

# **Technical Specifications and Optimization Protocols for Social Media Imagery: An Exhaustive Analysis for AI-Driven Content Generation (2025)**

## **1. Introduction: The Visual Architecture of the 2025 Digital Ecosystem**

The digital landscape of 2025 is characterized by a fragmented yet converging visual architecture. For artificial intelligence systems tasked with the generation, formatting, and deployment of social media assets, the challenge is no longer merely aesthetic but strictly geometrical and algorithmic. The era of the "one-size-fits-all" square image has largely receded, replaced by a mobile-first paradigm that prioritizes verticality, screen occupancy, and high-fidelity resolution. This report provides a comprehensive technical analysis of the image specifications for the three dominant professional and commercial platforms: Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn.

The necessity for such granular detail stems from the "Safe Zone" theory of user interface (UI) design. Modern social platforms overlay navigation elements—profile bubbles, caption text, engagement buttons, and battery indicators—directly atop the content. Consequently, an image that is geometrically "correct" in terms of pixel dimensions may still fail functionally if critical semantic elements (text, logos, faces) are occluded by these UI layers. Furthermore, the rise of AI-generated imagery requires a specific understanding of native generative resolutions versus platform display resolutions, necessitating robust upscaling and aspect ratio management protocols.

This analysis synthesizes data regarding pixel dimensions, aspect ratios, file format constraints, and compression behaviors to establish a definitive "ground truth" for AI image generation systems. It explores the subtle divergences between desktop and mobile rendering, the specific requirements of algorithmic feeds versus temporal "Story" environments, and the emerging standards for 2025, such as the transition of profile grids to

vertical formats.

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## 2. The Meta Ecosystem: Instagram Architecture and Specifications

Instagram remains the most visually demanding platform within the social ecosystem, serving as the primary driver for visual trend adoption. The architectural updates observed in 2025 indicate a definitive shift away from legacy square formats toward vertical dominance, designed to maximize dwell time on mobile devices.

### 2.1 The Feed Environment: Aspect Ratio Dynamics and Screen Real Estate

The Instagram feed creates a competitive environment where visual assets battle for vertical screen real estate. The technical consensus for 2025 is that verticality correlates with visibility. An automated system must prioritize aspect ratios that physically occupy more of the user's viewport, thereby displacing competing content and focusing user attention.

#### 2.1.1 The Vertical (Portrait) Standard (4:5)

The 4:5 aspect ratio is currently the optimal format for standard feed posts. Occupying 1350 vertical pixels compared to the 1080 pixels of a square post, this format gains approximately 25% more physical screen space on a mobile device.<sup>1</sup> This "vertical lift" is crucial for engagement mechanics.

- **Technical Dimensions:** 1080 (width) x 1350 (height) pixels.<sup>3</sup>
- **Aspect Ratio:** 4:5.
- **Rendering Behavior:** If an image exceeds this vertical ratio (e.g., a 9:16 image uploaded to the feed), the platform's compression algorithm will aggressively crop the top and bottom to force fit the 1350px height.<sup>5</sup> This automatic cropping is destructive and non-negotiable; therefore, AI generation prompts must strictly adhere to the 4:5 ratio (e.g., --ar 4:5) to ensure composition integrity.
- **Desktop Display:** On desktop browsers, these images are often pillar-boxed or scaled,

but given that the vast majority of consumption is mobile, the 4:5 optimization remains the priority.<sup>6</sup>

### 2.1.2 The Square Legacy (1:1)

While vertical posts dominate, the square format remains a functional standard, particularly for multi-image carousels where consistency is required across varying image orientations.

- **Technical Dimensions:** 1080 x 1080 pixels.<sup>1</sup>
- **Aspect Ratio:** 1:1.
- **Carousel Logic:** In carousel posts, the aspect ratio of the *first* image dictates the container size for all subsequent slides. If an AI system generates a mixed batch of vertical and square images, uploading a square image first will force the subsequent vertical images to be cropped to squares, potentially decapitating subjects or obscuring text.<sup>7</sup> The protocol must be to maintain aspect ratio uniformity across all carousel assets.

### 2.1.3 The Landscape Constraint (1.91:1)

Landscape images are technically supported but strategically discouraged due to their minimal screen occupancy. A landscape image occupies roughly half the vertical space of a square image and nearly one-third that of a vertical image.

- **Technical Dimensions:** 1080 x 566 pixels.<sup>3</sup>
- **Aspect Ratio:** 1.91:1.
- **Use Case:** This format is primarily reserved for repurposing wide cinematic shots or specific advertising formats where the image must align with legacy link preview standards.

## 2.2 The Evolution of the Profile Grid (2025 Trend)

A significant architectural shift identified in 2025 is the transition of the Instagram Profile Grid from the traditional square (1:1) thumbnails to vertical (4:5) rectangles.<sup>7</sup> This change aligns the grid view with the dominant feed aspect ratio, creating a more cohesive browsing experience but disrupting legacy content strategies.

- **Implication for AI Composition:** Historically, content creators optimized images with a "center crop" in mind, knowing that a square section would be extracted for the grid. With the new 4:5 grid display, the verticality of the thumbnail changes the "center of visual interest."
- **Compositional Protocol:** Images should be composed such that the central 4:5 vertical slice contains the primary subject. AI systems attempting to create "grid puzzles" (splitting one large image across multiple posts to form a mosaic) must now account for vertical gaps and rectangular aspect ratios rather than square adjacency.<sup>7</sup>

## 2.3 Stories and Reels: Full-Screen Rendering and Safe Zones

The convergence of Stories and Reels has unified the technical specifications for full-screen content. However, the "Safe Zone" architecture—the area free from UI overlays—is critical for AI systems to understand and map effectively. Placing text, logos, or faces outside these coordinates results in occlusion by the interface, rendering the content unintelligible or aesthetically compromised.

### 2.3.1 Physical Dimensions and Resolution

- **Resolution:** 1080 x 1920 pixels.<sup>1</sup>
- **Aspect Ratio:** 9:16.
- **Compression Dynamics:** Instagram applies aggressive compression to files exceeding standard bitrates. Uploading at resolutions higher than 1080x1920 (e.g., 4K) often triggers a server-side downscaling process that results in artifacts, banding, and lower perceived quality than if the file were uploaded at native 1080p.<sup>9</sup>
- **Minimum Width:** The absolute minimum width for a story asset is 500 pixels, though this is strongly discouraged for professional outputs.<sup>3</sup>

### 2.3.2 The "Safe Zone" Coordinate System

The interface elements of Instagram (profile bubble, navigation bar, reply field, like/share buttons) float continuously over the content layer. To ensure visibility, specific pixel buffers must be respected.

- **Vertical Safe Area:** The central safe zone spans **1080 x 1420 pixels**.<sup>8</sup> This implies that the top 250 pixels and the bottom 250 pixels constitute "danger zones" where no critical semantic information should be placed.<sup>11</sup>
- **Top Buffer:** The top 250 pixels are reserved for the progress bar, user profile information, and signal indicators.<sup>11</sup>
- **Bottom Buffer:** The bottom 250 to 340 pixels are heavily obscured by the reply field, reaction hearts, and share buttons.<sup>12</sup>
- **Lateral Buffers (Reels Specific):** For Reels, the interface includes a vertical stack of engagement icons on the right side and the caption overlay at the bottom left. The "Safe Zone" for Reels is therefore tighter than Stories: Keep clear of the top 14%, bottom 35%, and the lateral 6% on each side.<sup>13</sup>
- **AI Instruction Protocol:** When generating imagery for Stories/Reels containing text or focal subjects, the AI must strictly constrain these elements to the central 1080 x 1420 pixel box. Background textures or atmospheric elements can and should extend to the full 1920 height to create an immersive experience, but semantic information (CTAs, Headlines) must remain centered.<sup>12</sup>

## 2.4 Instagram Ad Specifications

Advertising on Instagram introduces additional constraints and format options designed to drive conversion.

- **Landscape Ads:** 1080 x 566 pixels.<sup>3</sup>
- **Square Ads:** 1080 x 1080 pixels. Note that some sources suggest a minimum of 1440 x 1440 for highest fidelity on newer devices.<sup>2</sup>
- **Vertical Ads:** 1080 x 1350 pixels. This format is highly recommended for feed placements as it mimics organic content behavior.<sup>3</sup>
- **Story Ads:** 1080 x 1920 pixels. These must adhere strictly to the safe zones to avoid the "Sponsored" label at the top obscuring the creative.<sup>2</sup>

## 2.5 Instagram Data Summary

Asset Type	Dimensions (px)	Aspect Ratio	Safe Zone / Notes
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<b>Profile Picture</b>	320 x 320	1:1	Circular crop. Center subject. <sup>4</sup>
<b>Feed (Portrait)</b>	1080 x 1350	4:5	Optimal engagement format. <sup>1</sup>
<b>Feed (Square)</b>	1080 x 1080	1:1	Standard for carousels. <sup>3</sup>
<b>Feed (Landscape)</b>	1080 x 566	1.91:1	Lowest screen occupancy. <sup>3</sup>
<b>Stories / Reels</b>	1080 x 1920	9:16	Safe zone: 1080x1420 (Center). <sup>8</sup>
<b>Story Safe Buffer</b>	Top/Bottom 250px	N/A	Keep clear of text/logos. <sup>11</sup>
<b>Reels Safe Buffer</b>	Top 14%, Btm 35%	N/A	Avoid side icons (6% margin). <sup>13</sup>

### 3. The Meta Ecosystem: Facebook Architecture and Specifications

While sharing a foundational infrastructure with Instagram, Facebook's rendering engine behaves with distinct variances, particularly regarding cross-platform scaling (desktop vs. mobile) and link previews. The platform is less "mobile-exclusive" and must accommodate desktop browser rendering, leading to more variable cropping behaviors and a wider array of asset types including Event and Group covers.

#### 3.1 Native Feed Posts and Cross-Device Rendering

Facebook's feed is remarkably flexible, supporting aspect ratios ranging from 1.91:1 to 4:5. However, the display behavior differs significantly between the mobile app and desktop web

views, creating a challenge for "universal" asset generation.

### 3.1.1 The "Shared Image" Dynamics

- **Square (1:1):** 1200 x 1200 pixels (or 1080x1080). This is the most consistent format, displaying identically on desktop and mobile feeds. It is the safest recommendation for general AI output.<sup>9</sup>
- **Vertical (4:5):** 1080 x 1350 pixels. On mobile, this format behaves like Instagram, occupying maximum vertical space. However, on desktop layouts, this may be "pillar-boxed" (black bars rendered on the sides) or masked to a 1:1 ratio depending on the viewer's screen resolution and browser width.<sup>15</sup>
- **Landscape (1.91:1):** 1200 x 630 pixels. This dimension aligns with the "Link Preview" standard and is optimal for wide-angle visuals, though it suffers from reduced visibility on mobile feeds.<sup>16</sup>

## 3.2 Link Previews (Open Graph Tags)

When a URL is shared on Facebook, the platform scrapes the og:image metadata tag to generate a preview card. This is a distinct asset class from a standard photo upload and requires specific dimensions to function correctly.

- **Dimensions:** 1200 x 630 pixels.<sup>14</sup>
- **Aspect Ratio:** 1.91:1.
- **The "Small Thumbnail" Failure Mode:** If the source image is smaller than **600 x 315 pixels**, Facebook's rendering engine will default to a small thumbnail displayed to the left of the text rather than a full-width image above the text. This significantly reduces Click-Through Rate (CTR).<sup>14</sup>
- **File Size:** The maximum file size for these assets is 8MB, significantly lower than the 30MB limit for direct uploads.<sup>14</sup>

## 3.3 Stories and Reels: The Unified Interface

Facebook Stories and Reels follow the same 1080 x 1920 pixel standard as Instagram, but the UI overlay is slightly more intrusive at the top due to the distinct blue branding, status bars,

and search interfaces.

- **Safe Zone Strategy:** While the Instagram safe zone (1080 x 1420 centered) is generally compatible, Facebook recommends a more conservative approach. A buffer of 250px at the top and bottom is the absolute minimum requirement.<sup>18</sup>
- **Text-Free Zones:** Facebook's algorithm actively scans for text in the top 14% and bottom 20% of the image. Placing text here not only risks occlusion but can also degrade algorithmic reach if the system detects it as "cluttered" or obstructing the UI.<sup>18</sup>
- **Video Duration:** Facebook Stories allow for up to 20 seconds of video content, whereas Instagram Stories have traditionally been sliced into 15-second or 60-second segments. AI video generation should target 1080 x 1920 pixels at 9:16 aspect ratio.<sup>18</sup>

### 3.4 Headers and Cover Photos: The Cropping Dilemma

Facebook cover photos represent a significant challenge for AI generation because they are cropped differently on desktop (wide and short) vs. mobile (narrower and taller). A single image must serve both viewports without losing critical information.

#### 3.4.1 Personal Profile and Business Page Covers

- **Desktop Display:** 820 x 312 pixels.
- **Mobile Display:** 640 x 360 pixels.
- **The Recommended Asset:** To accommodate both layouts without losing key information, the master asset should be created at **851 x 315 pixels** (or double for retina: 1702 x 630).<sup>4</sup>
- **The Safe Zone Strategy:** The "tall" parts of the mobile view will be cut off on desktop, and the "wide" parts of the desktop view will be cut off on mobile. Therefore, all critical text and logos must be centered within a **640 x 312 pixel** safe area in the exact middle of the canvas. AI systems must be instructed to keep the focal point central and use the periphery for background extension.<sup>18</sup>

#### 3.4.2 Event and Group Cover Photos

Distinct from profile covers, Events and Groups have their own dimensional logic due to the

different layout engines used for these pages.

- **Group Cover Photos:** 1640 x 856 pixels (Aspect Ratio 1.91:1). This format is wider and taller than a standard profile cover. AI generation for community headers must adhere to this specific resolution to avoid pixelation.<sup>4</sup>
- **Event Cover Photos:** 1920 x 1005 pixels (Aspect Ratio ~1.91:1). This high-resolution requirement ensures that event details remain crisp even when viewed on large desktop monitors.<sup>4</sup>
- **Visual Strategy:** Unlike personal covers where the profile picture often overlaps the bottom left corner, Group and Event covers generally have cleaner visibility, though the bottom-left overlap rule still applies on some mobile versions of the Event page.

### 3.5 Facebook Ad Specifications

Facebook's advertising ecosystem is vast, covering feeds, right columns, and marketplace placements.

- **Feed Ads:** 1080 x 1080 pixels (1:1) or 1080 x 1350 pixels (4:5).<sup>3</sup>
- **Right Column Ads:** 1200 x 1200 pixels (1:1), though often displayed much smaller (e.g., 254 x 133 pixels). These are desktop-only placements.<sup>3</sup>
- **Marketplace Ads:** 1200 x 1200 pixels (1:1) is recommended to blend with product listings.<sup>3</sup>
- **Search Results Ads:** 1080 x 1080 pixels (1:1) or 1200 x 628 pixels (1.91:1).<sup>3</sup>

### 3.6 Facebook Data Summary

Asset Type	Dimensions (px)	Aspect Ratio	Technical Notes
Profile Picture	176 x 176 (upload 320+)	1:1	Circular crop. <sup>9</sup>
Cover Photo (Page)	851 x 315	2.7:1	Mobile crop differs. <sup>4</sup>

<b>Cover Photo (Group)</b>	1640 x 856	1.91:1	Optimized for retina. <sup>4</sup>
<b>Cover Photo (Event)</b>	1920 x 1005	1.91:1	High res required. <sup>4</sup>
<b>Feed (Square)</b>	1080 x 1080	1:1	Safest cross-device format. <sup>15</sup>
<b>Feed (Portrait)</b>	1080 x 1350	4:5	Best for mobile feeds. <sup>14</sup>
<b>Link Preview</b>	1200 x 630	1.91:1	Standard Open Graph size. <sup>14</sup>
<b>Stories / Reels</b>	1080 x 1920	9:16	Text-free top/bottom 14%. <sup>18</sup>

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## 4. The Professional Ecosystem: LinkedIn Architecture and Specifications

LinkedIn's visual standards have shifted significantly in 2025, embracing vertical content similar to Meta's platforms. However, its legacy as a document-sharing and professional networking platform introduces unique formats—specifically PDF Carousels and specialized Company Page imagery—that function differently from standard social media assets. The aesthetic requirement here is "professional clarity," necessitating high-resolution inputs and strict adherence to non-standard aspect ratios.

### 4.1 Organic Feed Imagery and the Vertical Shift

#### 4.1.1 The Vertical Standard (4:5)

LinkedIn now fully supports the 4:5 aspect ratio for organic mobile posts, reflecting the "TikTok-ification" of professional feeds. This is a critical update for B2B content strategies, as it allows for more information density in a single frame compared to the traditional landscape format.

- **Dimensions:** 1080 x 1350 pixels.<sup>2</sup>
- **Desktop vs. Mobile Variance:** On mobile, the 4:5 image fills the screen effectively. On desktop, however, LinkedIn's rendering engine may apply "pillar boxing" (black bars) to the sides of a 4:5 image to fit it into a fixed-height container, or it may simply scale it. Some analysis suggests that 1:1 (Square) remains the safest compromise for guaranteeing desktop clarity without background fill, while 4:5 is the aggressive choice for mobile optimization.<sup>22</sup>

#### 4.1.2 The Landscape Standard (1.91:1)

This remains the default for link shares and generic corporate updates, particularly for external articles.

- **Dimensions:** 1200 x 627 pixels.<sup>21</sup>
- **Usage:** This format is identical to the Facebook Link Preview size, allowing for asset reusability between platforms.

### 4.2 The PDF Carousel (Document Post)

Unlike Instagram, where a carousel is a series of individual image files, LinkedIn's high-performing "Carousel" posts are technically **Document** uploads. The platform renders each page of a PDF as a swipeable slide. This format consistently outperforms static images in organic reach algorithms.

- **Dimensions:** 1080 x 1080 pixels (Square) OR 1080 x 1350 pixels (Portrait).<sup>23</sup>
- **File Type:** PDF is the preferred format, though DOC/PPT are supported. The PDF format locks in formatting and font rendering.<sup>25</sup>
- **File Size Limits:** The document must be under 100MB and contain fewer than 300 pages. However, engagement data suggests that 5-10 slides is the optimal length for user retention.<sup>25</sup>
- **AI Workflow:** When generating assets for a LinkedIn carousel, the AI should not output a "gallery." It should output individual pages (e.g., Slide 1, Slide 2) at 1080 x 1350 resolution. These assets must then be compiled into a single multi-page PDF file before upload. This

distinction is critical; uploading them as separate images results in a grid gallery, not a swipeable carousel.

## 4.3 Company Page vs. Personal Profile Imagery

Assets for Company Pages have slightly different specifications and cropping rules than personal profiles, reflecting the need for corporate branding real estate.

### 4.3.1 Profile and Banner Images

- **Personal Profile Photo:** 400 x 400 pixels. Like other platforms, this is circular cropped.<sup>2</sup>
- **Personal Background Banner:** 1584 x 396 pixels (Aspect Ratio 4:1).<sup>17</sup> The profile picture overlaps the bottom-left section of this banner on desktop, and centered-left on mobile.
- **Company Page Cover:** 1128 x 191 pixels.<sup>4</sup>
  - **Analysis:** The Company Page cover is extremely short and wide (Ratio ~5.9:1). This creates a significant design challenge. AI generation must focus on texture, abstract patterns, or branding colors. Any detailed subject matter or text will likely be indiscernible or awkwardly cropped due to the extreme aspect ratio. Text should be avoided in Company Banners due to the overlay of the logo and responsive resizing.

### 4.3.2 "Life" Tab and Career Pages

For companies with "Career" pages (Life Tabs), LinkedIn offers specialized modules for employer branding.

- **Main Image:** 1128 x 376 pixels.<sup>9</sup>
- **Company Photos:** 900 x 600 pixels.<sup>9</sup>
- **Custom Modules:** 502 x 282 pixels.<sup>9</sup>
- **Implication:** These diverse sizes require a modular approach to asset generation, ensuring that corporate visual identity is maintained across various rectangular formats.

## 4.4 LinkedIn Ad Specifications

LinkedIn's advertising products are strictly defined to ensure professional consistency.

- **Sponsored Content (Single Image):** 1200 x 627 pixels (1.91:1).
- **Carousel Ads:** 1080 x 1080 pixels (1:1). Note that unlike organic document posts, paid carousel ads often utilize square images.<sup>28</sup>
- **Video Ads:** Landscape (16:9), Square (1:1), or Vertical (9:16) are supported. Vertical video is increasingly preferred for mobile feed delivery.<sup>29</sup>

## 4.5 LinkedIn Data Summary

Asset Type	Dimensions (px)	Aspect Ratio	Technical Notes
<b>Profile Photo</b>	400 x 400	1:1	Professional headshot focus. <sup>2</sup>
<b>Personal Banner</b>	1584 x 396	4:1	Watch for profile pic overlap. <sup>27</sup>
<b>Company Cover</b>	1128 x 191	5.9:1	Extremely wide/short. <sup>9</sup>
<b>Feed (Portrait)</b>	1080 x 1350	4:5	Mobile optimized. <sup>15</sup>
<b>Feed (Square)</b>	1200 x 1200	1:1	Best cross-device. <sup>30</sup>
<b>Feed (Link)</b>	1200 x 627	1.91:1	Standard link preview. <sup>21</sup>
<b>Carousel (PDF)</b>	1080 x 1350 (Slide)	4:5	Upload as Document. <sup>24</sup>
<b>Life Tab Main</b>	1128 x 376	3:1	Recruitment branding. <sup>9</sup>

## 5. Advanced Technical Implementation for AI Systems

To effectively feed specifications to a social media AI or an automated content pipeline, one must move beyond simple pixel dimensions. The analysis must address resolution density (PPI), file format compatibility, compression artifacts, and the mechanics of upscaling for generative models.

### 5.1 Resolution and Pixel Density (DPI/PPI)

A persistent misconception in digital imaging is the relevance of DPI (Dots Per Inch) for screen-based media. DPI is a print metric. For social media, the critical metric is **total pixel count**.

- **The 72 PPI Myth:** While 72 PPI is the legacy default for screens, modern Retina, OLED, and HiDPI displays on smartphones have pixel densities of 300 PPI or higher. However, social platforms generally ignore the PPI metadata tag; they render based on the absolute pixel width and height.<sup>31</sup>
- **Upscaling Recommendation:** Generative AI models (e.g., Midjourney v5/v6, DALL-E 3) typically output native resolutions around 1024 x 1024 pixels. While this fits a 1080p container loosely, it lacks the pixel density required for sharp rendering on high-end mobile displays. To ensure crispness and "future-proof" the asset against platform compression, uploading assets at **2x resolution** is recommended.
  - **Example:** Instead of uploading a 1080 x 1080 image, upscale to **2160 x 2160**. The platform will downsample it, but the source data will be richer, resulting in a sharper final render.<sup>14</sup>
- **Midjourney Upscalers:** Midjourney's native upscalers (2x and 4x) introduced in v5.2 allow for this exact workflow. An initial 1024 x 1024 generation can be upscaled to 2048 x 2048 (2x) or 4096 x 4096 (4x), ensuring the asset exceeds the minimum requirements of all platforms.<sup>32</sup>

### 5.2 File Formats: The WebP vs. PNG/JPG Debate

Platform support for file formats is nuanced, particularly regarding the modern, high-efficiency WebP format.

- **JPG (Joint Photographic Experts Group):**
  - **Use Case:** Recommended for photographs, gradients, and complex AI-generated art.
  - **Pros:** Small file size, universal compatibility.
  - **Cons:** "Lossy" compression. Repeated saving or platform re-compression can introduce blocky artifacts.<sup>2</sup>
- **PNG (Portable Network Graphics):**
  - **Use Case:** Mandatory for images containing text, logos, or flat blocks of color (e.g., infographics).
  - **Pros:** "Lossless" compression. Text remains crisp and edges do not blur.
  - **Cons:** Larger file sizes. Facebook limits PNG uploads to 1MB in some contexts before converting them to JPG, unless they are small dimensions.<sup>33</sup>
- **WebP:**
  - **Status:** WebP offers superior compression and quality compared to JPG. However, direct upload support is inconsistent. While Canva and Facebook support WebP uploads<sup>34</sup>, many third-party scheduling tools and legacy interfaces on LinkedIn may reject the file type.
  - **Recommendation:** For maximum compatibility across all scheduling tools and direct uploads, **PNG** (for text) and **High-Quality JPG** (for photos) remain the safest protocols for AI output for 2025.<sup>4</sup>

### 5.3 AI Generation Workflow Specs (Prompt Engineering)

When prompting AI for social assets, specific aspect ratio parameters must be passed at the *generation* stage. Cropping a square generation to a vertical format results in a loss of resolution and often cuts off the subject.

- **Instagram/Facebook Stories:** Prompt --ar 9:16. Native generation at this ratio utilizes the model's latent space to create vertical compositions, preventing the need to zoom and crop.
- **Feed Posts:** Prompt --ar 4:5. This is superior to the default 1:1 as it generates more vertical detail and fits the 2025 mobile standard.
- **LinkedIn Link Images:** Prompt --ar 1.91:1 (or --ar 2:1 for simplicity) to match the link preview card slot.
- **Safe Zone In-Painting:** If an AI tool supports "outpainting" (expanding an image), it can be used to convert a square image into a 9:16 Story by adding AI-generated background to the top and bottom, keeping the subject safely centered in the "Safe Zone".<sup>32</sup>

## 5.4 Video Specs for AI Generation

As AI video generation (e.g., Sora, Runway Gen-2) becomes viable for social media, specific constraints apply:

- **Format:** MP4 or MOV container with H.264 compression.
  - **Frame Rate:** 30fps is standard; 60fps is supported but compressed heavily.
  - **Bitrate:** Target 3-5 Mbps for 1080p video to balance quality and upload speed.
  - **Duration:**
    - **Instagram Reels:** Up to 15 minutes, but 90 seconds is the standard.
    - **Facebook Reels:** Up to 90 seconds.<sup>2</sup>
    - **LinkedIn Video:** 3 seconds to 30 minutes.<sup>23</sup>
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## 6. Conclusion and Strategic Synthesis

The visual architecture of social media in 2025 demands a rigorous adherence to technical specifications. For an AI system designed to automate the creation and deployment of social media assets, the following logic gates and optimization protocols must be encoded:

1. **The Vertical Imperative:** Default to **4:5 (1080 x 1350)** for all feed posts across Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn. This format offers the highest Return on Investment (ROI) regarding screen real estate and user attention.
2. **Safe Zone Enforcement:** For 9:16 content (Stories/Reels), a central "safe box" of **1080 x 1420 pixels** must be strictly respected. All semantic elements (text, logos, faces) must be coordinate-mapped to fall within this region to prevent UI occlusion.
3. **Asset Differentiation:** The AI must distinguish between an image intended to *be* the post (4:5) and an image intended to *preview* a link (1.91:1). These are mutually exclusive formats with different dimensional requirements.
4. **Resolution Scaling:** Native AI outputs (typically ~1024px) should be upscaled by a factor of **2x** (to ~2048px) before upload to maintain fidelity on HiDPI mobile screens.
5. **Format Logic:** Use **PNG** for any asset containing text overlays to prevent compression artifacts. Use **JPG** for pure photographic generation. Avoid WebP for direct API uploads unless specific compatibility is verified.

By strictly adhering to these dimensional, compositional, and file-based constraints, automated systems can produce assets that are not only technically compatible but algorithmically optimized for visibility, engagement, and professional presentation in the 2025 digital ecosystem.