

## BACK-VERSIONING PREMIERE PROJECT FILES

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If you create a Premiere project in the latest version and then need to open it in a previous one (say, for example a Premiere-CC-2019 project to open in Premiere-CC-2018) this is possible but, potentially, a little more difficult than it used to be. A common cause of this problem is using a free student trial of Adobe Creative Cloud and downloading a version that is newer than that installed at university (although when you install Adobe CC on your own computer, it is possible – and you should – install older versions that are installed at university). In the past, Premiere projects were simple uncompressed XML files with the given extension ‘.prproj’. In fact, they still are XML files today but are now compressed (in GZIP format). However, thanks to a coder named Josh Cluderay, there is a quick and easy method to solve the issue...

### A) The Easy Way

As at time of writing, the following link will convert your project to a ‘version 1’ format:

<http://joshcluderay.com/downgrade-premiere-project-converter/>

You’ll be prompted to give a new filename and you can then open that in any version of Premiere. When you open it, Premiere will recognise it as an older version and ask you to confirm that you want to import it to whatever current version you are using. Hit yes and then save your new (back-versioned) project.

### B) The Standard Method

This is how you do it if the above link no longer works. It is probably best to do this on a copy of your project file, leaving the original alone...

#### Stage 1: Uncompressing your Premiere Project and opening the XML to edit

##### *On Macs*

This is less of a problem on the Mac using **TextWrangler** which can read/edit/save compressed premiere project files. You can edit the XML in TextWrangler making the changes that are required before opening your project in a previous version (see below).

##### *On PCs*

There is no text/xml editor freely available that I have discovered that will allow you to open, edit and save the compressed XML on the PC. For that reason, you need to use **7-zip** (download from [www.7-zip.org](http://www.7-zip.org)) which is free and can uncompress the .prproj file. Simply retrieve the XML file from within the premiere project file using 7-zip, before editing the uncompressed version you create. The other software you need is **notepad++**, a free text editor that enables you to read/edit XML in its structured format. Note that you will need to do all this on a privately owned PC – you cannot choose to install software on university computers. If this is a problem, contact the Watts Tech team or Kevin Reynolds if you are a Media Studies/MEC/MII student at Watts.

## Stage 2: Edit the XML

Now, either in TextWrangler on the Mac, or in Notepad++ on the PC, edit the fourth line of XML so that the Version is set to "1".

### *Example before:*

```
<Project ObjectID="1" ClassID="62ad66dd-0dcd-42da-a660-6d8fbde94876"  
Version="32">
```

### *Example after:*

```
<Project ObjectID="1" ClassID="62ad66dd-0dcd-42da-a660-6d8fbde94876"  
Version="1">
```

## Stage 3: Re-compress the edited XML file (on the PC only)

If you're on the Mac, your conversion is done – you have edited and saved a compressed file. If you are on the PC you now need to compress the edited file using 7-zip. Make sure you use the 'gzip' format and create your new Premiere Project file, giving it the extension '.prproj'.

## Stage 4: Open in Premiere and Convert to current version

Now open your edited file in Premiere, which will recognise it as an older version and ask you to confirm that you want to import it to whatever current version you are using. Hit yes and then save your new (back-versioned) project. Problem solved!

A big thanks to 'nmu' on stackexchange for this solution:

<https://video.stackexchange.com/questions/3804/how-do-i-downgrade-an-adobe-premiere-project-file-to-open-in-older-version/21365>

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