replay End boxes indicate the timespan of the selected data, as shown above.

There are special folder indicators identified by the \blacksquare or \blacksquare icons; these indicate that an incident has been logged at the time indicated as shown below.



Audio Scan

The timespan can be further refined by means of an audio scan of the selected files.

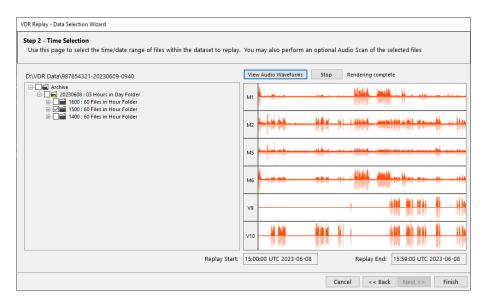
This can be used to highlight periods of high audio activity, which may be of interest when investigating an incident.

To perform an audio scan, select the 'View Audio Waveforms' button.

Please Note: An audio scan is both processor and memory intensive, therefore, it is best to perform scans no longer than 60 minutes, unless the replay application is running on a high spec machine.

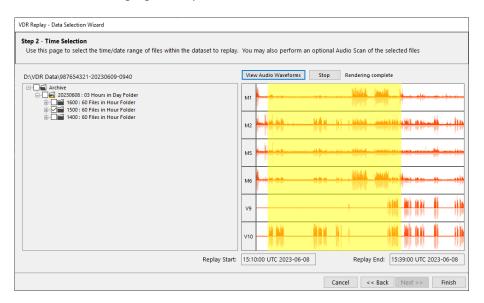
The audio scan be stopped at any time by pressing the 'Stop' button.

Once finished the audio scan may look like this:



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If an area of high audio activity is identified for replay, this can be selected by right-clicking ad dragging anywhere in the waveform view; the selected area is highlighted in yellow, as shown below:

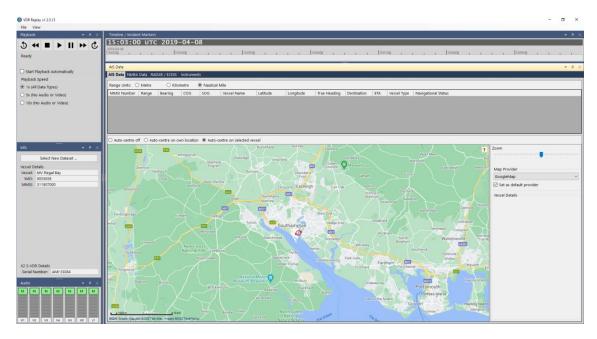


Note also that in the above example the Replay Start and Replay End have again been adjusted to reflect the highlighted area.

Once you are satisfied with the data selected for replay, select 'Finish' to load the data into the main replay window.

Data Replay

The main replay screen is, by default, laid out as shown below:

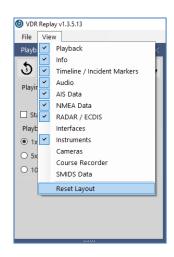


The main sections are:

- 1. 'Playback' contains the media controls.
- 2. 'Info' Used to display vessel information and to select a new dataset.
- 3. 'Audio' shows the audio level of each channel. Each individual channel may be muted.
- 4. 'Timeline / Incident Markers'
 - a. Shows the UTC time of the data being replayed.
 - b. Shows the time period of the data being played.
 - c. Shows the positions of any incident markers.
 - d. Shows replay progress.
- 5. 'AIS Data' displays:
 - a. a table of AIS data received from surrounding vessels.
 - b. a map showing vessel locations and heading.
 - c. chosen vessel details.
- 6. 'NMEA Data' shows the raw NMEA data.
- 7. 'RADAR / ECDIS' shows each video input RADAR or ECDIS where applicable.
- 8. 'Instruments' shows the GPS, Heading, Wind and Rudder data as a GUI.

Other views selectable are.

- 9. 'Interfaces' shows decoded information from X32-D, X-16-A interfaces.
- 10. 'Cameras' shows each CCTV camera *.
- 11. 'Course Recorder' Data is presented in a table format.
- 12. 'SMIDS Data' shows the data in the SMIDS format.



^{*} Cameras are only supported in the X-MDR systems.

Media Controls



The Media Control buttons operate as follows:

Button	Operation			
3	Skip Back 5 Minutes			
44	Skip Back 1 Minute			
	Stop Playback			
•	Start Playback			
Ш	Pause Playback			
>>	Skip Forward 1 Minute			
3	Skip Forward 5 Minutes			

Note: When skipping forwards or backwards, playback will jump to the nearest minute.

Timeline Interaction

The timeline indicates the progress, time and incidents during playback; initially it will show the Replay Start time defined in the Data Selection Wizard.



As playback progresses, the progress bar and time indication will update accordingly:



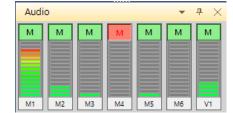
The timeline can also be used to move playback forward or backward by clicking on a point in the timeline.

Note: When clicking on the timeline, playback will jump to start of minute clicked.

Audio Controls

The 'Audio' display shows the audio level of each of the active channels. M1 to M8 are microphones, V1 and V2 are VHF channels.

The 'M' at the top of each level indicator is the 'Mute' control. Whilst green the audio channel will be active and will be played back.



Clicking on the green 'M' will cause it to turn red and the channel will be muted. The muted channel will no longer be heard during the playback.

Clicking the red 'M' will turn it green and the channel will now be unmuted, and once again become active.

AIS Data

Map Symbols

On the Map display, vessels are indicated as follows:

Symbol	Meaning		
	Moored, not selected		
	Moored, selected		
A	Moving, not selected		
A	Moving, selected		

A target vessel may be selected by:

- 1. Clicking on its entry in the table at the top of the AIS display
- 2. Clicking on the vessel symbol on the map

The selected vessel's information will be displayed in the Vessel Details table on the right of the map.

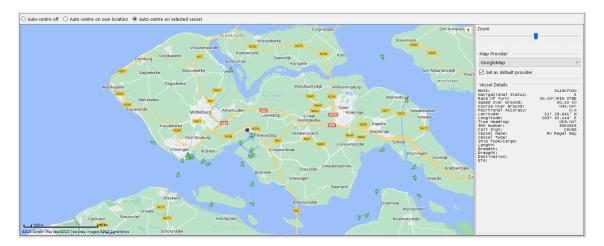
When a vessel is moving, it's icon will be rotated to indicate its course.

The table above the map display will show the data received via the AIS transmission for each vessel in range. The 'range units' may be adjusted for user preference.



Map View, Control and Navigation

The Map view shows the geographical location of all vessels whose AIS data has been played back.



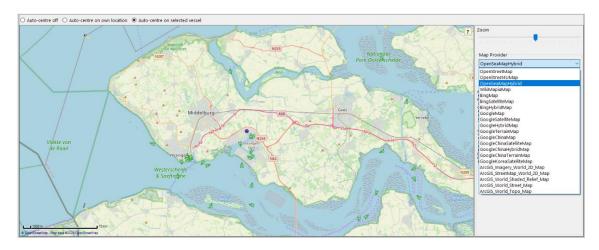
Note mapping is only available if the PC running the VDR replay software is connected to the internet.

The 'Map Provider' menu in the right-hand panel will allow a choice of maps from several providers to allow map display in areas where access to certain mapping sites is limited.

Once a Map Provider has been selected it can be set as the default map provider for future replay sessions.



Selecting e.g. 'OpenSeaMapHybrid' will give a better detail of the marine environment as shown below.



Mouse Controls:

- Holding the Right Button and moving the mouse will allow movement around the map.
- Placing the mouse pointer over a target will display its MMSI number.
- Left clicking on a target will highlight and show details of the chosen target in the right-hand information panel.
- The mouse scroll wheel may be used to zoom in and out of the map.
- The zoom slider in the right-hand panel may also be used to zoom in and out of the map.

Selecting the Putton on the map will display a list of Shortcut Keys:

Selecting ^ will hide the help.



Keyboard Shortcuts:

Key	Function
0	Centre Map on Own Ship Location
+	Zoom In
-	Zoom Out
Left Arrow	Move Left on Map (with Auto-centre off)
Right Arrow	Move Right on Map (with Auto-centre off)
Up Arrow	Move Up on Map (with Auto-centre off)
Down Arrow	Move Down on Map (with Auto-centre off)

The map can be automatically centred as follows:

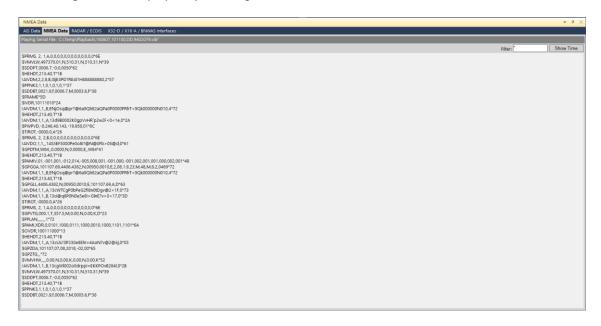
Auto-centre off No automatic centring takes place.

2. Auto-centre on own location Map remains centred on VDR's location.

3. Auto-centre on selected vessel Map centre tracks the movement of the selected vessel.

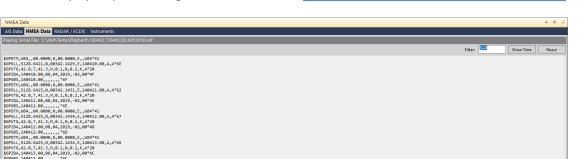
NMEA Data

Serial Data messages can be displayed by selecting the 'NMEA Data' tab, as shown below:



Use the Filter box to filter the displayed messages.

E.g., By typing in \$GP into the Filter box, the NMEA Data window will now display only the messages from the GPS



\$GP

Show Time

Pause

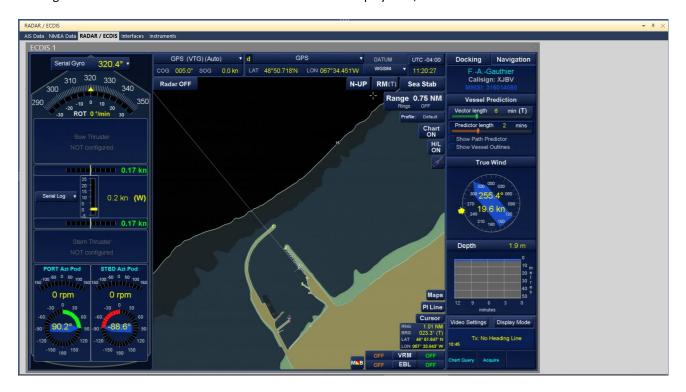
Filter:

RADAR / ECDIS

RADAR and ECDIS images are displayed by selecting the RADAR / ECDIS tab, as shown below:



Clicking on an individual thumbnail will maximise it to fill the display area, as shown below:



Clicking again on the display will return the display to show all available images.

Cameras (X-MDR Only)

The cameras are displayed by choosing the Cameras tab, as shown below:



Instruments

The instruments are displayed by choosing the Instruments tab, as shown below:

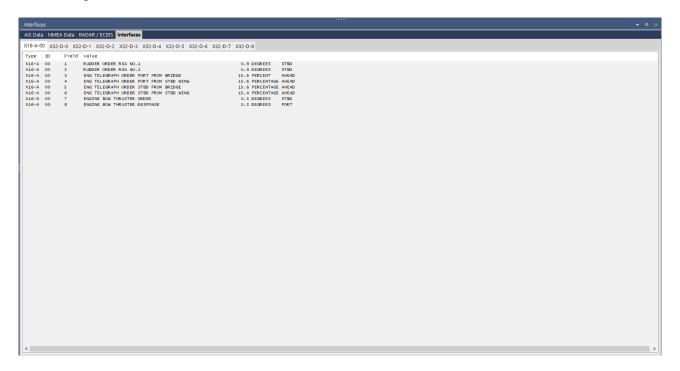
The flashing ##.## indicates that the data required for that instrument is not available.



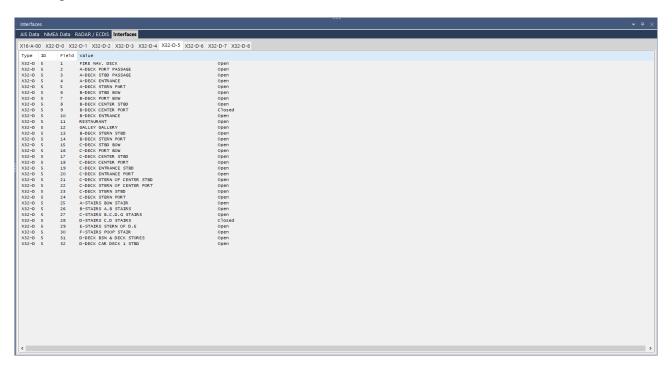
Interfaces

The data from X16-A, X32-D and BNWAS are displayed by selecting the Interfaces tab. Each interface is displayed in a separate tab, as shown in the examples below:

X16-A Analogue to NMEA



X32-D Digital to NMEA



Docking

Each section can be docked and undocked from the main window; this allows users to optimise the layout for their own environment, such as dual screen setups.

Docking positions are stored and restored when the application is re-opened.

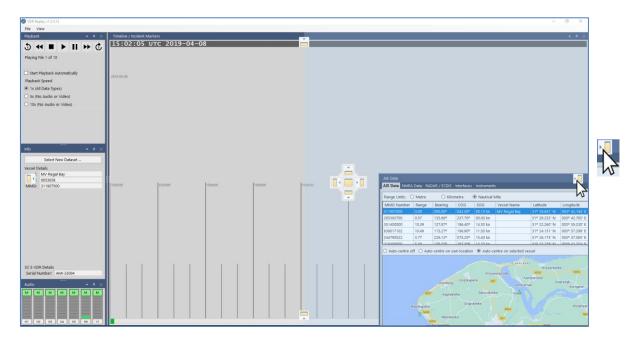
Clicking on the yellow bar of the selected window will allow it to be 'dragged' to a desired position on the screen and can be placed anywhere as a floating window.

If the chosen window is to be 'docked' the docking control feature should be used.

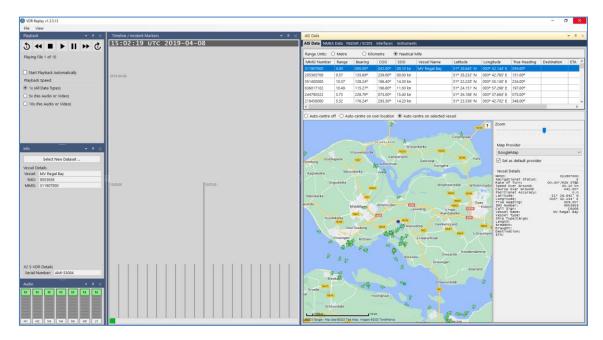


When holding the left button to drag the window, the main docking control will appear in the centre of the screen and local pane selectors at the top/bottom and left/right of the screen. Moving the mouse pointer to either to one of pane selectors on the main docking control or one of the local pane selector icons, a preview of the destination window by way of a blue shaded area in the main window.

In the example below, the local right pane selector has been chosen and the AIS Data display will be 'docked' into the area shown as light blue.



When the mouse is released, the pane will be docked, as shown below:



To reset the view to the default layout, click View > Reset Layout.

Also, here you can select/de-select any of the available windows to your preference. The replay app will remember your preferences each to you start the app.



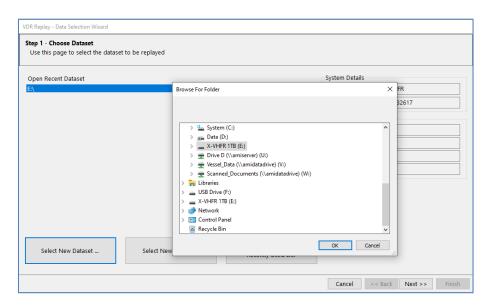
X-VHFR & X-VCR Data Selection Wizard

Connect the Removable USB Drive to your PC.

On opening the replay software, the Data Selection Wizard will be displayed to assist with selecting the items required for replaying of the data.

Choose Dataset

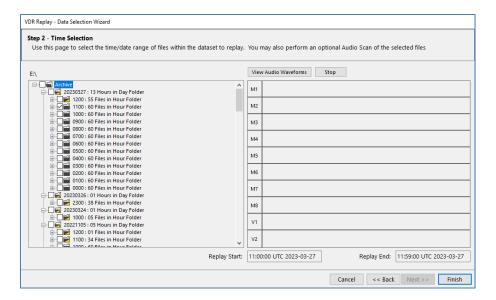
The first step is to browse and select the Removable USB Drive and click on OK. The below screen shows 'X-VHFR 1Tb'.



The complete contents of the USB drive are made available.

'NOTE!' DO NOT PRESS 'Finish' until you have selected the data you wish to playback. As it will extract all the available data and disable your PC.

Select the data you wish to replay select by ticking the adjacent box. Recommended to select an hour of data at most.



View Audio Waveforms (X-VHFR Only)

The timespan can be further refined by means of an audio scan of the selected files.

This can be used to highlight periods of high audio activity, which may be of interest when investigating an incident.

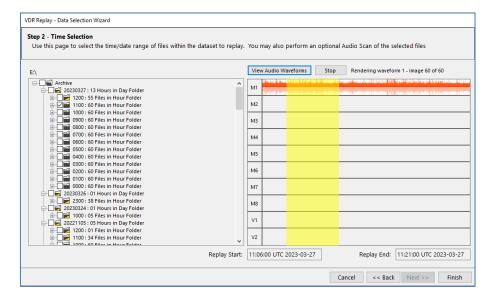
To perform an audio scan, select the 'View Audio Waveforms' (X-VHFR only).

Please Note: Audio scan is both processor and memory intensive, therefore, it is best to perform scans over no longer than 60 minutes of data, unless the replay application is running on a high spec machine.

The audio scan be stopped at any time by pressing the Stop Scan button.

Once finished the audio scan may look like this:

Also note that even when there are 2 audio sources connected to the system it will appear as a single waveform as it uses the 'Stereo In' on the recorder utilising the Left and Right channels for the 2 sources.



Note also that in the above example the Replay Start and Replay End have again been adjusted to reflect the highlighted area.

Once you are satisfied with the data selected for replay, select 'Finish' to load the data into the main replay window.

AIS Data

Map Symbols

On the Map display, vessels are indicated as follows:

Symbol	Meaning		
	Moored, not selected		
	Moored, selected		
\triangle	Moving, not selected		
A	Moving, selected		

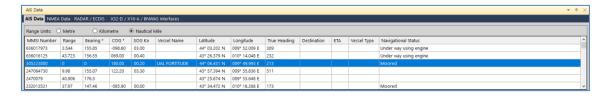
A target vessel may be selected by:

- 1. Clicking on its entry in the table at the top of the AIS display
- 2. Clicking on the vessel symbol on the map

The selected vessel's information will be displayed in the Vessel Details table on the right of the map.

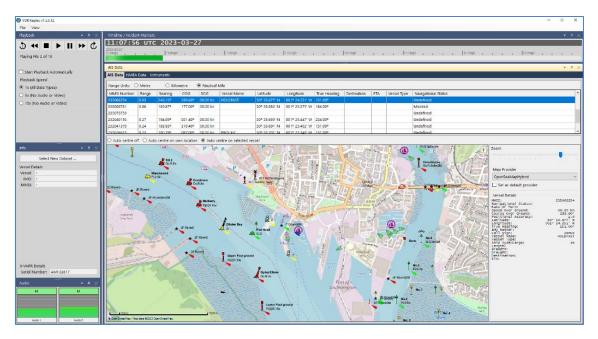
When a vessel is moving, it's icon will be rotated to indicate its course.

The table above the map display will show the data received via the AIS transmission for each vessel in range. The 'range units' may be adjusted for user preference.



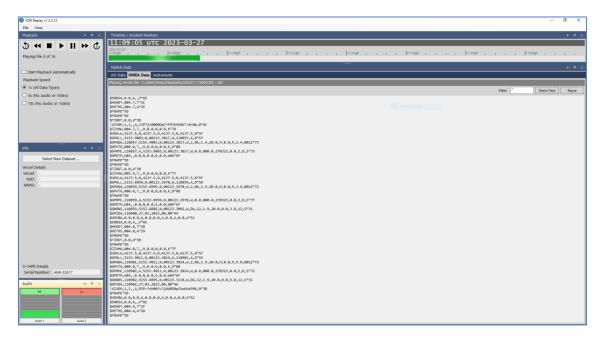
Map View, Control and Navigation

The Map view shows the geographical location of all vessels whose AIS data has been played back.



NMEA Data

Serial Data messages can be displayed by selecting the 'NMEA Data' tab, as shown below:



Audio Controls

The 'Audio' display shows the level of both Audio 1 and Audio 2 channels.

The 'M' at the top of each level indicator is the 'Mute' control.

Whilst green the audio channel will be active and will be played back.

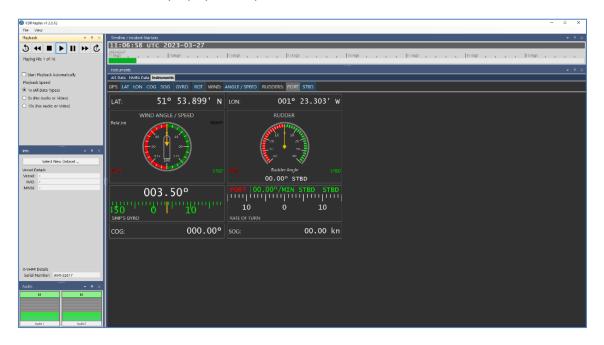
Clicking on the green 'M' will cause it to turn red and the channel will be muted.

Clicking on the red 'M' will turn it green and the channel will now be unmuted, and once again become active.

Instruments

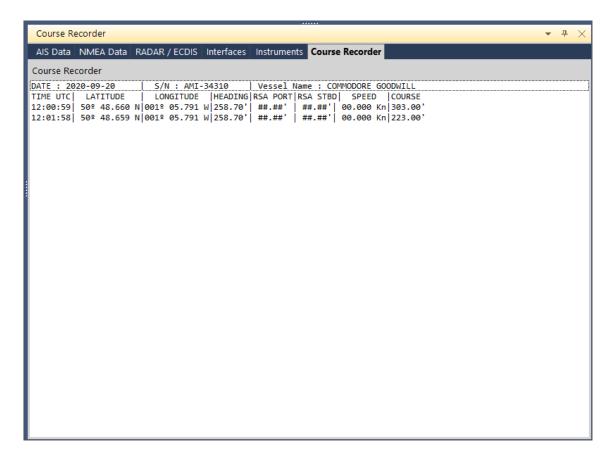
The instruments are displayed by choosing the Instruments tab, as shown below:

Note that the 'Instruments' will only replay if that specific data has been recorded.



Course Recorder

The course recorder is displayed by choosing the Course recorder tab, as shown below:



Document			Modification Number (where applicable)
	Issue	Date	Brief Record of Change and Reason for Change
	Iss01	12.01.19	Original Issue
	Iss01 Rev01	18.01.19	Updated Layout
	Iss01 Rev02	21.03.19	Updated to include X-MDR and timeline
	Iss01 Rev 03	19.08.19	Added Features and Illustrations. Changed title to VDR Replay
	Iss01 Rev04	09.09.19	Correction of Contents and Addition of Recommended Maximum Data Period
	Iss01 Rev05	13.02.20	Name changed from AMI Data Replay to VDR Replay
	Iss01 Rev06	31.03.20	Updated Data Selection Wizard, Timeline and Interfaces Display
	Iss01 Rev07	14.04.21	Correction of Some Images
	Iss01 Rev 08	07.12.22	Minor updates for consistency
	Iss01 Rev09	13.07.23	Additional Functionality and Updated graphics for v1.3.5.13

Document Issue Details

For the latest Software version, please find our website.

https://amimarine.com/product/downloads/



NOTICE

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NOTE: All alterations must be verified by re-authorisation and approval of the complete document.



AMI MARINE LTD

Unit 9 Crosshouse Centre Crosshouse Road Southampton Hampshire SO14 5GZ UK

Tel No: +44 (0) 23 8048 0450
Email: technical@amimarine.com
Web: www.amimarine.com