

Introduction to MadCap Mimic

PRESENTED BY

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UA Europe?
ANNUAL CONFERENCE
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What we'll cover this morning

- The principle of frame-based recording
- Overall production workflow
- Tour of Mimic interface and Movie files
- Automatic recording
- Adding objects to frames
- Timeline
- Movie properties
- Keyframes
- Publishing
- Taking it further: single-sourcing and interactivity



Plus...

- Launching videos from Flare

Typical video demo:

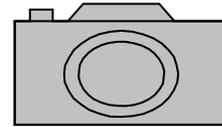
- Series of static screens
- Mouse movement and typing on each screen
- Audio narration and sound effects

Exceptions:

- Drag-and-drop operations
- Drawing/painting/image editing tasks
- Dynamic interfaces

Frame-based recording

- Mimic records screen activity by capturing a series of screens or “frames”



- You then add simulated mouse movement and typing on each frame

- Publish to HTML5 video





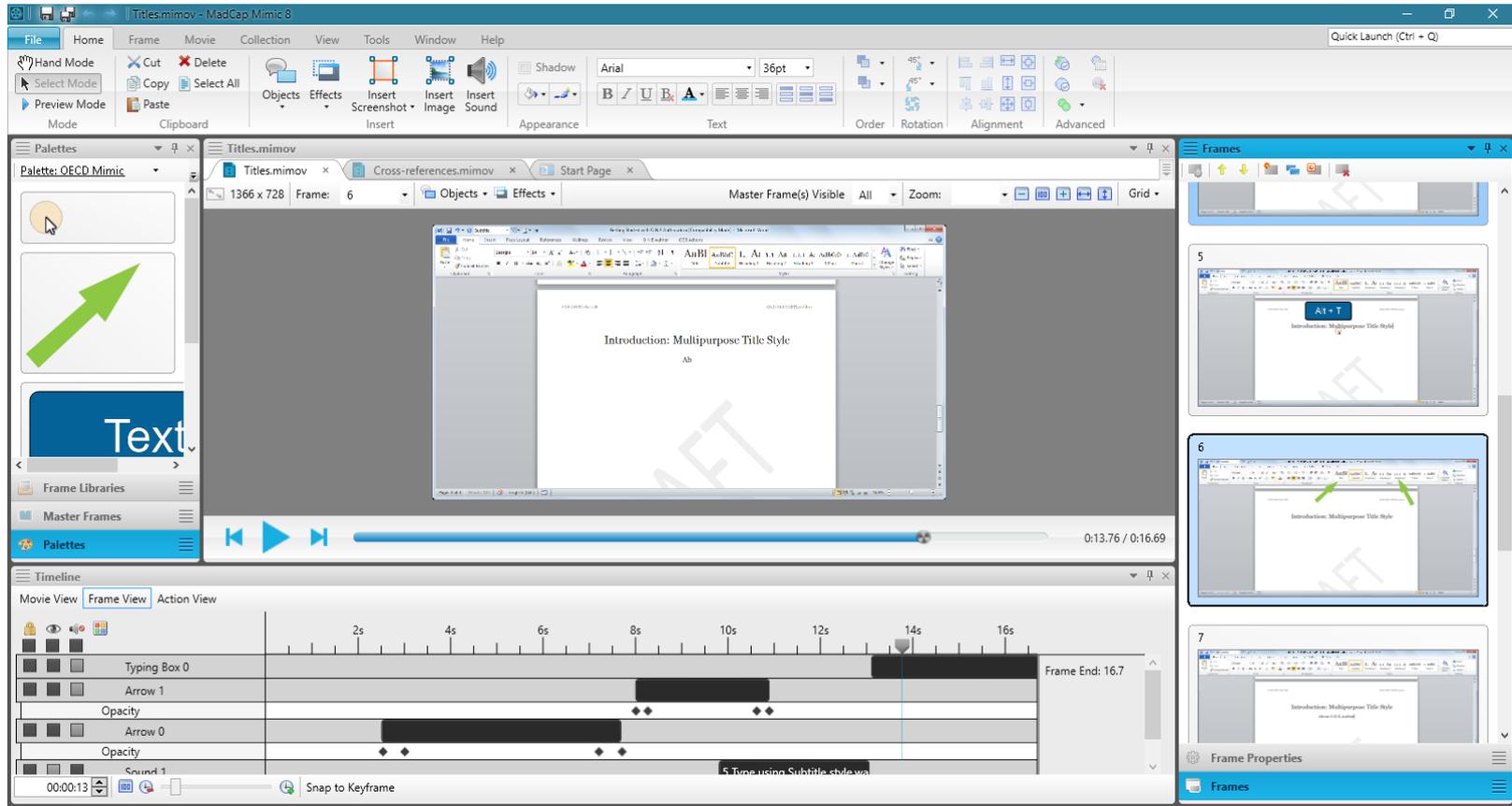
Advantages of frame-based recording

- Possible to tweak screens as a result of UI changes
- Easier to change timing
- Easier to control mouse movement
- Easier to localize

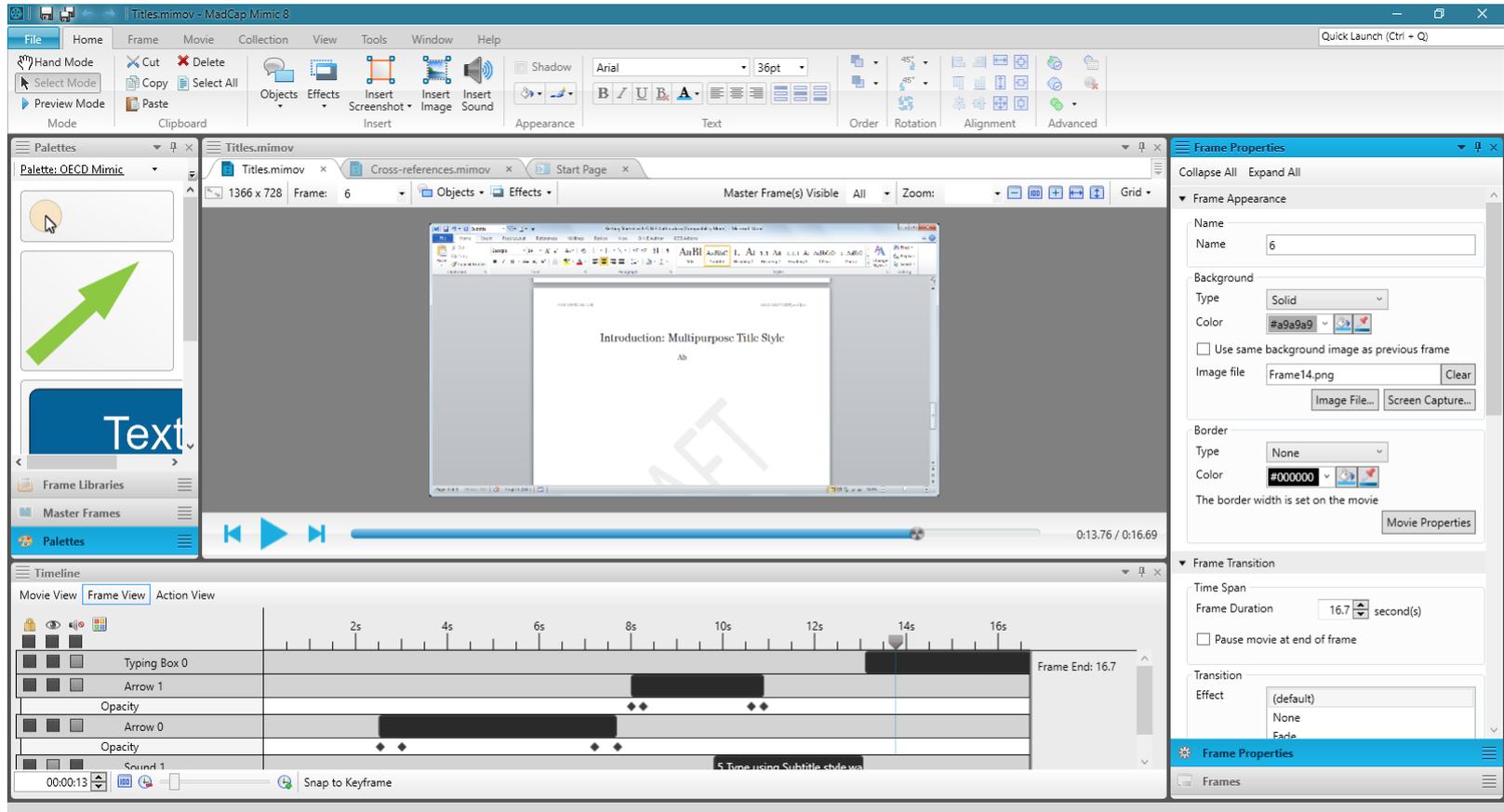
Basic workflow

1. Record frames
2. Add mouse movement, typing, and objects
3. Add audio
4. Fine-tune the timing of objects and frames
5. Publish to HTML5 video
 - Multiple files (interaction possible)
 - Single file .mp4 or .webm (no interaction)

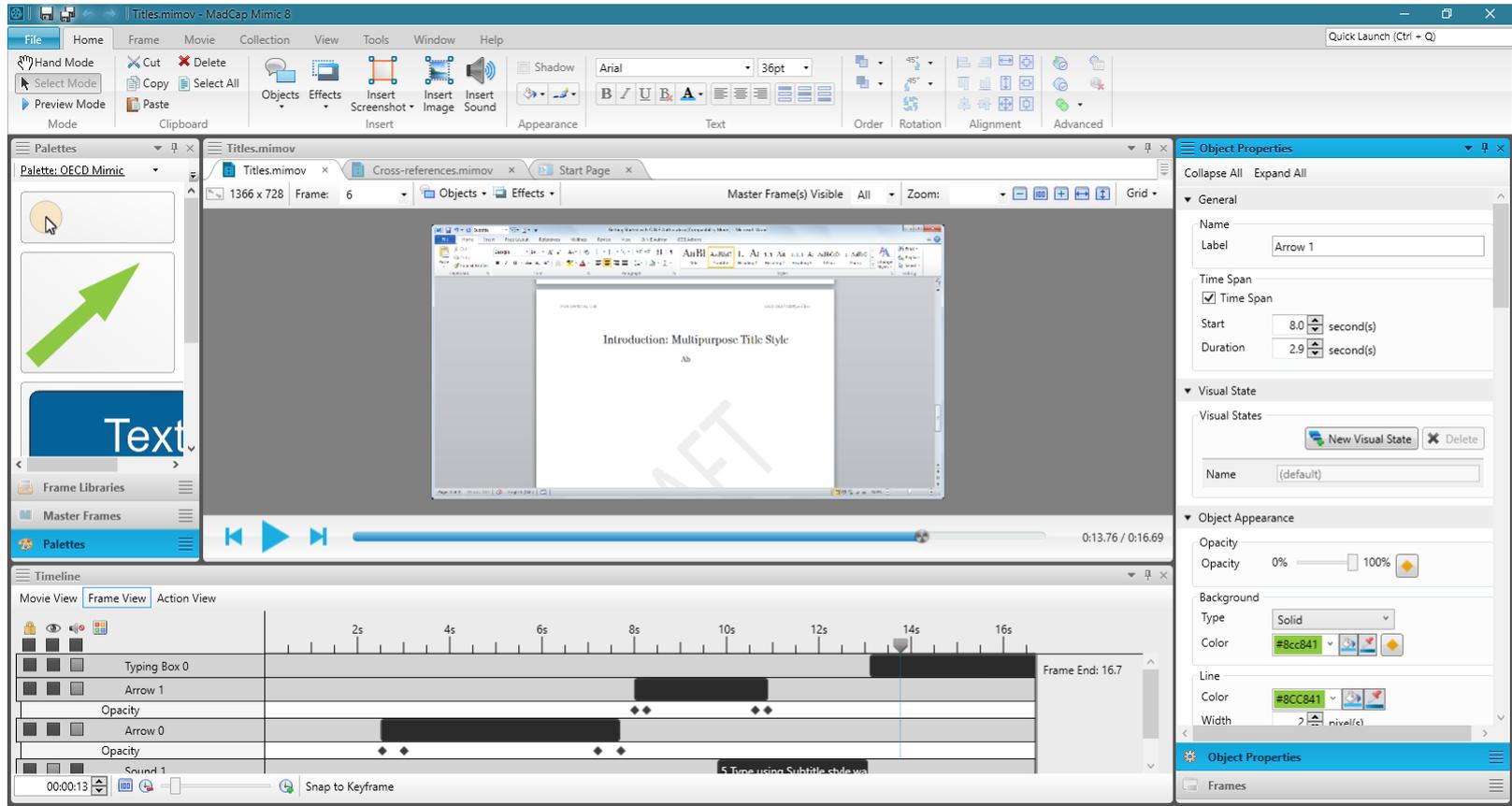
User Interface



User Interface



User Interface



Focus on Timeline

Frame Editor shows objects that are visible at **playhead** position

The screenshot shows a video editing software interface with a timeline. The timeline is labeled 'Timeline' and has three view options: 'Movie View', 'Frame View' (selected), and 'Action View'. The timeline itself is a horizontal ruler with markers every second from 1s to 16s. A vertical playhead is positioned at approximately 5.5 seconds. Below the ruler, there are several tracks for different elements:

- Typing Box 0**: A track with a black bar from approximately 13s to 16.7s.
- Arrow 1**: A track with a black bar from approximately 8s to 11s.
- Opacity**: A track with two diamond-shaped keyframes at approximately 8.5s and 11s.
- Arrow 0**: A track with a black bar from approximately 3s to 8s.
- Opacity**: A track with two diamond-shaped keyframes at approximately 3.5s and 5.5s.
- Sound 1**: A track with a black bar from approximately 10s to 11s, labeled '5 Type using Subtitle style.wav'.
- Sound 1**: A track with a black bar from approximately 0s to 5.5s, labeled '4b Next style automatically Subtitle.wav'.

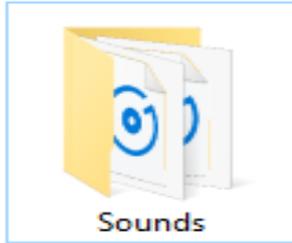
At the bottom of the interface, there is a time display showing '00:00:05' and a 'Snap to Keyframe' button. A 'Frame End: 16.7' label is visible on the right side of the timeline.

Three callout boxes are present:

- A teal callout box pointing to the playhead at 5.5s, containing the text: 'Frame Editor shows objects that are visible at **playhead** position'.
- A teal callout box pointing to a diamond-shaped keyframe on the 'Opacity' track at 11s, containing the text: 'Keyframe'.
- A teal callout box pointing to the black bars in the 'Sound 1' tracks, containing the text: 'Bars represent sounds and objects'.

Movie files

For “Movie”,
think “Project”



Sounds



Frame1.bmp



Frame11.bmp



Frame12.png



Frame13.png



Frame14.png



Frame15.png



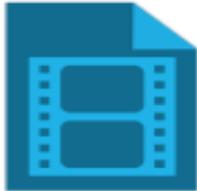
Frame17.png



Frame18.png



Frame19.png



Titles.mimov

Mimic
Movie file

Frame background
images

Sounds



0 Adding
Titles.wav



1
Introduction.wav



2 Let's type title
text.wav



3 Apply Title
style.wav



3a Keyboard
Shortcut.wav



4a When we
press enter.wav



4b Next style
automatically
Subtitle.wav



5 Type using
Subtitle style.wav



6b Next style
automatically
para.wav



MiscKeyClick.mp
3



MiscKeyClickSoft
.mp3



MiscKeyClickSoft
.wav



MiscMouseClickS
oft.mp3



Other videos are
available.wav



That completes
this video
demonstration.w
av

.mp3, .webm,
or .wav. files

Collection

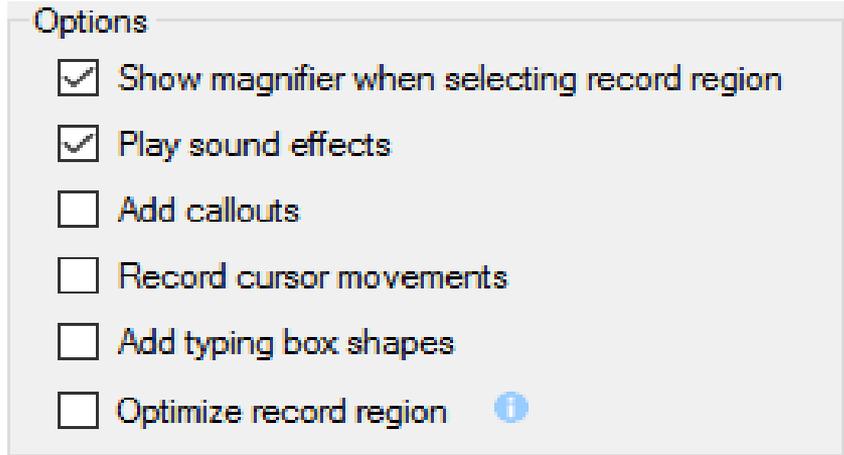
- Annexes.mimovf
- Cross-references.mimovf
- Customising the Quick Access Toolbar.mimovf
- Editing the cover page.mimovf
- Heading and Paragraph Numbering.mimovf
- List Formatting.mimovf
- Opening ONE Author.mimovf
- Output
- Table of Contents.mimovf
- Tables, Figures, and Boxes.mimovf
- Titles.mimovf
-  O.N.E Author.miprj

Collection of
related
Mimic Movies

Automatic recording

- Frames (screenshots) captured automatically
- Options to:
 - Add callouts
 - Record cursor movements
 - Add typing box shapes

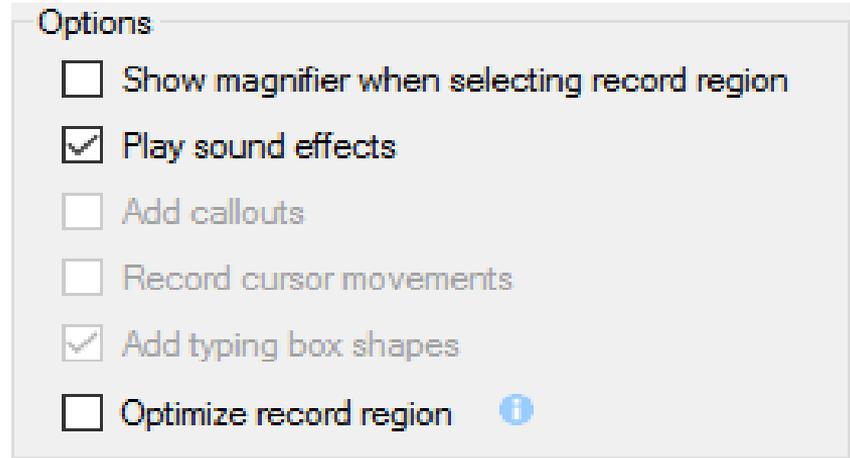
DEMONSTRATION



Alternative: Manual Recording

- Press **PrtSc** to capture frames
- No options to add objects to frames automatically
- My preferred recording mode

DEMONSTRATION





Tips for recording

- Use Manual recording
- Err on the side of more captures than you need
- Consider capturing mouseover effects (such as tooltips)
- Don't worry about timing
- Don't try to add narration at this stage

The Edit Phase – Adding Objects

- Useful objects:
 - Arrow
 - Loop
 - Bubble
 - Text rectangle
 - Cursor (mouse pointer)
- Mimic shares palettes with MadCap Capture



Working with objects

- Adjust size and position:
 - Drag in **Frame Editor**
 - In **Object Properties**, change **Object Layout** settings
- Adjust timing:
 - Drag in **Timeline**
 - In **Object Properties**, change **Start** and **Duration**

(if **Time Span** unchecked, then object stays for duration of frame)

The screenshot shows the 'Object Properties' panel with the following settings:

- Object Layout**
 - Shape**
 - Position**: 384.00 (x) and 239.00 (y) pixel(s)
 - Size**: 150.00 (width) and 40.00 (height) pixel(s)
 - Rotation**: -42 degree(s)
- Time Span**
 - Time Span**
 - Start**: 0.5 second(s)
 - Duration**: 1.1 second(s)

DEMONSTRATION

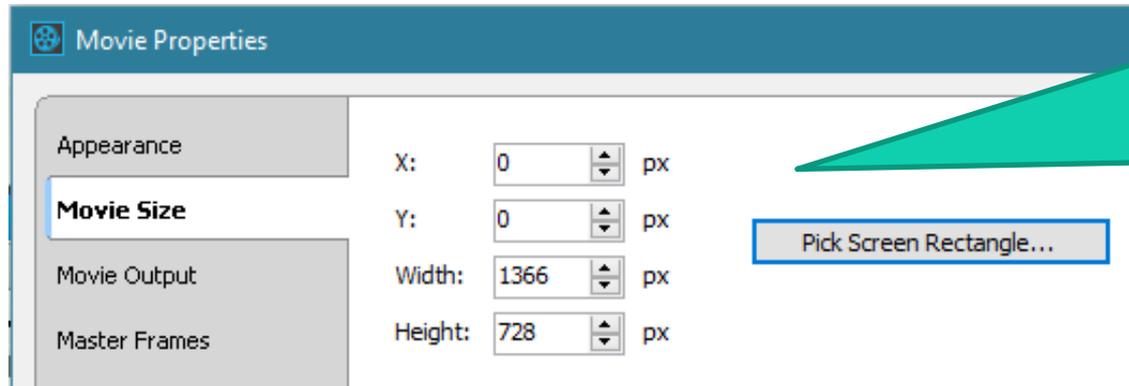


Movie Properties

- Critical properties:
 - Movie Size
 - Movie Output

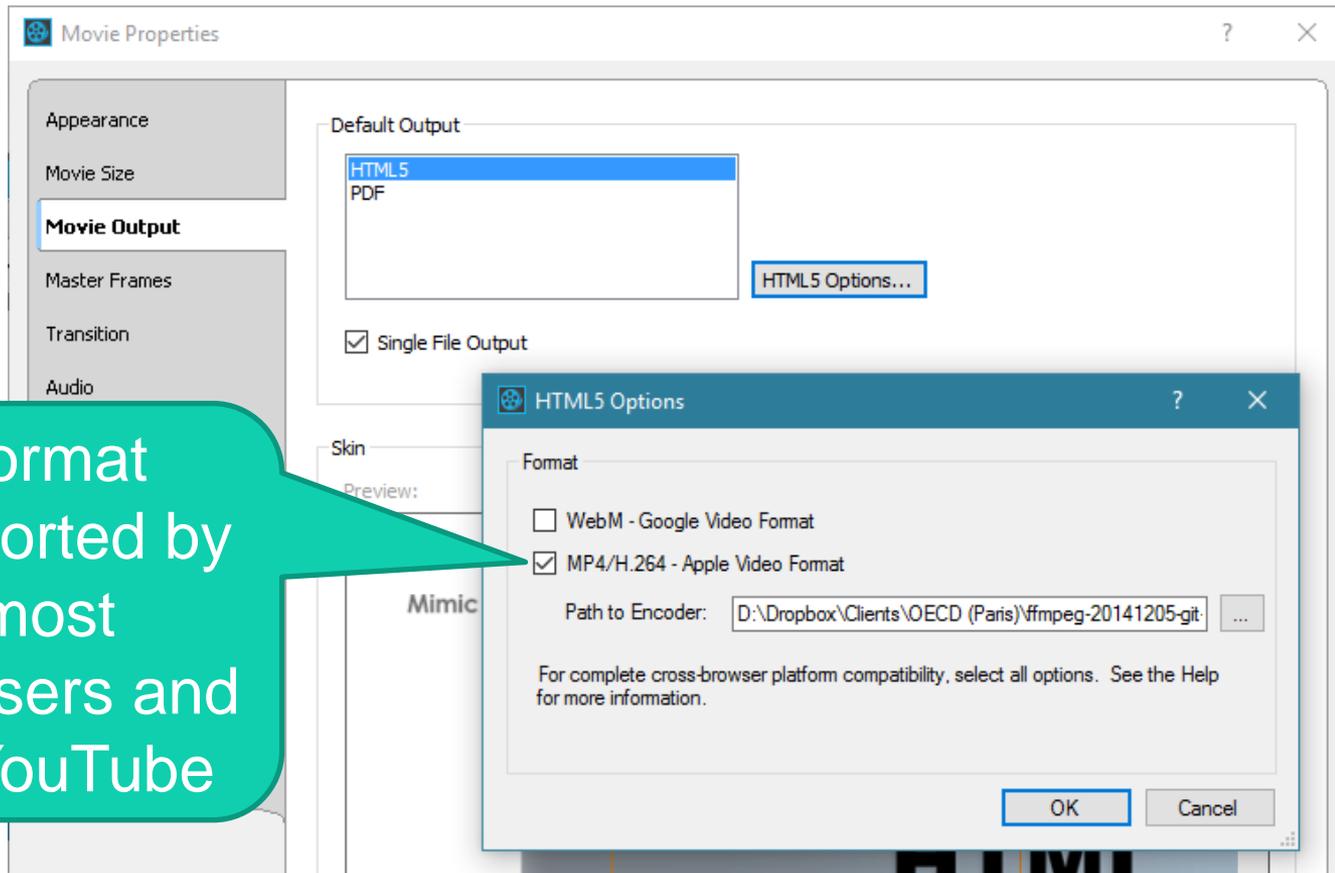
Movie Size

- Width and Height defined by initial recording



X and Y set position of recording rectangle for additional frames

Movie Output



Format supported by most browsers and by YouTube

Single File Output?

Single File	Multiple Files

Single File Output?

Single File	Multiple Files
Single .mp4 or .webm	Multiple folders and files (.htm, .css, .png, .js, .mp4)

Single File Output?

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Required for upload to YouTube or other video hosting sites	Can't be uploaded to YouTube

Single File Output?

Single File	Multiple Files
Single .mp4 or .webm	Multiple folders and files (.htm, .css, .png, .js, .mp4)
Required for upload to YouTube or other video hosting sites	Can't be uploaded to YouTube
Interactive elements ignored	Interaction possible (pause, buttons, branching, etc.)

For simple video demos,
I recommend **Single File**

Keyframes

- Concept from animation industry
- Very important new feature in Mimic 8
- Keyframes enable changes to happen within a frame
 - Fade in text rectangle, loop, arrow, etc.
 - Move cursor (mouse pointer)

How do keyframes work in Mimic?

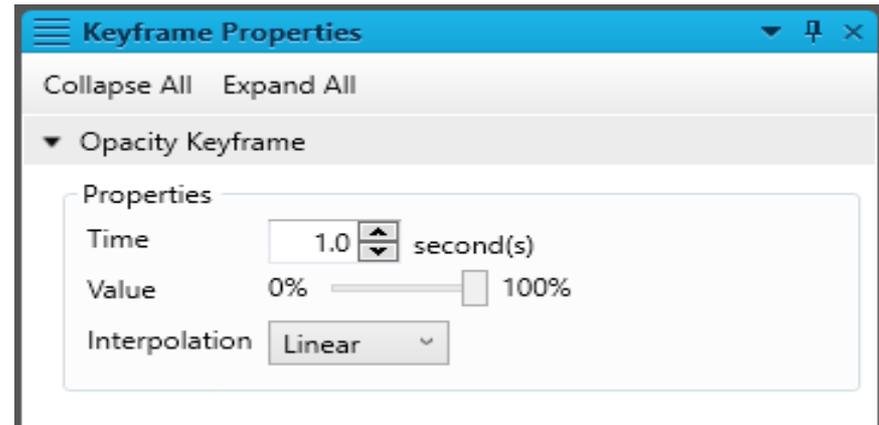
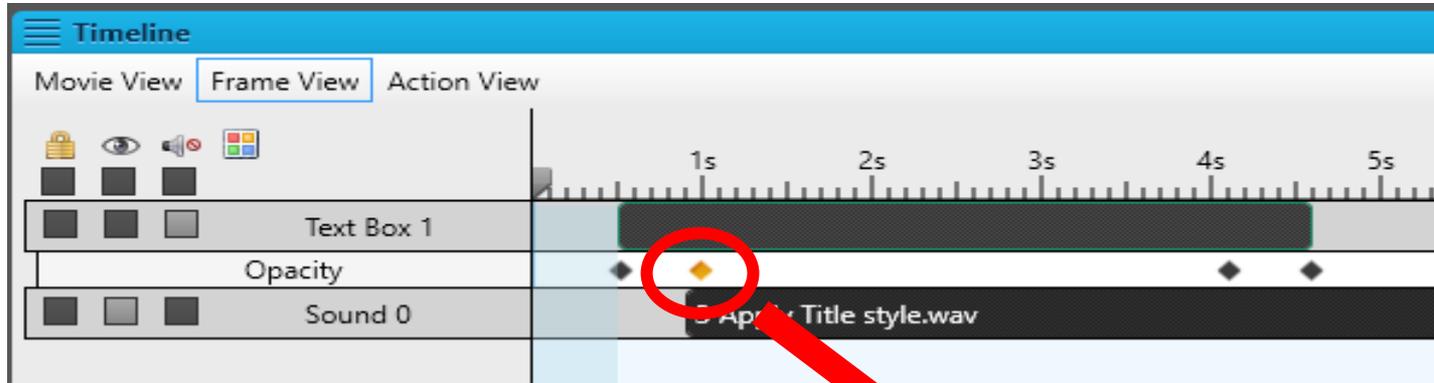
- Keyframes indicate points on a frame's timeline where an object has a specific state
- If you set up two or more keyframes with different states in a frame, the object transitions from one state to another as the frame plays



Keyframe example: Fade in/out

- Fade in - smooth transition between two states:
 - opacity of 0%
 - opacity of 100%
- Two keyframes: 0%, 100%
- Smooth transition: **Linear** Interpolation

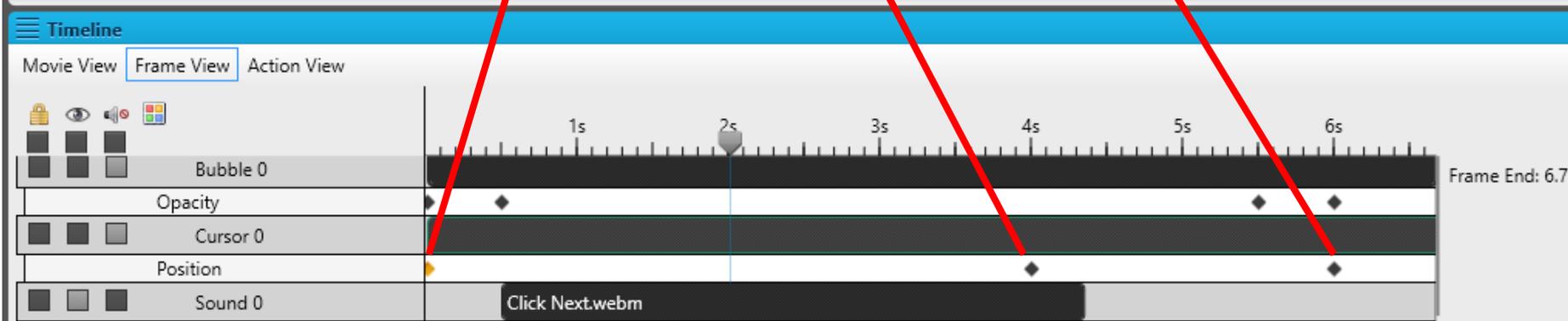
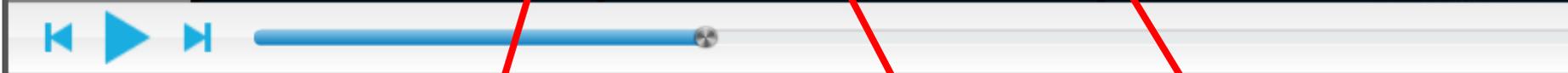
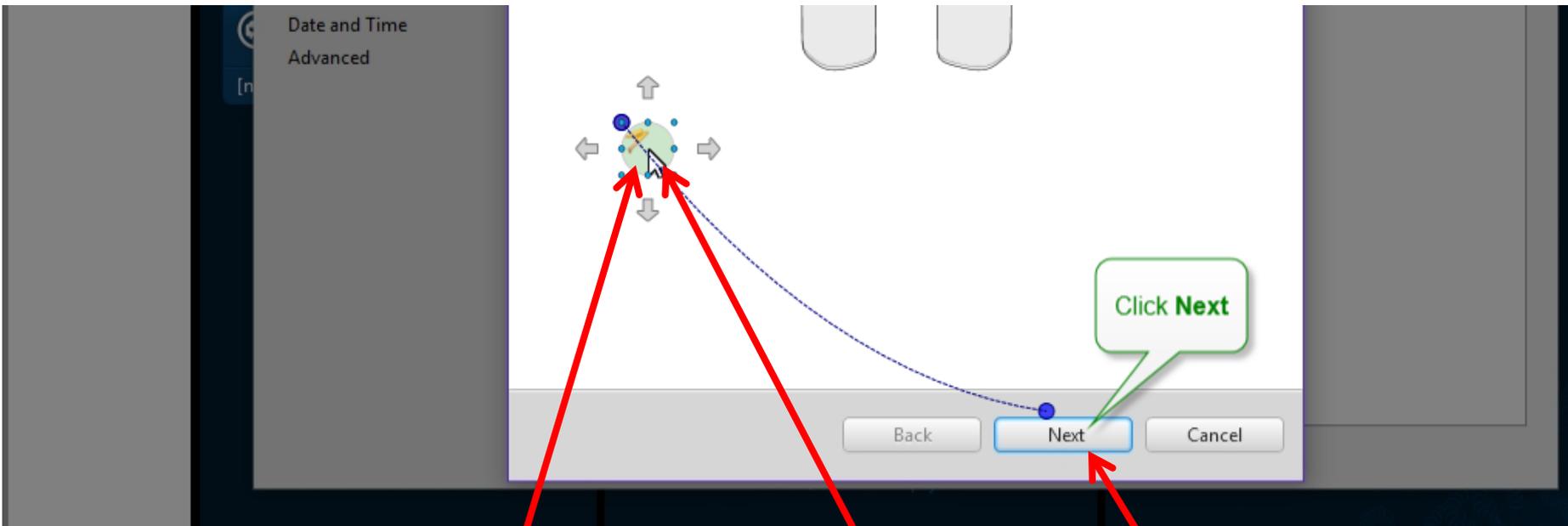
Keyframe example: Fade in/out



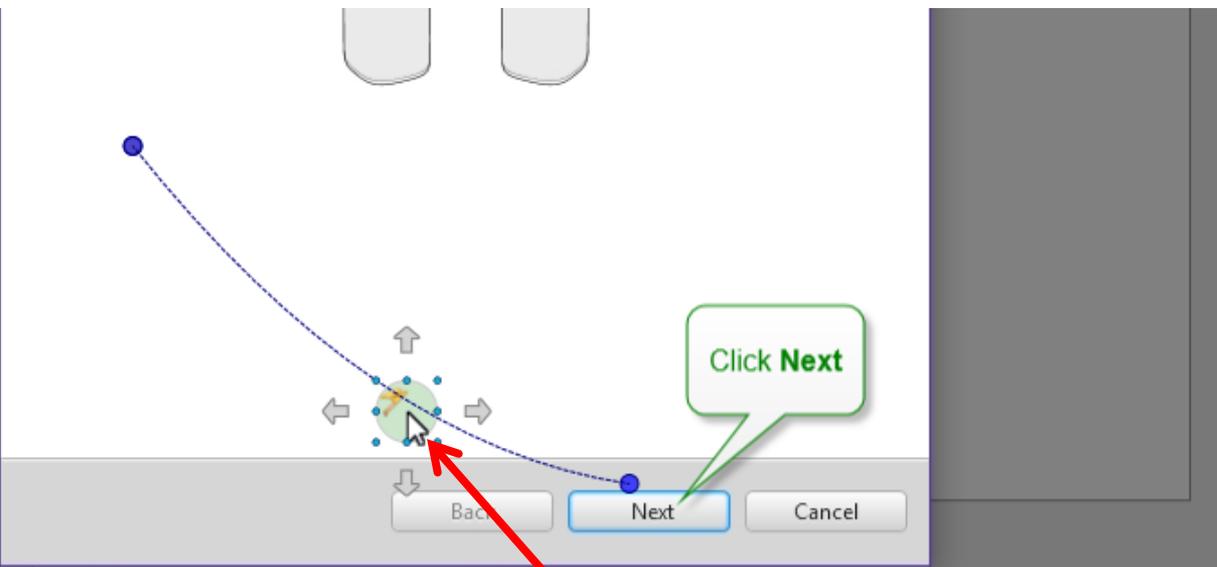
DEMONSTRATION

Keyframe example: Move cursor

- Keyframes with different **position** properties
- Typical frame scenario:
 1. Mouse pointer static during narration
 2. Mouse pointer moves (along curve) to destination
 3. Mouse hovers for a short time before clicking



Date and Time
Advanced
[n



Timeline

Movie View **Frame View** Action View

🔒 👁 🔊 🎨

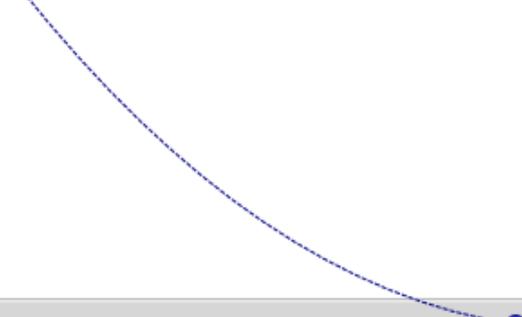
Property	Timeline
Bubble 0	Timeline bar with diamond markers at approximately 1.5s, 5.5s, and 6.5s.
Opacity	Timeline bar with diamond markers at approximately 1.5s, 5.5s, and 6.5s.
Cursor 0	Timeline bar with a yellow diamond marker at 0s.
Position	Timeline bar with a diamond marker at approximately 4.5s.
Sound 0	Timeline bar with a black bar labeled 'Click Next.webm' from 0s to approximately 5.5s.

1s 2s 3s 4s 5s 6s

Frame End: 6.7

Date and Time
Advanced

[n



Back

Next

Cancel

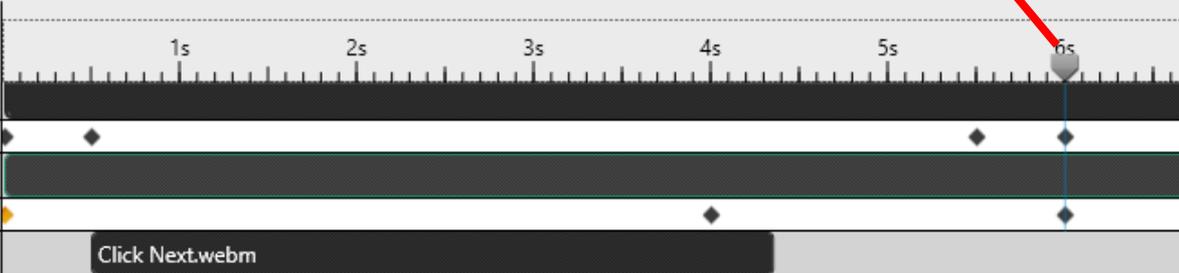


Timeline

Movie View **Frame View** Action View



Bubble 0	Timeline bar
Opacity	Timeline bar
Cursor 0	Timeline bar
Position	Timeline bar
Sound 0	Timeline bar



Frame End: 6.7

Properties of final keyframe

The screenshot displays a video editing software interface. The main window shows a keyframe curve for a property. A blue dot represents the start of the curve, and a white dot represents the end. A callout bubble points to the curve with the text "Drag to change curve". The interface includes a timeline at the bottom with a playhead at 0:06.01 / 0:06.66. On the right, the "Keyframe Properties" panel is open, showing the following settings:

Property	Value	Unit	
Time	6.0	second(s)	
Position	563.00	541.00	pixel(s)
Interpolation	Bezier		
Control Point 1	56.00	521.43	pixel(s)
Control Point 2	74.00	345.00	pixel(s)

A callout bubble points to the "Bezier" interpolation dropdown with the text "Select Bezier for curved path". The "Keyframe Properties" panel also includes "Collapse All" and "Expand All" buttons. The bottom of the interface shows a "Frames" panel with "Keyframe Properties" selected.

Drag to
change curve

Select Bezier
for curved path

DEMONSTRATION

Publishing

The image shows two overlapping windows from a video publishing application. The left window, titled "Video Services", displays a login section with "Service: YouTube" and "Logged in as: mewinwriters", along with a "Logout" button. Below is a "Videos" section showing a video thumbnail for "Create Stereo Pair" uploaded 17 seconds ago. The right window, titled "Sonos - Create Stereo Pair.mimov", is a "Publish Movie(s)" dialog. It has a "General" section with "Type" set to "YouTube". The "Metadata" section includes fields for "Video" (D:\Dropbox\MadCap Software\MadWorld\MadWorld 2017 Presen...), "Title" (Create Stereo Pair), "Description" (Demonstration of how to create a stereo pair with two SONOS PLAY:1 speakers), "Tags", "Category" (Science & Technolo...), and "Private" (Yes). At the bottom right of the dialog are "Start Publishing" and "Cancel" buttons, and a "View Last Log..." button.

Video Services

Login

Service: YouTube

Logged in as: mewinwriters

Logout

Videos

Create Stereo Pair
17 second(s) ago

Video Services

Help Search

Palettes

Sonos - Create Stereo Pair.mimov

Publish Movie(s)

General

Type: YouTube

Metadata

Video: D:\Dropbox\MadCap Software\MadWorld\MadWorld 2017 Presen...

Title: Create Stereo Pair

Description: Demonstration of how to create a stereo pair with two SONOS PLAY:1 speakers

Tags:

Category: Science & Technolo...

Private: Yes

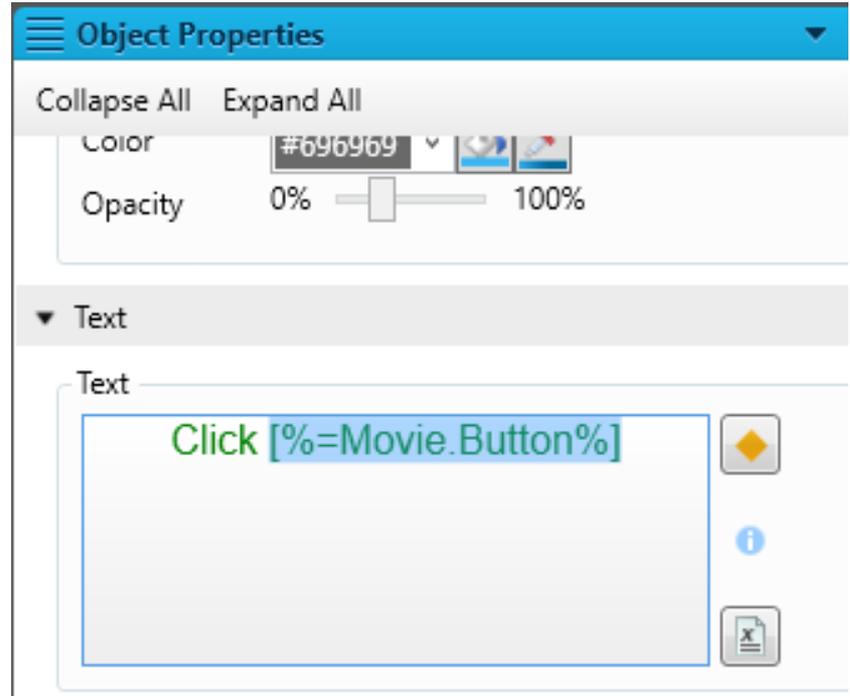
View Last Log...

Start Publishing

Cancel

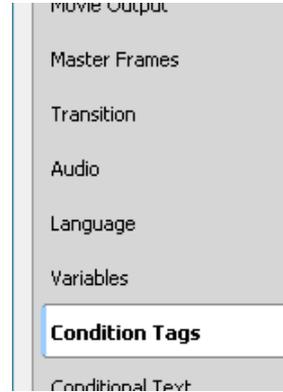
Single-sourcing features

- Variables
 - Can use variables from a linked Flare project



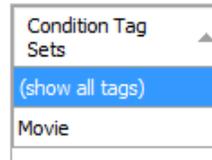
Single-sourcing features

- Conditions
 - Apply conditions to frames and objects
 - Exclude/Include conditions from Build



Condition Tags:

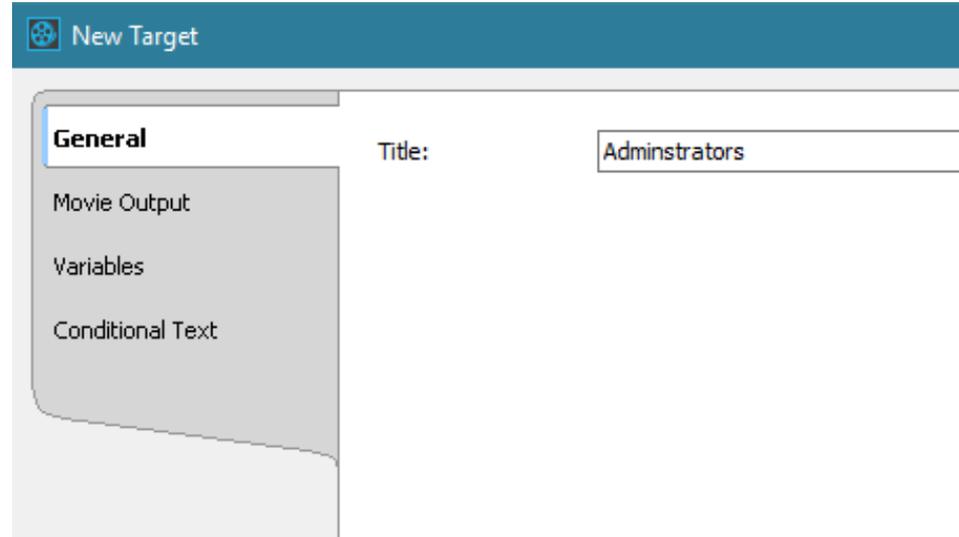
Name	Background	Comment	
Advanced	Blue		
Beginner	Red		
	Blue		



Tags	Include	Exclude
Movie.Advanced	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Movie.Beginner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

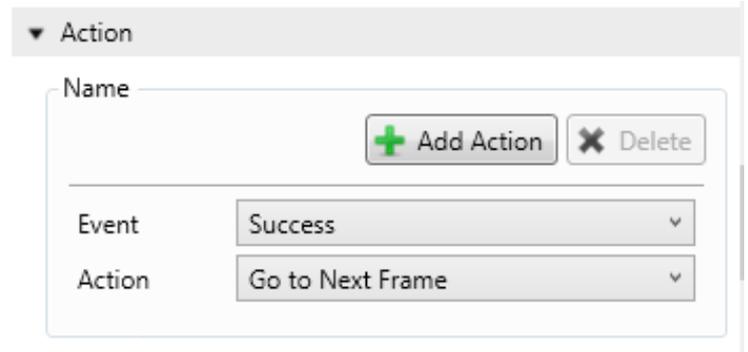
Single-sourcing features

- Targets
 - Optionally define multiple targets
 - Movie output can be HTML5 or PDF



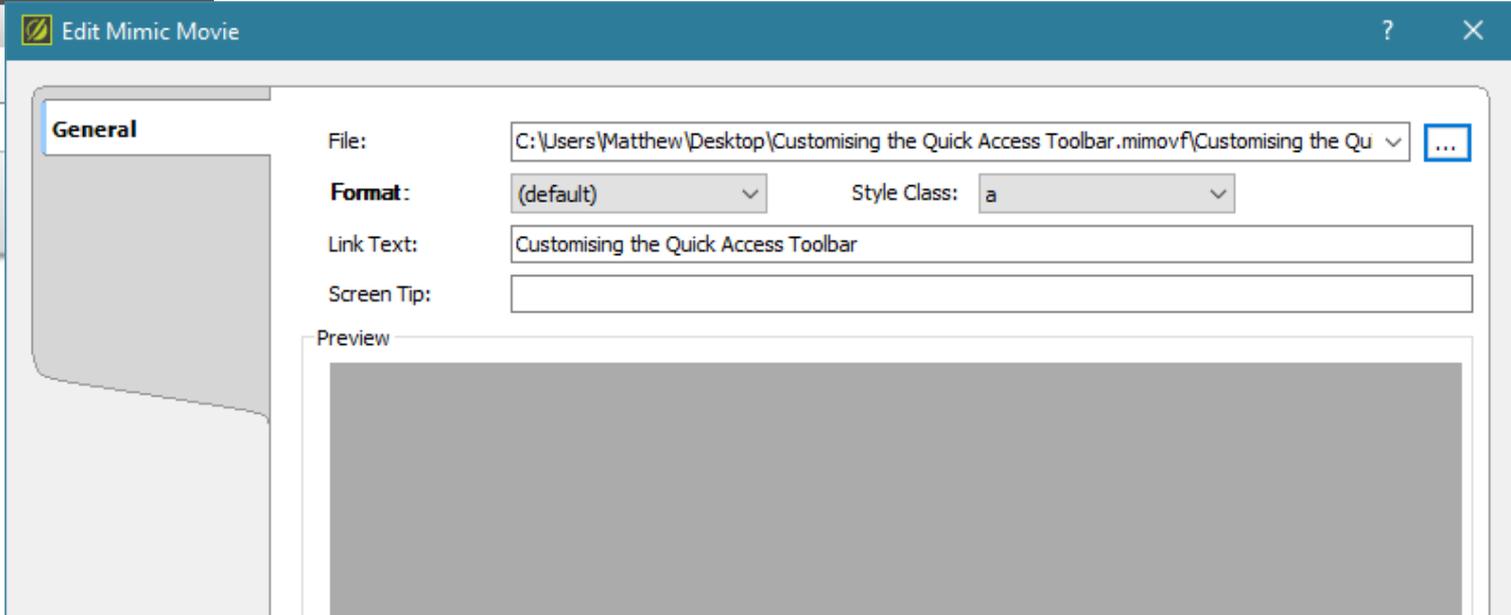
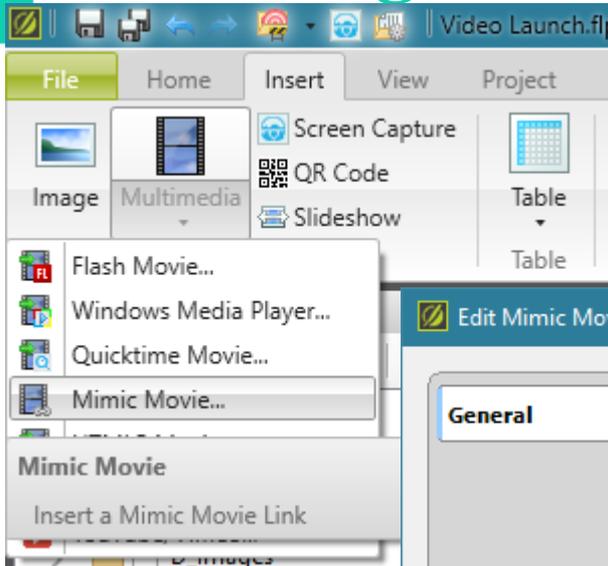
Interactivity

- Object actions
 - Buttons and rectangles
 - Input boxes
- End actions for cursors
- Branching



The image shows a software interface for configuring an action. At the top, there is a grey header with a downward arrow and the text 'Action'. Below this is a white panel with a 'Name' label and an empty text input field. To the right of the input field are two buttons: a green button with a plus sign and the text 'Add Action', and a grey button with an 'X' and the text 'Delete'. Below the input field, there are two rows of dropdown menus. The first row is labeled 'Event' and has a dropdown menu with 'Success' selected. The second row is labeled 'Action' and has a dropdown menu with 'Go to Next Frame' selected.

Inserting Mimic Movie into Flare



Alternative: insert MP4 file directly into Flare

- Quicker to compile
- More options:
 - YouTube
 - Popup

Questions?

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MADWORLD