RCS-WIN is the optional programming software for use with the RCS-2000 Programmable Source Assignment Panel. The program provides a “virtual” panel or panels on the computer screen, showing the “sources”, destinations”, and preset numbers of the RCS system. Designed for intuitive ease of use, even an operator without extensive programming knowledge can quickly program the system, add or change assignments and labels and make changes in real time.

The software functions on PC’s running Windows 95, 98, 2000 or ME. Once programmed, the RCS-2000 does not require a connected computer to function, though the user may keep a PC on-line with the RCS-2000 for remote real-time monitoring and control of the system.

The RCS-WIN screen supplies the user with a view of either eight or fifteen source channels and 24 destinations at a time. In systems with multiple RCS-2000 units, a single mouse click will toggle between the different 24-destination sets. To edit within a preset, simply move the slider under a given destination to the desired source position. This can be accomplished by “drag-and-drop” with a mouse or touch pad or with the keyboard’s cursor keys.

Six-character fields are available to name presets, sources, and destinations. An easy-to-use Copy Preset feature speeds programming of similar presets.

RCS-WIN will function either on-line or off-line. If connected to a system, the user has a choice of whether changes are automatically sent or require an additional, confirming keystroke. Presets can also be written off-line and subsequently loaded into a system. Of course, they can also be saved on disk for back-up and archival purposes. The RCS-2000 unit saves all preset information including source and destination names in non-volatile memory allowing a computer to upload the presets from the unit, edit them, and download them back to the RCS-2000.

Because multiple instances of the application can be active on the PC at the same time, an operator could control multiple systems within a facility from a central location. This is limited only by the number of available communication ports.
SPECIAL FEATURES

Color Grouping is a unique feature where the user can assign any or all of the destinations to one of the eight special color groups (the ninth color is the default for non-grouped operation). When the source assignment of any member of a group is changed, the rest of that group’s members will change with it. This is perfect for on-the-fly changes of a common group of destination assignments during a live event.

To aid the operator in quick visual identification of an assignment the user can activate Communication Path Tracking: clicking on a source or destination name will visually highlight gridlines showing all the destinations assigned to a source.

If on-line to a system, and edits have been made to preset, but the changes have not yet been sent to the system, the slider caps will flash a bright yellow. This helps the operator keep track of whether the current edits have or have not been implemented.

Security features include a mode where presets may be selected, but not edited and a “coffee break mode” where a simple command locks out the computer keyboard until another keystroke restores it. These features help prevent unintended preset changes.

Presets can be saved in a text format and edited there. Presets can also be saved to a Microsoft Excel file allowing printouts of the assignments in a given preset. These would typically be kept with a system for reference so an operator can see the configuration of the various presets stored in the system. They are also useful as a reference when performing system edits with an RCU-60 Wired Remote Control instead of the computer.

Diagnostics include on-screen warnings if too many destinations are assigned to a source (user configurable); and power faults or loss on a destination line.

In complex productions, the additional control and monitoring functions provided by RCS-WIN are indispensable. Best of all, these functions can be performed on a PC connected to the system’s master unit through up to 300 feet (90M) of cable. Combined with the unique routing capabilities of the RCS-2000, the RCS-WIN software offers unprecedented power and flexibility to control and configure large, complex party line systems.

A demonstration version of the software is available for download at the Clear-Com web site: [www.clearcom.com](http://www.clearcom.com)

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Pentium I or better running Windows 95, 98, 2000, ME
16 MB RAM, 5 MB Hard Disk Space
Monitor: 800 X 600, 16-bit color
CD-ROM Drive
RS-232 COM Port