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Apple Media Tool: Tips for Reducing Project Sizes (8/95)

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TOPIC ---

This article provides tips for reducing the size of Apple Media Tool project sizes. It also provides information that helps decrease the problems you may experience during compiling because of the number of screens or media elements in a project.

DISCUSSION --

To reduce the number of screens, you should try combining the contents of two screens onto one. You can then use the Hide and Show commands to control which objects are visible and which are hidden.

Examples
========

To reduce two screens to one, select the contents of the second screen, copy them to the clipboard, then paste them onto the first screen.

Use the Hide Itself command under the Before Display action to hide all of the second screen objects.

Change the action that previously linked to the second screen to instead show the "second screen" contents while simultaneously hiding the "first screen" contents.

Here is what the original two screen project might look like.

Begin_Table

Screen	Object	Action	Command/Link
1	Picture1.PIC	Before Display	Disable Itself
			Show Itself

```
                   Button.PIC        Before Display     Enable Itself
                                                        Show Itself
                                     Mouse Up           Go to Screen 2

       2           Picture2.PIC      Before Display     Disable Itself
                                                        Show Itself
```

Here is what the combined screen project might look like.

```
Screen          Object           Action             Command/Link
------          ------           ------             ------------
  1             Picture1.PIC     Before Display     Disable Itself
                                                    Show Itself

                Picture2.PIC     Before Display     Disable Itself
                                                    Hide Itself

                Button.PIC       Before Display     Enable Itself
                                                    Show Itself
                                 Mouse Up           Show Picture2.PIC
                                                    Hide Picture1.PIC
                                                    Hide Itself
```

End_Table

To reduce the number of media elements, you may want to try combining two PICT
files of the same size into one two-frame QuickTime movie. The two frames can be
addressed individually by using the "Go To Beginning" and "Go To End" commands.

Here is what the original two-PICT screen might look like.

Begin_Table

```
Object          Action           Command/Link
------          ------           ------------
Picture1.PIC    Before Display   Disable Itself
                                 Show Itself

Picture2.PIC    Before Display   Disable Itself
                                 Hide Itself

Button.PIC      Before Display   Enable Itself
                                 Show Itself
                Mouse Up         Show Picture2.PIC
                                 Hide Picture1.PIC
```

Here is what the same screen might look like after combining the two PICT files
into a two-frame QuickTime movie.

```
Object          Action           Command/Link
------          ------           ------------
```

```
Movie.MOV          Before Display      Disable Itself
                                       Go To Beginning of Itself
                                       Show Itself

Button.PIC         Before Display      Enable Itself
                                       Show Itself
                   Mouse Up            Go To End of Movie.MOV
```

End_Table

NOTE: When consolidating screens, it is important to remember that increasing the number of media elements on a screen slows the overall performance of a project, so it is recommended that no more than two screens be combined into one.

By combining these two techniques, you can potentially reduce the number of screens and PICT media elements by as much as one half.

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