

ICRA 2016 Trailer submission instructions

ICRA 2016 authors are invited to submit high quality videos for a “trailer” showcasing the conference highlights in an accessible format.

Goals

The goal of the trailer is to publicize the robotics and automation field and the ICRA conference. It is primarily about presenting the field to the people *outside* the field.

Theme

This year’s theme is “duckies-in-the-loop and duckies-robot-interaction”. Each clip must include a Standard ICRA Duckie, unless extenuating circumstances exist. Please see <http://trailer.icra2016.org> for all rules involving the duckies.

Format

We seek high-quality videos from which it is possible to carve relatively short clips (15s) that will be edited as part of a larger storyline. The format thus remains similar to last year’s trailer, with the additional constraint that the clips should include a Standard ICRA Duckie, unless extenuating circumstances exist. Please see below regarding more specific guidelines about the format.

Please email ICRAducks@gmail.com should you have any questions about the technical details or the relaxation of the duckie constraint.

Submission process

Note that the submission procedure is entirely separate from Papercept, except authors will be asked to provide the Papercept ID of their submitted ICRA or RA-L with ICRA option paper for cross-referencing. Note that a video attachment to a Papercept submission does not constitute a submission for the trailer.

The submission process is bidirectional and it is a collaborative effort between the authors, the creative team, and professionals hired to polish the results.

The process consists of three phases:

- The **first phase** (submission open Oct 15, deadline Nov 1) is the electronic submission of the materials. The online form will be at <http://trailer.icra2016.org/#submit>
The required information is:
 - A link to a Dropbox folder including the video clips (see below for instructions).
 - The Papercept ID of your ICRA 2016 paper submission, or of your RA-L with ICRA option paper submission. Note: provide the ID of the paper submission, not the ID of the best student paper nomination (when this applies).
 - The PDF of the paper draft.
 - A candidate caption that can be narrated in 15 seconds.
- The **second phase** (Nov-Dec) is a **bidirectional phase** with the creative team towards finalizing the contributed materials. Here, typically authors are asked for higher resolution clips or to replace videos that have problems.
- In the **third phase** (Jan-Mar) the authors are given a chance to give **feedback on the presentation** of their materials. Note that at this point the trailer effort will be on tight deadlines, and therefore the authors should be available to give feedback rather quickly (“e.g. please check the wording of this narration in the next 24 hours before we send it out to be translated in 8 languages.”)

Selection process

The selection process is supervised by the ICRA Program Chairs.

The selection of trailer materials is an independent process from the regular ICRA/RA-L paper and accompanying video evaluation process. The constraint is that trailer materials should refer to a paper that is submitted; and if that paper is rejected the materials will not appear in the trailer. Conversely, submissions for the trailer video (i.e., quality or participation) will not influence the acceptance of the paper.

Contributions are evaluated according to a variety of factors.

In contrast to ICRA/RA-L papers, where 1) a submission is evaluated only on scientific merit; and 2) submissions are evaluated independently from each other; the trailer contributions are evaluated on a variety of factors and also the interaction between them counts.

In general, the goal of the trailer is to inform and communicate our scientific progress. Therefore, we don’t want to just include “cool” or “flashy” contributions---which, by the way, would have visibility on their own. Conversely, we also don’t want to have an extremely informative but very boring video which may be inaccessible to lay people. In general, **we accept that there is a trade-off of “cool” vs “informative” and the selection process is designed to explicitly account for that.**

First, submissions are thresholded according to the “production quality”. More precisely, the quality is not the quality of the raw materials, but the quality of the result after professional video editing.

Example 1: An otherwise high-quality video that has horrible color balance is considered high-quality because color balancing is easy to perform.

Example 2: A stunning 4K video of an experiment in a messy/dirty lab environment cannot be fixed in post-production and is thus considered low quality.

The papers that pass this first selection are evaluated according to two factors:

1. A measure of scientific merit. This is measured as the average of the score of ICRA reviews for the corresponding paper. (Also, a paper that is not accepted to ICRA/RA-L will not be included in the trailer.)
2. A measure of “interestingness”, which is meant to represent:
 - a. Whether the videos are eye-catching and attention-grabbing.
 - b. Whether it is easy for a layperson to understand the work in only a few seconds.

This is measured by a separate panel of reviewers.

The previous two factors are evaluated separately for each paper. They thus give a **partial order** on the “scientific quality” / “interestingness” plane that serves as the main selection guideline.

Final selection is driven by several other considerations, which consider now also the interaction between different submissions:

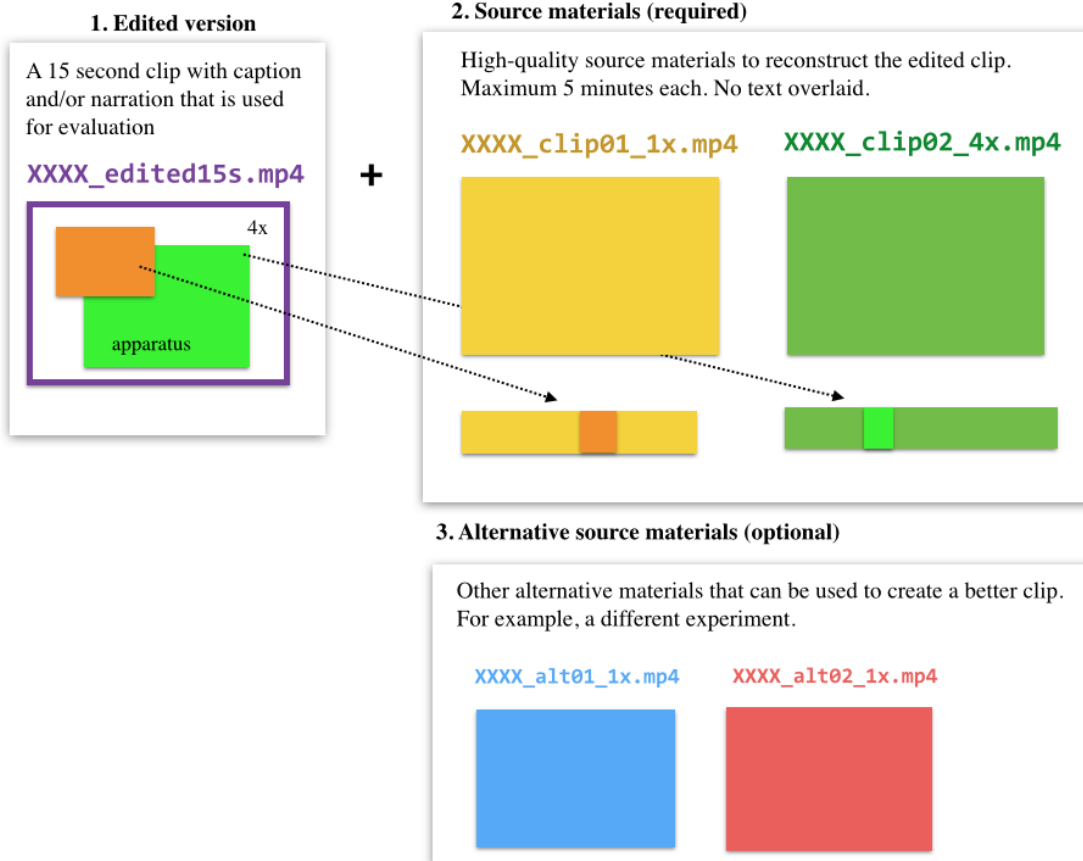
- Trying to represent all subfields of robotics & automation.
- Promote research that would not be visible by itself; all things being equal, promote under-publicized institutions.

Technical Submissions guidelines

The submission should contain:

- 1) **An edited 15 seconds clip**, as it would appear in the final trailer. This version will be used during the selection process. This can include text captions and/or voiceover.
- 2) **The raw source materials** that you used to create the clip above. This material will be used by a professional editor to create the final clip, while retaining the flexibility of increasing/decreasing the length of the clip, and choosing which experiment to show. There should not be anything superimposed to the image, including text, captions, or logos; not even speed multipliers.
- 3) **(Optional) Any additional video material that could be used as alternatives**. For example, a clip from a different experiment. This is useful in the case two submissions are very similar.

For example, if the edited clip is a montage with two videos and text, you have to include both high-resolution videos without the text (see figure below). Please note that sending only the 15s version without all source materials will be considered an incomplete submission and rejected.



In general, send the highest-quality material you can. The trailer will be edited by a professional video editor. The more materials we have for the editor to work with, the better the result we can have. Also note that there is a constraint on production quality, as we wish to create high-quality clips that can be picked up by the media.

Regarding the content:

- The clip can include anything that is interesting to see and is related to the paper. It might be an experiment in the paper, but it could also be variations of experiments that are not described in the paper.
- There must be a Standard ICRA Duckie in the clip, except extenuating circumstances. If you have a simulation, you have to have a digital duckie in the clip. See <http://trailer.icra2016.org/> for extensive discussion of the duckies.
- Because ICRA is an international event with worldwide attendance, and we would like the clips to see worldwide distribution, the content of the clips that we distribute should be considered “proper” in “most” countries. It is impossible for this to be rigidly defined; the authors are encouraged to use common sense and their own experience of international meetings to decide what is acceptable. Feel free to send an email to ICRADucks@gmail.com should you want to double check the propriety of a submission.

Example (from last year): a lab from Europe submitted a clip about a method for ensuring safety in human-robot interaction, in which a manipulator reacts to unexpected contacts with humans. In the clip, one of the authors, a young woman, interacts with a manipulator and moves such that the manipulator hits one of her breasts, the manipulator stops, and she gasps and smiles. While in the cultural context in which it was produced the clip would be considered playful, the clip would not be considered suitable for the trailer.

Technical details:

- Resolution: the higher the better. The clip must look good at 1920x1080.
- File formats: anything that is industry standard (that can be read by Final Cut Pro/Adobe Premier). This includes standard containers such as MP4 and MOV. Uncompressed digital video from cameras is also fine. Avoid WMV and Windows-only codecs.
- File size limitations: maximum 5 GB per submission. Send us high-quality video! Note: do not compress raw video from digital cameras.
- Time limitation: **15 seconds for the edited version, 5 minutes for the source materials.**
- Please include a description of each clip.
- Please name all the files according to the pattern , “XXXX_edited15s”, “XXXX_clipYY-Sx”, “XXXX_altYY-Sx”, where XXXX is a 0-padded Papercept ID, and S is the speed multiplier. For example, the filenames for submission 765 could be:
 - 0765_edited15s.mp4: 15 seconds edited version to be used for selection
 - 0765_clip01-1x.mp4: first clip used in edited version
 - 0765_clip01-1x.txt: description of clip
 - 0765_clip02-4x.mp4: second clip used in edited version
 - 0765_clip02-4x.txt: description of clip
 - 0765_paper.pdf: draft of submitted paper
 - 0765_alt01-1x.mp4: alternative clip
 - 0765_alt01-1x.txt
 - 0765_alt02-4x.mp4: alternative clip
 - 0765_alt02-4x.txt

Timeline

Oct 15: Submissions open

Nov 1: Trailer contributions submissions deadline

Nov 1-Dec 1: Bidirectional interaction

Feb 15: Inclusion decisions (after ICRA notifications)

Mar-Apr: Trailer publication