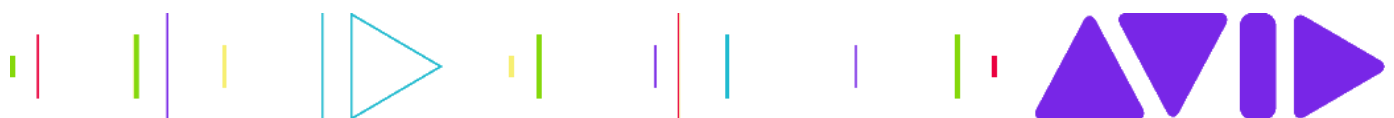




MC110 2019/20 Addendum

What's New in 2020.4 - MC2021.6

30-Jul-21



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1. Overview

As you may know, Media Composer has undergone several updates since the release of the **Media Composer Fundamentals II** course in the fall of 2019 — most notably the 2020.4 release in April of 2020. Plus, since that release, our software team has added features and functionality upgrades. To minimize confusion while navigating the course materials, we created this guide which spotlights 2020.4 through 2021.6 updates.

If you've worked with the **Media Composer Fundamentals I** course materials in Media Composer 2020.4 or later, you'll recognize many of the features covered in this addendum. If you're just starting to work with a later release, you'll gain valuable insight into the feature updates that impact the MC110 course and how to integrate them into the course.

i Quick Navigation Tip: Click the links in the table of contents to jump to a specific topic.

1.1 Verifying Your Version of Media Composer

This guide applies to you (in part, at least) if any Media Composer version later than 2020.4 has been installed on your system. A quick way to check this is to launch Media Composer and look at the splash screen (See Figure 1)



Figure 1 Splash screens for Media Composer 2019.6 (Left) and Media Composer 2021.6 (Right)

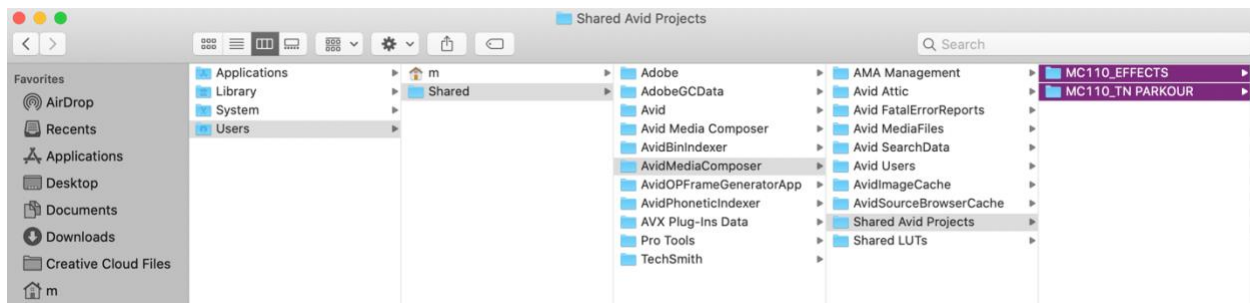
1.2 MC110 Course Media Setup (macOS)

Media Composer 2020.4 brought in support for macOS Catalina, which introduced a major change: you can no longer store files on the root (top) level of the Macintosh HD.

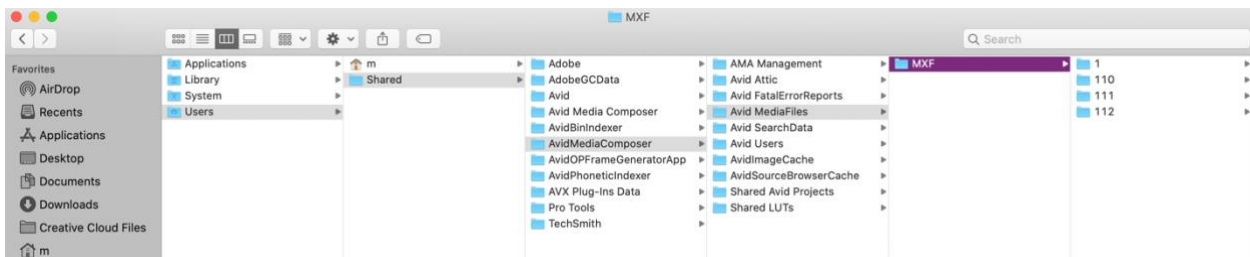
If you plan to store the media associated with this course on an external hard drive, refer to the **Using the Course Materials** section in the **Introduction** of the **Media Composer Fundamentals II** book.

If you plan to store all the course materials on your Macintosh HD, refer to the **Using the Course Materials** section for guidance but place the downloaded assets in the following locations:

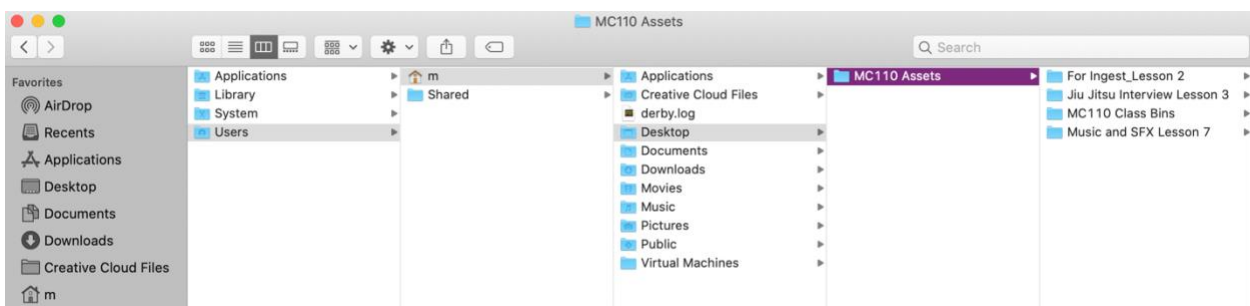
- **MC110_TN PARKOUR and MC110_EFFECTS projects:**
Users\Shared\AvidMediaComposer\Shared Avid Projects



- **110, 111, and 112 media folders:**
Users\Shared\AvidMediaComposer\Avid MediaFiles\MXF



- **MC110 Assets:** Users\username\Desktop or another convenient location



1.3 MC110 Course Media Setup (Windows)

If you plan to store the media associated with this course on an external hard drive, refer to the ***Using the Course Materials*** section in the ***Introduction*** of the ***Media Composer Fundamentals II*** book.

If you plan to store all the course materials on your computer's internal drive, follow the ***Using the Course Materials*** section with one exception...

The default location for the Avid MediaFiles folder on the boot drive has changed to:
drive:\Users\Public\Documents\Avid Media Composer.

2. The Select Project Window

When you launch Media Composer 2020.4 or later, the software will load the new feature-rich Select Project window. This looks quite different from the Select Project dialog box presented in **Lesson 1: Fundamentals and Beyond**.

Since you'll access and use this project management window throughout the MC110 course, let's take a quick tour.

The following image (Figure 2) highlights key Select Project window features:

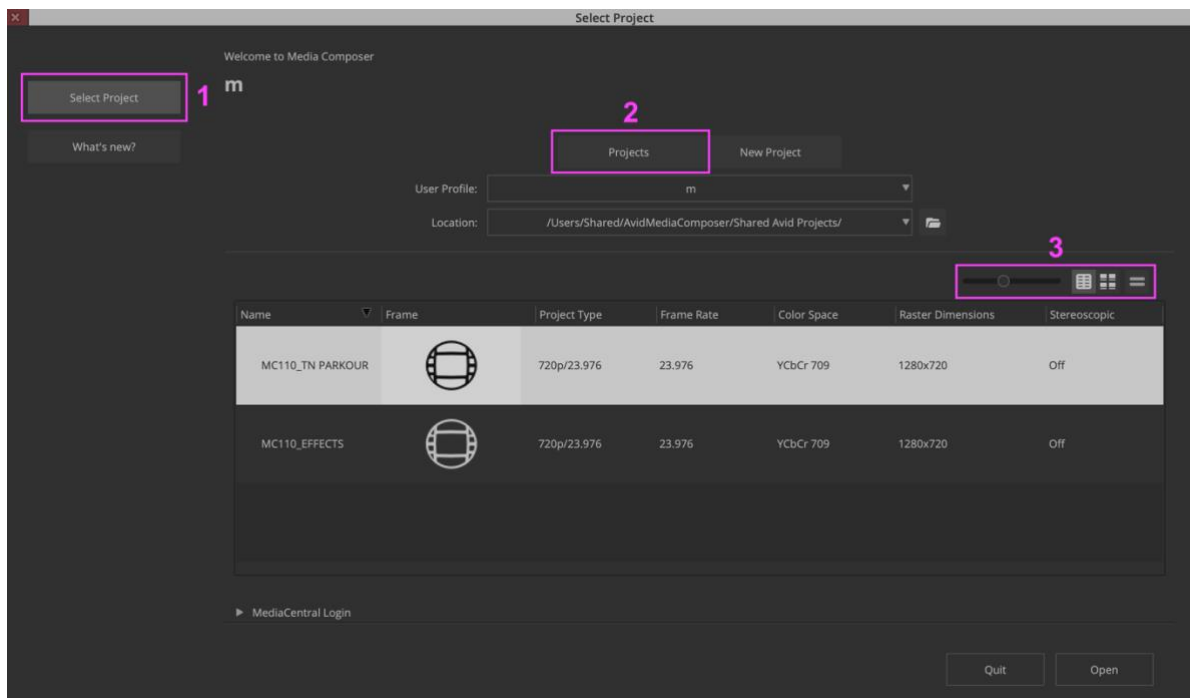


Figure 2 Select Project window in MC2020.4 and later

- 1. Select Project Button:** Click this to access existing projects or create a new project.
- 2. Project Tab:** Activate this tab to access projects loaded on your system.
- 3. Project View:** Click these buttons to display your current projects in list or frame view.

i In **Lesson 3: Preparing Dailies**, you'll work with bin view options. The Select Project window offers the same features.

In both the *Projects* and *New Project* tabs of the Select Project window, you can access projects by clicking the *Location* pop-up menu.

All projects for this course will be placed in the *Shared* location shown below (see Figure 3).

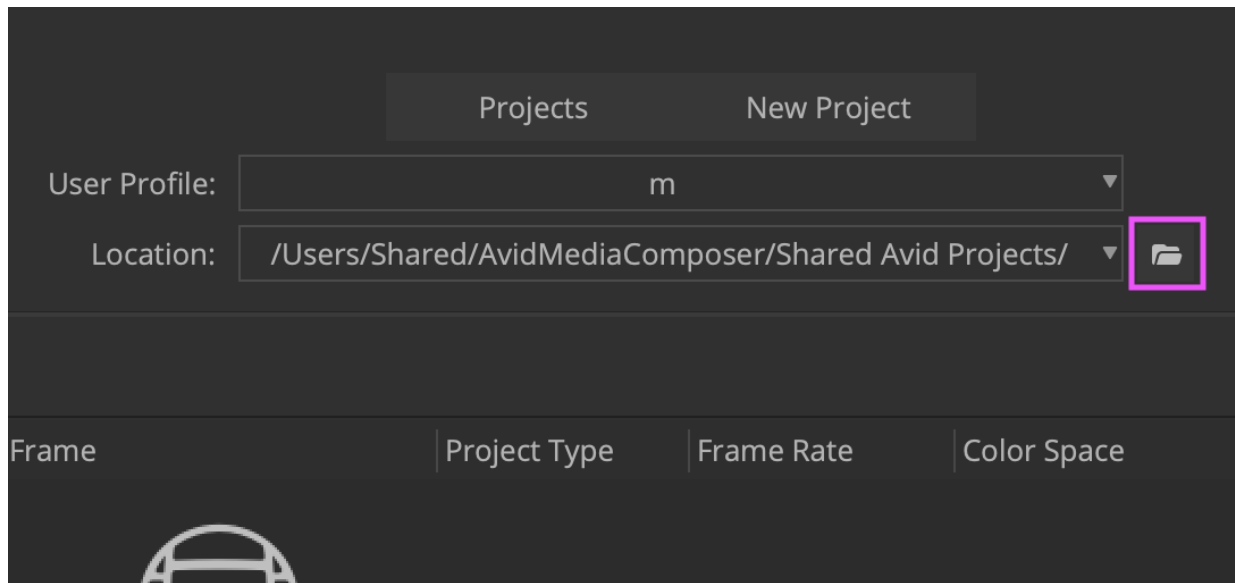


Figure 3 Location pop-up menu and Browse button

If you click the *Browse* folder icon (highlighted in pink), you can place new projects anywhere on your system. In previous versions of Media Composer, saving a project to a custom location activated the radio button labeled "External". In Media Composer 2020.4 and above, there is no button labeled "External". Instead, all custom locations are automatically added to the location list, making it easy to keep track of your projects.

In **Lesson 1: Fundamentals and Beyond** you'll create a new project. To do this in Media Composer 2020.4 or later, you'll click the *New Project* tab to access the project setup options covered in that lesson (see Figure 4).

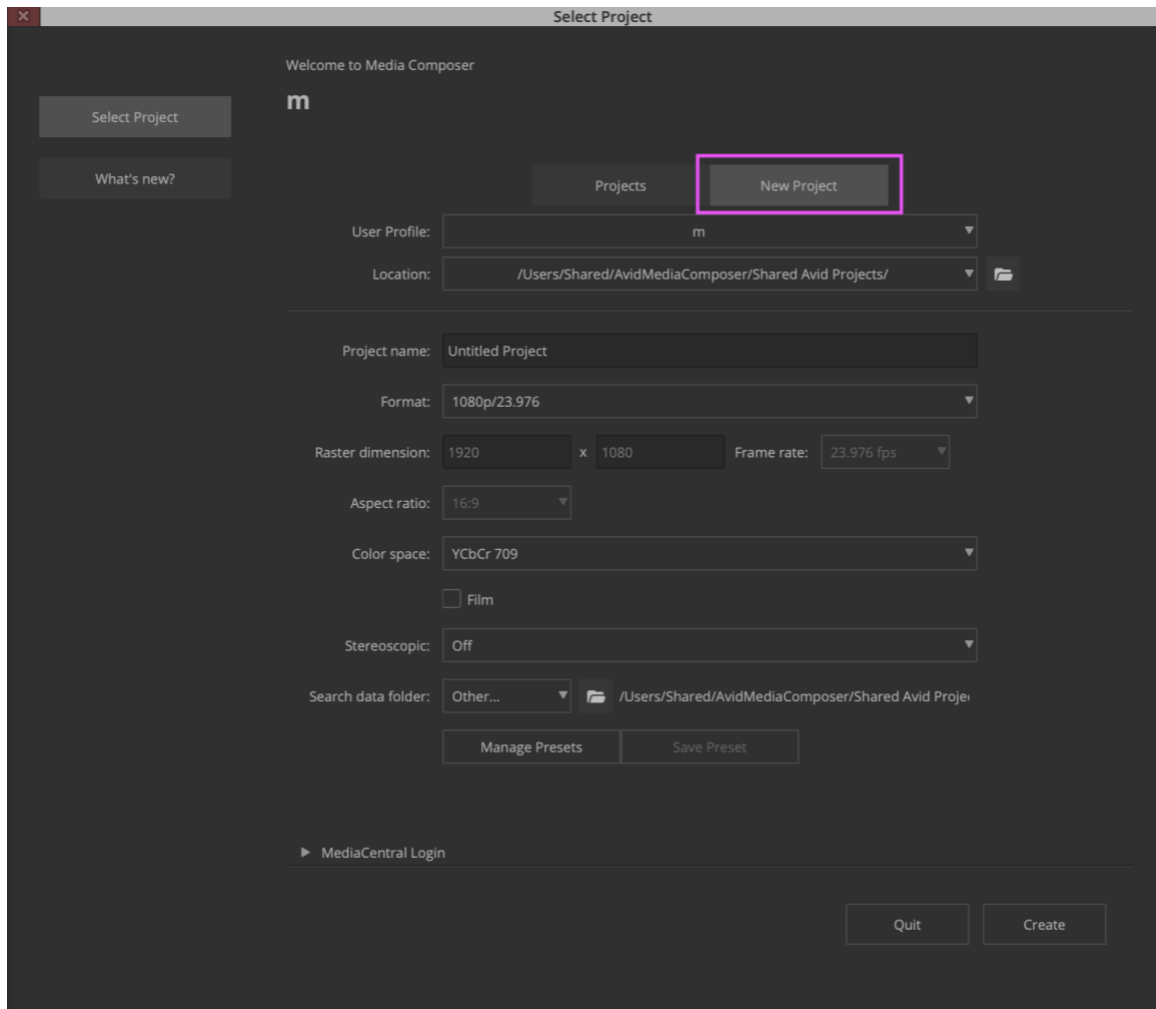


Figure 4 New Project interface in the new Select Project window

That covers the Select Project window options that align with the MC110 course. In addition, you'll want to explore a couple of new features: The **What's new?** button and **Save as Poster Frame** option.

If you click the *What's new?* button, you'll gain access to information about updates added to Media Composer since the 2019.6 release (see Figure 5).

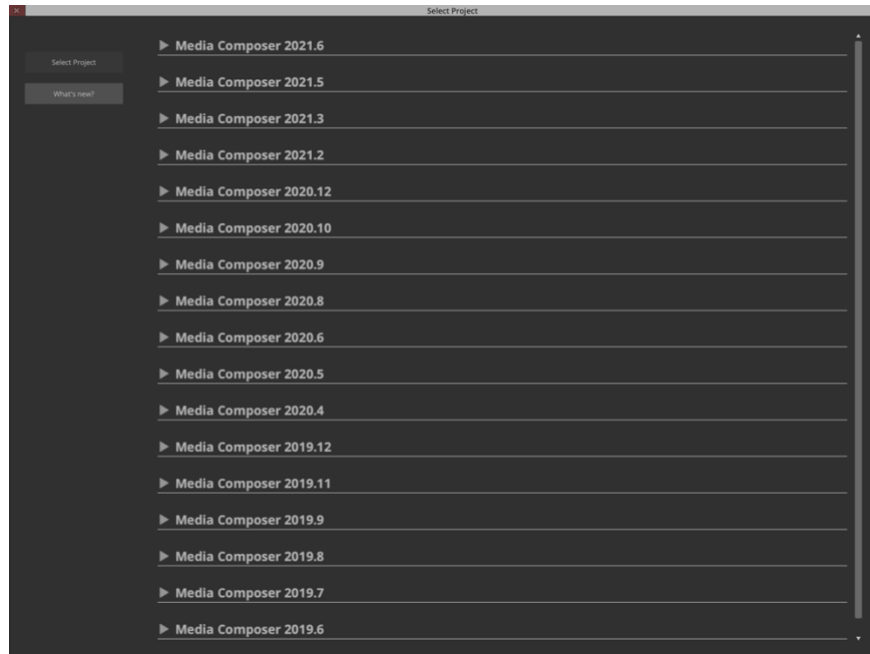


Figure 5 What's new interface in the Select Project window

Clicking a version reveals update details as well as a link to information about the features (See Figure 6).

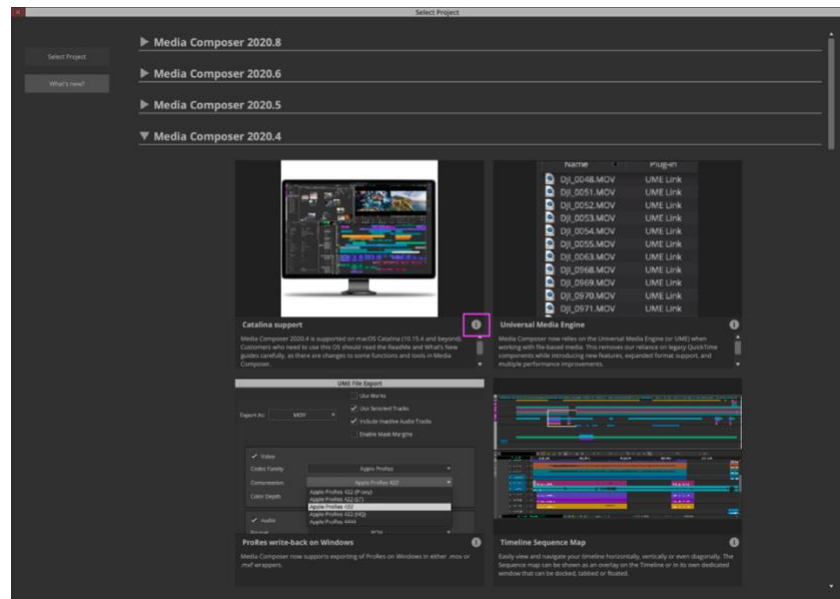


Figure 6 Click the "i" icon to access additional feature details

In addition, you can create a poster frame that will show up as a thumbnail in the Select Project window's *Frame* or *Text* view (See Figure 7).

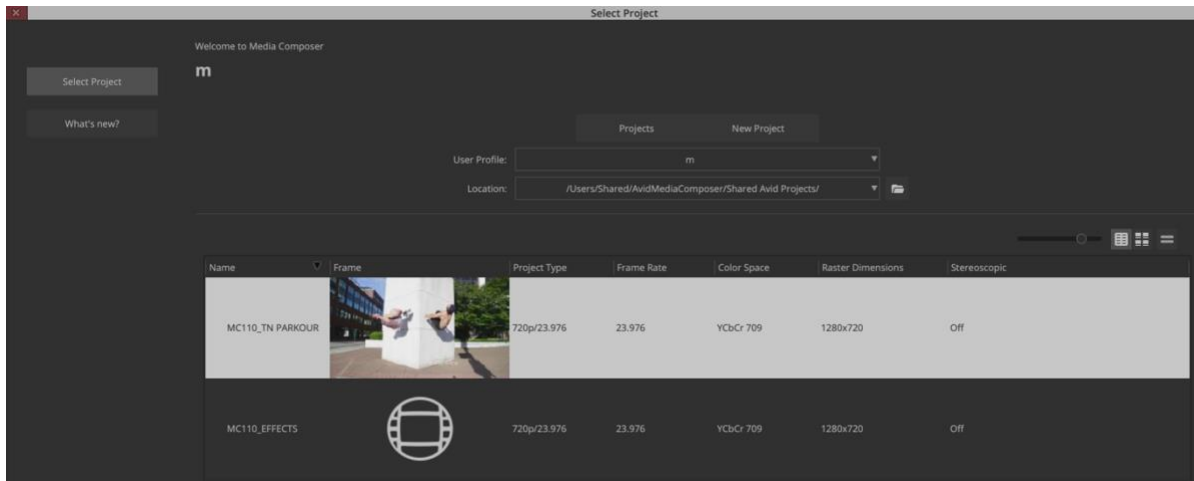


Figure 7 Poster Frame in the Select Project window

You can create a poster frame from either a source clip or sequence that's loaded in the Composer window. Just navigate to a frame that best represents your project, right-click the appropriate monitor, and select *Save as project poster frame*.

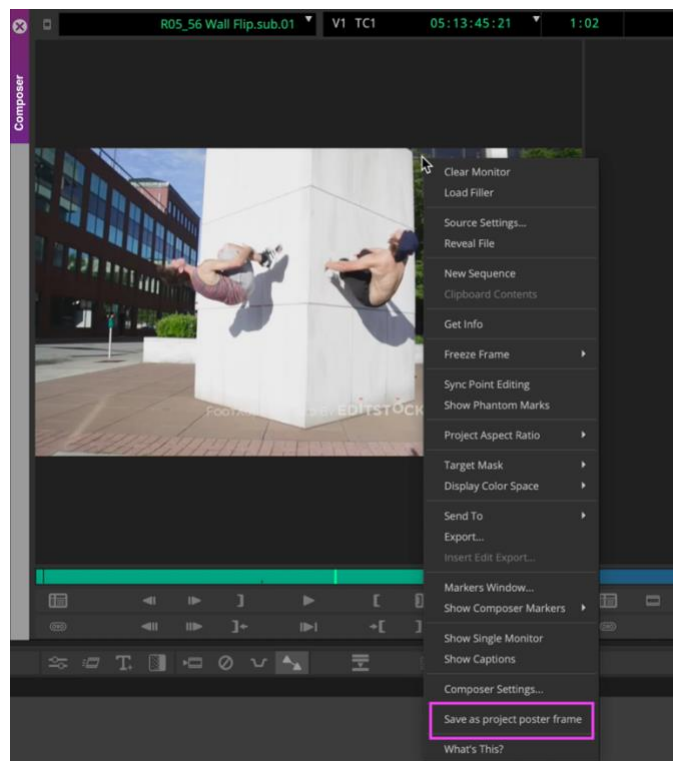


Figure 8 Right-click in the Composer window to save a project poster frame

3. Audio and Video Media Changes

Several lessons in the MC110 course will ask you to work with source media and Avid-native codecs. Overall the topics and workflows covered in these lessons apply to both Media Composer 2019.x, 2020.4 and later. In this section, we'll take a closer look at exceptions and considerations.

3.1 Avid-native Media Resolution Name Changes (Lessons 1, 2, 14 & 15)

Lesson 1: Fundamentals and Beyond includes a table that lists Avid DNxHD codecs such as DNxHD 36, and DNxHD 145, which were named to reflect data rates. In Media Composer 2020.4 and above, HD resolution names are simplified to reflect quality (See Figure 9).

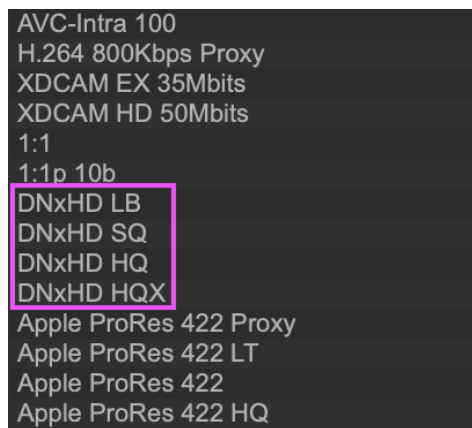


Figure 9 Simplified Avid-native resolutions names

In Lessons 2 and 15, you'll work with Avid DNxHD codecs during input and transcode processes. When directed to select a codec like DNxHD 50 or DNxHD 90, select DNxHD SQ instead.

In Lesson 14, you'll be asked to create a video mixdown. In the Video Mixdown dialog box select the DNxHD SQ resolution (See Figure 10).

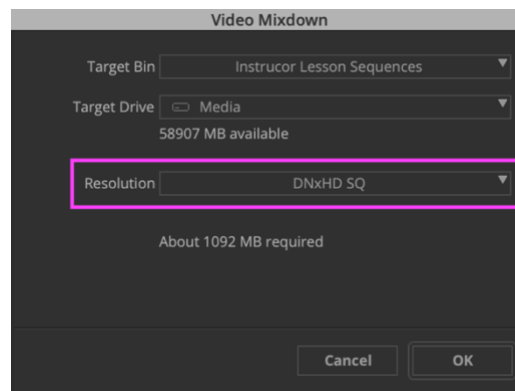


Figure 10 Video Mixdown dialog box

To review a table that compares the new and old HD resolution names, check out this resource:

http://resources.avid.com/SupportFiles/attach/WhatsNew_MediaComposer_v20.4.pdf

3.2 Importing Project Media (Lesson 2)

Lesson 2: Inputting Media covers import options and uses H.264 formatted QuickTime movie files as an example. If you follow the instructions outlined in the lesson and click the Import button, you'll encounter this message:

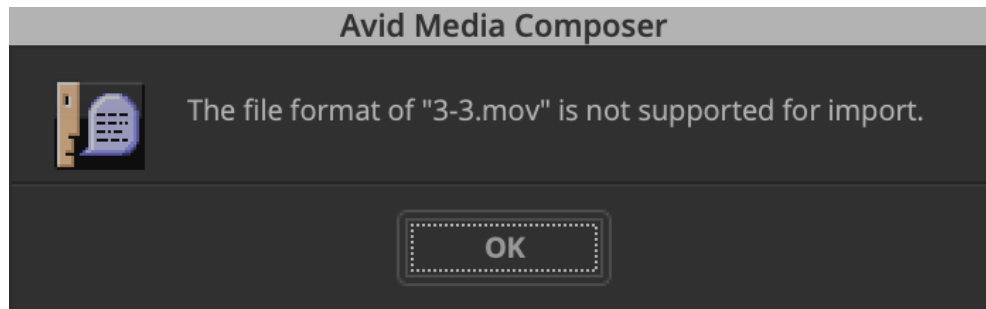


Figure 11 Not Supported for Import message

Click **OK**. Then click either **Yes** or **Yes to All** to the following message:

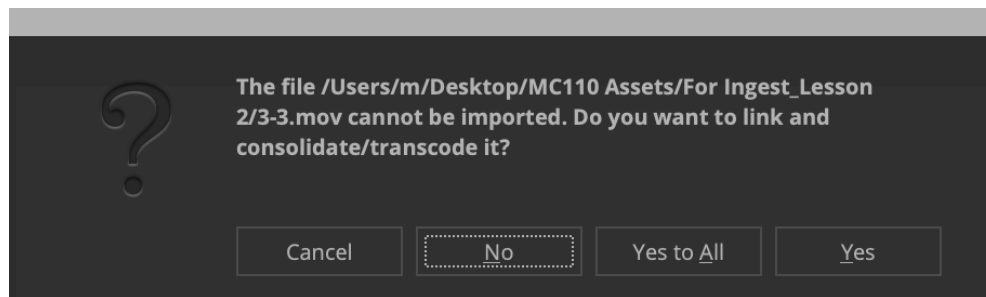


Figure 12 Do you want to link and consolidate/transcode message

Media Composer will create clips and Avid-native media based on the import settings set up during the lesson.

3.3 Exporting to QuickTime Movie (Lesson 14)

In **Lesson 14: Packaging and Export**, you'll quickly discover that the available export options and export dialog box shown in the lesson has changed. The reason? With the release of 2020.4, Avid ended its reliance on QuickTime libraries by developing a Universal Media Engine (UME).

No need to worry. We don't need to dig into the technical aspects of Media Composer to output a sequence. Just refer to the lesson and exercise for sequence packaging and output strategies. In addition, review this sub-section to learn what's new in terms of outputting sequences during this course.

When you export a sequence using an export template, you'll notice the *Export* settings list has changed in the *Export As* dialog box (See Figure 13).

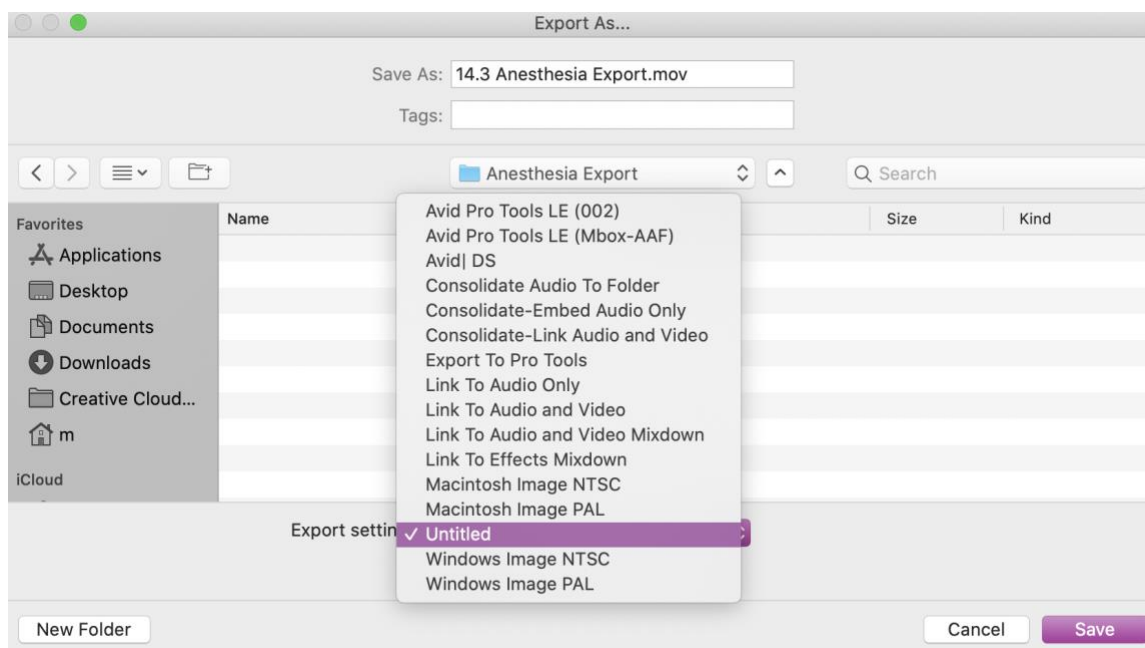


Figure 13 Export settings drop-down options in the Export As dialog box

i Exporting to **QuickTime Reference** files is no longer an option in Media Composer 2020.4 and later.

To set up and output a QuickTime Movie, click the *Options* button in the *Export As* dialog box. Then select *MP4* from the *Export As* drop-down menu in the *Export Settings* dialog box (See Figure 14).

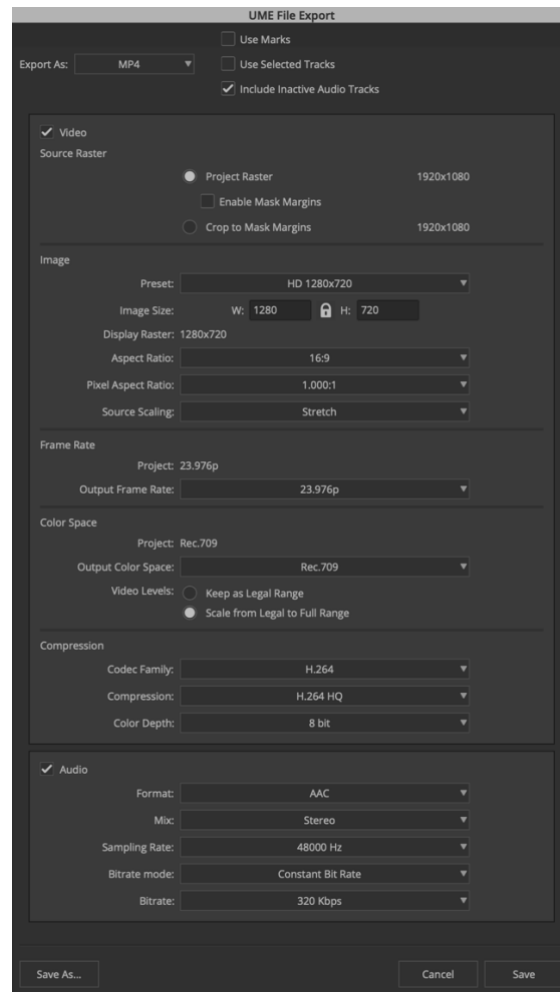


Figure 14 Export Settings Dialog Box

In addition, Lesson 14's **Customizing a Send To Template** topic and steps 33-58 in **Exercise 14.3: Outputting Anesthesia** are obsolete in Media Composer 2020.4 and later.

If you go to File > Output > Send To > Make New Template or choose other options in the list, you'll receive this message:

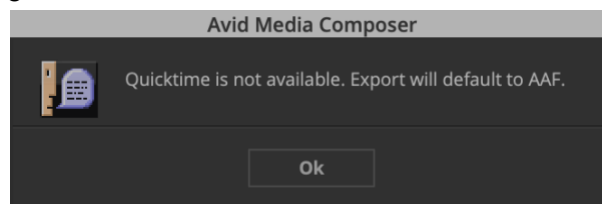


Figure 15 QuickTime is not available message

In Media Composer 2019.12 and earlier, the *Make New Template* feature let us execute two export setups with one template. In Media Composer 2020.x, it's best to accomplish this by outputting our sequences multiple times via File > Output > Export to File. (Or right-click the Record Monitor in the Composer window and select Export.)

To gain access the new *Export Settings* dialog box, click the *Options* button in the *Export As* dialog box.

Refer to the setting selections in Figure 16 to fulfill steps 33-58 of Exercise 14.3.

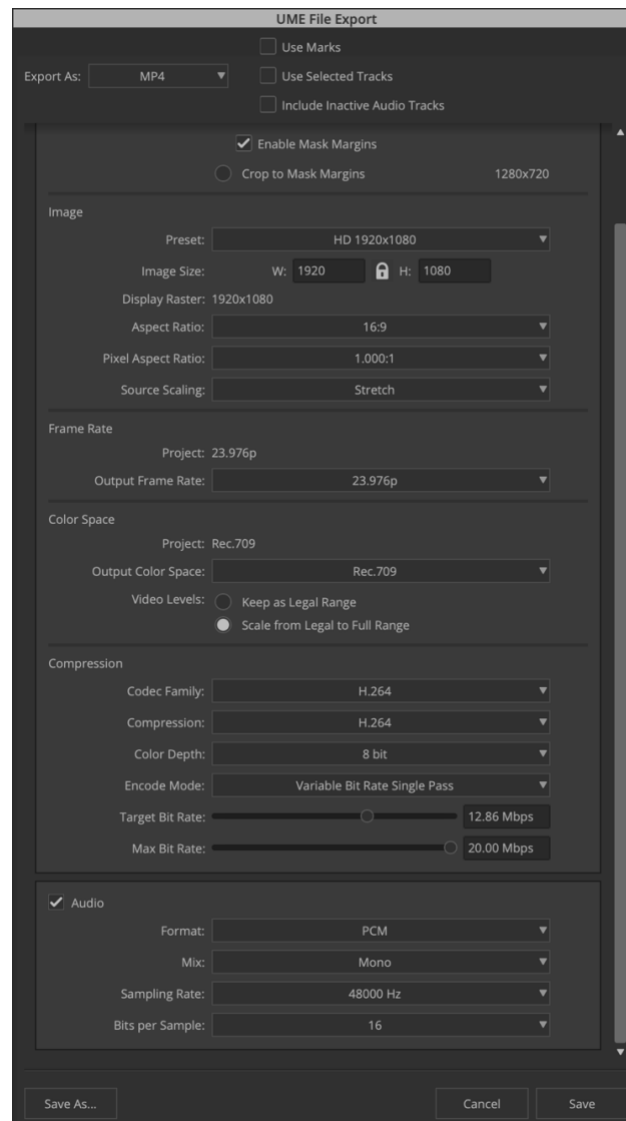


Figure 15 Export Settings for Exercise 14.3

Note: In Media Composer 2020.9, the **Export Settings** dialog box (Figure 14) was renamed to **UME File Export** (Figure 16).

4. Additional New Features

This section covers the following feature updates: the Bin Status Bar, Bin Find and Replace, Reveal User Profile Command, Find Bin command via the Timeline, and new Audio Mixer display.

4.1 Bin Status Bar (Lesson 3)

In **Lesson 3: Preparing Dailies**, you'll focus on adding metadata to clips. A number of new features make this easier:

The *Bin Status Bar* shows how many items are seen and selected in a bin. The number of items will appear at the bottom right of the bin.

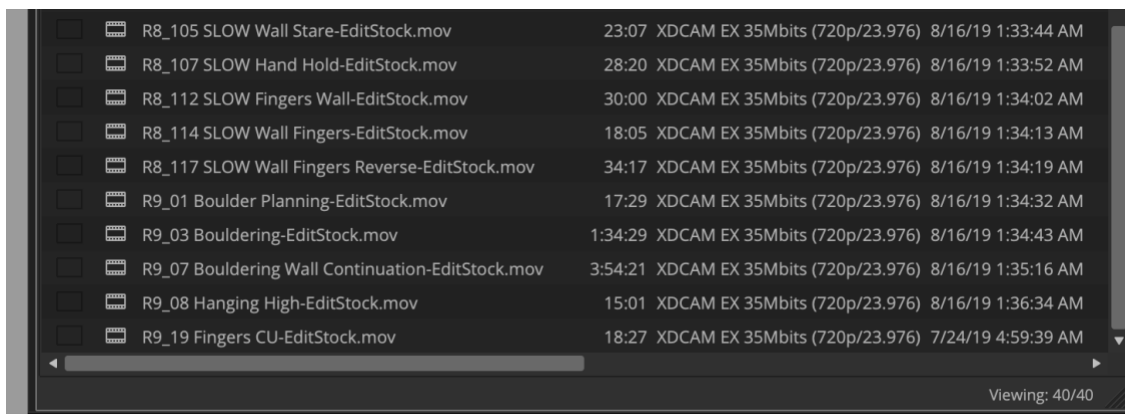


Figure 17 Bin Status Bar showing total number of items

When you select items in the bin, the number selected will also appear in the status bar. And since v2021.6, the bin status bar also displays a selection's total duration in the bin.

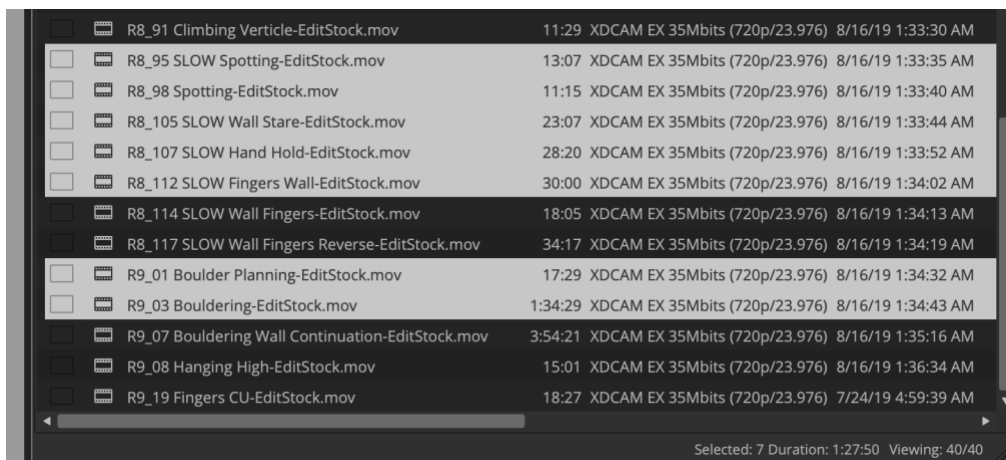


Figure 18 Bin Status Bar showing items, selection, and duration

You can turn off the Bin Status bar in the Bins tab of the Interface Settings.

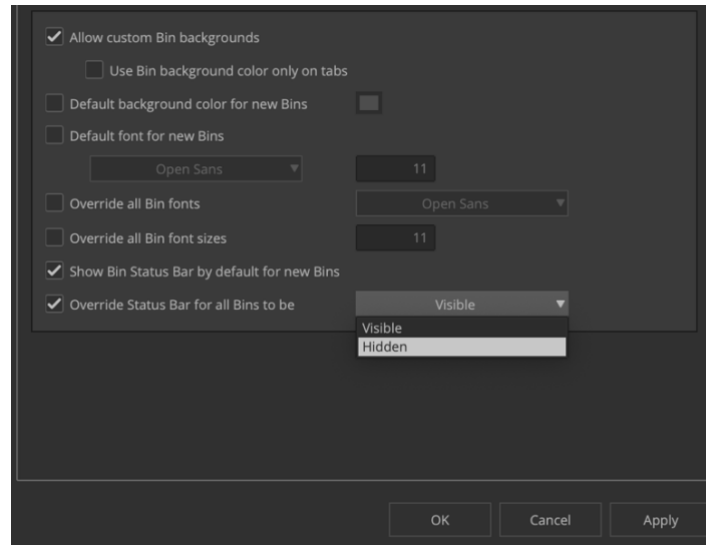


Figure 19 Overriding Bin Status Bar display

4.2 Bin Find and Replace (Lesson 3)

Bin Find and Replace is now available. Right-click in the bin and select Find and Replace.

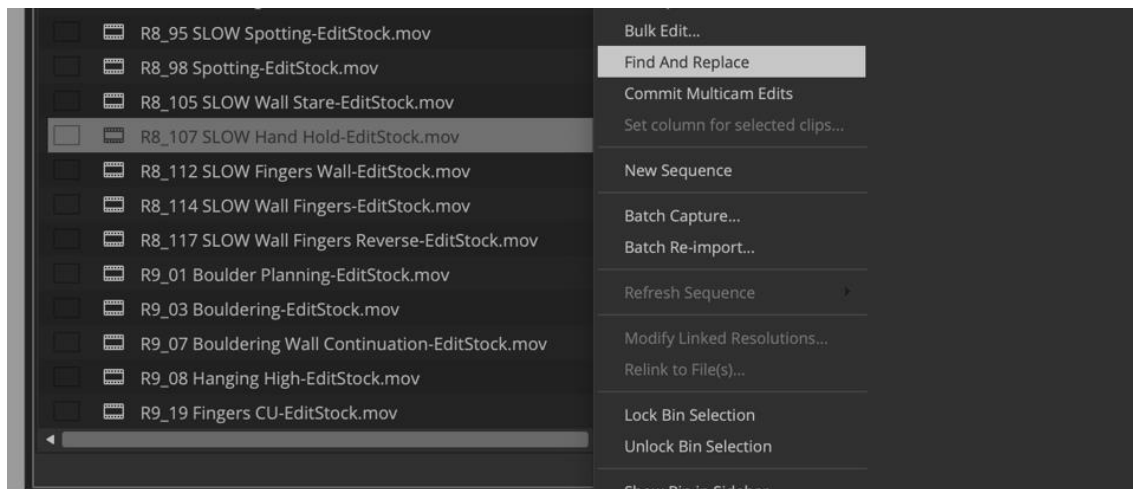


Figure 20 Selecting Find and Replace

The *Find and Replace* options appear at the top of the bin window.

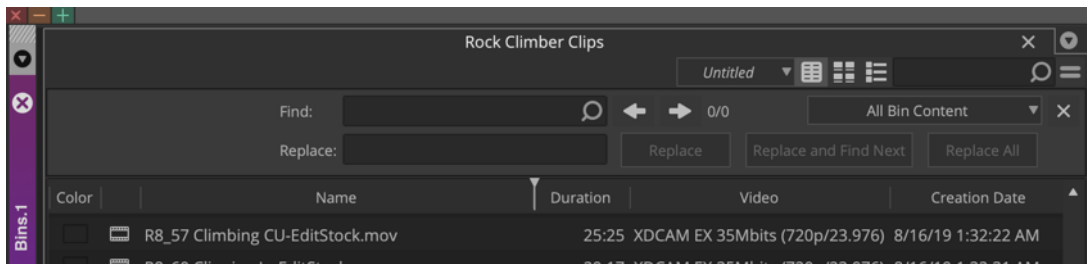


Figure 21 The Find and Replace options

The first instance of the found text is highlighted in orange and subsequent instances in yellow. You can choose between *Replace*, *Replace and Find Next*, and *Replace All*.

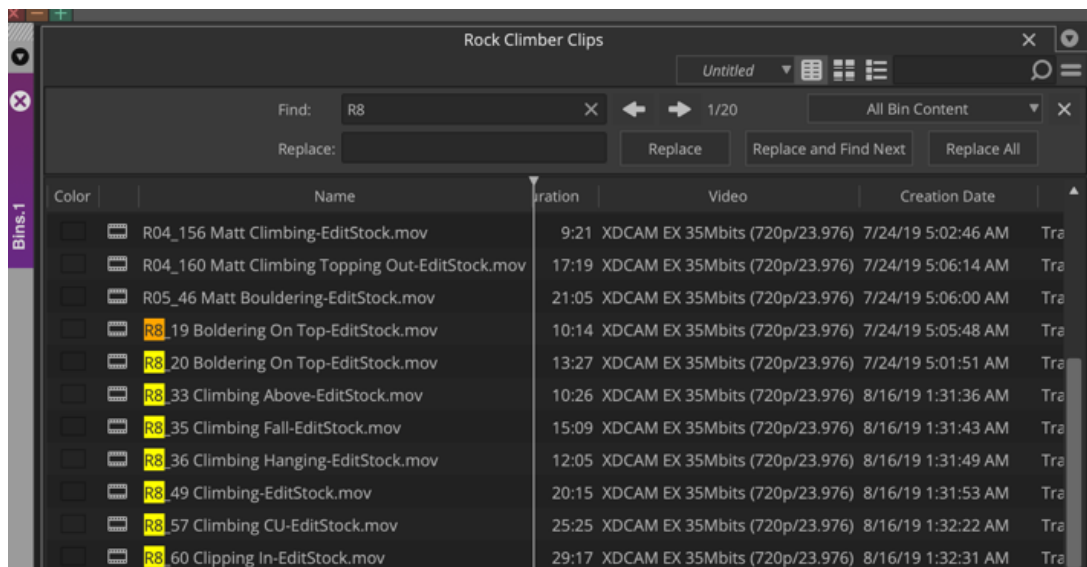


Figure 22 The found text is highlighted

By default, you'll search *All Bin Content* but you can also search a *Selection*.

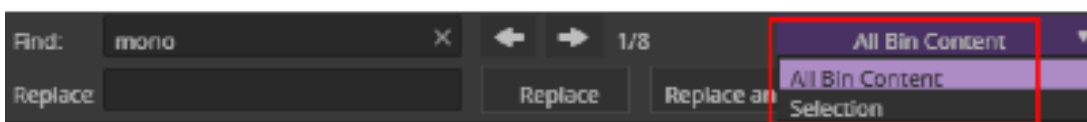


Figure 23 Selecting All Bin Content or a Selection

4.3 Reveal User Profile Command (Lesson 4)

In **Lesson 4: Quick Editing Tools**, page 72, you'll use the Settings window to create a *User* profile. MC2020.12 introduced a new option in the User Profile menu — *Reveal User Profile*. This works just like the *Reveal File* command that we met in **Media Composer Fundamentals I** and will revisit in Lesson 15.

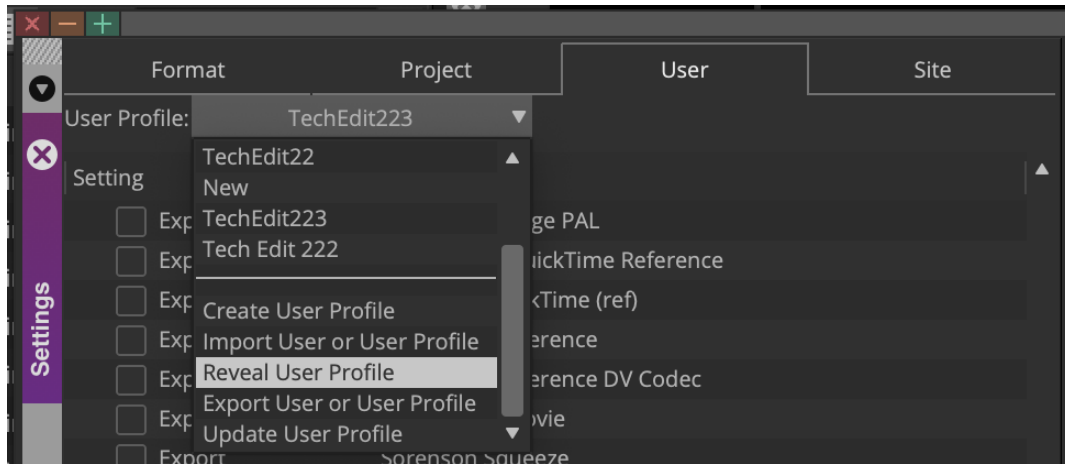


Figure 24 Reveal Use Profile Command in Settings window

This option is also available in the *Select Project Window*.

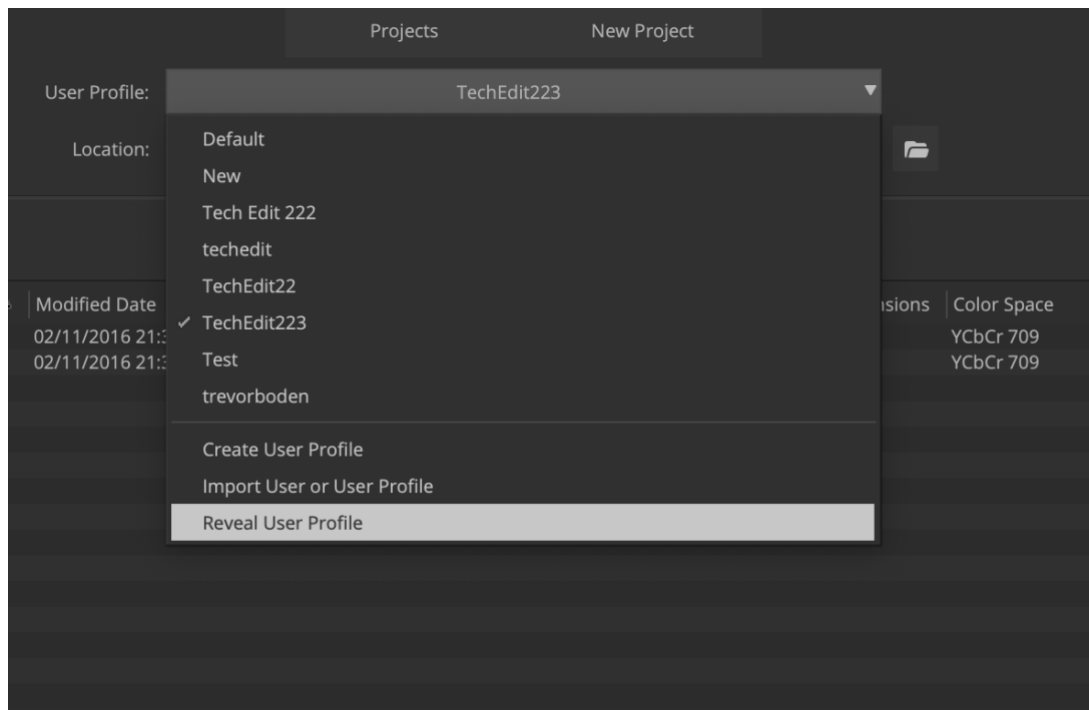


Figure 25 The Reveal Use Profile Command in the Select Project window

4.4 Find Bin Command in the Timeline (Lesson 5)

In **Lesson 5: Recutting A Scene**, you'll look at functions like Match Frame and Find Bin. Since 2021.3 you can access Find Bin by right clicking on a Timeline segment.

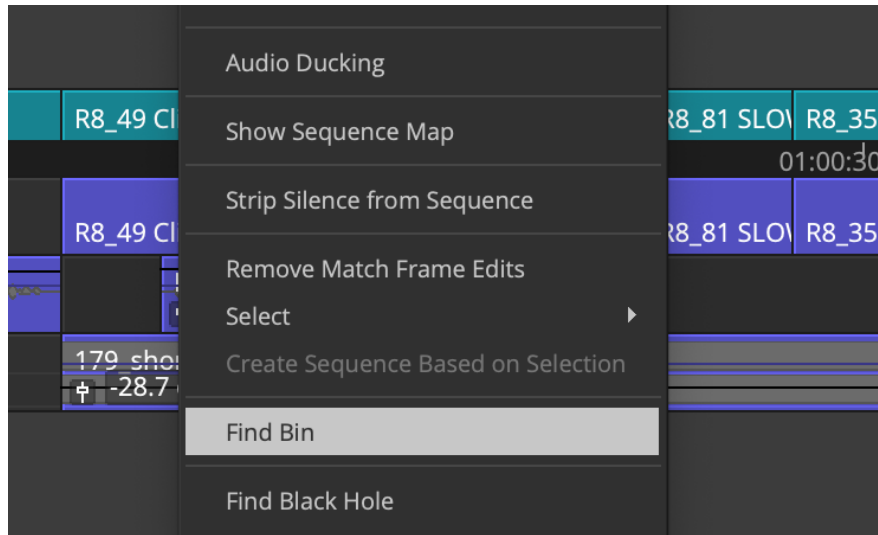


Figure 26 Find Bin Command in menu

4.5 Audio Mixer Display (Lesson 7)

In **Lesson 7: Mixing Sequence Audio**, you'll look at the Audio Mixer. This was enhanced in 2020.12 by allowing the components to adjust as the window is resized. This is enabled by selecting *Display visibility priority* in the Fast menu.



Figure 27 Display visibility priority in the Fast Menu

The Display visibility priority window opens.

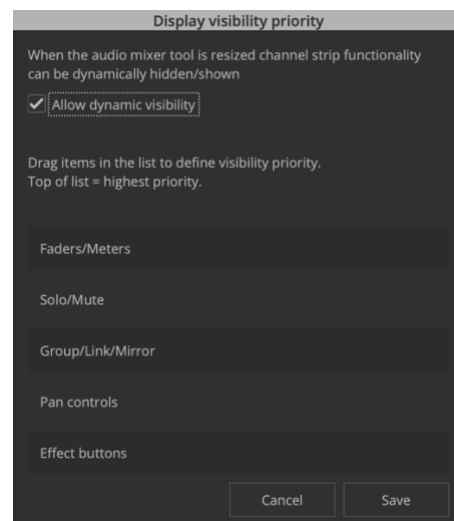


Figure 28 The Display visibility priority window

5. Relink Offline Master Clips to Camera-Native Files

Relinking offline linked-clip media is covered in *Media Composer Fundamentals I*. Since you'll be working with camera native files in this course, let's review a key tip we included in the MC101 course addendum.

Troubleshooting resources often recommend selecting the offline linked master clips in the bin, right-clicking one of the selected clips, and choosing the *Relink to File(s)* menu item. Often this option is grayed out.

When this happens, you can easily reconnect the offline clips in the *Source Browser* by completing the following steps:

1. Go to File > Input > Source Browser (or right-click in the bin).
2. In the Navigation pane on the left side of the Source Browser, locate the folder containing the camera-native files on your media drive.
3. Select a camera-native file and click *Link*.

All offline clips that were linked to files in that folder will reconnect. Be patient, this can take a moment. If a linked master clip remains offline, repeat the steps.

Alternatively, you can select the camera-native files in the OS window and press the Alt key (Windows) or Option key (Mac) as you drag the files to the bin containing offline clips.

6. Conclusion

We hope you found this addendum helpful. To gain a deeper understanding of what's new in Media Composer since 2019.6 and gather up-to-date upgrade information, check out:

<https://www.avid.com/media-composer/learn-and-support>

or

https://avid.secure.force.com/pkb/articles/User_Guide/Media-Composer-Documentation

A final note: The new features and processes covered in this addendum **WILL** be covered on the *Avid Certified User for Media Composer* certification exam.