



File formats compatible with GLO Maker

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Updates to this tutorial, other tutorials and guides and the GLO Maker software are available from the GLO Maker website: <http://www.glomaker.org>

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File formats compatible with GLO Maker

1. Media file formats compatible with GLO Maker

The GLO Maker software is compatible with most of the widely used media file formats for each of the 5 media types:

- audio
- video
- interactive animations
- text
- images.

Audio



The only audio media file format presently compatible with GLO Maker is MP3 - **MPEG-1 Audio Layer 3**, the file extension for this format is **.mp3** or **.MP3**. It is a widely used file format and there are many tools that are freely available for conversion of whatever audio format to the MP3 one. One such tool, called Audacity, is described in section 2 of this appendix.

Video



The only video media file format presently compatible with GLO Maker is FLV – Flash Video, the extension for this file format is **.flv** or **.FLV**. The choice of this file format for video media was forced by the requirements of the delivery platforms (web browsers and mobile phones primarily). There are several freely available software tools for conversion of whatever video format to the FLV one. One such tool, called Media Coder, is described in section 2 of this appendix.

Interactive and non-interactive animations



The industry standard for this type of media is Shockwave Flash (SWF) from Adobe Flash originally developed by [Macromedia](#) and is now, following their acquisition, a technology from [Adobe](#). The file extension for this file format is **.swf** or **.SWF**. Intended to be small enough for publication on the web, SWF files can contain [animations](#) or [applets](#) of varying degrees of interactivity and function. SWF is also sometimes used for creating animated display graphics and menus for DVD movies, and television commercials. This is the most versatile type of media as it can ‘absorb’ all other media formats and also affords interactive functionality. Although there are a number of tools that output the media files of this type (usually smaller applications that deal with one set of functionality, e.g. image slide show), the files of this format are made with Adobe Flash application. The GLO Maker is only compatible with SWF files produced/compiled with Action Script 2 (AS2).

Text



Most of the text in the GLO instances is stored inside the XML file and does not require any additional formatting or explanation. Presently the GLO Maker software prototype uses external text media in only one page instance (Access Views – transcript of the audio media) and it is of simple text format **.txt** or **.TXT**. Note – when typing transcripts text into text files (that you consequently load into the LO) you can use standard html style tags, for example `this` would result in **this**, `<i>this</i>` would look like *this* – finally `<i>this</i>` would look render like ***this***.

Images



Presently two image media file types, JPG and GIF, are compatible with GLO Maker. The extensions for these file types are **.jpg** or **.JPG** and **.gif** or **.GIF**. The JPG format is recommended as it has been tested with GLO Maker more completely. Converting whatever image media format to JPG one can be done in a number of freely available image manipulation tools – the most accessible one on a PC platform is a Paint software tool which enables opening of wide range of image formats and allows for conversion to JPG by Save as... and then choosing the .jpg format for the file to be saved.

2. Guide to converting media file formats

This section explains the acquisition, installation and use of tools for audio and video files conversion to the required format for use with GLO Maker software tool. These tools are discussed only for PC platform, references throughout this section point to the documentation where Mac and Linux platform-deployment of these tools is explained.

Installing and using Audacity software to convert audio files to MP3 format



Audacity is a free software tool for audio editing/mixing and can also be used to convert from one audio file format to another. The software is available for download from here:

Windows 2000/XP/Vista: [Audacity 1.3.4 installer](#) (.exe file, 2.9 MB)

For Audacity [installation manual click here](#), and read from page 141.

Once Audacity software is installed the audio file of non-MP3 format can be imported for conversion. Please read below for one final issue regarding the conversion to MP3 format.

The following is abbreviated from Audacity Manual ([available here](#)), page 92:

Exporting MP3

Audacity cannot encode MP3 files by itself, because the MP3 encoding algorithm is patented and cannot legally be used in free programs. However, Audacity has been programmed to recognize other existing MP3 encoders that you can download separately. All you have to do is obtain the appropriate MP3 encoder for your computer and then show Audacity where it is located.

To obtain the necessary encoder search Google for **lame_enc.dll** or download the encoder by [clicking here](#).

Installing the encoder

The first time you try to export an MP3 file, Audacity will ask you to locate your MP3 encoder. Locate the file indicated above. From then on, Audacity will not need to ask you again and you will be able to export MP3 files easily!

Installing and using Media Coder software to convert video files to FLV format



Media Coder is a free software tool for video format conversion. The software is available for download from here:

Windows 2000/XP/Vista: [Media Coder 0.6.1 installer](#) (.exe file).

The only video format compatible with GLO Maker is Flash Video (with file extensions **.flv** or **.FLV**). The following section describes the process of converting a file of any video format to the Flash Video format.

Converting videos to FLV with Media Coder

When Media Coder is started the interface in Figure 1 is presented. Clicking on the Add... button will allow you to select the file you want to convert. Once you have selected the file it will appear in the top left area; also, the *Output Folder* setting (text field in the top of the interface) needs to be set to the location where the converted file will be stored.

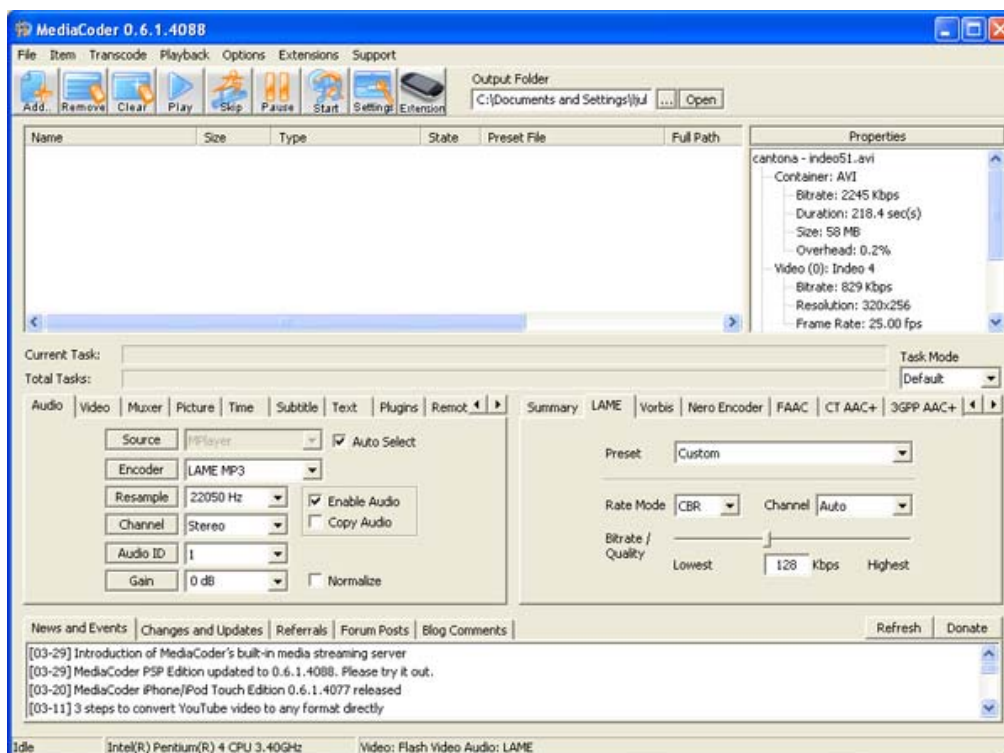


Figure 1 – Media Coder interface

With the source file specified the next step is to set Media Coder to convert the source file to a FLV file. We do this by clicking on the Extensions button – Figure 2 has this button highlighted.

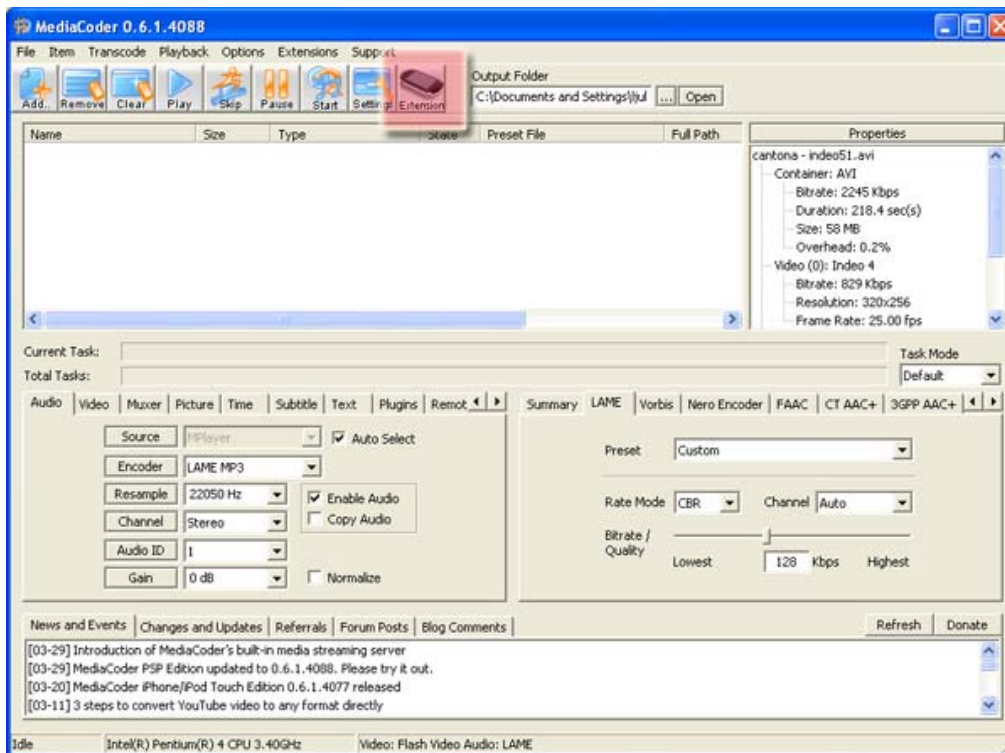


Figure 2 – 'Extensions' button

Clicking on the *Extensions* button brings up the window - visual menu (Figure 3) depicting possible choices. The *Flash Video Maker* choice is highlighted in Figure 3.



Figure 3 – Icons menu

The settings in *MediaCoder Flash Video Maker* control panel should, in most cases, be left as is. The conversion process is started by clicking on the *Start Encoding* button – bottom right in Figure 4.

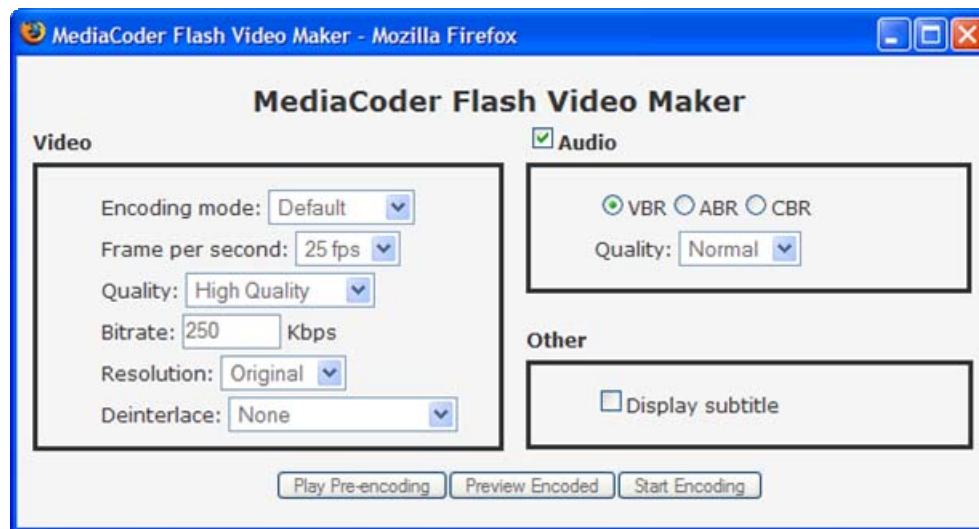


Figure 4 - The MediaCoder Flash Video Maker control panel

The duration of the conversion depends on the size of the file; progress can be monitored in the main interface, both in percentages and remaining time. After the conversion process is complete the converted file can be loaded into GLO Maker.