

Discovery File Based Footage Delivery Policy

Version 3.0

December 16, 2020

A Supplement to The Discovery Global Technical Specifications Version 6



Purpose

This document defines Discovery's policy on the delivery of camera masters from file based acquisition systems. This may include a recording system contained within a camera, or a standalone system recording video and audio streams from an external source. The policy provides definitions for specific terminology which may be unique to file based acquisition. The policy defines how the asset essence and metadata must be organized and the physical carrier that the assets must be delivered on.

Introduction

Discovery maintains full ownership of all camera footage acquired during the production of a fully commissioned program or series. When a single program or series has finished production and delivered to the network all of the program and graphics masters along with any other edited materials, the raw camera footage must also be delivered to Discovery as per contractual requirements.

While it is possible to deliver the camera footage in a number of formats and delivery methods Discovery has specific requirements and parameters for footage delivery which ensures that footage will be received in a fashion that is compatible with Discovery's systems and business needs. This policy defines those requirements and provides graphic examples and explanations of how to be compliant with Discovery's footage delivery policy.

Changes in Version 3.0

The revisions in this version are effective as of October 20, 2020. They represent a significant shift in both how Discovery determines if a production is required to deliver footage and the methodology for delivering required footage masters.

- Not all productions will be required to deliver footage. Production partners will work with their Discovery Production Managers to determine their specific requirements.
- Delivery on LTO cartridges is phased out and no longer accepted after Dec 31, 2020.
- The "Accepted Formats" and "FormatID" requirements have been removed.
- An XML metadata file is no longer required.
- Delivery is now required on AWS Snowball devices provided exclusively via Discovery's Producer's Portal.



Terminology and Definitions

Original Camera Master (OCM): The raw footage captured and recorded using an image acquisition device such as a camera and recording system.

Footage: The video and audio elements of an Original Camera Master (OCM).

Recording Media: For the purpose of this document "Recording Media" refers to the physical container used by file based digital cameras to record audio, video, and metadata. The term includes media cards, optical discs, spinning hard drives/disks, and solid state drives. It does not include video tape cassettes.

OCM Volume: The raw footage captured and recorded during a single instance of use of the Recording Media. If the card, drive, disc, or other Recording Media is cleared and reused multiple times, each new use of that Recording Media is a new OCM Volume.

OCM Volume Identifier: A unique name given to each OCM Volume that identifies the master and the footage it contains. In an NLE the OCM Volume Identifier is analogous to a Reel ID or Reel # when using tape or film based image acquisition.

Media Management Device: a computer-based application or appliance used to offload Recording Media, create duplicates, add metadata, or manage archiving of OCM Volumes.

Directory/Folder: a virtual container within a computer file system, in which groups of files and possibly other directories/folders can be kept and organized.

A directory/folder contained inside another directory/folder is called a subfolder, subdirectory, or child, while the containing directory/folder is called the parent. The top-most parent directory/folder, which does not have a parent of its own, is called the root directory/folder within the file system. Together, the directories/folders form a hierarchy, or tree structure of one or more levels.

AWS Snowball: The AWS Snowball is part of a family of high capacity storage devices used to move large amounts of data securely from Discovery's production partner facilities to Cloud storage. The Snow family devices mount on the production facility network enabling the movement of OCM volumes from on premise storage to the Snowball device.

UHD: Ultra High Definition television. For the purposes of this policy the focus is on UHD1 which has a resolution of 3840x2160, a wider color space, higher dynamic range, and frame rates up to 120 frames per second. UHD images are frequently captured in a RAW format.

4K: Incorporates the same features as UHD but has a resolution of 4096x2160.



Section One: Delivery

1.1 Delivery Requirements

- All Original Camera Masters must be delivered on AWS Snowball devices provisioned through the Discovery Producers Portal. Discovery will only accept OCM that deliver on AWS snowball devices that are provisioned by Discovery. No other delivery system or methodology will be accepted.
- All files loaded to the Snowball device must remain in their native format, data compression techniques are not acceptable.
- Each OCM Volume must be an exact copy of the original recorded media instance. (See Appendix I for examples)
- All delivered footage must maintain the folder structure of the OCM Volume as recorded to the original Recording Media.
- An OCM Volume must be contained on a single Snowball device and may not span across multiple devices.
- Each OCM Volume must have a unique name.
- This unique name becomes the "OCM Volume Identifier," and should match the "Reel ID" or "Reel Name" in a nonlinear editing systems.
- An OCM Volume which is part of a 3D image pair or grouping must have identical OCM Volume Identifiers with an additional "Left" or "Right" appended to properly identify the eye view represented.

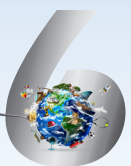
Section Two: Metadata

Rich metadata holds all of the promise for file based media assets. Discovery encourages its production partners to take full advantage of the native metadata schemes present in many of the current file based acquisition tools.

2.1 Additional Metadata

If the producer has created additional metadata for an OCM Volume, that metadata should be delivered to Discovery. Accepted formats for additional metadata are listed below.

- Discovery logging template (available on the Producer's portal)
 - Log for each OCM Volume, placed in the main folder for each OCM Volume
- Avid Log Exchange
 - ALE file for each OCM Volume, placed in the main folder for each OCM Volume
- Final Cut XML Export
 - Final Cut XML export file for each OCM Volume, placed in the main folder for each OCM Volume
- Adobe Dublin Code XML
 - Adobe Dublin code XML export file for each OCM Volume, placed in the main folder for each OCM Volume



Section Three - Additional Audio

If there has been any off-camera audio recording these audio tracks must also be included on the device with the video OCM Volumes.

- Audio tracks must be delivered as 24bit/48 kHz broadcast wave files.
- Audio tracks must be placed into an "Audio" folder within the Snowball volume
- A log must be included that identifies which OCM Volumes are associated with each audio file, whether the audio track is mono or interleaved, and properly identifies the type of audio (SOT, Narration etc) on every track present in an audio file.



Appendix I: Snowball Data Structure

This example depicts well-organized OCM Volumes from multiple different camera types as well as a folder for audio recorded off camera.

Directory and File organization on Snowball device

