



AutoPost

Deformable Surface Tracking and Alpha Matting for the Automation of Post-production Workflows

D6.3: Data management plan

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Abstract	This deliverable describes all the data that will be collected and generated during the AutoPost project, how it will be created, stored and backed-up, who owns it and who is responsible for the different data and which data will be preserved and shared according to the participation of the project in the Open Research Data Pilot.
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Executive summary

The AUTOPOST project participates in H2020 pilot action on open access to research data. This deliverable, the AUTOPOST data management plan, describes the research data that will be collected and generated during the project and explains how it will be exploited or if it will be shared for verification and re-use.

AUTOPOST is an industry-driven innovation action that will deliver ICT-based solutions to enhance established post-production workflows. As most of the project outcomes are susceptible of being protected for exploitation, this data management plan will clearly identify which data will be kept confidential and which will be made openly available.

This document describes the data, how it will be created, how it will be stored and backed-up, who owns it and who is responsible for the different data.

The AutoPost management Plan will be updated as the project progresses.

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1. Data collection

1.1 AutoPost collected and/or created data

AutoPost will both collect existing data from partners and third parties, and will create new data within the project. AutoPost will collect and produce five broad categories of data: data for evaluation, computer software, research data and metadata, manuscripts and dissemination material. In the following we describe the types of data and the formats used.

A complete list of all data to be collected and created is shown in Table 1. The additional information about each item will be explained in the following sections.

Data for evaluation

This data will consist mainly of image and video datasets to be used as a test data for development and evaluation of the AutoPost tools, as well as project files for post-production platforms such as Nuke. This data is to be used within the Consortium throughout the duration of the project.

AutoPost will take advantage of already existing data that can be used in the project. Datasets will include existing material collected by partners in the Consortium and existing public images and video matting and tracking test datasets.

AutoPost will also acquire new footage and will generate processed video datasets based on that: edited video test data to be used as input for the VFX tools and the output obtained after its usage, as well as a subset of the acquired data to be shared with the research community.

Image and video datasets will use common file formats. Images will be JPG and PNG files, while video datasets will use DPX (Digital Picture Exchange), a format used in the industry for digital intermediate and visual effects work, and multimedia container files such as MOV or MXF. Nuke¹ project files will use the native NK format of this platform.

Computer software

AutoPost will produce different kinds of software: tracking and matting libraries in the form of SDKs, tracking and matting plugins for post-production platforms, and source code for both libraries and plugins.

Plugins and libraries in binary form will be stored and shared as ZIP archives which are commonly used for this purpose. Source code will use standard programming language format files such as C or CPP, depending on the chosen language for the development.

Research data and metadata

This category comprehends on the one hand, data generated by user interaction with the AutoPost tools such as uv maps, shading maps, region maps for tracking and propagated trimaps, alpha mattes or composite foregrounds for matting. All this data will be stored and shared as images which will use the open standards PNG and EXR.

On the other hand, research data will also consist on the feedback gathered during the project developments: the bug logs and feedback generated by partners when integrating SDKs into plugins, and the feedback and opinions (in the form of questionnaires or interviews) of end-users when using the AutoPost tools. For the former, standard file formats such as log files from ticketing platforms will be used. Regarding the latter, opinions will be collected in text files using DOC, PDF or TXT formats depending on its stage, purpose and audience.

¹ <https://www.thefoundry.co.uk/products/nuke/>

Manuscripts

Manuscripts will consist of all the reports generated during the project, including the description of matting and tracking algorithms, all deliverables, publications and internal documents. Microsoft Word (DOCX) and PDF will be used for final versions, while intermediate versions can consider the usage of ODT or TEX (LateX) files.

Dissemination material

AutoPost will produce dissemination material in a diversity of forms: flyers, public presentations, videos demonstrating the performance of algorithms in SDKs and plugins, and a short film produced with the AutoPost tools based on the newly acquired footage.

For video dissemination data, widely used video file formats for distribution, such as MOV or AVI will be used. All other dissemination material will be shared in PDF format.

1.2 Standards and methodologies

Collection and creation of data

In the following, details on the collection or creation of the data of the different categories/types will be provided:

- **Data for evaluation.** Already recorded audiovisual material and pieces of commercial films will be provided by AutoPost partners, as well as public datasets such as hollywoodcamerawork.com, selecting those shoots where matting and tracking tasks were especially costly to carry out, taking into account the use cases defined in D2.1. Existing public research-purpose images and video matting and tracking datasets will be downloaded by the RTD partners (HHI, EC) for validating the coverage and performance of their algorithms from the corresponding websites: alphamatting.com and video.matting.com.
Regarding new footage, the consortium will acquire new video data for testing purposes. The scenes of the shooting will be designed to cover interesting instances of the use cases defined. The shooting will be organized following the standard procedures (generation of the script, storyboard, selection of actors, scheduling, etc...), where all partners will have different responsibilities and will assist the shooting.
- **Software.** SDKs and plugins will be provided by the RTD partners (HHI, EC, IL) as soon as new versions are released. RTD partners will implement SDKs and plugins following a user centered-approach involving end user partners in all stages of the project. Developments will be based on use cases defined by the users and will follow an interactive and iterative process, where prototypes and early versions of both SDKs and plugins will be produced for integration tests and user tests, respectively.
- **Research data and metadata** will be generated during the R&D process by the RTD partners (HHI and EC) as intermediate results of the application of algorithms (uv maps, mattes). Feedback regarding the software development will be generated by the RTD partners (IL, HHI and EC) when carrying out the integration of SDKs into the plugins by means of generating tickets, logs and documenting bugs in a dedicated software platform. Finally, the feedback from end-users will be obtained through questionnaires and interviews with end-users who will test the AutoPost tools.
- **Manuscripts and dissemination material** will be produced using the Microsoft Office Suite. Whenever possible and needed, collaborative workflows and tools will be used.

Structure, name and versioning of files

Regarding the structure, all data will be stored using a folder structure following WPs and tasks organization whenever possible and depending on the chosen storage system (see next section). Thus, every file will be stored under its corresponding WP and task folder. There will be cases

when task folders will not make sense (e.g. WP4 tasks). In that cases, WP folders and folders differentiating between matting and tracking will be used.

In the case of video data, the project will keep the raw data separate from the processed data using different folders, separating input from output data. SDKs and plugins will be stored in different folders and different folder structures will be used for matting and tracking versions. Source code, as well as research data from the matting and tracking algorithms will follow partner's local folder structure conventions, since this data will be solely managed by one partner of the Consortium during its generation (some will be shared afterwards).

Processed data files, SDKs, plugins and research data will be accompanied by a readme file including who created or contributed to the data, its title, date of creation and under what conditions it can be accessed. Documentation will also include details on the methodology used, analytical and procedural information, any assumptions made, and the format and file type of the data. In the case of software it may also include installation instructions and usage examples. All this information will be inside the manuscripts as well, unless structure of the document inhibits it (e.g. a journal/conference paper).

As to the naming of files, in all cases, files will be named according to their content to ease their identification. Versioning of the files will be handled by specifying its version after the filename "filename_vx". In the case of processed data, SDKs and plugin versions, the name of each version will have the date it was created next to the original title (filename_date). During development of software data version control will be done through specific software versioning and revision control systems (SCM) such as svn² or git³.

In the case of manuscripts, the owner of the document will be the one controlling the version of the document, while files created by partners adding contributions to the original will be named by attaching "_initials" to the filename. Other aspects concerning document and version numbering of reports and deliverables are described in the AutoPost Handbook and Quality Plan (D1.1).

Quality procedures

The Consortium has set up quality procedures for internal documents, deliverables and software. Publications are not considered in the procedure as they already go through an external refereed process.

The quality control process for internal documents and deliverables is described in the AutoPost Handbook and Quality Plan (D1.1).

Images and videos to be used and those acquired in the project will go through a natural quality control by the RTD partners as they will monitor that a minimum quality requisites are obtained in the shootings to be able to run their algorithms. Quality of images and videos produced during the project will be assessed by end-user partners which will control the obtained material is compliant with standards in the industry.

In the case of the software produced the quality is guaranteed by several means:

1. Continuous integration performed by partners
2. Plugins and SDK tests
3. Integration tests
4. User tests

² <https://subversion.apache.org/>

³ <https://git-scm.com/>

2. Storage and backup

2.1 Data storage and back up during the research

Storage and maintenance of AutoPost data will be handled according to the data category, privacy level, need to be shared among the consortium, and its size. This section covers the storage selections for data independently of if the data is to be shared externally. For that purpose, specific storage systems allowing public access will be selected. These will be detailed in Section “2.3.Data sharing”.

Software data (except source code) will be stored on a Redmine⁴ server hosted at Eurecat. Redmine is an open-source project management web application offering multiple project support, version control (svn and git), issue tracking, files management, activity feeds, wiki and forums. Allowing installation on a partner’s server is an important feature as it is a project requisite for internal sharing of software. Source code will be archived locally at partner’s servers because of its privacy level. For this purpose, local version control and software development platforms at partner’s servers will be used. All software data will be backed up in a daily basis. The Redmine server, as well as partner’s servers will provide the means for that.

All electronic data generated during research activities (tracking and matting results) will be also redundantly stored locally at partners’ workstations and servers. Locally, research partners have secure servers on which all information will be stored. The server drives are backed up periodically. A back-up copy once these results are generated or changed is considered sufficient for that type of data.

The AutoPost Consortium has chosen the open source self-hosted file sharing platform owncloud⁵, which is hosted by Eurecat, to be the official repository of non-software data, containing data meant to be shared (created and/or generated) among the Consortium which size is smaller than approximately 2GB. Dissemination material, reports and deliverables, and data such as Nuke project environments and feedback from plugin evaluation by end-users will be stored in owncloud. The owncloud server is backed-up periodically, ensuring needed back-up frequencies required for this data (see Table 1).

Image and video datasets are the remaining data typically exceeding 2GB. These datasets will be stored using different means. Existing datasets provided and collected by partners for internal use (software validation) will be stored in their own server to ensure its privacy if needed. Designated shots will be transferred to other partners on request via external hard drive. Datasets acquired in the project will be saved primary by IL, responsible for the storage of the raw data. Moto and DG, who will edit raw footage to create the data to be used as input for VFX and will generate the processed data using the AutoPost tools will save the new datasets. All datasets will be available for all partners through external hard drives to be sent to all partners.

Maintenance of datasets stored in partners’ servers will be carried out according to the partners’ backup policy. Backup of publicly shared datasets is considered unnecessary. The back-up of the newly acquired dataset will be done by IL and as final responsible by project coordinator, Eurecat.

⁴ www.redmine.org/

⁵ <https://owncloud.org>

2.2 Selection and preservation

2.2.1 Data to be retained, shared, and/or preserved

The Consortium has identified some data that may be retained by project partners in accordance to the grant and consortium agreement

- The final versions of the SDKs may be retained by IL for further plugin developments and commercialization under a licensing agreement. A royalty-free license for the SDKs will be granted to end-user partners (DG, MOT) for their own use as part of the final plugins. All previous versions of the SDKs will be destroyed at the end of the project from each computer at each partner that was using it.
- A limited number of the final plugins may be retained by partners for their own use during the project and also for commercial use after the project, allowing SMEs (DG, MOT) to use them for their own post-production work.
- Already existing image and video datasets provided by partners DG, MOT and HHI should only be preserved for joint commercialization purposes. Otherwise they must be destroyed at the end of the project due to privacy issues.

The Consortium has also identified some of the data to be preserved since they can be further used by partners and because this data can be of interest of the research community for different reasons.

Image and video dataset acquired during the project, including raw and processed versions will be kept by all partners since this dataset can be used in other projects beyond AutoPost for validation purposes. A subset containing interesting shots, as well as intermediate research data and research results (to be used as ground truth for example) will be preserved and shared with the research community, so to provide useful data for enabling performance analysis and comparison of matting and tracking algorithms in the field of computer vision, improving the availability of current public datasets and ground-truth.

Preserving this dataset and making it publicly available will require in the first place, the selection of the shots to be shared and the preparation of the research data associated with the selected sequences. Since the video dataset may be quite big, proxies in lower quality and resolution will be created to ease the sharing and allow interested researcher to evaluate their interest before requesting the whole set (see Section 2.3). In a second place, it will also require the maintenance of the data and the management of their access.

Similarly, in order to let other researchers know about AutoPost advances and compare their research, public reports, including public deliverables and open-access papers on journals or conferences will be also preserved and shared whenever possible (when they do not limit future exploitation plans), along with the research data necessary for validating the published results.

All dissemination material produced during the project, including demonstration videos of AutoPost algorithms and plugins, short-films produced using AutoPost tools using acquired footage, and project public presentations, will be preserved and made it public as soon as possible to let the research community know about AutoPost solutions and results in a more graphical way.

For the public reports and dissemination material, no much extra effort is considered for its preservation beyond the act of publishing them in public repositories (see Section 2.3).

It is agreed that this data has to be preserved a minimum of 3 years after the project end.

As for the rest of the data, preservation is not considered necessary, meaning it is already preserved by other institution (public video datasets) or that they do not provide an added value for the research community (internal data generated during the project development). This does not

avoid that partners preserve it for themselves in their archives if they consider it useful for their research and innovation activities.

2.2.2 Preservation plan for the datasets

All data to be preserved or that can be preserved by partners to be used by the Consortium beyond the end of the project will be kept in partner's servers, and maintenance will be carried out by each partner responsible for the data.

Data that will be made public will be held in different repositories, as it will be explained in next section.

2.3 Data sharing

The Consortium is aware of the mandate for open access of publications in the H2020 projects and the participation of the project in the Open Research Data Pilot. The Consortium has chosen ZENODO⁶ as the scientific publication and data repository for the project outcomes. The Consortium, through WP6, will ensure that scientific results that will not be protected and can be useful for the research community will be duly and timely deposited in the scientific results repository Zenodo, free of charge to any user. As detailed in previous sections, these will be:

1. Machine-readable electronic copies of the final version or final peer-reviewed manuscript accepted for publication; made available immediately with open access publishing (gold open access) or with a certain delay to get past the embargo period of green open access.
2. Public project deliverables and public summaries of confidential project deliverables.
3. Teasers, flyers, project public presentations and any other kind of dissemination material.
4. Video dataset composed of a selection of shots from the acquired video material in the project.
5. Research data needed to validate the results presented in the deposited publications and associated with the public video dataset acquired during the project. Once there is a collection of data worthy to be shared, a set will be build and shared on Zenodo.

Regarding the video dataset, as the maximum file size allowed in Zenodo is 2GB and the videos will be much larger than that, the Consortium has agreed on using proxies to overcome this limitation for sharing video datasets. The proxies will be a compressed version of the original videos stored on Zenodo. Versions in their original resolution, format and length will be stored primary at IL, and a back-up will be help at coordinator's (Eurecat) repository as explained in section 2.1. Through proxies, interested researchers can look at the contents and choose whether or not they want a complete full-resolution version, in which case they would have to send an on-line petition to the project-appointed data manager/administrative to be authorised to obtain them. This applies during at least 3 years after the duration of the project.

Autopost's shared data is to be shared for research and training purposes only, therefore, requesters will be asked to explain the usage they will give to them (for internal information on post-production-related research activities), and will be asked to sign a dataset license limiting its usage and distribution.

Upon petition, authorized users can download complete video datasets from Eurecat's server or receive them on physical storage provided that they assume storage and shipping expenses.

Dissemination of available data for research will be done through the project's website and at AutoPost's dissemination activities. As stated in the Contract Agreement, Autopost's website will remain active for at least 4 years after the project ends.

⁶ <http://zenodo.org>

Also, external users of AutoPost data will be asked to make a visible acknowledgement to the project adding also the address in Zenodo where they can be viewed and requested.

Datasets for internal project activities are available to all partners. No extra-agreement other than the Consortium Agreement is needed as it covers all the appropriate limitations.

Finally, as explained in previous sections, AutoPost software data (SDKs and plugins) will not be shared with external parties given the exploitation plans derived from them. However, intermediate versions will be made accessible for some selected end-user partners to test them and get feedback. In these cases, strategies such as time-limited licenses and watermarked versions will be used for this purpose.

2.4 Responsibilities and resources

Responsibilities

Eurecat, as coordinator, is responsible for implementing the data management plan (DMP).

In principle, all partners are responsible for data generation, metadata production and data quality. Specific responsibilities are to be assigned depending on the data and the internal organization in the WPs and tasks where data is created. Thus, for example, HHI and EC partners are responsible for the creation of SDKs, IL is responsible for the creation of the plugins, and end users are responsible for the creation of the feedback data after its evaluation and the short demo video produced with AutoPost tools. In the case of the acquisition of new test data, task leader will organize the responsibilities for all the partners which will participate jointly in the shooting.

Dataset storage and backup, data set archiving & sharing will be in the majority of cases the responsibility of the partners who owns the data and/or the servers in which they will be stored. Beyond data to be stored at some of the partner's repositories (mostly video datasets), Eurecat, will be responsible for storage and back-up of computer software data and all data stored on owncloud, since Eurecat hosts both services. Regarding the set of video data to be made public, which will be jointly owned by the Consortium, it will be stored at IL premises, and Eurecat as a coordinator will be also responsible for its back-up.

Resources for delivering the DMP

Extra resources, as physical storage media and redmine and owncloud special features, are needed to accomplish the storage and maintenance activities described above.

3. Ethics and legal compliance

3.1 Ethical issues

AutoPost does not handle personal data except for actors appearing in shoots and pictures, in which case the partners follow the standard procedure of getting authorization from the actors to show and distribute the videos and images to the public.

3.2 Copyright and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) issues

Table 1 provides the details of the owners of each of the data to be collected and produced by AutoPost project.

As a general principle, for collected data, the owner of the data will remain the same. For produced data, the producer of the data will own the data (e.g. SDKs, plugins, algorithms, reports, etc.) SDK access rights will be granted to IL through licensing, and plugin and SDK access rights to user partners will be granted through free licenses, as stated in Section 2 of AutoPost Grant Agreement.

All data not available for reuse has been identified as to be destroyed at the end of the project. Reuse of other kind of data not to be destroyed at the end of the project by project partners will not require any licensing policy.

Datasets produced within the project as part of the project's testshoot belong to the Consortium (joint ownership), as set out in the Consortium agreement in relation to joint RTD activities. Usage of full-version of shared datasets will be restricted to research-only activities and no distribution to others will be allowed. Users requesting downloading full-version of datasets will be asked to sign a free license agreement (see previous section).

Collected/Created	Title	Description	Category	Type	Format	Size	Owner	Privacy level	Storage / Storage for public access	Back-up frequency	Destroyed at the end of the project?	Duration of preservation (in years)
Created	Matting SDK (Binary)	Binary releases of the matting library	Computer Software	Library (SDK)	ZIP	40MB	EC	Consortium	Eurecat's redmine	Daily	No (1)	0
Created	Tracking SDK (Binary)	Binary releases of the tracking library	Computer Software	Library (SDK)	ZIP	<10MB	HHI	Consortium	Eurecat's redmine	Daily	No (1)	0
Created	Matting Plugin (Binary)	Matting plugin	Computer Software	Plugin	ZIP	100 MB	IL	Consortium	Eurecat's redmine	Daily	No (2)	0
Created	Tracking Plugin (Binary)	Tracking plugin	Computer Software	Plugin	ZIP	100 MB	IL	Consortium	Eurecat's redmine	Daily	No (2)	0
Created	Matting SDK (Source)	Source code of the matting library	Computer Software	Source code (library)	C,CPP		EC	EC	EC	Daily	-	0
Created	Tracking SDK (Source)	Source code of the tracking library	Computer Software	Source code (library)	C,CPP		HHI	HHI	HHI	Daily	-	0
Created	Matting Plugin (Source)	Source code of the matting plugin	Computer Software	Source code (plugin)	C,CPP	200 MB	IL	IL	IL	Daily	-	0
Created	Tracking Plugin (Source)	Source code of the tracking plugin	Computer Software	Source code (plugin)	C,CPP	200 MB	IL	IL	IL	Daily	-	0
Created	Environments/ project files (Nuke)	Project files of Nuke used or to be used for evaluation of the plugins in different VFX tasks	Data for evaluation	File	NK	<1M	Producer of the environment	Consortium	owncloud	Daily	Unnecessary	0
Collected	Existing VFX Dataset (DG)	Collected test data for visual effects from DG.	Data for evaluation	Images	DPX	135GB	DG	Consortium	DG	Once	No (3)	3
Collected	Existing VFX Dataset (MOT)	Collected test data for visual effects from MOT.	Data for evaluation	Images	DPX	10GB	MOT	Consortium	MOT	Once	No (3)	3
Collected	HHI Natalie Facial Expression Database		Data for evaluation	Images	4K	1.2TB	HHI	Consortium	HHI	Once	No (3)	0
Collected	hollywoodcamerawork.com examples		Data for evaluation	Images	JPG	2GB	Hollywood Camera Works	Public	MOT	Once	Unnecessary	0
Collected	alphamatting.com dataset	Public image matting dataset	Data for evaluation	Images	PNG	21MB	alphamatting.com	Public	EC	Once	Unnecessary	0
Collected	videomatting.com dataset	Public video matting dataset	Data for evaluation	Videos	PNG	2.6GB	videomatting.com	Public	EC	Once	Unnecessary	0
Created	New Test Data (VFX Input/Edited)	Edited footage used as input to VFX.	Data for evaluation	Videos	DPX	>10GB	ALL	Consortium	MOT,DG, hard drive at all premises	Change	Unnecessary	0
Created	New Test Data (VFX Output)	Output from the visual effects.	Data for evaluation	Videos	DPX	>10GB	ALL	Consortium	MOT,DG, hard drive at all premises	Change	Unnecessary	0
Created	New Test Data (Acquired/Raw)	Raw footage acquired during the project.	Data for evaluation	Videos	MXF,MOV	3TB	ALL	Consortium	IL, hard drive at all premises	Once	Unnecessary	0
Created	Selected subset of acquired data	Subset of the footage acquired during the project.	Data for evaluation	Videos	DPX	>2GB	ALL	Public	IL, EC, hard drive at all premises / proxy on Zenodo	Once	No	3
Created	Flyers, project public presentations	Flyers, project public presentations	Dissemination material	Documents	PDF	<2GB	ALL	Public	owncloud / Zenodo	Once	No	3
Created	New Test Data (Short Film)	Finished short film based on the new footage.	Dissemination material	Videos	MOV	<2GB	ALL	Public	owncloud / Zenodo	Once	No	3
Created	Demo videos of SDKs/plugins	Videos demonstrating the performance of algorithms in SDKs and plugins	Dissemination material	Videos	MOV, AVI	<2GB	ALL	Public	owncloud / Zenodo	Change	No	3
Created	Internal reports (deliverables)	Internal reports covering project activities	Manuscript	Report	DOC	<20M	Producer of the report	Nature of the deliverable	owncloud / Zenodo	Monthly	No (for shared reports)	0
Created	Public reports (papers, articles, etc.)	Papers describing results from the project	Manuscript	Report	DOC, PDF, .TEX	<20M	Producer of the report	OpenAccess when not exploitable	Partners servers / Zenodo	Monthly	No	3
Created	Tracking results	uv maps, shading maps, region maps	Research data	Image	EXR	<2GB	HHI	Public	HHI/Zenodo	Change	No	3
Created	Matting results	Propagated trimaps, alpha mattes, composite foregrounds	Research data	Images.	PNG	<2GB	EC	Public	EC/Zenodo	Change	No	3
Created	Feedback plugin evaluation	Interviews collecting user experience and feedback	Research data	Report	DOC,PDF,TXT	<10MB	ALL	Consortium	owncloud	Change	Unnecessary	0
Created	Feedback SW development	Feedback from integrating SDKs into plugins	Research data	Text/bugs	tickets,bugs, log	<10MB	ALL	Consortium	redmine	Daily	Unnecessary	0

No(1) Last version can be kept for exploitation purposes under license agreement, and a royalty free version will be provided to end-user partners for their own use
No(2) Dongle-protected versions can be kept for own use
No (3) Data can be kept only for joint exploitation

Table 1. AutoPost collected and produced data