PRE FLIGHT CHECKLIST

DT Videolabs
For macOS Sierra (10.12)

□ **1** **Unmirror the displays**

□ **2** **Uncheck Displays have separate spaces**

□ **3** **Turn off screen saver**

□ **4** **Adjust Energy Saver sleep settings**

□ **5** **Uncheck Automatic Graphics Switching**

□ **6** **Turn off system audio sounds**

□ **7** **Disconnect from the internet**

□ **8** **Turn off Bluetooth**

□ **9** **Turn off automatic updates**

□ **10** **Turn off TimeMachine**

□ **11** **Disable Spotlight indexing**

□ **12** **Disable FileVault**

□ **13** **Stop unnecessary apps from loading on startup**

□ **14** **Disable Desktop and Documents iCloud syncing**

All of the settings are found under **System Preferences** and should be changed prior to launching PlaybackPro or PlaybackPro Plus.
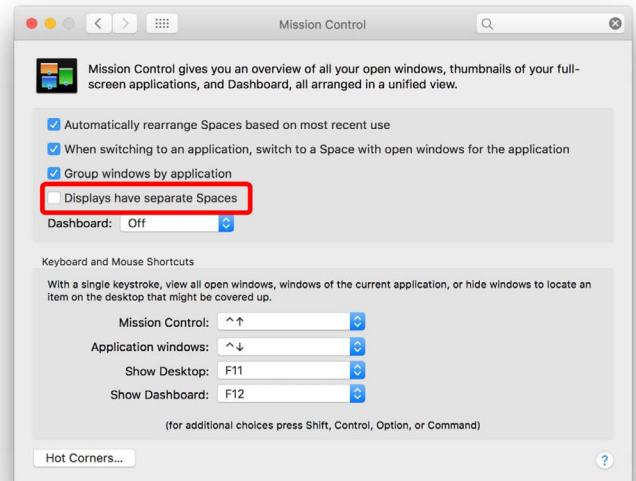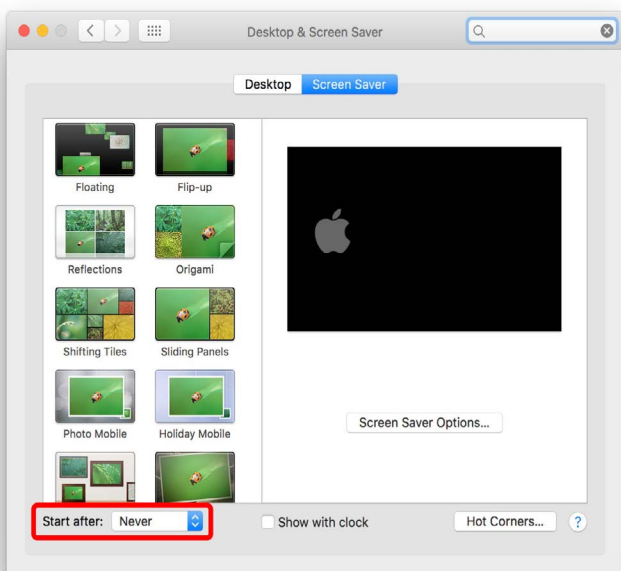
1 Unmirror the displays

PlaybackPro works with an extended desktop mode so mirroring displays should be unchecked in the Displays preferences.
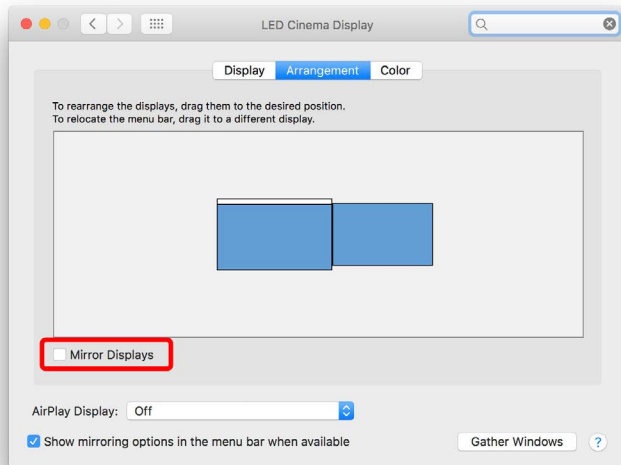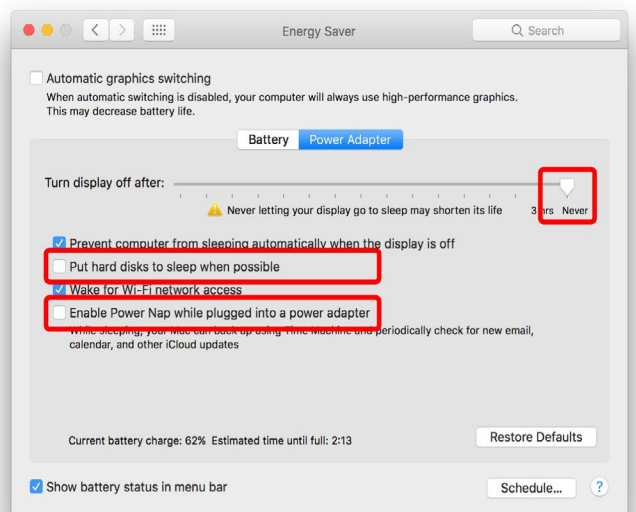

2 Uncheck Displays have separate spaces


3 Turn off ScreenSaver

4 Adjust Energy Saver sleep settings

You may not have all of these options depending on your system. If your system has a battery it is best to adjust the settings on both the Battery and Power Adapter tabs.
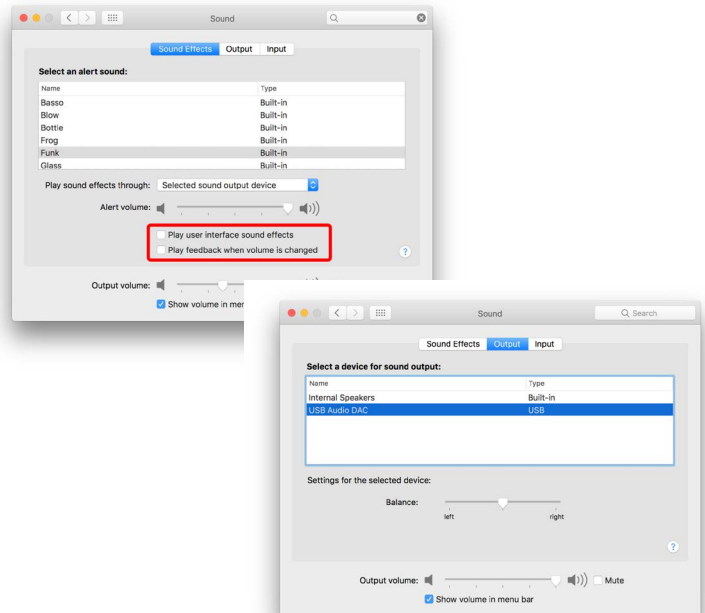
5 Uncheck Automatic Graphics Switching

If your system has two graphics chipsets a setting in Energy Saver will appear at the top. Uncheck it so the more powerful graphics processor will always be used.
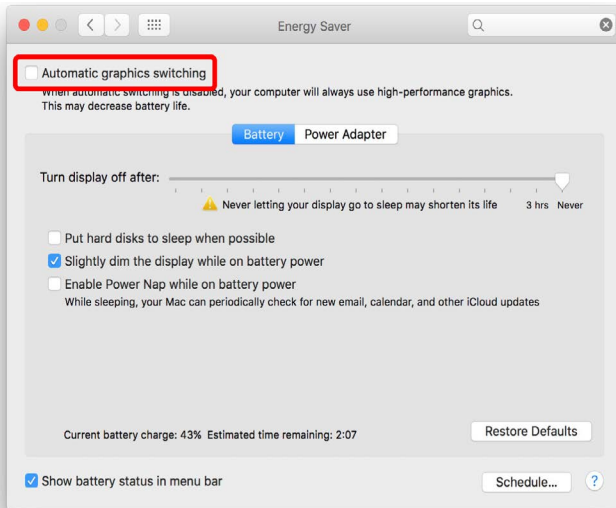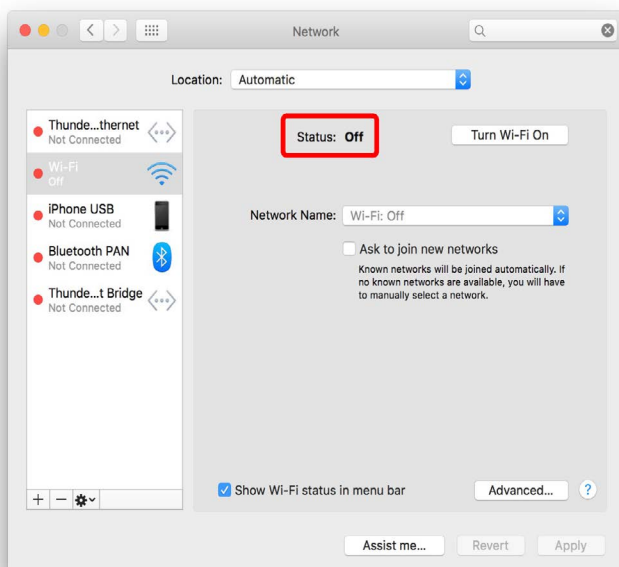
6 Turn off system audio sounds

This is also a good time to click on the Output tab and select the audio output if you are using an external audio device.
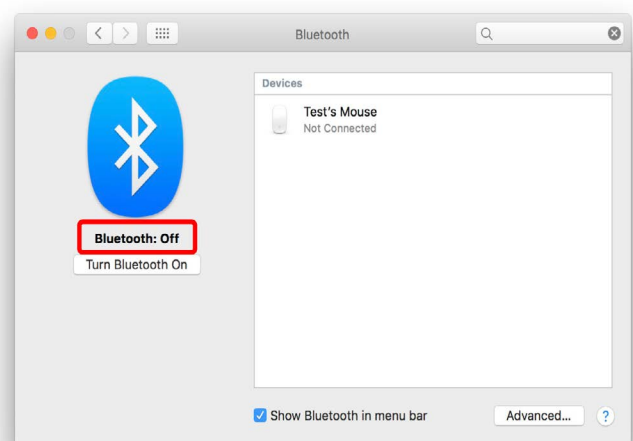
7 Disconnect from the internet

Connections to the internet can generate unwanted background connections that could impact system performance during playback.
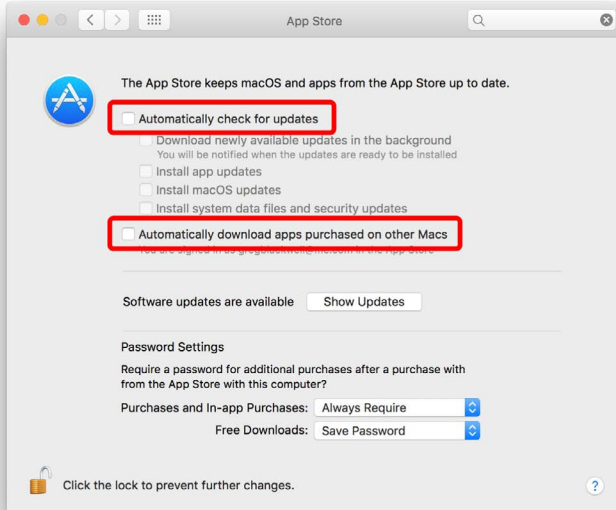
8 Turn off Bluetooth

We don't recommend the use of Bluetooth devices in show environments.

9 Turn off automatic updates

In the event you forget to disconnect the internet is it also a good idea to disable automatic application updates. There are also some applications, like Flip4Mac, that have separate settings so be sure to turn those off as well.


10 Turn off TimeMachine

LIke automatic updates, if TimeMachine is on it can make unwanted system calls in the background that can impact performance.
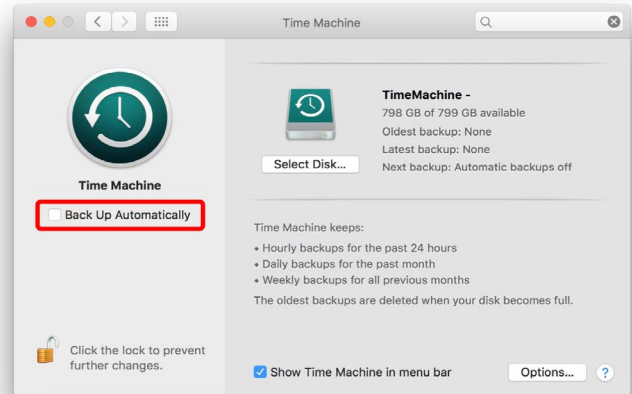

11 Disable Spotlight indexing

For external drives. Spotlight is a great technology that helps macOS locate files faster on a drive, however, it takes time and it can slow down a system. If you don't have time for Spotlight to index an external drive you can add it to the Privacy tab to prevent it from being indexed.
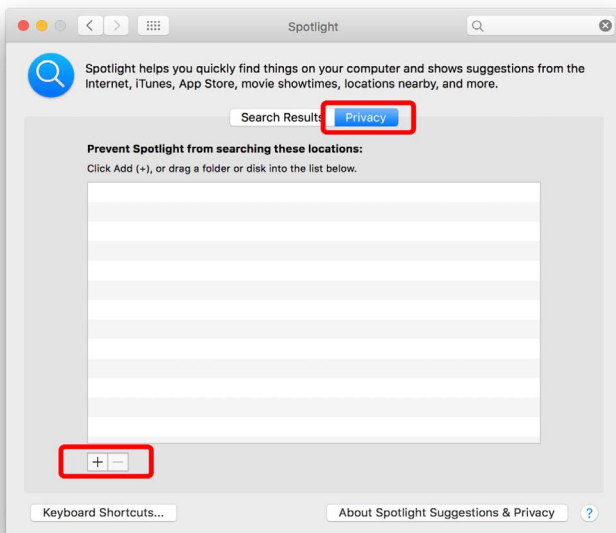

12 Disable FileVault

FileVault encrypts all the contents of a MacOS disk. It requires significant overhead and it should be disabled. If your system has it enabled, you need to check with the system admin before changing this setting.
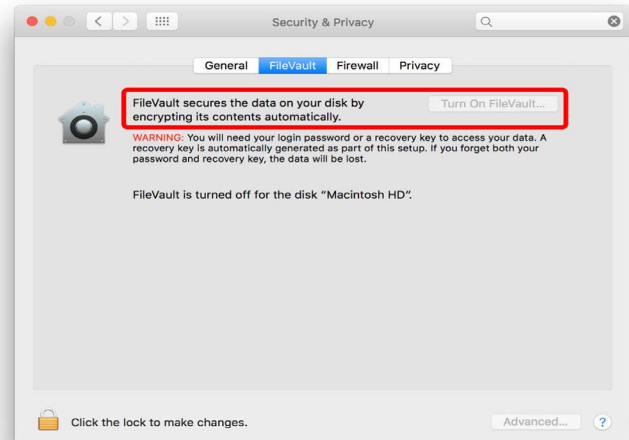
13 Stop unnecessary apps from loading on startup

The Login Items list is populated with apps that load during macOS startup and may not be needed when playing back content. A clean install of macOS will have an empty Login Items list. To stop an app from loading at start up, select it in the list and click on the minus (-) button. We recommend you understand the function of any application prior to removing it from the list.
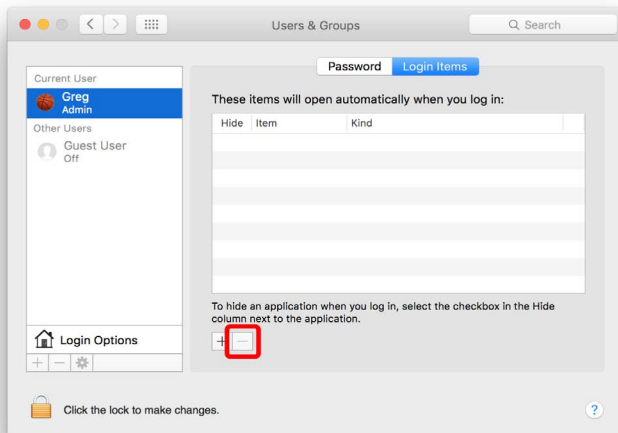
14 Disable Desktop and Documents iCloud syncing

In MacOS Sierra, Apple introduced a feature which automatically syncs your Desktop and Documents folders onto iCloud. This can require a lot of background processing if you place large video files into either of these folders.
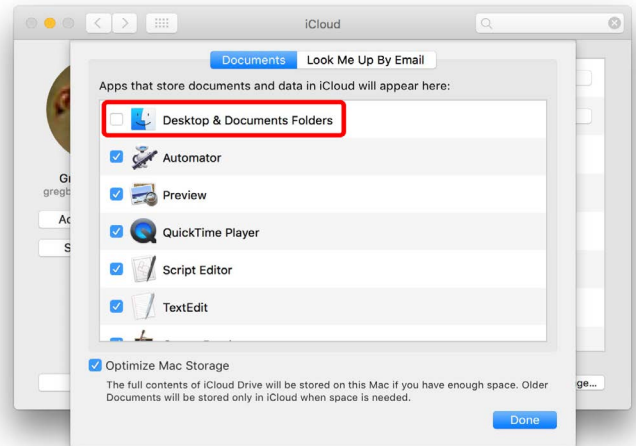
Helpful Tips

Interface Window

If your system is having a difficult time playing content, lowering the resolution of the Play-backPro Interface screen will free up graphics processing power and may resolve the problem. There isn't an option to change this on Retina screens.

Optimal File Types

If a file does not play well in Playback-Pro or PlaybackPro Plus a quick solution can be to re-encode and rewrap the file in a .mov container using QuickTime Player.

Other transcoding software like Apple Compressor, Wondershare Video Converter Ultimate and MPEG Streamclip can be very helpful to process playback content.

Our recommended codecs are Apple Prores 422 (Standard) or H.264 in a .mov container.