



MXF Application Specifications

MXF for Contribution – AS-11 File Based Delivery of Finished Programs to Media Companies

What is it?

AS-11 is an AMWA specification for the interoperable delivery of finished programs from post houses to media companies, later to be delivered to consumers. This content is normally the final edited material but may require further simple processing, for example the creation of trailers, etc.

How could this help you?

This AMWA specification was based on requirements from UK's Digital Production Partnership (DPP), to enable public service broadcasters to move from tape to file based delivery of finished programs.

Is it in use? Yes.

Since October 2014, suppliers of content, typically post production companies, must provide files which match the AS-11 DPP specification. The DPP was originally established by the BBC, Channel 4 and ITV and this project has active support from other broadcasters such as Sky, Channel 5 / Viacom, BT Sport and TG4. Building on this success, there has been worldwide interest in AS-11 and new versions have been developed for use by seven Nordic broadcasters plus Australia and New Zealand.

Is the industry supporting it? Yes.

The number of files created to the AS-11 DPP specification are steadily increasing within the UK. This was only possible with a major contribution from the industry; both the suppliers whose products create delivery files and the post houses which have implemented it.

Has interoperability been considered? Yes.

To ensure that files exchanged between products and between media companies were interoperable, the DPP and the AMWA worked together to establish Compliance and Certification Programs. A growing number of suppliers have now successfully passed this process and can demonstrate interoperability of their products.

Can I see the family of specifications? Yes.

The complete family of SD, HD and UHD specifications for all regions can be found at www.amwa.tv/projects/AS-11 along with details of the new rules based system.

How could AS-11 help my business?

The broadcast industry is becoming more and more connected between individual companies and across international borders.

For decades, broadcasters have collected and distributed news content around the world. Now, we can add the influence of global media networks, multi-national funding of program commissions and the international sale of network programs.

All of these factors support the drive for cost savings through content sharing plus greater efficiency in content creation and distribution. AS-11 makes a specific contribution through the easy, efficient movement of program material.

The requirement for one consistent delivery standard across a broad range of media companies removes technical and operational ambiguity at both the post house in creating the file and at the broadcaster in receiving predictable and easily managed content.

What is a contribution file?

A contribution file is in a format which may not be in a final form for broadcast playout or delivery to non-linear platforms and may require further processing.

What is AS-11?

MXF for Contribution (AS-11) is a vendor-neutral file format for the delivery of finished program material from the producers to broadcast networks or program origination facilities. It is based on proven SMPTE Standards and supported by major manufacturers.

What about metadata?

Easy metadata exchange was important to the broadcasters so a small common group of essential metadata was chosen.

AS-11 defines a minimal core metadata set and a program segmentation metadata scheme.

Who should use AS-11?

Post production houses, captioning facilities, broadcast networks and stations and transmission service providers.

What is an Application Specification?

AMWA Application Specifications define a set of rules that constrain a standard, such as MXF, to suit a particular use.

An Application Specification can be further constrained to meet the needs of one or more users. As industry operations evolve, developments of a published Specification are always considered if a media company has new requirements that extend the Specification and do not disrupt the original operation.

To join or for further information

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