
Subject: GIF compression support in ImageMagick - Re-Post
Posted by [Lince.Lawrence](#) on Thu, 04 Nov 2004 06:26:38 GMT
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As in this message. How can I enable LZW in ImageMagick? Where should I alter the default option as advocated in the Quoted mail
"--enable-lzw (configuration switch)"

Currently I am using ImageMagick to convert EPS to GIF by punchin in the following command sequence in the command line:

```
convert -antialias -transparent white -colors 16 -compress LZW  
eqn10.eps eqn10.gif
```

The output should come around 4K, whiile using the above command I get a comparitively huge file of 20K. So I think the command "-compress LZW" is not executed correctly (may be due to the disabled LZW option)

Kindly pour-in your valuable comments.

Thanks,
Lince M Lawrence

===== Quote =====

Yes, this is related (marginally) to IDL.

In the discussion on the lack of GIF support in IDL 5.4 a month or two ago,
I said that ImageMagick (<http://www.imagemagick.org/>) was a good tool for
creating GIFs. Although I have used ImageMagick for years I don't create
GIFs very often. And I failed to notice that some time recently the following comment has appeared in the README:

--enable-lzw (configuration switch)

Unisys reportedly claims a patent on the algorithm supporting LZW compression (e.g. used by GIF and TIFF). To avoid possibly infringing on
this patent, support for LZW is disabled by default. With LZW support, GIF
files written by ImageMagick will be much larger than expected

This explains the enormous increase in size when I converted some files from PNG to GIF the other day!

So ImageMagick is not a good tool for creating GIFs (unless you go to some trouble to enable LZW compression) and IDL is not the only organisation abandoning GIF because of patent issues.

All the more reason to BURN ALL GIFS, I say.

BTW, ImageMagick can still *read* compressed GIFs.

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===== Quote =====
