



Tech Info Library

Avid Cinema 1.0: Issues and Workarounds (1/97)

Article Created: 4 November 1996

Article Reviewed/Updated: 17 January 1997

TOPIC -----

This article describes some issues with Avid Cinema. Some are mentioned in the Avid Cinema Readme file and some are not.

DISCUSSION -----

From the Read Me File

=====

Avid Cinema & Apple Video Player

Starting Avid Cinema while Apple Video Player is running can cause an error. Always quit from Apple Video Player before starting Avid Cinema.

Recording A Channel From The TV Tuner Card

To record a particular channel from the TV Tuner card, follow these steps:

1. Start Avid Cinema.
2. Open the Apple Video Player and choose a channel.
3. Close Apple Video Player.
4. In the Avid Cinema Bring Video In tab, choose TV Tuner from the Video Source menu (in the Movie menu).

Apple Video Player & the Avid Cinema Extension

Apple Video Player won't record while the Avid Cinema Extension is installed. The Avid Cinema Extension disables post compression which is required by Apple Video Player. To record with Apple Video Player, turn off the Avid Cinema Extension using the Extensions Manager control panel and restart. You will need to turn the Avid Cinema Extension back on when you want to use Avid Cinema again.

Delrina Fax extension

The Delrina Fax extension, SlContDrvr 1.5.1, is incompatible with Avid Cinema.

Can't Import System 7 Sounds

You can't import System 7 sounds into Avid Cinema 1.0. Instead, save the sound in AIFF format or as a QuickTime movie and then import it. Avid Cinema 1.1 supports importing System 7 sounds directly.

QuickTime error

If the message "A QuickTime error has occurred. Please try again." is displayed EVERY TIME you try to bring video in, the Avid Cinema card may not be properly installed and connected.

To fix the problem:

1. Open your computer** according to the instructions in your Macintosh User's Manual.
2. Seat the card securely in the connector on the system board.
3. Securely connect both ends of the ribbon cable.
4. If your model computer requires a screw to hold the card in place, screw the card down tightly.

**If you do not feel comfortable opening your computer, contact your Apple Authorized Reseller for help connecting the card and ribbon cable.

Largest Unused Block

For best performance, the Largest Unused Block of memory should be 2 MB or greater when Avid Cinema is running. If you increase the Preferred memory size for Avid Cinema, make sure your system's Largest Unused Block of memory is over 2 MB. (Choose About This Macintosh from the Apple menu to see your system's Largest Unused Block of memory.)

PC Compatibility card

If you have a PC Compatibility card, don't run applications on it while running Avid Cinema, as there are not enough system resources to support both.

Don't Play Music CDs

Don't play music CDs while bringing video in. Instead of playing music on your internal CD drive and recording it directly, use the Import button in the Sound tab to import the music track directly from the CD.

"Inserting this clip..." Message

On occasion, the following actions can cause unexpected results:
1. You capture a shot between two shots that have an effect on them.
2. You get a message saying "Inserting this clip here will remove an effect. Do you want to do this?"
3. You click Cancel.

To avoid this problem, click OK to remove the effect and recreate it later.

The Following Issues Are Not Mentioned In The Readme:

=====

Avid Cinema Ellipsis (Dots) Issue

Apple has discovered an issue with Avid Cinema 1.0 which ships in the Performa 6400 Video Editing bundle.

Description:

- * There is a template within the home folder called "This is your life".
- * Within this template there is a clip called "...and Now".
- * When this clip is selected and video from the clip is brought into an Avid document, it can cause a system crash.
- * The crash is due to the leading ellipsis (that is the dots) in the name ("...").
- * This problem will be corrected in an upcoming version 1.1 of Avid Cinema.
- * The clip in version 1.1 will be changed to eliminate the leading ellipsis (dots).
- * However, the problem still exists in Avid Cinema version 1.0.

Workaround:

- * The workaround is to AVOID using this template name when bringing in video.
- * You can create a new clip called "and Now" without the ellipsis (dots) and the problem will not occur.

Avid Cinema Extension shows an X through it at startup

There are several reasons why the Avid Cinema Extension won't load:

- Virtual memory is on or RAM Doubler is installed. Note: If you are using Ram Doubler 2.0, Avid Cinema help may mistake virtual memory for RAM Doubler and try to walk you through turning virtual memory off.
- QuickTime 2.5 or later isn't installed. QuickTime 2.5 or later must be installed in order for the Avid Cinema Extension to load.
- For some reason the Avid Cinema Extension loaded before QuickTime 2.5. Avid Cinema Extension has a degree character in front of its name to force it to load after QuickTime 2.5. If this character is removed or changed so that the extension appears before QuickTime, it will not load.
- The Avid Cinema card isn't installed or isn't seated properly. Follow these steps to reseat the card:
 1. Open your computer** according to the instructions in your Macintosh User's Manual.
 2. Seat the card securely in the connector on the system board.
 3. Securely connect both ends of the ribbon cable.

4. If your model computer requires a screw to hold the card in place, screw the card down tightly.

**If you do not feel comfortable opening your computer, contact your Apple Authorized Reseller for help connecting the card and ribbon cable.

The Video "Stutters" During Part Or All Of The Movie

There are several things that could cause the video to stutter:

- Applications running in the background may cause the video stutter. For best performance, quit other applications.

- Projects on slower media (like a Jaz drive) with lots of single frame clips combined with audio may cause the video to stutter. Move the project to a faster media (like a hard drive) or reduce the number of single frame clips.

- Drive fragmentation can cause the video stutter. Use a hard drive utility to defragment the drive or move the project to a different drive.

- If the media clips are on a Jaz drive and the Disk Cache is set greater than 96k, the video may stutter. Open the Memory control panel and set the Disk Cache to 96k or lower.

- When viewing the movie preview, parts of the movie (especially those with titles) may appear to stutter because the movie hasn't been fully rendered yet. This stuttering will disappear when the Send Movie Out function is performed.

Cannot apply some transition effects on split clips

Avid Cinema 1.1 adds a feature that allows the user to "split" a clip in the time line. Because split clips are part of the same physical media on the hard drive, you cannot apply dynamic transition effects. A dynamic transition effect is an effect that overlaps two clips and applies the effect simultaneously on both pieces of moving video. The following effects are dynamic and cannot be applied to split clips: Blinds, Clock Wipe, Dissolve, Dither Dissolve, Fan Wipe, Iris Round, Iris Star, Random Blocks, Wipe Left, and Wipe Right.

As a workaround to this limitation, you can split the original clip (which will be in the project media folder) into two QuickTime movies using the MoviePlayer application. Then use Avid Cinema's Import function to import the two separate movies into the project library. You can then delete the original clip from the library. MoviePlayer can be found in the Apple Extras folder on the hard drive.

Miscellaneous issues

* If the Apple Guide extension is disabled, Avid Cinema 1.0 will crash when you

quit, requiring you to restart the computer. Do not disable Apple Guide when using Avid Cinema 1.0. Avid Cinema 1.1 fixes this problem.

* Avid Cinema will not operate properly unless the main monitor is the monitor connected to the built-in video on the 6400. If you are using a PCI video card on the 6400, make sure that there is a monitor connected to the built-in video connector and that it is the main monitor (the one with the menu bar).

* When importing QuickTime from other video editing programs, make sure the imported movie is saved at 320x240 pixels at 30 frames per second.

* When saving video to tape there appears to be noise at the top and/or bottom of the video.

- This is video head noise from the source video and will not show up on the final tape.

* With an Audio CD playing in the background, if you switch between tabs the CD playback cuts out and becomes jerky.

- When you switch between tabs Avid Cinema must switch sound channels. This will cause any playing sound to cut out momentarily. This is considered normal behavior.

* Avid Cinema 1.0 supports the NTSC video format but does not support the PAL video format, which is widely used in Europe. Avid Cinema 1.1 supports the PAL video format.

* A QuickTime error may occur when the internal video hardware is not ready to record. Clicking OK and recording again should work properly. This should be corrected in a future version of Avid Cinema.

* Record and Stop buttons are grayed out in Bring Video In window even though the image appears.

- Check to see if Apple Video Player or other video digitizing applications have the same problem. If so, a video input hardware failure may have occurred. Have the system tested by an authorized service representative.

* The project media folder and project file must reside in the same folder and their names shouldn't be changed. Otherwise, Avid Cinema may not recognize them as being part of the same project. If the names need to be changed, the media folder should have the same name as the project file with the string " Media" after it. For example, if the project file is called "Board Meeting", the project media folder needs to be called "Board Meeting Media".

* When attempting to view Apple Video Player in 256 colors, a black screen or a screen with a still picture will result. Also, switching to 256 colors with AVP already launched causes a fatal error in AVP to occur and the application quits. If you need to run AVP in 256 colors, turn off the Avid Cinema Extension using the Extensions Manager control panel and restart.

Note: Apple Video Player should normally be used in thousands or millions of

colors because clips captured by AVP are saved in thousands of colors and playback quality of these captured clips is poor in 256 colors.

* The Undo feature is limited within Avid Cinema 1.0 to text Undo's in the Titles subtab. Future releases will add more functionality to the Undo command.

* The Avid Cinema card should only be installed into the top PCI slot on the 5400/6400 logic board to allow room for installation of other cards.

Avid Cinema 1.1

=====

Avid Cinema 1.1 fixes some issues mentioned in this article. You can download the Avid Cinema 1.1 Update at ftp://ftp.info.apple.com/Apple.Support.Area/Apple.Software.Updates/US/Macintosh/Display-Peripheral/Avid_Cinema_1.1_Update.

This article was published in the Information Alley on 4 November 1996.

Article Change History:

- 17 Jan 1997 - Updated to include new information.
- 11 Dec 1996 - Added ellipsis issue.
- 21 Nov 1996 - Added some new miscellaneous issues.

Copyright 1996-97, Apple Computer, Inc.

Keywords: ksts,kalley

=====

This information is from the Apple Technical Information Library.

ArticleID: TECHINFO-0020614

19970218 12:34:27.00

Tech Info Library Article Number: 20614