COVANET

FLOW

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A patch panel for live video, running in your browser.

Route SRT and RTMP feeds to any platform, partner or recorder with one click, on servers in Europe looked after by people who do live broadcast for a living.

A NOTE FROM THE FOUNDER

I have spent over a decade plugging things in for nervous people, first as a live sound engineer and tour manager, then running my own live production company since 2015, and the job has always come down to one piece of kit: the patch panel. Every source in, every destination out, and one place to see what is going where.

When the work moved onto the internet, that piece went missing. Feeds lived in encoder menus, stream keys lived in spreadsheets, and the person on the end of the phone at 18:59 had no way of seeing which link had dropped. Flow is that panel put back, in a browser, on servers we run ourselves.

It already carries live sport every week, so most of what follows was learned under some pressure. Please do get in touch if you would like a hand setting it up.

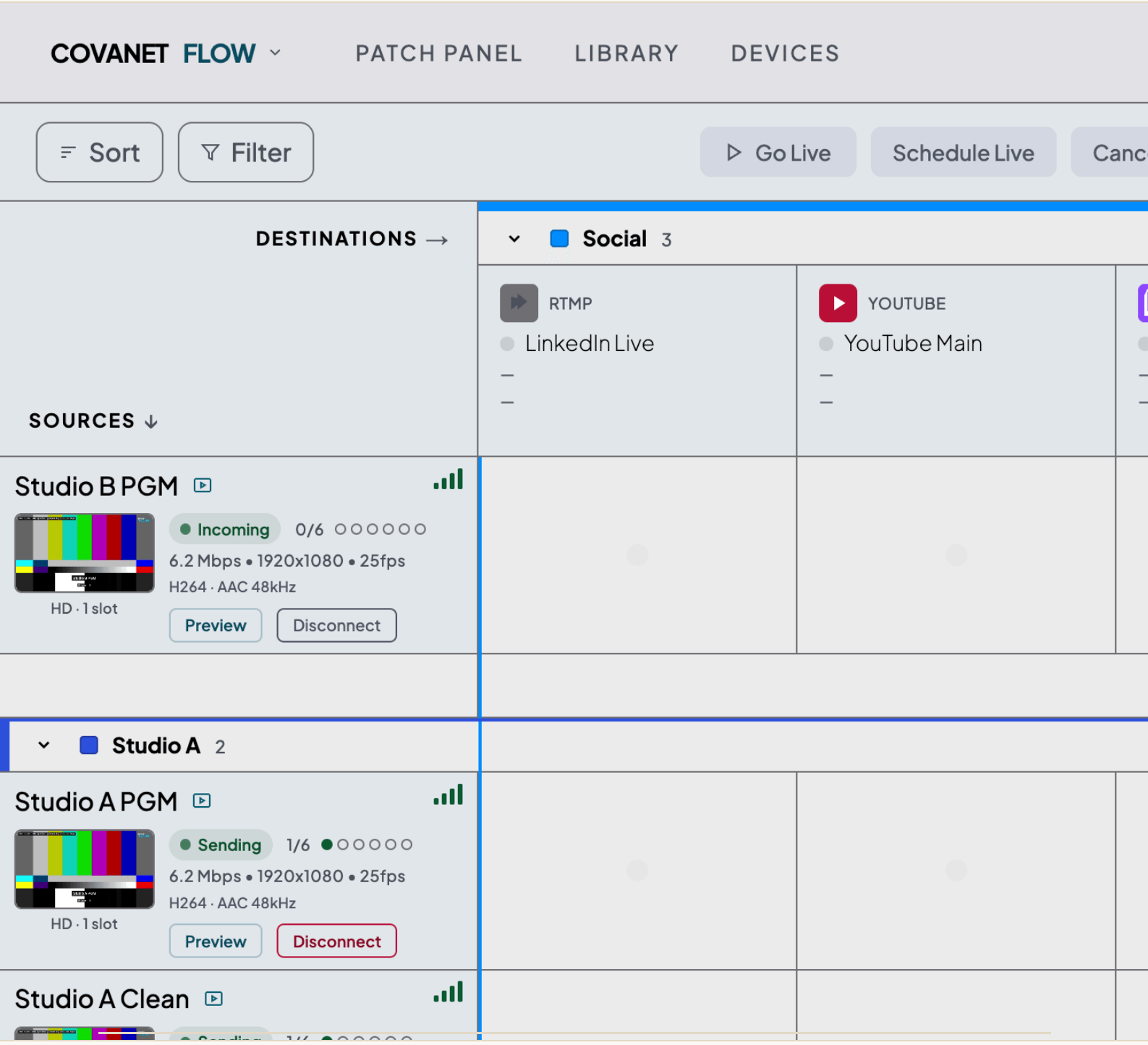
All the best,

Theo Dockreay
FOUNDER, COVANET

HOW IT WORKS

Sources down the side, destinations across the top.

If you have stood in front of a broadcast patch bay, you already know how to use Flow. Every feed coming in is a row, every place it needs to go is a column, and clicking the square where they cross makes the connection. The square tells you what is happening on it - waiting, live, or stopped with the reason - so the state of the whole show sits on one screen rather than across encoder menus and a spreadsheet of stream keys.

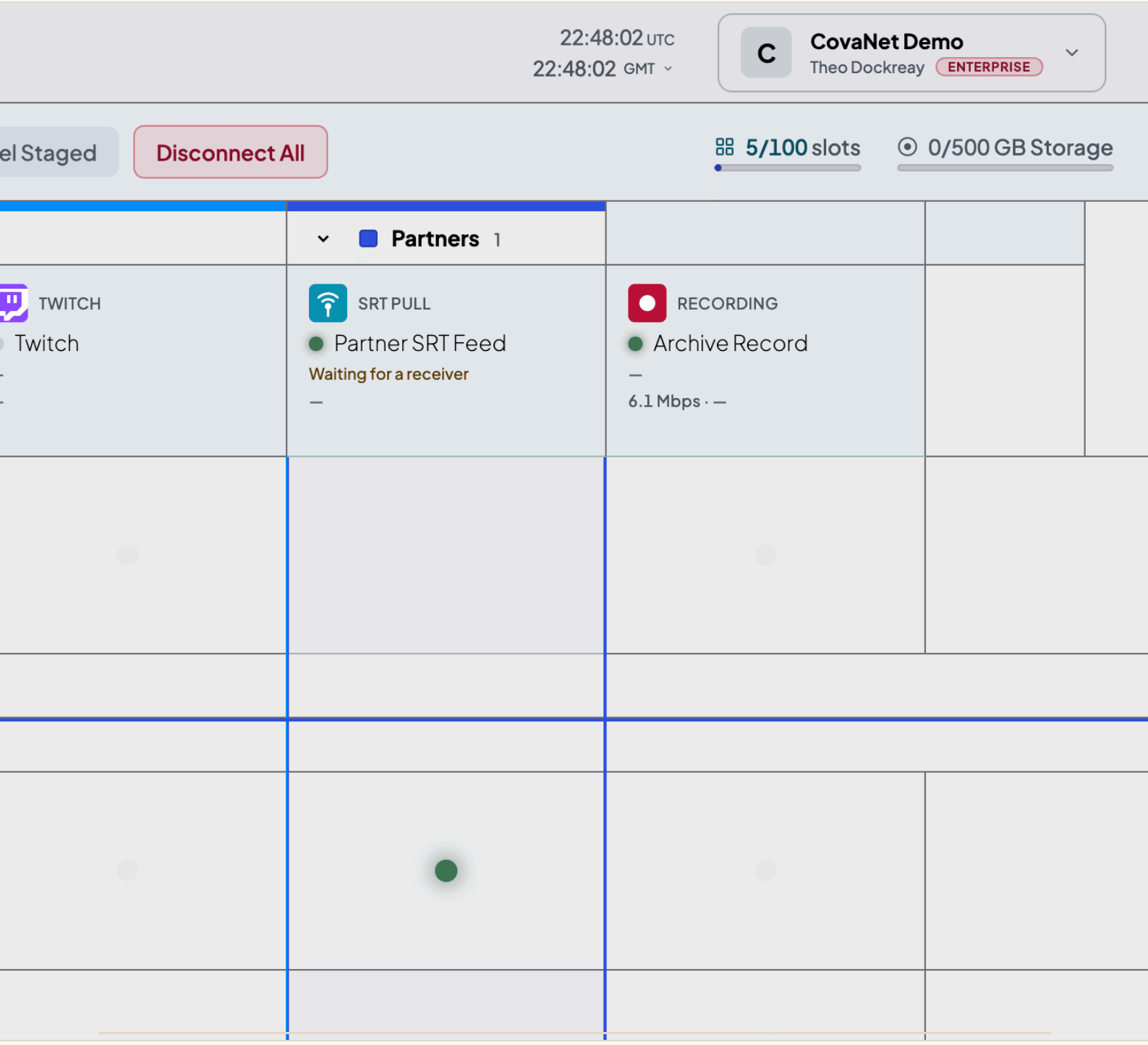


1 **Add a source.** Point your encoder at the address Flow gives you, over SRT or RTMP.

2 **Add a destination.** A platform, a partner's SRT address, or a recording.

3 **Click the crossing and Go Live.**

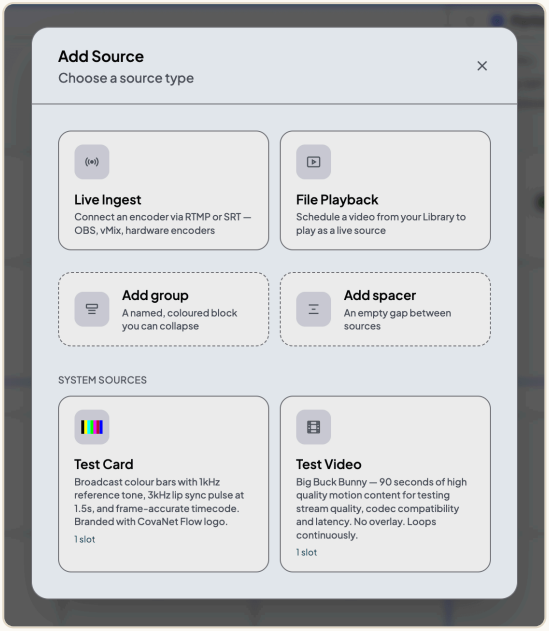
The patch panel with two studios, two remote cameras and five destinations. Green squares are on air.



SOURCES

Getting the signal in.

SRT is there for contribution over connections you would not trust on their own, RTMP for anything that only speaks RTMP, and every source gets its own address and key the moment you create it. Give a source a main and a backup encoder and Flow switches to the backup if the main stops, in about eight seconds, and marks the source ON BACKUP so you can see it has happened. You can also upload a file and schedule it to play out at a set time, for replays, holding loops and anything pre-recorded.



c. 8 s

from main to backup encoder.



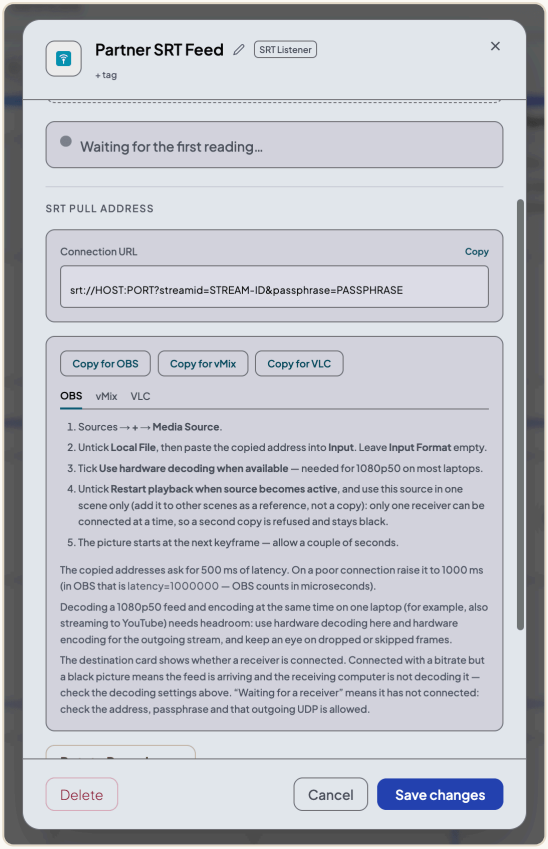
TEST CARD

An SMPTE-style card in 720p or 1080p at 25, 29.97, 30, 50, 59.94 or 60, landscape or portrait, with your own text on it, a 1 kHz tone and a lip-sync marker, so you can prove a route end to end before anyone is watching.

DESTINATIONS

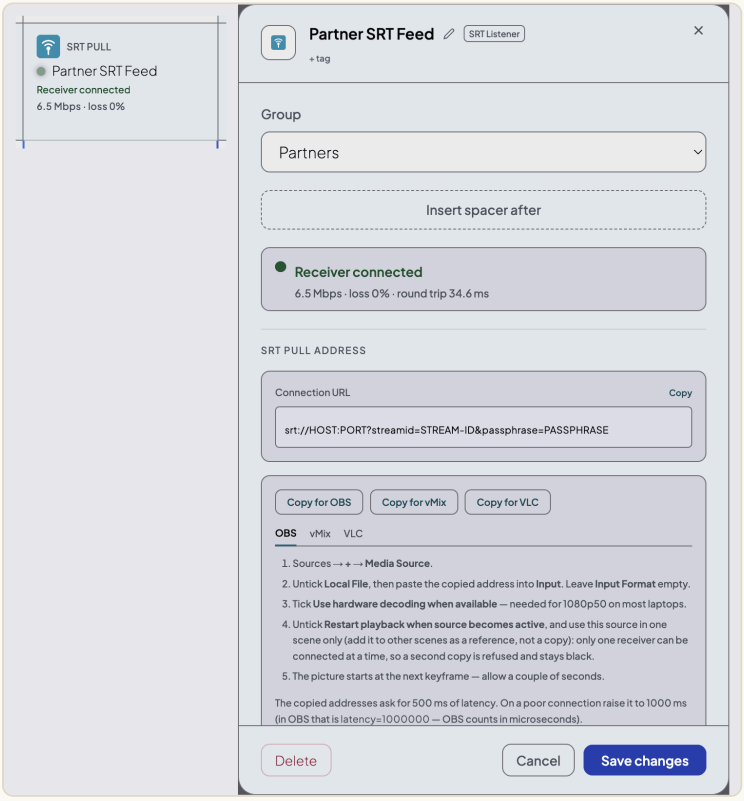
Sending it wherever it needs to go.

Platforms take your feed over RTMP, and partners take it over SRT, either with Flow calling them or with Flow listening and them calling in. A listener gives the receiver a ready-made address with buttons that copy it in the form OBS, vMix or VLC expect, so nobody has to remember that OBS counts SRT latency in microseconds. The destination card then shows whether the receiver is connected, at what bitrate and with how much loss, or that they have the wrong passphrase, so the call at 18:59 starts with an answer rather than a question.

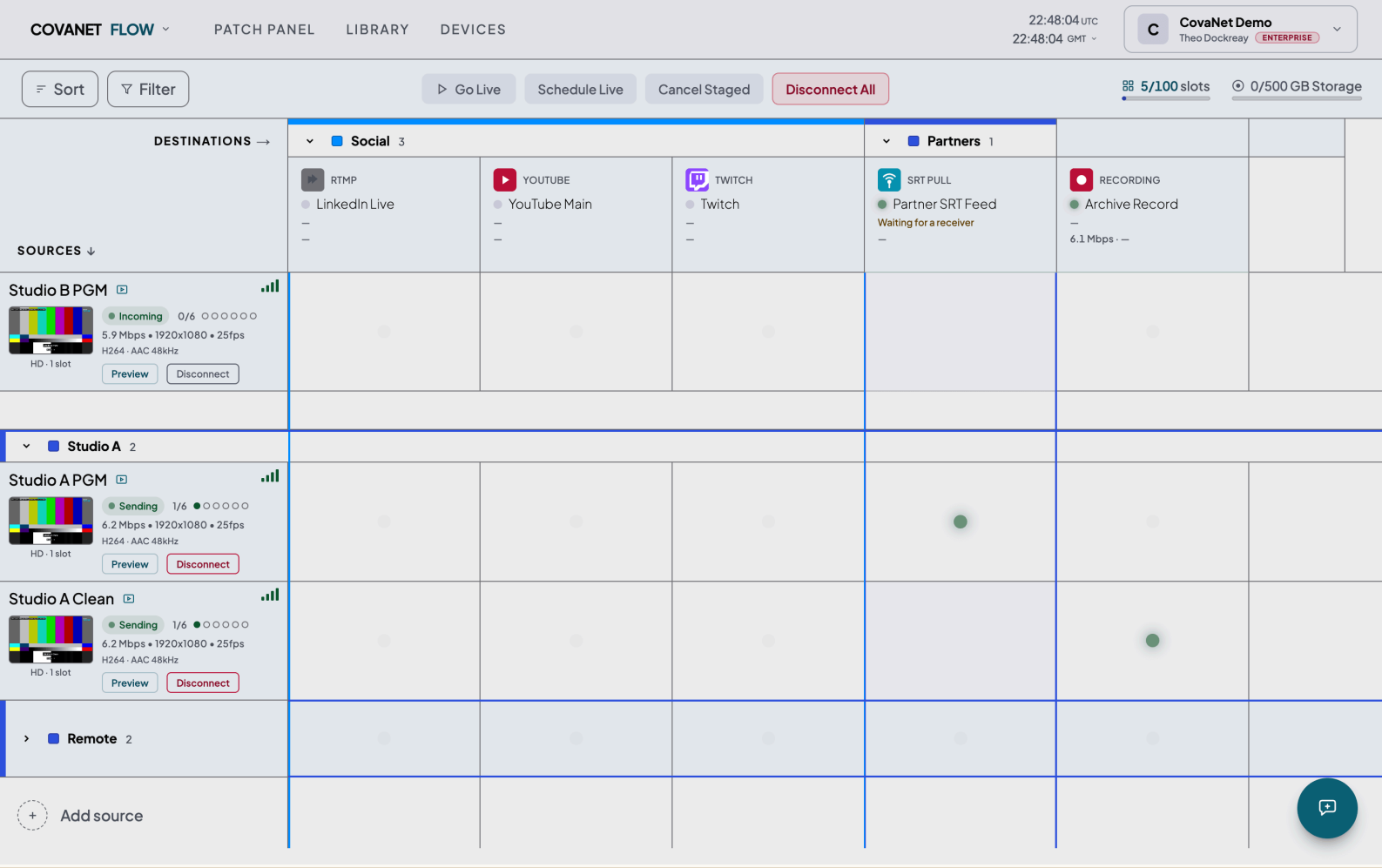


6 outputs

per slot - every source can feed six destinations at once.



Receiver connected, 6.5 Mbps, no loss. The modal and the card read from the same five-second measurement.



ON AIR

Built for the hour you are on air.

Group sources and destinations by studio, client or platform, give each group a colour, and fold away the ones you are not using; a folded group still shows you if anything inside it is live. TAKE moves a destination from one source to another without stopping the output, usually within a couple of seconds and never longer than the source's keyframe interval, for when the backup truck becomes the main truck. Both sources need the same format. A master clock shows UTC with your local time underneath, so everyone on the call is counting down to the same thing.

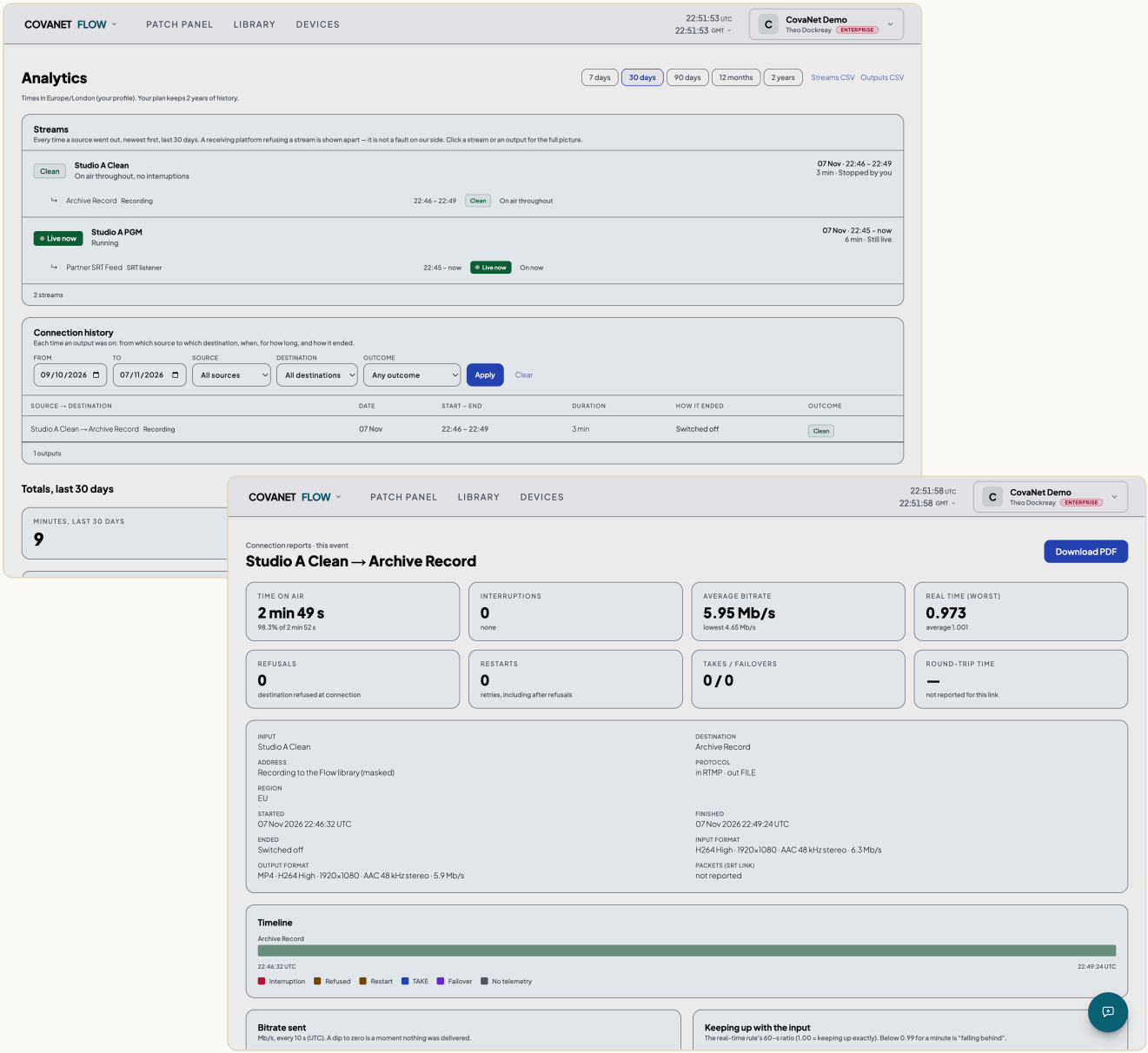
TAKE

source to source, output stays up.

REPORTS

Knowing what actually happened.

Every stream gets an outcome, good or bad, with what the input and each output were doing every ten seconds. Any run can be exported as a report with your logo beside ours, listing when it started, what it carried and every interruption our ten-second samples caught. It is the piece of paper that settles the conversation with the client on Tuesday.



RELIABILITY

Looked after like broadcast kit.

Most of the work on Flow is the work you do not see. Specifically:

01 On our live servers, outputs and SRT listeners carry on through a restart of our server software, with a gap of around half a second.

02 Every morning a new server is built from scratch and a test feed is pushed through it, and changes to how video is handled are proven on a fresh server before they reach the live ones.

03 Servers only install updates when nothing is on air, one at a time, and are tested again before they take traffic.

04 A failed payment never stops a live output, and anything over your allowance is settled afterwards. The only limit that ends a stream on its own is the longest-stream length you chose, or a feed far above the bitrate for its resolution.

05 CovaNet is a UK company, and Flow runs on servers in the EU.

c. 0.5 s

gap through a server software restart.

PRICING

Pay for what you use, and see the number before you buy.

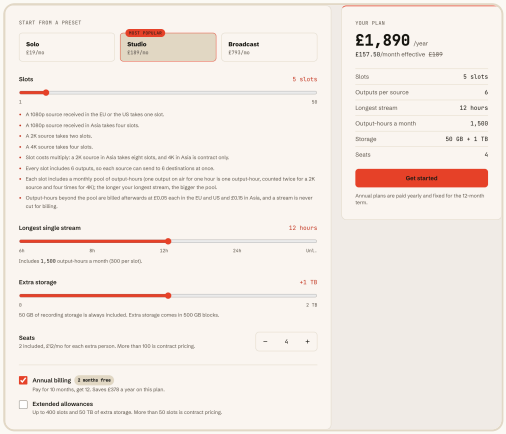
There are no fixed plans to squeeze into. You choose how many slots you need, how long your longest stream runs, how much storage and how many people, and the price is the sum of those parts, paid monthly or yearly.

PER SLOT, PER MONTH, BY LONGEST STREAM

LONGEST STREAM	SLOT	OUTPUT-HOURS PER SLOT
6 hours	£19	150
8 hours	£23	200
12 hours	£27	300
24 hours	£34	480
Unlimited	£49	744

Slots 11-25: base £17.10 (10% off £19). Slots 26-50: base £15.20 (20% off £19).

Storage	50 GB included. Each further 500 GB £15 a month, then £12 beyond 4 blocks.
Seats	2 included, then £12 a month each.
Beyond the pool	£0.05 per output-hour in the EU and the US, £0.15 in Asia.



A 1080p source takes one slot on our EU servers.

Servers in the US and Asia are coming; a 1080p source in Asia will take four slots.

A 2K source takes two slots, a 4K source four.

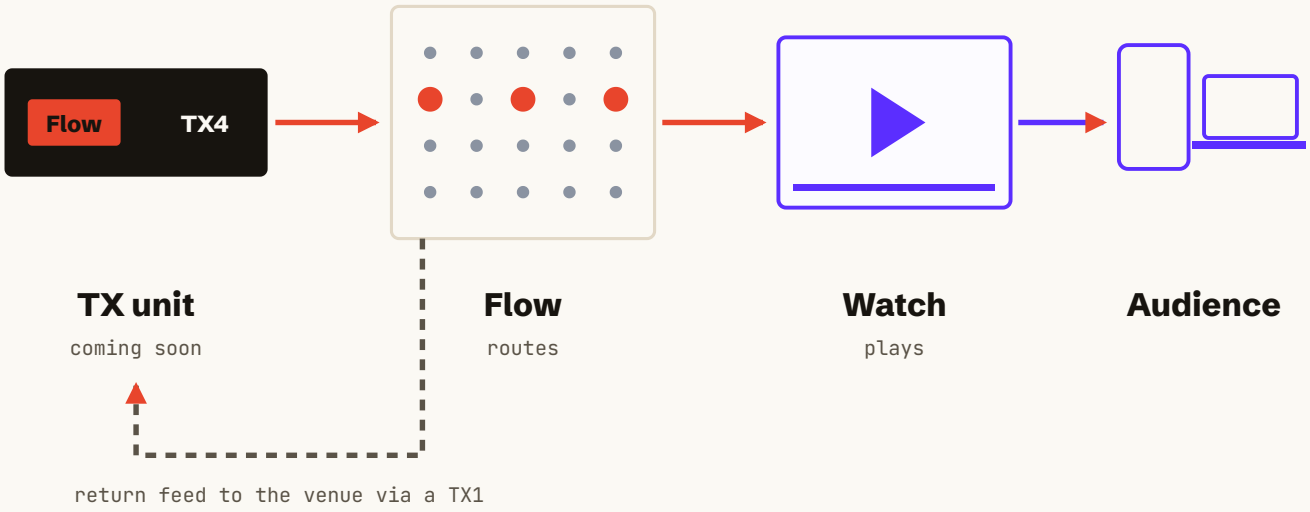
Every slot includes six outputs and a monthly pool of output-hours.

Pay for ten months and get twelve.

PRESET	SLOTS	LONGEST STREAM	MONTHLY	ANNUAL
Solo	1	6 hours	£19	£190
Studio	5	12 hours	£189	£1,890
Broadcast	20	24 hours	£793	£7,930

More than 50 slots is contract pricing, with dedicated infrastructure and an agreed SLA if you need one.

Flow is the middle of the chain.



TX1 and TX4, coming soon

Our own encoders and decoders. Plug in power and network, scan the code on the box, confirm on its front panel, and its inputs and outputs appear in your patch panel. Three models to start: TX1-HDMI, TX1-SDI and TX4-SDI.

CovaNet Watch

Branded players and small websites for your audience, fed straight from a Flow destination.

COVANET

FLOW

Start on the free account, or talk to us.

Create a free account at flow.covanet.co.uk to set up your sources and test cards in a few minutes; sending to destinations starts with Solo at £19 a month. For more than 50 sources, managed distribution or anything unusual, please get in touch.

covanet.co.uk

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