Order captions in Canvas (legacy)

Content updated: 04/08/2026

This article is designated for all users.

About

Captions provide a text version of spoken dialogue in a video. They appear in the same language as the video and help make content accessible for viewers who are deaf or hard of hearing, or for those who prefer watching without sound.

Media must be at least **10 seconds** long for caption processing.

Captions are not translations. If you need captions in a different language, use the translation service. For more information, see our article Order translations.

If Content Lab is available on your account, you can also order REACH services through Content Lab. See Accessibility and localization.

These instructions apply to the **legacy Video Portal**. If you're using the Theming-based Video Portal, please refer to the Content Hubs category.

Captioning options

Kaltura provides two options for captioning:

Professional: Uses human transcribers to provide full-service captioning with 99% accuracy, meeting Closed Captions laws and media standards. Ideal for public-facing content like marketing, learning, and training videos.

Machine (ASR): Achieves an average accuracy of 85%. It enables searchable video content, transcript editing, and resubmission for alignment. The engine improves over time and supports custom vocabularies for enhanced accuracy, along with dictionary use.

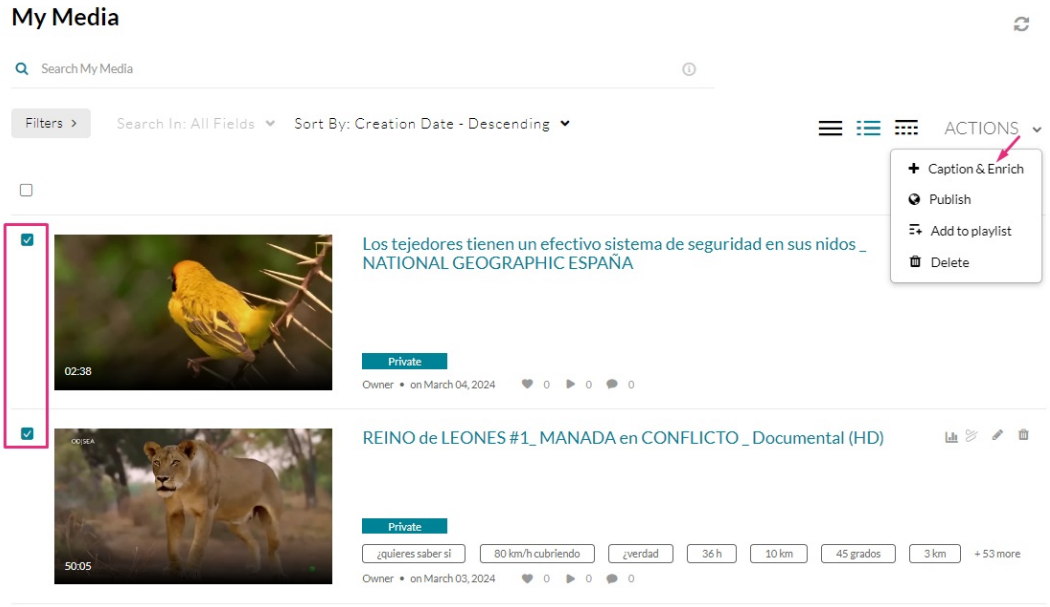
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Want captions to be ordered automatically? Check out our article Create captioning & enrichment rules in Rich Media CMS.

Access the Caption & enrich service

Via My Media

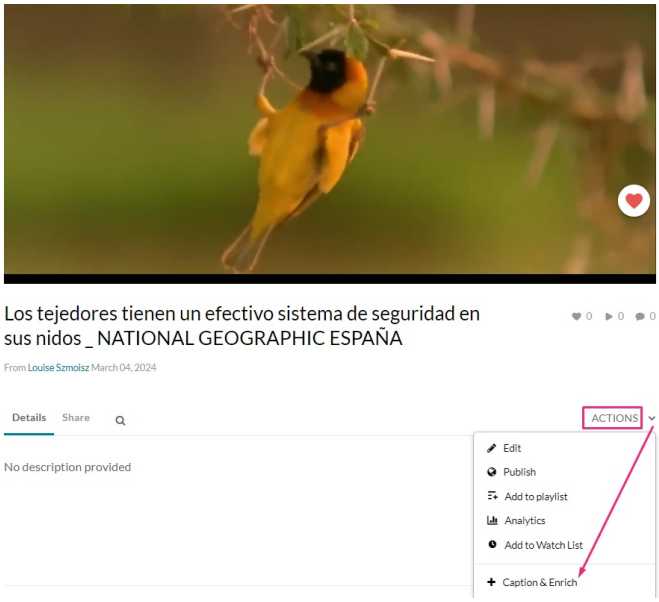
1. Go to your **My Media**.
2. Select the checkbox next to one or more videos.
3. Click the **Actions** menu at the top right of the page and select **Caption & Enrich**.



Via the media page

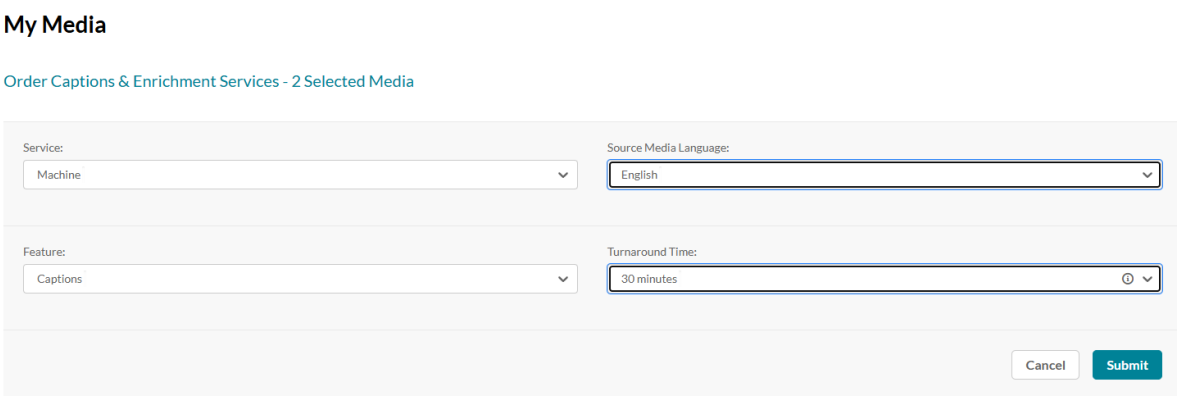
1. Open the media page of a video.
2. From the **Actions** menu, select **Caption & Enrich**.

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Order captions

After selecting **Captions & Enrich** from the menu, the **Order Captions & Enrichment Services** screen displays.



Machine captions

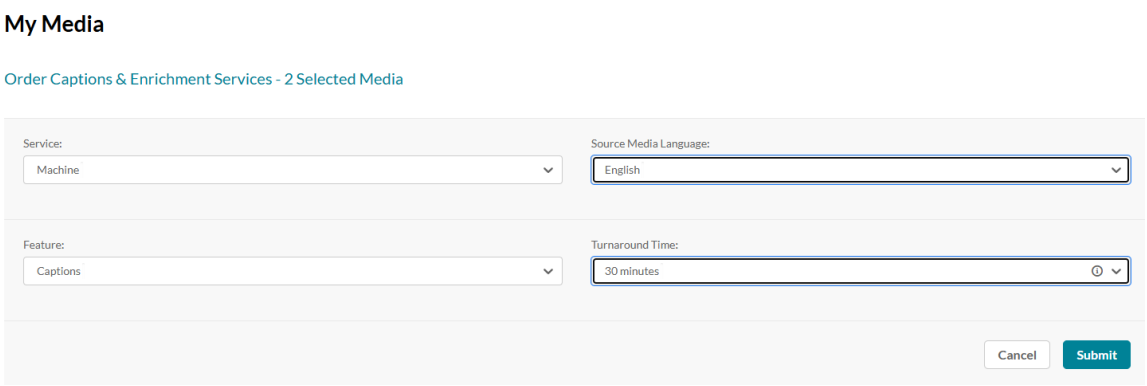
1. Complete the following fields:
    - **Service** - Select 'Machine'.
    - **Source Media Language** - Select the source language of the video. The available options depend on your REACH plan. (If available on your plan, you may also see an **Auto-detect** option. This uses AI to automatically identify the video's spoken language and generate captions.)

- Please note that captions must be ordered in the **same language as the video's source language**. For example, if the video is in English, you can only order English captions.
- Captions are not the same as translations. For details on ordering translations, see our

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article Order translations.

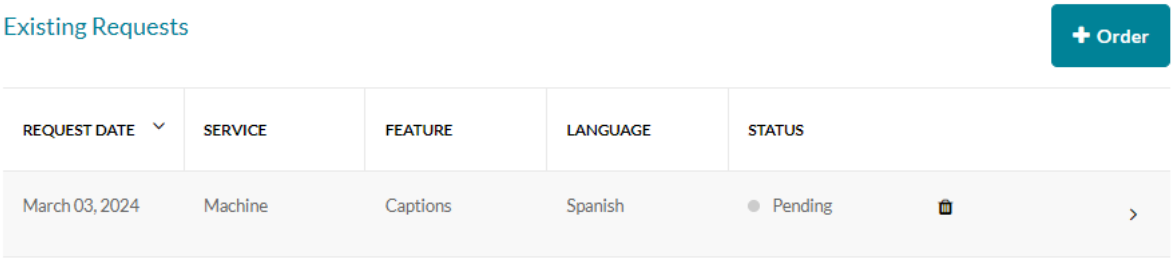
- **Feature** - Select 'Captions'.
- **Turnaround Time** - Select an option. The options available are dependent on your REACH plan.



2. Click **Submit**.

   A confirmation message displays: *Your request has been received. Your video will automatically be updated upon completion.*

   The order displays at the top of the screen.



Professional captioning

1. Complete the following fields:
   - **Service** - Select 'Professional'.
   - **Source Media Language** - Select the source media language (the language of the video). The options in the menu are dependent on your REACH plan.

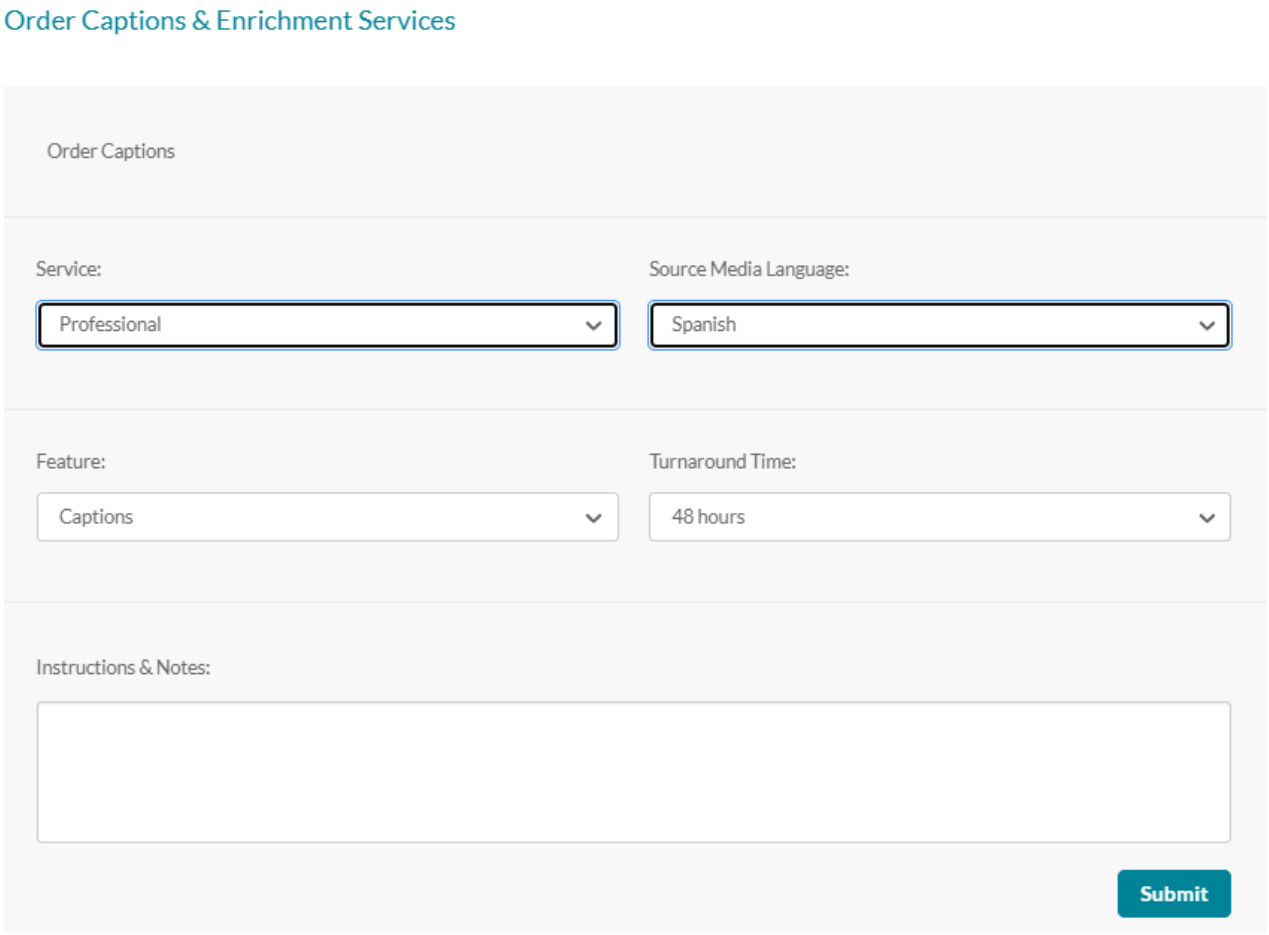
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- **Feature** - Select 'Captions'.
- **Turnaround time** - Select an option. The options available are dependent on your REACH plan.
- **Speaker Names** - (Optional) Check to add the speaker's name(s) at the beginning of the captions. This feature must be enabled by your system administrator.
- **Instructions & Notes** - (Optional) This box is relevant for professional captions only, and is used for adding notes for the attention of human editors and reviewers.

The general best practice for **Instructions & Notes** is to use them for unique terminology and names that are relevant for that file, and not, for example, a 1,000-word glossary.

In addition, comments like "Please pay extra attention to the following X, Y, Z in the first five minutes of the video..." aren't effective because transcribers typically receive only portions of the file.

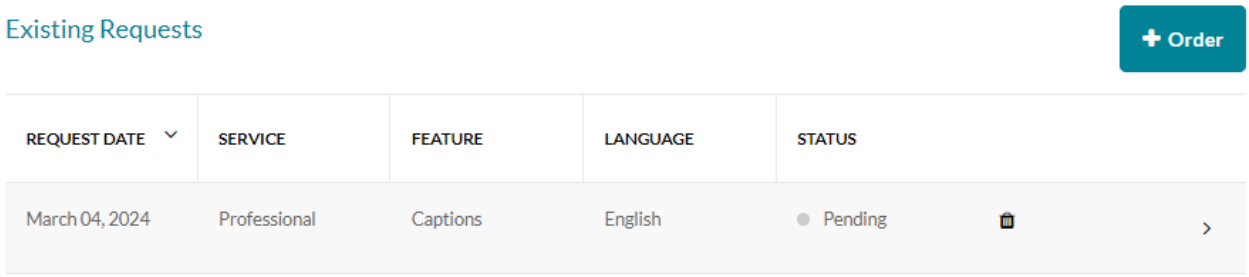


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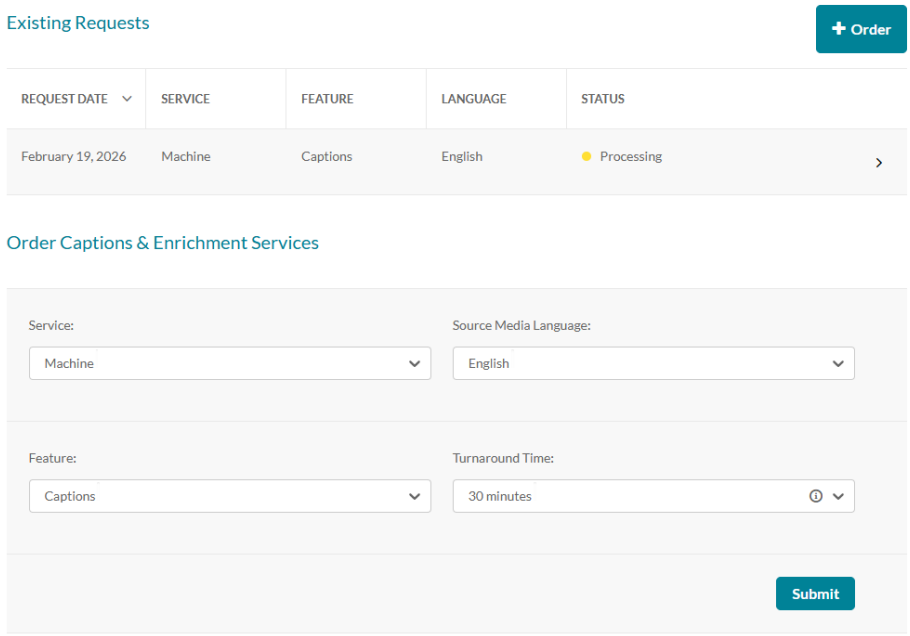
View orders

Existing requests

If there are no existing requests, a message displays: *No requests were found.*



If there are existing requests, they are displayed in the **Existing Requests** section. (Clicking **+Order** will take you to the Order Captions & Enrichment Services section to create another order.)



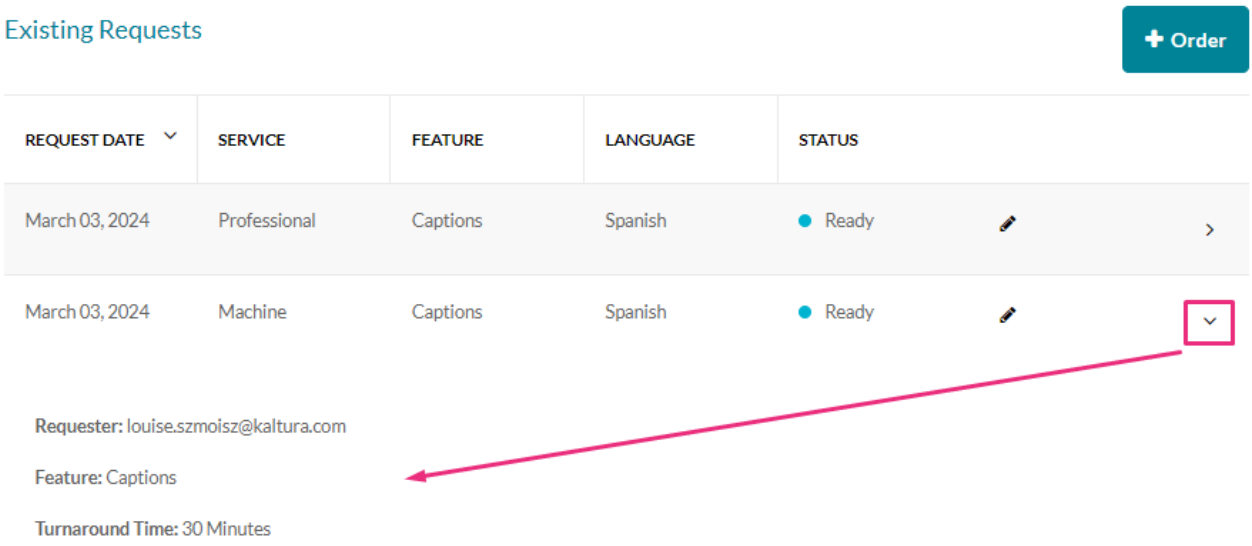
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Status types

The following statuses are available for captions requests:

- Pending - when generating new request
- Pending for Moderation - requests in approval queue
- Rejected - requests that were rejected on moderation. This status must include reject reason.
- Processing - sent to the vendor and vendor received request
  You cannot cancel a request when the status is Processing
- Ready - when caption was received back from the vendor
- Error - an error was sent from the vendor. This status includes the reason for rejection.
- Aborted

Use the arrow at the side of the request to display more details about the order.



Duplicated requests

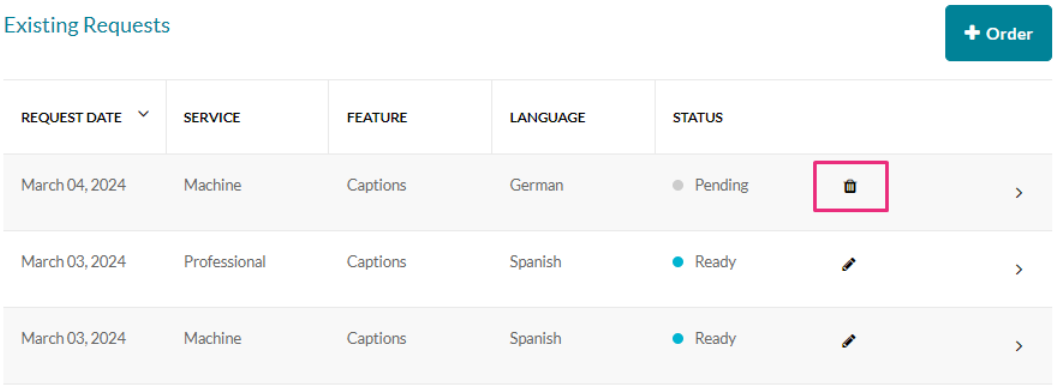
If you submit and identical order to one that exists, the following message is displayed: *Service was already done for this video. Are you sure you want to resubmit?*

Click **Resubmit** to continue.

Cancel a request

To cancel a Pending request, click on the trash can icon in the request line. Note, any action items associated with the request will be canceled.

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A confirmation message is displayed to confirm your selection.

If you try to delete a request that's already in progress, a message displays: *The request is already in progress, therefore cannot be canceled.*

View the captions

When the captions are ready, they are automatically added to the media. Depending on your administrator's configuration, a toggle **CC** button may appear on the bottom bar, allowing you to instantly show or hide default captions.

The administrator can also choose whether to have captions displayed on the player by default when the user starts playing the video.



Users can access different caption languages, if available, by using the captions sub-menu within the settings menu.

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To learn more about how captions display on the player, visit our articles Captions and audio tracks and Player accessibility.

Tags are automatically added to the video when captions are added. To learn how to edit the tags and other metadata, visit our article Edit metadata.

You can resubmit REACH orders in certain cases, such as for updated media content or new profile settings. For details on how and when to use the resubmissions feature, see our article Resubmissions for REACH services.

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