

Contents:

[Introduction](#)

[Overview](#)

[Installing](#)

[Basic use](#)

[Advanced Use](#)

[Known Issues](#)

[Support](#)

Introduction

If you create a presentation in, for example 4:3 aspect and then need to show it on a different screen ratio – maybe a wide screen laptop or monitor – you will find that conversion is not simple!

Unless your presentation is simple text using the Page set Up feature built into PowerPoint® will distort every image and shape. They will become unusable and worst case scenario you might cause that beach shot of your girlfriend to make her look fatter!

Manually your only option is to create a new presentation in the required format and laboriously copy / paste everything over and then resize and reposition everything and then Really it's not a feasible option!

ASPECTS was designed to solve this problem. Without changing your original (always best to work on a copy though!) it rebuilds your presentation using XML and uses intelligent algorithms to scale and position everything. The algorithm is based on extensive research

into how people use PowerPoint® and is likely to produce a useable presentation with one click in seconds. If it's not EXACTLY what you need it will usually be simple to manually modify or you may want to use the advanced options it offers to adapt the algorithm to better suit your personal methods. ([see advanced use](#)) We cannot guarantee the exact result you need but it should be close.

Overview

ASPECTS requires PowerPoint® 2007 or 2010 on a Windows based PC. It will not work in earlier versions or on Macs.

ONLY the built in 4:3, 16:10 and 16:9 aspect ratios in Landscape format are supported. These are the most commonly used formats.

Any other format will not complete. Because Letter and Leger paper LANDSCAPE has a 4:3 aspect you MAY get an acceptable result by changing to 4:3 Slide Show using the standard Page Set Up button and then converting.

We recommend starting with a .pptx file. If you start with a legacy .ppt file it will be converted to the newer format (you can manually resave in the legacy format but there may be minor changes). Because of a bug in 2010 .pptm and .ppsm macro enabled files are not supported. See advanced use for a workaround.

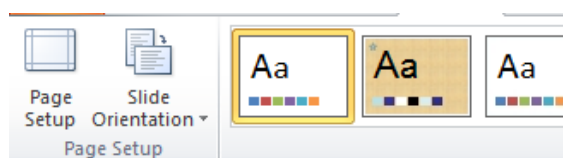
Read Only files are not supported.

Installing

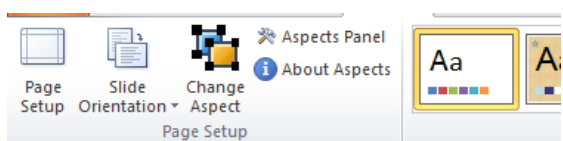
To install simply run the msi file. You must have a live internet connection when installing and when prompted for a serial enter the download password you were given (this has 17 characters).

If the connection to our server is blocked by your security settings please contact by email (john@pptalchemistry.co.uk) .

When the installation completes open PowerPoint® and check that the DESIGN tab has changed.



Original Tab



New Tab

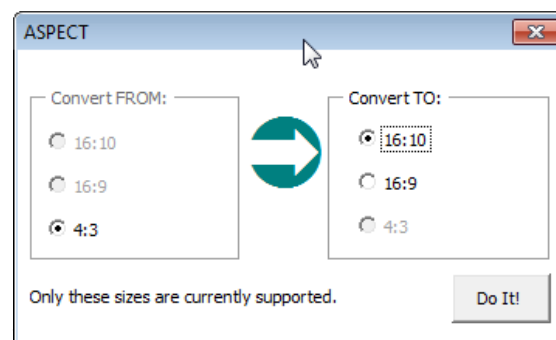
We recommend that the installer has Administrator privileges though the installation should complete with most standard users (you may of course have local security settings).

Basic Use

In most cases you do not need to alter any settings and ASPECTS will reformat your presentation “out of the box” and give useable results.

Open the presentation to be changed (we strongly suggest using a copy!) and click the new “Change Aspect” button in the DESIGN tab.

This dialog will open:



Choose the required format and click “Do It!”.

In a few seconds the new presentation is created. Sometimes it will help to select a slide or slides and click “Reset” at this point. If it does not help, press Ctrl Z **once only** to undo. Pressing more often will step back in the conversion algorithm and should be avoided.

Note that a saved copy will be created with a name similar to “16_9_presname” in the same folder as the original. This copy is NOT removed if you choose not to save again. If an attempt to improve the converted presentation fails you may wish to open this saved copy for a second try!

You may wish to manually remove after saving with a new name.

If you used one of the built in or another professional theme in your presentation it may be better to reapply it now to the converted file.

NOTE: The new modified “In use” template will appear in the design tab. If you wish to reapply the original template make sure that you locate the original and not the modified template. The modified template is normally first in the list.

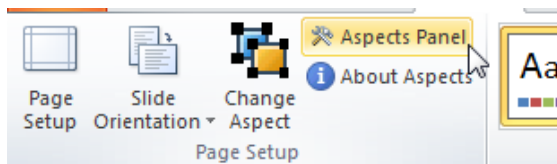
Features in this mode:

1. A new master is created. If the original had multiple masters they will all be recreated.
2. Images are rescaled and positioned with no distortion.
3. Shapes are rescaled and repositioned with no distortion.
4. Image backgrounds on Master or slide are cropped to prevent distortion.
5. Full slide images are detected and cropped to prevent distortion.
6. If you have used PICTURE placeholders they will resize but without distortion.

In most cases this is the only mode needed!

Advanced Use

Clicking the 'Aspect Panel' button will give you access to the advanced mode.

A screenshot of a dialog box with two main sections: 'Background Image' and 'Full Screen Image'. Each section has three radio button options: 'Centre crop' (selected), 'Custom crop', and 'Disable (distortion)'. To the right of each section is a 'Crop Ratio' slider set to 50. Below these sections are five checkboxes: 'Turn OFF detect shapes right slide', 'Turn OFF detect shapes left slide', 'Picture Placeholders stretch', 'Turn ON detect top aligned full width shapes', and 'Turn ON detect bottom aligned full width shapes'. At the bottom right is an 'OK' button. A copyright notice 'All code © Technology Irish Ltd 2011' is at the bottom.

Option 1

Control Picture Background cropping.

If you have a picture background in basic mode it will crop equally from the top and bottom (or in some cases left and right). If you need to retain either the top or bottom of the image you can alter this by selecting "Custom Crop" in the Background dialog and moving the slider.

Example: Setting the slider to 10% top and 90% bottom will crop only 10% from the top and most from the bottom of the background image. This is a global setting, it is not possible to set it for individual backgrounds.

There is no control over left and right crop which is normally minor.

You may disable the crop completely but this will cause some distortion.

If you used a built in or professional theme you may try reapplying the theme at this stage. Make sure you reapply the original template and not the master modified by ASPECTS which is usually shown first in the ribbon.

Option 2

Control Full Slide Image Picture cropping.

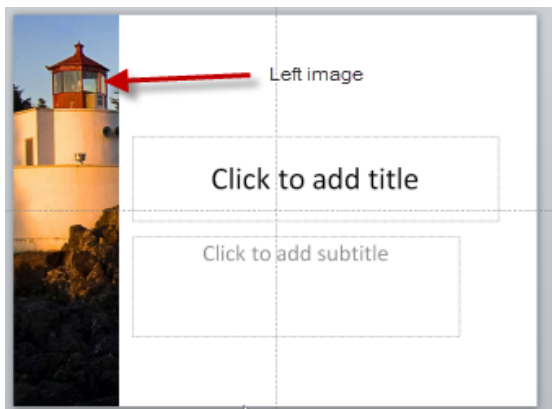
This works in exactly the same way but alters the cropping of images that are full slide size and sent to back rather than set as background. This setting does not have to be the same as the global background setting.

NOTE: the program will only detect full slide images if they are **exactly** full slide size. Images that are larger than the slide are NOT detected.

Option 3

Edge Detection On/Off

We found that a common practice was to have images / shapes at the left or right edge of the slide as part of the design.



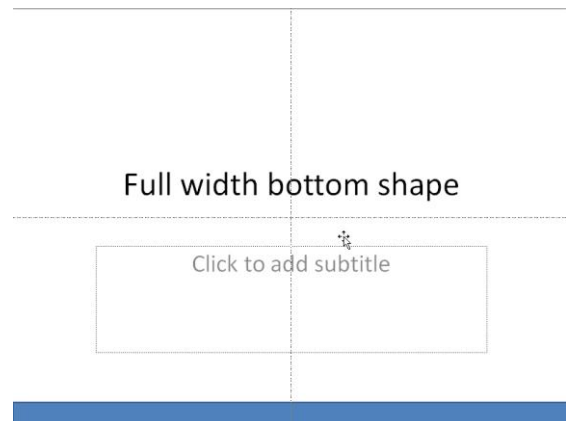
If they are exactly aligned with an edge by default ASPECTS tries to re-align with L & R edges in the converted presentation. If you do not want this to happen you can disable either or both alignments.

FULL WIDTH shapes aligned with the top or bottom of the slide can also be detected and

the alignment retained. This setting can be turned OFF in the Aspects panel if necessary.

NOTE: Full Width shapes will ONLY be detected if they are exactly full width.

All of these settings are global, they cannot be adjusted for individual slides.

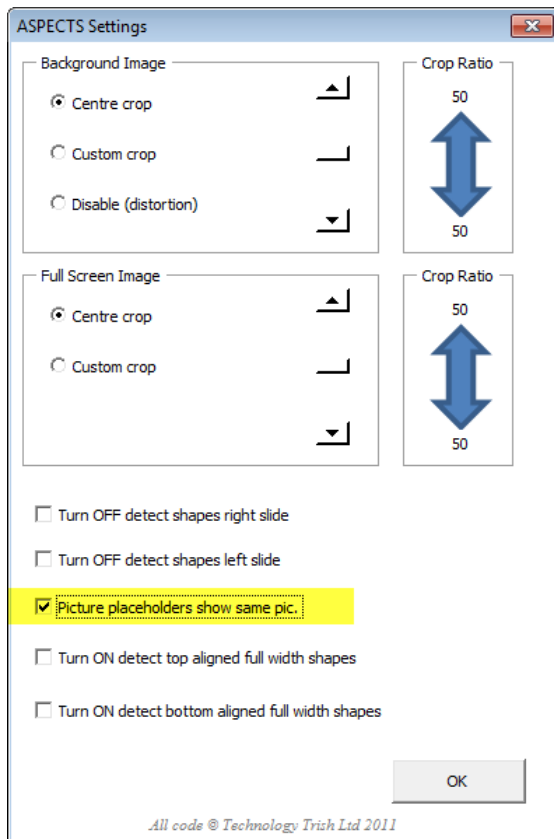


Option 4

Picture Placeholders

Picture placeholders are a great feature but are not often used.

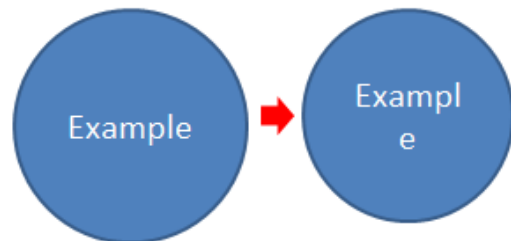
By default these are resized to suit the new format. This means that although the picture is still undistorted it will be cropped and will show more or less of the image than the original. If you want the image shown to be the same as the original you can select this option "Picture Placeholders –show same pic". Where this is possible the algorithm will attempt to keep the picture the same (accounting for any crop values added).



WARNING: -Selecting this option if you are converting a wide screen slide to a narrower aspect can cause overlapping placeholders or off slide content. In these cases you may need to make manual adjustments to the master and then select the slide and press Reset (Reset is found on the HOME tab).

Known Issues

1. Shapes / object which are vertically aligned and not the same width will be misaligned in the converted presentation. This is unavoidable. You can either make manual adjustments OR group the objects before conversion (NOTE animation will lost if you group).
2. When converting from wide format to less wide (especially 16:9 to 4:3) some very wide objects may move off slide or overlap. You will need to make manual adjustments after conversion.
3. In a very few cases shapes with text may wrap words onto two lines. You can resize the shape or the font size to fix this.



4. A bug in PowerPoint 2010 causes a crash if you create a macro enabled file from XML with ASPECTS. There is no current fix. We suggest that you export the code modules , save as .pptx, convert and then import the code to the new presentation. While this bug does not affect 2007 this is still the recommended method.

There's a video of this technique [here](#)

Support

Email john@pptalchemy.co.uk