

Camtasia Studio and Adobe Premiere Workflow Overview

Kelly Rush, TechSmith Marketing Video Production

Here is my overall process for getting screen video from Camtasia Studio Recorder, into Adobe Premiere, and then back out into Camtasia Studio Editor.

1. Record the screen with Camtasia Studio Recorder. It's best to make sure to set Recorder to use the AVI format, rather than CAMREC (Camtasia Studio's native format), as it will save you the trouble of having to extract an AVI file from the CAMREC for Premiere to use. Adobe Premiere also uses a project-centric paradigm, wherein all settings are decided before you begin working; many of these settings cannot be changed, including the resolution of the video. Keep in mind your planned final resolution for the video, and to avoid stretching and interpolation ("blurriness") of the final video, make sure to use a capture resolution equivalent to the final production's resolution. (for example, if the final produced video will be 640 x 360, then initial capture resolutions of 1280 x 720 and 1920 x 1080 would both be acceptable capture dimensions) Make sure to use the TSCC codec to maintain an uncompressed source video.

2. Depending on how particular you are with the quality of your video, this can be an optional step. Before I bring any video into Adobe Premiere, I first bring it into Camtasia Studio, set the project up with the same dimensions as the final video, and do all of the zoom/pan editing work. This will ensure that your video quality is absolutely sharp and clear. If you skip this step, simply resizing the video in Adobe Premiere will cause the video to become scaled and blurry. Once this is done, produce your video out again as a new TSCC AVI file.

3. Start your new project in Adobe Premiere. Once again, make sure you set the project dimensions to the resolution of your final produced video. You will likely also want to use 1.0 pixel aspect ratio, as this is the ratio that Camtasia Studio videos assume (otherwise stretching will likely occur). Additionally, set the project audio (if there is any) to 44Khz (it is 48KHz by default), because Camtasia Studio works better with that audio frequency. Import your TSCC-encoded AVI file into Adobe Premiere like any other video. Drop the file on the timeline, and edit it as normal. Assuming your content is all screen video*, produce the final cut out once again as a new TSCC-encoded AVI file.

*If your video contains live/camera portions of video, you will have to decide if you have enough temporary space to work with. TSCC-encoded camera video is EXTREMELY large. Another option is the Microsoft WMV format. With a high bitrate, the quality should be very close to uncompressed or TSCC-encoded AVI files, though there will be some facet of compression on the picture.

4. Import your new TSCC-encoded AVI file back into Camtasia Studio. Drop the file on the timeline, and again set your project dimensions to the dimensions of the final, produced video. Produce your video to whatever format you need/want (MP4 is the most common nowadays), et voila! You should have a very high-quality, final, produced video.