

DVD Authoring Checklist

While most DVD's are custom-authored to client specifications, there are technical requirements that are common to all projects and should be determined prior to authoring.

General:

- What is the total program length (this should include all elements contained on the completed DVD)
- Will the DVD have additional feature elements? What will they be? (i.e. promos, games, bonus videos, trivia and bios, interviews, etc)?. *see menus and chapters*
- What format is the video source master? Is it NTSC or PAL?
- Will the completed DVD need special regional coding. Is copy protection needed (i.e CSS or Macrovision protection)?
- Is the video complete or will video editing be required prior to authoring the program?
- If quality verses DVD capacity is an issue, which factor will the client lean toward? (i.e. if they have budget for DVD-5's, but program length that will require "quality-loss" compression to achieve this, which would they op for?)
- Who is the one person that will be the ultimate "Approver" during the project
- When does the authoring phase of the project need to be completed?
- Will PPH be replicating this title?
- What is the deadline for the complete DVD project (including authoring, DVD replication)?

Menus

- Will menus and selection screens be used? How many? What will they be used for? (i.e will they link to other screens, special features, portions of the video, etc)
- What will these screens look like? Is there a special graphic “look” required?
- Will the client be supplying all or part of the graphic elements. If part, which part?
- What format will client-furnished graphics be supplied in (acceptable formats include: tif, bmp, psd, tca, jpeg, and eps – resolutions of 720 X 480 or greater)

Chapter Points

- Will the DVD have chapter points? How many? Will the chapter selection points be chosen by the client or PPH?
- What will the chapter screens look like? Is there a special graphic “look”
- Will the client be supplying all or part of the chapter screen graphics. If part, which part?
- What format will the client furnish graphics in (acceptable formats include: tif, bmp, psd, tca, jpeg, and eps – resolutions of 720 X 480 or greater)

Audio and Sound

- Will the DVD have sound? What will be the sources for this audio? (i.e. the video master, CD or DAT?)
- Will the audio track/s be complete or will audio recording & editing by PPH be required prior to authoring?
- What is the required audio configurations? Typically these are: mono, conventional stereo, or surround sound. If client is providing audio files these should be: pcm, mpeg or AC-3
- Will additional audio language tracks be required on the DVD? How many and have they been translated and recorded or will PPH need to do this?

Options and Special Considerations

- Will additional languages be subtitled and available for viewing on the DVD? How many? Have these been translated and encoded or will PPH need to do this?
- Will captioning be required. Will captioning be complete when PPH receives this master or will that be part of the PPH, DVD project?
- Will this DVD be created in 16X9 aspect ratio?
- Will the disc contain DVD-ROM content and/or Internet access capability?