
Subject: Re: NO MORE GIF READ OR WRITE IN IDL 5.4
Posted by [Med Bennett](#) on Sat, 21 Oct 2000 07:00:00 GMT
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PNG's work fine, they're just not widely recognized yet. There are a bazillion viewers and utilities that translate from GIF <> PNG <> everything else, so I honestly don't see how Compuserve/Unisys ever hopes to enforce or make any money off of the GIF/LZW patent. Kind of silly to me that they even bother - why don't they just give it to the public domain, where it is pretty much in practice anyway?

"Mark C." wrote:

> Any suggestions on:
>
> 1) Alternatives if one wants to create GIF files here after?
>
> 2) Has any one use other formats in IDL which will yield equal or better
> quality results to that of GIF?
>
> Thanks,
> Mark

Subject: Re: NO MORE GIF READ OR WRITE IN IDL 5.4
Posted by [noymer](#) on Sun, 22 Oct 2000 03:55:01 GMT
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Why not use PNG?

see: <http://www.libpng.org/pub/png/>

according to <http://www.rsinc.com/IDL/whatsnew.cfm>
PNG support is included in 5.4. In my experience (which is limited) PNG is just as good as GIF and is, of course, unencumbered by the LZW compression patent crap.

- Andrew

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Subject: Re: NO MORE GIF READ OR WRITE IN IDL 5.4
Posted by [Theo Brauers](#) on Sun, 22 Oct 2000 07:00:00 GMT
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Med Bennett wrote:

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- > even bother - why don't they just give it to the public domain, where it is
- > pretty much in practice anyway?

Because they want to keep some law firms in business. There are a number of prominent lawsuits in .de where companies sue people when they use a name w/o the copyright (i.e. when you call your own program anyone-explorer).

Best Theo

Subject: Re: NO MORE GIF READ OR WRITE IN IDL 5.4
Posted by [Med Bennett](#) on Mon, 23 Oct 2000 07:00:00 GMT
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IrfanView is also very good and is completely free: <http://www.irfanview.com>.

Mark Hadfield wrote:

- > "Med Bennett" <mbennett@indra.com> wrote in message
- > news:39F27A32.9A34E095@indra.com...
- >> PNG's work fine, they're just not widely recognized yet. There are a
- >> bazillion viewers and utilities that translate from GIF <> PNG <>
- > everything
- >> else
- >
- > And the one I recommend is ImageMagick
- >
- > <http://www.imagemagick.org/>
- >
- > The only thing that GIF has, and PNG doesn't, is support for animation.
- > However there are alternatives. There's PNG's cousin MNG
- >
- > <http://www.libpng.org/pub/mng/>
- >
- > though it's still a bit immature and there's FLC, which doesn't have its own
- > WWW site but there's some good info at
- >
- > <http://crusty.er.usgs.gov/flc.html>
- >
- > I think RSI's decision to remove GIF support from RSI was the correct one in
- > the circumstances.
- >

> ---
> Mark Hadfield
> m.hadfield@niwa.cri.nz <http://katipo.niwa.cri.nz/~hadfield/>
> National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research
> PO Box 14-901, Wellington, New Zealand

Subject: Re: NO MORE GIF READ OR WRITE IN IDL 5.4

Posted by [noymer](#) on Mon, 23 Oct 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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In article <onaebvedpm.fsf@cow.physics.wisc.edu>,
craigmnet@cow.physics.wisc.edu wrote:

> ... I make loads of GIFs
> for an internal web page, so it sucks a lot. How is it that the
> "premiere" image manipulation program can't do GIF?
>

Here is a list of web browsers that support PNG:

<http://www.libpng.org/pub/png/pngapbr.html>

I think you'll find that the users of your web page should have
no problems with PNG.

- Andrew

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Subject: Re: NO MORE GIF READ OR WRITE IN IDL 5.4

Posted by [Paul Woodford](#) on Mon, 23 Oct 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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In article <onaebvedpm.fsf@cow.physics.wisc.edu>,
craigmnet@cow.physics.wisc.edu wrote:

> One possibility, on Unix, is to output some other format and use the
> NetPBM tools to convert to GIF.

It's easy enough to write an IDL procedure that will use write_png to
output a PNG and then invoke the converter of your choice.

--

Paul Woodford, Ph.D.
Essex Corporation

For faster email response, replace us dot net with essexcorp dot com

Subject: Re: NO MORE GIF READ OR WRITE IN IDL 5.4
Posted by [Paul Woodford](#) on Mon, 23 Oct 2000 07:00:00 GMT
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In article <8stoek\$8nl\$1@nnrp1.deja.com>, Andrew <noymer@my-deja.com> wrote:

- > In my experience (which is
- > limited) PNG is just as good as GIF and is, of course,
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In my experience, PNG is much better than GIF. PNG supports 24-bit color; GIF does not. PNG also produces smaller files than GIF.

--

Paul Woodford, Ph.D.
Essex Corporation

For faster email response, replace us dot net with essexcorp dot com

Subject: Re: NO MORE GIF READ OR WRITE IN IDL 5.4
Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Mon, 23 Oct 2000 07:00:00 GMT
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"Mark C." <mychan@petro-canada.ca> writes:

- > Any suggestions on:
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- > 1) Alternatives if one wants to create GIF files here after?
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- > 2) Has any one use other formats in IDL which will yield equal or better
- > quality results to that of GIF?

One possibility, on Unix, is to output some other format and use the NetPBM tools to convert to GIF. But that sucks. I make loads of GIFs for an internal web page, so it sucks a lot. How is it that the "premiere" image manipulation program can't do GIF?

I like Ed Santiago's suggestion of trying the old idl_gif DLMs to see if they work. Has anybody tried it?

Craig

--

Craig B. Markwardt, Ph.D. EMAIL: craigmnet@cow.physics.wisc.edu
Astrophysics, IDL, Finance, Derivatives | Remove "net" for better response

Subject: Re: NO MORE GIF READ OR WRITE IN IDL 5.4
Posted by [Med Bennett](#) on Mon, 23 Oct 2000 07:00:00 GMT
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I guess I meant 'recognized by people' rather than 'recognized by software' - almost everyone knows what a gif is, but if I can imagine that if I told someone 'I'm sending you a png' I might have some explaining to do.

Nick Bower wrote:

>> PNG's work fine, they're just not widely recognized yet.
>
> In what? Gimp/Photoshop, browsers and ghostscript all support it. What more
> could you want? :)
>
> nick

Subject: Re: NO MORE GIF READ OR WRITE IN IDL 5.4
Posted by [Ed Santiago](#) on Mon, 23 Oct 2000 07:00:00 GMT
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> Any suggestions on:
>
>1) Alternatives if one wants to create GIF files here after?

Haven't tried this myself (don't have 5.4 yet), but unless RSI jumped through hoops to explicitly disable this, you could try:

```
ARCH=<your arch, e.g., linux, alpha, solaris2, etc>  
cp $IDL_53/bin/bin.$ARCH/idl_gif.* $IDL_54/bin/bin.$ARCH/
```

G'luck,
^E

--

Eduardo Santiago Software Type esm@lanl.gov RKBA!

news:39F27A32.9A34E095@indra.com...

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And the one I recommend is ImageMagick

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Mark Hadfield

m.hadfield@niwa.cri.nz <http://katipo.niwa.cri.nz/~hadfield/>

National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research

PO Box 14-901, Wellington, New Zealand

Subject: Re: NO MORE GIF READ OR WRITE IN IDL 5.4

Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Tue, 24 Oct 2000 05:48:44 GMT

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Paul Woodford wrote:

>
> In article <8stoek\$8nl\$1@nnrp1.deja.com>, Andrew <noymer@my-deja.com>
> wrote:

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>
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>

>

How did I create a png animation?

regards
Reimar

Subject: Re: NO MORE GIF READ OR WRITE IN IDL 5.4
Posted by [George N. White III](#) on Tue, 24 Oct 2000 07:00:00 GMT
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On Mon, 23 Oct 2000, Nick Bower wrote:

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>
> In what? Gimp/Photoshop, browsers and ghostscript all support it. What more
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>
> nick

Some people produce multi-year series of images. Changing to PNG will likely require updated color LUT's. If your system provides a library with GIF support (e.g., SGI) it may be better to write your own IDL routine to save GIF's.

Many people who work on unix systems are still running Photoshop 3, which AFAIK does not support PNG.

--

George N. White III <gnw3@acm.org> Bedford Institute of Oceanography

Subject: Re: NO MORE GIF READ OR WRITE IN IDL 5.4
Posted by [Glenn Randers-Pehrson](#) on Tue, 24 Oct 2000 07:00:00 GMT
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In article <39F522BC.6C1128D1@fz-juelich.de>,
"r.bauer" <r.bauer@fz-juelich.de> wrote:

>
> How did I create a png animation?
>

PNG is a single-image format. You can embed a sequence of PNG datastreams in a MNG file. See <http://www.libpng.org/pub/mng/> and <http://www.libmng.com/> for information about PNG's cousin MNG. The only major browser currently supporting MNG is Mozilla/Netscape 6, but there exists at least one plugin.

--

Glenn Randers-Pehrson
PNG/MNG Development Group

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