The Wowza Streaming Cloud™ service can receive closed caption data from a video source so that captions appear when the stream is played. Closed captions make your streams accessible to hearing-impaired viewers and allow your streams to comply with the United States FCC 21st Century Communication and Video Accessibility Act (CVAA) of 2010.

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About closed captions

Just as there are a number of protocols and formats for receiving and playing live adaptive bitrate streams, there are multiple types of closed-caption formats that can be used when streaming live events. Wowza Streaming Cloud can receive two closed-caption formats from a video source: CEA-608 (digital) and onTextData.

- CEA-608 supports playback over HLS on Apple iOS devices, VideoLAN VLC player, and many set-top boxes.
- onTextData supports playback over HDS and RTMP, including JW Player and Flowplayer.

Some video sources can send either CEA-608 or onTextData captions to a transcoder. Other sources can send both. Whatever format or formats Wowza Streaming Cloud receives, it decodes and translates incoming caption events so that captions appear when the stream is viewed over all three playback protocols—HDS, HLS, and RTMP.
Include closed captions in a live stream

To display closed captions on a live stream, choose the type of closed caption that the video source is sending to Wowza Streaming Cloud.

1. Click Live Streams on the menu bar, and then click Add Live Stream.
2. On the Live Stream Setup page, enter a Live Stream Name, choose a Broadcast Location, and then click Next.
3. On the Video Source and Transcoder Settings page, specify your Camera/Encoder and the Aspect Ratio of your source video. If your subscription allows, choose a Live Stream Type and Billing Mode.
4. For the closed caption option, choose one of the following:

   - **CEA-608-digital** - Captions that can be played on devices and browsers that support HLS, including the Original HTML5 player in Wowza Streaming Cloud.
   - **onTextData** - Captions that can be played on devices and browsers that
support Adobe HDS or RTMP.

- **CEA-608-digital and onTextData** - Captions that can be played on devices and browsers that support HDS, HLS, and RTMP.

5. Specify all of the other settings for your live stream, review your choices, and click **Finish** to create the live stream.

**Note:** For more information on the options on each Add Live Stream page, see the **Help** panel on the right side on each page.

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**Include closed captions in a transcoder**

To display closed captions on a custom transcoder, choose the type of closed caption that the video source is sending to Wowza Streaming Cloud.

1. Click **Advanced** on the menu bar, click **Transcoders**, and then click **Add Transcoder**.
2. On the **Transcoder Setup** page, enter a **Transcoder Name** and **Broadcast Location**. If your subscription allows, choose a **Transcoder Type** and **Billing Mode**.
3. For **Closed Captions**, choose one of the following:

   - **CEA-608-digital** - Captions that can be played on devices and browsers that support HLS, including the Original HTML5 player in Wowza Streaming Cloud.
   - **onTextData** - Captions that can be played on devices and browsers that support HDS or RTMP.
   - **CEA-608-digital and onTextData** - Captions that can be placed on devices and browsers that support HDS, HLS, and RTMP.

5. Specify the other settings for your transcoder setup, review your choices, and click **Add** to create the transcoder.
Wowza Streaming Cloud creates the transcoder and displays the **Outputs & Targets** tab of the transcoder detail page.

The transcoder isn’t finished until you create outputs and targets for it. For more information how to finish creating the transcoder, see [Create a custom transcoder with many outputs and targets in Wowza Streaming Cloud](#).