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Subject: MPEG Movies from IDL  
Posted by [franz](#) on Thu, 16 Feb 1995 19:34:20 GMT  
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I would like to make some animation sequences available on the WWW. Does anyone have an IDL program to write MPEG files?

Thanks,

Bryan Franz

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Subject: Re: MPEG movies  
Posted by [A. Scott Denning](#) on Fri, 15 Nov 1996 08:00:00 GMT  
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TOP member wrote:

>  
> The other day there was a question about how to generate MPEGs on a Unix. Does  
> anyone know a similar program in IDL for a windows95 based platform?

The idl program would be identical. The only differences would be in regard to the changes in the use of mpeg\_encode (which is a freeware utility) on DOS vs Unix.

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Subject: Re: MPEG movies  
Posted by [Christian Soeller](#) on Sat, 16 Nov 1996 08:00:00 GMT  
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"A. Scott Denning" <[scott@abyss.atmos.colostate.edu](mailto:scott@abyss.atmos.colostate.edu)> writes:

> The idl program would be identical. The only differences would be in  
> regard to the changes in the use of mpeg\_encode (which is a freeware  
> utility) on DOS vs Unix.

I guess you also have to change the code that uses Unix shell commands.

In using Scott's program I came across some minor problems which I hope to have fixed in a slightly modified version (see diff output):

The shell syntax that tests for existence of TMPDIR is csh style. I changed it to sh style and called SPAWN with the /SH flag to make it run under most unices (for other platforms someone has to write an OS if-clause). The syntax of the INPUT line in the parameter file for mpeg\_encode seems to have changed, at least it choked on my machine (running IRIX 6.2). It should work now with the current mpeg\_encode version (v1.5b). Finally, a switch to delete the temporary filetree after completion has been added.

diff (1) output:

```
1c1
< PRO WRITE_MPEG, mpegFileName, image_array
---
> PRO WRITE_MPEG, mpegFileName, image_array, delaft=delaft
15c15
< SPAWN, 'if (-d ' + TMPDIR + ') echo "exists"', result
---
> SPAWN, 'if test -d ' + TMPDIR + '; then echo "exists"; fi', result, /SH
41c41,42
< PRINTF, unit, `ls *.ppm`
---
> PRINTF, unit, 'frame. *.ppm [' + string(FORMAT=formatString,0) + $
> ' ' + string(FORMAT=formatString,nFrames-1) + ']'
55a57,59
>
> IF KEYWORD_SET(delaft) then $
>   SPAWN, 'rm -r ' + TMPDIR
```

Best regards,

Christian

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