



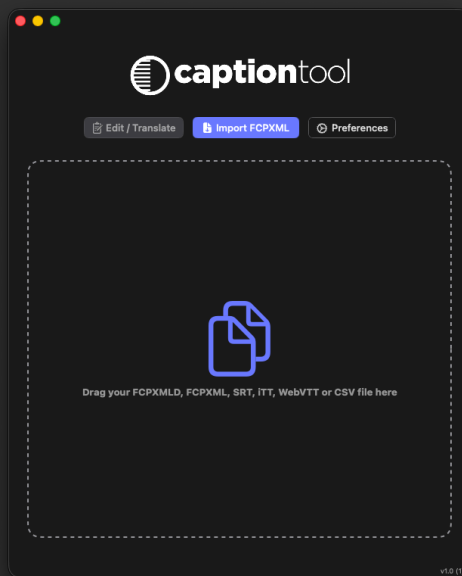
captiontool

User Manual

Version 1.0.1 — March 2026

Overview

CaptionTool is a macOS application designed to convert captions into titles and titles into captions for Final Cut Pro.



It provides advanced editing, AI-powered translation, styling, role management, template assignment, and multi-format export capabilities for professional subtitle workflows.

CaptionTool allows you to:

- Convert between subtitle standards (SRT, WebVTT, ITT)
- Transform captions into animated Final Cut titles
- Export subtitles as FCPXML
- Generate CSV files for spreadsheet-based collaboration
- Export plain text transcripts
- Apply custom Final Cut title templates
- Translate subtitles using multiple AI providers

CaptionTool acts as a bridge between subtitle workflows and motion graphics systems inside Final Cut Pro.

Release Notes — Version 1.0.1

Bug Fixes

Apple Translation — Large File Freeze

Resolved an issue where translation could stall when processing files with more than 40 entries.

Translation now supports stable multi-batch processing across large documents.

Language Pair Recognition

Fixed incorrect rejection of valid language pairs.

Regional variants such as “English (US)” and “English (UK)” are now correctly recognized across providers.

Improvements

Per-Provider Target Language

Each provider now maintains its own target language.

Switching providers automatically restores the last used language.

The Target Language option has been removed from Preferences and is now available directly in the Subtitle Editor.

Network Reliability

Increased timeout and added retry logic for network providers (OpenAI, Anthropic, DeepL, Gemini, LibreTranslate).

Apple Translation — UK Support

“English (UK)” and “English (British)” are now supported.

Supported Formats

Import

- Final Cut Pro XML (FCPXML/FCPXMLD)
- SRT
- WebVTT
- ITT

CaptionTool adapts its behavior depending on the imported file:

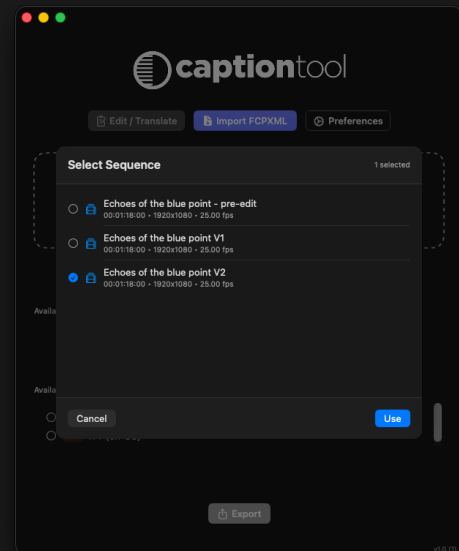
- SRT / ITT / WebVTT → only captions are detected
- FCPXML → both titles and captions are extracted

Content is automatically categorized into:

- Available Titles (grouped by roles)
- Available Captions

Export

- SRT
- WebVTT
- ITT
- FCPXML
- CSV
- TXT (Plain Text)



Importing an FCPXML File

To begin:

- Drag and drop an FCPXML file into the central drop zone.

If the XML file contains multiple Final Cut Pro Sequences, CaptionTool automatically detects them and prompts you to select the specific sequence you wish to process.

The XML must contain:

- One or more captions, or
- Titles assigned roles in Final Cut Pro.

For optimal workflow, it is strongly recommended to assign custom roles (and subroles) to titles inside Final Cut Pro. This allows precise filtering and selective processing inside CaptionTool.

After import, the application scans the XML and detects:

- All available title roles and subroles
- All available captions

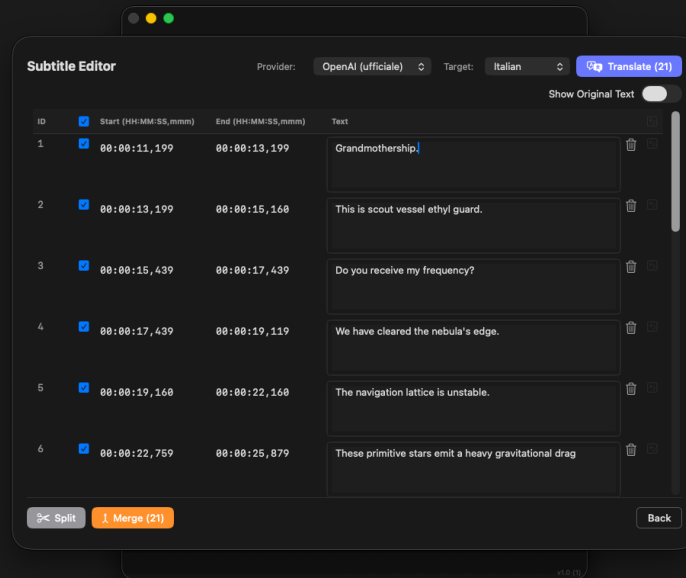
In the main window:

- Titles (grouped by roles/subroles) appear in the upper section.
- Captions appear in the lower section.

Select the desired category to proceed.

Edit & Translate (Subtitle Editor)

Click **Edit / Translate** to open the Subtitle Editor window.



Interface

The Subtitle Editor displays:

- Timecode In
- Timecode Out
- Text field for each line
- Delete button (removes the selected line)
- Revert button (resets a manually edited or translated line to its original imported state)

Timecodes are preserved throughout the workflow and remain intact during export, ensuring perfect synchronization when reimported into Final Cut Pro.

Editing Features

You can:

- Edit text directly inside each text field
- Delete individual lines
- Merge multiple selected lines into one
- Split a long subtitle into two

Merge

When merging:

- The new subtitle uses the **In timecode of the first line**
- The **Out timecode of the last line**
- Text is combined into a single entry

Split

When splitting:

- The subtitle is divided into two entries
- The original timing structure is preserved

Selecting Lines

Each subtitle includes a checkmark, allowing you to:

- Select individual lines
- Select multiple lines
- Translate only specific sections instead of the entire file

Translation System

Context-Based Translation Logic

CaptionTool uses a context-aware translation logic.

All supported models operate using a **sliding window approach**. Each subtitle line is translated considering:

- The previous line
- The current line
- The following line

This context-based strategy improves semantic accuracy and coherence, depending on the capabilities of the selected model.

Note on Translation Quality

The accuracy, and stylistic characteristics of translations depend entirely on the selected AI provider and its underlying model.

CaptionTool functions as a translation interface and workflow manager; it does not alter, reinterpret, or enhance the output generated by the provider. Variations in fluency, terminology, tone, or contextual understanding are determined by the capabilities and configuration of the chosen translation service.

Provider Selection

The **Provider** menu lists AI translation services configured in Preferences.

Default provider:

- Apple Translation (native, free, no configuration required)

Additional providers may include:

- DeepL
- Gemini
- Anthropic Claude

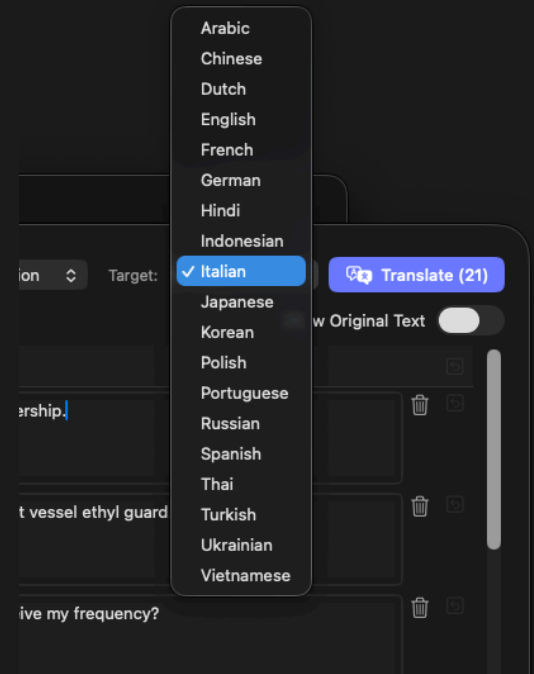
- LibreTranslate

Some providers require an API key, which must be generated externally and configured in Preferences.

Target Language

The **Target** menu displays available languages. The available languages depend on the selected provider.

Each provider stores its own target language independently.



5.4 Translation Process

The Translate button:

- Displays the number of selected lines
- Starts translation for selected subtitles only

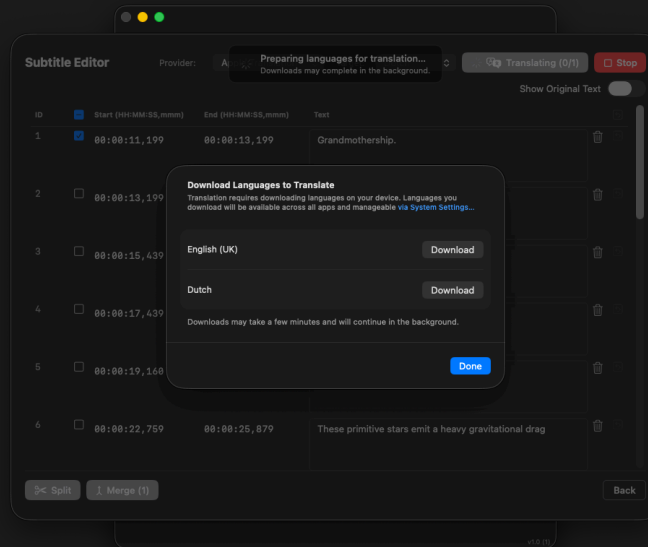
Different providers can be tested on the same lines to improve translation quality.

Apple Translation Warning

When using Apple Translation, if the selected target language has not yet been downloaded in macOS, the system will display a warning dialog requesting permission to download both the source and the target language models — even if the source language was already installed.

This behavior is generated directly by the operating system and is normal when invoking Apple Translation within third-party applications. It does not indicate an error and is required to ensure that the translation engine has full access to the necessary language resources.

NOTE: This behavior applies only to Apple Translation.

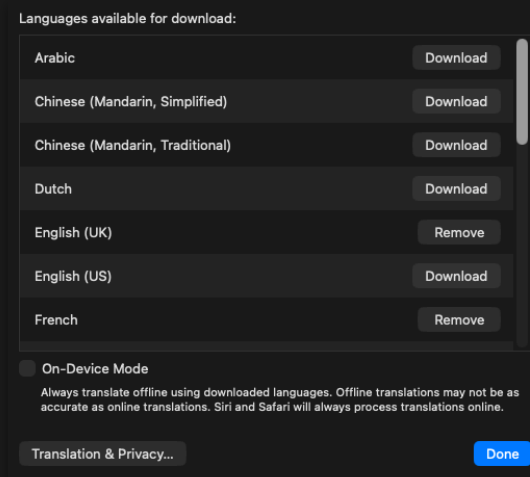


Manual Language Download for Apple Translation

If preferred, users can manually download or manage Apple Translation languages directly from macOS.

Go to:

System Settings → General → Translation Languages



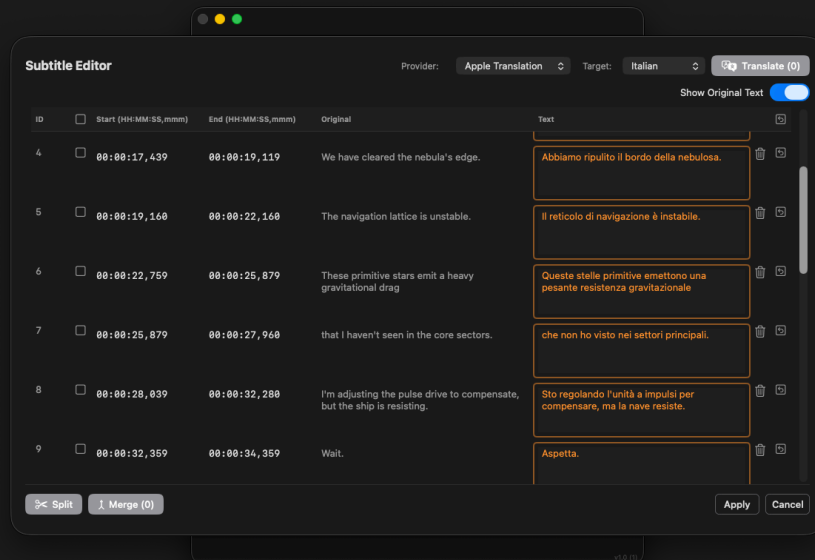
From there, you can download, remove, or update available language models in advance, ensuring that no system prompt appears when Apple Translation is invoked within the application.

Show Original Text

When enabled:

- The window expands
- Both original and translated text are displayed side-by-side

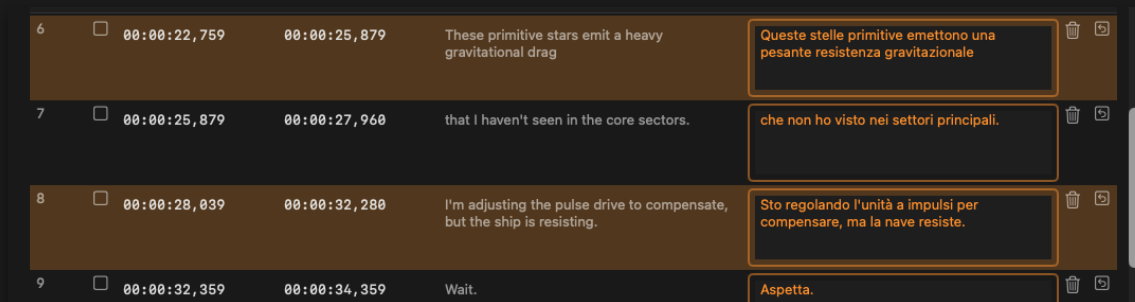
This feature is useful for translation verification and quality control.



Long Line Warning System

If the **Warn for long lines** option is enabled in Preferences:

- After translation, the application analyzes subtitle length





- If a subtitle exceeds the defined character limit, it is highlighted in red

*The red highlight appears **only after translation**, helping identify subtitles that may have become too long due to language expansion.*

Preferences

Accessed via the **Preferences** button.

The Preferences window includes:

-  **Import** button (load saved configuration)
-  **Export** button (save configuration for backup or transfer)

Designed for moving settings between computers or sharing provider configurations with collaborators.

Long Line Warning

Enables automatic post-translation line length analysis with red highlight.

AI Provider Management

You can:

- Add providers using “Add from Preset”
- Edit provider settings
- Remove providers

For API-based providers, configuration includes:

- Provider name
- Provider type
- API URL
- Endpoint path
- API key (securely stored)

Usage limits depend on the provider’s subscription plan.

Export Options Overview

Click **Export** to open the Export Options window.

Six export formats are available:

- SRT
- WebVTT
- ITT
- FCPXML
- CSV
- TXT (Plain Text)

Timecode Positioning: Absolute vs Relative to Timeline

In SRT, WebVTT, ITT, and CSV exports, you can choose between:

- **Relative to Timeline**
- **Absolute**

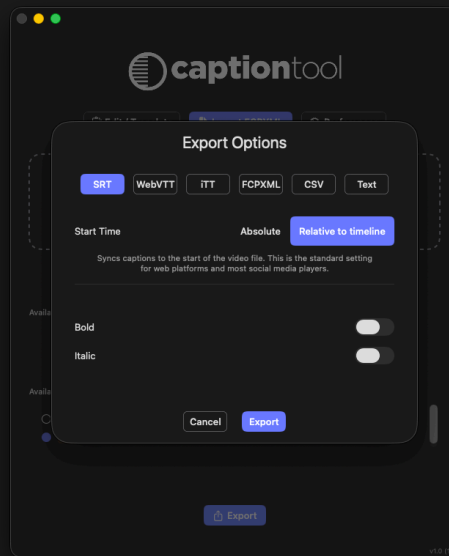
- **Relative to Timeline:** Positions captions in the timeline by adding the project's start time to each caption's start time.
- **Absolute:** Positions captions in the timeline at each caption's start time, regardless of the project's start time.

This is a Final Cut Pro insertion setting used when exporting or importing caption files.

According to Final Cut Pro:

This setting ensures proper synchronization depending on how captions are intended to be reimported.

Export as SRT

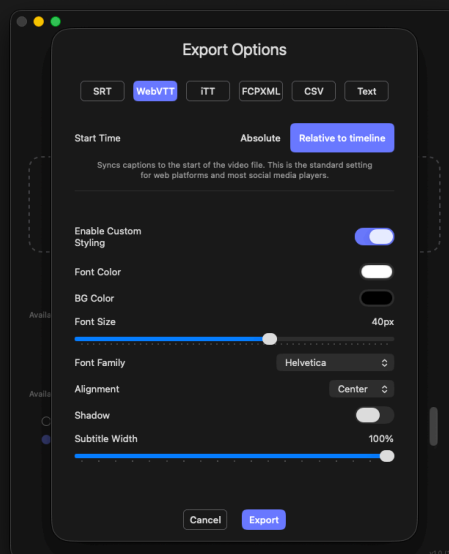


Options:

- Absolute or Relative to Timeline timecode positioning
- Bold
- Italic

Note: Styling compatibility depends on the importing application.

Export as WebVTT



Options:

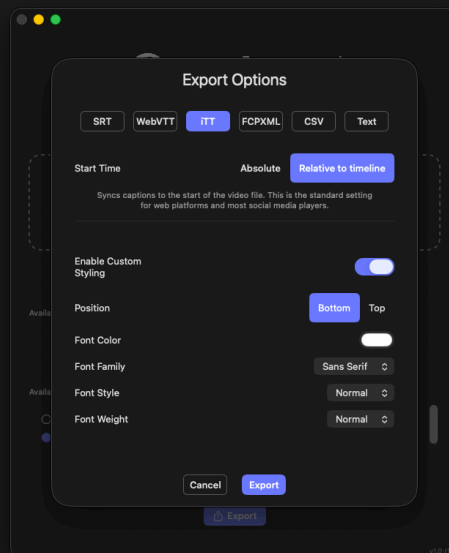
- Absolute or Relative to Timeline timecode positioning
- Enable Custom Styling

Custom styling includes:

- Font color
- Background color
- Font size
- Font family
- Text alignment
- Shadow

All styling parameters are embedded in the file.

Export as ITT



Options:

- Absolute or Relative to Timeline timecode positioning
- Enable Custom Styling

Custom styling includes:

- Position (Top / Bottom)
- Font color
- Font family (Serif / Sans-serif)
- Italic
- Font weight (Normal / Bold)

Export as FCPXML

This feature enables the conversion of subtitle tracks into fully animated title systems for social media, broadcast, and branded content.

This is the core feature of CaptionTool.

Unlike standard subtitle export, FCPXML export transforms static subtitle data (captions or titles) into fully structured Final Cut Pro title clips, enabling the creation of complete animated title sequences directly inside the timeline.

Instead of simply converting formats, CaptionTool reinterprets subtitle data as editable, animatable title elements within Final Cut Pro.

This process is not a simple export operation.

CaptionTool reconstructs subtitle data as a sequence of native Final Cut Pro title clips, enabling full integration with the editing and motion graphics workflow.

How It Works

Each subtitle line is converted into a Final Cut Pro title clip while preserving:

- Timing (In/Out)
- Text content
- Timeline structure

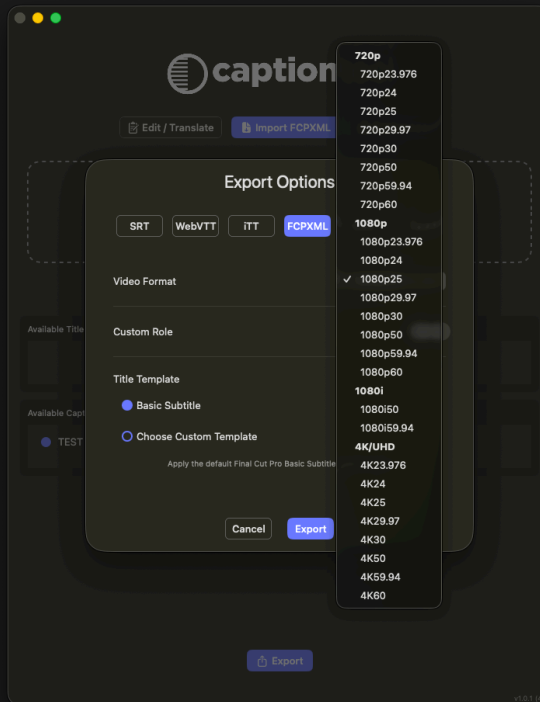
Each subtitle text is mapped to the corresponding text parameter of the selected Final Cut Pro template.

This allows you to generate entire title sequences from subtitle files in a single operation.

Video Format Settings

You can define:

- Resolution
- Frame rate
- Aspect ratio



This is particularly useful when working across different delivery formats.

Example:

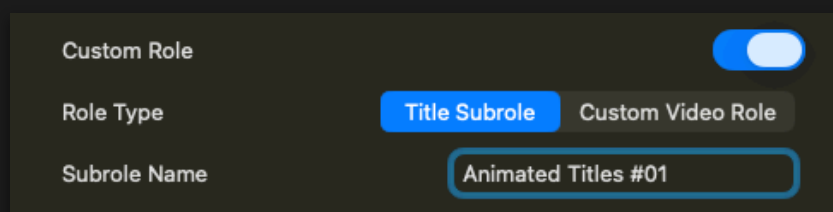
Generate titles from a 4K project and adapt them for an HD timeline.

Role and Subrole Assignment

CaptionTool allows assigning custom roles and subroles to generated titles.

This is essential for professional workflows:

- Prevents all titles from being grouped under the default “Title” role
- Keeps timelines clean and organized
- Enables filtering inside Final Cut Pro

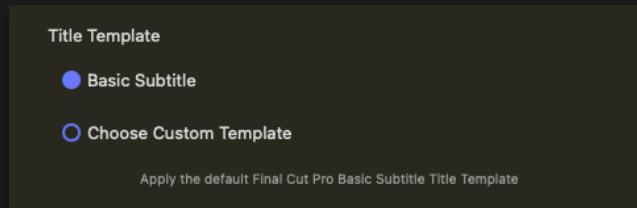


Title Template System (Key Concept)

The real power of FCPXML export lies in the Template System.

CaptionTool does not generate generic titles — it applies real Final Cut Pro templates to your subtitle data.

Basic Title



When selecting **Basic Title**:

- All subtitles are converted into standard Final Cut titles
- No styling or animation is applied
- Titles are centered and unformatted

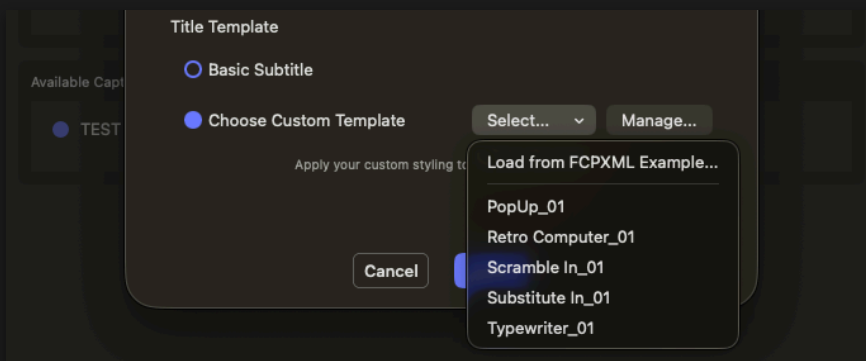
Use this mode when:

- You want to style titles manually inside Final Cut
- You need a clean, editable base

Custom Template (Advanced Workflow)

When selecting **Custom Template**, CaptionTool applies a predefined Final Cut Pro title template to every subtitle line.

This allows transforming static subtitles into fully animated motion graphics.



Template Learning Workflow

CaptionTool “learns” a template through an FCPXML import:

1. Create a new Final Cut Pro project
2. Place a single title template in the timeline
3. Export the project as FCPXML
4. Import the XML into CaptionTool

The application analyzes the title and stores it as a reusable template.

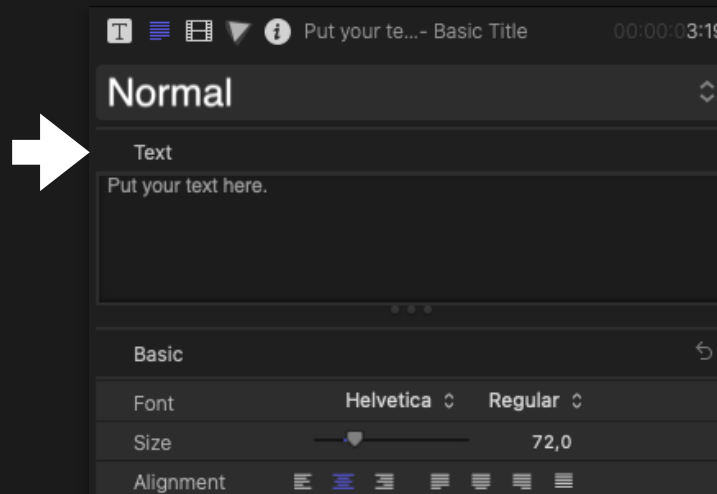
⚠ Template Requirement (IMPORTANT)

For a template to work correctly:

The text field inside the Final Cut Pro template must be named exactly:

"Text"

This is required for CaptionTool to correctly map subtitle content to the template.



If the parameter is named differently, CaptionTool will not be able to map subtitle content correctly.

What Happens During Export

When exporting:

- Each subtitle becomes a title instance

- The template is duplicated across all entries
- The text is injected into the template
- Animation, layout, and styling are inherited automatically

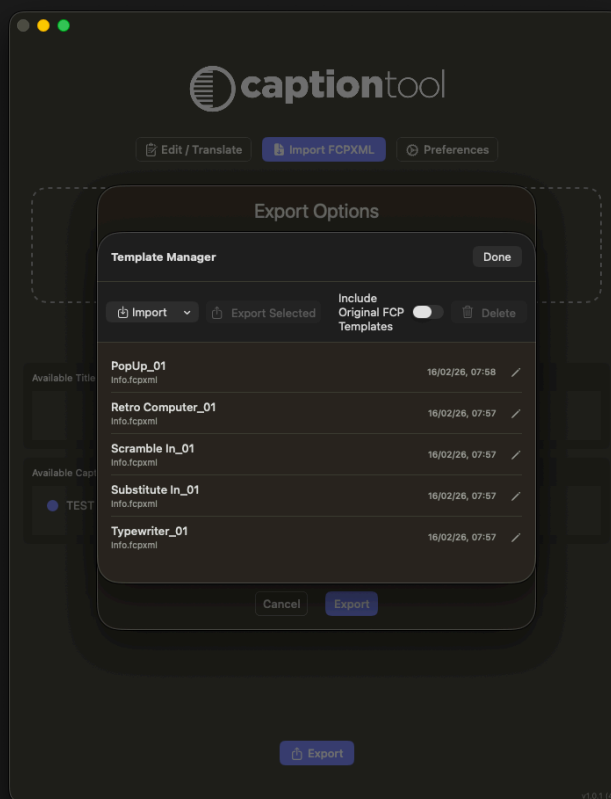
Result:

A fully animated title sequence generated from subtitle data

Template Manager

The Template Manager allows:

- Importing templates
- Exporting templates
- Sharing templates across machines



Include Original FCP Template

When enabled:

- CaptionTool finds the original template files from Final Cut
- Embeds them into the export package

Used for:

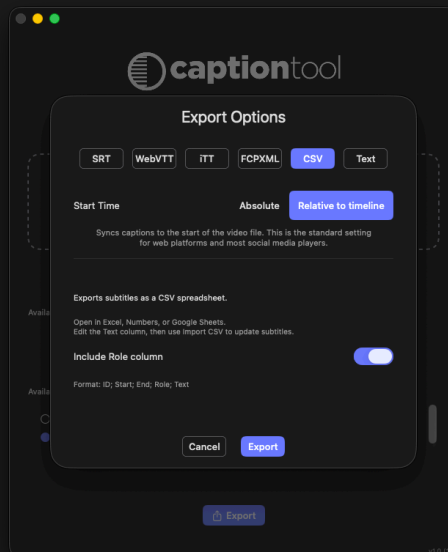
- Moving templates between machines
- Sharing templates with collaborators
- Preserving compatibility

Real-World Use Case

This workflow is particularly useful when:

- Converting subtitles into branded motion graphics
- Creating social media captions with animation
- Generating title sequences from transcripts
- Automating repetitive title creation

Export as CSV



CSV export generates:

- Timecode In column
- Timecode Out column
- Text column
- Optional Role column

Timecode positioning can be set to Absolute or Relative to Timeline (Final Cut Pro caption insertion setting).

Reimport Behavior

When reimporting a CSV:

- If CaptionTool has not been closed and has not loaded another XML file, the app detects modifications and updates only the edited lines.
- If the app has been closed or used with another XML, the CSV will be reloaded entirely and all rows will be refreshed.

This ensures safe synchronization while maintaining workflow consistency.

Export as Plain Text

Generates a simple text file containing all subtitle text without timecodes.

Use cases:

- Context-based translation review
- Producer reference
- Editorial analysis

Plain text export cannot be reimported because timecode linkage is removed.

Conclusion

CaptionTool is a professional subtitle management and conversion system designed specifically for Final Cut Pro workflows.

It combines:

- Advanced format conversion
- Context-aware AI translation
- Subtitle editing and refinement
- Visual length validation
- Role and subrole management
- Template-based title animation
- Spreadsheet collaboration
- Accurate timecode synchronization

The application is engineered to simplify complex subtitle workflows while maintaining full technical precision and professional control.

Technical Specifications

- **System Requirements:** Requires macOS 15.5 or later.
- **Architecture:** Fully optimized for Apple Silicon and Intel-based Mac systems.
- **Final Cut Pro Compatibility:** Designed for projects created with **Final Cut Pro 11.1** and earlier supporting **FCPXML** up to version **1.13**.

App Store & Privacy

- **Sandboxing & Security:** Caption Tool Pro operates within the macOS sandbox environment to ensure maximum system security. The app only accesses FCPXML files explicitly opened or dropped by the user and does not collect or transmit any project data.
- **Licensing:** Your purchase is tied to your **Apple ID**. You can restore or install Caption Tool Pro on any Mac authorized with your account via the Mac App Store "Purchased" tab.

Customer Support

- **Feature Requests & Bug Reports:** We are committed to constant improvement. For technical support or to suggest new features for future updates, please visit marcobucci.eu or contact me directly via the support link on the App Store page.

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