

Frequently Asked Questions

1 Can you produce a one-off presentation for me using Showsuite?

It is possible to use our Showsuite service for any presentation, but for one-off presentations, we would still recommend PowerPoint for providing screen support. We continue to use PowerPoint ourselves and can design templates and content for your presentation.

Showsuite really comes into its own for presentations that you are using on a regular basis, or for the basis of a suite of presentations that can be used company-wide. The initial investment in Showsuite is higher than PowerPoint, but it will provide you with a robust presentation system to which you can add content over time (including PowerPoint).

2 Can you convert an existing PowerPoint presentation into a Showsuite presentation?

Showsuite works on a completely different principle to PowerPoint, so we cannot simply convert a PowerPoint presentation into Showsuite. However, if you have a core presentation that you want to use as the basis for creating a Showsuite project for your business, it will provide a useful starting point for considering your presentation content.

Ideally, we will sit down with you to devise effective content for your presentation, which we will then use as the basis for visual support.

It is possible to view PowerPoint presentations through Showsuite, so you can use existing presentations as part of your presentation library.

3 How do I keep a Showsuite presentation up to date?

Amendments to your Showsuite project can be made at any time by Walnut Media. When we update or create new sections we'll supply a new version of the project on disc. If a section becomes outdated, it can be omitted by the presenter, so the audience need never see it.

More 'volatile' content – such as price lists - can be created using elements that you can update in-house, such as PowerPoint, web pages or PDFs.

Consider Showsuite as a complete presentation support system for your business, actively managed for you by Walnut Media Communications.

4 Once you have produced a Showsuite presentation for my company, can we freely copy it onto any number of computers and laptops?

At the time of commissioning your Showsuite project, we will carry out a simple assessment scoping its likely uses and distribution through your business. For a small sales force, we can issue a licence that will cover all your users. For larger sales forces it may be more cost effective to distribute on a licensed basis.

It is also worth remembering that content obtained from photo libraries, video footage and music may be subject to copyright restrictions. Our licensing approach will take full account of this to offer you the most cost-effective approach.

5 Can I send out my Showsuite presentation to clients on CD-ROM?

Showsuite's software engine has been designed specifically for supporting live presentations. The user-interface and features have been optimised for this application.

If you want to present the same or similar content via a CD-ROM, our New Media developers can advise you on the viability of this and can modify the content for CD-ROM delivery.

6 With PowerPoint I can add and amend slides myself. Why can't I do this with Showsuite?

Showsuite presentations are built from dynamic 'assets' that can be accessed in an order determined by the presenter, or accessed interactively live during a presentation.

While PowerPoint is a powerful presentation tool, these presentations often become diluted as users amend them. Corporate standards are reduced and consistency of message is lost. In short, it is often too easy to amend.

Showsuite delivers the means to maintain high standards of presentation, through professional screen design and effective presentation development. Once a library of presentation content has been built up, it can be used for numerous presentations. As producers we think it is essential to preserve the integrity of each and every asset. We use a wide range of design and development software to create the assets in Showsuite – it has not been built around a text editor.

The user has a considerable amount of control about how the assets are deployed. You can create different paths from the assets to suit different audiences. As the range of assets grows, so does the scope for tailoring your presentation.

And remember, you can still incorporate PowerPoint materials within Showsuite, that you have amended yourself. Showsuite provides you with the best balance between adaptability and consistency.

7 Can I print presentation content from Showsuite?

Each asset we produce for a Showsuite presentation is accompanied by locked, embedded notes providing both presenter support and client information.

You can print neatly formatted layouts of assets in a customisable order from within Showsuite. You can also customise the title and client information for these print-outs. Your own assets like PowerPoint and PDF files aren't included into Showsuite's print-outs although you can obviously print these from within their native applications.

8 What exactly are you offering me with Showsuite?

We are offering you the opportunity to present your business more effectively. We are not promoting a piece of software, we are offering a production service to help you to create compelling presentations. In our quest to devise a more effective presentation support platform we have developed a robust software engine to help us to produce high quality visual support without you having to pay the development costs normally associated with bespoke new media.

But the software element of Showsuite is only part of the story. It is more about helping you to organise your presentation case than about organising screen-based assets. If you commission video production from Walnut Media, we will assess your communication requirements and scope the production accordingly. It is the same with Showsuite.

9 How easy is it to train my sales force to use Showsuite?

At the heart of Showsuite is a consistent set of well-developed and tested navigation tools. These remain the same through every Showsuite project we produce. Once you have learnt how to use these intuitive tools, you can present using Showsuite with confidence.

Of course, learning how to use Showsuite will not, of itself, train your sales force to give effective presentations. But as users become more familiar with the content available to them, they will be able to use the extended controls, enabling them to move effortlessly around the presentation resources in response to audience feedback.

To assist training, every Showsuite presentation comes with a comprehensive printed manual.

10 Will we need to invest in new hardware to use Showsuite?

We have developed Showsuite very much with the future in mind. At the outset, we wanted to be able to deliver full screen, high quality, full motion video on your laptop. The kind of processing power required to do this is now readily available in most laptops currently on the market. Machines that are a couple of years old may not be able to deliver the rich resources that are an integral part of Showsuite.

Our Technical Specification document provides details on minimum requirements for laptops needed to run Showsuite's software effectively. We can also advise on specific models and provide a complete set-up service to support the implementation of your Showsuite project.

11 Can we refer to price lists and other technical details of our products from within Showsuite?

As sales presentations form one of the largest markets for Showsuite, we wanted to make sure that the sales presenter can access everything they need with ease during the presentation. When you launch a Showsuite presentation, the Showsuite interface is presented full screen. This means you cannot switch to other applications on your desktop without interrupting the presentation. Instead, the idea is to make any supplementary assets accessible from within Showsuite.

PowerPoint, HTML, or PDF assets can be referenced directly and seamlessly from Showsuite. Remember that all Microsoft Office files (eg Word and Excel) can be easily converted to PDF format, where they can be displayed, but not edited. This makes it ideal for displaying reference data such as specifications and prices.

12 Does Showsuite need to run from the Hard Disk drive of a laptop, or can it run over a network or via CD-ROM?

Your Showsuite presentation will be delivered on CD-ROM for installation onto a Hard Disk drive.

While it may be possible to run the presentation from a removable disk or a network, we advise against this. Performance will be much better from Hard Disk, especially where the presentation includes video content.

13 Does Showsuite represent a technical breakthrough?

Everything you can do with Showsuite's software has been technically possible for some time. Showsuite enables you to harness the power of converging technologies – laptops, digital video, the internet, display and projection systems, interactive control – and use them in a robust and reliable way to present your business effectively.