Multimedia Slideshow Authoring Tool

-User-Manual-

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION **1**

LOGIN AND REGISTRATION **1**
- Register a new account 1
- Login with an existing account 3
- Recover a lost password 4

CREATING A SLIDESHOW **5**
- Creating a new project 5
- Opening an existing project 6
- Overview of the main interface 7
- Adding the audio track 8
- Adding images to your slideshow 9
- Deleting images from the slideshow 11
- Changing the order of slides 12
- Adjusting timings 13
- Adjusting slide properties – defining captions, transitions 15
- Adjusting Picture Motion – Ken Burns Effect 17
- Playing the slideshow and navigation 20
- Previewing a slideshow 21

DEPLOYING A SLIDESHOW **22**
- Exporting a slideshow as video 22
- Export as website 24
- Export as ZIP 25

ADVANCED TOPICS **26**
- Managing and sharing projects 26
- Renaming a project 27
- Deleting a project 28
- Copying a project 28
- Sharing a project 29
- Adjusting default preferences 31
- Automatic redistribution of slides 32
- ILIAS Integration 33
  - *Integrate into ILIAS as video 33*
  - *Integrate the Flash Slideshow Player into a SCORM Learning Module 35*
- Deployment options – overview and available features 38
- Software requirements for the authoring tool 38

Introduction

The “Multimedia Slideshow Authoring Tool” is the best way to produce multimedia slideshows right inside your web-browser. The tool is easy to use and yet powerful.

Some of the highlights include:

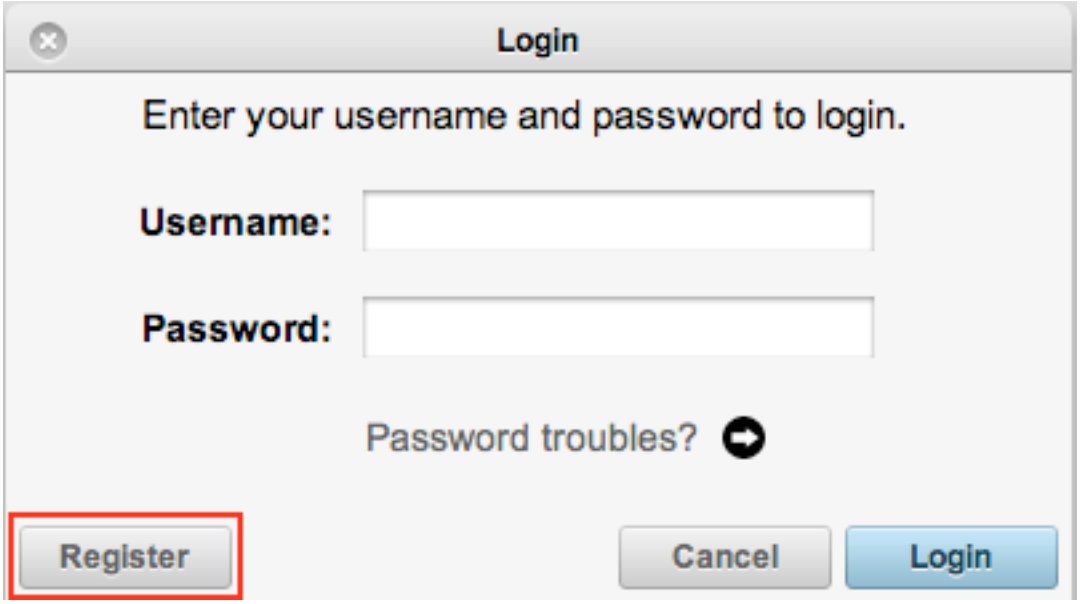
- No software installation required – works right inside your web-browser
- Drag & drop oriented user-interface
- Designed for high security environments (no Flash plugin required providing a modern web-browser is used)
- Deploy your slideshow in Flash, HTML 5 or as video
- Ken-Burns-Effect – makes your photos/images look like a movie

Login and Registration

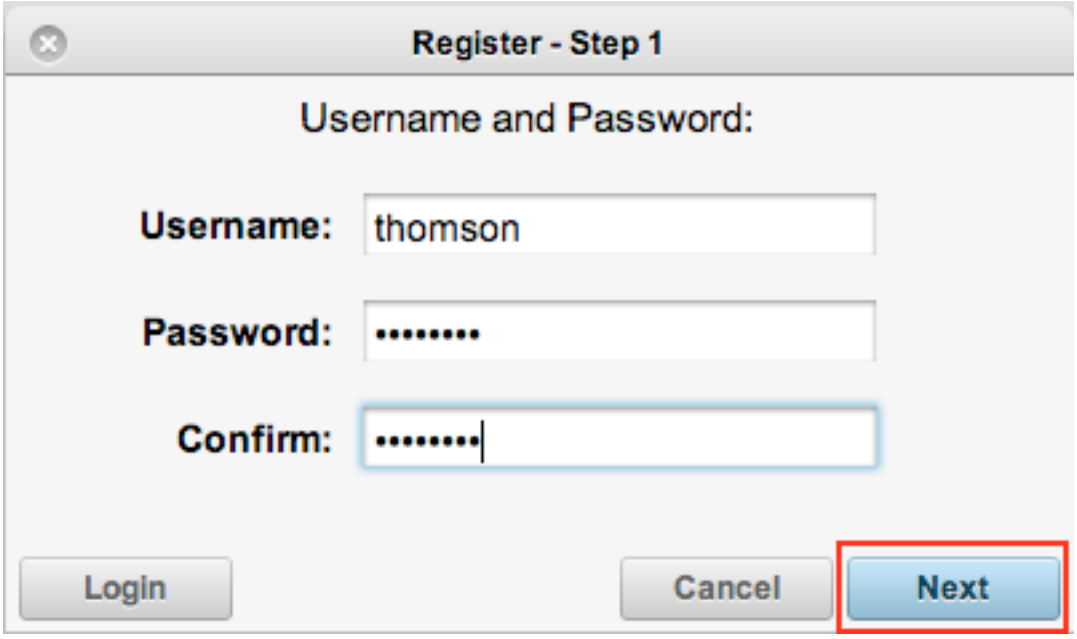
To start using the “Multimedia Slideshow Authoring Tool” you need to log in with an existing user account or register a new account.

Register a new account

To register a new account, please open the URL for the „Multimedia Slideshow Authoring Tool” in your web-browser. When the application has finished loading, the following screen is presented:

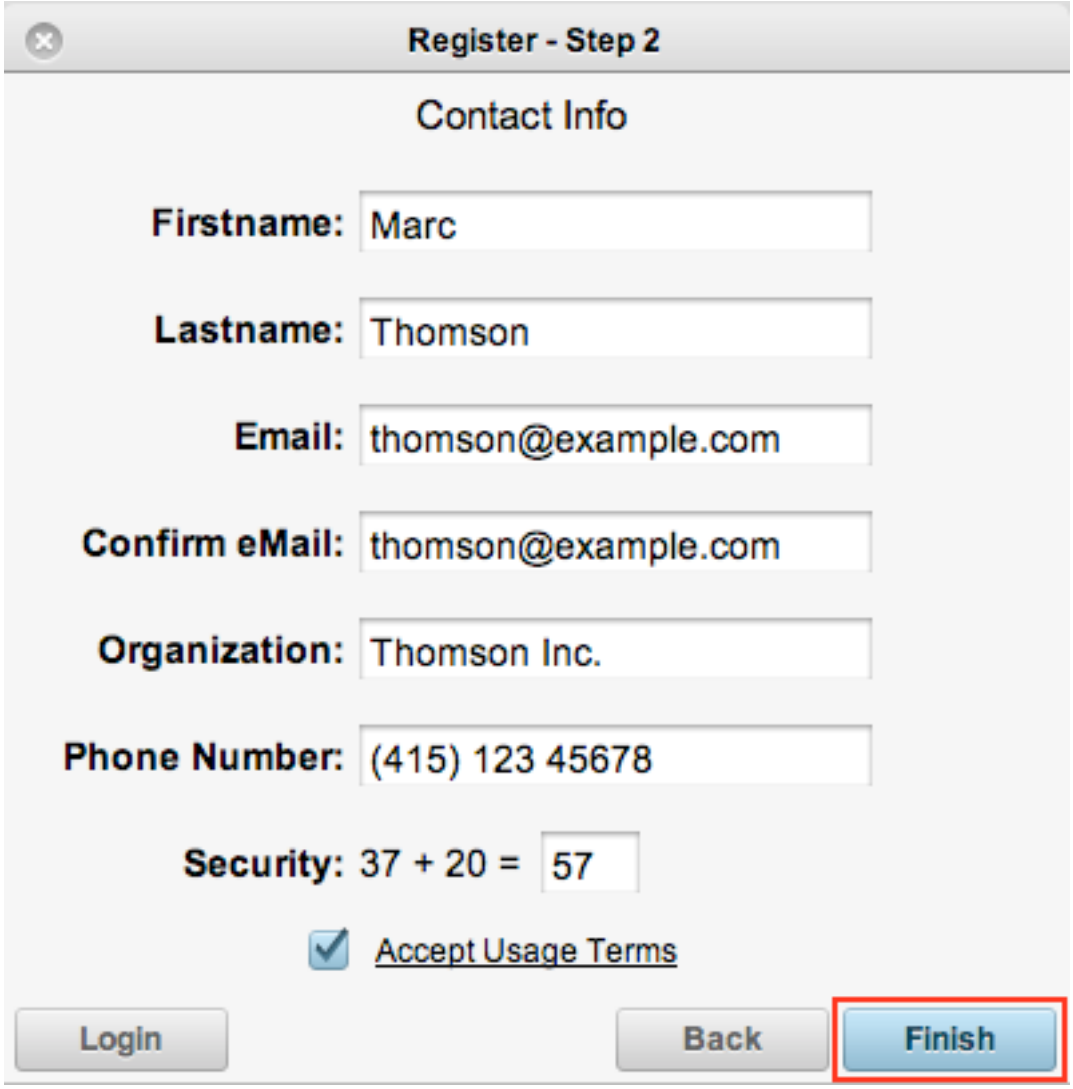


To register a new account, press the “Register” button.



Choose a username and password, confirm the password and then press the “Next” button.

Now fill in the “Contact Information Screen”.

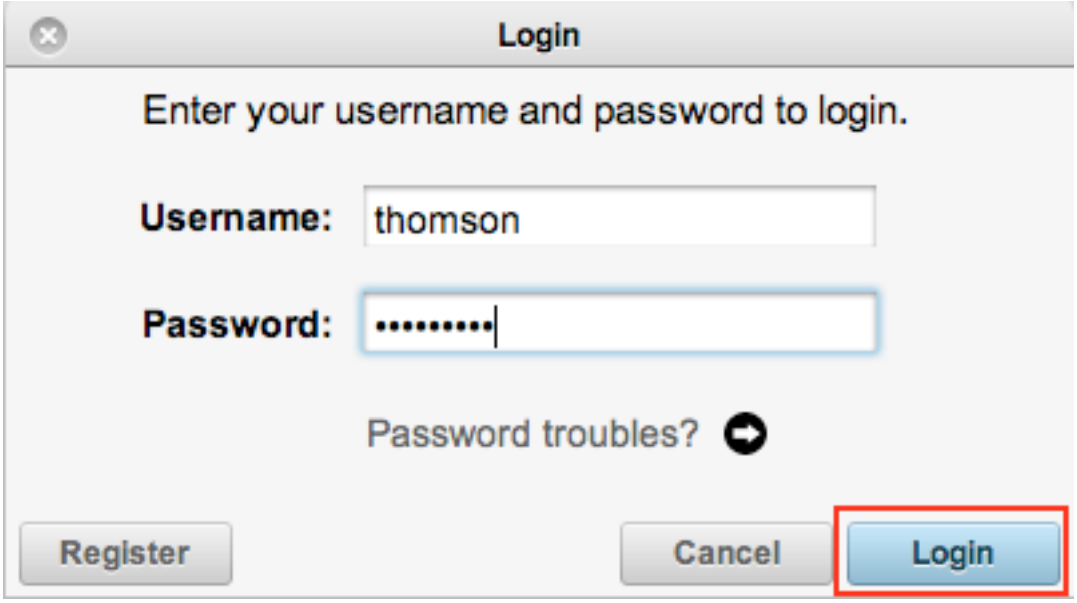


It's important that you provide a valid eMail address, answer the security question correctly and accept the usage terms. Press the "Finish" button to create the user account.

You can now start using the "Multimedia Slideshow Authoring Tool".

Login with an existing account

To login with an existing account, please open the URL for the „Multimedia Slideshow Authoring Tool" in your web-browser. When the application has finished loading, the following screen is presented:



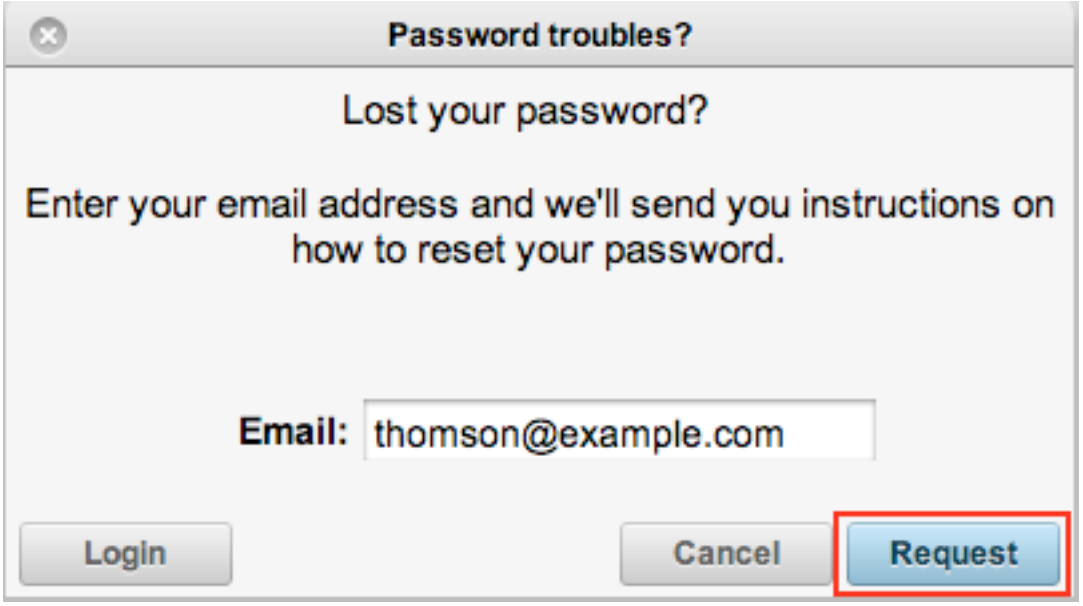
Please provide your username and password and then click the “Login” button.

You can now start using the “Multimedia Slideshow Authoring Tool”.

Recover a lost password

To recover a lost password, please open the URL for the „Multimedia Slideshow Authoring Tool” in your web-browser. When the application has finished loading, the following screen is presented:

Now click on “Password troubles?”. The following screen is presented:



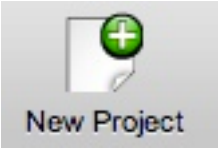
Please provide the eMail address that your user-account is registered to. Then click the “Request” button. An eMmail with instructions on how to reset your password will be sent to you.

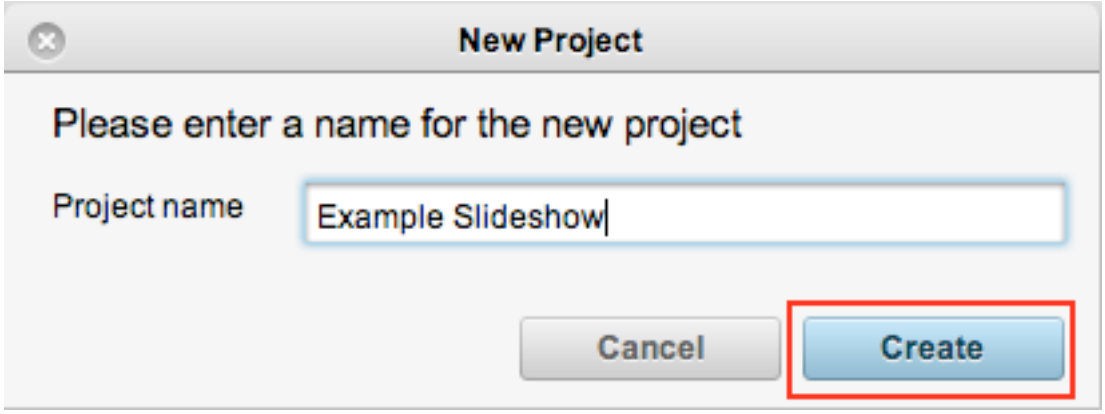
Creating a slideshow

This chapter describes the basic steps to create a slideshow.

Creating a new project

After logging into the “Multimedia Slideshow Authoring Tool“ you can directly create a new project. If you have not yet created any projects, the „Create new project“ dialog is immediately presented to you. If you have already created projects, you need to click on the “New Project” button in the toolbar.

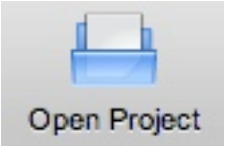




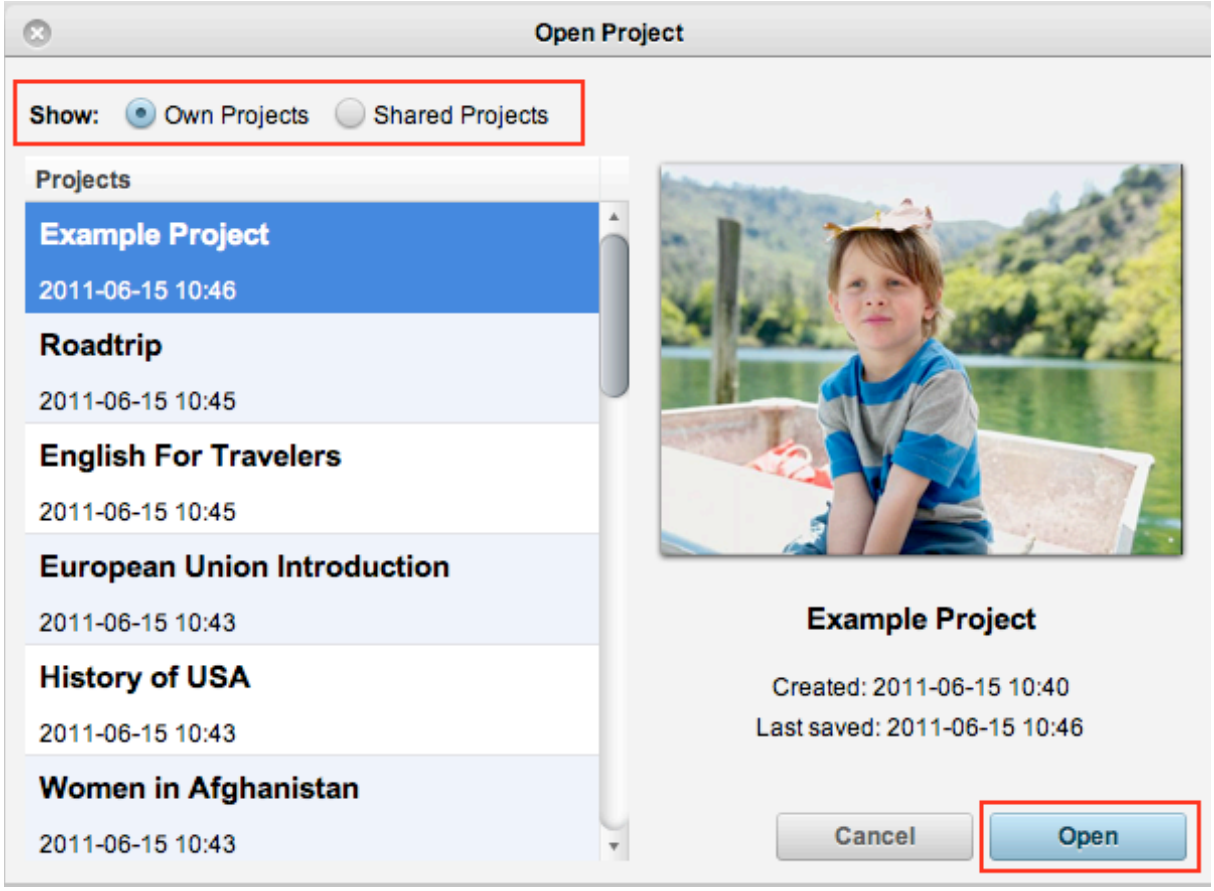
After providing a project name, press the “Create” button to finish creating the project.

Opening an existing project

If you want to work on an existing project created by yourself or others, click the “Open Project” button in the toolbar.



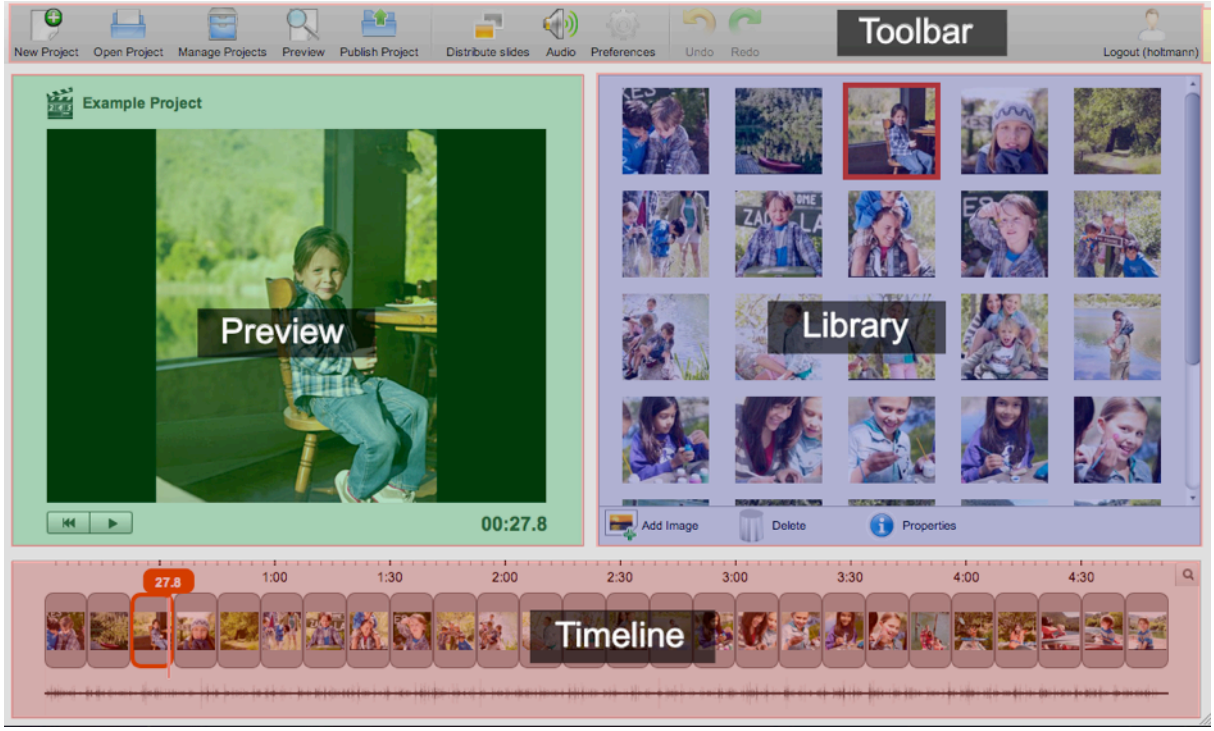
The “Open Project“ dialog is now presented to you. If you have already created projects, the “Open Project” dialog is also presented after each login.



By selecting the “Own projects” option, all projects created by you are listed. To list projects that others share with you, select the “Shared projects” option. Highlight the project you want to open and then click on the “Open” button.

Overview of the main interface

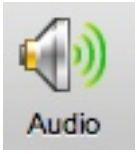
After you have created a new project, you are presented with the main interface of the “Multimedia Slideshow Authoring Tool”. The following graphic gives you an overview of the different sections of the main interface with their names. These naming conventions will be used throughout the entire manual.



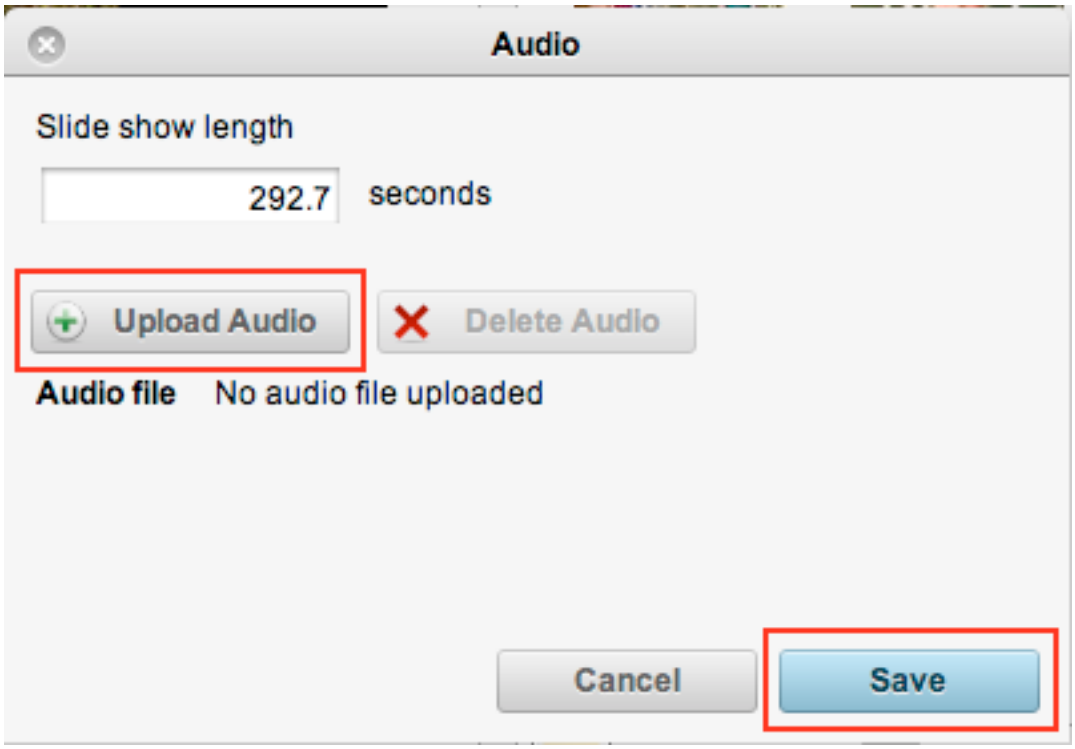
Adding the audio track

If you want to produce a slideshow with audio, it is recommended that you add the audio track as the first step. For producing the audio track you need to use an external tool (like Audacity, Adobe Audition etc.). In the external tool export the audio track as a MP3 file (16 Bit, 44,1kHz sampling frequency, mono or stereo). For good quality it is recommended that you use a bit rate of at least 96Kbit/sec or higher.

To insert the audio track, click the “Audio” button in the top toolbar.



The “Audio” dialog is then presented.



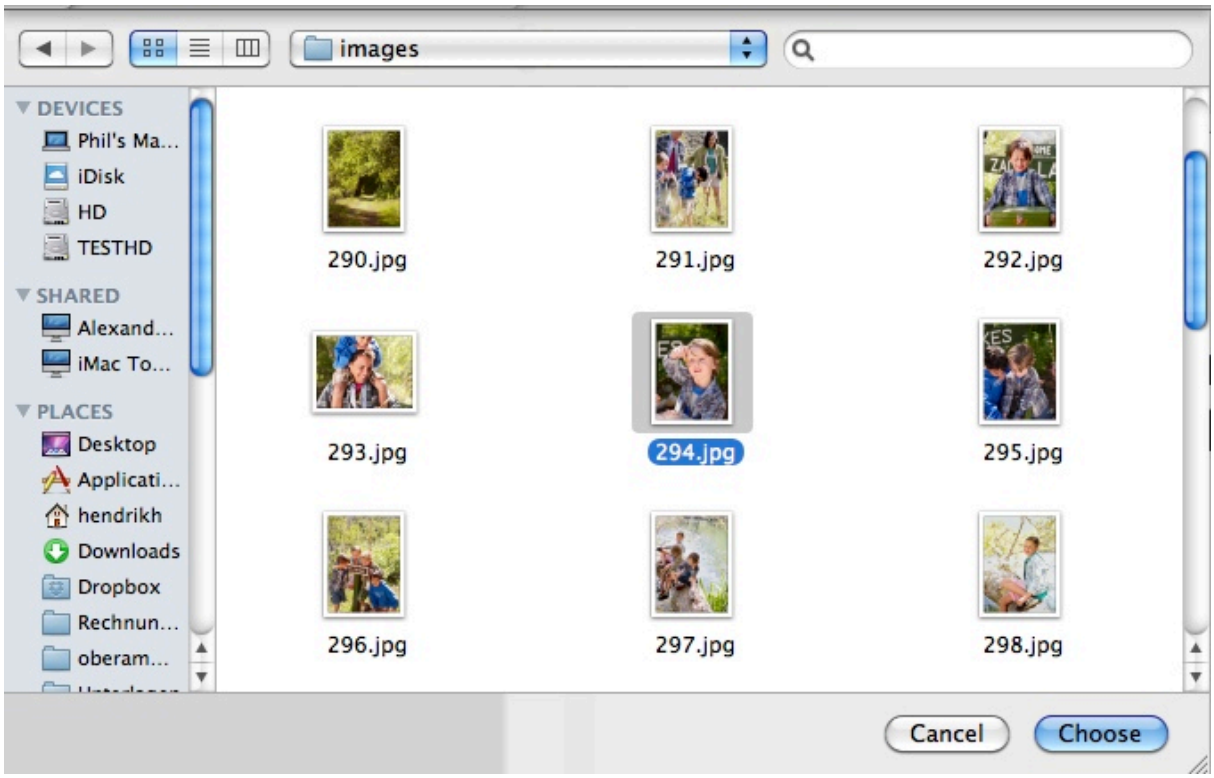
Click the “Upload Audio” button and then select the appropriate “Audio” file from your hard-disk. When you have finished, click the “Save” button.

Hint: You can replace your audio track at any time. Please note that the length of the audio also determines the length of your slideshow. If you upload a shorter audio clip then the existing one, you might need to change the timing of some slides. While you can adjust the slide-show length without limitations, the slideshow will stop playing, if the end of the audio track has been reached. It’s therefore highly recommended that the slideshow length exactly matches the length of the audio file for deploying your slideshow.

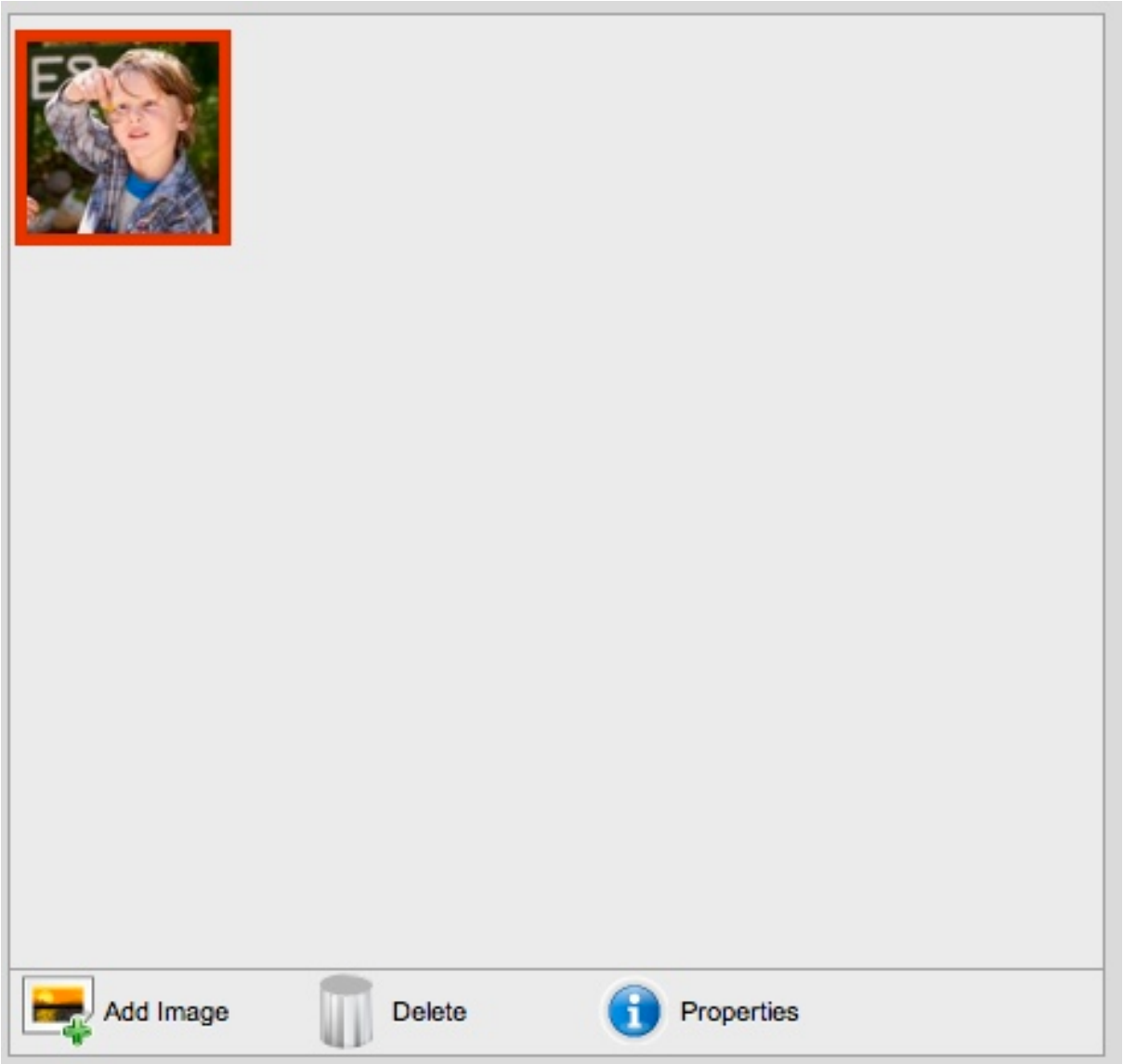
Adding images to your slideshow

To add images to your slideshow, click the “Add Image” button in the “Library” section of the main screen.

Then select the appropriate image from your hard-disk.



When the upload is completed, the image is displayed in the library section of the main screen and added to the timeline.

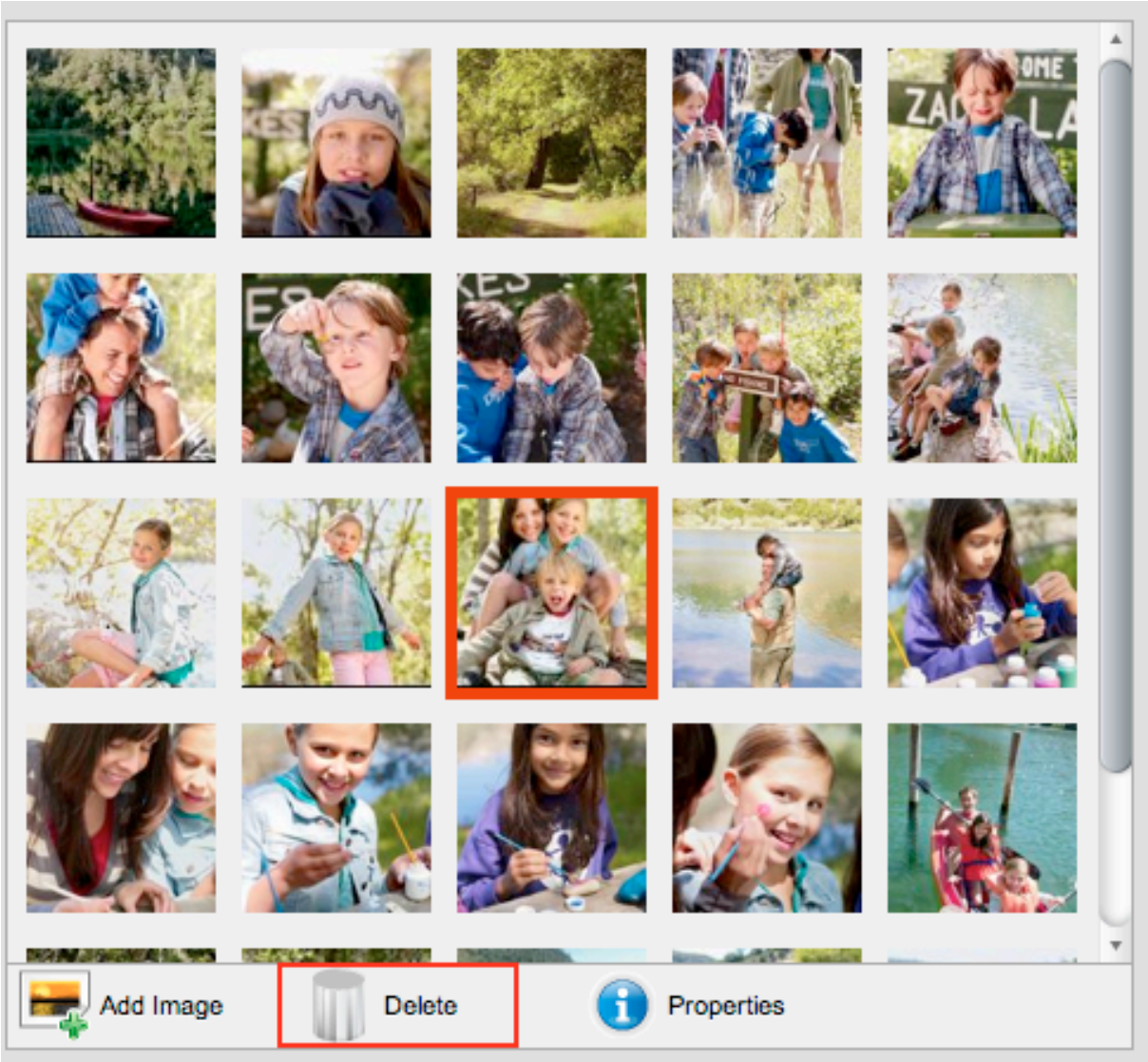


Hint: To upload multiple images at once, you can compress the images you want to upload into a ZIP file and then upload the ZIP file.

In modern browsers you can also select multiple files for upload by either holding the CMD (Apple) or STRG (PC) – Key.

Deleting images from the slideshow

In the “Library” section select the image you want to delete. The selected image displays a red border.



Now click the “Delete” icon. The selected image is then instantly deleted.

Changing the order of slides

To change the order of slides, select the image you want to move in the “Library” section.

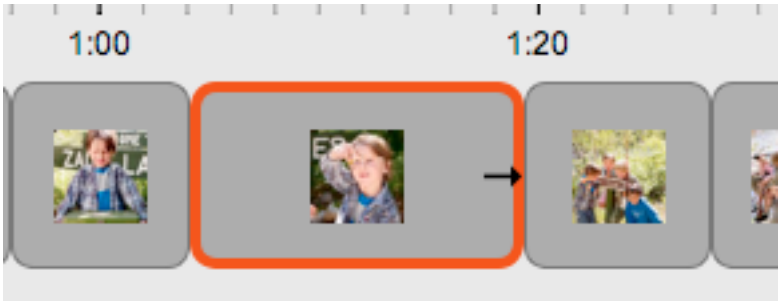
Then press the left mouse button and hold it and move the image to the desired position. Red bars displayed between the images indicate valid insertion points. When you release the mouse button, the image is moved to its new position.

In the example above the 3rd image from the 2nd row has been moved to its new position after the first image in the first row.

Adjusting timings

Timings can be adjusted inside the timeline. To adjust the timing of a slide, first select the appropriate slide in the timeline by clicking on it. A red border indicates the selection.

Now move the mouse to the right or left border of the selected image in the timeline until a resize cursor is displayed.

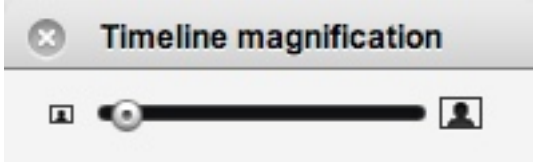


Now drag and drop to the right or left direction. The new slide length is displayed above the slide thumbnail.

Once you are happy with the new slide length, release the mouse button.

Hint: If you need more precision when adjusting timings you can zoom in / zoom out of the timeline. To zoom in the timeline, click on the "magnifying glass" icon in the timeline.

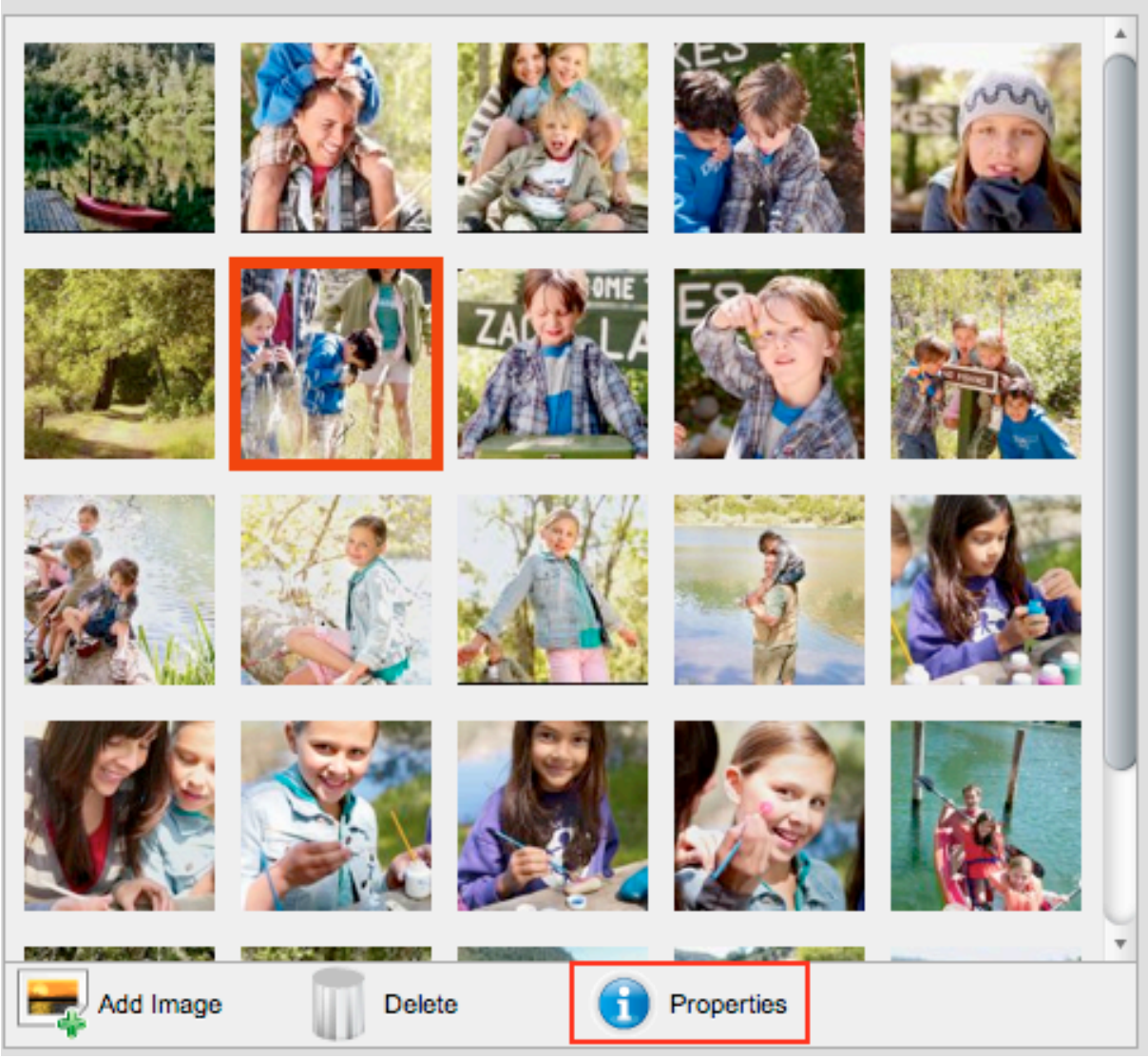
The "Timeline Magnification Window" appears.



Drag the slider to the right to zoom in and to the left to zoom out.

Adjusting slide properties – defining captions, transitions

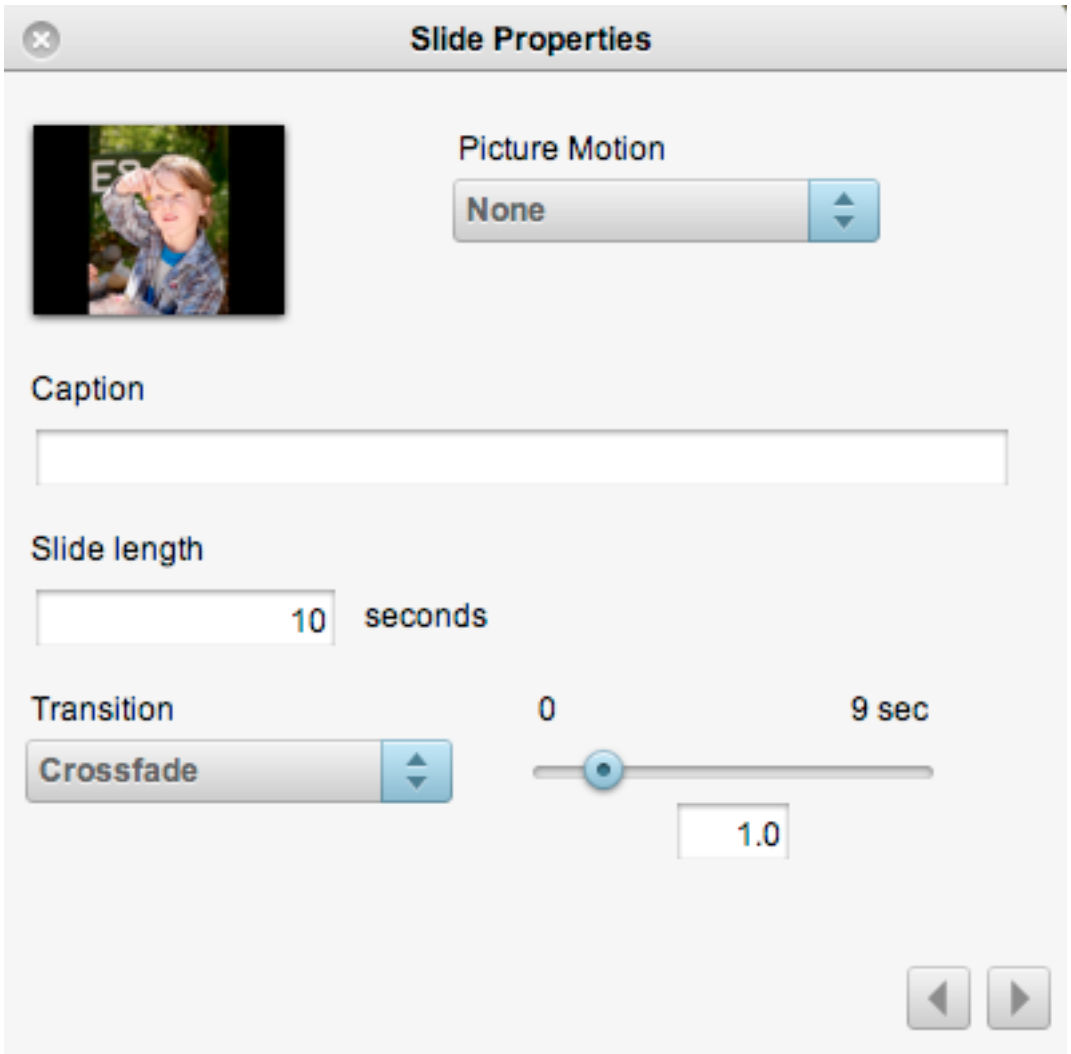
The properties of a slide can be accessed from the “Library” section, as well as from the timeline. To access the slide properties from the “Library” section, first select the slide you want to change the properties of and then click on the “Properties” button.



To access the properties of a slide in the timeline, select the appropriate slide in the timeline and hover over the slide until a wheel icon is displayed.

Click on the wheel-icon to open the slide properties.

Hint: If the wheel icon is not appearing, you need to zoom in the timeline as described in the "Adjust timings" chapter.



Note: The "Picture Motions" option is described in depth in the next chapter.

You can adjust a variety of options in the "Slide Properties". All changes you make in the Slide Properties Window are instantly saved.

Caption: To define a caption just enter the caption text. The caption is then displayed over the slide.

Slide length: In addition to adjusting the slide timings in the timeline you can also set the slide length in the "Slide Properties" window by just entering the desired value in seconds.

Transitions: You can choose from three different transitions:

- Fade: The "Fade" transition fades the current slide to black and then fades in the next side
- Crossfade : The "Crossfade" transition fades out the current slide

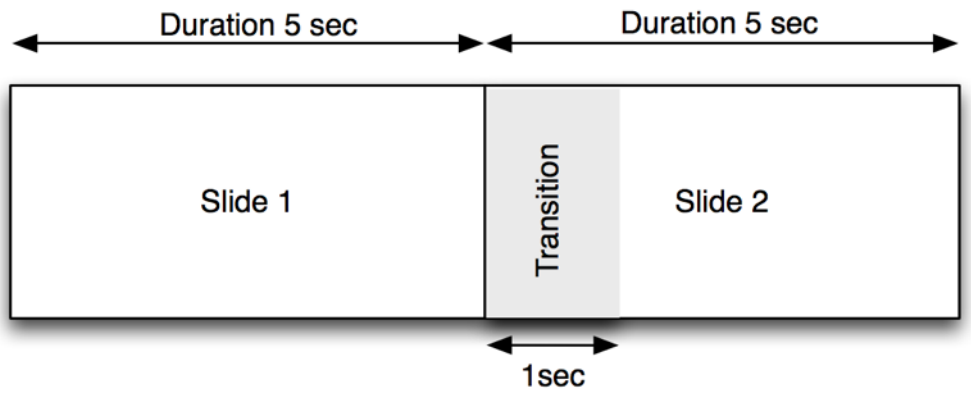
- Straight-cut: The “Straight-cut” transition moves the current slide to the left, whilst the next slide appears from the right.

Transitions are applied at the beginning of the next slide. You can adjust the duration of the transition by dragging the slider or entering a value in seconds below the slider.

Hint: You can keep the “Side Properties“ window open and just select a different slide in the timeline or “Library” section and then instantly edit its properties.

The following example illustrates how transitions occur at the beginning of the next slide:

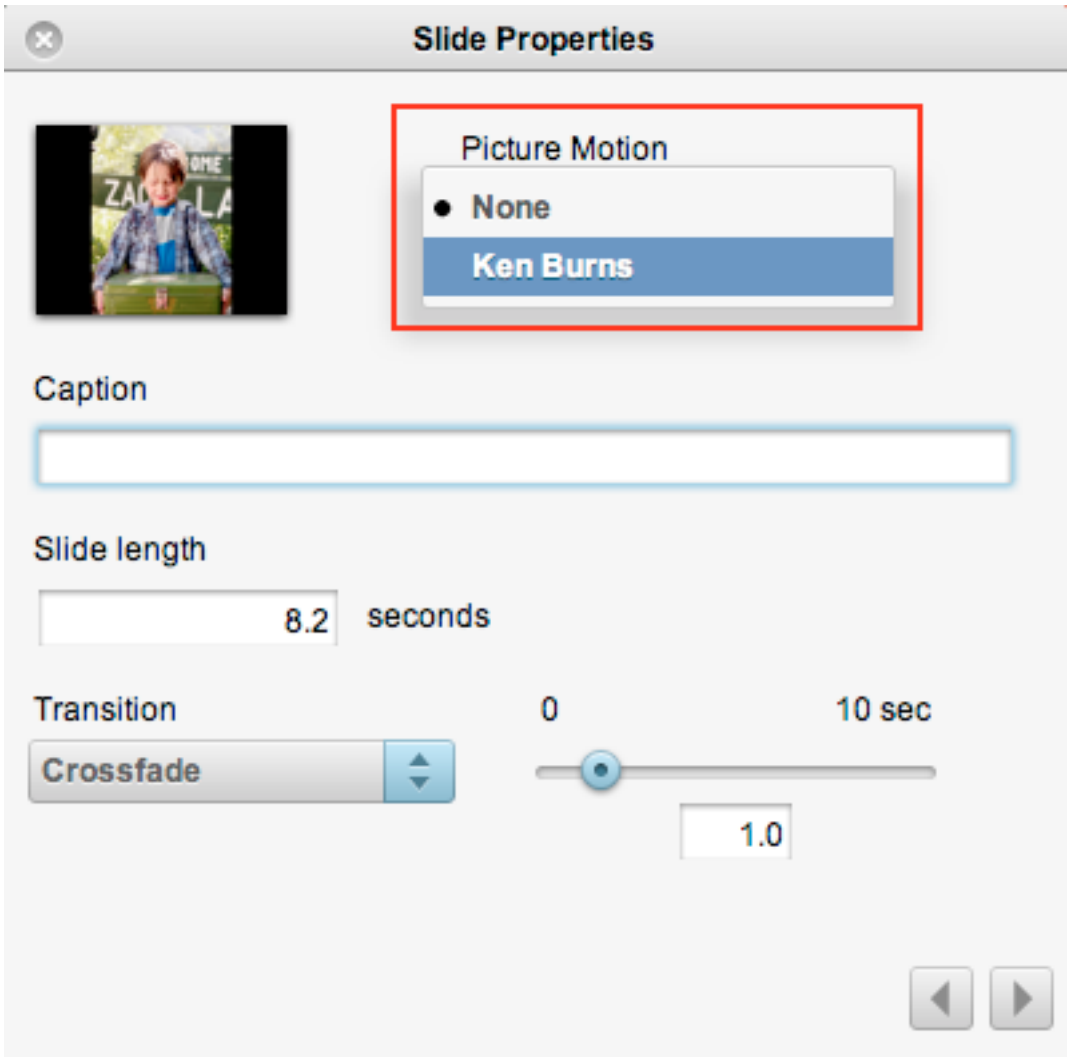
Example: Slide 1 has assigned a "Crossfade Transition" with duration 1 second



Note: The transition always occurs at the beginning of the next slide!

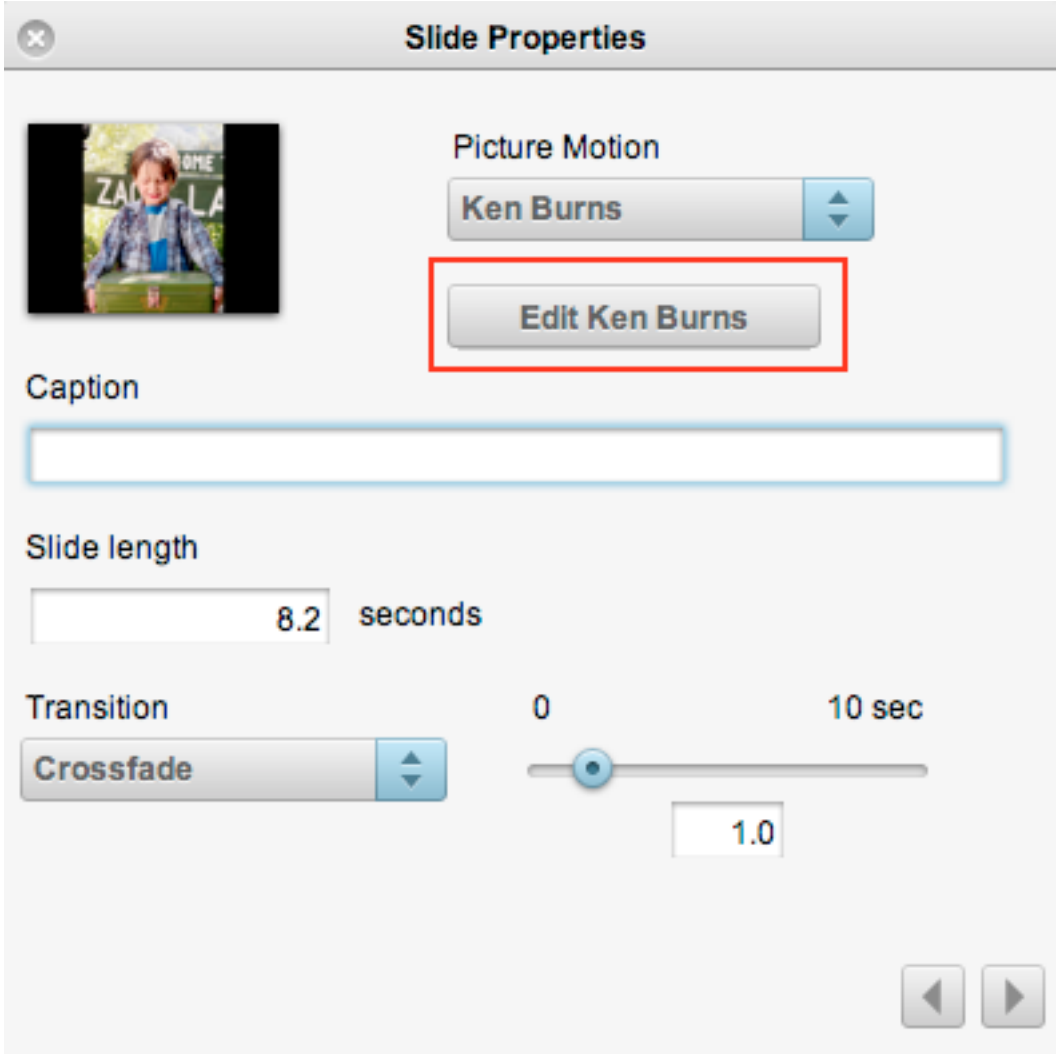
Adjusting Picture Motion – Ken Burns Effect

To add a motion effect to a slide, first open the “Slide Properties” window as described in the “Adjusting slide properties” window.



In the “Picture Motion” dropdown menu select the “Ken-Burns” option. This already applies a random “Ken-Burns” movement to the selected slide.

To change the origin and endpoint of the movement, click the “Edit Ken Burns” button.



In the “Preview” section the Ken-Burns Editor is displayed.

The green start rectangle indicates the area that will be displayed at the beginning of the slide; the red rectangle indicates the area that is displayed at the end of the slide. The yellow area indicates the movement that is processed during the slide display. You can change both the position and the size of the green and red rectangle using the mouse.

To change the position of a rectangle, first click inside the rectangle you want to change to bring it to the foreground. Then hold the left mouse button and move the mouse to the desired position.

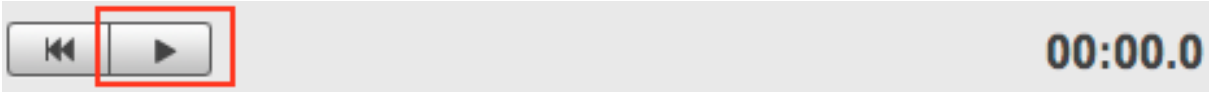
To change the size of a rectangle, move to the border of a rectangle until the resize cursor appears. Then hold the left mouse button and move the mouse to resize.

When you have finished adjusting the rectangles, press the “Done” button to save the changes.

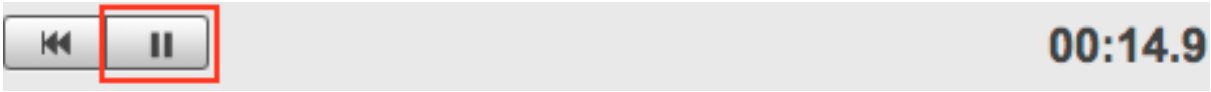
Hint: If you want to turn off the “Ken-Burns-Movement” for a slide again, just select “None” for “Picture Motion” in the “Slide Properties” window. You can reactivate the “Ken-Burns” any time later, and the settings are remembered.

Playing the slideshow and navigation

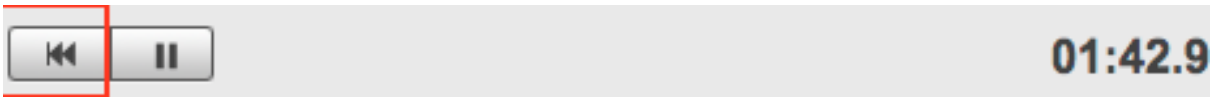
To play the slideshow inside the authoring tool, press the “Play” button below the “Preview” section.



While the slideshow is playing, the “Play” button” changes into a “Pause” button”. Click it to pause playing the slideshow.



To revert to the beginning of the slide show, click the button outlined below.

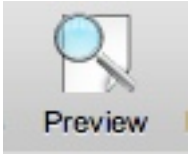


You can also navigate to a certain position by just dragging the red indicator in the timeline to any desired position.

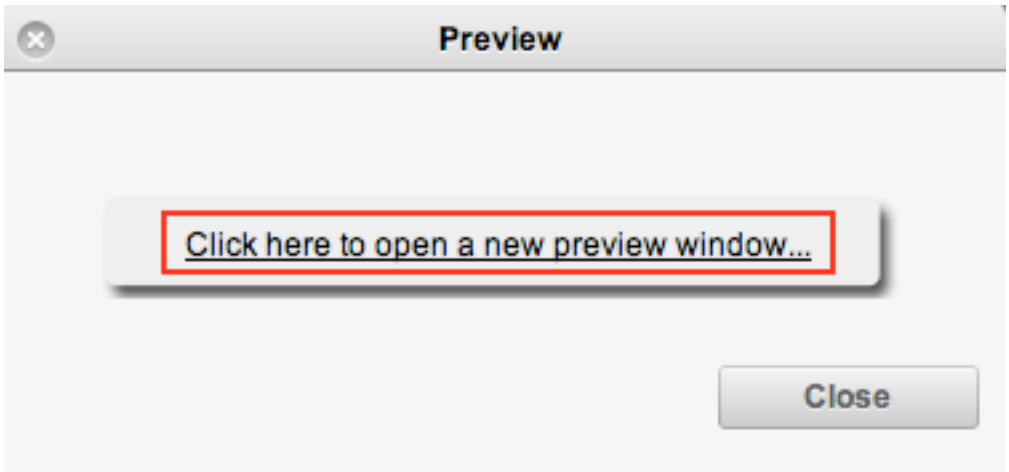
Previewing a slideshow

Though you can play and preview the slideshow in the authoring tool, there is also a dedicated “Preview” option. This method of Preview displays the slideshow exactly as it will be displayed to the end-user. It also provides better performance and more navigation options.

To preview the slideshow click the “Preview” icon in the “Toolbar” section.



A window is displayed indicating the progress of the preview generation. When the generation has finished, click on the link to open the preview.



When clicking the link, a new window with the slideshow preview opens.

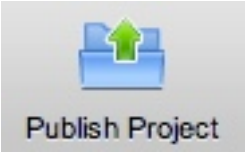
Deploying a slideshow

The “Multimedia Slideshow Authoring Tool“ provides a wide range of export options.

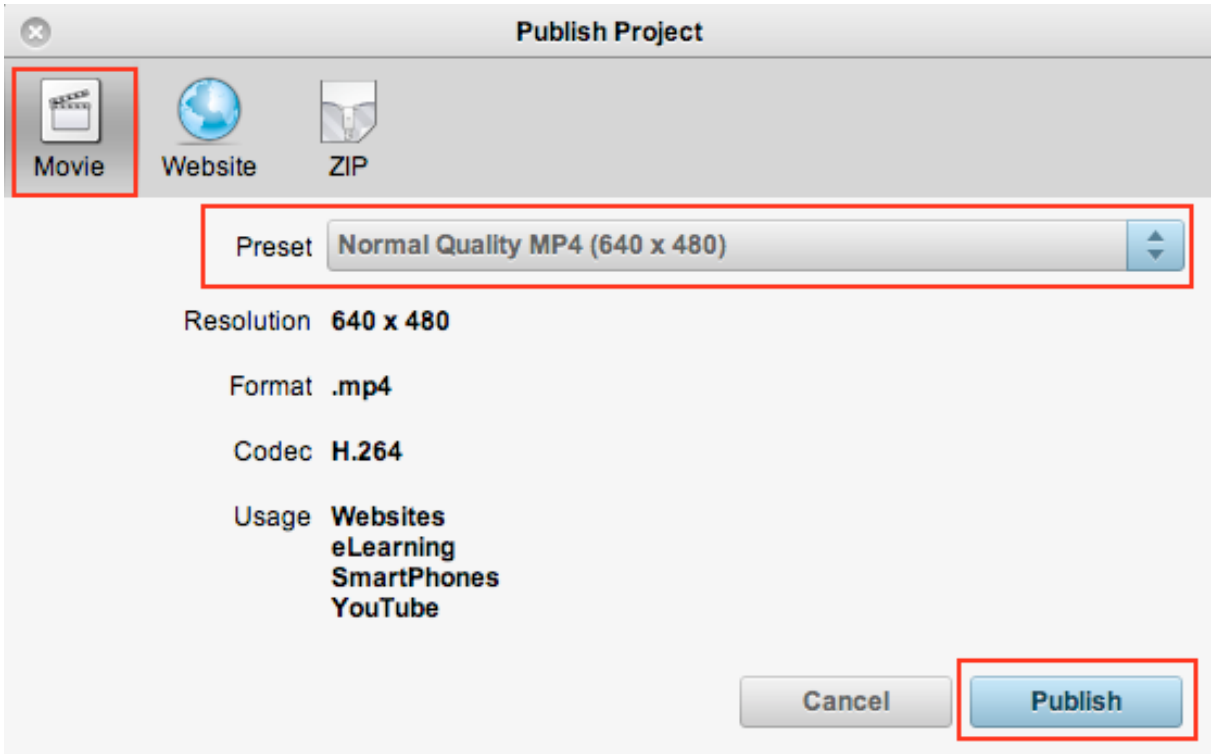
The most simple and compatible way is to export your slideshow as a video. In addition to that you can also publish any slideshow as a website or ZIP archive. Depending on your target deployment platform this method provides you with more navigation options than the video export.

Exporting a slideshow as video

To export a slideshow as video, first click the “Publish Project” icon in the “Toolbar” section.

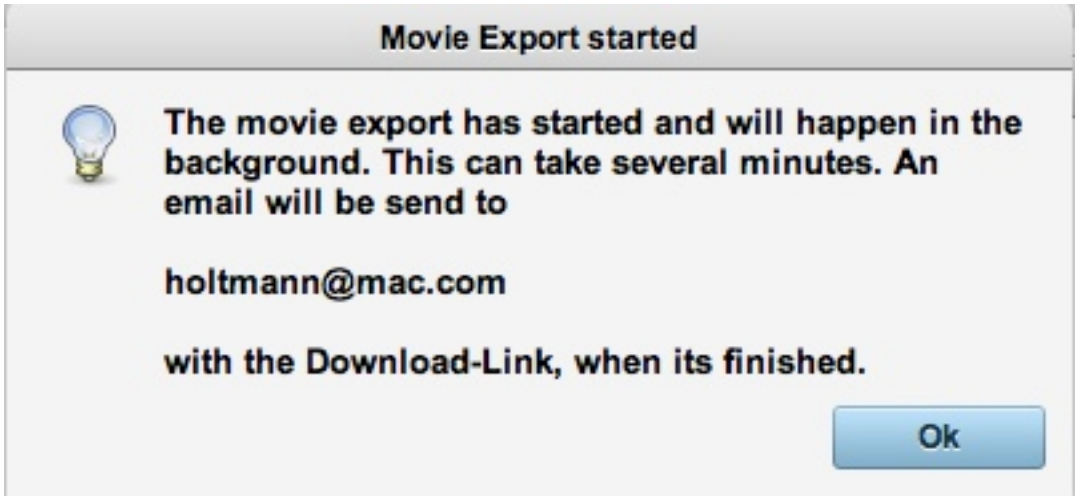


The “Publish Project” window is displayed. Select the “Movie” tab in this window.



Next select a preset that suits your needs. The usage scenarios for the different presets are listed under “Usage”. When you are happy with your choice click the “Publish” button to start the movie export.

An alert confirming the export is displayed:



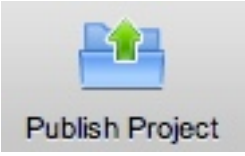
Depending on the load of the “movie export” server it can take some time until you receive the email.

Hint: Do not start multiple video exports at the same time. This puts the “Export Server” under high load and makes the video export much slower.

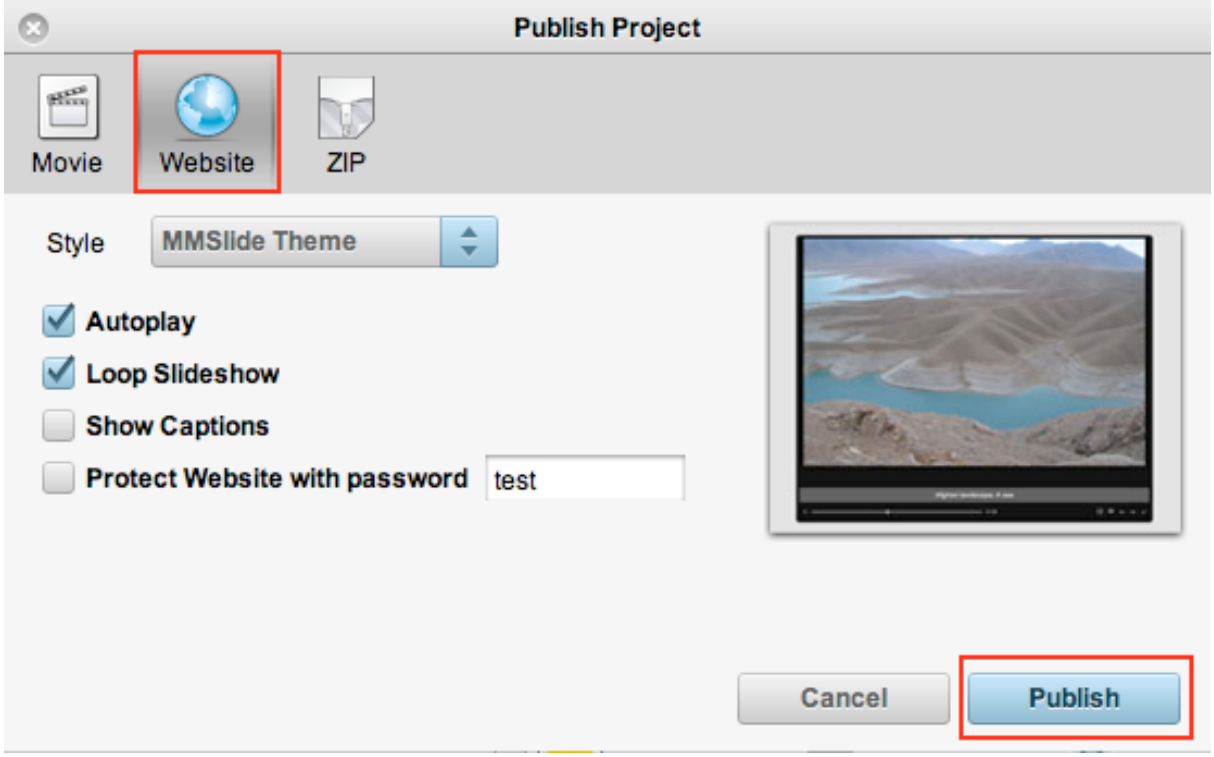
Export as website

The “Export as Website” is an easy way to publish the slideshow directly on the web via one single click. Depending on the device of the end user either the “Flash-Slidehow” player or “HTML 5 Slideshow” player is used. In contrast to the “Video Export” the “Export as Website” happens immediately – there is no waiting for a video to be rendered.

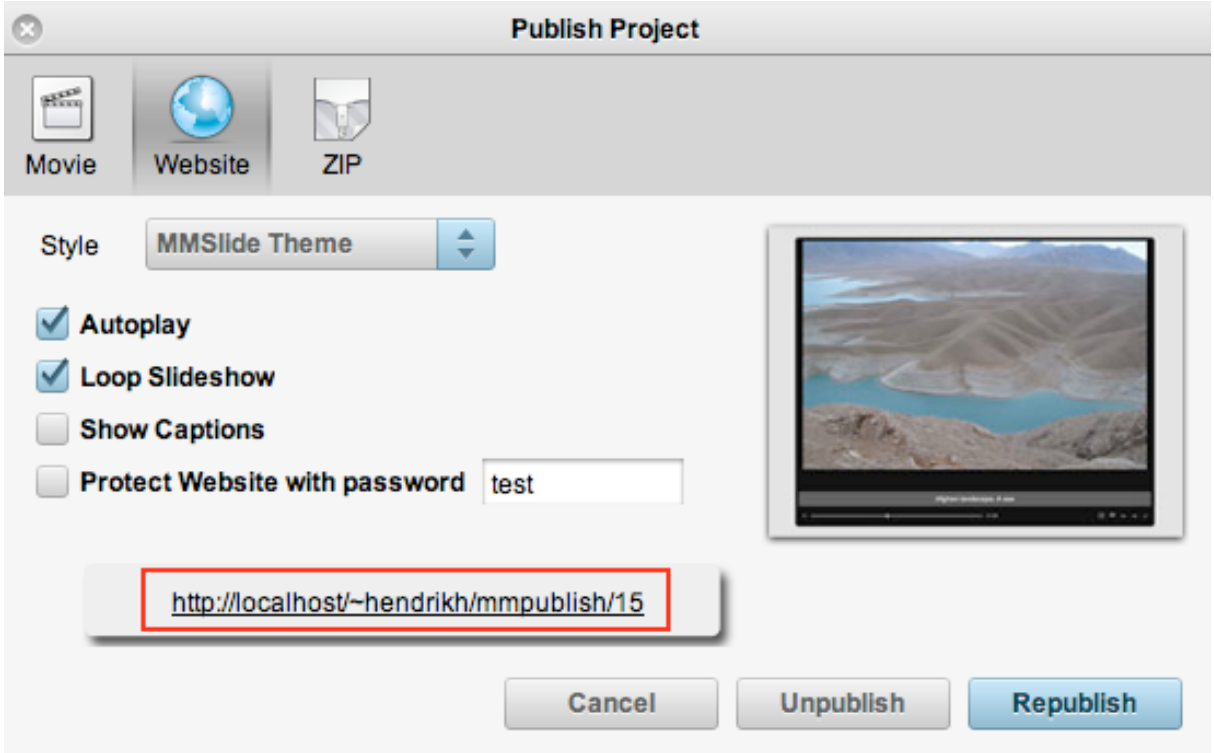
To export your slideshow as “Website” click the “Publish Project” icon in the “Toolbar” section.



The “Publish Project” window appears. Now select the “Website” tab.



Select the options that suit you. *Note: Not all options are supported in every player*. Then click the “Publish” button. The export now starts. As soon as it has finished a link is displayed to the website, where the slideshow has been exported to.



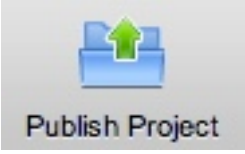
Click that link to open the website.

Hint: By default the slideshows published as websites are public. You can, however, protect the website with a password to limit access to persons knowing the password. In addition to that you can remove the published website at any time by clicking the "Unpublish" button.

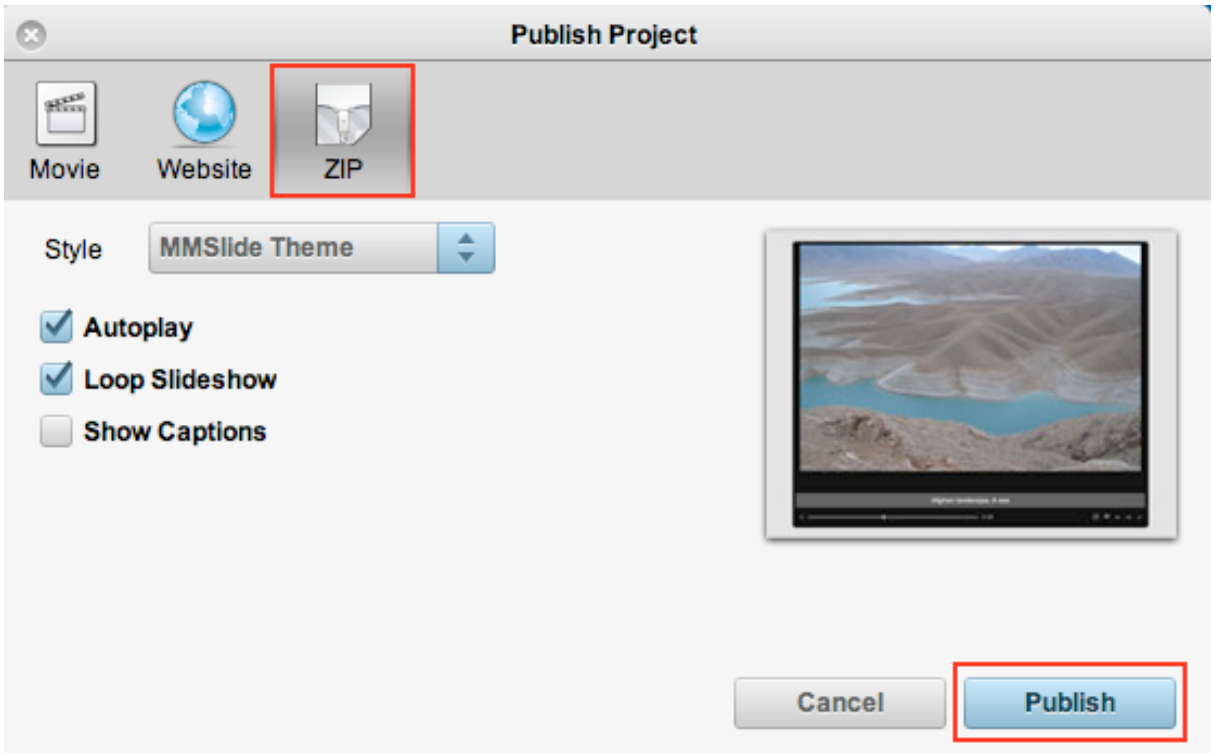
Export as ZIP

The "Export as ZIP" option downloads the entire slideshow (audio & images), as well as the Flash-Slideshow-Player and HTML-5 Slideshow Player to your computer as a compressed ZIP archive. You can then integrate the slideshow into any website, learning module etc. by embedding one of the players using HTML. This is a valuable option when you for instance, need the slideshow to be part of a SCORM package which is also completely playable offline. Examples of how to achieve this integration are described in the "Advanced topics" chapter.

To export your slideshow as a "ZIP", first click the "Publish Project" icon in the "Toolbar" section.



The "Publish Project" window appears. Now select the "ZIP" tab.



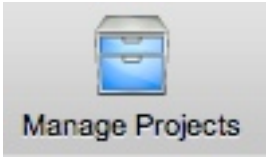
Select the options that suit you best and then press the “Publish” button. *Note: Not all options are supported in every player.* As soon as the publish process has finished, the ZIP archive is downloaded directly to your computer.

Advanced topics

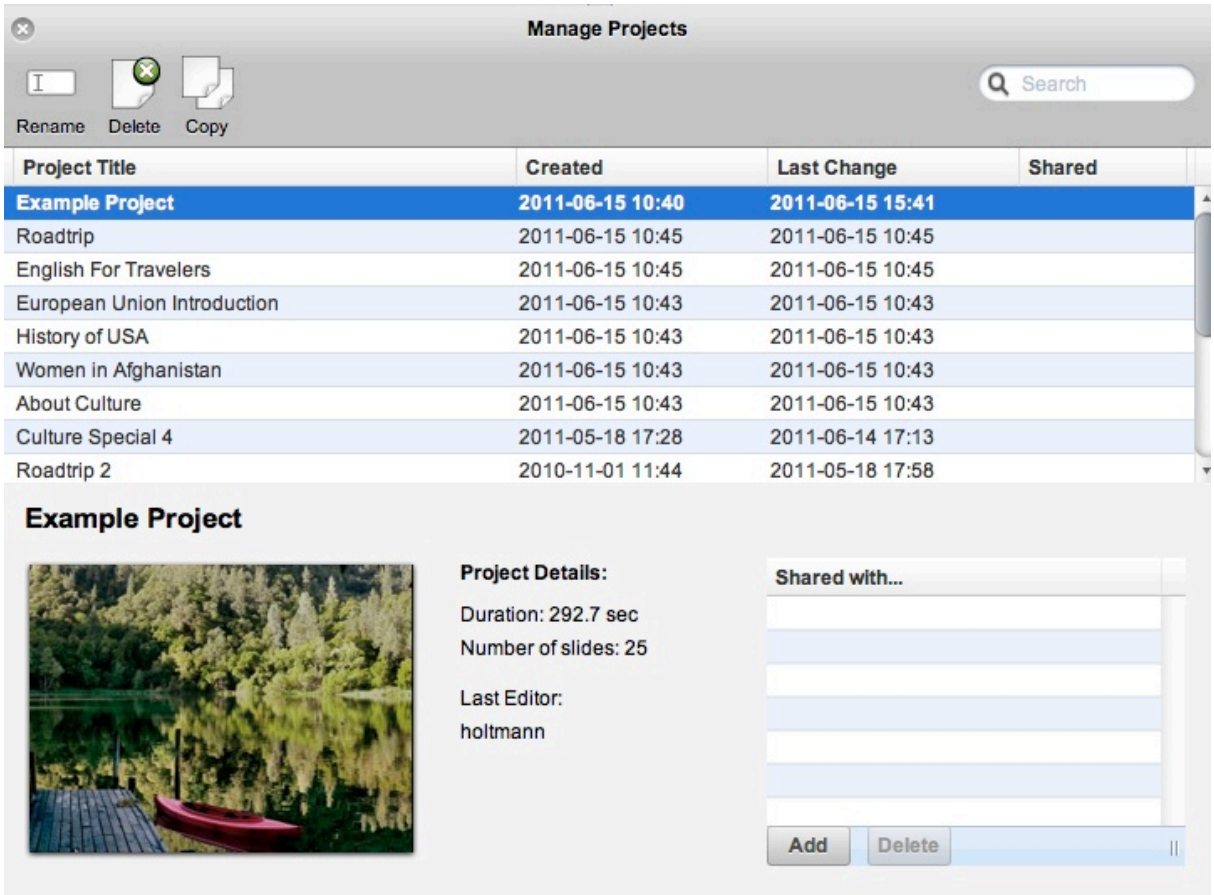
Managing and sharing projects

You can copy, delete and also share projects with others in the authoring tool.

Click on the “Manage Projects” icon in the “Toolbar” section.

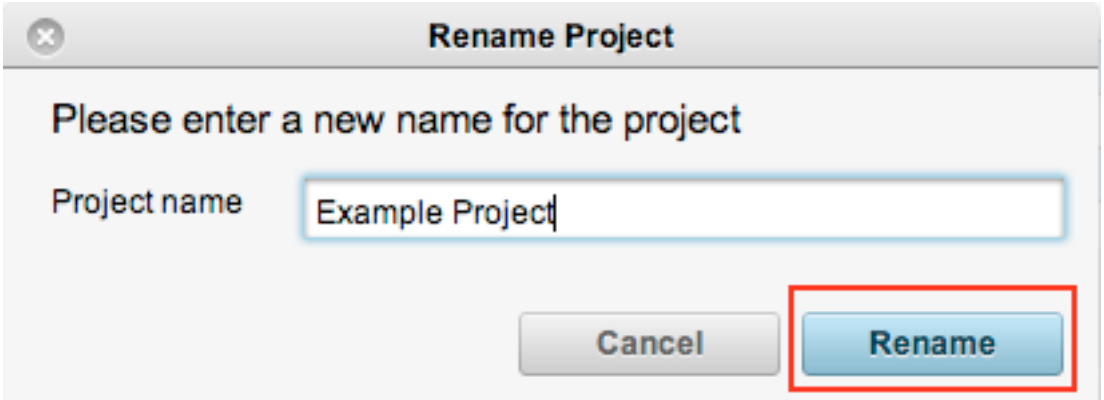


The “Manage Projects” window is presented.



Renaming a project

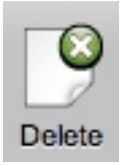
To rename a project click the “Rename” button.



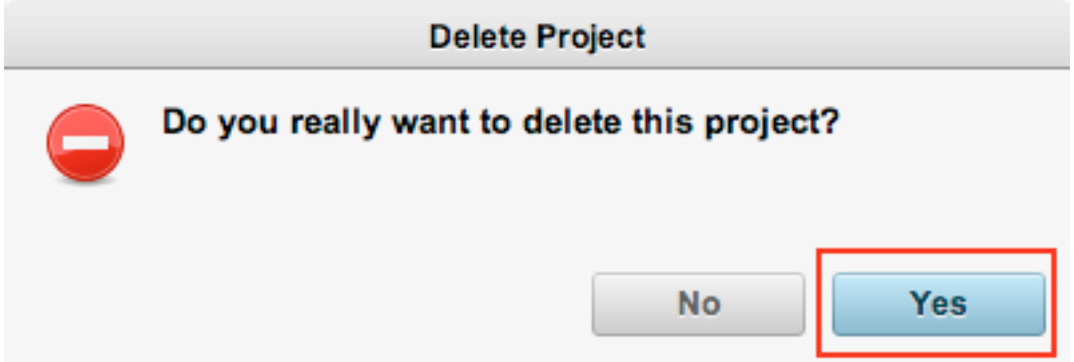
Enter the new name for the project and then press the “Rename” button. The project is then renamed.

Deleting a project

To delete a project click the “Delete” button.

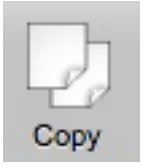


Then confirm, that you really want to delete the project by clicking “Yes”.

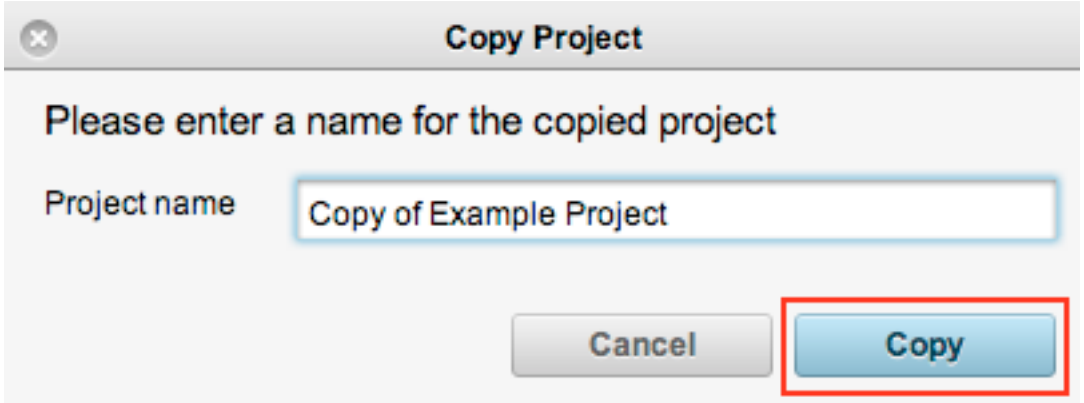


Copying a project

To copy a project click the “Copy” button.



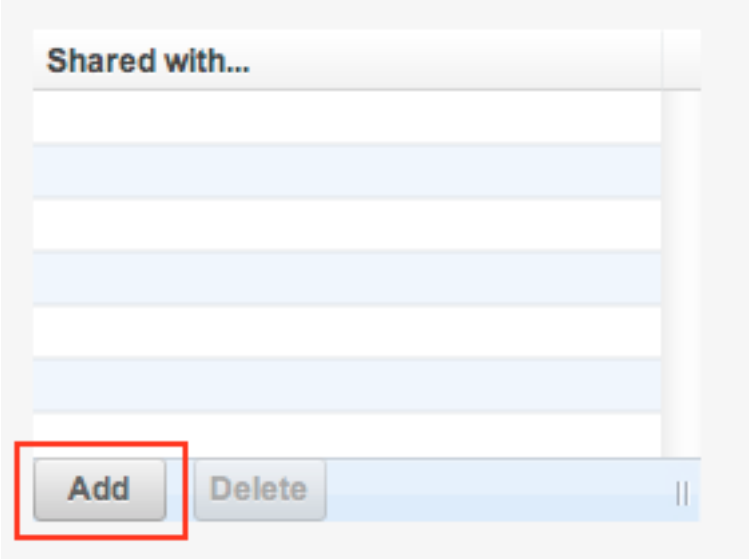
Then enter a new name for the copied project and click the “Copy” button”.



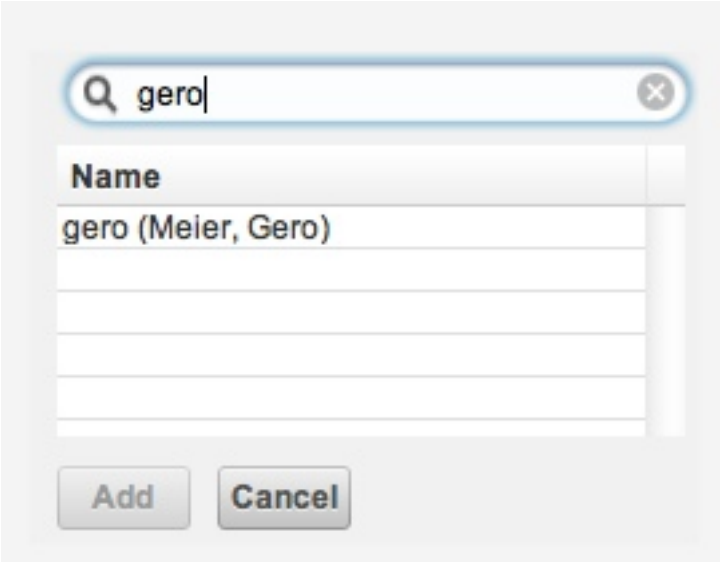
Sharing a project

You can share projects you have created with other users of the “Multimedia Slideshow Authoring Tool“. These users can edit the slideshow, but not copy, delete or rename it.

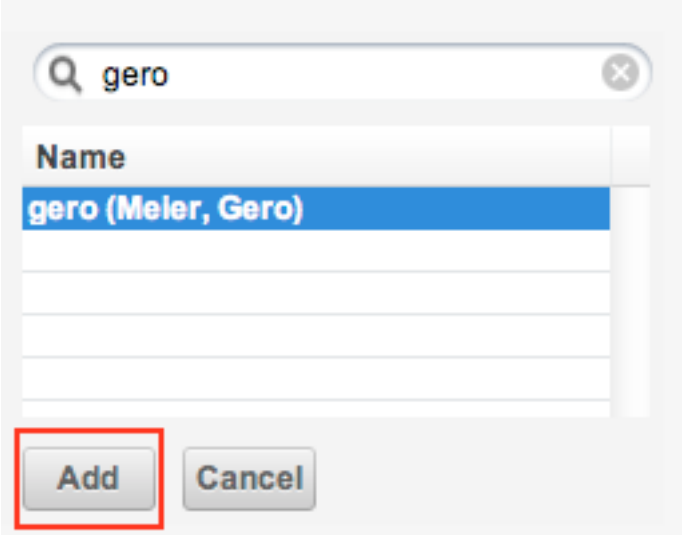
To share a project with another user, click the “Add” button.



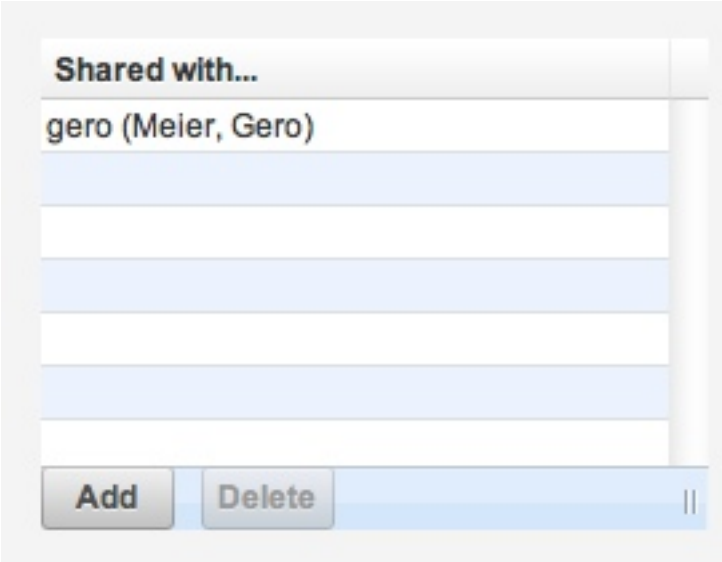
You can now search all registered users.



Select the user you want to share the project with and then click on the “Add” button again.



The project is now shared with the selected user.



A project that is shared displays a checkmark in the list of all projects.

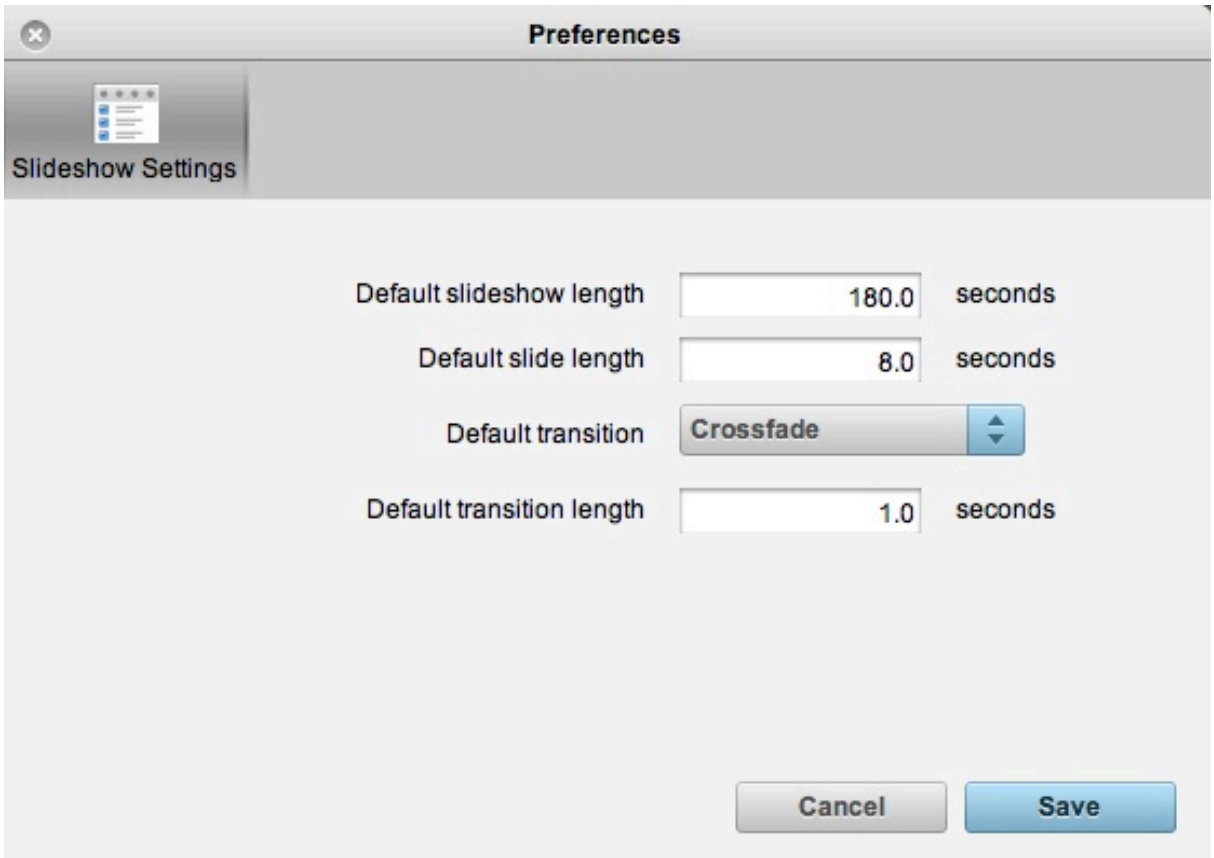
Project Title	Created	Last Change	Shared
Example Project	2011-06-15 10:40	2011-06-15 15:41	✔
Roadtrip	**2011-06-15 10:45**	**2011-06-15 10:45**	
English For Travelers	2011-06-15 10:45	2011-06-15 10:45	

In the above screenshot the “Example Project” is shared with other users.

Hint: You can also “unshare” a project by just selecting the appropriate project and clicking the “Delete” button.

Adjusting default preferences

To change a variety of default preferences, click the “Preferences” button in the “Toolbar” section



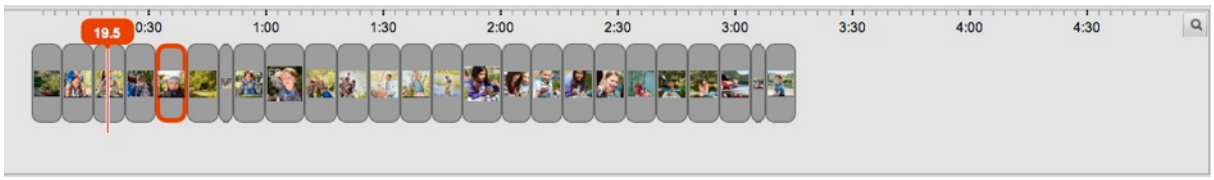
You can change the following properties:

- Default slideshow length: Defines the length of a newly created slideshow that has no audio track
- Default slide length: Defines the default length of a slide/image after it is added to the slideshow
- Default transition: Defines the default transition that is set when a slide/image is added to the slideshow
- Default transition length: Defines the default transition length that is set when a slide/image is added to the slideshow

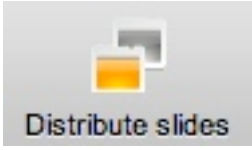
Automatic redistribution of slides

The „Automatic redistribution“ of slides provides an easy and quick way to distribute all slides over the timeline with an equal duration.

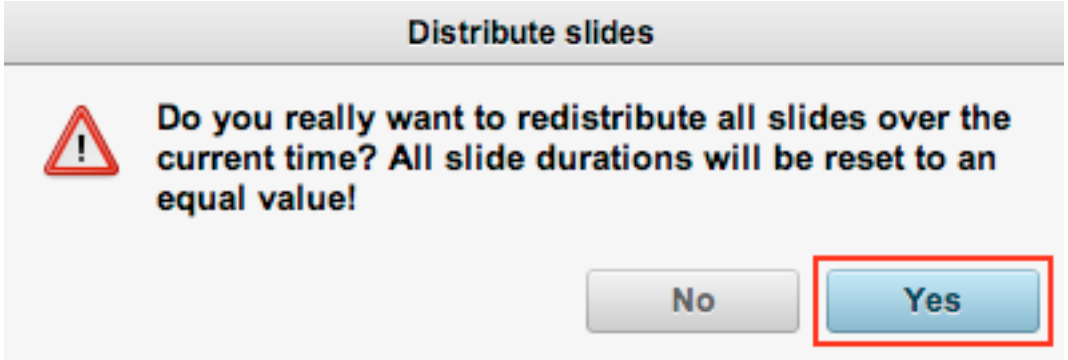
The following screenshot shows the timeline before the redistribution of slides.



To distribute the slides click the “Distribute slides” button in the toolbar.



Confirm that you really want to perform the redistribution by answering “Yes”.



This following screenshot shows the timeline after “Distribute slides” has been performed.

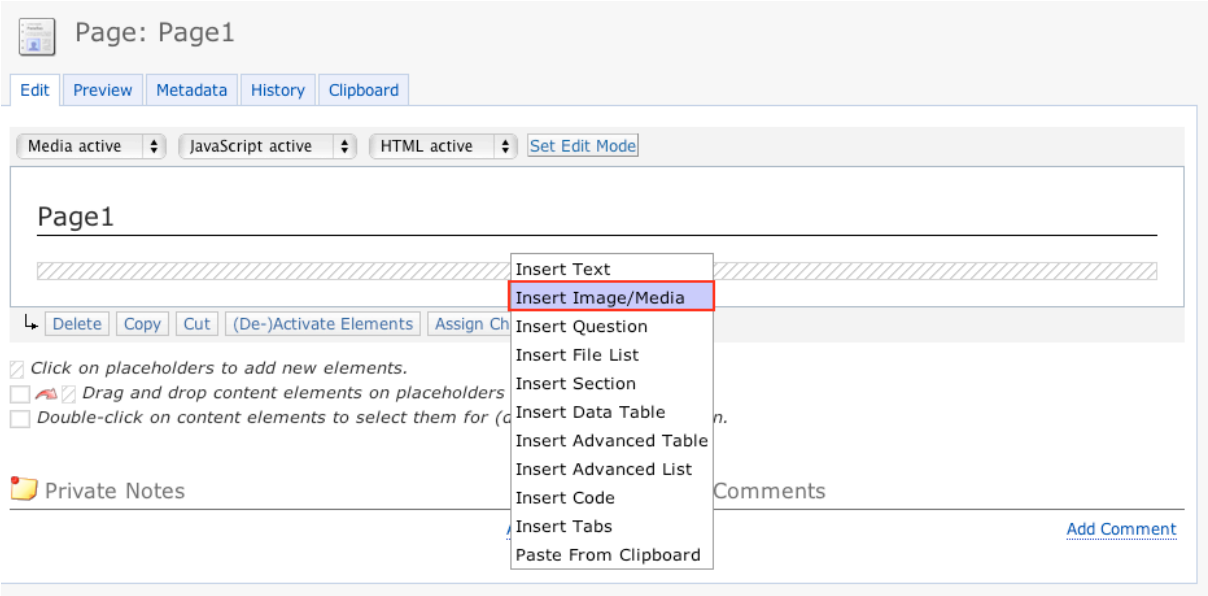
ILIAS Integration

This chapter describes different methods to integrate a slideshow into a SCORM Learning Module.

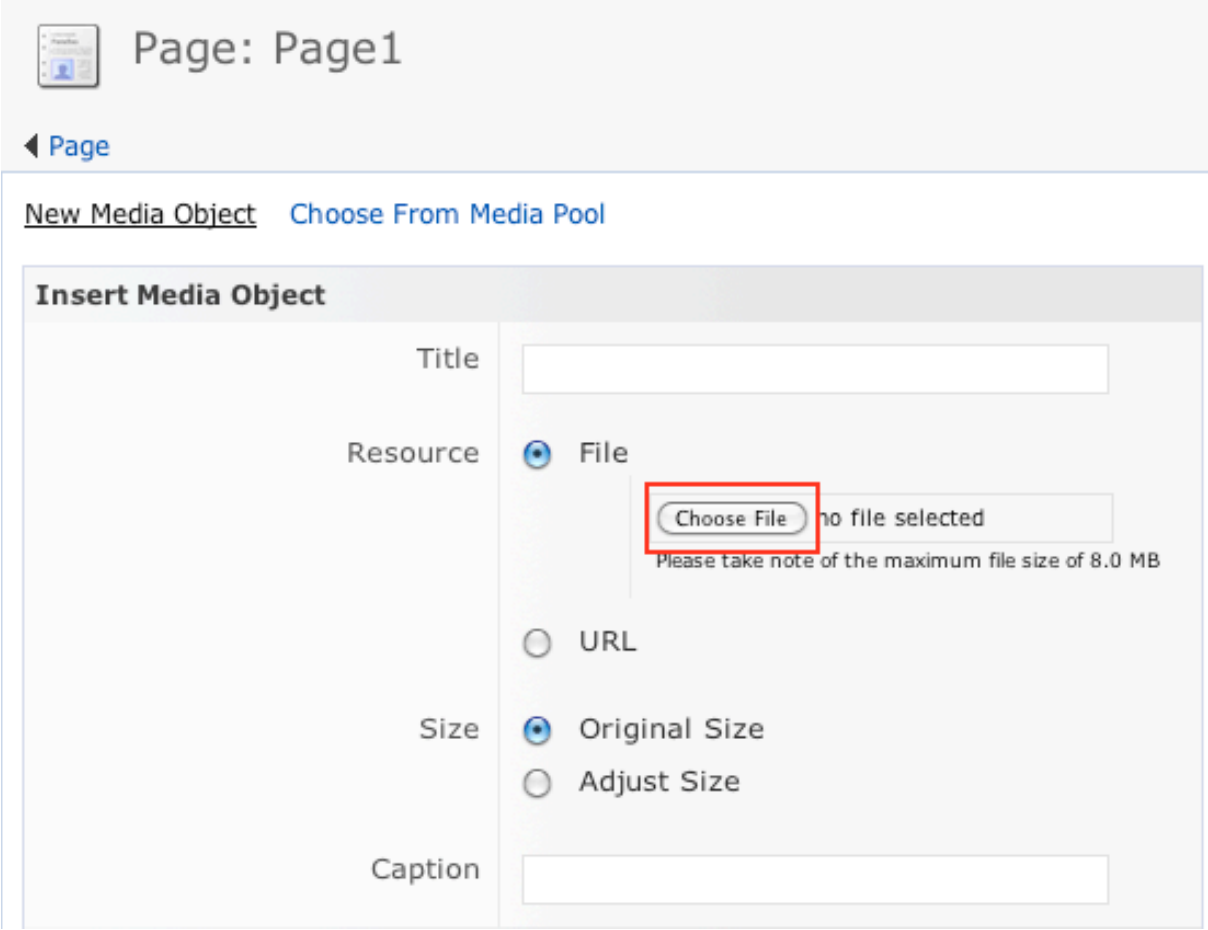
Integrate into ILIAS as video

First you need to export the slideshow as a video as described in the chapter “Export as Video”. *Note: It is important that you export the slideshow in the FLV/Flash video-format; the MP4 video-format is not yet compatible with ILIAS.*

Once you have exported the file, please proceed in ILIAS. Navigate to the page where you want to insert the slideshow. Next select “Insert Image/Media” from the dropdown menu.



The Insert Media Object screen appears.



Now select the exported video file from your hard-disk by clicking on the “Choose File” button.

Then click the “Save” button and return to your page. The video is now embedded and playable in the “Page Preview”.

Integrate the Flash Slideshow Player into a SCORM Learning Module

This kind of integration cannot be done directly in ILIAS.

To start you need to prepare two things:

1. Export the slideshow as a ZIP archive as described in this document and save it to your hard-disk.
2. Export the SCORM learning module as a ZIP file and save it to your hard-disk.

You will end up with two ZIP files as indicated in the screenshot below.

Name	Date Modified	Size	Kind
1308223569__0__sahs_254.zip	Today, 13:26	274 KB	ZIP archive
ilias-test-project.zip	Today, 13:26	1,2 MB	ZIP archive

The first file is the ILIAS-SCORM-Module, the second one is the slideshow. Extract both ZIP files and their appropriate folders are created.

Name	Date Modified	Size	Kind
1308223569__0__sahs_254	Today, 13:29	--	Folder
1308223569__0__sahs_254.zip	Today, 13:26	274 KB	ZIP archive
ilias-test-project	Today, 13:29	--	Folder
ilias-test-project.zip	Today, 13:26	1,2 MB	ZIP archive

Rename the slideshow project folder (in this case “ilias-test-project”) to “slideshow”.

Name	Date Modified	Size	Kind
1308223569__0__sahs_254	Today, 13:29	--	Folder
1308223569__0__sahs_254.zip	Today, 13:26	274 KB	ZIP archive
ilias-test-project.zip	Today, 13:26	1,2 MB	ZIP archive
slideshow	Today, 13:29	--	Folder

Then copy the renamed slideshow folder into the SCORM project folder.

Name	Date Modified	Size	Kind
1308223569__0__sahs_254	Today, 13:31	--	Folder
1308223569__0__sahs_254.zip	Today, 13:26	274 KB	ZIP archive
ilias-test-project.zip	Today, 13:26	1,2 MB	ZIP archive

Now open the ILIAS SCORM project folder.

Name	Date Modified	Size	Kind
3	Today, 13:44	--	Folder
adlcp_v1p3.xsd	Today, 13:26	4 KB	XML S...ument
adlnav_v1p3.xsd	Today, 13:26	4 KB	XML S...ument
adlseq_v1p3.xsd	Today, 13:26	4 KB	XML S...ument
datatypes.dtd	Today, 13:26	8 KB	Docu...finition
imscp_rootv1p1p2.xsd	Today, 13:26	16 KB	XML S...ument
imscp_v1p1.xsd	Today, 13:26	20 KB	XML S...ument
imsmanifest.xml	Today, 13:26	4 KB	Text document
imsss_v1p0.xsd	Today, 13:26	4 KB	XML S...ument
imsss_v1p0auxresource.xsd	Today, 13:26	4 KB	XML S...ument
imsss_v1p0control.xsd	Today, 13:26	4 KB	XML S...ument
imsss_v1p0delivery.xsd	Today, 13:26	4 KB	XML S...ument
imsss_v1p0limit.xsd	Today, 13:26	4 KB	XML S...ument
imsss_v1p0objective.xsd	Today, 13:26	4 KB	XML S...ument
imsss_v1p0random.xsd	Today, 13:26	4 KB	XML S...ument
imsss_v1p0rollup.xsd	Today, 13:26	4 KB	XML S...ument
imsss_v1p0seqrule.xsd	Today, 13:26	8 KB	XML S...ument
imsss_v1p0util.xsd	Today, 13:26	4 KB	XML S...ument
index.html	Today, 13:26	4 KB	HTML ...ument
index.xml	Today, 13:26	4 KB	Text document
indexMD.xml	Today, 13:26	4 KB	Text document
lom.xsd	Today, 13:26	8 KB	XML S...ument
slideshow	Today, 13:29	--	Folder
xml.xsd	Today, 13:26	4 KB	XML S...ument
XMLSchema.dtd	Today, 13:26	20 KB	Docu...finition

Identify the page you want to integrate the slideshow into to. Every SCO is in a separate folder; in this case we have only one SCO (Folder “3”). Copy the slideshow folder now into this folder (in this case “3”) and open this folder.

Name	Date Modified	Size	Kind
css	Today, 13:26	--	Folder
ilias_co_3_7.dtd	Today, 13:26	29 KB	Docu...finition
images	Today, 13:26	--	Folder
index.html	Today, 13:26	8 KB	HTML ...ument
index.xml	Today, 13:26	4 KB	Text document
indexMD.xml	Today, 13:26	4 KB	Text document
js	Today, 13:26	--	Folder
objects	Today, 13:26	--	Folder
players	Today, 13:26	--	Folder
sco.xml	Today, 13:26	4 KB	Text document
sco.xsl	Today, 13:26	86 KB	XML document
slideshow	Today, 13:47	--	Folder

Next open the integration.html in the slideshow folder in a text editor and copy it's whole content to the pasteboard.

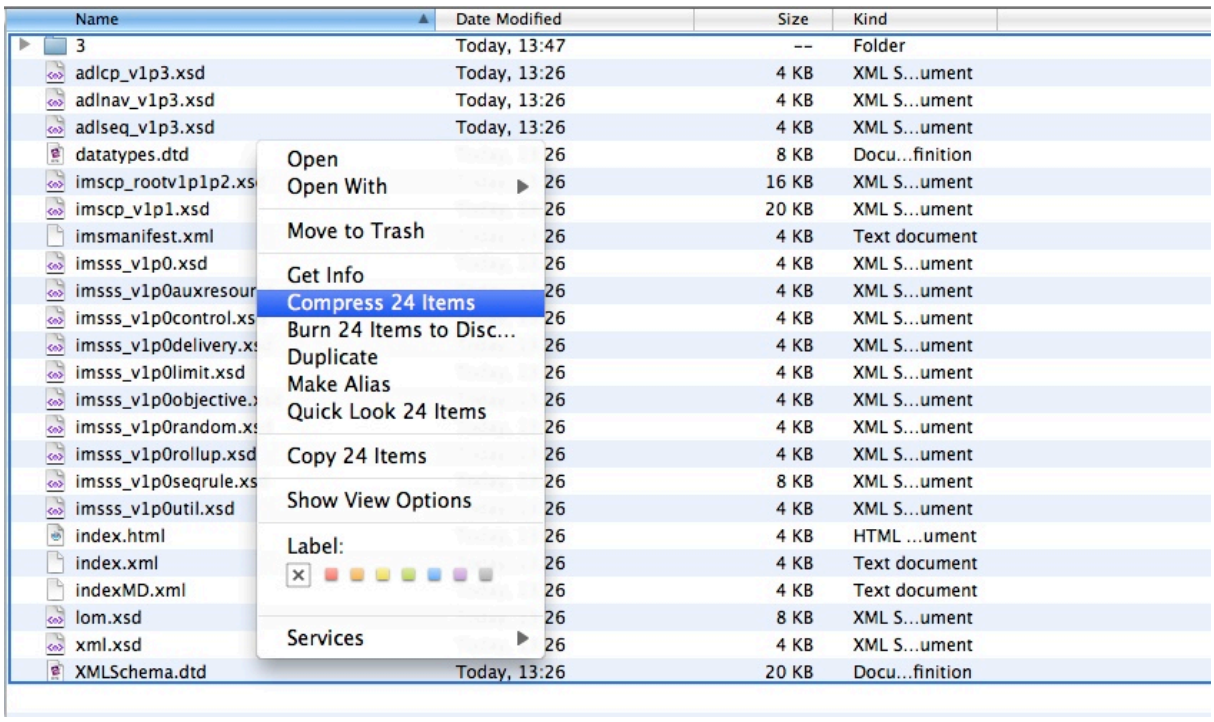
Next open the index.html of the SCO in a text editor and locate the position where you want the slideshow to appear. Then paste the whole clipboard content into this position and save the file. The screenshot below illustrates a position that is suitable for integrating the slideshow code.

```
<h1 class="ilc_page_title_PageTitle">The Show</h1><div class="ilc_text_block_Standard">Example for integrated slideshow<!--Break--></div>
=== INSERT SLIDESHOW INTEGRATION CODE FOR EXAMPLE HERE ===
</div></td></tr></table>
<div class="ilc_page_bnav_BottomNavigation">
<div class="ilc_page_lnav_LeftNavigation">
<a class="ilc_page_lnavlink_LeftNavigationLink">
<img class="ilc_page_lnavimage_LeftNavigationImage" border="0" src="./images/spacer.gif" alt="" title="" /> Previous</a>
</div>
```

You can check the results of your work by double clicking the index.html and checking in a browser.

As a last step you need to rezip the whole learning module again; so that it is again deployable as a SCORM package.

To accomplish this navigate to the root level of the SCORM package again and then zip all the files into an Archive.



The resulting "Archive.zip" is a deployable SCORM package and now includes the slideshow.

Deployment options – overview and available features

The following table provides an overview of the different deployment options and their features:

Feature / Deployment	Video	Slideshow Player "Flash"	Slideshow Player "HTML 5"
Captions	X	X	X
Thumbnail slide navigation		X	
AutoPlay	X*	X	
Resolution	Can be set by preset	Default 640x480	Automatic iPhone: 640x480, iPad: 1024x768
Recommended for	Embedding, uploading to video websites (YouTube etc.)	Standalone website, embedding	Standalone website

*Requires that you embed the video with AutoPlay

Software requirements for the authoring tool

The following table provides an overview of the technical requirements for the Authoring Tool.

Browser/Requirement	**Flash Plugin needed**	**Recommended browser**
Chrome 9 or higher	No	Yes
Firefox 3.6 or higher	Yes	Yes
Firefox 4.0 or higher	No	Yes
Safari 4 or higher	No	Yes
Internet Explorer 9	Yes	Yes
Internet Explorer 8	Yes	No
Internet Explorer 6 & 7	NOT SUPPORTED	