



Clipstream

Playerless video and audio streaming

Clipstream™ Video 2.2 Technical Guide – Section 19 Premiere Plugin FAQ

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Section 19 - Premiere Plug-in Encoding FAQ

1. Why should I encode a movie in the Clipstream Video format?
2. What are the possible formats for the source files of the video?
3. What if my video is still on a tape?
4. How long does it take to download a Clipstream Video Email?
6. How many different speed samples should I provide for my viewers?
7. How big is an encoded file in the .vcs format?
8. What is this videoclipstream.zip file?
9. I've encoded a clip. How do I make it play?
10. Can my video start automatically? Can I set it to loop?
11. I've built my page but why are there are no buttons to start the video?
12. How can I alter the buttons and/or title image?
13. Why is there a gray box where my movie should be?
14. Why are the play buttons appearing on top of the viewing area?
15. My video played great locally but now that it is on-line, I get the message 'Key does not Match the Web Site'
17. My Clipstream encoded MPEG is not good... what can I do?
18. In the middle of encoding an mpeg file, Premiere locked up... what happened?
19. Why did Premiere crash right after I started encoding my sample?
20. What frame rate should I select?
21. Premiere doesn't offer the frame rate I would like to select... what can I do?
22. What can I do to increase the video quality of my clip?
23. What can I do to increase the audio quality of my clip?
24. As my encoding job finished, Premiere locked up and prompted that it could not open the file as it is an unsupported format; what happened?
26. The video will not play in my email client. What should I do?

1. Why should I encode a movie in the Clipstream Video format?

Clipstream Video allows you to display your video clips on-line without requiring anything more from the viewer than a Java enabled browser. The viewer does not need to download a player or plug-in, and is not subjected to a lengthy delay for buffering. In addition, Clipstream Video can be viewed within a Java enabled email client without a large attachment. All of this and you are still able to provide an incredibly high quality stream.

2. What are the possible formats for the source files of the video?

With the Premiere Plug-in, Clipstream Video can be exported from .avi, .mov, .mpeg, .ppj, and .bmp and .wav.

3. What if my video is still on a tape?

You will need to convert the video into a digital format. This process is called capturing.

4. How long does it take to download a Clipstream Video Email?

A Clipstream Video Email can be downloaded as fast as a regular email and the video clip will play instantly when selected.

6. How many different speed samples should I provide for my viewers?

The viewers of your videos will have various Internet connection speeds and varying computer speeds. We suggest three to five samples for your viewers. Where it is not as practical and/or important, one or two samples may be acceptable. Clipstream Video's 'Auto Bitrate' capability will provide the viewer with the appropriate file.

7. How big is an encoded file in the .vcs format?

The size of your Clipstream Video files will vary widely. The files are highly compressed and the main factors that will dictate the size of the file are: the length of the file, the video data rate limiter, and the audio bit rate. Using these variables, the ultimate size of the file can be calculated. The following equation can be used for approximation purposes:

Connection speed bit rate (kbps) x file length (seconds) / 8 = file size (kb)

For example:

A 2.5 minute clip at modem speed (40kbps) would be no larger than 750 kb
 $150 \times 40 / 8 = 750$

8. What is this videoclipstream.zip file?

The videoclipstream.zip file contains the Java applet that enables your video to play. Do not unzip this file.

9. I've encoded a clip. How do I make it play?

To play your video, you will need the videoclipstream.zip file and an html page with the Clipstream Video applet code in it. Start button images are also desirable but not essential as the video can be set to start automatically. See the Applet Code and Serving sections of this guide. For a brief outline, consult the Quick Start section.

10. Can my video start automatically? Can I set it to loop?

Yes, the Clipstream Video can be set to play and/or loop automatically using the applet parameters AutoPlay and AutoLoop. See the Applet Code section of this guide.

11. I've built my page but why are there are no buttons to start the video?

The button panel to control your video is specified in the applet code. Make sure it is labeled properly and in the specified location. As well, the buttons will not show up and the video will be unplayable if the videoclipstream.zip file is missing. Also check that the applet dimensions are large enough to fit the video *and* the buttons.

12. How can I alter the buttons and/or title image?

The buttons for your video are referred to in the applet code. The buttons can be of the design of your choice. A title image can be easily captured while working within Premiere. See the Applet Code section of this guide.

13. Why is there a gray box where my movie should be?

You have neglected to include the videoclipstream.zip file with your web page and .vcs files. In addition, you have not placed the videoclipstream.zip file in the same folder as your .html file, then you will experience this problem. Consult the Serving and Testing section of this guide.

14. Why are the play buttons appearing on top of the viewing area?

If the title image specified is not available, the buttons will appear in the wrong location. If no title image is desired, the size of the viewing area can be specified in the applet code.

15. My video played great locally but now that it is on-line, I get the message 'Key does not Match the Web Site'

For your video to work on the Internet, you will need a code key that has been generated specifically for your URL. Contact sales@dsny.com to get your Clipstream Video code key.

16. The video is playing back nicely but the audio is very choppy... what happened?

The trouble is likely a down sampling problem in Premiere. If a source Quick Time file was encoded with QDesign Music 2 codec, the audio will come out jittery with 'double' sounds if additional steps aren't taken. The audio portion of the file must be extracted, down sampled, and replaced. This can be accomplished with a third party audio editing tool such as Cool Edit. Another reason for choppy audio could be that the speed of the viewer's Internet connection and the settings for the clip are not compatible. Providing lower quality samples for low speed viewers is important.

17. My Clipstream encoded MPEG is not good... what can I do?

.mpeg movies are sometimes handled poorly by Premiere and may require being exported to .mov or .avi format before Clipstream Video conversion for best results.

18. In the middle of encoding an mpeg file, Premiere locked up... what happened?

Premiere has trouble with some .mpeg movies that may require them to be exported to .mov or .avi format before Clipstream Video conversion.

19. Why did Premiere crash right after I started encoding my sample?

After you have configured advanced audio settings, Premiere 5.x will crash during next usage due to a bug in Premiere. Remove the Preference file Prem50.prf before launching Premiere again to resolve the problem and avoid a crash. Default path: C:\program files\adobe\Prem50.prf

20. What frame rate should I select?

The frame rate that you choose should be based on many factors. Consult the Encoder Settings section of this guide.

21. Premiere doesn't offer the frame rate I would like to select... what can I do?

We have included a work-around for this in the Clipstream Video Premiere Plug-in. Click on Configure in Video Settings and use Frame Rate Adjustment to get the desired frame rate.

22. What can I do to increase the video quality of my clip?

The settings you select for your videos are somewhat dictated by the viewers' Internet connections. If you wish to have the smoothest, clearest picture possible, other elements such as frame size and/or audio bit rate will need to be adjusted.

23. What can I do to increase the audio quality of my clip?

The source audio for the video can be extracted and down sampled using a third party tool prior to encoding. The settings you select for your videos are somewhat dictated by the viewers' Internet connections. If you wish to have the smoothest, cleanest sound possible, video elements will need to be adjusted.

24. As my encoding job finished, Premiere locked up and prompted that it could not open the file as it is an unsupported format; what happened?

Your file is fine in its saved location. Premiere defaults to the option 'Open When Finished'. This is useful when performing tasks such as down sampling audio but should not be used for .vcs files. Unselect 'Open When Finished' in General Settings to overcome this problem.

25. Can I encode Clipstream Video with Premiere on my Macintosh computer?

No.

26. The video will not play in my email client. What should I do?

There are some useful instructions for setting up common email clients in the Creating Clipstream Video Email section. Please note that many web-based email clients as well as AOL mail do not yet support Java. If you are using such an email client, you will need to view the video in your browser.