

iMovie: Introduction to Digital Video Editing

Academic Computing Services
A Division of Information Services

www.ku.edu/acs

Abstract: Discover the ease of video editing using Apple's iMovie. You'll learn how to capture video and import it into iMovie, how to assemble video clips, add transitions and effects, and then print your creation back to videotape or export it for web pages and PowerPoint presentations.

Contents

Introduction	3
Objectives	3
Prerequisites	3
Related Training Available from ACS.....	3
Definitions	3
Importing Video	4
Direct capture	4
Importing from camera	4
Compressed video	4
Assembling Video Clips	4
Moving clips from palette to video track	4
Editing Video Clips	4
Cropping video	4
Splitting video	4

ACS Computer Training
Introduction to Digital Video Editing

Adjusting speed.....	5
Adjusting direction.....	5
Adding effects	5
Inserting Transitions and Titles	5
Previewing and inserting transition types.....	5
Previewing and inserting title types.....	5
Importing Audio.....	5
Audio tracks	5
Sound effects	6
Recording voice	6
Recording CD clips	6
Importing CD tracks	6
Importing other audio files.....	6
Exporting Finished Project	6
Exporting to camera	6
Exporting as Quicktime	7
Implementing Finished Project.....	7
Linking to Web page	7
Importing to PowerPoint.....	7
Getting Additional Help	7

Introduction

Digital Video editing has moved out of the studio and on to the desktop computer. This course introduces the basic concepts of digital video editing using iMovie, a simple digital video assembly tool.

Objectives

The goal of this course is to provide the participants with a basic understanding of digital video assembly. After the workshop, participants should be familiar with iMovie and be able to:

- Import video and audio media
- Layout video and audio media
- Edit media
- Insert transitions, titles, and digital effects
- Export final products to Quicktime format

Prerequisites

Experience in a Mac OS or Windows environment.

Knowledge of HTML and PowerPoint is a plus, but not necessary.

Related Training Available from ACS

All workshops offered by Academic Computing Services (ACS), a division of Information Services, are free to KU students, staff, faculty, and [approved affiliates](#). The general public is also welcome to most workshops, but some ACS workshops require a [registration fee](#) for them.

To learn more about or register for workshops, receive automatic announcements of upcoming workshops, and track workshops you've registered for and have attended, visit the ACS Web site at www.ku.edu/acs/train. You can also check our online schedule at www.ku.edu/acs/schedule for a list of class offerings and their availability. For further workshop related questions, please email training@ku.edu.

Definitions

Term	Definition
Viewing Window	This window contains controls for viewing single video clips or the entire project. It also houses the video import controls. Also known as the <i>monitor</i> .
Palette	The palette displays all tools for clips, transitions, titles, effects, and audio.
Timeline	The timeline shows the layout for the project's video and audio tracks.

Importing Video

Direct capture

iMovie can capture video directly from a camcorder. After connecting a FireWire capable camcorder to the CPU with a FireWire cable, toggle the “Camera/iMovie2” switch to the “camera” position. Click the **Import** button above the playback controls to capture the video as the camcorder receives it.

Importing from camera

You can also capture pre-recorded video from a camcorder or VCR. After connecting the external device to the CPU (directly through FireWire or translated through a FireWire digital video converter box), click the **Import** button. If a FireWire capable camcorder is connected, iMovie2 will automatically trigger the playback from the camera. If a VCR is connected through a converter box, press “Play” on the VCR in order to send the video into iMovie2.

Compressed video

iMovie does not recognize compressed video clips (.mpg, .mov, .avi, .rm, etc.). These clips must be exported as a DV stream using Quicktime Pro. Once the file is saved as a DV stream, select **Import File** from the **File** menu. Guide the dialog box to the desired DV stream and the clip will appear on the clip palette.

Assembling Video Clips

Moving clips from palette to video track

To move clips from the Clip Palette to the Video Track, simply drag the file from the palette to the track. iMovie2 automatically displays the name, relative size, and a thumbnail picture of the clip.

Editing Video Clips

Cropping video

As video clips are selected, they appear in the Viewing Window. Individual clips may be cropped before or after they are inserted to the video track. Two small arrows will appear in the “Scrubber Bar” of the “Viewing Window.” To crop, move these arrows until only the desired video is between them and select **Crop** from the **Edit** menu.

Splitting video

Single video clips can be split into multiple clips. Move the progress arrow in the “Viewing Window” to the desired split point and select **Split Clip at Playhead** from the **Edit** menu. The new clip will appear in the same location as the original clip. If the “Split” command was given while the original clip was in the video track, the new clip will appear in the video track adjacent to the original clip. If the “Split” command was

given while the original clip was in the palette, the new clip will appear in the next available space in the palette.

Adjusting speed

Clips can be sped up or slowed down using the “Faster/Slower” slider in the track window. After selecting a clip to edit, drag the slider to select new speed.

Adjusting direction

Click a clip to edit and select **Reverse Clip Direction** from the **Advanced** menu. This will reverse both the video and the audio portions of the clip.

Adding effects

Click the button at the bottom of the “Clip Palette,” labeled **Effects**. Once a clip is selected, it will appear in the upper right corner of the “Effects Palette.” Select the desired effect, the “effect in” and “effect out” times for the clip, and click the **Apply** button located to the left of the preview window.

The **Commit** button eliminates the unaffected clip and leaves only the affected clip. **Restore Clip** returns an affected clip to its original format. **Restore Clip** cannot be done after **Commit** has been selected.

Inserting Transitions and Titles

Previewing and inserting transition types

The **Transitions** button is also located among the “Clip Palette” buttons. After selecting a clip, clicking a transition type will trigger a display of that transition in the “Preview Window.” This transition assumes the transition will be from the clip immediately to the left of the selected clip in the track. You can adjust the speed of the transition in the slider under the “Preview Window”. To apply the transition, drag the transition type between the transitioning clips in the video track.

Previewing and inserting title types

Titles are similar to effects. Select the clip to receive the title, select the type of title and type in its contents. Adjust the color, font type, and font size with the controls located over the text boxes. Drag the title type on top of the clip you wish to display that title.

Importing Audio

Audio tracks

The two tracks under the video track are reserved for audio information. Many types of sound files can be used in either of these tracks, and files can overlap within a single track. All audio work is done through the **Audio** button at the bottom of the “Clip Palette.”

The volume slider, found in the lower right corner of the track window, adjusts the volume for any selected file, regardless of type or track location. The “fade in, fade out” checkboxes work in a similar fashion.

Sound clips can be cropped in the same fashion as video clips. Move the dark gray arrows so they surround the portion of the audio clip that you wish to keep. Select **Crop** from the **Edit** menu to delete the remaining fragments.

Sound effects

iMovie comes with a selection of sound effects. Drag these files into an audio track to enter them into the movie. You may add sound effects by dragging sound clips into the **Sound Clips** folder located in iMovie’s **Resources** folder.

Recording voice

Clicking the **Record** button located under the “Record Voice” portion of the Audio palette records any input from the Mac’s microphone port. This information is automatically entered into an audio track.

Incoming sound levels are displayed in the bar immediately to the right of the microphone icon. Try to keep the sound level in the middle green area. If the sound is too loud and enters the red, the recorded clip may be distorted and unusable.

Recording CD clips

To record a portion of a CD track, select the track from the list and click the **Record Music** button below the CD controls. Press **Stop** (the same button as **Record Music**) when finished.

Importing CD tracks

To capture an entire CD track, simply drag that track from the Audio CD list and place it in one of the audio tracks.

Importing other audio files

In the **File** menu, select **Import File** and guide iMovie to the desired file. iMovie understands AIFF, MP3, and System 7 Sound formats. iMovie does not understand WAV, Sound Designer II, or AU files. A separate application, such as Peak LE or SoundAPP, must be used to convert audio clips into a format that iMovie understands.

Exporting Finished Project

Exporting to camera

In the **File** menu, select the **Export Movie** option. When exporting to camera, it is a good idea to allow 5 – 10 seconds of blank space before iMovie sends the video data. If not enough blank space is selected before the export, the beginning of the movie could be clipped off.

Once you are satisfied with the options in the dialog box, click the **Export** button. This sends the information out the FireWire port of the CPU and back to the external device.

Exporting as Quicktime

Exporting the project as a Quicktime document is best if you plan on using your project on a Web page or in a multimedia presentation. Select **Export Movie** from the **File** menu and choose **Quicktime**. iMovie is programmed with compressors for a variety of Quicktime uses. Select the compressor that best matches your future use and click the **Export** button. A new Quicktime file will be generated.

Implementing Finished Project

Linking to Web page

Once you have obtained a Quicktime file, linking this file to a web page is simple: use the `` tag to link the file to the site. Clicking that link will then trigger the Quicktime plug-in or prompt the user for downloading instructions.

Importing to PowerPoint

Quicktime movies can also be imported into a PowerPoint slide. In PowerPoint, start at the **Insert** menu. Select **Movies and Sounds**, guide PowerPoint to the file, and drag the icon to the desired location on the slide.

Getting Additional Help

ACS provides consulting and Q&A help in a variety of ways:

785/864-0200

question@ku.edu

www.ku.edu/acs/help

Last Update: 09/10/2002