

Sermon Player: Video 101

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WELCOME!

To help get you get started uploading video, here is a basic overview of the Sermon Studio Video System. The settings and types of files our system accepts are on page 2 of this document.

Getting started... IS YOUR VIDEO ON A DVD?

If your video is on a DVD, you will need to rip the DVD and create an upload friendly video file on your computer system. You can use any DVD ripping software to perform this task, just make sure the file you upload to our system is less than 750 MB. Once you upload your file, our server will convert the file to our system's specifications and add it to your Record.

We provide our Media Converter software that you can use to rip your DVD's to an upload friendly format. This free software is available on the Software page of your Sermon Studio. If you use this software, it will bypass the server-side conversion process and plug the file directly into your system/players after upload.

IS YOUR VIDEO FILE ON YOUR COMPUTER SYSTEM?

If your video file is on your computer system, you may need to reduce the size of the file or change the format to be able to upload it. You can use any file conversion software to perform this task, just make sure the file you upload to our system is less than 750 MB. Once you upload this file, our server will convert your file to our system's specifications and add it to your Record.

We also provide our Media Converter software that you can use to convert your files to an upload friendly format. This free software is available on the Software page of your Sermon Studio. If you use this software it will bypass the server-side conversion process and plug the file directly into your system/players after upload. (To maximize your video quality, do not go below the specs outlined on pg 2.)

WHAT HAPPENS?

Our system accepts a large variety of video formats. If you have a PC (or a MAC that can run PC software) you can install and use our Media Converter software to prepare your videos prior to uploading. Simply run your best quality source video through this software and then upload.

If you choose not to use our Media Converter software, you can upload your video and then let our server-side converter prepare it for online delivery and then plug it into your system once it is ready.

Currently, the only restriction is that the file your upload must be under 750 MB. If you are not using our Media Converter software, find the compression setting that will maximize your video's quality, maintain its aspect ratio & resolution, and keep it under 750 MB. For best results, we strongly recommend that you do not go below the specs outlined below. (Note: the Enhanced Video feature is an option that includes an additional monthly fee due to increased storage and bandwidth costs.)

Our system accepts the following formats:

avi, .flv, .mp4, .m4v, .wmv, .divx, .vob, .mpg, .mpeg, .mov

For those of who record in widescreen, typical 16:9 full resolution is 720 x 480. Our system will reduce this resolution to approx 640 x 352 (for increased compatibility on various portable devices, such as video iPods).

Our converters (server-side converter and Media Converter software) produce a video file to the following specifications.

Premium (Standard) Video Specs

- Video Bitrate: 500kbps
- Video Frame size: 640x480 or 640x352
- Video Frame rate: 24
- Audio Bitrate: 96kbps
- Audio Sampling rate: 44100
- Audio Channel: Mono
- Passes: 2

Enhanced Video Specs

- Video Bitrate: 700kbps
- Video Frame size: 640x480 or 640x352
- Video Frame rate: 24
- Audio Bitrate: 96kbps
- Audio Sampling rate: 44100
- Audio Channel: Mono
- Passes: 2

Note: Even if you match these specs, our system will still do a final conversion on the file to ensure it is completely compatible with all features of your system including the Flash players and various podcast devices such as the iPod.

To by-pass any server-side converting you must use the Media Converter software that we provide. This is not required but it is free and available for you to use.

More on the Media Converter Software:

We have released a new version of the Media Converter software app that will convert your video into the proper format. If your video is prepared using the new Media Converter, the system will plug the video directly into your player. No server-side converting will take place after the upload is completed.

* Please go to the Software page of your Sermon Studio and download/install the latest version. (The software will run on PC, or a MAC with the ability to run Windows applications. If you are a MAC user please see link:

<http://www.apple.com/macosx/compatibility/>)

Your Adobe Flash Plug-in may need to be updated in order to take advantage of the new h.264 format. If this is the case, the Sermon Player will notify you (and your viewers); it will also provide a link to the Install Update page.

1. [Latest Flash Plug-in](#)

2. [Uninstall Previous Flash Plug-in](#) (if needed)

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us through the Help Desk within your Sermon Studio, by email at support@sermon.net, or by calling 800.807.1014 x2.

UPLOADING VIDEO TO YOUR SERMON PLAYER

Now that your video is saved on your computer, you are ready to upload it into a Record. For a new record, go to the Home page of your Sermon Studio account or click the Add Record link in the menu in the upper left corner of any page within your Sermon Studio. Alternatively, from the home page, enter the record title in the "Add A New Record" field and click next. Either of these processes takes you the "Add New Record" page. Enter the details for this record and click the next button. To add a file or modify a file for an existing record in your Archive, you can access it by going to the Archive page within your account, and clicking the View icon to the left of the record title.

On the following (Record Details) page, scroll down to the Media Upload Center and click the "Select Video" button on the right side. This will open a new window for you to locate the video file on your computer. Highlight the file and click open, this will close the window and put the file name in the Video line of the Media Upload Center. Click Begin Upload on the lower left corner, and you will see the progress bar that shows the percentage uploaded.

After the upload is complete the page will refresh, and a Video tab will appear above the Media Upload Center that shows the details for the file you just uploaded, as well as Mini Players for that file. The time to upload will depend on the size of the file you are uploading and the speed of your internet connection. Uploading can take some time, as video files are particularly large. There is a 750 MB limit to the size of the video, you can use the Sermon Player Media Converter to make the file smaller before uploading. Access the Media Converter on the Software page within your Sermon Studio account.

If you have any questions or would like a member of our staff to personally walk you through this process, please let us know through the help desk within your account, by email at support@sermon.net, or by calling 1-800-807-1014 ext 2. We are happy to help!

In His Service.

Your Sermon Network Team