

Fact Sheet

Subtitle Character Generator



Output of Open subtitles and captions

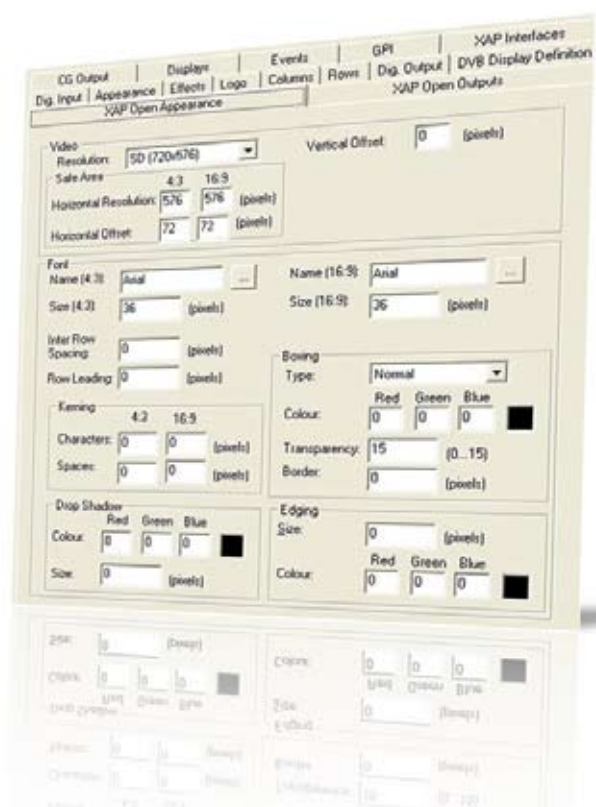
Subtitling and captioning are an integral part of modern broadcasting and content delivery, as statutory requirements, viewer expectation and a desire to reuse content across regions increase throughout the world.

There are a range of options for presenting subtitle and caption content to the viewer, which may depend on the type of content. Hard-of-hearing subtitles or captions are typically presented in a switchable 'closed' form using display formats such as Line 21, Teletext or DVB, which sometimes have limited presentation options.

This style of subtitles or captions represents the actual textual content, providing the capability for the viewer to switch them on and off. Language translation of foreign content, especially in non-Latin character sets, will often be presented as 'Open' subtitles or captions. A Character Generator (CG) can be deployed to generate graphical representations of the textual content which may be 'burnt-in' earlier in the content lifecycle or at time-of-air.

The 'burnt-in' graphical presentation of Open subtitles or captions offers the ability to highly customize their appearance. Using Open subtitles or captions also means that they are no longer switchable by the viewer, as they are now part of the actual video content.

Swift TX CG Open presentation preferences



Swift TX CG from Softel, the subtitle and caption experts

Swift TX CG from Softel provides a high quality, broadcast ready subtitle and caption Character Generator, utilising standard server hardware.

It is part of the end-to-end Swift family of proven subtitling and captioning solutions used by many facilities houses, broadcasters and network operators around the world, such as SVT, Turner and Arqiva.

With real-time transcoding of existing subtitles or captions from an incoming stream or playout of a subtitle or caption file, Swift TX CG provides highly customizable presentation options.

Using its very high quality font rendering engine it can output subtitles or captions under manual control in an edit suite, to enable early binding of subtitles and captions to content, or under automation control for time-of-air 'live binding'.

Broadcast ready

In addition to using standard server hardware, ensuring reliability, Swift TX CG also features a bypass relay card. This ensures the constant flow of video through the Swift TX CG for time-of-air applications, in the event of any failure.

Swift TX CG can also be used to output subtitles to a dedicated keyer or use its own onboard CG. Output is possible using any True Type font, with Swift TX CG performing anamorphic processing for wide-screen and/or HD display.

Highly flexible

Softel's Swift Create, the most widely deployed subtitle and caption preparation and repurposing workstation, can pre-render CG files for playout or Swift TX CG can perform the rendering at time-of-air.

Using 'Style Sheets', presentational formatting can be predefined, for example where Teletext format subtitles are being transcoded into Open. The Style Sheet is definable per service and language, with access through the Swift TX CG Configuration Client, allowing configuration across a LAN connection.

Swift TX CG will also utilise formatting embedded in XIF format subtitle and caption files. XIF format, Softel's flexible subtitle and caption file format utilised by Swift Create, allows the formatting of subtitles and captions to be tightly controlled at the time of creation. These presentational options, available either through Style Sheets or in Swift Create through the XIF file format, can control kerning, edging, drop shadows, boxing and many more graphical aspects.

The Softel end-to-end subtitle and caption solution

Swift TX CG is part of the Swift family of subtitling products from Softel that provide an integrated, end-to-end subtitling and captioning solution, from workflow management and subtitle preparation through to time-of-air insertion and monitoring.

Contact Softel to find out more or visit our website at www.softelgroup.com

Swift Customers

- Broadcast Text (Worldwide)
- ITFC (UK)
- IMS (UK)
- ECI (Worldwide)
- BBC (UK)
- NCI (USA)
- CaptionMax (USA)
- VisionText (USA)
- Canwest (USA)
- Turner (USA)
- Visual Data (USA)
- BCCS (Canada)
- CCS (USA)
- WGBH (USA)
- CBS TV Network (USA)
- E! Entertainment (USA)
- Australian Caption Centre
- SBS Sydney
- MediaCorp Singapore
- Nickelodeon (UK)
- Disney/Universal (Spain)
- Technicolor Services (UK)
- Turner (USA)
- Channel 4 (UK)
- MediaCorp (Singapore)
- CH10 (Australia)
- Canwest (USA)
- CBC (Canada)
- Deutsche Welle (Germany)
- Orbit (Bahrain)
- VRT (Belgium)
- DR (Denmark)
- SVT (Sweden)

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