

1U AV Control System with 8 Serial, 8 Relay, 8 IR/Serial & 8 Digital I/O

Rack-mount room controller with up to 16 serial connections and open protocol support

MPN: CR-HOST8R



PRODUCT OVERVIEW

When a single room runs a dozen devices — matrices, projectors, DSPs, motorized screens, lighting rigs, and stage equipment — integrators need a control processor with the I/O density to handle it all from one rack unit. The KanexPro CR-HOST8R delivers eight serial ports, eight configurable IR/serial outputs, eight relay channels, and eight digital inputs in a standard 1U chassis. The first four COM ports support RS-232, RS-485, and RS-422 with hardware flow control, and every IR output can be reconfigured as a unidirectional RS-232 port — giving integrators up to 16 serial connections from a single device without expansion modules.

Purpose-built for auditoriums, large boardrooms, houses of worship, and campus-wide deployments, the CR-HOST8R runs on an Android 9.0 platform with a quad-core ARM Cortex-A53 processor. Gigabit Ethernet with TCP/UDP/HTTPS/WebSocket provides IP-based control and monitoring, while onboard IR learning captures remote codes from 20KHz to 60KHz. No proprietary programming tools or annual software licenses are required — configuration runs through open protocols and standard interfaces. Powered by AC 110–220V, the CR-HOST8R mounts in any standard 19-inch rack. Where the compact CR-HOST6S serves single rooms, the CR-HOST8R scales to venues where one controller needs to drive everything on stage and in the house.

1 PRODUCT OVERVIEW

WHO THIS IS FOR

Integrators building large venues, auditoriums, houses of worship, broadcast studios, and campus-wide deployments with 10+ controlled devices per room.

PROBLEM IT SOLVES

Large venues need 8+ serial devices, 8 relay channels, and 8 IR/serial outputs. Crestron CP4N costs \$1,600+ with proprietary programming and licensing. The CR-HOST8R delivers equivalent I/O density with open protocols.

WHAT MAKES IT DIFFERENT

8 bidirectional serial (COM 1-4: 232/422/485+HW flow, COM 5-8: 232). 8 IR outputs reconfigurable as RS-232 = up to 16 serial. 8 relay. 8 digital I/O. AC 110-220V. 1U rack. 440mm × 200mm × 44mm, 2.1kg.

2 POSITIONING

The enterprise flagship — 8+8+8+8 I/O in 1U, AC powered, up to 16 serial connections. Replaces Crestron CP4N at ~75% less.

3 SALES ANALYSIS

CHANNEL FIT

Enterprise tier controller. For large rooms where CR-HOST6S isn't enough. Anchors big installations.

DEAL SIZE

1 per venue/large room. High ticket. Often bundled with multiple panels + keypads + expanders.

OBJECTIONS

"No PoE?" — AC power is standard for 1U rack. 55W is too high for PoE. "Too many ports?" — future-proofs the room. Unused ports cost nothing.

WIN THEMES

16 serial max, 8×8 I/O, AC power, 1U rack, open protocols, IR learning, no licensing.

- 1** Auditorium: 8 COM ports control matrix, 2 projectors, DSP, PTZ camera, scaler, 2 displays. 8 IR outputs for legacy gear. 8 relays for motorized screens, curtains, stage lighting.
- 2** Broadcast studio: every serial-controlled device (routers, multiviewers, character generators) on a dedicated COM. I/O monitors tally, relays trigger on-air lights.

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

AC only?

Yes — AC 110-220V. 55W consumption is too high for PoE. 220V/10A cord included.

vs Crestron CP4N?

More I/O (16 serial vs CP4N's ~6), no programming fees, open protocols. ~75% less cost.

Can I add more I/O?

Pair with CR-EXPAND1/4 for remote I/O extension.

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