

## Audio and Video Encoding

### Episode (MAC/WIN)

Episode is a highly competent video and audio encoder that can be used both by professionals and novices to produce content for distribution via broadcast, DVD, mobile devices, and the Web. The application provides unparalleled support for in and out formats (including HD), with interactive (files can be added while the batch is running) batch encoding capability for as many as 25 jobs. Watch folders can also be configured to encode files with sets of defined settings.

The program's ease-of-use stems from its smart design, which features more than 500 encoding templates and preprocessing filters that simplify the process of producing high-quality, low data rate output quickly. Users can select from encoding templates that are organized by Formats or Workflows, or define their own custom settings. Users can inspect a preview window prior to the encoding process to ensure that the output is acceptable, comparing the input to the output side-by-side.

In addition to its main function of encoding video, the program can also be used to add bumpers (intros) and trailers (outros), picture-in-picture, and filtering to a movie.

To encode a file it is simply dragged into the batch window. The user drops one or more encoding settings onto the file, selects where the encoded file will be stored, and determines a name. The Start Encoding button is clicked and the process commences.

Any of the predefined templates can be edited by double-clicking, which opens the Settings Editor. The user selects new settings from the available tabs, and either saves the settings, replacing the original template, or uses File>Save as to create a new template.

Macintosh OS X Final Cut Pro users can direct output directly from the FCP timeline to Episode, significantly increasing the number of output formats available. A Professional version of Episode is also available, providing more professional formats, support for surround sound encoding, and unlimited batch processing. See the Episode demo at <http://www.telestream.net/episode/demos.htm>. Episode is priced at \$495, Episode Pro is \$995 and includes an instructional DVD.

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