

QuickTime Capture Movie Compression

QuickTime Capture enables the user to select compression settings when recording movies. Using a compression codec such as MPEG-4 or H.264 can help reduce movie file size. However these codecs are CPU-intensive and many computers are not fast enough to use them to compress movies whilst Chart is recording. This can result in dropped video frames and long freezes while recording.

The best solution to this problem is to record your movies using the default compression settings, then post-process them using a different codec to reduce file size. In order to maintain QuickTime Capture's ability to synchronize post-processed movies to your Chart data, you must copy the synchronization data track from the original movie to the compressed movie.

This technique note describes the procedure for doing this. Please note, you will need a QuickTime Pro license.

Before commencing any procedures always make a back up copy of your data.

A number of steps are required for post-compressing movies:

- exporting the original movie in a compressed format to a temporary file
- extracting the synchronization track from the original movie
- adding it to the exported movie
- re-saving the exported movie as a self-contained movie file
- replacing the original file in your Chart document's movie folder with the new file.

Procedure:

1. Open the original movie in QuickTime Player and export in preferred format to a file export temporary folder.
2. Reduce file size further by exporting at a smaller size and by setting a lower frame rate in the compressor settings.
3. Extract the synchronization track from the original movie window, show movie properties (Edit > Extract Tracks...). A new untitled movie window appears.
4. Select All and Copy from the untitled movie window. This will copy the synchronization track to the clipboard. Close the untitled window (don't save).
5. Open the exported movie. Choose Edit > Add to add the copied synchronization track to the exported movie.
6. Save again to a different file (File > Save As...).
7. Choose the "Make movie self-contained" option (this is important).
8. Replace the original movie with the new compressed movie.

Some tips:

- The compressed movies must have the same name as the originals for QuickTime Capture to find them.
- The movie files also have to be in a folder called "<Chart file name> movies" for QuickTime Capture to find them so make sure the original directory structure is maintained.
- The "Make movie self-contained" step is important because otherwise QuickTime Player merely adds a reference to the synchronization track in the original file to the new movie file. Then when the original file is deleted QuickTime can no longer find the synchronization track.
- Try some test files first until you're sure you understand what's going on.
- Don't delete any original movies until you understand the process.