

► **Adobe CS6: Real-World Productivity for Video Professionals**

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Introduction

This document presents key findings of a benchmarking project designed to assess the impact of the Adobe CS6 applications on the productivity of designers and creative professionals.

Benchmarks were designed to measure how specific functions speed up everyday tasks. For details on the methodology used to conduct these benchmarks, check out “About the Benchmarks” at the end of this report.

This report focuses specifically on features and functionality geared towards the video professionals. Design, web creation and digital imaging are covered in separate reports.

- **Adobe Premiere Pro CS6: Trim Modes** **3**
Adobe Premiere Pro CS6 speeds up the process of trimming clips, by providing interactive trim modes directly in the playback window.
- **Adobe Premiere Pro CS6: Warp Stabilizer** **4**
By including access to the Warp Stabilizer directly in the editing environment, Adobe Premiere Pro CS6 speeds up the process of stabilization.
- **Adobe Premiere Pro CS6: Multicam Editing** **5**
Multicam editing in Adobe Premiere Pro CS6 supports unlimited camera angles and speeds up the creation of complex multi-camera sequences.
- **Adobe Premiere Pro CS6: Adjustment Layers** **6**
Adjustment layers in Adobe Premiere Pro CS6 speed up the editing process by making it easy to apply effects to many clips simultaneously.
- **Adobe After Effects CS6: Global Performance Cache** **7**
After Effects CS6 improves performance and productivity by providing several levels of cache to speed up the creation process.
- **Adobe Encore CS6: Dynamic Link Integration** **8**
Improved Dynamic Link integration between Adobe Premiere Pro CS6 and Encore CS6 speeds up the creation of DVD and BluRay Production.
- **Adobe Photoshop CS6: Real-Time Liquify** **9**
The new Liquify feature in Photoshop CS6 provides near real-time feedback even with very large images.
- **About the Benchmarks** **10**
Find out more about the methodology and the techniques used to provide a reliable assessment of productivity gains.

Premiere Pro CS6

Application Area:
Editing Efficiency

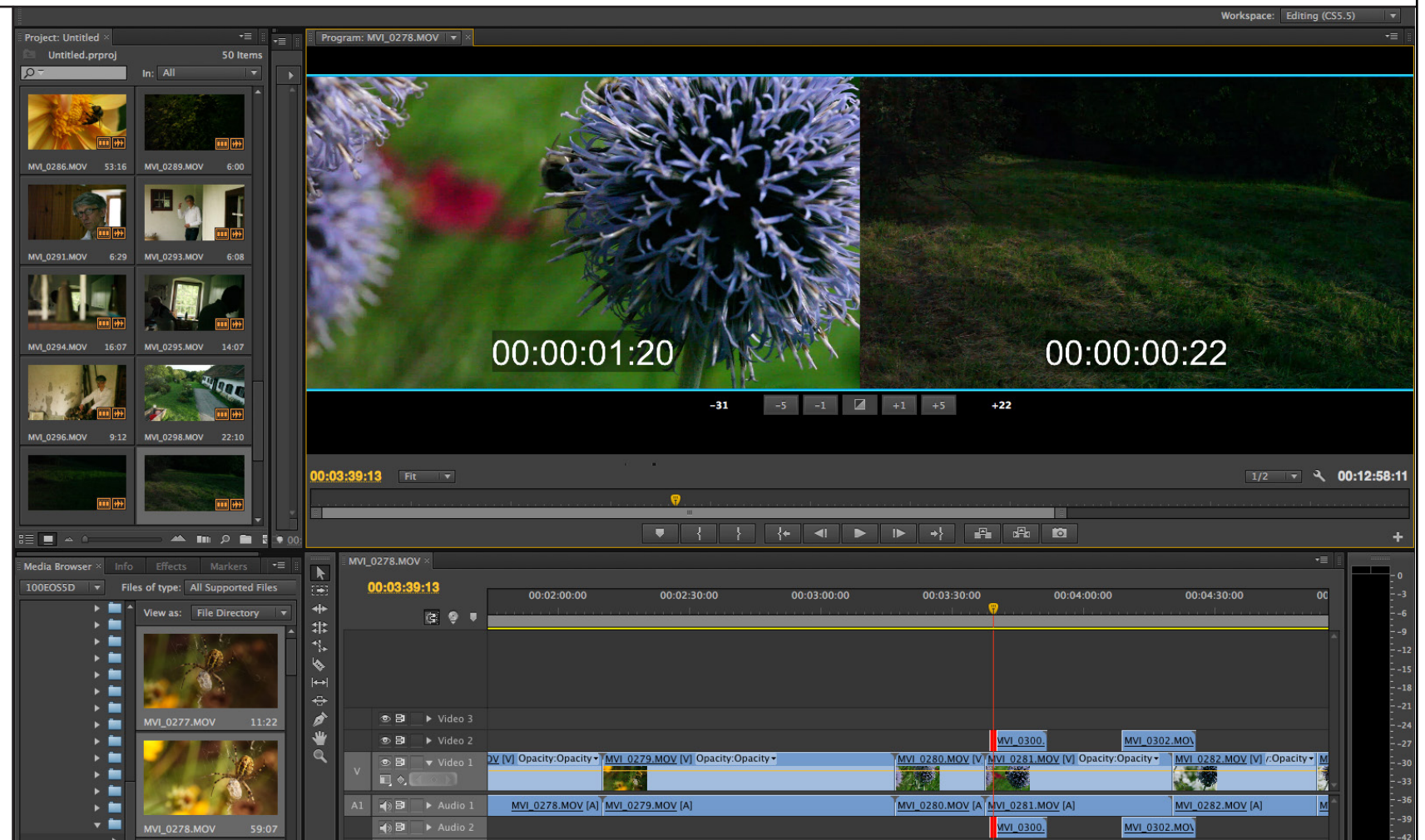
► How Premiere Pro CS6 Speeds Up Trim Operations

What is it all about?

Adobe Premiere® Pro CS6 expands significantly upon the trim modes provided by previous releases of the program.

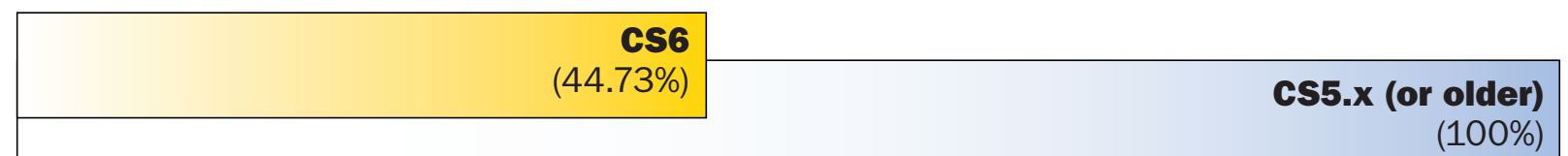
Dynamic Trimming is available within the Program Monitor, which displays both joining clips, and allows both mouse-controlled and keyboard-driven trim operation such as rolling trims and ripple trims inside the Monitor window.

The most important aspect is the frame-correct, real-time feedback, which is faster and more reliable than timeline-based trim operations.



About the Benchmarks

While all previous trim modes are still available in Adobe Premiere Pro CS6, the benchmarks for this project underline the productivity advantage of the new trim modes.



Adobe Premiere Pro CS6: **19.43 sec.** Adobe Premiere Pro CS5.5: **43.12 sec.** Shorter is better.

Average of six benchmarks, measuring the time necessary to create and fine-tune a rolling trim at a precise location of a clip with the trim modes introduced in Adobe Premiere Pro CS6, compared to trimming in the timeline with Adobe Premiere Pro CS5.5.

Premiere Pro CS6

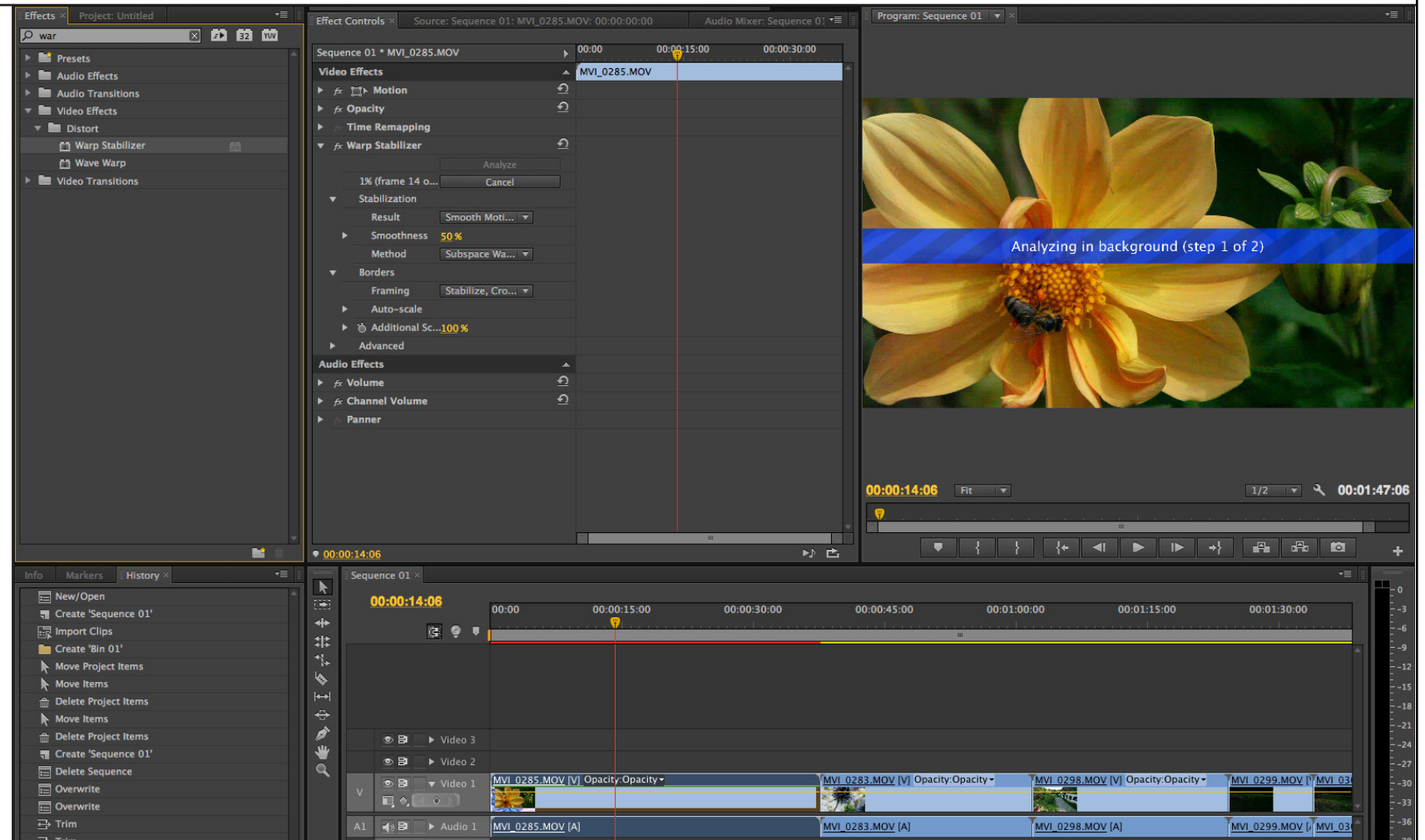
► Warp Stabilizer: Integrated Image Stabilization

What is it all about?

Warp Stabilizer was introduced in Adobe After Effects® CS5.5. To stabilize footage before CS6, Adobe Premiere Pro users were required to go to After Effects to stabilize footage and import the footage back into the Adobe Premiere Pro timeline.

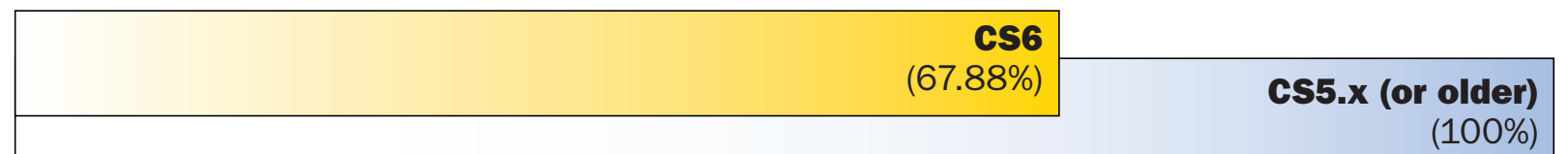
Adobe Premiere Pro CS6 offers direct access to Warp Stabilizer, streamlining the image stabilization workflow.

One important aspect of Warp Stabilizer is that it works in the background; the user can continue working on the timeline while the program is analyzing the clip to be stabilized.



About the Benchmarks

The benchmark clearly underlines the productivity gains the integration of Warp Stabilizer in the editing environment provides in the post-production process.



Adobe Premiere Pro CS6: **2 min. 33 sec.** Adobe Premiere Pro CS5.5: **3 min. 45 sec.** Shorter is better.

Average of six benchmarks, comparing the time to stabilize a 10 second clip using Warp Stabilizer In Adobe Premiere Pro CS6, compared with exporting the clip to After Effects CS5.5 and using Warp Stabilizer on the After Effects sequence.

Premiere Pro CS6

► Pushing the Envelope of Multicam Editing

What is it all about?

Multicam editing is a very important aspect of modern video production, widely used for projects such as concerts or documentaries, among others.

The feature has been significantly enhanced in Adobe Premiere Pro CS6. Previous versions of the program were limited to a maximum of four concurrent camera tracks; this latest release of Adobe Premiere Pro does not impose a limit to the number of camera tracks—as long as you have the hardware capabilities to support multiple cameras. Also, creating a new multicam camera source sequence and editing it is now easier and faster.



About the Benchmarks

Our benchmarks compared the time necessary for 4-camera and 6-camera sequences. Productivity gains with larger set-ups are likely to be considerably greater.

CS6 (35.27%)	CS5.x (or older) (100%)
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Adobe Premiere Pro CS6: **1 min. 5 sec.** Adobe Premiere Pro CS5.5: **3 min. 4 sec.** Shorter is better.

Average of six workflow benchmarks measuring the multi-step process necessary for creating 4-camera and 6-camera multicam sequences. (Note: Adobe Premiere Pro CS5.5 only supports 4-camera multicam sequences. Additional tracks need to be added manually.)

Premiere Pro CS6

Application Area:
Effects

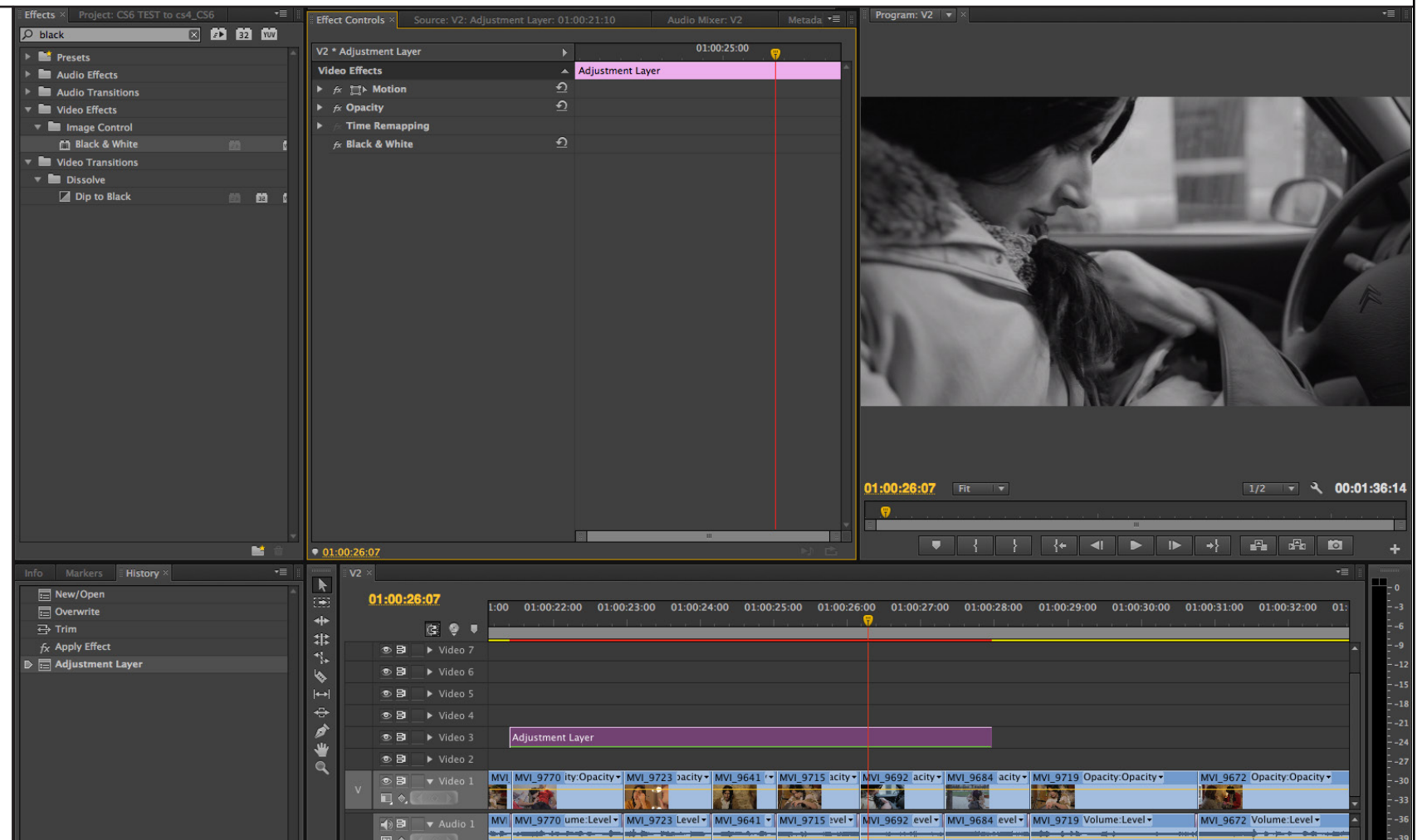
► How Adjustment Layers Accelerate the Editing Process

What is it all about?

Adjustment Layers in Adobe Premiere Pro CS6 speed up the operation of applying effects to multiple clips simultaneously.

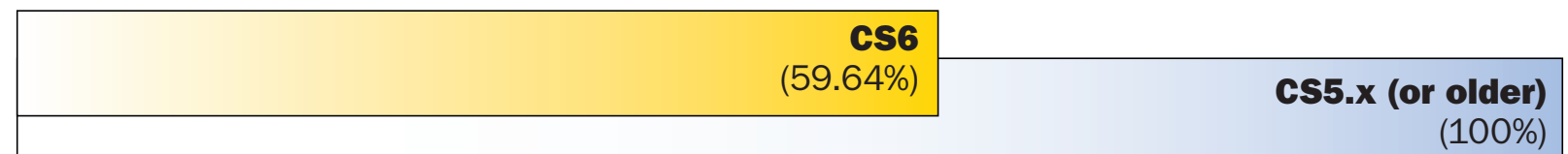
Productivity gains are particularly noticeable when an effect needs to be fine-tuned and modified during the editing process.

In addition, Adjustment Layers can also be easily stacked, duplicated to or moved to a different section of a project.



About the Benchmarks

Our benchmarks tested the efficiency with a relatively small selection of clips. Productivity gains with larger or more complex selections are likely to be greater.



Adobe Premiere Pro CS6: **43.16 sec.** Adobe Premiere Pro CS5.5: **1 min. 12 sec.** Shorter is better.

Average of 12 benchmarks measuring the time to apply effects to several different selections of clips. Benchmarks also measured the time necessary to modify effect settings once they had been applied.

After Effects CS6

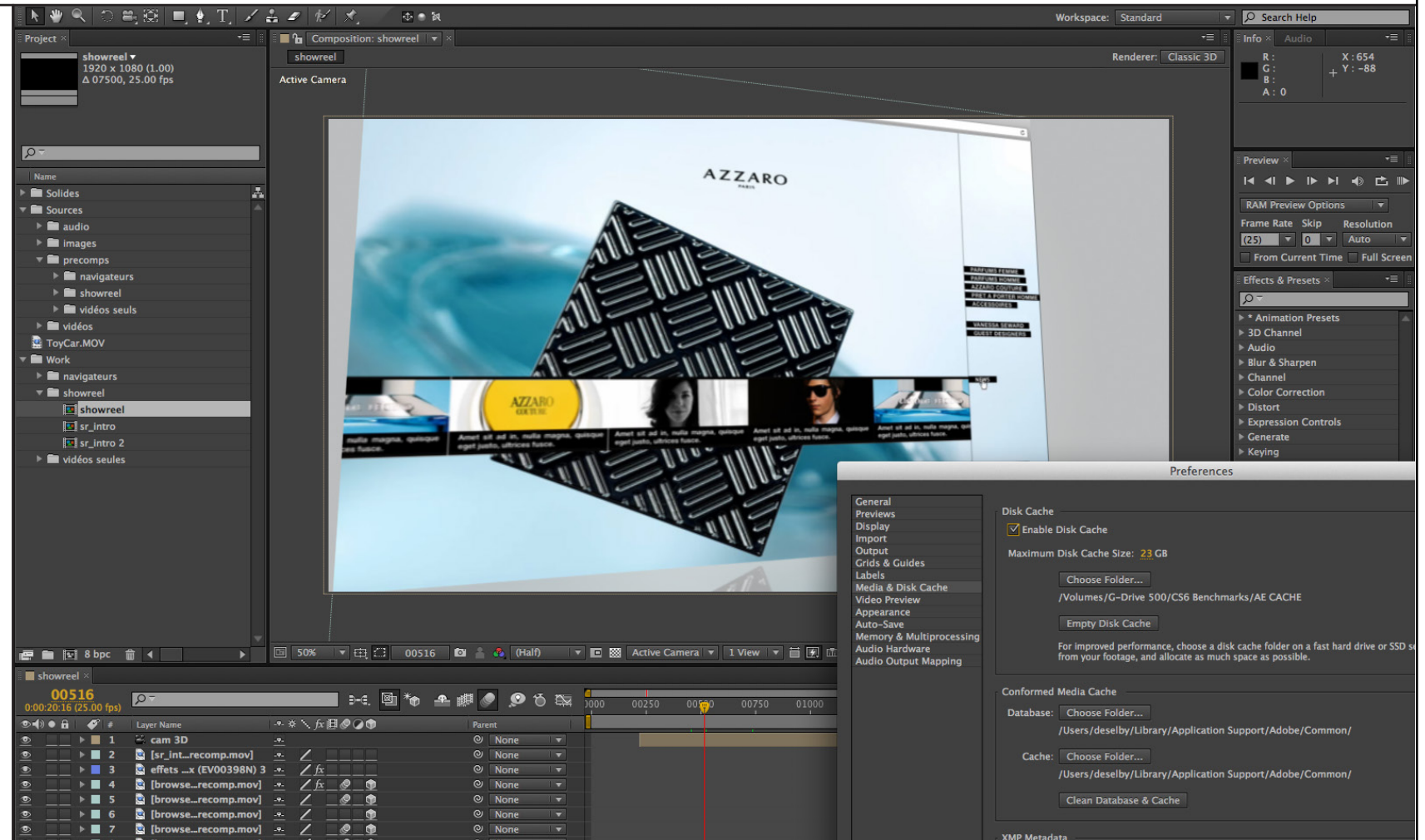
Application Area:
Performance

► The Impact of the **Global Performance Cache**

What is it all about?

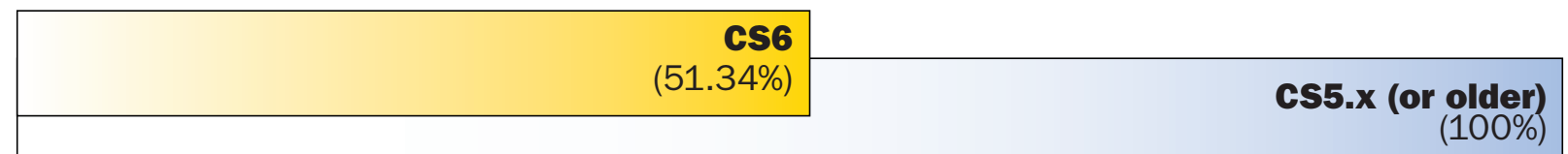
The Global Performance Cache introduced in After Effects CS6 is a major overhaul of the caching architecture that significantly improves the way After Effects handles the preview of complex compositions.

This means that a cached preview will remain available after undoing a modification, for instance. More importantly, After Effects now offers a permanent disk cache, that is still available even after you restart the program or reboot the computer.



About the Benchmarks

We measured the impact of the Global Performance Cache in After Effects CS6 using real-world workflow situations and a variety of documents. The benchmark results clearly show the productivity gains.



After Effects CS6: **3 min. 19 sec.** After Effects CS5.5: **6 min. 27 sec.** Shorter is better.

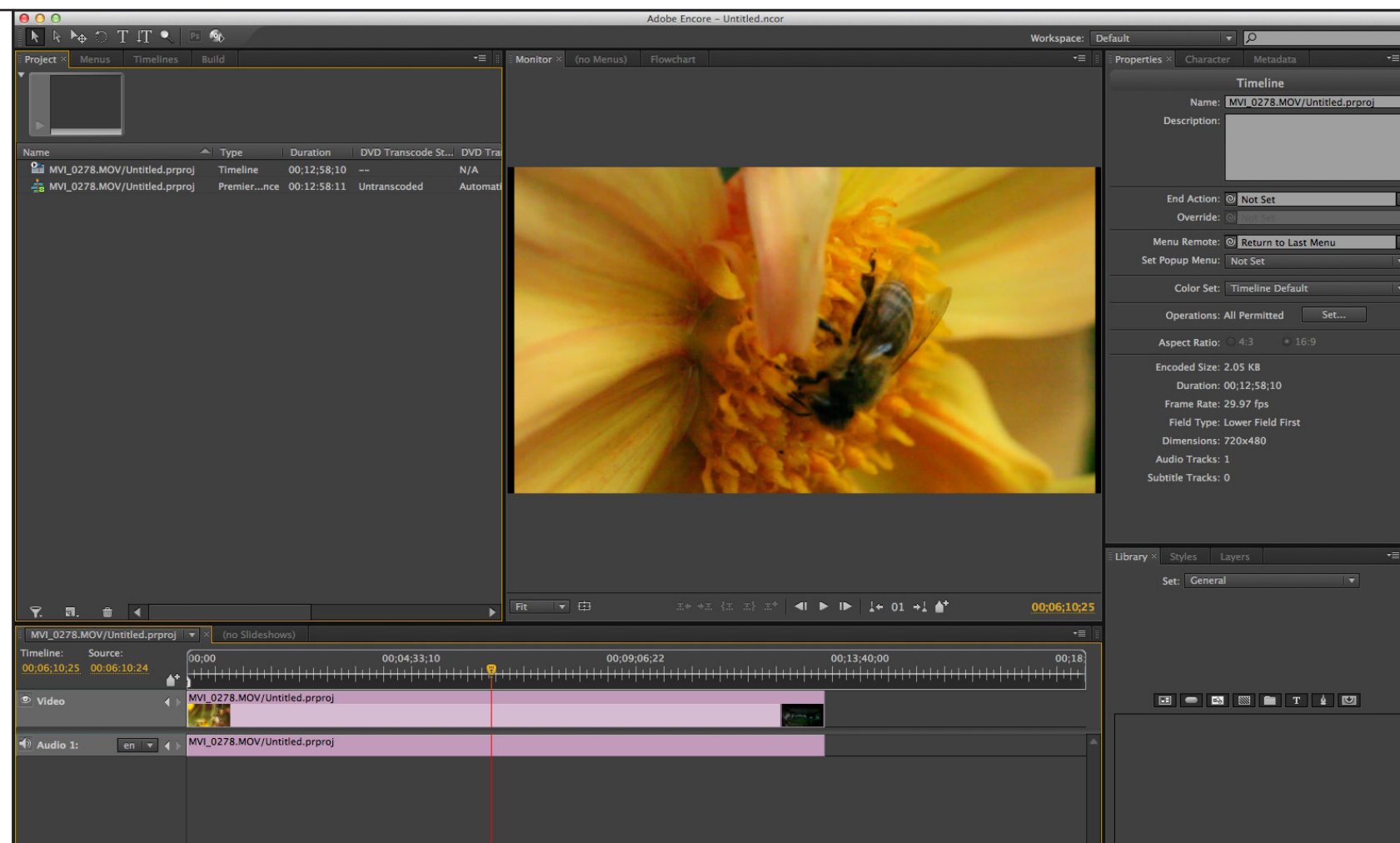
Average result from 33 individual benchmarks, executing typical workflow and preview operations of different types of After Effects compositions. Operations included Preview after restart, preview after modifications, preview after undo, among others.

► How Dynamic Link and Encore CS6 Speed Up DVD Production

What is it all about?

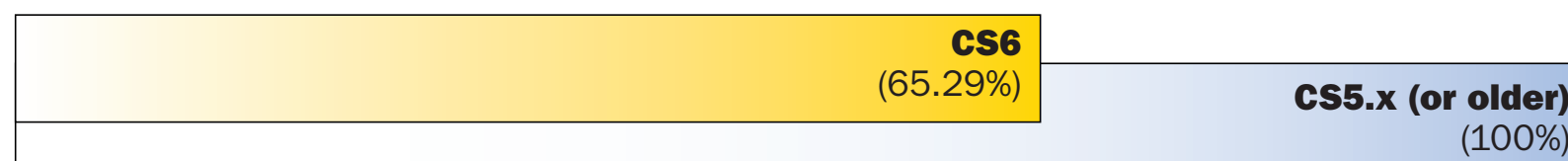
Adobe Encore® CS6 provides a faster and tighter integration with Adobe Premiere Pro than previous releases of the programs.

This means that handing off an Adobe Premiere Pro composition to prepare it for DVD or BluRay output is speedier than with previous releases: in our benchmarks, sending a short composition to Encore CS6 via Dynamic Link, and transcoding the footage for DVD burning was almost 40% faster than with the legacy release of the programs.



About the Benchmarks

Our benchmark was executed using a short video composition. Productivity gains for longer and more complex projects are likely to be even greater.



Encore CS6: **1 min. 30 sec.** Encore CS5.1: **2 min. 18 sec.** Shorter is better.

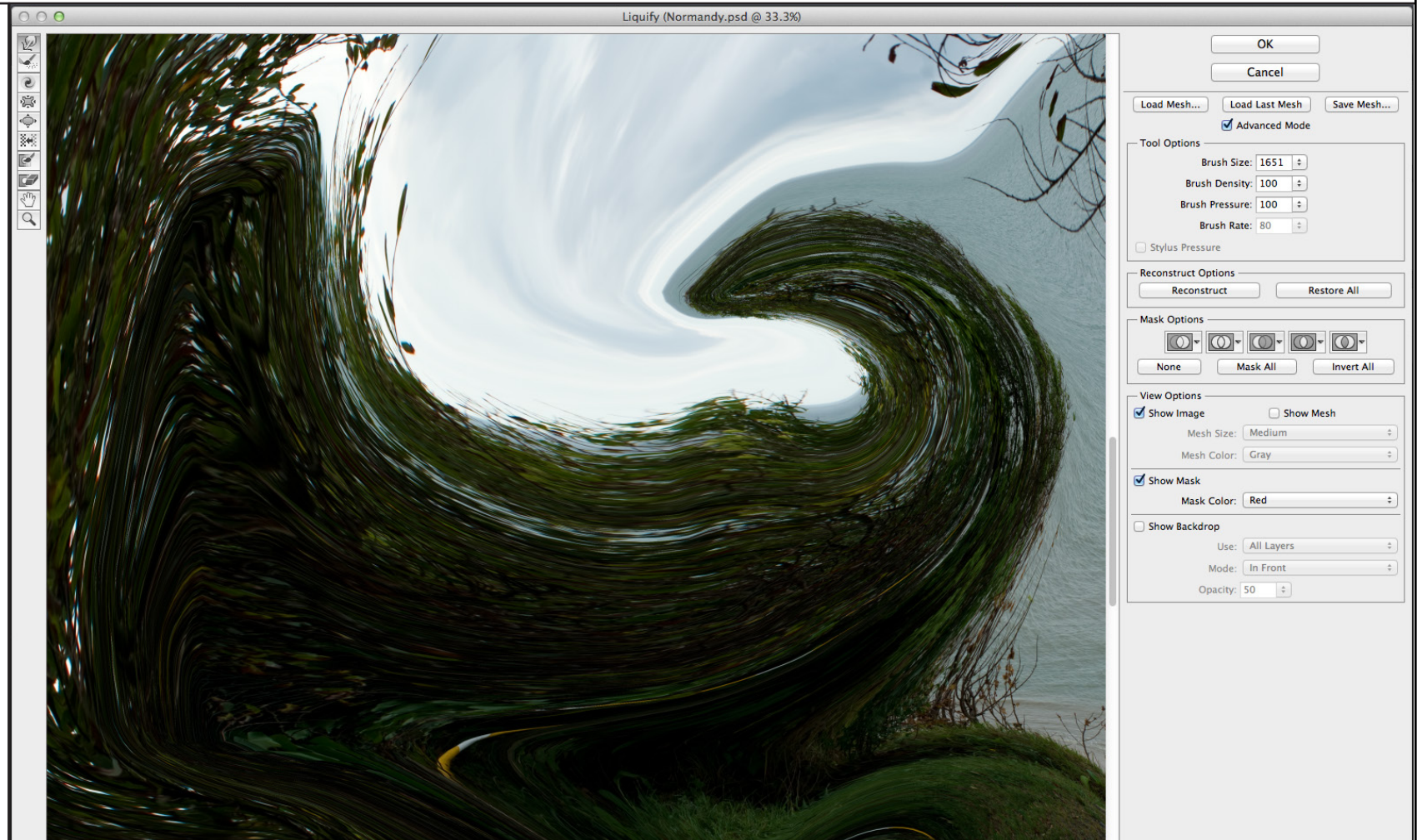
Average of six benchmarks measuring the time necessary to send a short Adobe Premiere Pro composition to Encore using Dynamic Link, and to get ready to burn a DVD. The benchmark included the time necessary to transcode the footage for the DVD format.

► Real-Time Liquify: The Wait Is Over

What is it all about?

Photoshop CS6 expands the popular Liquify feature in one major way: performance. While Liquify has always provided significant creative potential for image manipulation, it was not very efficient when dealing with larger images.

The new release changes this in a spectacular way, allowing even very large images to be distorted in near real time. Liquify in Photoshop CS6 also supports brush sizes of up to 15 000 pixels diameter - ten times larger than with previous releases.



About the Benchmarks

The benchmark results for the Liquify feature in Photoshop CS6 were very impressive: certain operations were over 100 times faster than using the older version of Photoshop.



Photoshop CS6: **11.71 sec.** Photoshop CS5.1: **7 min. 23 sec.** Shorter is better.

Average result from 15 individual benchmarks, executing multiple distortions and corrections in the Liquify dialog box, with files ranging from 500MB to 1.2GB.

► **About the Benchmarks: How We Measure Productivity**

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About the Adobe CS6 Productivity Benchmarks

The productivity figures in this report are part of an extensive productivity benchmarking project commissioned by Adobe, in order to independently assess the productivity gains that CS6 applications can provide creative professionals.

Pfeiffer Consulting independently developed and executed the benchmarks presented here. The benchmarks were designed and executed by creative professionals.

How we design the benchmarks

The basic approach is simple: in order to assess productivity gains that a new release or a different product may (or may not) bring, we start by analyzing the minimum number of steps necessary to achieve a given result in each of the applications that have to be compared.

Once this list of actions has been clearly established, we start to execute the operation or workflow in each program, with the help of seasoned professionals who have long-standing experience in the field and with the programs that are tested.

In order to be certain that no lag or operator-induced delays are included in the productivity measures, each benchmarked example is cut down into small segments of three or four steps each. After an initial training phase, each segment is executed three times, and the average time is used as a result. The cumulative times for all segments that form a complete workflow example are then used as benchmark results.

How we prepare hardware for testing

We use factory-standard configuration hardware, that has been completely re-initialized prior to benchmarking. Only the system software and application software necessary for tests, as well as all required updates at the time of testing, are installed on the benchmark system. No peripherals other than the ones required for the benchmarks are connected.

Hardware

Benchmarks for this document were conducted on several different Mac and Windows workstations and notebook computers with 8-16 GB of RAM (see complete benchmark report for details.)

About Pfeiffer Consulting

Pfeiffer Consulting is an independent technology research institute and benchmarking operation focused on the needs of publishing, digital content production, and new media professionals.

Download the full Adobe CS6 Productivity Benchmark Report, as well as other benchmark reports and research studies at www.pfeifferreport.com.