

Information Sheet – Presentation of Electronic Evidence

Electronic Evidence Laptops / with DVD players- in Court

Most Courts and Jury rooms in NSW are provided with an Electronic Evidence Laptop (EEL).

In *digital* equipped courts the laptop is located within an evidence trolley, which can be moved around the courtroom to some degree. In other courtrooms, separate laptops are provided, with connections at the Bar table.

All EELs are capable of displaying electronic evidence, in the form of documents, images (i.e. photographs) or video, provided by DVD, CD or files stored on a flash drive, providing they are in a compatible format (see below).

EELs also connect to the Court's Remote Witness (RW) and Audio Visual Link (AVL) systems.

Types of files than may be played

Electronic Evidence Laptops are capable of playing a wide range of the most common, current and commercially available file types. There are some exceptions.

Those compatible formats include Documents (PDF), images, audio and/or video files (provided on DVD, CD or flash drive).

MPEG-1/2, DivX® (1/2/3/4/5/6), MPEG-4 ASP, XviD, 3ivX D4, H.261, H.263 / H.263i, H.264 / MPEG-4 AVC, Cinepak, Theora, Dirac / VC-2, MJPEG (A/B), WMV 1/2, WMV 3 / WMV-9 / VC-1, Sorenson 1/3, DV, On2 VP3/VP5/VP6, Indeo Video v3 (IV32), Real Video (1/2/3/4), MPEG Layer 1/2, MP3 - MPEG Layer 3, AAC - MPEG-4 part3, Vorbis, AC3 - A/52, E-AC-3, MLP / TrueHD>3, DTS, WMA 1/2, WMA 3, FLAC, ALAC, Speex, Musepack / MPC, ATRAC 3, Wavpack, Mod, TrueAudio, APE, Real Audio, Alaw/µlaw, AMR (3GPP), MIDI, LPCM, ADPCM, QCELP, DV Audio, QDM2/QDMC, MACE.DVD, CD, MPEG/MPG, MP4, ASF/WMV/WMA, OGG, OGM, Annodex, Mirovska (MKV), Real, WAV (including DTS), Raw Audio, DTS, AAC, AC3/A52, Raw DV, FLAC, FLV (Flash), MXF, Nut, Standard MIDI/SMF, AVI

There are some operating programmes and commercially specific video and CCTV file types that may not be compatible with the in court laptop/DVD player.

Documents (e.g. Word, Excel, and PowerPoint) require an operating system and will need to be converted to PDF for presentation in Court.

Testing prior to Court hearing

IMPORTANT

Evidence sought to be presented on the day of Court that proves to be incompatible can result in delays and unnecessary adjournments.

It is imperative that Prosecutors and lawyers test any evidence intended to be presented in a case , especially video and CCTV files prior to the scheduled Court date, to ensure evidence is in a compatible format and able to be presented.

Arrangements should be made with the Court registry to test file compatibility, in the weeks prior to the scheduled Court date. This will allow time for any incompatible file to be converted or alternate arrangements to be made to enable the file to be presented in evidence.

Alternate arrangements

Where testing indicates that the courtroom evidence laptop/DVD player *cannot* read the file in its present format, the file will *either* have to be converted to a readable format (see list above) or the party seeking to present the evidence will need to bring their own device, capable of reading and displaying the file, to the Court and plug it in to the provided inputs.

It is essential that the user, bringing their own device, and presenting that evidence familiarise themselves with the operation of their device, e.g. opening the file setting playback, adjusting volume levels etc.

Many Courtrooms have provision for input of "bring your own" devices. Newly upgraded digital courts provide VGA and HDMI inputs upon the evidence trolley. Many other AVL courtrooms have inputs at the Bar table.

Assistance and Information

Any inquiries regarding testing of electronic evidence should initially be directed to the Registrar of the relevant Court.