Subject: Re: high quality videos with idlffvideowrite?
Posted by AndrewM on Wed, 24 Apr 2013 22:42:49 GMT
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Try out some different values for the BIT_RATE keyword of the AddVideoStream() function. The default value is 2000000- meaning the encoder will aim to squeeze every second of video into 250 kilobytes (2Mbps = 250KBps), even if it has to sacrifice some quality to do so. H.264 is pretty good, but squeezing ~62 million pixels into 250KB is still a tall order.

Since you've gone through the trouble of getting yourself H.264 support (good choice!), you might also try experimenting with the PRESET keyword as well. Most of the H.264 presets just set different priorities for the tradeoff between video quality and encoding speed- if you don't mind encoding taking a bit longer, you can get a little more quality with the slower presets. The lossless presets will guarantee absolutely perfect quality, but fewer video players support them (Windows Media Player doesn't, but VLC does), and the files can come out quite large- here, the BIT_RATE setting is ignored, and slower presets get you smaller files rather than better quality.

I did an experiment a while back to see how the different presets compared. The quality column is completely subjective to my eyeballs. Your experience may vary, depending on your video. (My apologies for how ugly this table is going to be if you're not viewing with a monospaced font.)

Preset	Time (s)	Quality (/10)	Size (KB)
ultrafast	9	4	3941
superfast	14	7	4306
veryfast	21	7	4532
faster	36	7.5	4487
normal	36	7.5	4488
fast	48	8	4553
default	54	8	4521
medium	54	8	4532
hq	89	8.5	4479
slow	91	8.5	4483
slower	157	9	4464
veryslow	307	9	4468
max	796	9.5	4454
placebo	893	9.5	4482
lossless_ultrafast	14	10	129048
lossless_fast	26	10	116800
lossless_medium	47	10	102583
lossless_slow	80	10	99142
lossless_slower	113	10	97086
lossless_max	460	10	96881

-Andrew Magill
ExelisVIS