# Clipping media using a script for Windows (and Linux)

ELAN supports the creation of media clips (video and/or audio) by external applications, based on information entered in a text file named "clip-media.txt". Via this script, ELAN can call an external program from the command line and pass the parameters it needs to do the actual clipping. This tutorial shows you how to set-up ELAN such that it can clip video files for you.

# 1. Make sure you have a program that can do the clipping

In this tutorial we will use ffmpeg as an example but it can be any other program that can be executed from the command line.

Download the latest version of ffmpeg.exe from <u>www.ffmpeg.org</u>, select the default "static build". (Alternatively, you can search for ffmbc.exe.) Unzip the downloaded file and copy the folder to a convenient place on your hard drive, e.g. to the Program Files folder.

# 2. Copy the "clip-media.txt" file

In your ELAN installation folder there is a text-file called "clip-media.txt" (see Figure 1). ELAN reads this file to know which program to use for the clipping. If you copy this file to the special ELAN data folder, future versions of ELAN will find it too (see Figure 2).

III I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I	ELAN_5.1			– 🗆 X
File Home Share	View			Window Snip
Pin to Quick Copy Paste access	X Cut Copy path Paste shortcut	e Rename New folder	✓     ✓     Open ▼       ✓     ✓     Edit       ✓     ✓     History	Here Select all Select none Invert selection
Clipboard	Organize	New	Open	Select
← → ~ ↑ 1→ Th	nis PC > Windows (C:) > Program Files (x8	36) > ELAN_5.1	✓ <sup>™</sup> Search	n ELAN_5.1 ,0
• • Ouick access	Name	Date modified	Туре	Size
	📜 ext	12/20/2017 2:09 PM	File folder	
> 🚡 Creative Cloud Files	extensions	12/20/2017 2:09 PM	File folder	
> 🙆 OneDrive	📕 jmf2.1.1a	12/20/2017 2:09 PM	File folder	
	📕 jre	12/20/2017 2:09 PM	File folder	
> 🍠 This PC	📕 lib	12/20/2017 2:09 PM	File folder	
> 🛋 Network	📒 locale	12/20/2017 2:09 PM	File folder	
	Uninstall_ELAN 5.1	12/20/2017 2:11 PM	File folder	
	🗹 🕵 clip-media.txt	5/21/2014 1:16 PM	TXT File	3 KB
	ELAN.exe	12/20/2017 2:09 PM	Application	112 KB
	🌿 ELAN.ico	12/20/2017 2:09 PM	lcon	3 KB
	ELAN.lax	12/20/2017 2:09 PM	LAX File	4 KB
	elan.properties	5/4/2017 5:41 PM	PROPERTIES File	2 KB
	ELAN_5.1_InstallLog.log	12/20/2017 2:11 PM	Text Document	30 KB
	ELAN-2.ico	7/24/2008 4:52 PM	lcon	46 KB
	elanlog.properties	8/23/2016 2:08 PM	PROPERTIES File	3 KB
	🛓 lax.jar	12/20/2017 2:09 PM	Executable Jar File	41 KB
	S LICENSE-apache-2.0.txt	2/2/2012 12:04 PM	TXT File	12 KB
	LICENSE-gpl-3.0.txt	2/2/2012 12:04 PM	TXT File	35 KB
	S LICENSES.txt	2/2/2012 12:04 PM	TXT File	2 KB
19 items 1 item selected	2.24 KB			

Figure 1 Original location of clip-media.txt

📕   🕑 📕 🛋 🄊 ≠	elan_data		– 🗆 X
File Home Share	View		~ 🕐
Pin to Quick Copy access	X Cut Copy path Paste shortcut X Cut Move Copy to  ↓ Copy to ↓ Cop	lew item * asy access * Properties * History	Select all Select none
Clipboard	Organize Ne	w Open	Select
← → × ↑ 🖡 → TI	nis PC → Windows (C:) → Users → Ceres → .elan_data	✓ ♂ Searce	:h .elan_data 🔎
s d Ouiskaans	Name ^	Date modified	Туре
> 📌 Quick access	Analyzers	1/8/2018 11:50 AM	File folder
> ᡖ Creative Cloud Files	CVCACHE	1/29/2018 2:13 PM	File folder
> 🗠 OneDrive	LexanLexicons	10/19/2017 11:21 AM	File folder
	Lexicon	8/18/2016 2:05 PM	File folder
> 🤙 This PC	AA_TierSet.xml	5/18/2016 12:02 PM	XML Docum
> 🥩 Network	✓ S clip-media.txt	5/21/2014 1:16 PM	TXT File
	createsoundclip-v3.praat	10/7/2016 1:01 AM	PRAAT File
	DCSelection2.xml	7/25/2017 1:59 PM	XML Docum
	elan.pfsx	2/7/2018 2:08 PM	PFSX File
	elan0.log	2/7/2018 9:11 AM	Text Docume
	elan1.log	10/26/2017 1:35 PM	Text Docume
	elan2.log	4/4/2017 10:35 AM	Text Docume
	LlanLanguage.properties	3/12/2017 11:17 PM	PROPERTIES
	ISO-639-3-Languages.xml	1/29/2018 3:21 PM	XIVIL Docum
	SO-039-3-Languages.xmi.bak	10/17/2017 11:04 AIV	BAK File
	languages.xml	4/25/2015 9:35 PIVI	RAK Eile
		4/21/2013 9:40 AIVI	DAN FILE
			¥
28 items 1 item selected	2.24 KB		

Figure 2 The text file copied to the folder .elan\_data

The .elan\_data folder is located in <user\_home>, on Windows this is something like C:\Users\user\_login\_name\, on Linux it is just the home folder of the user.

### 3. Tell ELAN which program to use for clipping

Open the "clip-media.txt" file in a text editor. All lines starting with a # are comments, examples and/or documentation lines.

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

Edit the first line without a # to include a reference to the location of your ffmpeg.exe file, as follows (*this should all be on one line without line breaks!*):

```
"C:\Program Files (x86)\ffmpeg\bin\ffmpeg.exe" -i $in_file -vcodec copy
-acodec copy -ss $begin(sec.ms) -t $duration(sec.ms) $out_file
```

Some versions of ffmpeg.exe don't support the "-vcodec copy" (video codec) and "-acodec copy" (audio codec) options anymore. In that case these options can be left out to create clips with the same format as the original, or an existing, supported codec can be filled in, e.g. (*this should be one line without line breaks*):

```
"C:\Program Files (x86)\ffmpeg\bin\ffmpeg.exe" -i $in_file -vcodec h264
-acodec aac -ss $begin(sec.ms) -t $duration(sec.ms) $out_file
```

Some notes on the above:

- The \$in\_file and \$out\_file keywords represent the input and output file and will be
  filled in by ELAN when the script is run.
- The \$begin(sec.ms), \$duration(sec.ms) and \$end(sec.ms) keywords will be filled in by ELAN based on the selected time interval.
- The parameters and time format to use, are determined by the application that performs the clipping. Please consult the documentation of that application for the supported parameters and their syntax and for the supported file types, codecs etc.

Save the file and (re)launch ELAN to test the settings.

### 4. Running the script from within ELAN

With a document open in ELAN, make a selection and from the main menu choose:

File->Export As->Media Clip using Script...



Figure 3 Calling the script

The result will either be saved in the same location as the original video (the output file name will be constructed based on the input file name and the start and end time of the selection), or in a location specified by the user. This depends on a preference setting in the Media panel in Edit->Preferences->Edit Preferences...

笔 Edit Preferences		$\times$		
	Edit Preferences			
Editing CV Metadata Platform/OS Preferences User Interface Viewers	Hedia   When copying the current time, use the format msec   Media navigation   Frame forward and frame backward jump to beginning of next or previous frame   Classic (pre ELAN 4.7) frame forward and frame backward behaviour   Video display   All video's the same size, in a single row   Place the video/media in the center   Media location   Set default directory for media files   ·   ·   The document's changed flag is set when the media location has changed   Media clipping with script   Prompt for a clip filename   Only clip the first media file   Clip multiple media files in parallel			
	Controls           Controls           Show volume controls for individual media players	~		
Apply Cancel				

Figure 4 Settings related to clipping

If the option Prompt for a clip file name is selected, a Save as prompt will be shown when the menu item of Figure 3 is selected. A file name without extension can be given, the extension will be copied from the input file. If you want to export the clip in a different format, you can specify a name and extension for the clip.

Because the external application runs in a separate process and because it can be any application, it is hard for ELAN to determine when the clip is ready and to show a message. Therefor the File Explorer should be inspected to see if the clip(s) is/are already there. The log (View->View Log...) might also contain information about the clipping process.

#### Appendix – supported keywords or "placeholders"

```
#
# <mark>$out_file</mark> - will be replaced by the absolute path of the output file
#
# $begin(format)
                   - the start time of the selection in the source file
# $end(format)
                   - the end time of the selection
# $duration(format) - the duration of the selection
#
# where format needs to be replaced by one of the following formats:
#
# hour:min:sec.ms
# hour:min:sec:fr
# hour:min:sec:fr_NTSC
# sec.ms
# <mark>ms</mark>
# <mark>fr</mark>
# fr_NTSC
#
# when frames are specified PAL is assumed, for NTSC use
hour:min:sec:fr_NTSC or fr_NTSC
#
# Examples:
#
# C:\Program\ffmpeg\bin\ffmpeg.exe -i $in_file -vcodec copy -acodec copy
-ss $begin(sec.ms) -t $duration(sec.ms) $out_file
# M2-edit-cl /in:$begin(fr) /out:$end(fr) $in_file $out_file
```