



Creating a Captivate Movie - Part 2

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In the previous installment of this chapter from The Captivate Visual QuickStart I explained how to plan, capture and preview a Captivate movie. In this installment I describe how to use templates, change the movie properties and resize your Captivate movie.

Creating and Using Captivate Project Templates

You can save movies as templates. The advantage to templates is they introduce consistency to your design efforts and are re-useable.

As in other applications, such as page layout or multimedia applications, templates also contain commonly used items such as logos. In Captivate, these items could include corporate identification, a common opening and closing frame, and even a common movie size. The advantage to you is a reduction in production time and a consistent look and feel that meets the corporate design standard.

To create a project template:

1. Record and save a Captivate movie.
2. Select **File>Save as Template**.

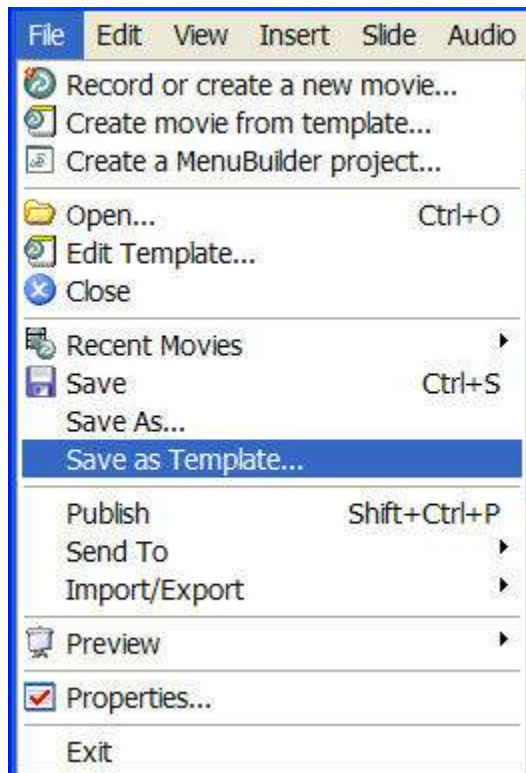


Image 1: Use **File>Save as Template** to create a Captivate template

The Save As dialog box opens.

3. Enter a name for the project template.
4. Click Save.

Tip: Captivate templates have the .cpt extension, and all templates are saved to the Templates folder located in the Captivate application folder.

To edit a project template:

1. Open Captivate and select **File>Edit Template**. The Open window opens, displaying the templates in the Templates folder.

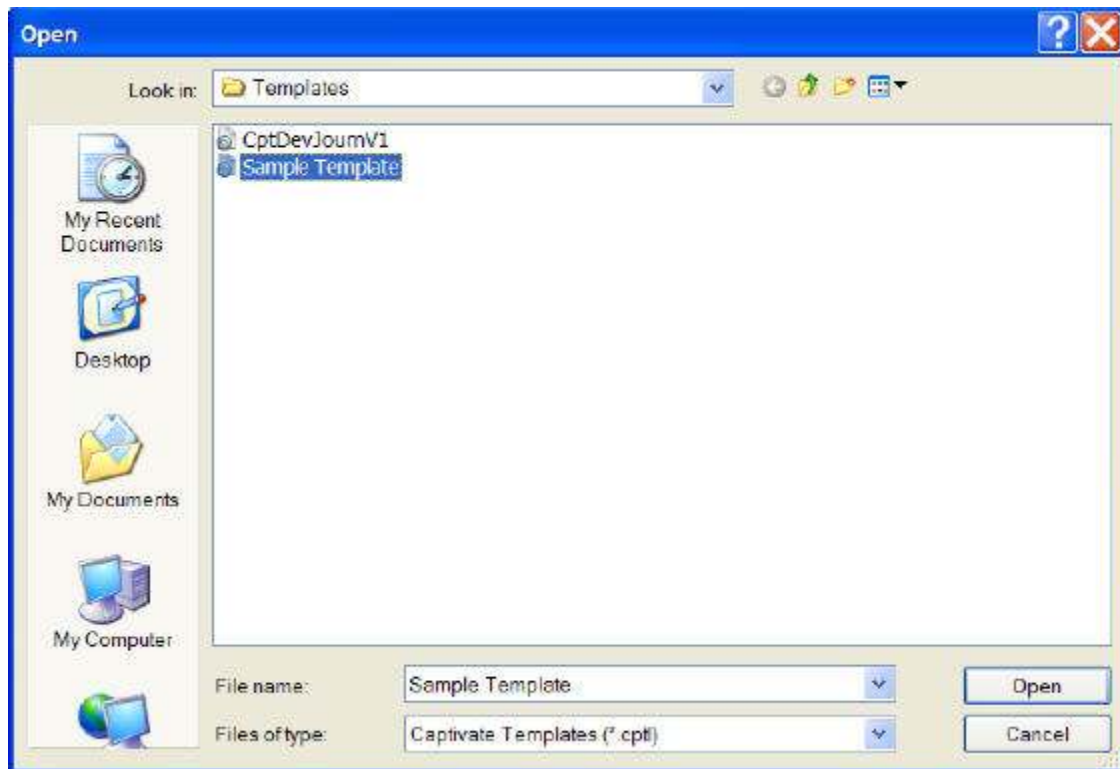


Image 2 : Templates are found in the Captivate Templates folder

2. Double-click the template you want to open.
3. Make your changes to the template and, when finished, select **File>Save**.
4. When the file has been saved, select **File>Close**.

To Use a Template to Create a New Movie:

1. Open Captivate and click "Create a movie from a template" in the Other Movie Types area of the Start screen.

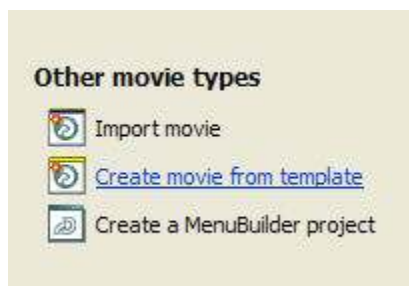


Image 3 : Movies can be created from templates

2. The "Open" dialog box appears, displaying the list of templates in the Captivate folder on your hard drive.
3. Double-click the template you want to use. The Template options dialog box opens.

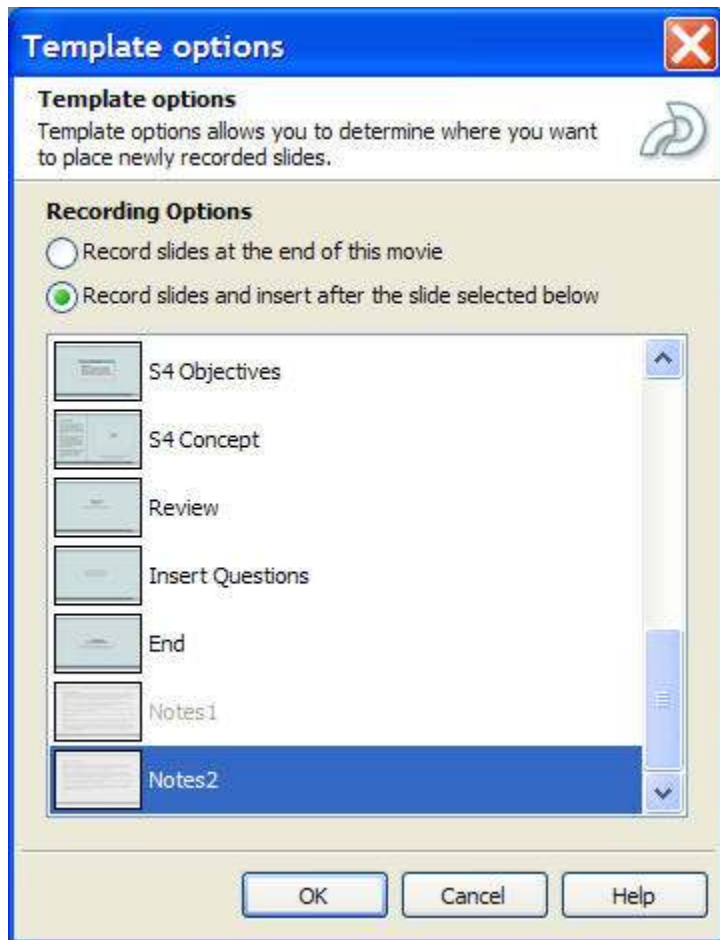


Image 4: *The Template options determine how slides will be added*

4. Select how slides will be added to the template:
 - **Record slides at the end of this movie** - Select if the template contains slides that are always played first.
 - **Record slides and insert before the slide selected below** - Select if the slides are to be added throughout the template. If you select a slide in the list of thumbnails, the capture will be placed between the selected slide and the one under it.
5. Click OK to close the Template options dialog box. When the dialog box closes the recording window opens.
6. Click the Record button to start recording.
7. Press the End key to stop recording. The new frames appear in the Storyboard View panel in the location you set in step 4.

Modifying Captivate Movie Properties

In Captivate, the movie properties don't have a lot to do with the physical size of the movie or streaming options. Rather they're the general movie information—such as the author's name, email address, and Web address— that is readily accessible during movie playback.

To set the movie properties:

1. Select File > Properties to open the Movie Properties dialog box.

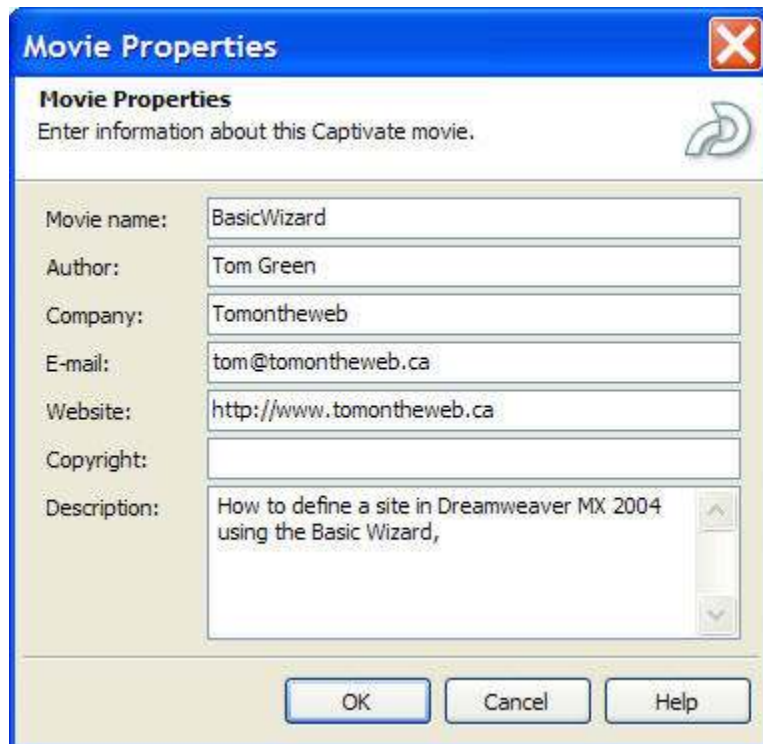


Image 5 : *The Movie Properties dialog box*

2. Enter the following information:

- **Movie Name** - Enter a name for the movie
- **Author** - Enter the name of the movie's author or authors
- **Company** - Enter the company name
- **Email** - Enter an email address
- **Web site** - Enter the company's web address
- **Copyright** - Enter any required copyright information
- **Description** - Enter a short description of the movie's contents

3. Click OK. When the movie has been exported, a series of playback controls is added to the movie's interface.

Tip: Before you enter the movie properties, you should consult with your client. Companies tend to have Web sites and email addresses they use for customer contact or other purposes. Also, it is common courtesy to ask if you can enter your name in the author area.

4. Click the Information button on the controls. The movie properties appear in a separate window.



Image 6: *The movie properties will appear when the movie is played*

Resizing Captivate Movies

There will be occasions where you will capture a movie and then discover that its dimensions need to be changed. Luckily, you can do this without re-recording the movie.

To resize a movie:

1. Open a movie in Captivate and select **Movie>Resize Movie**. The Movie Resize dialog box opens.
2. Make your size adjustments and then click OK.

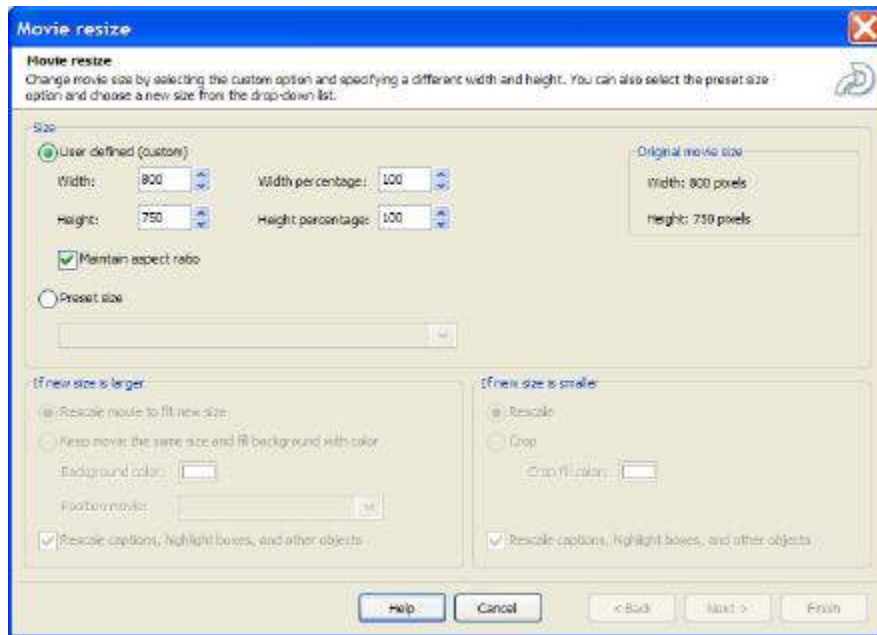


Image 7: The Movie Resize dialog box.

Resizing your movie

The Movie Resize dialog box gives you a lot of valuable information and asks some rather important questions.

It is divided into four areas:

- **Size** - Enter the new dimensions of the movie.
- **Original movie size** - Displays the length and width of the movie about to be resized. You can't modify this information.
- **If new size is larger** - Indicate what happens if you increase the size of the movie.
- **If new size is smaller** - Indicate what happens if you decrease the size of the movie.

The information required for each of the input areas:

1. **User defined (custom)** - Enter a new width and height or change the percentage values. Changing the width will also change the percentage, so you need to enter either a pixel value or a percentage value, not both.
2. **Maintain Aspect Ratio** - Select to maintain the relationship of the movie's dimensions to each other and to avoid distortion. For example, a digital video has a 4:3 aspect ratio.

Increasing the size of a 200 x 150 video to 400 x 300 will not introduce distortion, yet. Increasing it to 211 X x 153 will, because 211 is not divisible by four and 153 is not divisible by three. A good rule of thumb is to never deselect this when resizing a movie.

3. **Preset Size** - This pop-down menu gives you one-click access to a number of presets, which range in size from fitting on a Pocket PC screen to a full screen Breeze slide.

After the size is set, the movie becomes either physically larger or physically smaller. If the movie is made larger:

1. **Rescale movie to fit new size** - Select to rescale the movie's physical dimensions. To avoid distorting the content, be sure to select "Rescale, captions, highlight boxes and other objects" at the bottom of this area.
2. **Keep movie the same size and fill background with color** - Select when the actual movie has to stay the same size but the background area it sits on has to be larger. This is an odd but extremely useful option.

If the movie is made smaller:

1. **Rescale** - Select to rescale the movie's physical dimensions. To avoid distorting the content, be sure to select "Rescale, captions, highlight boxes and other objects" at the bottom of this area.
2. **Crop** - Select to crop the movie to its new size. If there is any background space, you can select the color using the Crop fill color box. After selecting Crop, click the Next button to open the Crop Area dialog box. You have two choices: crop the entire movie to the new size or crop individual frames to the new size.
 - To crop the movie to a new size, click the "Next" button to open the Crop dialog box. Drag the Crop window to its new location and click the "Apply to all slides" button.

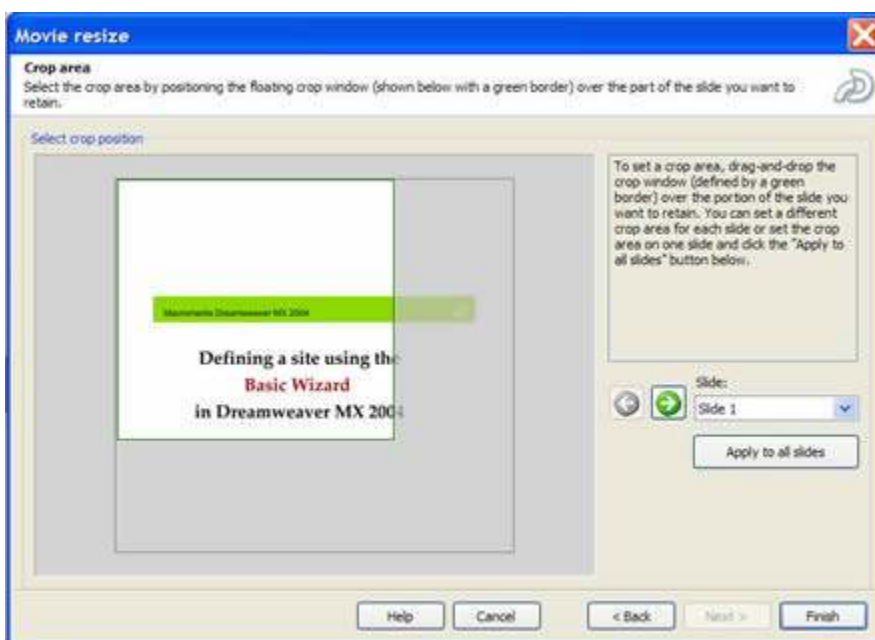


Image 8: Movies can be resized by cropping them

- To crop individual slides, use either the left or right green arrow buttons to move up or down in the slide order. You can also select the slides from the pop-down list. Drag the Crop window to its new position over the area to be retained. Repeat this process for each slide to be cropped. When you're done, click the

Finish button.

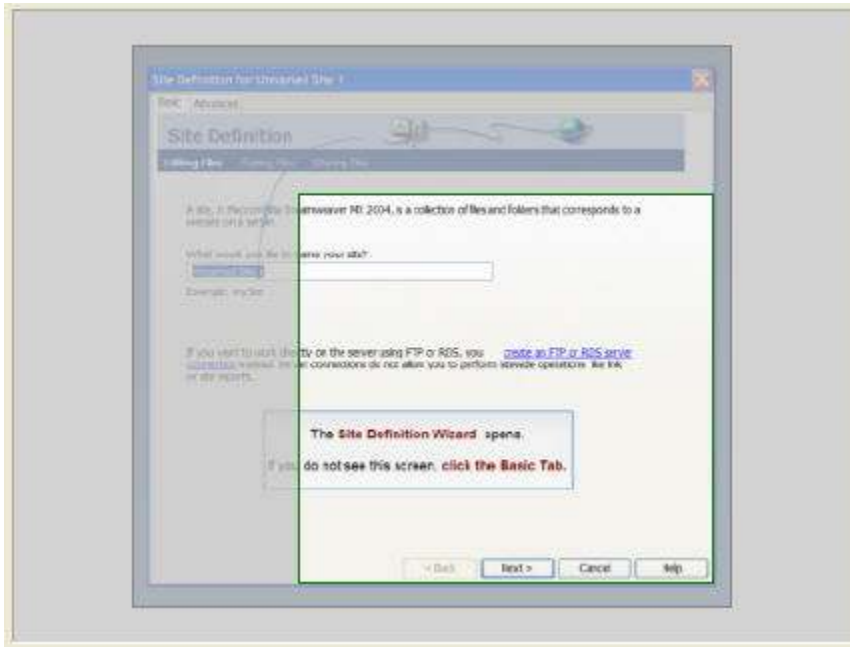


Image 9: The Crop Window is dragged to a new position on a slide

Tomorrow:

In the concluding installment of this chapter, I will show you how to add audio to a movie, change the pointers used by the mouse and how change mouse movement. I will also show you how to add a playback controller to a Captivate movie and create your own custom controller. Captivate can be used to create slide shows and I'll show you how to do that as well as explain the importance of a movie containing no content.

Approximate download size: 188k

Keywords

Captivate, movies, slide shows, controller, custom controller, slides, Captivate Templates, mouse movement, pointer, playback, blank movies

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