

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 at the top of 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.

If you don't have a DVD ripping program, you can download the free Handbrake software on the Software page within your account. This will allow you to rip the DVD, and save an upload friendly copy to your computer.

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.

If you don't have a video conversion/compression program, you can download the free Handbrake software on the Software page within your account. This will allow you to compress and convert your file, and save an upload friendly copy to your computer.

IS YOUR VIDEO FILE STORED ELSEWHERE ONLINE?

If your video file is stored on a different system or your own servers and you have a direct link to the file, you can easily add it through the "Upload from Web" feature within the Media Upload Center. First copy the URL for the file, and make sure it in the filename and extension, for example: <http://mychurch.org/files/sermonvideo.mp4>. Then in the Media Upload Center click the left and right arrows next to the words "upload from computer" on the line for Video files. Then paste your files URL into the blank box, click Begin Upload, and our servers will grab the file and copy it to your account. The upload from web feature is a faster way to get large files into your account, after the page refreshes you are free to navigate away from the page or logout, our servers will handle the conversion behind the scenes and make the file available for your audience when completed.

PREPARING YOUR FILES FOR UPLOADING

Currently, the only restriction is that the file you upload must be under 750 MB. When you are recording or converting your files, 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, .f4v

For those of you 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).

Once the file is uploaded, the servers will convert it and produce a video file to the following specifications.

Premium (Standard) Video Specs

Video is an MP4 using h.264

- Video Bitrate: 500kbps
- Video Frame size: 640x480 or 640x352
- Video Frame rate: 24

Audio is MP3

- Audio Bitrate: 96kbps
- Audio Sampling rate: 44100
- Audio Channel: Mono
- Passes: 2

Enhanced Video Specs

Video is an MP4 using h.264

- Video Bitrate: 700kbps
- Video Frame size: 640x480 or 640x352
- Video Frame rate: 24

Audio is MP3

- 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.

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. If you are uploading from web, click the arrows next to “upload from computer” to change it to read “upload from web”, then paste the URL of the file into 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 a program like Handbrake to compress the file before uploading.

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