

Video Source File Specifications

Limelight Networks recommends the following specifications for all video source files. Adherence to these specifications will result in optimal playback quality and efficient uploading to your Limelight VPS account.

Codecs - Limelight encodes all uploaded video to the H.264 codec and therefore recommends for best quality that all source video also be encoded to H.264. The following table outlines recommended settings as well as other acceptable codecs:

	Recommended Codecs	Other Acceptable Codecs
Video	H.264	MPEG-1, MPEG-2, MPEG-4, VP6, VP5, H.263, WMV, MJPEG
Audio	MP3 (160 kbps)	AAC (128 kbps), WMA, MP2, WAV, ADPCM

File Size – The maximum supported media file size is 5 GB before uploading. For maximum efficiency, all files greater than 512 MB should be uploaded via File Transfer Protocol (FTP). In general, the smaller the file size the faster the processing.

Interlace – All media should be de-interlaced before uploading. Interlaced video is primarily used for television and does not display well on computer screens.

Frame Rate – Recommended frame rates are 24 (23.98), 25, or 30 (29.97) frames per second (fps). Settings that are larger than these recommendations are acceptable but may result in poor user viewing experiences due to high CPU usage. Avoid frame rates that are below one (1) as this will result in excessive buffering.

Bitrate – A bitrate of at least 1500 kilobits per second (kbps) is recommended for HD quality.

Aspect Ratio – Virtually any aspect ratio (including 16:9 widescreen and 4:3 standard) is supported. However, Limelight will maintain the aspect ratio of the original file and therefore recommends that the desired display ratio be used when preparing files for upload.

Frame Size – Limelight recommends that the original file be encoded to a frame size that matches the desired aspect ratio (e.g. 1024 x 576 for 16:9 widescreen or 1024 x 768 for 4:3 standard) and the desired display size when the video is embedded. For videos that are intended to be displayed in fullscreen a minimum width of 1024 is recommended.

Pixels – Original media files should be encoded using isomorphic (square) pixels. Media that is encoded using anamorphic (rectangular) pixels will display distorted.

Keyframes – Limelight recommends that keyframes be set at least every six seconds. More frequent keyframes optimize the use of the Search Inside technology. However, in most cases you can set this to 'Automatic' in your encoding software.

For further guidance, please contact us at
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