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
  - Online help
  - Reference
  - Tutorials

- **Hardware documentation**
  - Installation
  - Service manuals
  - User tutorials
  - 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 (Captivate, 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
  - ~MovieURLLink
  - ~MovieFloatLink
  - ~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