

SMPTE OVERVIEW

Material Exchange Format (MXF) — MXF Generic Container — Overview for the SMPTE ST 379 Document Suite



Introduction

The MXF generic container is a streamable data container that can be placed on any suitable transport and potentially stored.

The MXF generic container format is intended for inclusion into a MXF (Material eXchange Format) file as an essence container.

The premise for the MXF generic container format is that of a general purpose essence data and metadata container for the containment of many different kinds of essence and metadata elements into a single entity by interleaving the data streams in a defined and time-synchronous manner (typically over a 1-frame duration). Associated SMPTE mapping documents define the essence data and metadata elements that can be placed in the generic container. Some mapping documents define complete mappings for an entire content package while others simply define mapping of metadata or essence data into an element.

Why SMPTE ST 379-1 and 379-2?

SMPTE ST 379-2 is intended to be a proper subset of SMPTE ST 379-1. In some cases, SMPTE ST 379-1 allows greater latitude by leaving constraints unspecified, and SMPTE ST 379-2 includes additional constraints with the objective of permitting simpler implementation of compliant decoders.

The use of SMPTE ST 379-1 has been deprecated, however there are many applications still in use that use this standard. New applications are encouraged to use SMPTE ST 379-2.

As a generalization, data conforming to SMPTE ST 379-2 are compatible with processors that conform to SMPTE ST 379-1. The reverse may not be true. Data conforming to SMPTE ST 379-1 may not be compatible with processors that conform to SMPTE ST 379-2.