
Subject: Updating FFmpeg libraries on MacOS
Posted by [dg86](#) on Sat, 08 Jun 2013 15:12:45 GMT
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I'm posting this in hope that it will be useful to others using IDLffVideoWrite and IDLffVideoRead on MacOS.

The FFmpeg libraries that ship with IDL 8.2.* support a relatively small set of formats and codecs. Fortunately, you can replace these stock libraries with others on your system to extend IDL's video reading and writing capabilities.

I use the ffmpeg libraries that are installed by MacPorts:

```
> sudo port install ffmpeg +nonfree
```

The nonfree variant provides support for additional formats and codecs. Because of intellectual property issues (at least in the US) the resulting libraries cannot be redistributed. Remove +nonfree to install unencumbered libraries.

Now we have to convince IDL to use these libraries rather than the stock libraries. A standard IDL installation places the relevant libraries in /Applications/exelis/idl/bin/bin.darwin.x86_64

A standard MacPorts installation places the relevant libraries in /opt/local/lib

If you installed things in other places, you can identify the relevant directories with

```
> locate libavcodec.dylib
```

and then revise the paths in the following commands accordingly.

To back up the stock libraries and make the necessary links:

```
cd /Applications/exelis/idl/bin/bin.darwin.x86_64
sudo mv libavcodec.54.dylib libavcodec.54.bak
sudo mv libavformat.54.dylib libavformat.54.bak
sudo mv libavutil.52.dylib libavutil.52.bak
sudo mv libswscale.2.dylib libswscale.2.bak
sudo ln -s /opt/local/lib/libavcodec.54.dylib .
sudo ln -s /opt/local/lib/libavformat.54.dylib .
sudo ln -s /opt/local/lib/libavutil.52.dylib .
sudo ln -s /opt/local/lib/libswscale.2.dylib .
```

This did the trick for me.

TTFN,

David
