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Video Common Issues

Contact Information

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Things to consider about video . .

- **The length of the video is a major consideration.**
Videos of more than 5 minutes in length have technical and logistical issues not encountered in shorter video projects. And, **a video novice can expect to spend 3 hours/minute of final project**length editing original video.
- **Camera settings** are critical to success when shooting original video.
They can have effects on your project that are nearly impossible to fix with the computer. Be certain to ask about camera setting, audio bit rate, white balance, and and other options when you borrow a camera from the Camera Loans.
- **Special storage arrangements must be made** in advance of any editing. Video requires **over 10GB per hour** hard drive storage. As an example, five minutes of unedited video requires nearly 1 GB of storage space. Edits to the video, compression formats, and delivery **can require up to three times the [storage space](#)** necessary for the amount of raw video being manipulated. Video should be **stored**, or copied to, a **External Harddrive** or an **Hamilton College File Server** at the end of each editing session.
- **[File management](#)** is critical to the editing process. Digital video is composed of **multiple files** that must remain in a specific relationship.
- **Digital video must be properly prepared and compressed** for the [intended delivery](#) before it can be used in a presentation.

Consult an Educational Technologist, mpc@hamilton.edu, to develop a video workflow that will meet your project needs.

Storage

Capturing and editing video requires large amounts of high-speed digital storage – much more space and speed than the student storage server (SSS) and even some computer hard drives can provide. Video storage, whether a external harddrive or on a file server, is determined by characteristics of the intended video project. Longer video projects or multiple projects within the semester are usually better handled by an external harddrive. Short single video projects are often handled through specially set up file server storage accounts. These accounts are provided in planned support efforts and should be used while working on the library computers. Accounts for students working in groups are set up differently from those for individual projects.

File Management

An understanding of video file structure and how to manage files between storage area and authoring area is one of our most frequently encountered “gotchas”. Because the library computers are a public lab facility, the "**Scratch disk**" on them is intended as an *editing* area but not as a *storage* area. Projects left on the Scratch Disk are not backed up and **can be deleted by anyone** who sits down at that computer. While actually editing video the video project folder, a folder that contains all of the media to be used in your project, should be on the Scratch disk. Working from the Scratch disk ensures that pieces of your project will not be lost in transit ("dropped frames") between an external drive/network account and the computer. Students must understand their video project file structure to successfully complete video projects using our public lab resources.

Delivery

The desired output method (online viewing, DVD creation, etc.) has a significant effect upon the number of steps included in the overall assignment design. There are also technical considerations associated with compression formats that may be dependent upon the characteristics of the footage being used. And, the actual time it takes for the files to be converted to the desired output format can be up to three times the actual duration of the final video. Exporting a video can take anywhere from better than realtime to 10 times real time. Burning that video to DVD has additional time variables. Allowing time for a trial presentation run on a lectern system is advised.

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