Create subtitles and close captions in Aegissub

Subtitles are part of the AVI and cannot be turned off, use them for adding labels to the movie e.g. "press [ctrl] + [C]".

Close captions are subtitles that can be turned on or off by the viewer of the movie. These are used to duplicate the words on the soundtrack for partially hearing viewers or for where sound output is inconvenient to unavailable. They are contained in a separate .xml file that is loaded into the jw flv player software alongside the .flv file.

Aegissub only creates subtitle files, however these can be converted in Subtitle Workshop to close caption files and it is easier to work in Aegissub than Subtitle Workshop as in Aegissub you can view the sound track making it easier to precisely pinpoint start and end positions for subtitles.

1. Open Aegissub.

2. File / New Subtitle (or File / Open Subtitle if working on an existing subtitle file.

3. Video / Open Video and open the video file.

4. Audio / Open Audio from Video this will enable the audio wave pattern to be displayed.

5. Subtitles / Styles Manager, select the JKStyles catalogue, select all 4 headings from the Storage panel and Copy them to the current script.

6. Start at the start of the video file and add blocks for subtitles, these will be contiguous with each other. If no subtitles are required for a section, create a block anyway but do not enter any text.

7. Mark out the length of a subtitle block in the audio wave pattern panel. When you commit one panel the next contiguous panel will be started, just adjust the right hand marker to get the duration required. Press the [>] button to listen to the subtitle section selected. Note the video panel will not always keep up with the audio. Note also that once a subtitle block is committed you can return to it by selecting it in the list of sections at the bottom of the screen.

8. Subtitle text is entered into the text panel and saved when the Commit button is pressed. Styles have already been defined.

    1. Use "Subtitle" for subtitles, and

    2. Use "Close Caption" for closed captions

    3. Use the "Close Caption" style for all empty subtitles

9. To have subtitles and close caption on screen at the same time, take a copy of the close caption, and edit it as follows.

    1. Create the close caption and commit it. This will prepare the next empty caption record.

    2. Click on the caption just created to select it

    3. Right click on it and select copy.

    4. Click on the empty last caption record in the list to select it.

    5. Right click on it and select Paste.

    6. Select the duplicated caption then edit it and change the style to subtitle, then commit it.

    7. Continue with the last caption in the list as normal.

10. When you have finished the file save it in Advanced Substation Alpha format In Save

subtitles. This will create a .ass file.

11. Note for use in Adobe Encore you need to Export the subtitles

    1. Review the caption timings and adjust all captions that end with the same time as another caption starts, as this could cause an overlap once adjusted for frame rate. Ensure there is a small time gap between the start of one caption and the end of the next. If there is an over lap encore will skip the subtitle that overlaps.

    2. File / Export Subtitles

    3. Transform Framerate – leave input frame rate as is (for use in Xerte it needs to be 24 FPS. (In Adobe Premiere you can set the screen size and frame rate for each sequence. If you select an editing mode of desktop you can set your own frame size and set the fps to 24.)

    4. Export button

    5. Save as type Adobe Encore

    6. Select PAL 25 FPS when prompted.

12. Keep this file as a master and make two copies of it, subtitle.ass and closecaption.ass.

13. Open each in turn in Home page and prepare one for subtitle use and the other for close caption use.

    1. Subtitle – delete all the rows that have Close Caption in them.

    2. Close caption – delete all the rows that have subtitle.

Add subtitles to the AVI file in Virtual Dub

1. Open Virtual Dub and Open the video file

2. Set sound Audio / Source Audio

3. Set Video Compression to camstudio lossless codec.

4. Add a filter of type TextSub using the Subtitle file created earlier. (Video / Filters

5. Save as AVI

Add Close Captions Using Subtitle Works

Close caption files are separate from the avi or flv file. They are loaded with the flv file into the player software.

1. Open Subtitle Workshop

2. Open the close caption .ass file

3. Save it in close caption format

    1. File / Save as

    2. Click Custom format

    3. Select "JW FLV Player" ensure Time, not Frames is selected.

Note the styling tag does not currently work in the JW FLV player so you are stuck with the font currently available.

It may prove easier to create captions and titles in Subtitle workshop, it appears more

responsive than aegissub. However the display of the soundtrack waveform in aegissub makes it easy to work with, so just use Subtitle workshop for converting .ass files to jw flv player close caption xml files.

Convert to .flv

There are a couple of programmes mentioned on the JW FLV site that will do this for free. As I have access to Flash I have used the Flash 8 Video encoder to do this bit.

Open the Flash video encoder and select any items in the queue then remove them.

Click the add button and select the avi files you wish to generate flv files for.

Select the files and select an encoding profile either

Flash 8 Medium quality (video data 400kbps audio 96kbps)

Flash 8 High quality (video data 700 kbps audio 128 kbps)

Start the queue to process the files.

Flash 8 High quality creates files up to 50% larger depending on the video content (complexity of images) but the video quality is noticeably clearer, so I am using this as the standard as by using playlists the movies are broken down into junks.