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Apple Media Tool: Tips for Reducing Project Sizes (8/95)

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TOPIC -----

This article provides tips for reducing the size of Apple Media Tool project sizes. It also provides information that helps decrease the problems you may experience during compiling because of the number of screens or media elements in a project.

DISCUSSION -----

To reduce the number of screens, you should try combining the contents of two screens onto one. You can then use the Hide and Show commands to control which objects are visible and which are hidden.

Examples

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To reduce two screens to one, select the contents of the second screen, copy them to the clipboard, then paste them onto the first screen.

Use the Hide Itself command under the Before Display action to hide all of the second screen objects.

Change the action that previously linked to the second screen to instead show the "second screen" contents while simultaneously hiding the "first screen" contents.

Here is what the original two screen project might look like.

Begin_Table

Screen	Object	Action	Command/Link
-----	-----	-----	-----
1	Picture1.PIC	Before Display	Disable Itself Show Itself
	Button.PIC	Before Display	Enable Itself Show Itself
		Mouse Up	Go to Screen 2
2	Picture2.PIC	Before Display	Disable Itself

Show Itself

Here is what the combined screen project might look like.

Screen	Object	Action	Command/Link
----- 1	Picture1.PIC	Before Display	Disable Itself Show Itself
	Picture2.PIC	Before Display	Disable Itself Hide Itself
	Button.PIC	Before Display	Enable Itself Show Itself
		Mouse Up	Show Picture2.PIC Hide Picture1.PIC Hide Itself

End_Table

To reduce the number of media elements, you may want to try combining two PICT files of the same size into one two-frame QuickTime movie. The two frames can be addressed individually by using the "Go To Beginning" and "Go To End" commands.

Here is what the original two-PICT screen might look like.

Begin_Table

Object	Action	Command/Link
----- Picture1.PIC	Before Display	Disable Itself Show Itself
Picture2.PIC	Before Display	Disable Itself Hide Itself
Button.PIC	Before Display	Enable Itself Show Itself
	Mouse Up	Show Picture2.PIC Hide Picture1.PIC

Here is what the same screen might look like after combining the two PICT files into a two-frame QuickTime movie.

Object	Action	Command/Link
----- Movie.MOV	Before Display	Disable Itself Go To Beginning of Itself Show Itself
Button.PIC	Before Display	Enable Itself Show Itself

End_Table

NOTE: When consolidating screens, it is important to remember that increasing the number of media elements on a screen slows the overall performance of a project, so it is recommended that no more than two screens be combined into one.

By combining these two techniques, you can potentially reduce the number of screens and PICT media elements by as much as one half.

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