

PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS 5

SLIDESHOW SIZES

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Photoshop Elements can create slideshows of any number of files provided they are Joint Photographic Experts Group (JPEG/JPG), Windows Bitmap (BMP), or CompuServe Bitmap (GIF). Elements will work with layered Photoshop Graphic (PSD) files, but those files can not be used in slideshows.

1. WMV OR PDF?

Here are some considerations of which format to use.

Windows Media Audio-Video (WMV) files are movies. Many transitions are offered and sound — both music and narration — can be added.

The quality can be controlled when you create these movies, but — unless you have Photoshop Premier Elements which permits showing — the quality of these shows is lacking.

Anyone who has Windows Media Player or a comparable player can view these movies.

However, the largest deficiencies of WMV is that they take much longer to create and their size is humongous when compared to PDF files.

Adobe portable document format (PDF) files are smaller files which can be viewed as slideshows using Adobe Reader. It is a free download at <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html> but it comes bundled on most computers. The free upgrade to Adobe Reader 7.0 is definitely a wise decision.

Unless otherwise specified, I create PDF slideshows only.

2. SIZE MATTERS.

Let's compare some implications of decisions.

The elements in your decision-making process must be quality, size and sound. You want the best quality for the system that is to play the slideshow. However, you need to keep the size (in megabytes) to a minimum if you're going to share the slideshows *via* email. And, finally, you've got to determine if sound will add that "something special" to the show.

So, let's look at statistics from actual PDF slideshows I've created.

| SLIDESHOW: | "Thank You, God" | | |
|-------------|------------------|-----------|---------|
| # OF SLIDES | PIXELS | MUSIC | SIZE |
| 17 | 1024 x 768 | × | 4.08 Mb |
| 17 | 800 x 600 | × | 2.98 Mb |
| SLIDESHOW: | "Quotes 0610" | | |
| # OF SLIDES | PIXELS | MUSIC | SIZE |
| 151 | 1024 x 768 | × | 32.7 Mb |
| 151 | 1024 x 768 | 7.19 Mb * | 39.9 Mb |

* "I Hope You Dance.mp3" by Lee Ann Womack.

With my slideshow "Thank You, God," I chose the resolution of 800 x 600 pixels so that I could email that show to my friends who are on Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) or cable.

With my slideshow "Quotes 0610," I selected the 39.9 Mb file. Although I don't use music when this slideshow entertains my audiences prior to my presentations, by including music I can send it to my friends on a CD and they might enjoy hearing the music.

3. LARGE SHOWS.

For the Greater Tampa Bay PC User Group (GTBPCUG), I created a show called "2006 Encore Presentation," which is a compilation of all the photos taken at all its meetings during the 2006.

There were 715 objects (graphics plus photos) for a total of 692 Mb.

I selected a view time of 10 seconds per slide.

When I selected Create > Slideshow, I got a warning, "This slideshow exceeds 500 slides or 60 minutes which will result in slower display." It asked if I wanted to continue.

I selected "Yes" and let it create the show. It required 6 minutes to create a PDF slideshow of 13.5 Mb in size.