



What is XMLPro ?

XMLPro is a very simple concept. It converts XML audio sequences exported from Final Cut Pro into Digidesign Pro Tools sessions and AES31 ADLs. The main focus in the conversion is to maintain direct references to the original media, and also to include level automation in the conversion.

Who need to use XMLPro ?

Modern post production workflows vary a great deal, but in the case of large projects such as motion pictures, it is often highly desirable to maintain references to a single set of media throughout the picture and sound editorial phases. Traditionally, EDLs were used to communicate edits between picture and sound editorial, which required audio post to completely reconstruct the sound before continuing with their job. In recent times, this process has been improved using turnover of edit and media using an OMF file. However, the OMF export from Final Cut Pro has some limitations, and it is these which are primarily addressed with XMLPro. The main issues are as follows:

1) Embedded media only. The OMF export from Final Cut Pro does not support a composition only OMF file. All media used in the sequence must be copied and embedded into the OMF file. This has several disadvantages, including the extended period taken to export, since all media must be copied, and file size limitation of 2GB which can easily be exceeded on a long, multichannel sequence. In workflows where there are likely to be a series of changes to the picture, this means that audio post must start over each time a new OMF is created, since the new OMF will not refer to the media created in the last export.

2) For more elaborate workflows, where there may be a desire to reconnect to additional audio channels, not cut in the video edit, the OMF provides no way to refer back to original media in order to establish a track to the alternate tracks.

3) No level automation. Although Final Cut Pro supports sophisticated clip and keyframe based level automation, which is commonly used by video editors to make a rough mix, this data is not passed through into the OMF, and hence any guide levels are lost when turning over to audio post, which can waste a lot of time rebalancing levels.

XMLPro addresses these issues by cutting a Pro Tools session, or AES31 ADL which links back to the original audio media placed into Final Cut Pro, and as a composition-only object there is no file size limitation. Also, XMLPro maintains the level automation in the exported objects.

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