

Practical example: adding subtitles to a video

INTRODUCTION

We will look at a simple example. First, you need to have a video on one of the formats/codecs supported by the browsers you target. A recommended codec is H264, but other formats, such as webm, may have some advantages if the browser supports them. For example, webm allows to start playing the video after a much shorter buffering time. In other words, try to provide the video encoded with more than one codec, if possible.

For this, do use any sort of open source, free or commercial video encoding software, such as [Handbrake](#) (free, open source) or [Super](#) (free). There are also online video encoding services, and you can even upload your video to YouTube, let it encode your video in several resolutions and codecs, and use a browser extension like [VideoDownloadHelper \(for Firefox\)](#) to download the video in the formats you like.

So, let's suppose you have a video like this one below (we included it on YouTube for practical reasons):

An error occurred.

Unable to execute Javascript.



And you've got it also in `mp4/H264` and in `webm` formats. Here is how you can embed it in your page using the video element:

```
<video id="myVideo" width=500 controls>
  <source
    src="videos/SameOldSongAndDanceRogerLathaudPart1MidRes.mp4"
    type="video/mp4">
  <source
    src="videos/SameOldSongAndDanceRogerLathaudPart1MidRes.webm"
    type="video/webm">
  <track src="videos/subtitles.vtt"
    kind="subtitles" srclang="en" default>
</video>
```

At line 9, we added a `<track>` element to add english subtitles, as the guitar teacher there is speaking in French. We will now explain how we created this subtitle track.

ADDING SUBTITLES TO THE VIDEO

Now, we need to create a WebVTT file for this video. How can we synchronize an English

translation of what the guitar teacher says in French?

There are many tools available to add subtitles to a video, free and commercial ones. Most of them are native applications you need to install on your computer. However, it exists a free and very practical tool for doing this 100% in a Web browser: <http://www.universalsubtitles.org>, also known as <http://www.amara.org>.

Go to this Web site, click on the "subtitle a video" link, then follow the different tutorials/instructions. It will ask for a YouTube URL, so it's better to first upload your video to YouTube (even in private mode). Once you entered in the URL of your video, you will have an online subtitles/caption editor. Enter your subtitles and sync them until you are happy with the results.

Browser address bar: <https://www.amara.org/fr/subtitles/edit...>

Browser tabs: Applications, <https://vegas.univ-tls>, manifestR, Coming Soon, SpriteMe, manifestR, » Autres favoris

Amara interface: Video tutorial for MT5

Keyboard controls: more commands »

Buttons: Tab, Play / Pause, Skip back, Shift, Insert a line break, Enter

1. Review the guidelines
They include tips for improving subtitles.

3. Submit your work
Or choose Save Draft (above) to finish later.

2. Check the timing
Drag the edges or slide the bubble to adjust the times.

1. Type what you hear
2. Sync Timing
3. Review and complete
Watch the video again
at the
complete
description.

0:00 / 5:59

Hello all, Roger Larthaud, guitar teacher

English Version 7 Editing English... Notes

Hello all, Roger Larthaud, guitar teacher	0:01.24	Hello all, Roger Larthaud, guitar teacher	0:01.24	
in the cities of Cannes and Biot (France),	0:04.81	in the cities of Cannes and Biot (France),	0:04.81	
	0:07.68		0:07.68	

New to Amara? Here are some pointers.
Click to hide. Reopen anytime from the tools menu (🔧 > Show tutorial).
Please go away. 🍷

Once your subtitles/captions are ok, you will be able to upload them to YouTube, or -this is what we wanted first- download them as WebVTT format:

Are you a native Thai or Hindi speaker who's also fluent in English?
We need help for special paid projects! [Cacher](#)

Subtitle Video Community Professional Solutions

English sous-titres
← Video tutorial for MT5

1 Follower 60 Lignes

This is a screenshot of the french version of amara.org, but the download button is here, it will download your webVTT file to your hard disk

Télécharger

Showing Revision 7 created 12/02/2014 by mi Buffa.

Titre: ...
Description: ...
Gérard Larthaud, guitar teacher

0:05 - 0:08	in the cities of Cannes and Biot (France),
0:08 - 0:10	I will show you today how to play
0:10 - 0:13	Same Old Song and Dance by Aerosmith
0:14 - 0:15	Here we go...
0:17 - 0:24	Intro
0:26 - 0:32	This was the intro riff. First, I will play it slowly...
0:32 - 0:39	Intro riff played slowly

1 Language [Obtenir le code d'intégration](#)

English

Partager

f t e f Like 0

TRY YOUR SUBTITLED/CAPTIONED VIDEO

