

Best Practices in Setting Up a Media Library

Use your ScreenPlay Director HD Media Player to consolidate your multimedia files for easy access on your TV or across your home network!



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Overview

Your ScreenPlay Director HD Media Player offers high capacity storage space for your collections of music, videos, and photos. It also provides powerful and flexible connectivity to media files stored on your home network. With ScreenPlay Director connected to your home network, you can use the ScreenPlay and your TV screen to access, copy, or play media files from any volume on the network. Also, all users on the network can load media files onto the ScreenPlay Director or access the media collections stored on the ScreenPlay Director to play files on their individual computers.

This technical brief offers suggestions on how to organize your media collections so everyone who uses your ScreenPlay Director can find the media files they want to play. It also includes instructions on how to load media files to the ScreenPlay Director across the network and how to access media files to play on your TV or computer.

Organizing Your Media Files

If you have a large collection of media files, you probably already know that it can be difficult to find a specific music file, video file, or photo unless you happen to remember the filename and can search for it. This problem is compounded when multiple users have access to add files to the media collection across a home network.

The solution is to use folders and subfolders to organize your media files in a way that is easiest and most sensible for you. The suggestions in this section should help you get started. Use them and your own creativity to develop an organization system that works best for you.

Using Folders

To help organize your files, the ScreenPlay Director includes default folders for each type of media you might want to store on it ("My Photos" for image files, "My Music" for music files, and "My Video" for video files). Within these folders, you can create additional subfolders to organize your files. For example, within the "My Video" folder, you could create a separate folder for each movie or video you want to store on the ScreenPlay Director. You can also create subfolders to organize your media files into broad categories that make it easier for you to find the files you want to play. For example, within the "My Video" folder, you could create subfolders for "Classics", "Family Favorites", "Action and Suspense", etc. Within the "My Music" folder, you could create subfolders for the types of music you like, such as "Rock", "Jazz", "Rhythm and Blues", "Oldies", "Classical", etc.

If desired, you can create folders outside the default folders for organizing your media files. If you have a home network, you might find it helpful to create folders for each user on the network. Another possibility would be to create folders that combine users and media types. For example, on a network where Jason, Jen, and Russ are users, it might be helpful to create folders for "Jason's music", "Jason's videos", "Jen's music", "Jen's photos", etc. Each user can then organize their own subfolders to further organize their files. This approach works well when different users on the network have very different tastes and are less likely to want to find media files someone else loaded to the ScreenPlay Director.



Adding Subfolders

Whenever a folder accumulates more files than you can scan through quickly, consider dividing it into subfolders with smaller groups of files. For example, if you have a folder for "Video Classics" that contains 50 video files, think about how to organize them into smaller groups. Perhaps you could create subfolders for "Classic Kids Movies", "Classic Comedies", "Classic Action Adventure", and "Classic Dramas" within the "Video Classics" folder. Once you've created the subfolders you want to use, move the videos that fit in each category into the appropriate subfolder.

Loading Media Files Using a Direct USB Connection

The fastest way to load a lot of media files to the ScreenPlay Director is to connect it directly to the computer where the files are stored. This also makes it very easy to create folders and subfolders to organize your media library. When the ScreenPlay Director is connected to a computer via USB, it appears and behaves like an external hard drive.

1. Turn off power to the ScreenPlay Director.

NOTE: It is not necessary to disconnect the ScreenPlay Director from the TV set if it's close enough to connect to your computer.

2. Use the included USB cable to connect the ScreenPlay Director to a USB port on your computer.

NOTE: For best results always use the cable included with the drive. Long USB cables are not recommended as they might not provide adequate data or power transfer.

3. Make sure the ScreenPlay Director is correctly connected to an uninterruptible power supply (UPS) or power outlet, then press the power button on the front of the ScreenPlay Director to turn it on.



4. The ScreenPlay Director will mount on your computer as an external hard drive.

PC Users:

- a. Open My Computer or Windows Explorer and locate the drive letter assigned to the ScreenPlay Director.
- b. Use the standard methods for your operating system to create folders on the ScreenPlay Director and copy-and-paste or drag-and-drop your files.

Mac Users:

Since NTFS is read-only on Mac OS X, you will need to reformat the ScreenPlay Director hard disk to MS-DOS (FAT) before copying files to it. Refer to the next section on **Formatting the ScreenPlay Director for Use on a Mac**.

NOTE: You can copy files to the ScreenPlay Director from a Mac without changing the drive format if you use a network connection rather than a direct USB connection. See the section on **Transferring Files Using the Network**.

5. Use the safe removal procedure for your operating system to unmount the drive, then disconnect the ScreenPlay Director from your computer.



Formatting the ScreenPlay Director for Direct Use on a Mac

The default format on the ScreenPlay Director is NTFS, which is read-only on Mac OS X. If you need to transfer files to the ScreenPlay Director by direct connection from a Mac, you must use Disk Utility to format the ScreenPlay Director hard disk to MS-DOS (FAT32). Follow the instructions below to change the format.

NOTE: The requirement to format the drive as a FAT32 volume applies only when connecting the ScreenPlay Director directly to a Mac via USB. You can copy files to the ScreenPlay Director from a Mac without changing the disk format if you use a network connection rather than a direct USB connection (recommended if available). When the ScreenPlay Director is connected to a network, the Mac sees it as an SMB network share rather than as an NTFS-formatted external hard disk. Refer to the section on **Transferring Files Using the Network** for additional information.

Note the following limitations before changing the drive format:

- The ScreenPlay Director must be formatted either NTFS or FAT32 in order to play back media files on a TV.
- A FAT32 volume may mount slower on a Mac OS system, and files may copy slower.
- The FAT32 file system has a maximum file size limit of 4GB.
- The FAT32 format can also be used with Windows XP or Vista, but it is not as efficient as NTFS.

CAUTION! Formatting the hard disk will erase all existing data! If you have files on the ScreenPlay Director you want to save, move them to another drive before reformatting.

Formatting the ScreenPlay Director using Mac OS X, version 10.4 and above



1. Connect the ScreenPlay Director to your Mac and power it on.
2. The data volume will mount on the Desktop. Copy any files you want to keep to another location.
3. Launch Disk Utility by selecting **Applications** → **Utilities** → **Disk Utility**
4. In the left hand column, you will see a top level hard drive icon and multiple partitions. Three of the partitions will be unmodifiable and grayed out in the interface. Two partitions will be active — a small FAT32 partition and a large NTFS partition.
5. Click on the large NTFS partition to select it.
6. Click on the **Erase** tab.
7. Select **MS-DOS (FAT)** from the **Volume Format** drop-down menu.
8. Click on the **Erase** button.
9. When Disk Utility is finished erasing the disk, click on the large active partition and ensure that the Format field at the bottom of the Disk Utility window says that the volume is MS-DOS (FAT32).
10. You can now quit Disk Utility and copy files to the ScreenPlay Director.

NOTE: Do not copy files to the small FAT32-formatted partition. It is used only for the firmware update process, and files stored on it will not be recognized on the TV interface.



Transferring Files Using the ScreenPlay TV Interface

If your ScreenPlay Director is connected to a home network, you can use the ScreenPlay TV interface to copy media files and folders from network volumes to the ScreenPlay Director hard disk. Here's how:

1. Press the button on the remote control for the type of media you want to copy and paste (Video, Photo, or Music).
2. Select the network volume where the files are located.
3. Navigate to the files and/or folders you want to copy and press the Mark button  on the remote control to select them.
NOTE: Marking a folder automatically marks all of the files inside the folder. You can unmark an item or folder by pressing the Mark button again.
5. Navigate to the location on the ScreenPlay Director where you want to store the files.
6. Press the Menu button  and select **Duplicate marked items** from the contextual action menu.

NOTE: This function works in both directions. You can use the same process to export media files from the ScreenPlay Director to a network volume.

Transferring Files Using the Network

You can access the ScreenPlay Director from any computer on the network to create folders and copy/paste media files.

NOTE: Copying files to the ScreenPlay Director across a network is slower than copying files via a direct USB connection. If you have a large media library on your computer that you want to transfer to the ScreenPlay Director, it is recommended that you use a direct USB connection rather than the network.

To connect to the ScreenPlay Director as a network share, you can run the ScreenPlay Discovery utility to automatically map a drive letter, or you can manually map a drive letter. Follow the instructions below for the method and system you want to use.

NOTE: The network computer must be on the same subnet or network segment as the ScreenPlay Director.

Automatically mapping a drive letter with ScreenPlay Discovery

1. Insert the Solutions CD that shipped with the ScreenPlay Director and install the ScreenPlay Discovery utility.
2. Run ScreenPlay Discovery to automatically connect to the ScreenPlay Director:

PC Users:


- a. Click **Start** → **Iomega** → **ScreenPlay Director**.
- b. Double click the icon for **ScreenPlay Discovery**.




Mac Users:

- a. Open the **Applications** folder.
- b. Double click the **Iomega** folder.
- c. Double click the **ScreenPlay Director** folder.
- d. Double click the icon for **ScreenPlay Discovery**.

Manually mapping a drive letter from a Windows PC

1. Make sure the ScreenPlay Director is correctly connected to your TV and network.
2. From the ScreenPlay home page, select the **Settings** icon and press Enter [].
3. In the upper settings bar, select **Network** and press Enter.
4. Select **Status** and note the IP address assigned to the ScreenPlay Director.
5. Using a PC connected to the Network, right click on the **Computer** (Vista) or **My Computer** (XP/2000) icon and select **Map Network Drive**.
6. Select the drive letter you want to use for the ScreenPlay Director, then enter the IP address for the ScreenPlay Director in the field next to **Folder** (for example, `\\192.168.1.151`).
7. You can now use My Computer or Windows Explorer to browse the ScreenPlay Director and copy files from your network volumes onto the ScreenPlay Director.

Connecting to the ScreenPlay Director over the Network from a Mac

1. Make sure the ScreenPlay Director is correctly connected to your TV and network.
2. From the ScreenPlay home page, select the **Settings** icon and press Enter [].
3. In the upper settings bar, select **Network** and press Enter.
4. Select **Status** and note the IP address assigned to the ScreenPlay Director.
5. On a Mac connected to the network, select **Connect to Server** from Finder's **Go** menu.
6. Under **Server Address**, enter "`smb://`" followed by the IP address for the ScreenPlay Director (for example, `smb://192.168.1.151`).
7. Click **Connect**.
8. Select the ScreenPlay public share to mount it on your desktop.
9. You can now create folders and copy media files across the network to the ScreenPlay Director.



Accessing Media Files Across the Network

After setting up your media library on the ScreenPlay Director, all users on your home network will have access to add files to the library or play files from the library on their individual computers. Simply run ScreenPlay Discovery to connect to the ScreenPlay Director and mount it as a network volume on your computer. You can then navigate folders to select and play files, or add to the library by copying and pasting files from your computer.

Enjoying Your Media Library on Your TV

With a well-organized media library stored on your ScreenPlay Director, it's easy to enjoy your videos, music, and photos on your TV.

1. Make sure ScreenPlay Director is correctly connected to your TV and network.
2. Change the input setting on your TV as needed to receive input from the ScreenPlay Director. Refer to the manual that came with the TV if you are uncertain how to do this.
3. Turn on the ScreenPlay Director by pressing the power button on either the remote control or the front panel.

NOTE: When using the remote control, always point it towards the receiver on the front of the ScreenPlay Director.

4. When the ScreenPlay Director home page appears on the TV screen, select the **Video** icon.
5. Select the source location to browse for the video file you want to play. The Video navigator will list all available sources, including the ScreenPlay Director, network volumes, connected USB devices, and UPnP/DLNA compliant Digital Media Servers.
6. Browse to the video file and press the Play button to start playback.

See the complete user's manual on the Solution CD or the Iomega web site for more information on using your ScreenPlay Director!



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