

# Soundslides

Presentation by Kristina Courtnage Bowman ([kriscb@u.washington.edu](mailto:kriscb@u.washington.edu))

## About Soundslides

Soundslides is a Flash-based system that combines a folder of photos with an audio track. Before you open Soundslides you should have a folder on your computer with all the photos you want to use in jpg format and an mp3. Soundslides will automatically resize photos larger than 680 pixels wide. If you want more control while resizing the image you can resize the photos in Photoshop to a width of 680 pixels and a resolution of 72. You might also want to create a title slide in Photoshop.

**A note about copyright:** While music tracks can set the tone of the story, it's important to make sure you have permission to use someone else's copyrighted works. One popular site is Creative Commons, where creators make their music available under a license that allows you to use the music with attribution. There may be restrictions on how you may use the music so check each individual license carefully. Other sites that use Creative Commons licenses are Wikimedia Commons and Archive.org.

## Soundslides tutorial

1. Open Soundslides and select new project. Soundslides will prompt you to select the folder that contains your photos and your mp3 file. (If you don't have audio you can create a silent mp3 track using the directions below.) Select these files, hit OK and voila! Soundslides combines your pictures and music to create an audio slideshow.
2. Change the order of photos: If you number your photos before you load them, Soundslides will order your photos for you. If you haven't numbered your photos, you can move them around in the Slides tab.
3. To change the length of time a slide is shown, drag the edge of the slide on the timeline.
4. Remember to save your changes regularly.
5. Add captions to your slides to provide information about someone pictured in the slide or someone who is talking under "Slide info."
6. Under "Template" > "Display" check "Show captions by default."
7. Under "Project info" add a headline and credits.
8. "Save" and "Test" your show.
9. To create the files you need to publish your slideshow to the web click "Export." You will need all the files in the "publish\_to\_web" folder to publish your slideshow.

## How to publish your slideshow on the UW Dante server using FTP

1. Activate your UW Dante account by following these instructions:  
[http://www.washington.edu/itconnect/web/publishing/students.html#activate\\_pub](http://www.washington.edu/itconnect/web/publishing/students.html#activate_pub)
2. From the start menu open UWick Applications > WinSTP. (You can download this at home from <http://www.washington.edu/itconnect/security/tools/#sftp> (secure file transfer).
3. Click on Quick Connect
4. For host name type: dante.u.washington.edu; for user name type your UWNetID; hit Connect
5. You will be prompted to enter your password and click OK.
6. Drag the "Publish\_to\_web" files from the left screen into the right "public\_html" folder.
7. Open your slideshow by going to [http://students.washington.edu/\(UWNetID\)/publish\\_to\\_web](http://students.washington.edu/(UWNetID)/publish_to_web). You might also want to change the name of your "publish\_to\_web" folder to something

descriptive (this would also change your url). **Note: If you work on campus you might need to use “staff” instead of “students” in the url.**

### **Creating a silent track for photos without narration**

1. Open Audacity.
2. Go to Generate > Silence.
3. Type the number of seconds of silence you want. Example: If you have 30 photos and you want each to run 4 seconds you need 120 seconds.
4. Click OK.
5. Save your file as an MP3 to use in your Soundslides project.

### **Converting to a video file**

To convert your Soundslides project to a video file, upload a zip file of the publish\_to\_web folder at <http://video.soundslides.net/converter/> (Note this will not work with the demo version.)