

Using Power CG pages in MediaStudio

This chapter only applies to your software if you have the model of Power CG that is designed to work with Ulead Systems, MediaStudio. It describes how to use Power CG pages in MediaStudio. It assumes that you are familiar with creating pages in Power CG. It also assumes that you are familiar with the operation of MediaStudio.

If you are not familiar with the process of creating pages in Power CG, I recommend that you refer to the Power CG manual. If you are not familiar with the operation of MediaStudio, I recommend that you refer to the MediaStudio manual.

There are two main steps in using the Power CG for MediaStudio. The first step is title creation. This involves editing your title pages and saving them to disk. Page creation is the same for all models of Power CG and is covered in the Power CG manual.

The second step is using the Power CG pages once they have been created. There are two ways to use Power CG pages in MediaStudio. The most straightforward method is to create a TGA image and add it to the MediaStudio Timeline. The most powerful method is to use the Power CG plugin.

You can use either of these methods to display the Power CG titles. You can even intermix them in the same project. We will discuss how to use both methods in this Tutorial.

Using TGA images

To use the TGA Images created by Power CG you first need to create the TGA images. This is done by using the "Export Page" button in the "Shortcuts" Window of the Power CG.

Start Power CG and open the "Show_off" project by selecting the "Open Project" command from the "File" menu. You will notice that the pages that were created in the SHOW_OFF project appear in the Project Manager on left-hand side of the screen. Scroll down the project manager list until you find the LOGOS page and select it. The LOGOS page is loaded and it appears in the title window. This page has a background graphic. Remove the background graphic by pressing the "No Graphic (Background Video)" button on the "Background - Image" control tab. Notice that the background of the page turns black. When this page is used in MediaStudio you will see the background video in the background. Export this page as a TGA image by pressing the "Export Page" button in the "Shortcuts" window. This will create a file called LOGOS.TGA on your hard drive. This image file is a 32-bit TGA file with an alpha channel.

Exit Power CG and start MediaStudio. Open an existing project or create one with a video clip on the time line. Import the TGA image into the project by pressing the right mouse button over the "Timeline" window and then select the "Image file" command.

Power CG saves the TGA images in a folder that has the same name as the Power CG project in the "POWERCG\PROJECTS" directory/folder. So, to load the TGA file that we just created, we need to find the "POWERCG" folder. This is the folder that Power CG is installed in. Open the PROJECTS folder in the POWERCG folder, then open the DEMO folder. Notice that there is a file in this folder called LOGOS.TGA. This is the file that we exported from the Power CG. Double-click this file to import it into the MediaStudio project.

Drag the image to the time line and drop it on the V1 layer. Position it so that it will title the portion of the video that you want to have titled.

Position the mouse over this TGA image and press the right mouse button. Select the "Overlay Options..." command from the pop-up menu. The "Overlay Options" window will appear. Select the "Alpha Channel" setting from the "Type" selection box. Close this window by pressing the "OK" button.

Preview this clip. Notice that it has the LOGOS title page superimposed over the video. This is how you use a TGA image created by Power CG to title your video.

Using the Power CG filter plugin

By far the most powerful way to use Power CG pages in MediaStudio is to use the Power CG plugin. This will allow you to select which Power CG page you want to title the clip with. The plugin also allows you select a "Fade In" and "Fade Out" time for the title. If the page was composed as a ROLL page, the page will roll. If the page was composed as a crawl page, the page will crawl. Power CG can also be launched from within the plug in.

When Power CG is launched from the MediaStudio plugin, the first frame of the clip that you are titling will appear as a background in the Power CG titling window.

Start MediaStudio and open an existing project or create one with a video clip on the timeline. The Power CG plugin appears in MediaStudio as a Video Filter. There are two ways of applying a Video Filter to a Video Clip. The first method is to select "Video Filters" in the "Production Library", and select the "Power CG" video filter. Drag the Power CG Icon up to the video clip in the timeline that you want to add a title to. The "Select Power CG Page" window (shown below) will appear. Use this window to select which Power CG page you want to use to title the video clip.

The second method is to place the mouse over the video clip that you want to title and press the right mouse button. Select the “Video Filters” entry from the pop-up menu. This displays the “Video Filters” window. This window displays two lists. The list on the left displays the filters that are available in your system. The list on the right displays the filters that are currently applied to the selected video clip. Scroll down the left list until you find the Power CG entry and double-click it. The “Select Power CG Page” window will be displayed. The “Select Power CG Page” window appears below in figure 3-1.



Figure 3-1

This window displays the pages that are in the current Power CG project. The pages are shown in the list on the left-hand side. The pages in this list can be represented with just the page name or as a Picon (a Picon is a miniature picture of the page). You can select whether this list displays the names or the Picon's by making the appropriate selection in the show page section of this window.

Notice that the current page entry is blank. This means that no Power CG page has been selected yet. Select the page that you want to title this clip with and it will appear in this box. The “Project” section of this window displays the current project that the listed pages are from. You can select a new project by pressing the “Select New Project” button in this section.

The fade section of this window allows you to independently set the “Fade In” and “Fade Out” duration of the page. The Page Transition section of the window shows the type of page that you have selected. If a roll page is selected, the word “ROLL” will appear. If a crawl page is selected, the word “CRAWL” will appear. If neither a roll nor crawl is selected, the word “NORMAL” will appear.

Scroll the list of available pages down until you see the “LOGOS” page. Select the LOGOS page and it will appear as the current page.

Pressing the “Compose/Edit Pages” button will display the Power CG Page Composition Windows. The first frame of the video clip that the title is applied to will appear in the background of the Page Composition Window (of course, if the page has a background graphic or color gradient box you may not be able to see the background video). When you’ve finished editing the page, exit Power CG and the system will return you to MediaStudio.

When you have selected the page and set the “Fade In” and “Fade Out” durations, press the “OK” button and the “Select Power CG Page” window will disappear. Power CG now appears as one of the current filters for this clip. Press the “OK” button to close the “Video Filters” window. Preview this clip, notice that the “Logos” title page is superimposed over the video clip.

You can go back at any time and change the selected page and the Fade In and Fade Out durations of the title by moving the mouse over the titled clip and pressing the right mouse button. Select the “Video Filters” entry from the pop-up menu and the “Video Filters” window will appear. Select the Power CG in the “Applied filters” list and press the “Options...” button. The “Select Power CG Page” window will re-appear. Make any desired changes and press the “OK” button. Press the “OK” button in the “Video Filters” window to close it. This is how you use the Power CG for MediaStudio Plugin Filter to title your video.

The Power CG Video filter can only be applied to video clips that are on the Va or Vb layers of the timeline.

Making titles shorter than the clip

Normally, when MediaStudio applies a filter to a clip, it is applied to the entire clip. If you want to apply the title to only a portion of the clip, you must split the clip using the scissors tool. Select the "Scissors Tool" from the toolbar (see the MediaStudio users guide for more information about the "Scissors Tool"). Once the Scissors Tool is selected, select where you want to split the clip and press the left mouse button. This divides the clip into two pieces. Once you have divided the clip, you can apply the filter (title) to the portion of the clip that you want to title.

Rolling pages

A Roll page in the Power CG is composed as a single page. A Roll page can be up to 1000 rows of text in length. To create a Roll page, start Power CG and select the "New Page" command from the "File" menu. When you are asked to "select the type of page that you want to create", select "Roll". This creates a new Roll page. This page is just like a normal page except that when you are composing the page, and reach the bottom of the screen, the page is scrolled up to make room for the new text.

What you have finished composing the roll page, save it. The page can then be used in a MediaStudio project. A Roll page can be used in the timeline just like any other page with the following differences:

The page transition type in the "Select Power CG Page" window will be displayed as "ROLL". When the page is rendered, it will roll from bottom of the screen to the top of the screen. The speed of the roll is determined by two factors, the number of lines in the roll, and the length of time that the page is given on the time line. The speed will automatically adjust so that the amount of data on the roll page will be displayed in the allotted time.

When a Roll begins, the first screen of the Roll page appears. If you want the page to start below the bottom of the screen and roll up onto the screen, you need to compose the page with blank lines on the first few rows (the rows that are visible at the top of the page).

The roll finishes when the last row of text appears at the bottom margin. If you want the text to continue and scroll all of the text off of the top of the screen, move the cursor down until all of the text is scrolled off of the top of the screen and enter a small dot (.). Remove the edge from the dot and set the height to zero (0) scan lines. This will make the dot invisible.

Crawling pages.

A Crawl page in Power CG is composed as one long row of text. A Crawl page can be up to 8000 characters in length. To create a “Crawl” page, start Power CG and select the “New Page” command from the “File” menu. When you are asked to “select the type of page you want to create”, select “Crawl”. This creates a new “Crawl” page. This Crawl page only has one row of text. When you are composing a Crawl page, and reach the right margin, the page is scrolled to the left to make room for the new text.

The Crawl row can be positioned vertically on the page using any of the commands that will move a row vertically. The most common position for a crawl is along the bottom of the screen. The easiest way to position the crawl there is to “Bottom Justify” the page after the text has been composed.

When you have finished composing the crawl, save it. The page can then be used in a MediaStudio project. A Crawl page can be used in the timeline just like any other page with the following differences:

The “Page Transition” type in the “Select Power CG Page” window will be displayed as “CRAWL”. When the page is rendered, it will crawl from the right side of the screen to the left.

The speed of the crawl is determined by two factors, the length of the crawl text, and the length of time that the page is given on the timeline. The speed will automatically be adjusted so the crawl text will be displayed in the allotted time.

When a Crawl begins, the first screen of the Crawl page appears. If you want the crawl to start at the right side of the screen and crawl onto the screen, you need to leave spaces at the beginning of the Crawl message (the text that is visible on the first screen of the crawl).

The crawl finishes when the last character of the crawl appears at the right margin. If you want the text to continue to crawl off the left side of the screen, move the cursor to the right (beyond the last character), until all of the text scrolls off of the screen, and enter a small dot (.). Remove the edge from the dot and set the height of it to zero (0) scanlines. This will make the dot invisible.