

JOB PROFILE DATA WRANGLER (DAT)

Data Wrangler (or Data Assistant) is the assistant to the DIT or First Assistant Camera and supports the camera team in electronic film production.

Tasks

The Data Wrangler creates technically identical copies of the original camera data onto multiple, independent, and suitable storage media. They perform checksum verification and real-time review of the copies and generate the data reports. This is done promptly, either directly at or near the filming location. Their responsibilities also include an initial review of the footage, comparison of the data with the script report, and handover of the storage media to the production team. They also maintain contact with the editing suite to ensure the correct delivery of the saved material. Post-production then performs the final technical inspection of the footage.

Before filming, they plan and test the data workflow in consultation with the camera crew, production, sound, and script supervisor, and select the appropriate equipment, which is returned to the equipment rental company and/or production team at the end of filming, along with the camera assistant.

Requirements

The role of a Data Wrangler demands a high degree of accuracy and meticulousness, as it involves the original data from the recordings. The individual is characterized by exceptional reliability and teamwork skills.

Data Wrangler possess knowledge of industry-standard electronic cameras, storage media, and their specific capabilities and limitations, as well as practical, camera-specific tools for quality control.

Based on the infrastructure for data backup across various storage media during image acquisition, they implement the specifications of the Data Information Technology (DIT)..

DAT - AREA OF ACTIVITY:

Divided into the production phases of pre-production, filming and post-production, the scope of work of the Data Wrangler includes:

Pre-Production:

- Planning and testing the data workflow in coordination with film production and post-production companies, plus the camera-, sound- and script departments
- Selecting & testing the required data backup equipment, including camera storage media.

Filming:

- Verifying data backup & creating detailed data reports, with optional LTO backup
- Cross-checking with the script supervisors report to ensure completeness of recorded data
- Undertaking quality control (visual inspection) of the recorded material
- Providing timely feedback of the recorded material
- Delivering the recorded material to the film production company and/or post-production company and verifying its completeness with post-production
- The data assistant does NOT perform transcoding, colour grading, or camera settings adjustments, and they do NOT provide consultation in critical shooting situations (e.g., low light, greenscreen, etc.).
- See also: https://www.kinematografie.org/berufsverband/bb_da.php

Post-Production:

- Handling footage, such as delivering footage to post-production etc.
- Generating additional copies of the footage if requested
- Returning equipment in collaboration with the DIT and camera assistants

Epilogue

There is currently no established job description for this profession. Therefore, in cooperation with the Austrian Association of Cinematographers, aac, this job description was formulated based on current production processes, see <https://www.aacamera.org/berufsbild-dit/>, Austrian Union <https://www.younionfilm.at/filmschaffende/berufsbilder/#DataWrangler> and German Society of Cinematographers BVK https://www.kinematografie.org/berufsverband/bb_da.php