

Compressing and Resizing Video Files Using Handbrake

Overview

Handbrake is software that provides an easy way to prepare video for the web. It is Open Source, free, and widely used. Some key features include:

- Runs on Windows, Mac, others. Plays back on default players of Windows, Mac, others including iOS.
- Downloadable from Handbrake's site in France (<u>http://handbrake.fr/downloads.php</u>)
- Handbrake takes one source file as input and saves to a destination another much smaller output file.
- The resulting file is often just 2%-20% of original's file size. These guidelines should reduce most videos that are 15 minutes or less down to a file size of less than 50 MB.

Compression Instructions

- 1 After installing the program, run it and click the **Source** button to select the video you wish to compress.
- 2 If you have multiple videos to process, follow the on-screen instructions for setting the "Default Path" that appear in the message box. If not, or you do not wish to set a default path, click OK.
- 3 In the area titled **Destination**, set where your compressed file will be stored and name it. Click **Browse** to choose the folder and name of your converted file.
- 4 Under **Output Settings**, Change the **Container** to *MP4 File* then check the *Web optimized* option.
- 5 On the **Picture** tab, choose the **Anamorphic** drop down and select *Loose*.
- 6 Above that box, confirm that the **Size Width** value is no larger than **640** by using the arrows or typing the appropriate width. Changing the width will automatically change the height to keep the video from being distorted.
- 7 Click on the **Video** tab and select the radio button next to **Avg bitrate (kbps):** and enter **256** in for the value.
- 8 Press the green **Start** button (will change to red Stop button while running).
- 9 Relax while software compresses the file. Allow about 2 minutes to process each minute of video.