

## About This Standard

Emerging

**Standard Identifier** Advanced Authoring Format Version 1.1

**Title of Standard**

AAF Object Specification

**Standards History**

Introduced to Registry	Date Emerging	Date Mandated	Last Status Update	Last Status Review	Inactive/Retired
2006-02-21	2006-02-21	n/a	2006-02-21	2007-06-27	n/a

**Standards Body** [AMW](#)

[Broken Link?](#)

**URL to Access or Acquire** <http://www.aafassociation.org>

**Working Group**

**Primary Owner** Geospatial Intelligence TWG (GWG)

**Secondary Interest** No Secondary Interest

**Service Area** GEOINT: Motion Imagery

**KIPs** No KIP Found

**Standard Applicability**

**2007-06-27**

Application areas for AAF include: media libraries, exploitation systems, television and movie post production systems, non-linear digital editing systems, media archive systems, media dissemination systems.

**2006-02-21**

Application areas for AAF include: - television and movie post production systems - non-linear digital editing systems - media archive systems - media dissemination systems

**Standard Abstract**

**2007-06-27**

The Advanced Authoring Format (AAF) is a professional file interchange format designed for the multimedia, post production, and authoring environment. AAF solves the problem of multi-vendor, cross-platform interoperability for computer-based digital production. AAF does a number of things. 1) it allows complex relationships to be described in terms of an object model, 2) it facilitates the interchange of metadata and/or program content, 3) it provides a way to track the history of a piece of program content from its source elements through final production, 4) it makes it possible to render content downstream (with appropriate equipment), 5) it provides a convenient way to "wrap" all elements of a project together for archiving. By preserving comprehensive source referencing, and abstracting the creative decisions that are made, AAF improves multimedia production workflow and simplifies project management. The AAF standard consists of the following components: - The AAF Object Specification, which defines the way AAF stores metadata and essence - The AAF API Specification,

which defines how software engineers can write applications -The AAF Reference Implementation, which implements both these specifications in a completely cross-platform manner - The AAF Software Development Kit (SDK), which includes developer utilities and validation test suites - The AAF Example software which demonstrates how to use the AAF SDK to produce AAF files - The AAF sample files created by working AAF implementations with the accelerating progress of digital technologies, an open interchange standard is essential to enable the digital production facilities of the future. The lack of integration of multi-vendor products has proven to be a significant obstacle to the rapid acceptance of computer based digital tools for professional production. AAF represents a broad industry initiative to remove those obstacles.

## **2006-02-21**

The Advanced Authoring Format (AAF) is a professional file interchange format designed for the multimedia, post production, and authoring environment. AAF solves the problem of multi-vendor, cross-platform interoperability for computer-based digital production. AAF does a number of things. 1) it allows complex relationships to be described in terms of an object model, 2) it facilitates the interchange of metadata and/or program content, 3) it provides a way to track the history of a piece of program content from its source elements through final production, 4) it makes it possible to render content downstream (with appropriate equipment), 5) it provides a convenient way to "wrap" all elements of a project together for archiving. By preserving comprehensive source referencing, and abstracting the creative decisions that are made, AAF improves multimedia production workflow and simplifies project management. The AAF standard consists of the following components: - The AAF Object Specification, which defines the way AAF stores metadata and essence - The AAF API Specification, which defines how software engineers can write applications -The AAF Reference Implementation, which implements both these specifications in a completely cross-platform manner - The AAF Software Development Kit (SDK), which includes developer utilities and validation test suites - The AAF Example software which demonstrates how to use the AAF SDK to produce AAF files - The AAF sample files created by working AAF implementations With the accelerating progress of digital technologies, an open interchange standard is essential to enable the digital production facilities of the future. The lack of integration of multi-vendor products has proven to be a significant obstacle to the rapid acceptance of computer based digital tools for professional production. AAF represents a broad industry initiative to remove those obstacles.

### **Profiling Questions**

#### **GEOINT: Motion Imagery**

- Does your system exchange motion imagery data with external systems or does your system task, collect, produce, process, catalog, store, read, exploit, or disseminate digital motion imagery?

### **Products Incorporating This Standard**

Companies with available implementations/products include: Adobe Systems, Inc., Apple, Ascent Media, Autodesk, Avid, BAE Systems, Blue Order, DiskStream, Inc., Konan Technology, Microsoft, Metaglue, Inc., National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, OmniBus Systems, Panasonic, Perspective Media Group, Pinnacle, Quantel, Siemens Business Services, Snell & Wilcox, Sony, Synthetic Aperture, Thomson Grass Valley

### **Relevant Information**

Companies and organizations developing AAF-enabled applications are encouraged to join the AAF Association. Participation provides a unique opportunity to influence working practices of the future that will have a fundamental impact on the markets for their products. Additionally, member benefits include access to AAF sample files, tutorials, example codes and UML. Members also are allowed to participate in Awareness Events and receive priority listing in the Developer Resource Directory. The AAF Association has four classes of membership Principal, General, Associate and Developer. Principal Members: - Enjoy all the benefits of General Membership - Are eligible for election to the Board of Directors General Members: - May appoint voting representatives to each of the AAF Association committees - May propose new extensions and additions to the AAF Specifications - Receive electronic copies of all AAF specifications and publications - Receive support for the AAF specification and associated Software Development Kit Associate Members: - May appoint non-voting representatives to each of the AAF Association committees - Receive electronic copies of all AAF specifications and publications - Receive support for the AAF specification and associated Software Development Kit Developer Members (with five or fewer employees): - May appoint voting representatives to each of the AAF Association committees - May propose new extensions and additions to the AAF Specifications - Receive electronic copies of all AAF specifications and publications - Receive support for the AAF specification and associated Software Development Kit Note that in addition to the four classes of membership listed above, the AAF Association may also establish liaison relationships with other associations and standards bodies on a no-cost basis.

#### **Implementation Guidance**

None

#### **Standard Selection Criteria**

##### **Net-Centric Interoperability**

AAF-enabled applications provide the ability to exchange files between libraries, exploitation system, media archive, and media dissemination systems/ process.

##### **Technical Maturity**

AAF is an established standard and has strong support in the commercial marketplace. Avid, Apple, Snell & Wilcox, Metaglue, Sony, and others sell AAF-enabled products and are involved with the AAF Association, an industry-driven, international organization. Go to the association's web site for information about standards development activities, companies participating in this development, and organizations that use their products.

##### **Public Availability**

AAF Specification: <http://www.aafassociation.org> (available free).

##### **Implementability**

Any DoD or IC organization using products from companies listed above may be using the AAF standard

##### **Authority**

The Advanced Authoring Format Association maintains the AAF Object Specification. The AAF Association Inc. is a broadly based, international,

commercial trade association created to promote the development and adoption of AAF technology. The Association's mission is to be the forum where users and manufacturers develop open interchange solutions that solve real-world business problems and create new business opportunities for content creation, production, post-production and rich media authoring. The Association hosts developer conferences to educate programmers on the AAF SDK, awareness events to educate the industry on AAF capabilities.

**Standard Type**      Non-Military

**Keywords for Search**      None