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Subject: Extra EDS card increase maximum MEC I/O?  
Posted by [n0samples](#) on Sat, 24 Oct 2015 14:26:00 GMT  
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Mec handles 16 tracks at a time, on the paris faq posted by the company back in the Clinton era it said cards increase realtime i/o but the current faq says the mec can only handle 16 at a time.

So which is it, will a 2 card system allow more than 16 tracks to be used in real time from a single mec?

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Subject: Re: Extra EDS card increase maximum MEC I/O?  
Posted by [kerryg](#) on Sat, 24 Oct 2015 22:14:29 GMT  
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Ah - you changed terminology in the middle of your question

A 1 card system will allow you a maximum of 16 live tracks (actually more like 22 but never mind that, from the POV of usable discrete tracks it's 16) and will allow you to connect 1 MEC which allows you (with applicable expansion cards) a total of 16 simultaneous hardware i/o. You can still go up to a maximum of 128 tracks - it's just that all of the tracks after the first 16 will be "virtual" meaning you have to render that submix before playback.

Adding a second EDS card to your system, giving you a 2-card system, allows you a to add another 16 channels of live tracks (i.e. mixer channels), giving you 32 total. It also separately gives you the possibility of hooking up a second MEC which gives you the possibility of adding up to another 16 i/o for a total of 32. You can go still up to 128 channels total but all the tracks after the first 32 will be virtual as detailed above.

TL/DR: mixer channels are internal things; i/o is a hardware thing.

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