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

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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
- >> issues where you have to pay money for an extra licence to make mpeg
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- >> 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. :-)

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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Mark Hadfield "Kei puwaha te tai nei, Hoea tahi tatou" m.hadfield@niwa.co.nz
National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA)

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.

--

Mark Hadfield "Kei puwaha te tai nei, Hoea tahi tatou" m.hadfield@niwa.co.nz
National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA)

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