

By Bruce Devlin
SMPTE Standards Vice President

The breadth and depth of work carried out by the SMPTE Technical Committees always amazes me. Each time I think I am smart, I only have to read the latest reports and draft documents being created, and I realize that the collective brain power of this community is the very best in the world.

Take, for instance, the Essence Committee (10E). They have documents on four different compression codecs, one on viewing environments, one on metadata, and a document on tactile essence going through the process. The Film Committee (20F) is considering the measurement of light, sound pressure, and noise along with the creation of test materials. The Digital Cinema Committee (21DC) is kept busy with the specification and interoperability issues around deploying the immersive audio suite of standards, not to mention the complexities of subtitles, frame rates, and key management.

Television and Broadcast Media (24TB) is active in lipsync, being open identifiers to media and revising the use of Active Format Descriptions (AFDs). The Metadata and Registers Committee (30MR) continues to be the memory of all the parameters used in the SMPTE suite of specifications. Now that all the data are available online, for free at <https://smpte-ra.org>, the standards and processes for adding new metadata continue to be refined to ensure that the online data are up to date and fit for purpose.

The File Formats and Systems Committee (31FS) is looking at a revision of Material eXchange Format, an extension of Archive eXchange Format, adding high dynamic

range (HDR) to Digital Moving Picture eXchange and the core Key Length Value standard. The volume of work covered by the Networks and Facilities Committee (32NF) is quite immense. They have added HDR metadata transport to virtually every transport standard that SMPTE has, along with new standards for IP transport, Serial Digital Interface, time labeling and synchronization, as well as data on AES3.

Recent work in the Control and Services Committee (34CS) covers Broadcast eXchange Format, media device control, and microservice. At the end of the numerical committee sequence, we have media packaging and interchange (35PM) whose work on IMF has included plugfests and document revisions.

You can find all the details of these updates from the chairs of the Technology Committees in the following pages. Don't forget to look out for the quarterly webcasts where we take 90 min to update you on the latest work and respond to your questions.

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About the Author



Bruce Devlin is the SMPTE Standards Vice President, founder of Mr MXF Ltd and has enjoyed C-level positions at several media companies over the years. He literally wrote the book on Material eXchange Format and is a recognized world expert in media files and formats. He earns a living by educating and advising content owners, broadcasters, facilities and manufacturers on strategies for commercial success when handling file based media.

UPCOMING TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE (TC) MEETINGS

19–22 September

EBU

Geneva, Switzerland (following IBC)

3–6 December

Dolby Laboratories

San Francisco, CA, USA

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