Closed Captioning with Aegisub

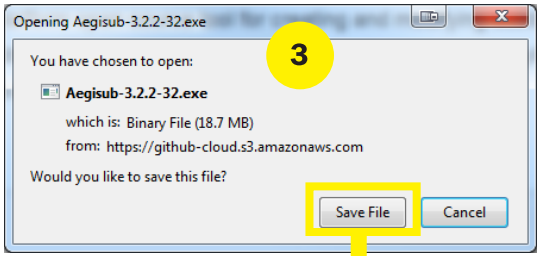
Aegisub is a free, cross-platform piece of software for creating subtitles and closed captions available at http://www.aegisub.org.

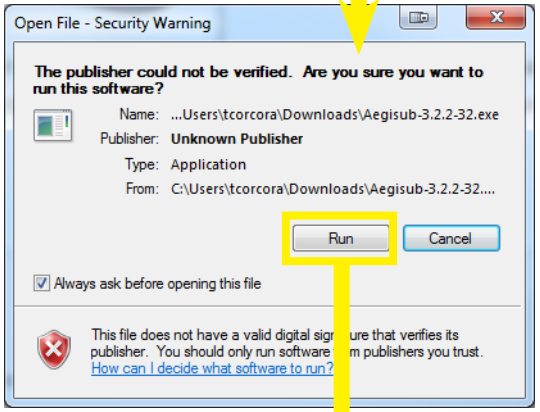
Download & Install Aegisub Software:

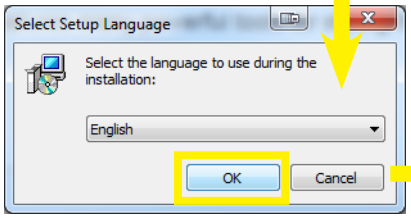
1. visit http://www.aegisub.org,

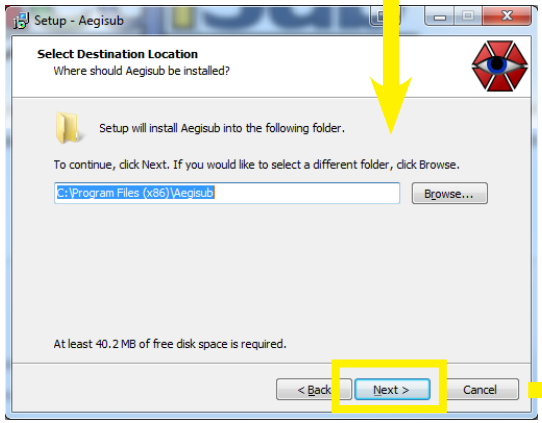
2. choose the appropriate download (typically **Windows Full install** on campus on a Windows PC),

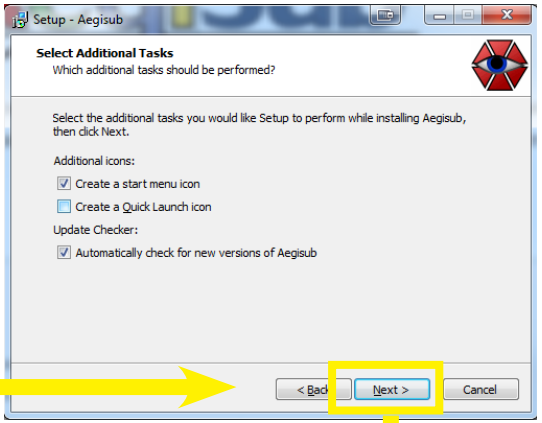
3. follow the on screen prompts to download and install the software on your computer. (Windows PC installation screens shown below)

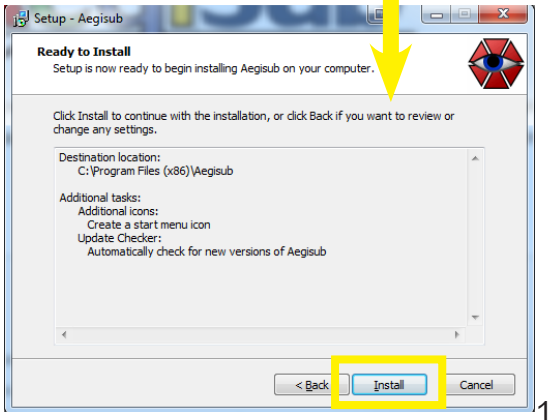












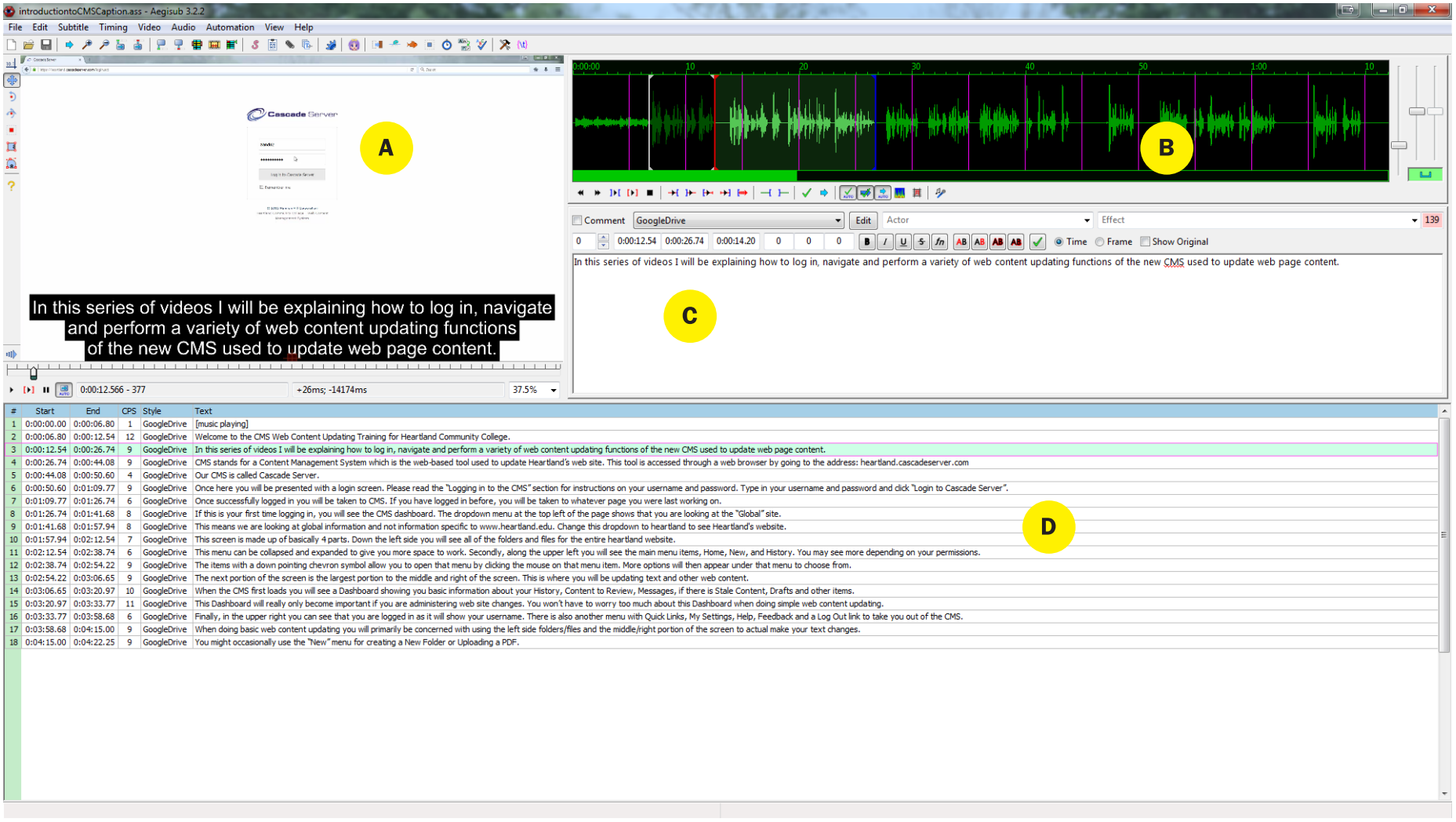
Aegisub Interface

A. Video Display opened in the Aegisub interface using Video (menu) -> Open Video. The preview of captions will appear in this window,

B. Audio Waveform Display window. Here you play the audio and/or set your Start and End points for each piece of captioning by dragging the red (start) and blue (end) horizontal lines. Change from Spectrometer to Waveform view by clicking the Spectrum Analysis button,

C. Caption Entry Box. Type or copy/paste text from your script into this box. Captions entered will appear in the Video Display.

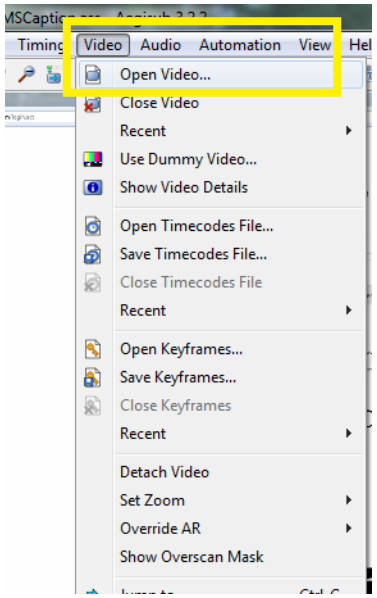
D. All captions will appear in the lower window after entering text into the window labeled **C**, setting Start and End points in window **B** and clicking the green checkmark icon (or pressing Enter on the keyboard) to commit that caption to those Start and End points.



#	Start	End	CPS	Style	Text
1	0:00:00.00	0:00:06.80	1	GoogleDrive	[music playing]
2	0:00:06.80	0:00:12.54	12	GoogleDrive	Welcome to the CMS Web Content Updating Training for Heartland Community College.
3	0:00:12.54	0:00:26.74	9	GoogleDrive	In this series of videos I will be explaining how to log in, navigate and perform a variety of web content updating functions of the new CMS used to update web page content.
4	0:00:26.74	0:00:44.08	9	GoogleDrive	CMS stands for a Content Management System which is the web-based tool used to update Heartland's web site. This tool is accessed through a web browser by going to the address: heartland.cascadeserver.com
5	0:00:44.08	0:00:50.60	4	GoogleDrive	Our CMS is called Cascade Server.
6	0:00:50.60	0:01:09.77	9	GoogleDrive	Once here you will be presented with a login screen. Please read the "Logging in to the CMS" section for instructions on your username and password. Type in your username and password and click "Login to Cascade Server".
7	0:01:09.77	0:01:26.74	6	GoogleDrive	Once successfully logged in you will be taken to CMS. If you have logged in before, you will be taken to whatever page you were last working on.
8	0:01:26.74	0:01:41.68	8	GoogleDrive	If this is your first time logging in, you will see the CMS dashboard. The dropdown menu at the top left of the page shows that you are looking at the "Global" site.
9	0:01:41.68	0:01:57.94	8	GoogleDrive	This means we are looking at global information and not information specific to www.heartland.edu. Change this dropdown to heartland to see Heartland's website.
10	0:01:57.94	0:02:12.54	7	GoogleDrive	This screen is made up of basically 4 parts. Down the left side you will see all of the folders and files for the entire heartland website.
11	0:02:12.54	0:02:38.74	6	GoogleDrive	This menu can be collapsed and expanded to give you more space to work. Secondly, along the upper left you will see the main menu items, Home, New, and History. You may see more depending on your permissions.
12	0:02:38.74	0:02:54.22	9	GoogleDrive	The items with a down pointing chevron symbol allow you to open that menu by clicking the mouse on that menu item. More options will then appear under that menu to choose from.
13	0:02:54.22	0:03:06.65	9	GoogleDrive	The next portion of the screen is the largest portion to the middle and right of the screen. This is where you will be updating text and other web content.
14	0:03:06.65	0:03:20.97	10	GoogleDrive	When the CMS first loads you will see a Dashboard showing you basic information about your History, Content to Review, Messages, if there is Stale Content, Drafts and other items.
15	0:03:20.97	0:03:33.77	11	GoogleDrive	This Dashboard will really only become important if you are administering web site changes. You won't have to worry too much about this Dashboard when doing simple web content updating.
16	0:03:33.77	0:03:58.68	6	GoogleDrive	Finally, in the upper right you can see that you are logged in as it will show your username. There is also another menu with Quick Links, My Settings, Help, Feedback and a Log Out link to take you out of the CMS.
17	0:03:58.68	0:04:15.00	9	GoogleDrive	When doing basic web content updating you will primarily be concerned with using the left side folders/files and the middle/right portion of the screen to actual make your text changes.
18	0:04:15.00	0:04:22.25	9	GoogleDrive	You might occasionally use the "New" menu for creating a New Folder or Uploading a PDF.

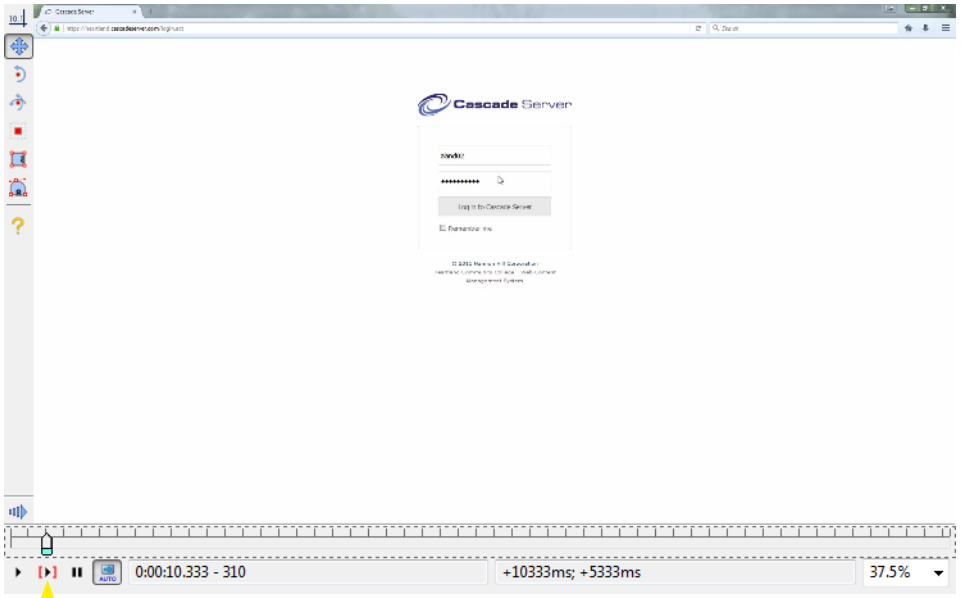
Opening a Video

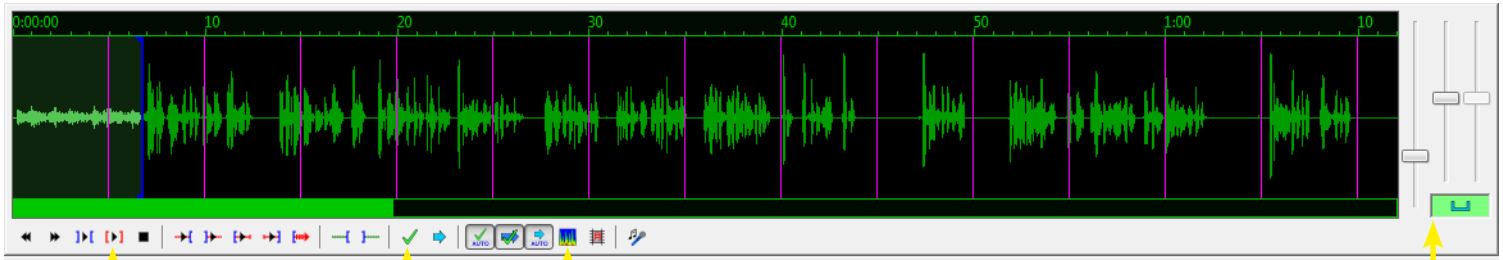
1. open the Aegisub program,
2. click the Video menu item,
3. choose Open Video...



A. Video Display

Captions will show up in this video display window (shown at right) after you type into the Caption Entry box. Play the video using the small play button in the lower left of this window.





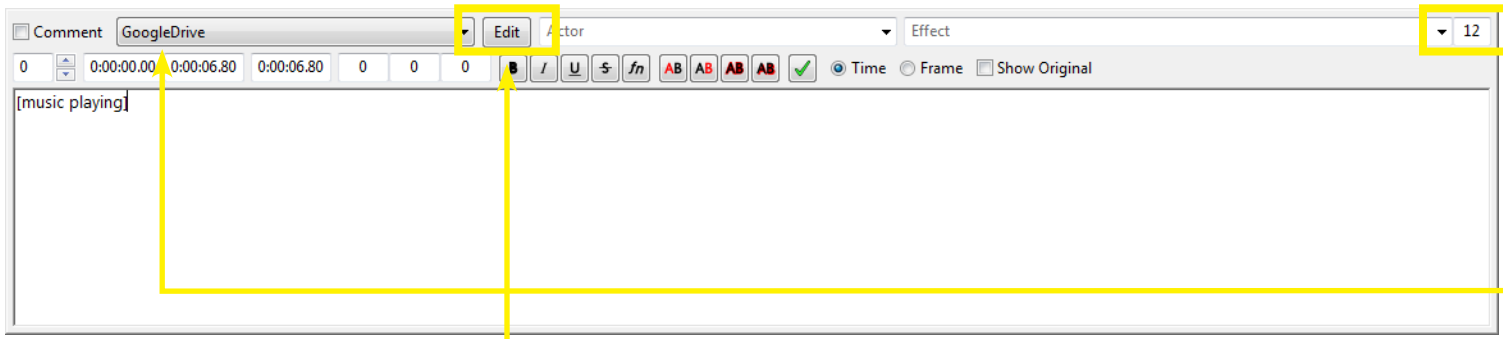
play button commit change Waveform/Spectrometer toggle view zoom sliders

B. Audio Waveform Display

The Audio Waveform Display shows all sounds in your video. Drag the Start (red line) and End (blue line) times for each caption to set these values. Playback the audio by clicking the play button surrounded with red brackets. Click the green checkmark to commit that caption to those start and end times and to move on to the next possible caption. Toggle between the Spectrometer and Waveform views using the Spectrum Analyzer Mode button. The sliders to the far right can be used to adjust the horizontal zoom level of the waveform display, the amount of vertical zoom shown and the audio volume.

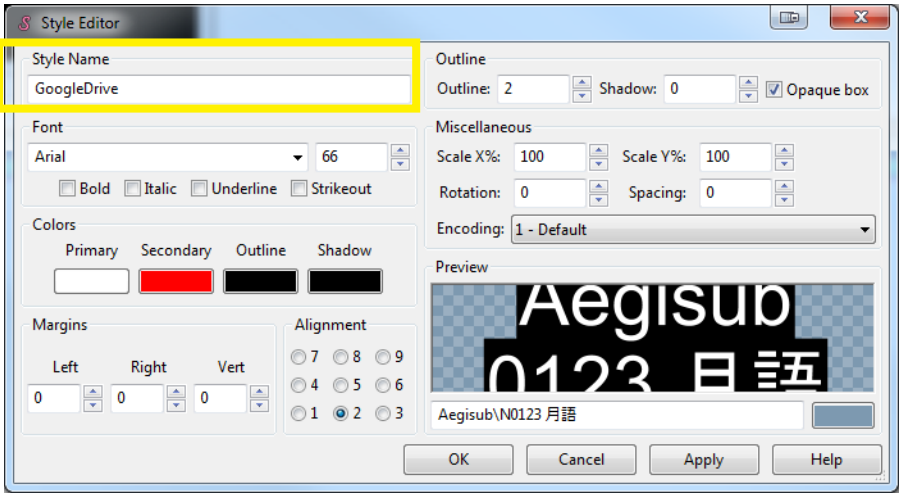
C. Caption Entry Box

Type or copy/paste text captions into this box. To force a line break you can press Shift-Enter on the keyboard. The captions will automatically show in the Video Display window. Here you can also see the Start and End times (shown as hours: minutes: seconds. milliseconds), and total duration time of the caption. To the far right you can see the number of characters in the entire caption (shown as the number 12 in the screen shot below). Captions should normally be less than 150 characters or so depending on the video screen resolution. Keep in mind the number of characters per second you are having shown on the screen as well.



Edit Caption Size Shown

Clicking **Edit** in the Caption Entry Box allows you to edit the typeface and font size of the caption being previewed in the Video Display Window. These settings are for Aegisub preview purposes only and do not effect anything about the closed caption file itself. The settings shown below closely match what a Google Drive video caption would look like depending on your video screen resolution/size. Create a Style Name as **GoogleDrive** to save this style and apply it to all of your caption lines using the drop down box in the Caption Entry box.



Mimic Google Drive Caption Sizing

In the Style Editor, you can roughly mimic how your captions will appear in Google Drive by using the following settings:

Font: Arial
Size: 66 pt (size will vary depending on your video resolution)
Outline: 2
Shadow: 0
Opaque box: checked
Scale X%: 100
Scale Y%: 100

D. Caption Information Window

The final portion of the Aegisub interface is the Caption Information Window where you can see your caption chronological numbers, start and end times to each caption, the number of characters per second (CPS), the character style, and the caption line text. Here you can monitor the number of characters per second for each caption line. 15 characters per second or less is a general good rule of thumb. The CPS box will begin to display with a red background if you go above 12 CPS indicating that you may need to break your caption into 2 separate captions. You can jump from caption to caption by clicking on that caption line.

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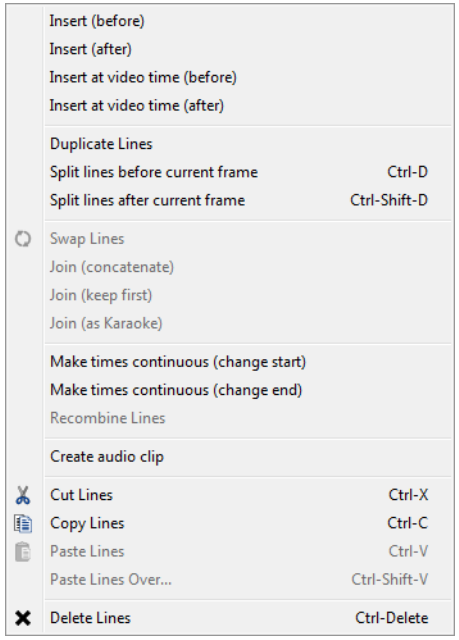
Editing Caption Information Lines

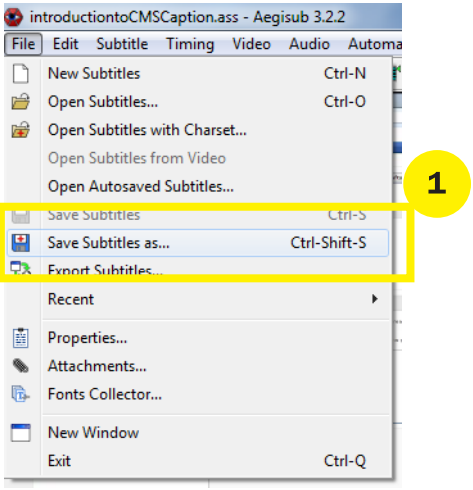
To edit several aspects of any caption line right click the mouse on that caption line and you will be presented with a contextual menu like the one shown at right. Here you can insert caption lines before or after the line chosen, duplicate lines, split lines, make times continuous, cut, copy and paste or delete caption lines, and more.

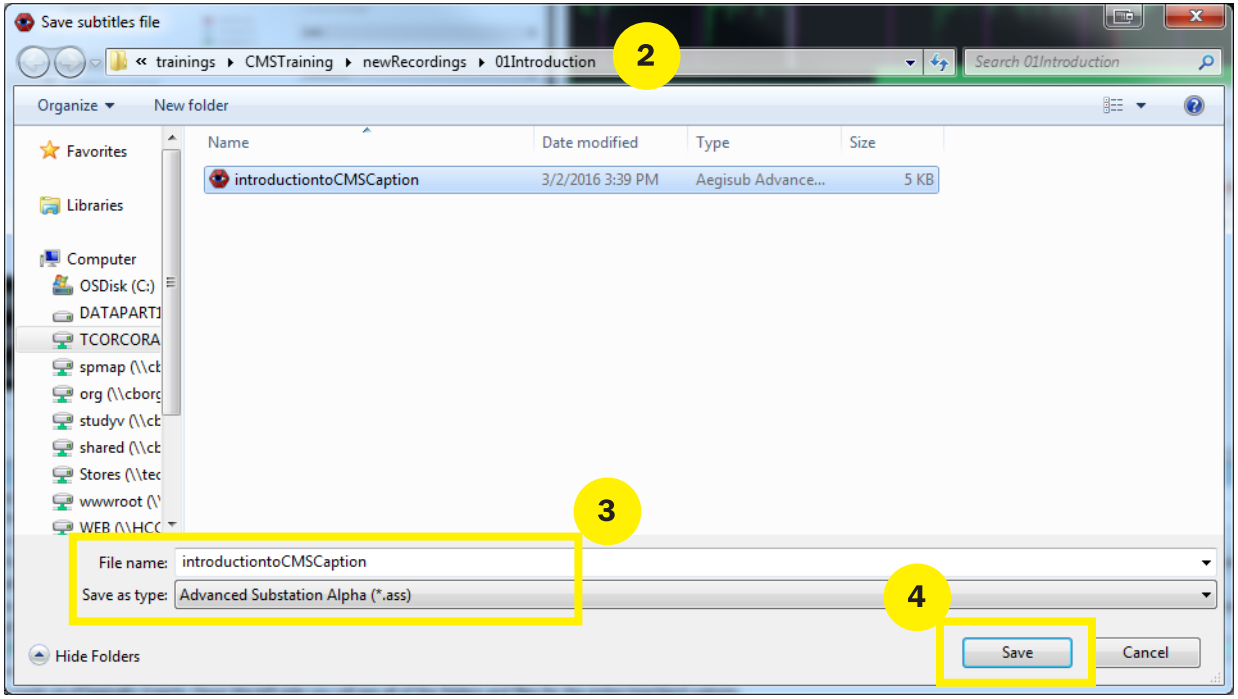


Saving the Aegisub Subtitles Project File

To save your project file...

1. Click on File (menu) -> Save Subtitle As.. (as shown at right),
2. Navigate to the location you'd like to save your file,
3. Name your file and be sure the file extension is Advanced Substation Alpha (*.ass),
4. Click Save.

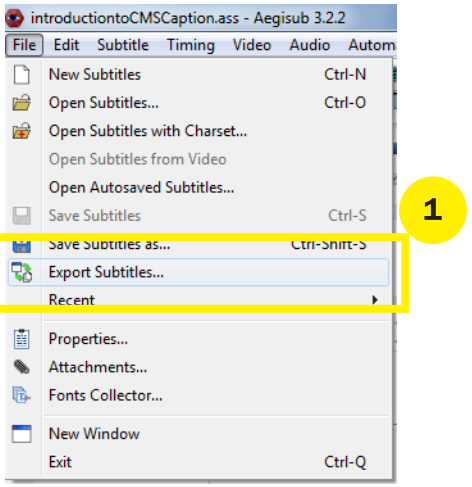


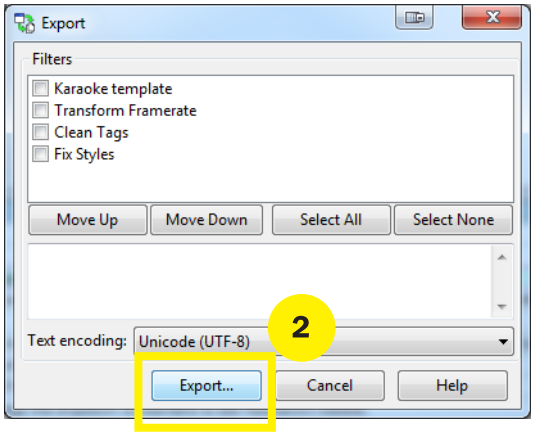


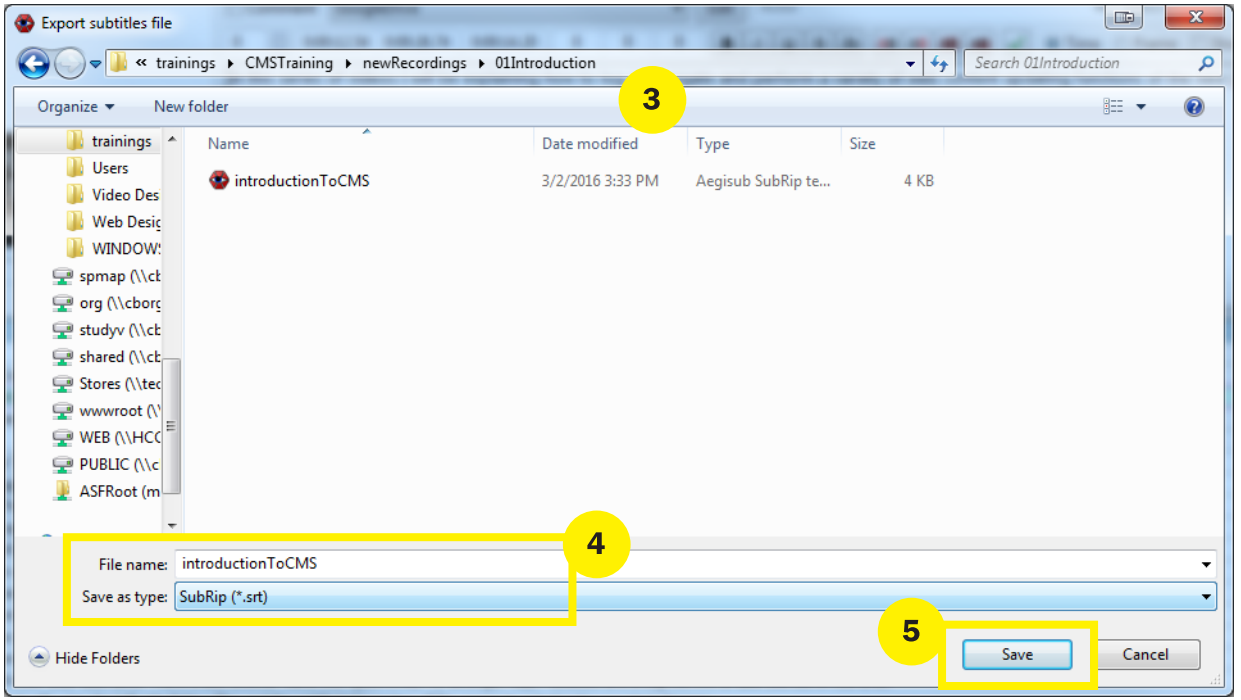
Exporting Subtitles to an .SRT file

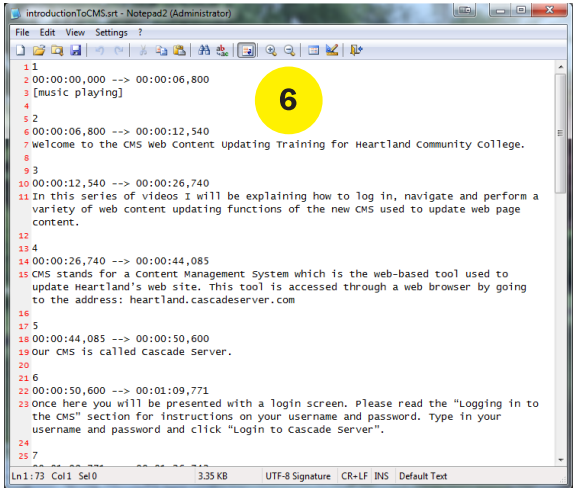
To export the .SRT file for use with Google Drive or YouTube...

1. Click on File (menu) -> Export Subtitles.. (as shown at right),
2. Click the Export... button on the export screen (shown below left),
3. Navigate to the location you'd like to export your .SRT file,
4. Name your file and be sure the file extension is SubRip (*.srt),
5. Click Save,
6. You will have the correctly formatted .SRT file to upload to Google Drive.









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