

Practical example: adding subtitles to a video

INTRODUCTION

We will look at a simple example. First, you need 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 the video to start playing after a much shorter buffering time. In other words, try if possible to provide the video encoded with more than one codec.

For this, 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 such as [VideoDownloadHelper \(for Firefox\)](#) to download the video in your chosen formats.

So, let's suppose you have a video like the one below (we included it on YouTube for practical reasons). This video has subtitles (you can activate them in the YouTube player), but the goal of this lesson is to explain how we made them without using the YouTube embedded tools, which do not allow export the subtitle file to be exported in the `webVTT` format.

And you've also got it 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?

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

Go to the above 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 have entered 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

0:01 | 0:02 | 0:03 | 0:04

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:


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Subtitle Video Community Professional Solutions

English sous-titres

← Video tutorial for MT5

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

English

Partager

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

Titre: ...

Description: ...

Ger 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

TRY YOUR SUBTITLED/CAPTIONED VIDEO

