

Hands-on exercise for encoding a file with Episode Pro

This is an example for how to create a generic 500 kbit/sec windows media video file for streaming.

Three simple steps through the exercise:

1. Start creating a setting suitable for this task. (The filters and settings that are not mentioned - leave as is)
2. Apply the setting to a source file and start the encoding
3. View the output result

1.1 Create a new setting

Create a new setting by clicking the 'New Setting' button in compression settings on the left side of the user interface.

In the Setting Editor an unnamed setting is opened. Click command-s to name and save it.

The different parameters for encoding are available in 6 different tabs in the settings editor. It starts with the Output tab where you choose fileformat and codecs etc.

1.1.1 Output tab

Click the drop down list of file formats and choose .wmv

As you see the video and audio codecs now change to windows media video and audio.

1.1.2 Video tab

Click the video tab and unfold the Windows Media Video 9 settings.

Choose 2-pass CBR instead of 1-pass CBR.

Set the Average rate to 400 kbit/s

Lower the VBV buffer size to 5 seconds

In the profile settings choose Main profile

In Keyframe settings Choose Natural and Forced Keyframes from the drop down list

Set Keyframe distance to 240 frames

Set number of B-frames to 2

Frame Rate filter

We will leave it unchecked which equals same as source. If you unfold the Frame Rate filter (or any other filter) to see the different settings that can be done - remember to uncheck it on the right side of the user interface to shut it off again.

De-interlace filter

Choose Automatic detection for Field order
Create new fields by Edge detecting interpolation
Deinterlace type - Deinterlace interlaced frames (Automatic)

Resize filter

Choose the size QVGA 320x240 from the drop down list
Maintain Aspect Ratio by Cut
Source Pixel Aspect Ratio - Derive from source
Check the button for Lowpass source for large downscapes

Now click the audio tab

1.1.3 Audio tab

In the Windows Media Audio 9 settings choose
WMA 9 Standard
Coding mode CBR
Bit Rate 96 kbits
Quality at 80

Sample rate
Choose 44100 Hz

Volume
Choose Normalize at 90 %

1.1.4 Metadata

In the Meta data tab you can enter any information relevant to the encoding

For example: Double click in the value field next to Description and enter the words 'Test Encoding'.

1.1.5 Stream

The Stream tab has the settings for different kinds of packetisers etc for stream files like -3gp or .mov or .mp4 etc. Windows media files does not use packetisers for their streamimng files - they are instead encoded in CBR mode.

1.1.6 Engine

The Engine tab is only to be used if the files are to be exported from Episode to be used as encoding settings in Compression Engine and external meta data xml files are to be added to the encoding. The Engine Tab has no functionality in Episode.

Make sure that you save the setting by either 'command-s' or the save button in the upper right corner of the user interface.

1.2 Add the setting to a source file and start encode

Now, click the **Job Batch** button at the top of the ui to switch to the batch area.

Add source file to batch - by dragging it from either the 'Source bookmarks' area in the ui or from your desktop or any other directory in your computer to the Batch window.

Add your new setting to the source file in the batch by dragging the setting from the Compression Settings and drop it on top of the source file.

1.2.1 Encode

Start the encoding either by hitting the space bar or clicking the play button in the lower right corner of the ui.

1.3 View the encoded file

Once the encoding is completed - click the Finder symbol next to the setting name to take you to the encoded file in your computer.