

HIERO 1.0

Manage shots with a scriptable timeline for a collaborative VFX workflow.



HIERO enables VFX artists to manage shots more effectively by conforming them into a timeline, playing back, and then forwarding on to [NUKE](#) artists. Results can be versioned and automatically imported back into the timeline for review.

Because it's scriptable via the Python programming language, HIERO is a pipeline editorial tool that can be made to fit in with your VFX workflow. It does the tedious bits so you don't have to!

Conform your timeline with intuitive tools

HIERO conforms XML and EDLs into a multi-resolution, multi-track timeline, including audio. Its tools help take the pain out of the conform process, alongside standard editing features.

Make life easy with the sophisticated, session-wide spreadsheet view which can be called upon at any time, a side-by-side comparison of your timeline against an offline and extensive metadata to inspect at any point in the conform process.

Playback any media that [NUKE](#) can read

HIERO shares image reading functionality with NUKE so both applications can read the same formats in the same way. HIERO has no dedicated frame

store, it 'soft imports' all your media. Smoothness of playback is hardware dependent, but given fast enough hardware (which you choose), HIERO will playback your footage including synchronized sound.

Send your shots to VFX

Shots in your timeline are exported to VFX artists based on a template you define. Select a master track to guide the break down and export any additional tracks you want from the timeline.

HIERO then follows your timeline and, for each shot, creates sets of folders on disk where it puts the media (with handles). You can tell it where to expect finished shots to be rendered so it can generate a NUKE project all wired up to those inputs and outputs. As part of the export process you can force a transcode of media, a simple copy of it or quick and light symbolic links back to the original files to save export time and disk space.

Reading and writing industry standard image file formats on standard file systems means HIERO can cooperate with any other application you need to get the job done.



Automatically ingest VFX shots

Because your export template tells HIERO where to expect the results from VFX, HIERO can make a new clip per shot pointing to that result. These clips are placed in a new "VFX" track on the timeline. When the results are eventually rendered, and because all shots are soft imported, they immediately appear and can be played back.

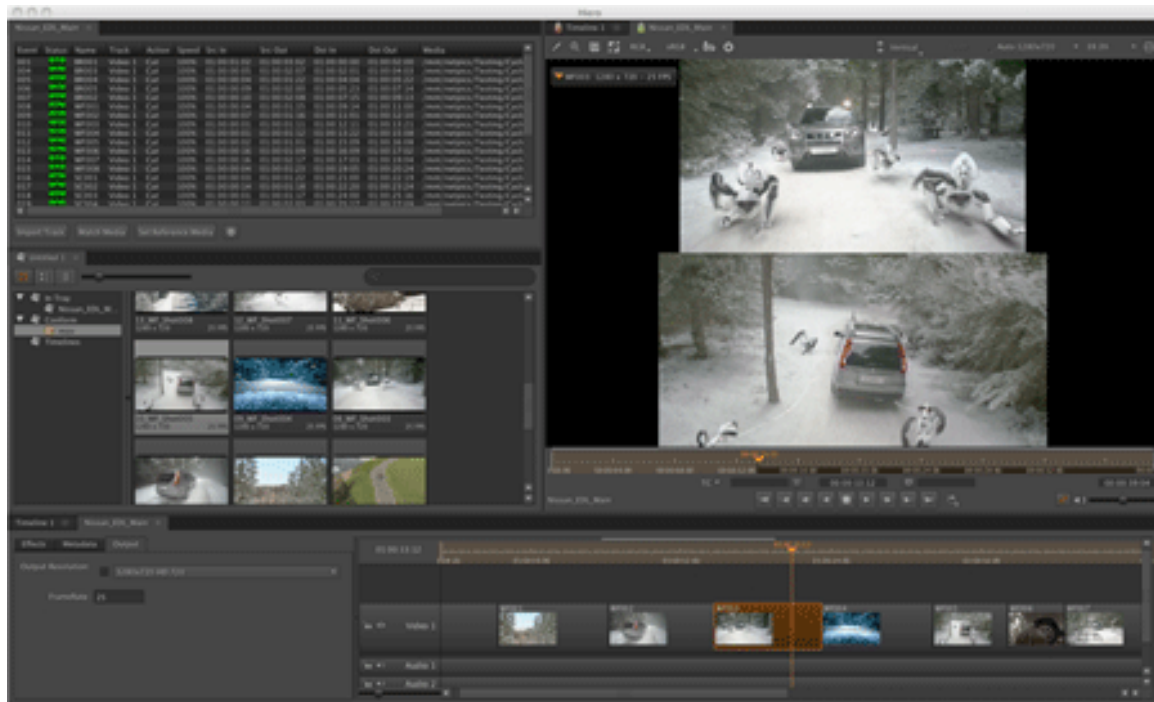
Manage your shots

Each clip in HIERO is not a single clip of real media, but rather it can be one of many different clips of real media on disk. We call each of these alternatives "takes". When you place a clip on the timeline, you can quickly and interactively swap between available takes.

HIERO can scan for new iterations of VFX renders and ingest them as different takes on a single clip. This lets you rapidly swap versions in a timeline for review.

Manage your timelines

Timelines can be check-pointed as your work progresses, making a complete copy labeled with a timestamp and comment. We call these "snapshots" and you can easily see which snapshots are available, restore your timeline to a previous snapshot, or even put two different snapshots into a viewer, to play them back side by side and examine the differences.



Deliver EDLS, XMLs, selects or entire timelines

When VFX is complete and your work is ready for the next stage, you can deliver it in multiple ways. If you need to send work to an in-house finishing system, you could bake out EDLs or XMLs which point to the finished shots on your network. The painful conform has already been done in HIERO, leading to a very simple re-conform in your finishing system.

If you need to send the shots to be finished elsewhere, HIERO can bake-out EDLs or XMLs plus media selects (with handles) from the timeline. Alternatively, you could simply bake out the entire timeline as a single clip in

your required delivery format.

Colour manage your footage

Along with [MARI](#) (and on the roadmap for [NUKE](#)) HIERO uses OpenColorIO, the open source colour management framework from Sony Picture Imageworks. It allows you to specify exactly how colour should be managed from file to screen.

Script HIERO any way you want

By providing a comprehensive set of Python APIs that link deep into HIERO, you can make it work in the way that best suits you. We provide a rich set of hooks for each stage so you can execute your own Python code at any point in the conform, ingest or export processes.

If that isn't enough, you can even create your own user interface via the PySide library. The included Python APIs also give you direct access to the projects, timelines and clips in HIERO so you can manipulate shots and timelines however you need.

HIERO is a shot management system

Because HIERO has no image processing apart from what is needed to play back a multi-resolution timeline (reformatting, colour management and transitions), it is currently not suited for work as a finishing, grading or visual effects system in it's own right. It is a shot management system for VFX that integrates brilliantly with today's open, collaborative pipelines.

Platforms

HIERO 1.0 works with MacOS (10.6) and Linux (specific OS details to follow). It needs a recent GPU, but is otherwise hardware independent.

Further details will follow shortly.

Backed by The Foundry

HIERO has an aggressive development schedule. In upcoming releases it will support Microsoft Windows, multi-channel images, localised caching for optimised playback, stereo imagery and more.

A tool for professionals

We built HIERO based on what users told us were the missing tools in their VFX workflow. Drop HIERO and [NUKE](#) into your pipeline, and use a tuneable tool designed for day-to-day shot management, versioning and review to significantly improve turnaround.

Liberate your finishing systems! Stop using inappropriate tools, such as finishing systems, for these basic tasks and free them up to do what they do best - finishing.

What's being said about HIERO?

"We love that The Foundry are developing a product as sophisticated as HIERO. The flexibility, ease of use and integration into our pipeline will increase our output, allowing even more jobs to pass through our facility. The Foundry has yet again come up with a solution that will benefit the post production community."

Tony Lawrence, Head of 2D, Smoke and Mirrors

Our loyal Twitter followers...

"Just watched the [#Hiero](#) demo—loving its file-handling philosophy and resolution independence."

"Hiero looks like it might solve many long standing problems. Looking forward to checking it out a lot!"

"HIERO looks awesome, just what we need!"

"It kicks ass that [@TheFoundryVFX](#) drives the industry forward with tools that embrace extensibility through openness. [#HIERO](#)"

"[@TheFoundryVFX](#). Hiero looks great! Just what is needed in both boutique and high-end post facilities. Looking forward to help rolling it out"

"Very excited about HIERO by [@TheFoundryVFX](#) - The missing piece of the pipeline puzzle."

"[@TheFoundryVFX](#) Hiero looks amazing, really looking forward to getting to play with it, will be perfect for our workflow at Media City!"

"[@TheFoundryVFX](#) your HIERO looks like it will make my life a lot easier, it fills a huge workflow gap. I can't wait to get hands on."