

Instructions for Creating a README File For Datasets

There are two basic types of author-submitted multimedia objects: 1) playable files (such as .au, .midi, .mov, .mp3, .mpeg, .wav, etc.), and 2) dataset or collections of multimedia content. Playable files require some sort of client player software and are usually fairly straightforward to use. Datasets are inherently more complex, consisting of raw data, often with an accompanying program(s) to manipulate the data. The requirements for dataset or multimedia collection submissions are described below:

For multimedia datasets or collections, the author README file must include the following sections:

- a) **Description:** An overall description of the objects and what the audience can expect to gain by downloading them;
- b) **Size:** The total size of all objects, in kilobytes if less than one megabyte in size, or in megabytes if one megabyte or greater in size. This will allow IEEE to provide IEEE *Xplore*[®] users with information that will help them to make downloading decisions;
- c) **Platform:** The platform required to use these files;
- d) **Environment:** The environment needed (operating system, version, particular libraries, compiler versions, DLLs, etc.);
- e) **Major Component Description:** A detailed description of the major components of the data set;
- f) **Detailed Set-up Instructions:** These instructions should be set up in a step-by-step format, including information on how to perform any necessary set-up. For example: creating directories, copying/moving files into particular locations, etc.;
- g) **Detailed Run Instructions:** A set of detailed instructions on how to compile or run any program(s) associated with the data set or collection, any special set-up of the computer environment required, etc.;
- h) **Output Description:** A description of the expected output of the program(s) so users will know if they are seeing what the author intended;
- i) **Contact Information:** The author should provide contact information in case users have questions regarding the multimedia material.

Please note that your supplemental files will be compressed into a .zip file or .tar.gz file (as appropriate), including your README file, and will be placed on IEEE *Xplore* for users to access along with the paper. IEEE staff will make sure that all files listed are included, but will not provide support to readers on how to use the materials or troubleshoot them if there are problems. Therefore, it is important that the README file contain complete instructions for using the supplemental files and that all files work properly.

Also, please make sure that the README file is in PDF or text format so that it is available to the widest possible audience of readers.