

The AV Automation Blueprint: Real Automation for Real Environments

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Introduction

In the early 2000s I was a broke touring musician. Today I design and automate AV systems for courtrooms, corporate giants, and private estates. This blueprint is my distilled approach to automation – no fluff, no low-code hype. Just reliable systems that save time and prevent failures when it matters.

1. Discover the Bottlenecks

Before programming a single line, audit your current workflow. Identify repetitive tasks, manual toggles, and any process that steals time or introduces human error. In a courtroom, this might be switching sources manually or resetting audio levels between cases. On a yacht, it could be managing multiple video feeds or reconfiguring networked audio zones.

2. Design with Reliability

Consumer-grade APIs and no-code tools can be flexible, but they often lack reliability in mission-critical environments. Use professional control systems like Crestron, BSS, and NVX to ensure uptime. Network your devices properly, employ redundant power, and document your wiring. When your system must run unassisted in court or during a board meeting, reliability beats convenience.

3. Program Smart Workflows

Use programming to eliminate steps, not hide them. For example:

- Single-button macros that reset an entire room after a session – powering down displays, resetting audio volumes, and clearing logs.
- Event-triggered routines that automatically record proceedings when a microphone is live or when the judge enters the bench.
- Network-based video routing using NVX to switch and scale sources instantly without changing cables.

4. Test and Iterate

Test under load. Simulate real scenarios – power failures, network drops, and user error. Work closely with end-users and operators to refine the workflow. Automation is only useful if it actually reduces effort and anxiety; be ready to adjust and update your program as their needs evolve.

5. Call to Action

If you're ready to move beyond duct-tape automation and build systems that actually work, reach out. Download my full blueprint and get in touch for a free consultation.