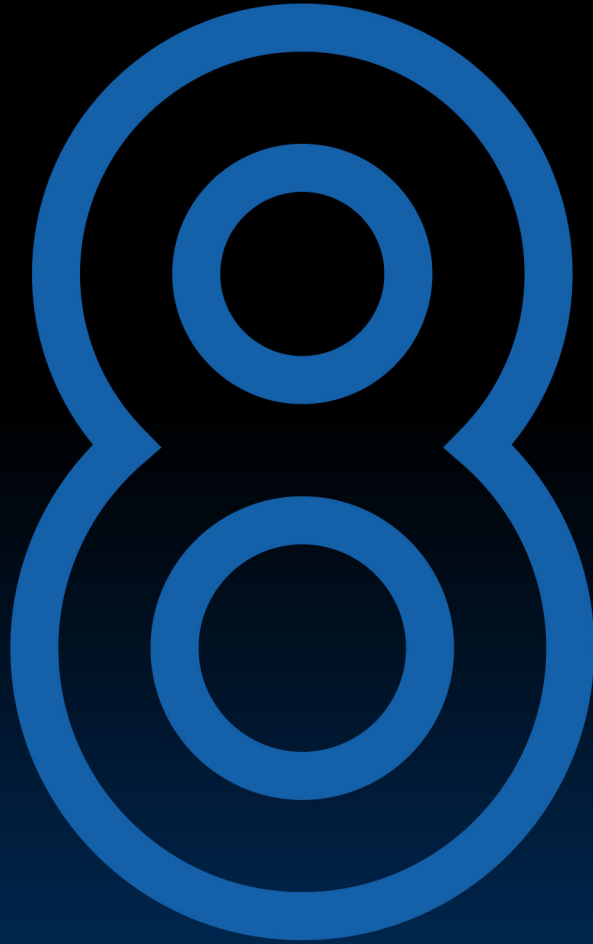


# System Engineer 8 - Session File and Device ID Quick Start Guide

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## About this Guide

**You should already know how to:**

- Launch System Engineer 8 and connect to one or more amplifiers or processors.
- Open the **Devices Explorer** and the **Sessions** workspace.
- Edit a device's basic settings.

## Working with Sessions

A **session** is a complete snapshot of your live workspace. Saving a session lets you return to the exact state of every connected device, mixer, and rack at a later time, or hand the configuration to a colleague.

### What a session contains

When you save a session, System Engineer 8 captures:

- The full configuration of every device in your workspace, physical and virtual.
- Mixer settings and audio routing.
- Your rack layout and the position of every device within it.
- Names of empty rack locations, so deserted racks survive a reload.
- A preview screenshot of the rack layout at the moment you saved.
- Metadata: who created the session, who last edited it, and when.

A session does **not** capture firmware on connected devices, your Windows audio settings, or anything outside the System Engineer 8 application.

### Where sessions are stored

You do **not** work with this file directly. Sessions appear inside System Engineer 8 as named entries in the **Sessions** workspace. To share a session with someone else, **export** it to a portable `.lsf` file (see §1.6).



#### NOTE

The library file is per-machine. If you reinstall System Engineer 8 or move to a different PC, export the sessions you want to keep first.

### Save the live session

The state of your current workspace is called the **LIVE Session**. It is never saved automatically — you must save it explicitly.

**To save the live session:**

1. Open the **Sessions** workspace.
2. Find the **LIVE Session** card at the top of the panel.
3. Type a name in the **Session Name** field.
4. Click **Save Session**.

While the save is in progress, the panel shows **Saving Session....** Wait for this to clear before clicking again.



#### IMPORTANT

System Engineer 8 does **not** auto-save the live session and does **not** warn you about unsaved changes when you close the application. Save your work before you switch sessions, close System Engineer 8, or shut down the PC.

**NOTE**

Session names must be unique inside your library. If you save with a name that already exists, System Engineer 8 appends ( 2 ), ( 3 ), and so on. This is normal — your session has been saved successfully under the suffixed name.

## Load a saved session

1. Open the **Sessions** workspace.
2. In the saved-sessions list on the Left, find the session you want.
3. Double-click the session, or select it and use the Apply Session in the toolbar.
4. No in the device matching screen, either drag and drop available devices on the right-hand side of the screen or manually enter the device ID to match the devices in the session file you are loading.
5. Click Load Session at the bottom of the page.
6. The session will now be loaded and then validated by reading the live device values back and checked against the session file values.

The workspace, devices, mixer, and rack layout reload to match the saved state. System Engineer 8 also restores the view layout you had open when you saved.

**NOTE**

If the saved session contains devices that are no longer compatible with this build of System Engineer 8, those device entries are skipped silently and the rest of the session loads. This change in 1.0.23 prevents one out-of-date device from blocking an entire session load.

## Rename or delete

**To rename a session:**

1. In the saved-sessions list, double-click the session's name.
2. Type the new name.
3. Press **Enter**.

The same uniqueness rule applies: if the new name is already in use, System Engineer 8 appends ( 2 ) automatically.

**To delete a session:**

1. Hover over the session in the list.
2. Click the trash icon on the session item.

**IMPORTANT**

Deletion is immediate. There is no recycle bin and no undo. Export the session first (see §1.6) if you might want it back.

## Export to .Isf

An export produces a single portable file you can email, archive, or share via cloud storage.

1. In the saved-sessions list, select the session to export.
2. In the **Sessions** toolbar, click the **Export session file** icon.
3. Choose a destination folder and a file name.
4. Click **Save**.

System Engineer 8 writes a file with the `.lsf` extension (Linea Session File).

## Import .lsf

1. In the **Sessions** toolbar, click the **Import session file** icon.
2. Browse to the `.lsf` file.
3. Click **Open**.

The session appears in your saved-sessions list.



### NOTE

If the imported session contains nested sessions (sessions inside folders), the entire structure is preserved in 1.0.23. Earlier builds could lose the nested entries during round-trip; the 1.0.23 build fixes this.

## Organise in folders

Use folders to group related sessions — for example one folder per venue, tour leg, or project.

### To add a folder:

1. In the **Sessions** toolbar, click the **Add folder** icon.
2. Type the folder name.
3. Press **Enter**.

### To move a session into a folder:

1. Drag the session from the list into the folder.
2. Release the mouse.

### To remove a folder:

1. Hover over the folder.
2. Click the trash icon. Folders are only deletable when empty — move or delete their sessions first.

## Caveats and good habits

- **No autosave.** The LIVE Session is only saved when you click **Save Session**. Build saving into your workflow at logical break points: before lunch, before a soundcheck, before closing.
- **No “unsaved changes” warning.** Closing System Engineer 8 with unsaved changes will lose them silently.
- **Names are unique.** Reusing a name produces Name ( 2 ), not an error. Glance at the saved name to confirm what was stored.
- **Library is per-machine.** Sessions you create on one PC are not visible on another until you export and import them.
- **Schema tolerance.** Sessions saved on older builds load on 1.0.23. Devices whose state schema is no longer supported are skipped with a warning rather than blocking the whole load.

## Device ID

A **Device ID** in System Engineer 8 is not a single field. Each device has three pieces of identifying information you control:

Piece	Purpose	Example
<b>Device Name</b>	The user-friendly label you give a device.	Main L Top
<b>Rack Location</b>	The rack the device belongs to.	FOH A
<b>Rack Position</b>	The slot inside that rack, from 01 to 99.	03

This part covers how to set each of them. They are all edited directly in the **Devices Explorer**.

### Three pieces of a Device ID

- **Device Name** is what the device is called. It appears in workspace tabs, the mixer, and any view that shows a device label.
- **Rack Location** is where the device lives. It is a free-text label like FOH A, Stage Left, or Server Room. Devices that share a Rack Location appear grouped together.
- **Rack Position** is the slot the device occupies inside its rack. It is a number from 01 to 99, displayed zero-padded so the slots sort correctly in any list.

You can change all three at any time. Changes are written to the device hardware and persist there.



#### IMPORTANT

Device Name, Rack Location, and Rack Position are stored on the device itself, **not** in the session file. If you swap a device between two System Engineer 8 systems, its IDs travel with the hardware. The session file only caches the **names of empty rack locations**, so a rack with no devices does not vanish on reload.

### Rename a device

1. Open the **Devices Explorer**.
2. Click the **device name** field on the device's row.
3. Type the new name.
4. Click outside the field, or press **Tab**.

System Engineer 8 writes the new name to the device after a short delay. The new name appears everywhere the device is shown.



#### TIP

Pick names that read well in a long list — for example Main L Top is easier to scan than MainLTop or ML01. Names are not constrained in length, but very long names will be truncated in some panels.

### Place a device in a rack

You can either drag a device into a rack visually, or type a Rack Location and Rack Position directly.

**To drag a device into a rack:**

1. In the **Devices Explorer**, find the rack you want.
2. Drag the device from the **Unassigned Devices** area, or from another rack, onto the target slot.
3. Release the mouse.

#### To type a Rack Location and Position:

1. Click the **Rack Location** field on the device's row, type the rack label, and press **Tab**.
2. Click the **Rack Position** field, type a number from 1 to 99, and press **Tab**.

System Engineer 8 accepts loose input in the Rack Position field and normalises it for you:

You type	System Engineer 8 stores
1	01
7 (with extra spaces)	07
12	12
A3B	03 (only the first digit run is read)



#### NOTE

Rack Position must be between **1 and 99**. Out-of-range values are rejected.



#### NOTE

If the slot you target is already occupied, System Engineer 8 shifts the existing devices to make room. It tries to shuffle toward a position 01 first, then toward 99. If the rack is full, the move is rejected and the device stays where it was.

## Rename a rack

A rack does not have its own settings dialog — its name is whatever Rack Location all its devices share. Renaming the rack rewrites that label on every device inside it in one step.

1. In the **Devices Explorer**, click the rack header.
2. Type the new rack name.
3. Press **Enter** to commit.

Every device in the rack now reports the new Rack Location.



#### TIP

If you only want to move one device out of the rack rather than rename the whole rack, drag it to the target rack instead — see §2.3.

## Where IDs are stored

Understanding where each piece of a Device ID lives helps you predict what survives a reload, a device swap, or a session import.



Piece	Stored on the device	Stored in the session
Device Name	Yes	Snapshot only — the live value comes from the device
Rack Location	Yes	Snapshot only — the live value comes from the device
Rack Position	Yes	Snapshot only — the live value comes from the device
Names of empty racks	No	Yes — so empty racks reappear on re-load

Implications:

- **Move a device to another System Engineer 8 system** and it arrives already named and rack-positioned.
- **Reset a device to factory defaults** and you lose its Name, Rack Location, and Rack Position. Re-enter them on the new device.
- **Reload an older session** and any rename you did *after* the save is preserved on the device, not overwritten by the older snapshot. The session shows the labels from the device, not the labels from the saved file.

## Troubleshooting

Symptom	Likely cause	Fix
You clicked <b>Save Session</b> but it shows <b>Saving Session...</b> for a long time.	Large session with many devices, or a slow disk.	Wait — do not click again. A second click queues a duplicate save.
Your session appears with ( 2 ) after its name.	A session with that name already exists in your library.	This is expected. Rename either entry to disambiguate (see §1.5).
A device you remember from an old session is missing after load.	The device's state schema is no longer supported in 1.0.23.	The session loaded the rest of the workspace; re-add the device manually if you still need it.
You typed 100 into Rack Position and nothing happened.	Rack Position only accepts 1–99.	Use a smaller number, or split the rack into two locations.
You tried to drag a device into a full rack.	System Engineer 8 could not shuffle to make room.	Free a slot in the target rack first, or pick a different rack.
Two devices ended up in different rack positions than you expected after a drop.	Auto-shuffle moved the existing device aside.	Drag them back to the slots you want, or type the positions directly (see §2.3).

## Quick reference

### Sessions

- Save the LIVE Session: type a name → click **Save Session**.
- Load a session: double-click it in the saved list.
- Rename a session: double-click its name, type, **Enter**.
- Delete a session: trash icon on the session row. *No undo*.
- Export to .lsf: select session → **Export session file** in toolbar.
- Import an .lsf: **Import session file** in toolbar → pick file.
- New folder: **Add folder** in toolbar → name → **Enter**.

### Device IDs

- Rename a device: click its **Device Name** field → type → **Tab**.
- Set Rack Location: click the **Rack Location** field → type → **Tab**.
- Set Rack Position: click the **Rack Position** field → type 1–99 → **Tab**.
- Move a device into a rack: drag it onto the target slot.
- Rename a rack: click the rack header → type → **Enter**.

### Things to remember

- The LIVE Session is never saved automatically.
- Session names must be unique; System Engineer 8 appends ( 2 ) if needed.
- Device Name, Rack Location, and Rack Position live on the device, not in the session.
- Rack Position is 01–99. Auto-shuffle frees a slot if it can.