

Clip media using script for Mac OSX

ELAN supports clipping of media using a text-based script called “clip-media.txt”. Via this script external programs can be called to do the actual clipping. On Mac OSX this script can call an Applescript, which in turn calls QuickTime Player to:

- open the media file,
- trim to the selection made in ELAN,
- export or save the result in the same format or as .mov,
- close the file.

The result will be saved in the same location as the original video¹.

There are four steps needed to be taken to clip the media successfully:

1. Placement of the script files in their locations.
2. Editing and saving ‘clip-media.txt’ to match your file paths and Applescript choice.
3. Editing and saving the Applescript of your choice.
4. Using ELAN to *Export as>Media Clip using Script*.

1. Where to place the script

Clipping with these Applescripts will only work if you are working on a local machine.

There are two locations where ELAN will look for the script file (i.e. "clip-media.txt"). The first location ELAN will search is the preferences folder, which is located here:

<User>/Library/Preferences/ELAN (<User> represents the login name of the user.)

If the txt-file and the scripts are located there, future versions of ELAN will also be able to read the scripts without you having to relocate anything.

The second location ELAN will search is the folder where ELAN is installed in, e.g.

Applications/ELAN_4.3.3/clip-media.txt

The default location for the .scpt files is the “scripts” folder, e.g.

Applications/ELAN_4.3.3/scripts/

¹ This may change in future releases of ELAN so that the user can specify the location

The following files are provided for; you need the .txt file and at least one of the .scpt files in order for it to work:

- clip-media.txt : the file that calls one of the Applescripts
- qtp_clip_10_6_export.scpt : for Mac OS 10.6, export function
- qtp_clip_10_6_save.scpt : for Mac OS 10.6, save as function (saves output as .mov)
- qtp_clip_10_7_export.scpt : for Mac OS 10.7, export function

2. Editing of “clip-media.txt”

Working with the different Applescripts requires some editing of the “clip-media.txt”. When opening the file in a text-editor it will look something like this:

```
osascript ./scripts/qtp_clip_10_6_export.scpt $in_file $out_file
$begin(sec.ms) $end(sec.ms)
# M2-edit-cl /in:$begin(fr) /out:$end(fr) $in_file $out_file
# ffmpeg.exe -vcodec copy -acodec copy -ss $begin(sec.ms) -t
"$duration(sec.ms)" -i $in_file $out_file

# Lines starting with a # (dash) are considered to be comment lines.
# ...
```

The first line (`osascript ./scripts/qtp_cl...`) is relevant for OSX users. "Osascript" is called to execute the Applescript, followed by a space and then the path to the script-file.

Depending on placement of the files, this path can be either relative (e.g. `./scripts/qtp_clip_.scpt`) or absolute (e.g. `/Applications/ELAN_4.3.3/scripts/qtp_clip_.scpt`).

Note that if you placed the files in the “preferences”-folder (`<User>/Library/Preferences/ELAN`), you can only use absolute paths.

The second part of the rule consists of four placeholders (\$), which are determined by ELAN. This concerns the in- and out-points of the selection and the input and output files. These should not be edited.

An example of an edited rule:

```
osascript <user>/Library/Preferences/ELAN/qtp_clip_10_6_export.scpt
$in_file $out_file $begin(sec.ms) $end(sec.ms)
```

In this example, the path to the script that will be used is absolute, it is pointing to `<user>/Library/Preferences/ELAN/`

The script-file used in the example is `qtp_clip_10_6_export.scpt` : a script intended for Mac OS 10.6. This script leaves the extension intact; it only exports the selection to a new clip. The new clip can be found in the same folder as the original video.

Another example:

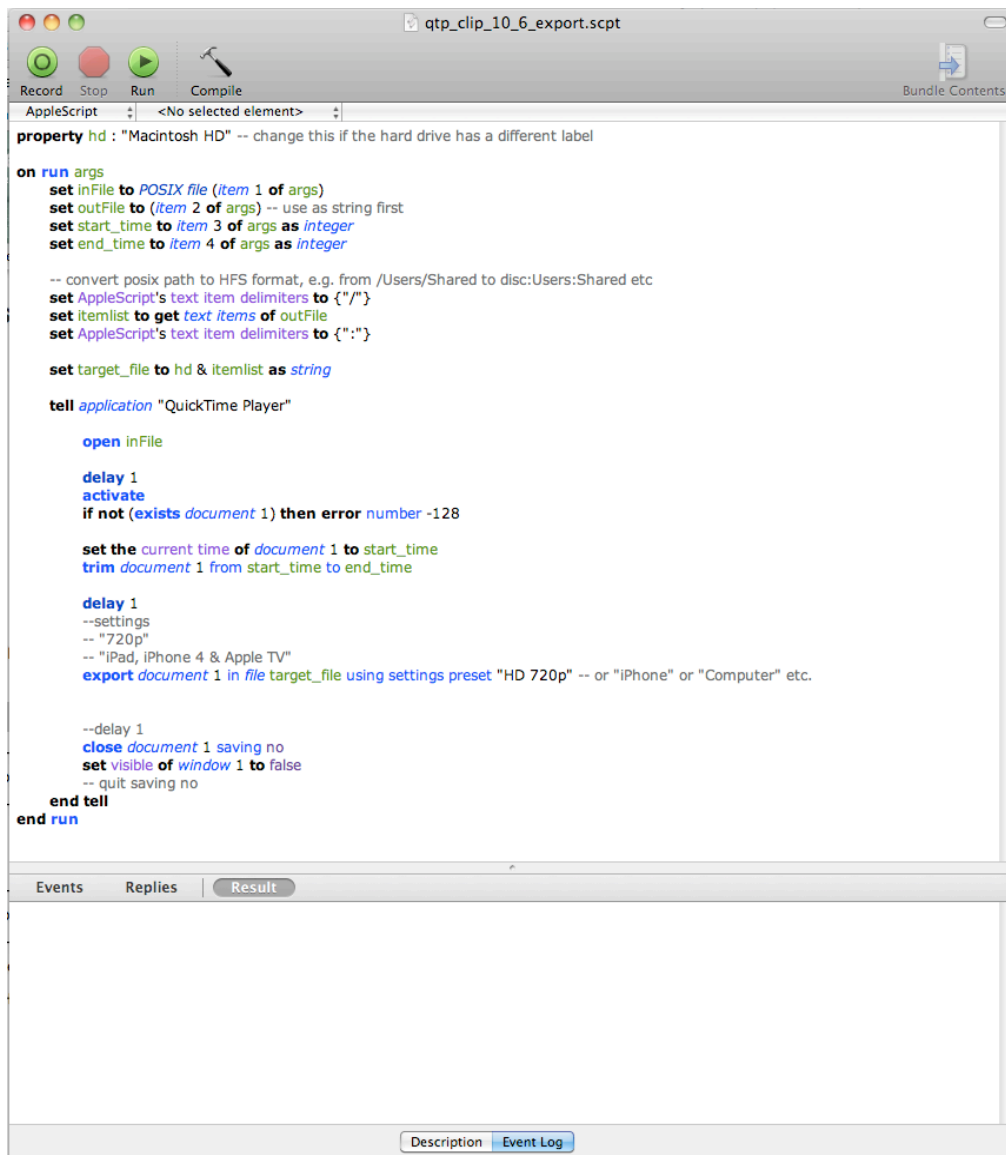
```
osascript ./qtp_clip_10_7_export.scpt $in_file $out_file $begin(sec.ms)
$end(sec.ms)
```

Now the path to the script is set as relative, and the script-file used is meant for users that are running OSX 10.7. Again, this script leaves the extension intact; it only exports the selection to a new clip. The new clip can be found in the same folder as the original video.

When you have edited the rule to your needs, do not forget to save it (as 'clip-media.txt').

3. Editing AppleScript files

As said, Applescript is used to execute the QuickTime commands. These .sct files also could require some editing. By double-clicking such a file, the Applescript Editor will open:



The first rule states the name of the hard drive. The default is set to “Macintosh HD” but this should be changed if the hard drive of the user has a different name. The name of the hard drive can be found by clicking the Finder and looking under “devices”.

Another rule that could require editing is the following:

```
export document 1 in file target_file using settings preset "HD 720p"
```

Depending on the output and the version of OSX, the preset can be changed. For OSX 10.6, the following presets are available:

- Movie
- iPhone
- iPod
- HD 480p
- HD 720p

An example for exporting to HD 480p would be this:

```
export document 1 in file target_file using settings preset "HD 480p"
```

If you are using OSX 10.7 you should the edit the “*qtp_clip_10_7_export.scp*” file. The following presets are available:

- 480p
- 720p
- 1080p
- iPod touch & iPhone 3GS
- iPad, iPhone 4 & Apple TV
- Mac & PC
- Audio Only

An example for exporting to 1080p would be:

```
export document 1 in file target_file using settings preset "1080p"
```

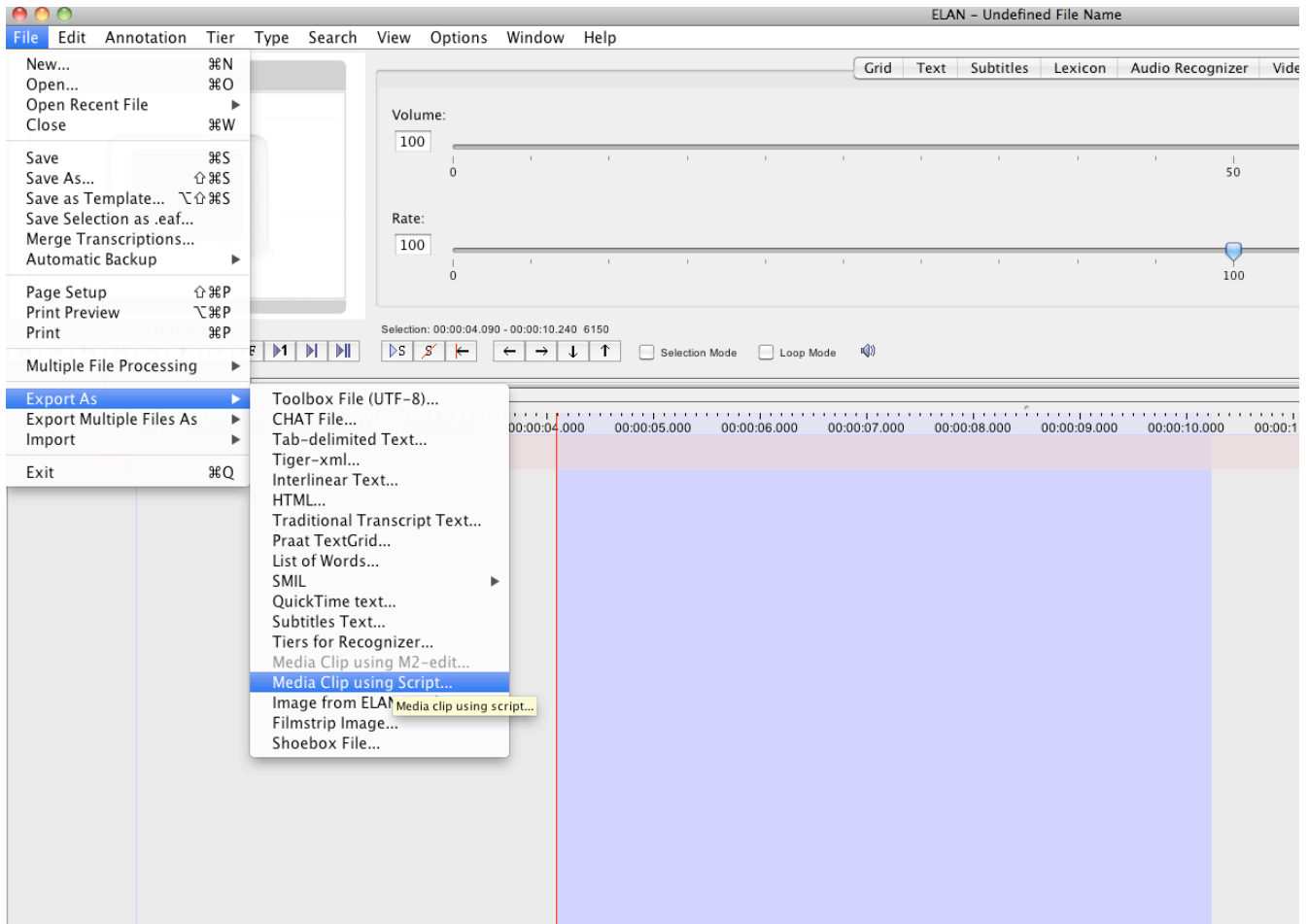
Please make sure to set the name exactly as it appears in this list, otherwise it will not work. For example, in OSX 10.6 this will not work:

```
export document 1 in file target_file using settings preset "HD720p"
```

As there is a space missing in between HD and 720p.

4. Executing the script in ELAN

After saving, you can start ELAN. From there, start your project, make a selection and from the main menu choose: *Export as>Media Clip using Script*. QuickTime will start up and process the video. If you chose the “export” script, you will also see an export dialog. You can close that when finished.



The clipped media is now present in the same folder as the source video.