
LODESTRA

VIDEO TAGGER

Frame-Accurate Video Review & Anomaly Tagging

User Manual

Desktop Application for Windows

Version 1.0

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No installation tools, Node.js, or command line required.

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1. Welcome

Lodestra Video Tagger is a desktop application for reviewing video footage and marking moments of interest, frame by frame. You open a video you have already recorded, watch it with precise playback controls, and tag anything noteworthy, such as a visual anomaly, motion, a light flicker, or a shadow, with a timestamp, a category, a note, and an optional snapshot of the exact frame. When you are finished, you export your tag log as a portable file, a spreadsheet, or a formatted PDF report.

Lodestra Video Tagger does not record video. It is a review and documentation tool: you bring the footage, and the app gives you everything you need to analyze and document it. The application runs entirely on your own computer. Your video, tags, and session files stay on your machine unless you choose to export or share them. There is no account to create, and no internet connection is required to review footage.

Who this manual is for

This manual is written for the everyday user. You do not need any technical background to install or operate Lodestra Video Tagger. If you can download a file and double-click it, you can install the application and start reviewing your first video within a few minutes.

What you can do with Lodestra Video Tagger

- Open a recorded video and play it with frame-level control, including slow-motion review.
- Tag any moment with a timestamp, a category, and a written note.
- Capture a still snapshot of the exact frame alongside each tag.
- Keep all your tags in a list and jump the video back to any tagged moment.
- Record session details such as case, location, persons present, date, and time.
- Export your work as a .vidlog file, a CSV spreadsheet, or a formatted PDF report with snapshots.

ABOUT THIS VERSION

This manual reflects the standard Lodestra Video Tagger layout shown on screen. Menu items, the list of tag categories, and the exact set of supported video formats may differ slightly depending on the build you installed. Where a step depends on your specific build, the manual says so.

2. System Requirements

Lodestra Video Tagger plays full video on your computer, so a little more power helps than for plain audio work. The recommended minimums are listed below.

Requirement	Minimum	Recommended
Operating system	Windows 10 (64-bit)	Windows 11 (64-bit)
Processor	Dual-core, 2.0 GHz	Quad-core, 2.5 GHz or faster
Memory (RAM)	4 GB	8–16 GB
Graphics	Any modern integrated graphics	Dedicated GPU for smooth HD / 4K
Free disk space	500 MB for the app	5 GB+ for snapshots and exports
Video to review	A file to open (e.g. MP4, MOV)	MP4 (H.264) for best compatibility
Display	1280 × 720	1080p or higher
Internet	Not required to review footage	Only needed to download updates

NOTE

HD and 4K video are more demanding than audio. If playback stutters, try a more compatible format such as MP4 (H.264), lower the playback Rate, or close other heavy programs.

3. Installing Lodestra Video Tagger

Installation uses a standard setup wizard. You download one file, double-click it, and follow a few on-screen prompts. There is nothing to configure on the command line and no developer tools to install.

Step 1 — Download the file

1. Download the Lodestra Video Tagger package from the link you were given. The file will land in your Downloads folder.
2. If the download is a .zip file, right-click it and choose Extract All, then open the extracted folder. Inside you will find the setup file.
3. If the download is already a setup file (its name ends in Setup and .exe), you can skip extraction.

Step 2 — Run the setup file

1. Double-click the setup file.
2. Windows may show a blue “Windows protected your PC” screen. This is normal for independent software that is not sold through the Microsoft Store. Click More info, then click Run anyway.
3. If Windows asks “Do you want to allow this app to make changes to your device?”, click Yes.

WHY THE SECURITY PROMPT APPEARS

Windows SmartScreen warns about any program it has not seen many times before, regardless of whether it is safe. Because Lodestra Video Tagger is independent software rather than a mass-market store app, this warning is expected. Choosing “More info → Run anyway” simply tells Windows you trust the file you downloaded.

Step 3 — Follow the setup wizard

The setup wizard opens automatically. Work through the screens in order:

1. Welcome screen: read the introduction and click Next.
2. Install scope (if shown): choose Install for me only or Install for all users. “For me only” is the simplest choice.
3. Install location: the default folder is fine for almost everyone. Click Next.
4. Shortcuts: leave Create a desktop shortcut and Create a Start Menu shortcut checked.
5. Click Install and wait for the progress bar to finish.
6. On the final screen, leave Launch Lodestra Video Tagger checked and click Finish.

TIP

Everything the app needs to run is bundled inside the installer. You do not need to

install Node.js, NPM, Python, or any other tool. Once setup finishes, the app opens to the main window, ready for you to open a video.

4. The Main Window

Lodestra Video Tagger opens to a single window with the video player on the left and your working panels on the right. Here is what each area does.

Area	What it does
Menu bar (File, Help)	Standard menus at the top-left for opening videos, managing sessions, and finding app information.
Open Video	Top-right button that loads a video file to review.
Save Session	Top-right button that saves your current work so you can resume it later.
Playback controls	Play, Pause, Stop, and the -5s and +5s skip buttons.
Rate	A slider that sets playback speed, from slow-motion to faster-than-normal.
Vol	A slider that sets the playback volume.
Time readout	Shows the current position and the total length (current / total).
Video display	The main area where your footage plays.
Timeline and Zoom	The strip below the video for scrubbing through it; the Zoom slider magnifies the timeline for frame-accurate navigation.
Session Details	Fields for the session title, case, location, persons present, date, and time.
New Tag	Where you create a tag at the current moment (timestamp, category, note, snapshot).
Tags	The list of tags you have added, with columns for number, time, category, note, and actions.
Export	Buttons to export your work as .vidlog, CSV, or PDF.

5. Opening a Video

Every session begins by opening a recording you made elsewhere. The app does not capture video on its own, so the first step is always to load a file.

Supported files

Lodestra Video Tagger plays common video formats. The exact list depends on your build, but it typically includes MP4, MOV, WebM, and MKV. MP4 using the H.264 codec is the most broadly compatible and is the safest choice if a file will not open.

Opening a file

1. Click Open Video in the top-right corner (or use the File menu).
2. Browse to the video you want to review and select it.
3. The video loads into the player and its total length appears in the time readout.
4. Press Play to begin, or scrub the timeline to jump to a spot.

TIP

Keep the original video file in a stable location on your computer, and play from a local drive rather than a network or cloud folder. This gives the smoothest playback and ensures the app can find the footage when you reopen a saved session.

6. Entering Session Details

The Session Details panel records the context of your review. These fields appear on your exports, so it is worth filling them in before you export a report.

Field	What to enter
Session Title	A name for this review (it defaults to “Untitled”). For example, the property and session number.
Case Title	The case or project this footage belongs to.
Location	Where the footage was recorded: site, city, state.
Persons Present	Who was present during the recording, separated by commas.
Date	The date the footage was originally recorded.
Time	The time the recording was made.

TIP

Set the Date and Time to when the footage was originally captured, not when you are reviewing it. Accurate details make your CSV and PDF exports credible and easy to file.

7. Playback and Navigation

Finding the exact moment matters in video review. Lodestra Video Tagger gives you a focused set of controls for moving through footage precisely.

Control	What it does
Play / Pause	Starts and pauses playback from the current position.
Stop	Stops playback and returns to the start.
-5s / +5s	Jumps backward or forward five seconds, for quickly re-checking a moment.
Rate	Slows footage down to catch brief events, or speeds it up to skim quiet stretches.
Vol	Sets the playback volume.
Time readout	Shows where you are and the total length (current / total).
Timeline scrub	Click or drag along the strip below the video to jump to any point.
Zoom	Magnifies the timeline so you can land on an exact frame.

A good review routine

1. Play the footage through at a reduced Rate so brief events are easier to catch.
2. When you notice something, pause immediately.
3. Use -5s and the zoomed timeline to step back to the exact frame.
4. Tag the moment (next chapter), then continue from where you left off.

NOTE

Lowering the Rate is the single most useful habit in video review. A single-frame light flicker or a fast-moving shadow is easy to miss at normal speed and obvious in slow motion.

8. Tagging a Moment

Tagging is the heart of Lodestra Video Tagger. A tag marks one moment in the footage with a timestamp, a category, a note, and (optionally) a snapshot of the exact frame.

Adding a tag

1. Navigate to the moment you want to tag and pause on it.
2. In the New Tag panel, check the Timestamp. It reflects the current playback position; adjust it if you need to fine-tune the exact moment.
3. Choose a Category from the dropdown: Visual anomaly, Motion, Light flicker, Shadow, or Other.
4. In the Note field, describe what you see.
5. Leave Capture frame snapshot checked to save a still of the current frame with the tag, or uncheck it if you do not need an image.
6. Click Add Tag. The tag appears in the Tags list below.

TAG WHAT YOU CAN EXPLAIN, TOO

Reflections, passing headlights, insects near the lens, dust, and lens flare are common, ordinary explanations for things that look unusual on video. Tag those moments as well, using Other with a clear note, so your log stays honest and your real findings stand out.

9. Tag Categories

Lodestra Video Tagger provides five built-in categories. Choose the closest one and lean on the Note field for detail. Consistent categorization makes your exports far easier to scan.

Category	Use it for
Visual anomaly	Anything unexplained you can see in the frame: an unexpected shape, form, or figure.
Motion	Movement with no obvious source, such as an object, door, or shape moving across the frame.
Light flicker	A brief change in light: a flash, a dimming, or a single-frame glow.
Shadow	A dark form or shadow movement with no clear object casting it.
Other	Anything that does not fit the categories above. Always pair this with a descriptive note.

TIP

When in doubt, pick the nearest category and explain the specifics in the Note. A consistent set of categories across all your cases keeps your CSV and PDF reports clean and searchable.

10. Working with Your Tags

Every tag you add appears in the Tags list, with columns for its number, time, category, note, and actions.

- Use a tag's entry, or the controls in its Actions column, to jump the video straight back to that moment for another look.
- Use the Actions controls to remove a tag you no longer want.
- Your tags are included in every export, in the order they appear in the list.

NOTE

The exact buttons in the Actions column (such as jump-to-moment and delete) depend on your build. Hover over each control to see what it does.

11. Frame Snapshots

A frame snapshot is a still image of the exact frame on screen at the moment you add a tag. It gives you visual evidence sitting right next to your note.

- When Capture frame snapshot is checked, clicking Add Tag stores a still of the current frame with that tag.
- Snapshots travel with their tags and appear in the PDF report, so each entry has a picture beside its note.
- If you only need the written log, uncheck the box to keep your files smaller.

PAUSE PRECISELY FIRST

A snapshot captures only the single frame visible at the instant you add the tag. Pause on the exact frame you want, using slow playback and the zoomed timeline, before clicking Add Tag.

12. Saving and Reopening Sessions

Save Session preserves your current work, including the video reference, your session details, and every tag, so you can close the app and pick up later.

1. Click Save Session in the top-right corner.
2. Choose where to save the session file and confirm.
3. To continue later, reopen the app and open your saved session (and the original video, if prompted), then keep tagging.

KEEP SESSIONS WITH THEIR VIDEOS

A saved session points to your original video file rather than storing the whole video inside it. Keep your saved sessions and their source videos together, and avoid moving or renaming the video, so the app can find the footage when you reopen.

13. Exporting Your Work

When you are ready to share or archive your findings, the Export panel offers three formats.

Export	Use it for
Export .vidlog	A portable log file you can reopen in Lodestra Video Tagger or hand off to others who use it. Best for archiving the full tagged session.
Export CSV	A spreadsheet of every tag (number, time, category, note) for Excel or Google Sheets and your own records.
Export PDF	A formatted report with your session details, the full tag list, and captured frame snapshots. Best for sharing findings with clients or teammates.

Exporting

1. Fill in the Session Details first, since they appear on the report.
2. Click the export button you want: Export .vidlog, Export CSV, or Export PDF.
3. Choose a destination folder and confirm.
4. Open the destination folder to verify your file is there.

TIP

Export a PDF for presenting your findings and a .vidlog for your archive, and keep the original video file alongside them. Together they form a complete, reviewable record of the footage.

14. Menus and Handy Controls

Two menus sit at the top-left of the window, alongside the on-screen controls you will use most.

- File menu: open a video, save and open sessions, and exit the app. The exact items depend on your build.
- Help menu: app information and any built-in help or keyboard shortcuts your build provides.
- The -5s and +5s buttons are the fastest way to step around a moment without hunting on the timeline.
- The Rate slider is your most important review control; reach for it whenever you need to catch fast events.

15. Best Practices for Video Review

Lodestra Video Tagger reviews the footage; the quality of your original recording determines what is there to find. Capture well in the field, then bring the file here. These habits will make every review stronger.

- Record steady footage with good light when you can; a stable camera makes anomalies far easier to judge.
- Save and transfer the original video to your computer before opening it for review.
- Review at a reduced Rate so brief events are easier to catch.
- Pause and step to the exact frame before tagging, and capture a snapshot for anything visual.
- Tag ordinary explanations too, such as reflections, headlights, insects, dust, and lens flare, using Other with a clear note.
- Fill in Session Details fully so your exports are ready to share.
- Export both a .vidlog archive and a PDF report, and keep the original video backed up.

16. Troubleshooting

Most issues come down to the video format, playback performance, or where files are stored. The table below covers the common ones.

Problem	What to try
A video will not open	Confirm it is a supported format. MP4 (H.264) is the safest; convert the file with a free converter if needed. Make sure it finished copying and is not open in another program.
Black screen but the audio plays	This is usually a codec issue. Convert the video to MP4 (H.264) and open it again.
Playback stutters or lags	Play from a local drive, lower the Rate, and close other heavy programs. HD and 4K footage is demanding.
No sound during playback	Check the Vol slider in the app and confirm your speakers or headphones are the selected Windows output device.
A snapshot shows the wrong frame	Pause precisely on the frame you want before clicking Add Tag. The snapshot is the single frame shown at that instant.
The timestamp looks off	Adjust the Timestamp field in the New Tag panel before adding the tag.
An export did not appear	Make sure you chose a destination folder and your drive is not full, then check the folder you selected.
The app will not install	Extract the .zip first, then run the Setup file. If SmartScreen blocks it, choose More info → Run anyway.

IF A PROBLEM PERSISTS

Restart Lodestra Video Tagger first, then restart your computer if needed. Many playback and file issues clear up after Windows refreshes its video and file access.

17. Updating and Uninstalling

Updating

To move to a newer version, download the new setup file and run it the same way you did the first time. The installer updates your existing copy. Your saved sessions and exports are not touched by an update.

Uninstalling

1. Open Windows Settings → Apps → Installed apps.
2. Find Lodestra Video Tagger in the list.
3. Click the three-dot menu next to it and choose Uninstall, then confirm.

YOUR WORK IS SAFE

Uninstalling the application does not delete your saved sessions, exports, or original video files. They remain wherever you saved them on your computer.

18. Frequently Asked Questions

Can Lodestra Video Tagger record video?

No. It reviews and documents footage you have already recorded. Open a video file to tag it.

What video formats can I open?

Common formats such as MP4, MOV, WebM, and MKV. The exact list depends on your build, and MP4 (H.264) is the most compatible. If a file will not open, convert it to MP4 and try again.

Do I need an internet connection or an account?

No. Reviewing footage works fully offline, and there is nothing to sign up for. You only need a connection to download the app or an update.

Do I have to install Node.js, NPM, or any developer tools?

No. Everything the app needs is bundled in the installer. You download the file, double-click it, and follow the wizard.

What is the difference between Save Session and the Export buttons?

Save Session lets you stop and resume your work later. The Export buttons produce shareable output: a portable .vidlog, a CSV spreadsheet, or a PDF report.

What is a .vidlog file?

It is the application's portable log format. You can reopen it in Lodestra Video Tagger or share it with others who use the app.

Do my frame snapshots appear in exports?

Yes. Captured frames appear in the PDF report next to their tags.

Why did Windows warn me about the app during install?

Windows SmartScreen flags any independent program it has not seen often. Choosing More info → Run anyway is the normal way to proceed with software you trust.

Appendix: Glossary

Term	Meaning
Tag	A marked moment in the footage, with a timestamp, category, note, and optional frame snapshot.
Session	Your video reference, session details, and all tags, saved together so you can resume later.
Timestamp	The exact point in the video that a tag refers to.
Category	The type of event a tag records: Visual anomaly, Motion, Light flicker, Shadow, or Other.
Frame snapshot	A still image of the exact frame, captured and stored with a tag.
.vidlog	The application's portable log and session file format, which can be reopened or shared.
Rate	The playback speed control, used to slow footage down for close review or speed it up to skim.

End of Manual

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