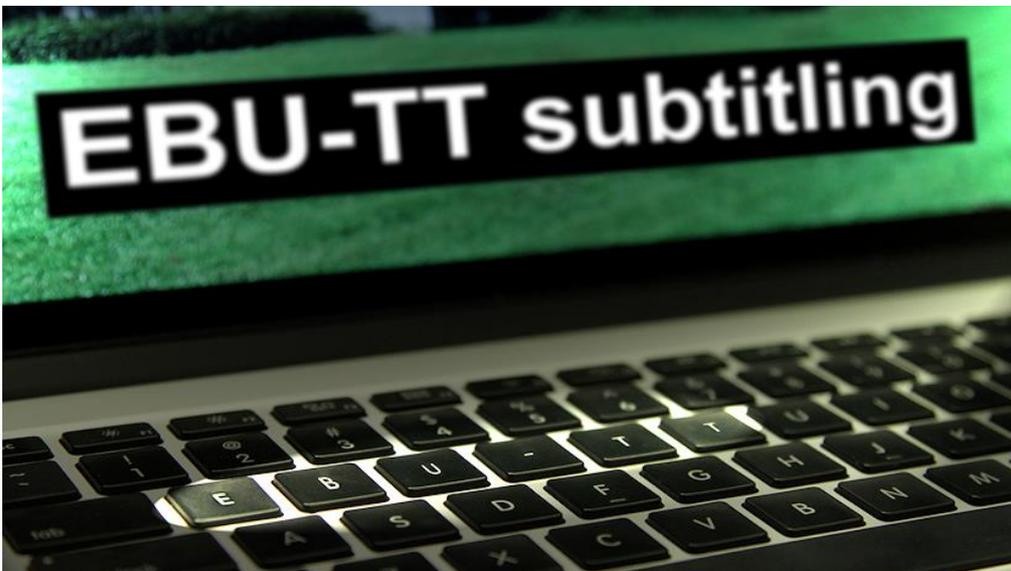


SUBTITLING

Access services such as subtitling help to make content available to more people and on more devices, increasing the reach of broadcast and online content. The formats used for creation and distribution are converging.



THE CHALLENGE

Subtitles need to be prepared for use on a wider variety of platforms and devices than ever, while production budgets and time-lines continue to be under pressure. At the same time, consumers increasingly expect to personalize the experience.

Many of the subtitling technologies in wide use today were created decades ago and never designed to meet today's demands. And some of these technologies are not based on open standards.

HOW THE EBU HELPS

By defining state-of-the-art formats for subtitling, the EBU helps its Members to adapt their subtitling workflows to the latest needs.

EBU-TT SUBTITLING FORMAT

The EBU has developed the following TTML-based subtitling specs:

- EBUTT- part 1 Archive & Exchange**
- EBU-TT part 2 Mapping of EBU STL to EBU-TT**
- EBU-TT Part 3 Contribution of live (and prepared) subtitles**
- EBU-TT part M Metadata**
- EBU-TT-D Distribution of subtitles over IP**

Carriage specs for WebSocket and ISOBMFF / MPEG-DASH have also been defined.

CONVERGENCE

Most of the technical innovations around subtitling formats are now converging on W3C IMSC, with the notable exception of W3C WebVTT, which is partly supported by browser vendors.

The new DVB TTML Subtitling specification – published by ETSI in May 2018 – references both EBU-TT-D and IMSC, effectively ensuring that broadcasters can provide subtitles using the simpler EBU-TT-D format whilst benefiting from the availability of IMSC compliant products.

ONGOING WORK

The EBU has defined several new [Quality Control Tests](#) for subtitling, helping production facilities to ensure that their files conform with relevant subtitling requirements. More QC Tests are being created.

The EBU Timed Text group now focusses on sharing practical experiences, e.g. to help broadcasters plan new facilities.

FIND OUT MORE

Links to all EBU activities, publications and open source resources:

EBU Subtitling work tech.ebu.ch/subtitling