
Subject: Re: IDL 5.5 jpeg and tiff

Posted by [Joseph B. Gurman](#) on Sun, 28 Oct 2001 04:39:05 GMT

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In article <001c01c15dd3\$6b90aa10\$d938a8c0@Hadfield>, "Mark Hadfield" <m.hadfield@niwa.cri.nz> wrote:

> From: "Mark Chan" <markchan@shaw.ca>

>> v5.5 comes with a form to request for JPEG and TIFF support.

>

> That's GIF and TIFF, isn't it? JPEG works fine OOTB.

>

>> Questions:

>>

>> 1) Has anyone find out how much the licensing costs?

>

> Not me. I imagine it would depend on what you were going to do with the

> images. You have to negotiate with Unisys, not RSI, to get the license. I

> should think that would be a royal pain.

>

>> 2) Is it worth it?

>

> I very much doubt it.

>

>> 3) Better alternative(s) for achieving the same?

>

> PNG for still images. It's widely supported these days and technically

> superior to GIF.

>

> For animation there are several alternatives that have been discussed on

> this group. I like FLC, though it's limited to 8-bit colour.

Everything people have been saying about PNG and other modern file formats is true (AFAIK), but we have hundreds of pieces of IDL code that write GIF's, and support a library that has hundreds more. some of them are used in server mode to produce hundred of iamges a day that go to our Web sites. Simply doing the global replaces and testing the resulting PNG's would cost us a lot more than \$475, if that's the price for a US governemnt institution (we usually pay higher prices). That of course, doesn't count the incoveneince for users whose Web browsers can handle animated GIFs, but not animated something else.

I'm expecting a fax from Unisys RSN; we submitted the questionnaire a couple of days ago.

Joe Gurman
