
Subject: Re: Animation Creations

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Sat, 20 May 2006 14:05:30 GMT

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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. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

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
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> 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> I

--

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Subject: Re: Animation Creations
Posted by [Mark Hadfield](#) on Mon, 22 May 2006 01:49:42 GMT
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Mark Hadfield wrote:
> Another possibility is Mencoder, part of the Mplayer package:
>

> <http://www.mplayerhq.hu/>
>
> I haven't tried Mencoder,. but I intend to shortly.

I *have* tried it and I'm not impressed. After mastering the arcane command line, I found that the codecs I want are not supported.

--

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Subject: Re: Animation Creations
Posted by [Haje Korth](#) on Mon, 22 May 2006 12:52:10 GMT
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Mark,
I use IDL all the time to turn images frames into movies. So why spend \$29.95 if you already have an IDL license that can do the job for you. I did not have to pay extra for the mpeg license although for my purpose MPEG does a pretty crummy job. You should contact RSI about this.

Haje
