Subject: Re: Animation Creations
Posted by Mark Hadfield on Mon, 22 May 2006 00:42:12 GMT

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David Fanning wrote:
> nasalmon@onetel.com writes:
>
>> Would anybody happen to know what is the easiest way in IDL to create
>> animations in the form of mpeg or avi files from a series of still
>> images in png, jpg or other format. I see there are some licensing
>> issues where you have to pay money for an extra licence to make mpeg
>> files. Is there perhaps some other software package that dosnt cost too
>> much that can make the animations from the still images, which could
>> then be run on say windows media player or other commonly used player.
>
> I'll let others explain why you want to use the idl2avi DLM
> to make AVI files:
>
>   http://www.dfanning.com/tips/howmovie.html
>
> I just wanted to point out that the MPEG license doesn't
> cost anything. It is free for the asking. :-)

If you want to convert a series of image files into a handy animation
format, then you don't need to go through IDL. I *thoroughly* recommend
VideoMach (and its companion player Imagen) both made by Gromada:

   http://www.gromada.com/

Videomach costs US$29.95 and is well worth it, in my opinion. Imagen is
free.

Another possibility is Mencoder, part of the Mplayer package:

   http://www.mplayerhq.hu/

I haven't tried Mencoder,. but I intend to shortly.

And, as David says, if you want to create animations from IDL, there is
good AVI-encoding software available. There are a couple of different
versions around

There are various formats you can use for output, but I recommend AVI
with a simple-but-effective codec like Microsoft Video 1 or Microsoft RLE.

This and more is discussed on my animation page, which is still exposed
to the outside world at

ftp://ftp.niwa.co.nz/incoming/m.hadfield/animation/index.htm l

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