



**walnutmedia**  
communications limited

**showsuite™**

**PC Specification**

Software Rel 2.1

# PC Specification

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## Introduction

We want to help you get the most out of Showsuite by ensuring you have the right technology to use it.

If you and your co-presenters already have modern laptop PCs it may be possible to use Showsuite on them. The information in this document may be useful to you or your IT department when determining this.

If your existing laptops simply aren't up to the job, we can recommend, and if necessary supply, laptops already set-up with your Showsuite project, either on a hire or sales basis.

Above all, we try to encourage a dialogue with our clients about these specifications to ensure maximum benefit from your investment in Showsuite.

## Processor

The faster the processor, the more responsive your Showsuite presentation will be.

Processor speed also has a significant impact on the performance of video playback, especially when using MPEG-2 full screen video and multi-video menus.

Minimum

Intel® Pentium® 4  
**1 GHz**

Recommended

Intel® Pentium® 4  
**1.7 GHz**  
(minimum for MPEG-2 playback)

## Memory

More memory or RAM (measured in MBytes), means that Showsuite's richer content will load faster and run more smoothly.

Minimum

**128 MB**

Recommended

**256 MB**

## Hard Disk Space

Although Showsuite's software engine takes up only a small amount of hard disk space, the richer presentation sections we create, and particularly full screen video, consume more space.

We don't recommend running Showsuite straight from CD-ROM for performance reasons.

Minimum

**200MB**  
free hard disk space for the Showsuite engine and a small presentation.

Recommended

**1GB**  
free hard disk space for a more elaborate Showsuite presentation. This makes it easier to add new content over a period of time.

## Operating System

Showsuite has been thoroughly tested on Windows 98, 2000 and XP. It is not compatible with Windows NT 4.0.

Showsuite does not run on Apple Macintosh computers.

## Installation

CD-ROM or DVD-ROM drive for installation.

## Suggested Laptops

We maintain an up-to-date list of laptops that are ideal for use with Showsuite.

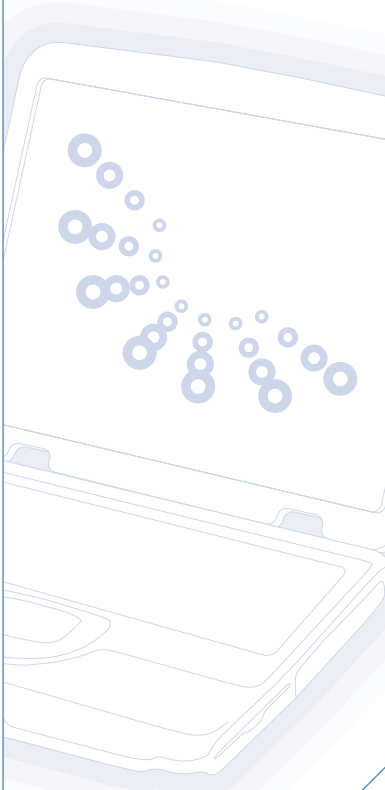
We can provide guidance on purchasing or hiring these as required.

# PC Specification: Graphics and Display

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## About the Display

The graphics display of your laptop is a critical factor in getting the impact you want out of Showsuite. There are a number of requirements that need to be met for best results.



## Colour Depth

This is the number of colours your laptop display can handle.

The options are 16 bits (thousands of colours) or 32 bits (millions of colours). The latter provides better graphics and smoother transitions between sections of your presentation.

Recommended

Colour Depth  
**32 Bits**

## Resolution

Most modern laptops have a normal display resolution of 1024 by 768 pixels, otherwise known as XGA.

For best results, Showsuite presentations are created at 800 by 600 pixels (SVGA).

For full screen presentations, the laptop's graphics display needs the facility to scale / stretch or expand the SVGA image to fill the laptop panel.

Without this facility, Showsuite will appear in the centre of the laptop display with a black border around the sides of the presentation.

Recommended

SVGA  
**800 x 600**  
(stretched or scaled to laptop screen)

## External Display

If the Showsuite project is to be used with an external display, such as a projector, the graphics display needs to be tested for this application.

Some laptop drivers are unable to deliver a simultaneous image to an external display, mainly when playing full screen video.

Required

Image mirroring on external display

## Video Memory

More video memory means better performance and can help to make Showsuite feel more responsive to your control.

Minimum

**16 MB**

Recommended

**32 MB**

# PC Specification

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## Sound

**Showsuite only uses sound for full screen video clips.**

Laptop sound chips tend to be fairly standard and there are no special requirements or drivers needed.

Your laptop will need a headphone socket for use with external speakers.

## Web Connectivity

**Showsuite projects include a web portal for integrating web content during a presentation.**

If online content is to be accessed through Showsuite, an active internet connection will be needed.

Often it's better to copy any web pages to your hard drive so that they will load reliably into Showsuite.

## MPEG-1 Video

**This is widely supported on most laptops and provides quality roughly equivalent to that of VHS tape.**

MPEG-1 can be used for full screen display when shown from a laptop screen. It is also the format used for Showsuite's video menus.

When a larger external display like a projector or Plasma screen is used, the limitations of MPEG-1 become more evident.

MPEG-1 uses Active Movie and the DirectShow API to decode MPEG-1, which have been provided as standard on all laptops with Windows 98 Second Edition or above.

## MPEG-2 Video

**This offers superior picture quality to MPEG-1, and is better suited for showing on larger displays.**

MPEG-2 is much more demanding than MPEG-1 and the laptop will need a fast processor (minimum 1.7GHz) along with one of the following MPEG-2 / DVD software players.

**Cyberlink PowerDVD 1,  
PowerDVD 4.0(XP)**

**Intervideo WinDVD 2000,  
WinDVD 3, WinDVD 4,  
DVD Xpack**

**Mediamatics DVD Express**

**Sigma Designs Hollywood Plus**

**Varovision DVD Decoder**

## Applications

**Showsuite requires that the following applications are installed on the user's system.**

**These are provided on each Showsuite installation disk.**

**Apple Quicktime 6.0:**

This is used for Showsuite's motion backgrounds and effects.

**Adobe Acrobat Reader 5.1:**

Enables Adobe .pdf content to be viewed during a presentation.

**Microsoft PowerPoint Viewer 97:**

Showsuite uses this application to include your own PowerPoint presentations.

## Printing

**Showsuite enables presentation content to be printed using Windows printer drivers.**

To use this feature, any laptop using Showsuite should have access to a local or networked printer.