



Multimedia Specifications Working Party

Progress Report

Version 1.3

Recommendations

The Multimedia Specifications Working Party recommends:

Output File Formats

Audio: The standard format be MP3 for all delivery options.

Video: The standard format be MP4 and FLV for CDROM and download delivery

The standard format be FLV for use on CSU website.

Associated technical specifications, i.e. frame rates, bit rates, image ratios etc, have also been developed for these formats and will be included in support documentation once the standards are approved.

Audio and Video Production Software Applications

The below software recommendations are for the User Level production of learning and teaching resources. It is important to note the various uses and users across the university. There is no one size fits all solution. Therefore the recommendation is for multiple options that are chosen to accommodate these uses and users. It is also important that the chosen software come with - or is available online - support documentation so that training and support materials can be used or created to assist in training and roll out.

Audio recording/editing:

Audacity: Aimed at beginners and new users as an introductory level application. This is free software and will suit budget considerations.

GarageBand: Although a Mac only application, Apple have built this as a podcasing tool that is capable of professional level output. It is a free application that comes preinstalled and is a viable audio tool.

Adobe Soundbooth CS4: this version of the software has matured into a capable, user friendly and powerful tool that matches the type and level of audio recordings required at CSU. Based on price, functionality and usability it is recommended that this become part of CSUs core software.

Video Editing and Production

Adobe Premiere CS4: this is a dual platform (Mac and Windows) application that would suit CSUs requirements. The interface is user friendly and has the functionality to produce quite high end results. The layout and tools available within Premiere match those of most high end solutions and provide core knowledge in digital video editing that can be transferred or upgraded.



Appendix 5

The following is a list of software and criteria used to assess each product. Pricing is based on commercial individual licensing, most products offer a discounted price for multiple licences and site licences and discount for educational institutions. The Level attribute is banded from 1 to 10 on what skill level is required to operate the software. 1 = novice. 10 = professional. The Rating figure takes into account the features of the software only.

Software	PC	Mac	Price	Level	Pros	Cons	Comments	Rating
<i>Audio Production Software</i>								
Adobe Audition	X		\$699	7>10	fully featured music and audio editing software, multitrack, spectral editing	difficult for low level users	too many non-essential features and complicated learning curve	3/5
Logic Studio		X	\$598	7>10	great VST music software	music focused	Music based, too complicated	3/5
Audacity	X	X	Free	0>5	Free, quite capable application	Not intuitive or simple to use, plugins used extensively, limited applications	not as many features or as intuitive as others. Lack of support documentation or training options. Open source - no vendor support.	3/5
Adobe Soundbooth CS4	X	X	\$98	0>7	dual platform, easy to use, decent set of tools but not quite professional level, integrates well with premiere	does not quite reach professional standards	a lot easier than Audacity and a lot more powerful, integrates with other Adobe products, Adobe provides excellent vendor support, Would suit wide range of user levels	4/5
Garageband		X	Free	0>7	simple and fully functional, ability to make enhanced podcasts, can edit m4a files directly	Mac only	Excellent free software for audio production that suits all user levels	4/5
Soundtrack Pro (Final Cut Studio)					Most capable package for full production of video, audio and includes post production tools smart technology	Most expensive and is Mac only	Aimed at professional level	5/5



Software	PC	Mac	Price	Level	Pros	Cons	Comments	Rating
<i>Audio Production Software</i>								
Adobe Premiere Pro	X	X	\$348	3>8	dual platform, industry standard, full features	Not standard format for LTS	simple to use but powerful, industry standard, part of Adobe packages which can offset costs	5/5
Adobe Premiere Elements	X		\$68	0>5	Simple to use	No Mac, Limited capabilities	Too limited in features and functionality for anything more than simple editing	1/5
Final Cut Pro		X	\$1049		Most capable package for full production of video, audio and includes postproduction tools, smart technology adapts automatically to your files, simple interface with equipment	Most expensive and is Mac only	Aimed at professional level, industry standard	5/5
iMovie		X	Free		simple functionality for basic video cutting and trimming	cannot do any complex editing or production	limited video editing and production	2/5