



Skillsoft

Building Tablet-Ready Content with SkillStudio

version 1.17

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1. Introduction

A tablet-ready course is one which supports playback on either the desktop using standard SCP (Skillsoft Course Player) or on a tablet device using the RIA player (Rich Internet Application).

A tablet-ready course will playback on a tablet device or desktop, while a standard desktop course will playback only on the desktop.

The purpose of this document is to outline the procedure and requirements for creating tablet-ready courses using SkillStudio. It is assumed that SkillStudio developers creating tablet enabled course are familiar with SkillStudio's basic functionality as presented in the two day Basic Training.

2. Requirements

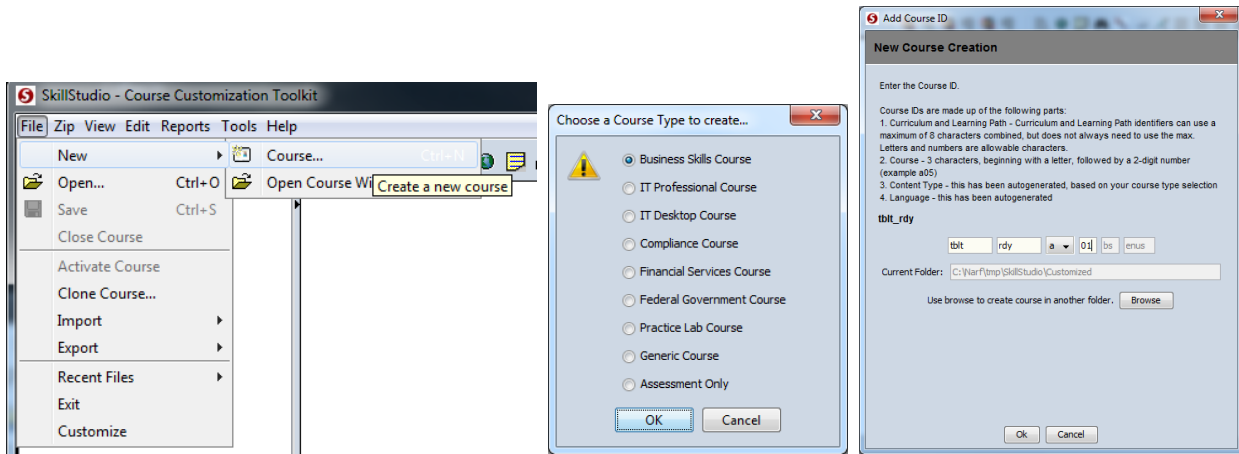
There are multiple requirements which must be met to create tablet-ready courses. These requirements are explained in detail throughout this document but are summarized below.

- SkillStudio version 1.15 or above
- A tablet-compatible LMS such as Skillport 7.3 or greater
- Duplicate files for all audio content in .mp4 format
- Duplicate files for all video content in .mp4 format
- Poster graphics for HTML Caption templates

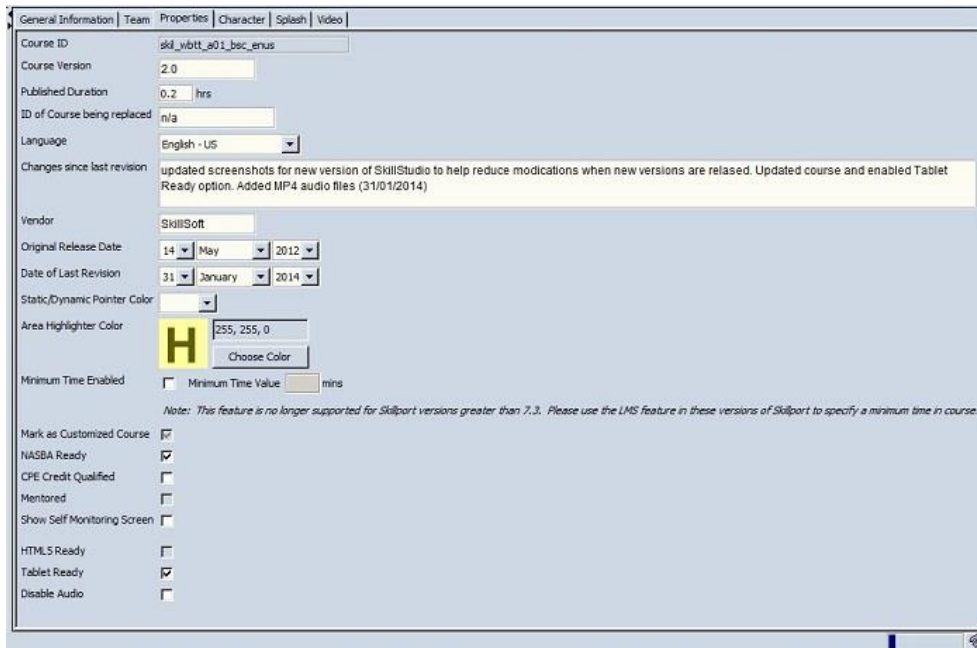
3. Creating a New Tablet-Ready Course

Creating a tablet-ready course follows much the same procedure as creating any other SkillStudio course.

1. Create a new course by selecting the **File - New - Course...** menu option. Create a course identifier for the tablet-ready course, and select the audio type for the course (.we or .spx).

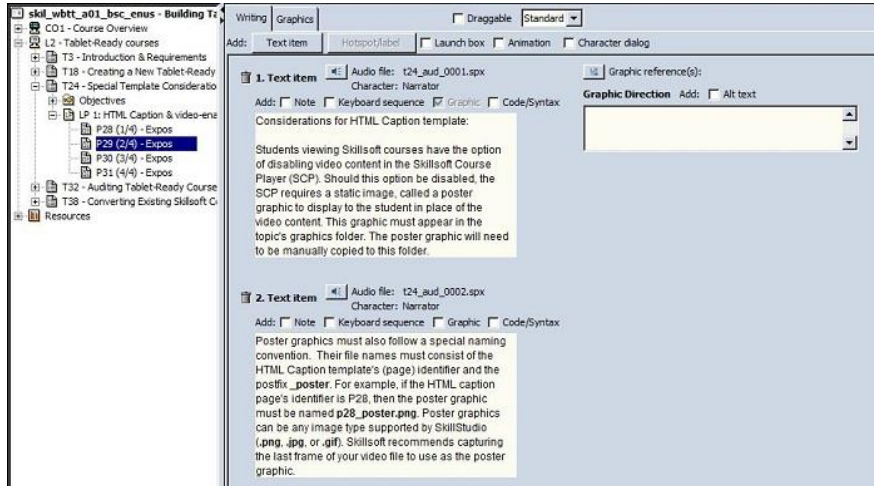


2. Complete the fields in the course tabs (**General Information, Team, Properties, Character, Splash, and Video**) as you would in regular course. In the Properties tab, ensure that **Tablet Ready** checkbox is selected.



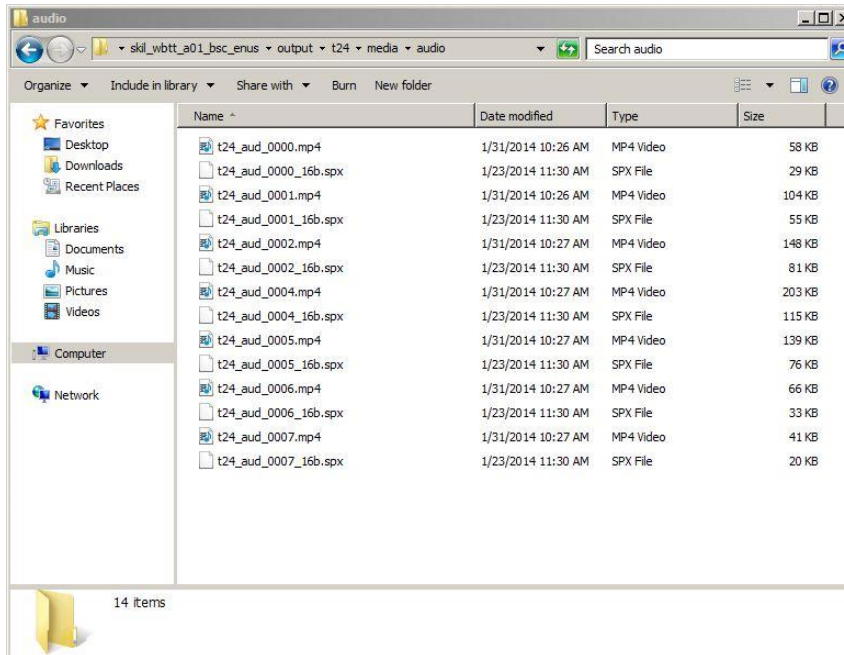
3. Create your course structure as normal by adding Overviews, Lessons, Topics, and templates (pages).

Note: All template types are not supported in tablet-ready courses. Supported templates are listed in Appendix A.



4. Once you have finished adding the templates to the course, you need to add corresponding .mp4 files for each of the audio files (.we or .spx) in your course. These files will need to be manually copied into the course's folder structure on the hard drive. The .mp4's file name must match with the existing audio file's name. For example, if a template has an audio file named **t24_aud_0002.we**, there will need to be a corresponding **t24_aud_0002.mp4** file.

Note: If the course is using the speex (.spx) audio format, the .spx audio file name in the course folder structure will have the following format **t24_aud_0002_16b.spx**. The corresponding mp4 file will need to be named **t24_aud_0002.mp4** (and not **t24_aud_0002_16b.mp4**).



Note: To find the appropriate folder on the computer's hard disk, you will need to navigate the course folder structure. Assets are stored in folders within the course folder structure based on the Overview (course or lesson) or topic identifier. For example, if the course ID **skil_wbtt_a01_bsc_enus** and you were looking for the proper folder for audio for a topic whose ID is **t24**, you would use the following folder path to store your .mp4 audio files: **skil_wbtt_a01_bsc_enus \output\t24\media\audio**

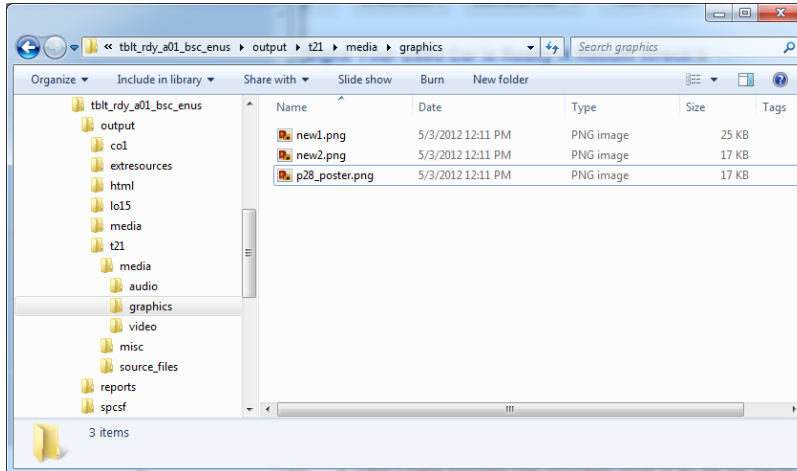
4. Special Template Considerations

When creating tablet-ready courses using SkillStudio, there are special considerations that must be taken for the **HTML Caption** template and the video-enabled templates (**Sim Dialog Video Caption** and **HTML Caption**)

4.1 Considerations for HTML Caption Template

Students viewing Skillsoft courses have the option of disabling video content in the Skillsoft Course Player (SCP). Should this option be disabled, the SCP requires a static image, called a poster graphic to display to the student in place of the video content. This graphic must appear in the topic's graphics folder. The poster graphic will need to be manually copied to this folder.

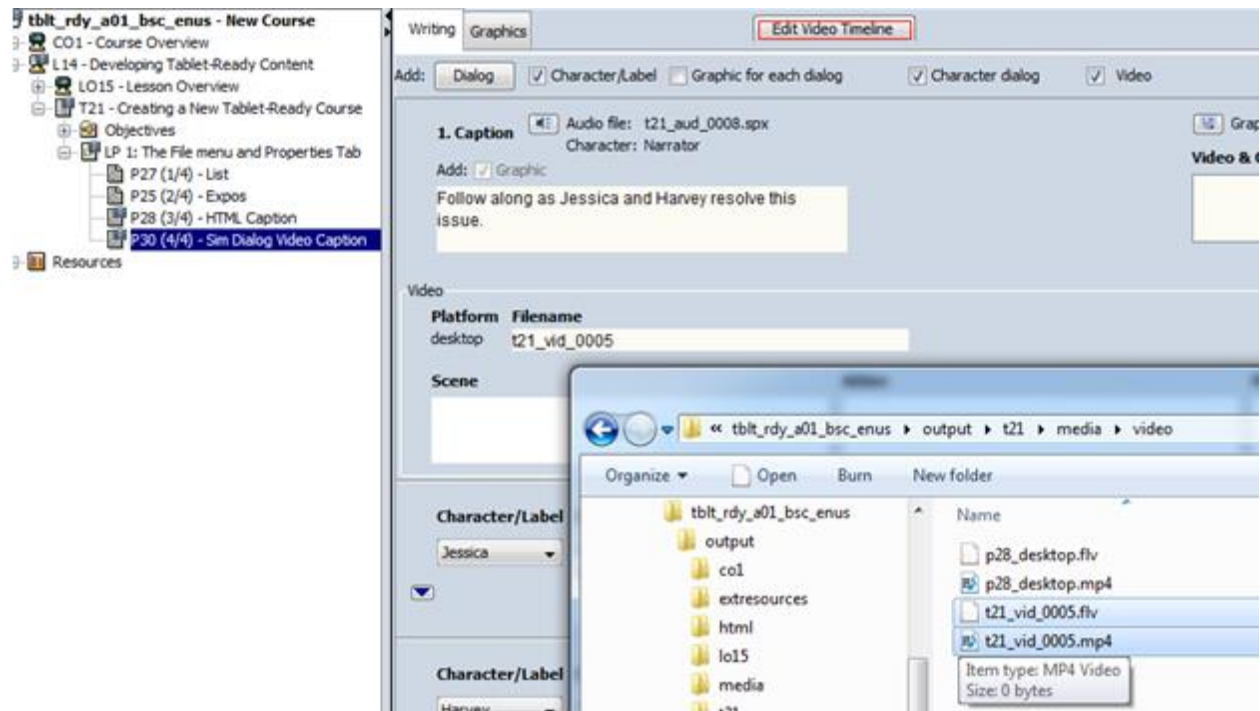
Poster graphics must also follow a special naming convention. Their file names must consist of the HTML Caption template's (page) identifier and the postfix **_poster**. For example, if the HTML caption page's identifier is **P28**, then the poster graphic must be named **p28_poster.png**. Poster graphics can be any image type supported by SkillStudio (**.png**, **.jpg**, or **.gif**). Skillsoft recommends capturing the last frame of your video file to use as the poster graphic.



Note: To find the appropriate folder on the computer's hard disk, you will need to navigate the course folder structure. Assets are stored in folders within the course folder structure based on the Overview (course or lesson) or topic identifier. For example, if the course ID was **tbлт_rdy_a01_bsc_enu** and you were looking for the proper folder for graphics for a topic whose ID is **t21**, you would use the following folder path to store your graphic files: **tbлт_rdy_a01_bsc_enu\output\t21\media\graphics**

4.2 Considerations for Video-Enabled Templates

Video-enabled templates (**Sim Dialog Video Caption** and **HTML Caption**) typically support only Flash video (.flv) files for their video content. Tablet-ready courses must also include the video files in .mp4 format. The .mp4 video files will share the same name as their corresponding .flv files and will need to be manually copied into the appropriate video folder within the course folders.

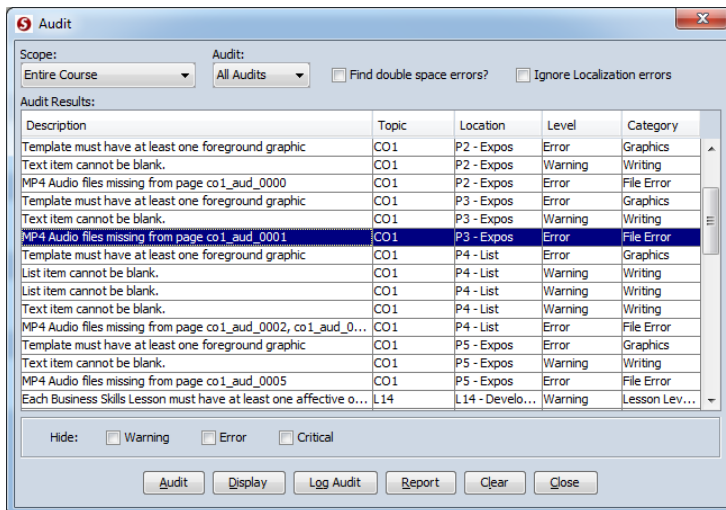


Note: To find the appropriate folder on the computer's hard disk, you will need to navigate the course folder structure. Assets are stored in folders within the course folder structure based on the Overview (course or lesson) or topic identifier. For example, if the course ID was **tblt_rdy_a01_bsc_enus** and you were looking for the proper folder for video for a topic whose ID is **t21**, you would use the following folder path to store your graphic files: **tblt_rdy_a01_bsc_enus\output\t21\media\video**

5. Auditing Tablet-Ready Courses

As with all courses created with SkillStudio, it is imperative that an audit be performed and all errors resolved prior to publishing. In tablet-ready courses, the most common audits are for missing MP4 Audio, MP4 Video, and poster graphics. An audit is also done to ensure that the case sensitivity of the media file names match.

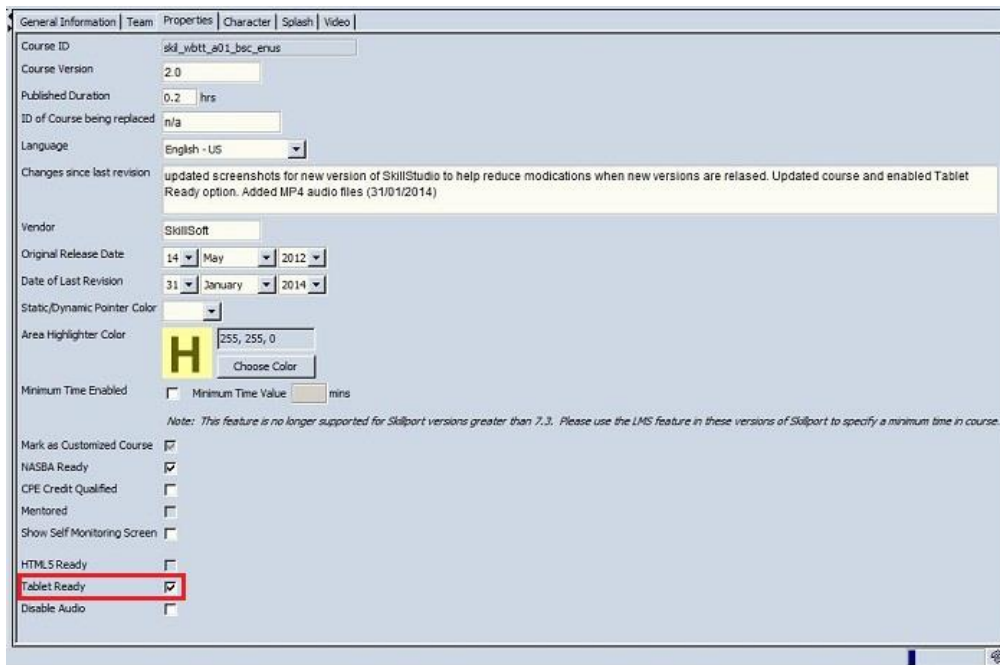
An audit for unsupported templates also occurs if a course element is unzipped into a tablet-ready course that has unsupported pages.



6. Converting Existing Skillsoft Courses to Tablet-Ready Courses

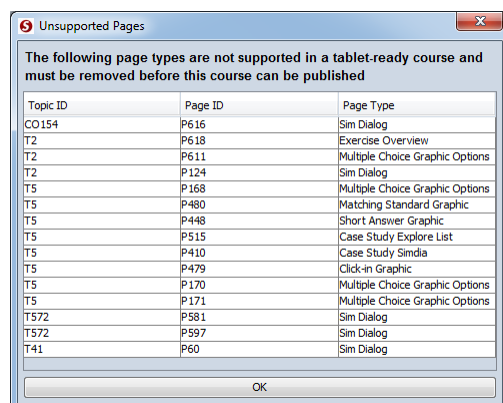
While it is possible to convert existing Skillsoft courses to be tablet-ready courses, the process will require a great deal of effort. You must first ensure that the course you are trying to convert is in the Custom Course Architecture (CCA) format and then apply the following steps.

1. In the course **Properties** tab, select the Tablet Ready checkbox.



The screenshot shows the 'Properties' tab in SkillStudio. The 'Tablet Ready' checkbox is checked and highlighted with a red box. Other visible settings include Course ID (skl_ybtt_#01_bsc_enus), Course Version (2.0), Published Duration (0.2 hrs), Language (English - US), and various date and color settings.

2. Selecting the Tablet Ready checkbox will cause the course to be audited for unsupported templates. Once the audit is complete, a list of these templates will be displayed in the **Unsupported Pages** dialog box. Double-clicking any of the listed pages will select the associate template in the course tree pane of the SkillStudio window.



The 'Unsupported Pages' dialog box displays a table of unsupported page types. The table has three columns: Topic ID, Page ID, and Page Type.

Topic ID	Page ID	Page Type
CO154	P616	Sim Dialog
T2	P618	Exercise Overview
T2	P611	Multiple Choice Graphic Options
T2	P124	Sim Dialog
T5	P168	Multiple Choice Graphic Options
T5	P480	Matching Standard Graphic
T5	P448	Short Answer Graphic
T5	P515	Case Study Explore List
T5	P410	Case Study Simdia
T5	P479	Click-in Graphic
T5	P170	Multiple Choice Graphic Options
T5	P171	Multiple Choice Graphic Options
T572	P581	Sim Dialog
T572	P597	Sim Dialog
T41	P60	Sim Dialog

3. Clicking the **OK** button in the **Unsupported Pages** dialog will uncheck the **Tablet Ready** checkbox. The templates listed in the **Unsupported Pages** dialog must be removed before the course can be made tablet ready. It is recommended that you reproduce the content of the unsupported templates in a supported template prior to removing them.

4. Once the unsupported templates have been dealt with, you can successfully check the **Tablet Ready** checkbox. From here, you can proceed with adding corresponding .mp4 files for each of the audio and video files in the course and adding poster graphics for the HTML templates as described in the previous sections of this document.

Appendix

Appendix A: Templates Supported in Tablet-Ready Courses

The following table presents a list of the templates that can be used in tablet-ready courses. A course marked tablet-ready can only contain these supported templates and cannot be published with unsupported templates.

Template Type

Standard Instructional Templates

Template Name

Drill Down Draggable
Expos
Explore Graphic
Explore list
Expos Table
HTML
List
Rate Multi
Rate Single
Reflect Learner
Reflect Expert compare
Reflect Self Compare
Sim Dialog
Summary
Summary Layout2

Template Type

Question Templates

Click-in graphic
Multiple Choice Wide
Multiple Choice Standard
Multiple Choice Graphic
Multiple Choice Fill-in Code
Explore Code
HTML Simulation
Drag and Drop
Options
Matching Standard Text
Matching Standard Graphic
Rank Sequence

Short Answer Graphic
Short Answer Text
Question Set
Case Study Standard
Case Study Explore List
Case Study Explore Graphic

Caption Templates

Case Study Simdia Video
Caption
Expos Caption
List Caption
HTML caption
Explore graphic caption
Video Standard Caption

Video Templates

Case Study Simdia Video
Caption
Single Path Roleplay
Multi Path Roleplay
Sim Dialog Video Caption
HTML video caption

Note: The following templates can no longer be added from any menu items but are supported for tablet courses if already present.

Sim Dialog Caption

Case Study Serial Multi Choice

Multi Path Roleplay

Multi Path Roleplay Branch

Serial Branch

Single Path Roleplay

Single Path Roleplay Branch

Appendix B: Video Settings for Tablet-Ready Courses

Skillsoft recommends the following settings when creating video content for tablet-ready courses. Video for Skillsoft courses must be created in both .flv and .mp4 formats. A wide variety of applications can be used to create these video files, for example Adobe After Effects CS4.

Sim Dialog Video Settings

*.flv Settings

- Dimensions : 654x356
- Video Codec: On2 VP6
- Encode Alpha: No
- Frame Rate: 24fps
- Bitrate Encoding: VBR
- Bitrate: 400 kbps
- Audio Output: Mono
- Audio Bitrate: 64kbps

*.mp4 Settings

- Dimensions : 654x356
- Video Codec: H.264 (Main Concept)
- TV Standard: NTSC
- Frame Rate: 24fps
- Field Order: None (Progressive)
- Pixel Aspect Ratio: Square Pixels
- Profile: Baseline
- Level: 3.0
- Bitrate Encoding: VBR, 1 Pass
- Target Bitrate: 400kbps (0.4)
- Maximum Bitrate: 400kbps (0.4)
- Audio Codec: AAC
- Audio Output : Mono
- Frequency: 44.100 kHz
- Audio Quality: High
- Audio Bitrate: 32kbps
- Multiplexing: MP4
- Stream Compatibility: Standard

***.wav Settings**

- Normalize: -1.5dB
- Compress using Multiband Compressor
- Sample Rate: 44,100 kHz
- Channels: Mono
- Bit Depth: 16 Bit

HTML Caption Settings

***.flv Settings**

- Dimensions : 796x456
- Video Codec: On2 VP6
- Encode Alpha: No
- Frame Rate: 24fps
- Bitrate Encoding: VBR
- Bitrate: 400 kbps
- Audio Output: Mono
- Audio Bitrate: 64kbps

***.mp4 Settings**

- Dimensions : 796x456
- Video Codec: H.264 (Main Concept)
- TV Standard: NTSC
- Frame Rate: 24fps
- Field Order: None (Progressive)
- Pixel Aspect Ratio: Square Pixels
- Profile: Baseline
- Level: 3.0
- Bitrate Encoding: VBR, 1 Pass
- Target Bitrate: 400kbps (0.4)
- Maximum Bitrate: 400kbps (0.4)
- Audio Codec: AAC
- Audio Output : Mono
- Frequency: 44.100 kHz
- Audio Quality: High

- Audio Bitrate: 32kbps
- Multiplexing: MP4
- Stream Compatibility: Standard

***.wav Settings**

- Normalize: -1.5dB
- Compress using Multiband Compressor
- Sample Rate: 44,100 kHz
- Channels: Mono
- Bit Depth: 16 Bit

RolePlay Video Settings

***.flv Settings**

- Dimensions : 374x236
- Video Codec: On2 VP6
- Encode Alpha: No
- Frame Rate: 24fps
- Bitrate Encoding: VBR
- Bitrate: 400 kbps
- Audio Output: Mono
- Audio Bitrate: 64kbps

***.mp4 Settings**

- Dimensions : 374x236
- Video Codec: H.264 (Main Concept)
- TV Standard: NTSC
- Frame Rate: 24fps
- Field Order: None (Progressive)
- Pixel Aspect Ratio: Square Pixels
- Profile: Baseline
- Level: 3.0
- Bitrate Encoding: VBR, 1 Pass

- Target Bitrate: 400kbps (0.4)
- Maximum Bitrate: 400kbps (0.4)
- Audio Codec: AAC
- Audio Output : Mono
- Frequency: 44.100 kHz
- Audio Quality: High
- Audio Bitrate: 32kbps
- Multiplexing: MP4
- Stream Compatibility: Standard