

Multimedia in PDFs with FrameMaker-to-Acrobat TimeSavers & Multimedia Assistant



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Overview

Enriching docs with multimedia applies to:

■ **Software documentation**

- User guides
- Reference
- Online help
- Tutorials

■ **Hardware documentation**

- Installation
- User tutorials
- Service manuals
- Part catalogs
- Interactive Electronic Technical Manuals (IETM)



Why use multimedia?

- **Accommodate different learning styles (visual demo vs. text-intensive)**
- **International audience; reduces text translation/localization**
- **Internet generation**
- **Intuitive knowledge transfer to users**
- **Processes/products can be difficult to describe, but easily understood visually**



Multimedia in tech docs

- **“Show Me” videos**
- **Software simulations**
- **Interactive tutorials / quizzes**
- **Interactive graphics**

**Sample PDFs are available at
www.microtype.com, Showcase section**



Media creation

- **Screen recorders (Captive, Camtasia)**
 - Editing capabilities
 - Support for annotations and highlight elements; narration; interaction
- **Digital cameras**
- **Scientific visualizations (Maple, Mathematica, MATLAB)**
- **Audio / Images**



Adding multimedia in Acrobat

- **Can add multimedia features to PDFs in Acrobat**
- **But... these feature “disappear” when you redistill (after updating FrameMaker source files)**
- **It is not practical to re-create features every time the source file is converted to PDF**



FrameMaker & multimedia

- **In all versions, can link to external files through a hypertext marker:**
message openfile file.ext
 - **Launched in an external application**
 - **No control over movie or its play parameters**
- **Starting with FM8, can also embed SWF movies in PDFs** (File > Import > File)
 - **Playback location in PDF:**
“In Document” only



FM-to-Acrobat TimeSavers

- **Can create links/bookmarks to QuickTime/AVI movie files through hypertext alert markers:**
 - ~MovieLink
 - ~MovieFloatLink
 - ~MovieURLLink
 - ~MovieBmk
- **Example:**

```
alert ~MovieURLLink (MovieTitle)
(www.microtype.com/sample.mov)
```



Multimedia Assistant

- **TimeSavers extension**
- **Can link (local/web-based files) or embed multimedia files**
- **Supports all formats that are supported by Acrobat/Reader, including:
SWF, MPEG, WMV, AVI, QuickTime,
WAV, AIFF, MP3, JPEG
FLV (Acrobat/Reader 9)**



Playback location

- **Floating Window**
- **In Document**
- **Full Screen**
- **Hidden (useful for sound-only media)**



Software demos playback

- **“In Document” and “Full Screen” typically distort the display of software demos, as the variable magnification in Acrobat causes movie resizing**
- **For optimal display results: “Floating Window” at native dimensions**
- **If you must use “In Document”: 96 dpi in 100% zoom**



Floating window parameters

- **Title**
- **Close button**
- **Positioning (relative to document, application window, monitor)**
- **Location (center, corners)**
- **Resizing: no / yes
(preserve / don't preserve aspect ratio)**



Related actions & properties

- **Media activated through links, bookmarks, form fields, page actions**
- **Actions include: Play, Stop, Pause, Resume, Restart**
- **Can show movie segments (specify starting/ending point)**
- **Control speed**



Additional enhancements

- **Activation of media through form fields, with additional options – Form Assistant**
- **Dynamic 3D graphics (hardware) – 3D Assistant**



