

EZConvert 5 – What's New

Dear friends,

We are proud to introduce our new major release – EZConvert 5. We've challenged ourselves to enhance our conversion tool and teach it quite a few new useful tricks.

Here is a glimpse of what we have been able to introduce with EZConvert 5:

1. *Workflows* - Now you have the full control to automate the conversion process to match your specific needs. You could convert a single file into multiple outputs with different settings and targets at the same time. Or you can import several different file types and produce several different outputs for each.
2. *Watch Folder as a Windows service* - The Watch Folder module can be installed as a Windows Service. This way it will work regardless if you're logged on or not which makes it perfect for running on servers or in some advanced complex workflow set ups.
3. *Quality control* - We've added extensive Quality Control Checks so EZConvert can now find the most common errors contained in a subtitle file. The software will keep you informed on the result so you could take the necessary actions.
4. *Digital Cinema Mode* - you can now prepare subtitles for up to 4k resolutions, easily tune them for digital cinema and get an accurate preview of how they will be displayed on the screen.
5. *Project Templates* - It might have been frustrating to adjust the Project Setting each time you're about to convert. Now you could save your project settings into a template so you could reuse them later.
6. *Export Warnings* – EZConvert will occasionally display extensive warnings when you export your subtitles and the output format doesn't support certain formatting style or presentation attribute.

All of this will certainly elevate your experience to the next level.

The following document contains information and general explanation of all major features that will be introduced with EZConvert 5. And please mind that we are constantly trying to improve so there might be other useful changes and additions which are not listed in the current document but could make their appearance with the final release.

I. Workflows

The ability to create Workflows upgrades the existing Watch Folder module by granting full control over the conversion process and enables simultaneous conversion of any input file into multiple output formats with all the different settings they may eventually require.

In general you can select an input folder where the files for conversion will be submitted and assign previously created Watch Folders to access the incoming file and simultaneously convert it in the format selected for each individual Watch Folder.

But to sophisticate the conversion process a little bit more, you can also activate the “*Auto detect source file format*” option. Then the Workflow will automatically recognize the input file’s format and will pass it to all Watch Folders responsible for the conversion of this particular file format only.

That way EZConvert 5 will successfully cover the most complex situations when a file needs to be converted to all of output formats defined by the Watch Folders or to some of them only.

II. Watch Folder as a Windows service

Now the Watch Folder module can be installed as a Windows Service. This way it will work regardless if you’re logged on or not which makes it perfect for running on servers or in some advanced complex workflow set ups.

III. Quality Control

No matter if you’re running automated conversions via the Watch Folder or you’re just using the GUI to convert a single file, you can now benefit from using the extensive Quality Control Checks. They can easily save time and efforts by finding the most common errors contained in a subtitle file. Like, for example, inconsistent timing, reading speed and safe area problems, use of illegal characters or inapplicable formatting styles and presentation controls.

If you’re using EZConvert’s GUI you may just need to load a file and then go to “*File->Check Subtitles*” to activate the required options. Then after pressing the “*Log*” button EZConvert 5 will give you a list with all the subtitles which match at least one of the selected criteria.

As for using the “*Checks*” with the Watch Folder there’s a new configuration option available at “*Edit->Config*” for each particular Watch Folder called “*Quality Control*”. The Quality Control Check will then be performed when the Watch Folder access the input file for conversion and if there are subtitles matching any of the selected criteria it can either continue with the conversion or reject the file completely depending on what your preference is.

In case you configure the Quality Control job to cancel the conversion a proper entry will be created in the Error log as well as an e-mail will be sent if you’ve decided to configure such notifications.

IV. Project Templates

For some it might have been frustrating to adjust the Project Setting each time they undertake a conversion. Well, we've addressed that and now you could save your project settings into a template so you could reuse them later.

The conversion will then take no more than a few clicks with the mouse: open the Project Settings, select the appropriate template, load the file in EZConvert and all the attributes, like Safe Area, fonts and presentation styles, will automatically be applied to the loaded subtitle file.

Creating a Project Template is easy enough. You may just need to select the settings you need for it and simply hit on the "*New*" button on the bottom left of the "*Project Settings*" dialog.

It's also possible to modify the settings of an existing template – select it from the list on the left, then modify the settings and press on the "*Save*" button.

For your convenience all the templates can also be arranged together in groups according to your preference and a custom symptom- depending on the resolution of the output file, by the targeted output format or in any other way you find applicable.

V. Digital Cinema Mode

A new subtitles mode called **Digital Cinema** is introduced with EZConvert 5. The idea is to provide precise and accurate preview of the subtitles as they will be displayed on the screen. Another advantage is that all parameters are specified in a way "native" for digital cinema by using percent, points and ems.

The new type can be activated from the *Project Settings* menu. In Digital Cinema mode, the following image resolutions are supported:

- 1998 x 1080, 2K flat in 1.85 : 1 aspect ratio;
- 2048 x 858, 2K scope in 2.39 : 1 aspect ratio;
- 2048 x 1080, 2K full container in 1.90:1 aspect ratio;
- 3996 x 2160, 4K flat in 1.85 : 1 aspect ratio;
- 4096 x 1716, 4K scope in 2.39 : 1 aspect ratio;
- 4096 x 2160, 4K full container in 1.90:1 aspect ratio.

In order to have an accurate preview we strongly recommend activating the Digital Cinema mode first, then selecting the respective resolution from the "*Project Settings -> Type*" menu and adjusting all other attributes in advance. Please note that 2K and 4K video formats are available for the Digital Cinema mode only.

All size and position settings configured from the *Project Settings* will be used during the export for DC (DLP Subtitles XML and SMPTE 428-7 XML). For your convenience all margins and line height values are specified in percentage from the image resolution. The DC compatible subtitle formats work with percentage values per specification.

The very same applies to font's size too. The DC subtitle specifications strictly set its size to be measured in points and with EZConvert 5 now you can do so at the "*Project Settings->Fonts*" menu when the program is already working in *Digital Cinema* mode.

With the new Digital Cinema mode already available EZConvert 5 will read the "HPosition" and "VPosition" attributes from the DC compliant XML file and properly position the imported subtitles on the screen.

Last but not least EZConvert 5 covers the full range of the DC subtitle specifications by adding support for the so called "*Ruby characters*" and "*Vertical text*". Subtitles containing ruby characters and vertical text can be now exported and imported as text or image based subtitles for Digital Cinema.

VI. Export Warnings

EZConvert will occasionally display extensive warnings when you export your subtitles and the output format doesn't support certain formatting style or presentation attribute.

VII. Other Improvements and Additions

Watch Folder – The Watch Folder has been changed in a way that you can now specify *Root Folder* – where all configuration files and system folders will be kept and *Input Folder*- the folder where all the files for conversion will be submitted.

Watch Folder – will convert all files contained in sub-folders of the *Input Folder*. Please consider not to allow the Input and Root folders to be the same.

Asian Text Font - allows Asian and non-Asian text to be displayed by different font when they are inserted on the same line. The text displayed with the Asian dedicated font has the same size as the regular font.

MS Word .doc and .docx Import/Export - Plain ASCII, RTF and Custom Text Import/Export can be used with MS Word documents. In addition all plain text formats like SubRip .srt, MicroDVD .sub, Softitler .txt, etc. can be imported from .doc and .docx files.

Videotron Lambda (.cap) subtitle file format is supported for import and export.