

Compact AV Control Processor with 6-Port Serial, Relay & Dual Gigabit PoE

Programmable room controller for managing matrices, displays, lighting, and automation over IP

MPN: CR-HOST6S



PRODUCT OVERVIEW

Integrators managing multi-device AV rooms need a control processor that handles the full signal chain — without proprietary programming or per-seat licensing. The KanexPro CR-HOST6S delivers six bidirectional serial ports — five RS-232 and one RS-232/RS-422/RS-485 — letting you control matrices, projectors, DSPs, motorized screens, and third-party devices from a single compact unit. Dual Gigabit Ethernet with PoE keeps deployment clean, while open protocol support (TCP/IP, UDP, HTTP, WebSocket) means the CR-HOST6S works with your existing infrastructure — not against it.

Purpose-built for conference rooms, classrooms, houses of worship, and multi-zone commercial spaces, the CR-HOST6S runs on an ARM Cortex-A55 processor with 4GB RAM and 32GB storage. A built-in web server provides browser-based configuration and real-time port monitoring — no special software required. Dual Gigabit Ethernet enables network segmentation between AV control and corporate LAN, two relay outputs drive screens and lighting, and onboard IR learning captures remote codes on-site. Where competing processors offer one or two serial ports and charge extra for expansion, the CR-HOST6S ships with six — enough to wire an entire room on day one.

1 PRODUCT OVERVIEW

WHO THIS IS FOR

AV integrators deploying conference rooms, classrooms, houses of worship, and commercial spaces needing a compact controller with multi-device serial control.

PROBLEM IT SOLVES

Crestron CP4N costs \$1,600+ and requires proprietary programming. Budget IP controllers lack serial ports. The CR-HOST6S delivers 6 serial + dual GigE + PoE + IR learning in a compact metal enclosure.

WHAT MAKES IT DIFFERENT

6 bidirectional serial (5× RS-232 + 1× RS-232/422/485), dual Gigabit Ethernet with PoE, IR learning, RTC scheduler, web GUI, Android 11 with A55 processor. 145mm × 135mm × 44mm.

2 POSITIONING

The mid-range room controller — 6 serial (COM 1-5 RS-232, COM 6 RS-232/422/485), dual GigE, PoE, and Android 11 at a fraction of Crestron cost.

3 SALES ANALYSIS

CHANNEL FIT

Core room controller for KanexPro Controls. Pairs with panels (CR-TOUCH4A/6R) and keypads (CR-KEY8U/E). Also standalone for simple rooms.

DEAL SIZE

1 per room. Anchors the control ecosystem. Often purchased with 1-2 panels or keypads.

OBJECTIONS

"Only 6 serial?" — 5 RS-232 + 1 multi-mode is enough for most rooms. For 8+, use CR-HOST8R. "No rack mount?" — compact flat-mount by design. Use mounting ears.

WIN THEMES

Dual GigE PoE, 6 serial, IR learning, Android 11, no licensing, web-based config.

- 1 Conference room: CR-HOST6S controls matrix (COM1), projector (COM2), DSP (COM3), display (COM4). IR for legacy DVD. Relays for screen + lights. Dual GigE separates AV from corporate LAN.
- 2 Classroom: CR-HOST6S + CR-TOUCH4A. Teacher taps "Start Class" on panel. Processor powers projector, drops screen, sets audio. RTC auto-off at 6pm.

4 ECOSYSTEM FIT

MODEL	TYPE	BEST FOR
CR-HOST6S	Controller	6 serial, dual GigE, PoE
CR-HOST8R	Controller	8×8×8 I/O, 1U rack, AC
CR-EXPAND1	Expander	Single remote drop, PoE
CR-EXPAND4	Expander	4-port satellite, daisy-chain
CR-TOUCH4A	Panel	4" aluminum, GigE, dual mode
CR-TOUCH6R	Panel	6" landscape, knob, dual serial
CR-KEY8U/E	Keypad	8 buttons, max I/O
CR-KEY10R	Keypad	10 buttons, Android, knob

5 FAQ

vs CR-HOST8R?

HOST6S: 6 serial, dual GigE, PoE, compact. HOST8R: 8×8×8×8, 1U rack, AC power. Choose by room size.

PoE wattage?

Supports 802.3af PoE (15.4W). Power consumption is 6.5W.

Programming?

No proprietary programming. Web GUI for config. Open TCP/UDP/HTTP/WebSocket.

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