

# Ultimatte Ethernet Protocol



# **Developer Information**

# **Controlling Ultimatte using Telnet**

The Blackmagic Ultimatte 12 Ethernet Protocol gives you the freedom to build your own custom control solutions for your Ultimatte 12. For example, you can create your own software application and control your Ultimatte via Ethernet from your computer.

The first step is to connect your Ultimatte to your computer via Ethernet. You can do this by connecting Ultimatte to the same network your computer is connected to, or you can connect Ultimatte directly to your computer.

**NOTE** If your Blackmagic Ultimatte is connected directly to your computer, set your computer to a manual static IP address. Set the first three blocks of numbers in the IP address to match your Ultimatte and set the subnet mask to 255.255.255.0. You can leave the gateway or router setting blank as it will not be used in a direct connection between your computer and Ultimatte.

If your network settings are set correctly, you can now open the Terminal application on Mac OS, or enable Telnet command line utilities on Windows and enter Ultimatte control protocol commands. These commands can be programmed into your application and triggered by related items on a custom user interface of your own design.

Below is a basic example of using Telnet to change the backing color, restore to factory defaults, and adjust the matte density control.

1 In the Terminal application, type the following:

telnet (IP address of main unit (space) port number)(enter)

For example: telnet 192.168.10.220 9998

Press 'enter'.

A list of status information will appear and you are ready to control your Ultimatte.

2 Now type the following:

control: (press enter)

backing color: blue (press enter twice)

Terminal will acknowledge the action with 'ack' and confirm it so you know your setting has been performed.

You have now changed Ultimatte's backing color to blue.

3 To restore to factory defaults, type the following:

control: (press enter)

factory defaults: yes (press enter twice)

This restores your Ultimatte to factory default settings and performs an automatic composite.

4 To adjust the matte density setting, type the following:

control: (press enter)

matte density: 273 (press enter twice)

Terminal will acknowledge and confirm the action.

You have now adjusted the matte density setting.

#### 5 To exit Telnet:

Hold down the control button and press the ']' key. The Telnet prompt will appear. Type the following: quit(press enter)

A status message will appear confirming the connection is closed.

# **Blackmagic Ultimatte 12 Ethernet Protocol**

#### Version 2.0

If you are a software developer you can use Ultimatte Ethernet Protocol to construct devices that integrate with our products. Here at Blackmagic Design our approach is to open up our protocols and we eagerly look forward to seeing what you come up with!

#### Overview

The Blackmagic Ultimatte Ethernet Protocol is a text based protocol that is accessed by connecting to TCP port 9998 on an Ultimatte.

Ultimatte sends information in blocks. Each block has an identifying header in all caps, followed by a full colon. A block spans multiple lines and is terminated by a blank line. Each line in the protocol is terminated by a newline character.

Upon connection, the Ultimatte device sends a complete update of its status. After the initial status transmission, status updates are sent every time the Ultimatte device's status changes.

To be resilient to future protocol changes, clients should ignore blocks they do not recognize, up to the trailing blank line. Within existing blocks, clients should ignore lines that they do not recognize.

## **Protocol Preamble**

The first block sent by Ultimatte is always the protocol preamble:

```
PROTOCOL PREAMBLE: ← Version: 2.0 ← ←
```

The version field indicates the protocol version. When the protocol is changed in a backwards compatible way, the minor version number will be updated. If incompatible changes are made, the major version number will be updated.

#### Identity

The next block contains information about the device identity.

```
IDENTITY: ← Model: Ultimatte 12 8K ← Label: Ultimatte 12 8K ← Unique ID: 12345678 ←
```

#### **Network Information**

There are two network blocks. The first describes the general network information and the second describes the network interface details.

```
NETWORK: ←
Interface count: 1←
Default Interface: 0←
Static DNS Servers: 8.8.8.8, 8.8.4.4←
Current DNS Servers: 8.8.8.8, 8.8.4.4←
```

```
NETWORK INTERFACE 0:←
Name: Cadence GigE Ethernet MAC←
Priority: 0←
MAC Address: xx.xx.xx.xx.xx.xx

DynamicIP: false←
Current Addresses: 10.0.0.2/255.255.255.0←
Current Gateway: 10.0.0.1←
Static Addresses: 10.0.0.2/255.255.255.0←
Static Gateway: 10.0.0.1←

←
```

#### **Version Information**

The version information describes the hardware and software version numbers and identifiers of the device. For example, the "Product ID" field contains the hexadecimal USB Product Identifier.

```
VERSION:←
Product ID: BE84←
Hardware Version: 0100←
Software Version: 09A89B7A←
Software Release: 2.0←
```

#### **Device Information**

The next block contains general information about the connected Ultimatte device.

```
DEVICE:←
Video Format: 1080p60←
Reference Source: Foreground←
FG In: Locked←
BG In: Locked←
MONITOR In: Locked←
G MATTE In: Locked←
H MATTE In: Locked←
REFIn: Locked←
BG MATTE In: Locked←
LAYER In: Locked←
LAYER MATTE In: Locked←

←
```

**NOTE** Some Ultimatte models will only have a subset of the above-mentioned inputs.

For example, the Ultimatte 12 HD Mini only has the following inputs:

- Foreground input (FG In), and
- Background input (BG In).

Similarly, the Ultimatte 12 HD only has the following inputs:

- Foreground input (FG In),
- Background input (BG In),
- Garbage Matte input (G MATTE In),
- Holdout Matte input (H MATTE In),
- Monitor Input (MONITOR In), and
- Reference Input (REF In).

#### **Video Formats Information**

The Video Formats blocks lists the video formats supported by the device. See the Video Format Control list to find the formats supported by each device.

```
VIDEO FORMATS: ←
auto detect ←
525.59.94 NTSC 4:3 ←
625i50 PAL 4:3 ←
720p60 ←
...
```

#### **Initial Status Dump**

The next eleven blocks provide the control values, control default values, current file, file list, the GPI lists, the Frame Buffer Image List and Frame Buffer State.

```
CONTROL:←
Matte Density: 0 \leftarrow
Red Density: 0←
Green Density: 0 \leftarrow
...(Full list in Controls section)
CONTROL DEFAULT:←
Matte Density: 0←
Red Density: 0←
Green Density: 0←
...(Full list in Controls section)
CURRENT FILE:←
Filename←
FILE LIST:←
File 1←
File 2←
GPI LIST:←
ID: 1←
Index: 0←
File 1←
File 2←
```

**NOTE** The Ultimatte 12 HD Mini does not have GPI inputs, so this block is not available on that device.

The IMAGE LIST block contains the filenames of images that are currently stored on the device. These images can be assigned to Frame Buffer inputs.

```
IMAGE LIST:↓
Image 1↓
Image 2↓
↓
```

The FRAME BUFFER block contains the status of the Frame Buffers on the device. This information will show:

- How many image buffers are available,
- whether a frame buffer is enabled and has an image buffer assigned to it, and
- how frame buffer transitions are set up for those frame buffers that support transitions.

**NOTE** Frame Buffer Duration time is in milliseconds.

```
FRAME BUFFER:←
Number Of Frame Buffers: 46←
BG 1 Frame Buffer Enable: off←
BG 1 Frame Buffer Index: 0←
LY 1 Frame Buffer Enable: off←
LY 1 Frame Buffer Index: 0←
BG 2 Frame Buffer Enable: off←
BG 2 Frame Buffer Index: 0←
LY 2 Frame Buffer Enable: off←
LY 2 Frame Buffer Index: 0←
GM Frame Buffer Enable: off←
GM Frame Buffer Index: 0←
HM Frame Buffer Enable: off←
HM Frame Buffer Index: 0 \leftarrow
BG Frame Buffer Mix: 0←
LY Frame Buffer Mix: 0 \leftarrow
BG Transition Duration: 0 \leftarrow
LY Transition Duration: 0←
Frame Buffer 1: Image 1←
Frame Buffer 2: Image 2←
\downarrow
```

#### **End Prelude**

The final block of the status dump sent by Ultimatte is always end prelude:

```
END PRELUDE: ←
```

#### **Status Updates**

When any Control is changed on an Ultimatte device, the Ultimatte device replies with the applicable status block to all connected clients, containing only the items that have changed. For example, if Matte Density has been changed, the following block will be sent:

```
CONTROL: ←
Matte Density: 0 ←

↓
```

If multiple items are changed, multiple items may be present in the update:

```
CONTROL: ←
Matte Density: 0←
Red Density: 0←
```

These notifications are sent whether the change originated from the front panel, or from any other connected client.

#### **Requesting Changes**

To update a Control the client should send a block of the same form Ultimatte sends when its status changes. For example, to change Matte Density to 100, the client should send the following block:

```
CONTROL: ←
Matte Density: 100 ←
```

The block must be terminated by a blank line. On receipt of a blank line, Ultimatte will either acknowledge the request by responding:

```
ACK←
↓
```

or indicate that the request was not understood by responding:

```
NAK⊷
⊷
```

After a positive response, the client should expect to see a status update from Ultimatte showing the status change. This is likely to be the same as the command that was sent, but if the request could not be performed, or other changes were made simultaneously by other clients, there may be more updates in the block, or more blocks. Simultaneous updates could cancel each other out, leading to a response that is different to that expected.

In the absence of simultaneous updates, a simple control change will result in the following protocol exchange:

```
CONTROL: ←

Matte Density: 0 ←

←

ACK←

←

CONTROL: ←

Matte Density: 0 ←
```

The asynchronous nature of the responses means that a client should never rely on the desired update actually occurring and must simply watch for status updates from Ultimatte and use only these to update its local representation of Ultimatte's state.

A client may also request Ultimatte to change a control by a relative amount. For example, to change Matte Density by 10, the client should send the following block:

```
CONTROL: ←
Offset Matte Density: 10 ←
←
```

Only controls with numerical ranges support this relative mode.

# Requesting a Status Dump

The client may request that Ultimatte resend the complete state of any status block by sending the header of the block, followed by a blank line. In the following example, the client requests Ultimatte resend the control status:

```
CONTROL: ←

←

ACK←

←
```

```
CONTROL: ←

Matte Density: 0 ←

Red Density: 0 ←

Green Density: 0 ←

...(Full list in Controls section)
```

#### File System

The client may request that Ultimatte load, save, delete, or rename a file. To load a file the client should send the following block:

```
FILE:←
Load: <filename>←
↓
```

Ultimatte will respond with an ACK followed by a Current File block or a Message block.

To save, delete, or rename a file the client should send one of the following blocks:

```
FILE:←
Save: <filename>←
←
FILE:←
Delete: <filename>←
←
FILE:←
Rename: <filename>←
To: <filename>←
←
```

In each case Ultimatte will respond with an ACK followed by a File List block or a Message block.

#### **GPI Event List**

The client may request that Ultimatte add, insert or remove an event to a GPI Event List by sending an Insert GPI Event or Remove GPI Event command, followed by a blank line. For example, to insert an event, the client should send the following block:

```
GPI: ←
ID: 1←
Insert: <filename> ←
At: -1← {The insertion index. A '-1' represents the end of the list}
```

To remove an event a client would send the following block:

```
GPI: \leftarrow ID: 1\leftarrow Remove: 1 \leftarrow {Event index to remove. A '0' will delete all events} \leftarrow
```

To set the current event index a client would send the following block:

```
GPI: ←
ID: 1←
Index: 1←
```

Ultimatte will respond with an ACK message followed by either a GPI List Block or a Message Block.

```
GPI LIST: ←
ID: 1←
Index: 0←
File 1←
File 2←
...
←

Or

MESSAGE: ←
Warning: Event limit exceeded ←
```

## Frame Buffer

The client may request that the Ultimatte device assign a pre-loaded image from its Media Pool into a particular frame buffer and enable/disable the frame buffer. To assign and enable an image to the BG frame buffer the following commands are required:

```
FRAME BUFFER: ←
BG 1 Frame Buffer Index: 1←
BG 1 Frame Buffer Enable: on←
```

To disable the frame buffer only the enable command is required:

```
FRAME BUFFER: ←
BG 1 Frame Buffer Enable: on ←
←
```

**NOTE** The Telnet interface does not currently provide loading or removing images in the Media Pool. This has to be done from either a Smart Remote 4, or using the Software Control application. Refer to the 'using the media pool' section of this manual for more information.

#### **Camera Control**

Ultimatte 12 HD Mini can be used to control an attached camera via SDI or HDMI, please refer to the 'Camera Control via Ultimatte 12 HD Mini' section for more information. For SDI Camera Control, the Ultimatte device's Camera ID may be changed using the CAMERACONTROL block:

```
CAMERACONTROL:←
Camera Id: 1←
←
```

**NOTE** This control block is only available on the Ultimatte 12 HD Mini.

Controls	
Matte Density	0-10000
Black Gloss	0-10000
Blue Density	0-10000
Green Density	0-10000
Red Density	0-10000
Shadow Level	0-10000
Shadow Threshold	0-10000
Matte Correct Horizontal Size	0-6
Matte Correct Vertical Size	0-3
Cursor X	0-10000
Cursor Y	0-10000
Cursor 2 X	0-10000
Cursor 2 Y	0-10000
Veil Master	0-10000
Veil Red	0-10000
Veil Green	0-10000
Veil Blue	0-10000
Veil Correct Horizontal Size	0-6
Veil Correct Vertical Size	0-61
Wall Color Red	0-10000
Wall Color Green	0-10000
Wall Color Blue	0-10000
Floor Color Red	0-10000
Floor Color Green	0-10000
Floor Color Blue	0-10000
Cleanup Level	0-10000
Cleanup Dark Recover	0-10000
Cleanup Light Recover	0-10000
Cleanup Strength	0-10000
GM Cleanup Level	0-10000
GM Cleanup Dark Recover	0-10000
GM Cleanup Light Recover	0-10000
GM Cleanup Strength	0-10000
Correction Level	0-10000
Noise Level	0-10000
Black Balance	0-10000
Gray Balance	0-10000

Controls	
White Balance	0-10000
Flare Level	0-10000
Cool	0-10000
Skin Tone	0-10000
Light Warm	0-10000
Dark Warm	0-10000
Flare Correct Horizontal Size	0-6
Flare Correct Vertical Size	0-61
Ambiance Master	0-10000
Ambiance Red	0-10000
Ambiance Green	0-10000
Ambiance Blue	0-10000
Ambiance Strength	0-10000
Direct Light Red	0-10000
Direct Light Green	0-10000
Direct Light Blue	0-10000
Direct Light Mix	0-10000
Vertical Blur	0-10000
FG Saturation Red	0-10000
FG Saturation Green	0-10000
FG Saturation Blue	0-10000
FG Saturation Master	0-10000
FG Contrast Red	0-10000
FG Contrast Green	0-10000
FG Contrast Blue	0-10000
FG Contrast Master	0-10000
FG Black Red	0-10000
FG Black Green	0-10000
FG Black Blue	0-10000
FG Black Master	0-10000
FG White Red	0-10000
FG White Green	0-10000
FG White Blue	0-10000
FG White Master	0-10000
FG Contrast Crossover	0-10000
Fade Mix	0-10000
BG Saturation Red	0-10000

Controls	
BG Saturation Green	0-10000
BG Saturation Blue	0-10000
BG Saturation Master	0-10000
BG Contrast Red	0-10000
BG Contrast Green	0-10000
BG Contrast Blue	0-10000
BG Contrast Master	0-10000
BG Black Red	0-10000
BG Black Green	0-10000
BG Black Blue	0-10000
BG Black Master	0-10000
BG White Red	0-10000
BG White Green	0-10000
BG White Blue	0-10000
BG White Master	0-10000
BG Contrast Crossover	0-10000
BG Filter	0-10000
Test Signal Master	0-10000
Test Signal Red	0-10000
Test Signal Green	0-10000
Test Signal Blue	0-10000
LY Saturation Red	0-10000
LY Saturation Green	0-10000
LY Saturation Blue	0-10000
LY Saturation Master	0-10000
LY Contrast Red	0-10000
LY Contrast Green	0-10000
LY Contrast Blue	0-10000
LY Contrast Master	0-10000
LY Black Red	0-10000
LY Black Green	0-10000
LY Black Blue	0-10000
LY Black Master	0-10000
LY White Red	0-10000
LY White Green	0-10000
LY White Blue	0-10000
LY White Master	0-10000

Controls	
LY Contrast Crossover	0-10000
LY Filter	0-10000
LY Test Signal Master	0-10000
LY Test Signal Red	0-10000
LY Test Signal Green	0-10000
LY Test Signal Blue	0-10000
LY Fade Mix	0-10000
Lighting Level Red	0-10000
Lighting Level Green	0-10000
Lighting Level Blue	0-10000
Lighting Level Master	0-10000
Lighting Minimum Level	0-10000
Window Position Top	0-{Based on Video Format}
Window Position Bottom	0-{Based on Video Format}
Window Position Left	0-{Based on Video Format}
Window Position Right	0-{Based on Video Format}
Window Softness Top	0-10000
Window Softness Bottom	0-10000
Window Softness Left	0-10000
Window Softness Right	0-10000
Window Skew Top	0-10000
Window Skew Bottom	0-10000
Window Skew Left	0-10000
Window Skew Right	0-10000
Window Skew Offset Top	0-10000
Window Skew Offset Bottom	0-10000
Window Skew Offset Left	0-10000
Window Skew Offset Right	0-10000
Transition Rate	1-120
BM Process Horizontal	0-3
BM Process Vertical	0-3
BM Filter	0-10000
BM Input Level	0-10000
BM Input Offset	0-10000
GM Process Horizontal	0-3
GM Process Vertical	0-3
GM Filter	0-10000

Controls	
GM Input Level	0-10000
GM Input Offset	0-10000
HM Process Horizontal	0-3
HM Process Vertical	0-3
HM Filter	0-10000
HM Input Level	0-10000
HM Input Offset	0-10000
LM Process Horizontal	0-3
LM Process Vertical	0-3
LM Filter	0-10000
LM Input Level	0-10000
LM Input Offset	0-10000
Noise Cursor X	0-10000
Noise Cursor Y	0-10000
FG Input Frame Delay	0-14
FG Input U Position	0-10000
FG Input V Position	0-10000
FG Input UV Position	0-10000
Talent Highlight Level**	0-10000
Monitor Highlight Level	0-10000
Matte Out Level	0-10000
Output Offset	-1500-+1500
GP Out Delay*	1-120
GP1Input Delay*	1-120
GP 2 Input Delay*	1-120
GP 3 Input Delay*	1-120
GP 4 Input Delay*	1-120
GP 5 Input Delay*	1-120
Matte Enable	On/Off
Screen Correct	On/Off
GM Cleanup Enable	On/Off
Noise Enable	On/Off
Noise Cursor Enable	On/Off
FG Freeze	On/Off
FG Advanced Contrast Enable	On/Off
Advanced Flare Enable	On/Off
HM Flare Enable	On/Off

Controls	
Ambiance Enable	On/Off
BG Gradient Enable	On/Off
BG Freeze	On/Off
BG Advanced Contrast Enable	On/Off
BG Test Signal Enable	On/Off
LY Input Enable	On/Off
LY Advanced Contrast Enable	On/Off
LY Freeze**	On/Off
LY Test Signal Enable	On/Off
Lighting Enable	On/Off
Window Enable	On/Off
Window BM Enable	On/Off
Window GM Enable	On/Off
Window HM Enable	On/Off
Window LM Enable	On/Off
Window Invert	On/Off
Wall Cursor Position Enable	On/Off
Floor Cursor Position Enable	On/Off
Dual Cursor	On/Off
Manual Color Enable	On/Off
Custom Powerup(deprecated)	On/Off
BM Enable	On/Off
BM Invert	On/Off
BM Process Invert	On/Off
BM Freeze**	On/Off
GM Enable	On/Off
GM Invert	On/Off
GM Process Invert	On/Off
GM Freeze*	On/Off
HM Enable	On/Off
HM Invert	On/Off
HM Process Invert	On/Off
HM Freeze*	On/Off
LM Invert	On/Off
LM Process Invert	On/Off
Monitor To Program	On/Off
Monitor To Talent**	On/Off

Controls	
Fill Linear Mix Correction*	On/Off
Talent Mirror**	On/Off
Monitor Cascade	On/Off
Matte Out Invert*	On/Off
On Air Enable	On/Off
On Air Lockout	On/Off
Matte View Range	On/Off
Matte View Invert	On/Off
Monitor Out RGB	On/Off
Monitor Out Red Only	On/Off
Monitor Out Green Only	On/Off
Monitor Out Blue Only	On/Off
GP Out Save*	On/Off
Quickload 1	On/Off
Quickload 2	On/Off
Quickload 3	On/Off
Quickload 4	On/Off
Quickload 5	On/Off
Quicksave 1	On/Off
Quicksave 2	On/Off
Quicksave 3	On/Off
Quicksave 4	On/Off
Quicksave 5	On/Off
GP1Input Enable*	On/Off
GP 2 Input Enable*	On/Off
GP 3 Input Enable*	On/Off
GP 4 Input Enable*	On/Off
GP 5 Input Enable*	On/Off
GP1High Enable*	On/Off
GP 2 High Enable*	On/Off
GP 3 High Enable*	On/Off
GP 4 High Enable*	On/Off
GP 5 High Enable*	On/Off
Tally Active	On/Off {Read Only}
3G SDI level	A/B
Color Space*	Rec.709/Rec.2020
Filter Mode	Median/Average

Controls	
Filter Median	0/1/2/3/4
Filter Average	0/1/2/3/4
LY In Mix Mode	Realistic/Linear/Additive
Backing Color	Red/Green/Blue
Cursor Position	Default/Last
GP Out Level*	High/Low
Output Range	Normal/Full <sup>2</sup>
Monitor Out	Program, FG, BG, Combined Matte, Internal Matte, Fill, Layer In, Background Matte In, Garbage Matte In, Holdout Matte In, Layer Matte In, Processed LM, Processed HM, Processed GM, Processed BM, Screen Correction
Layer Order	FG/Layer/BG Layer/BG, Layer/FG/ BG Layer/BG, Layer/BG Layer/FG/BG, BG Layer/Layer/FG/BG, BG Layer/FG/ Layer/BG, FG/BG Layer/Layer/BG, FG/BG Layer/BG, BG Layer/FG/BG, FG/Layer/BG, Layer/FG/BG
Video Format	Auto Detect, 525i59.94 NTSC 4:3, 625i50 PAL 4:3, 720p60, 720p59.94, 720p50, 1080i60, 1080i59.94, 1080i50, 1080p60, 1080p59.94, 1080p50, 1080p30, 1080p29.97, 1080p25, 1080p24, 1080p23.98, 1080PsF30, 1080PsF29.97, 1080PsF25, 1080PsF24, 1080PsF23.98, 2160p60, 2160p59.94, 2160p50, 2160p30, 2160p29.97, 2160p25, 2160p24, 2160p23.98, 4320p60, 4320p59.94, 4320p50, 4320p30, 4320p29.97, 4320p25, 4320p24 and 4320p23.98
Factory Defaults	Yes <sup>5</sup>
User Defaults	Yes⁵
Auto Screen Sample	Yes <sup>5</sup>
Screen Capture	Yes <sup>5</sup>
Noise Select	Yes <sup>5</sup>
Sample Wall	Yes⁵
Sample Floor	Yes <sup>5</sup>
Matte Reset	Yes <sup>5</sup>
Cleanup Reset	Yes⁵
GM Cleanup Reset	Yes <sup>5</sup>
FG Color Reset	Yes⁵
FG Color Reset  BG Color Reset	Yes <sup>5</sup>

Controls	
Ambiance Reset	Yes <sup>5</sup>
BG Test Signal Color Reset	Yes <sup>5</sup>
LY Color Reset	Yes⁵
LY Test Signal Color Reset	Yes⁵
Window Reset	Yes⁵
Window Skew Reset	Yes⁵
GP Out*	Yes⁵

- 1 These ranges are Ultimatte device dependent. For Ultimate 12 8K running protocol 2.0, the range is 0-6. For Ultimatte 12 running version 1.2, the range is 0-3.
- $2\,\,$  These controls are only available in protocol version 2.0 and up.
- 3 Loop outputs for 'garbage matte' and 'holdout matte' inputs are available for Ultimatte 12, not Ultimatte 12 8K.
- 4 Supported video formats are Ultimatte device dependent. 4320p formats are available for Ultimatte 12 8K. Ultimatte 12 HD Mini does not support PsF video formats.
- 5 These controls represent functions. Send 'Yes' to execute the function. Ultimatte will respond with a 'Yes' to indicate the function is complete.
- $^{\ast}$  These controls are not available on the Ultimatte 12 HD Mini
- \*\* These controls are not available of the Ultimatte 12 HD or HD Mini

Glossary	
FG	Foreground
BG	Background
LY	Layer
GM	Garbage Matte
BM	Background Matte
НМ	Holdout Matte
LM	Layer Matte