Jeff,
IDL 6.3 has Motion JPEG2000 support. When the parameters are set
correctly, the movies have superb quality while the file sizes are
significantly smaller than animated gifs or pngs. A free player is
included in IDL, but you may have trouble getting the movies to run
under Quicktime.

Cheers,
Haje

Jeff Hester wrote:
> Does anyone have a preferred solution on a Mac for stringing a bunch of
> frames together to make a movie? I've never really liked the MPEG
> routines in IDL for a variety of reasons (everything from quality of
> output to inconsistencies in the movie headers that can cause them to
> play incorrectly when launched from PowerPoint). Macs are supposed to
> be god's gift to movies, so I am certain that there are 10^4 ways of
> making a movie out of a few hundred TIFF files, but I'd settle for one
> that will make a high quality output with a sensible codec and variable
> frame rate.
>
> Thanks,
> Jeff