
Subject: high quality videos with idlffvideowrite?

Posted by [George.millward](#) on Wed, 24 Apr 2013 21:07:42 GMT

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Hi there,

Can anyone point me to some documentation on how to make a high quality video with idlffvideowrite - I'm sure Exelis put one together - but, as is often the case, I can't find it.

I can easily create videos with iflffvideowrite - but they are usually very horrible and compressed. I have replaced all of the ffmpeg .dll files as described in the reference manual and so I have lots of codecs and formats to work with... (I'm on windows7 btw)

...but I never seem to get anything other than a really poor quality movie. Surely this can't be that hard !!?

Cheers

George.

Subject: Re: high quality videos with idlffvideowrite?

Posted by [George.millward](#) on Thu, 25 Apr 2013 16:22:42 GMT

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On Wednesday, April 24, 2013 5:51:21 PM UTC-6, george....@yahoo.com wrote:

> On Wednesday, April 24, 2013 5:29:41 PM UTC-6, AndrewM wrote:

>

>> Yup, libx264 is the one you want for H.264 encoding. Still, though, increasing BIT_RATE is the first thing to try. It's going to take a lot more than 2 Mbps to get good quality 1920x1080 video. Let me know if that doesn't work out.

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> Yes, i did try bit_rate and it does make a big difference. I guess I'd assumed that the h264 'presets' would override any stated bit rate.

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> I agree with David... this needs a tutorial, or a much more complete set of examples - these days HD is almost standard and (for instance) the iPad goes way beyond HD.

Andrew,

I'm not sure I have the libx264 thing working - with this option I end up creating an .mp4 that won't load into quicktime. As i understand it from the documentation to bet 264 working I have to replace 4 dll files in the idl /bin directory. I did this - but I'm not sure it is correct.

One issue - replacing these files:

avcodec-53.dll
avformat-53.dll
avutil-51.dll
swscale-2.dll

I searched for windows ffmpeg builds and can find these files - but the 53 and 51 are now really old versions. I used the latest versions (55 I think) but then idl doesn't like them - complains that it can't find avutil-51.dll (because mine is avutil-55.dll). I went back through older builds of ffmpeg and found the 53/51 versions - these were from January 2012. Am I doing this right ? It all seems like a right hack !!

Is there somewhere I can get builds of these .dll files that definitely work ?

Cheers - still plugging away.....

George.

Subject: Re: high quality videos with idlffvideowrite?
Posted by [AndrewM](#) on Thu, 25 Apr 2013 17:43:44 GMT
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My favorite source for 'kitchen sink' builds of FFmpeg is <http://ffmpeg.zeranoe.com/builds/>

FFmpeg is constantly being worked on and updated, but they only increment that number in the libraries' filenames when they make a change that would make them incompatible with older versions. So unfortunately you do have to stick with an older version for now, but the next release of IDL will use a much newer version.

I think this one (from Jan 2012) ought to work for you:

http://ffmpeg.zeranoe.com/builds/win32/shared/ffmpeg-git-01f_cbf-win32-shared.7z

I developed your version of IDLffVideoWrite with FFmpeg 0.8.3, which came around Sept 2012.

I really wish we could distribute files like that so you didn't have to go through all this, but video technology is a minefield of copyright and patent issues and there's a lot of features in there we just can't distribute.

I'm not sure why your videos wouldn't be working in Quicktime Player. If you're using one of the lossless presets, it may not support those files. You might try out VLC Media Player (<http://www.videolan.org/>) just to see that the files are valid- VLC is remarkably good about being able to play just about anything you throw at it.

-Andrew Magill
ExelisVIS

Subject: Re: high quality videos with idlffvideowrite?
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 25 Apr 2013 18:05:08 GMT
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AndrewM writes:

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Alas, it doesn't seem to want to play the simple AVI file I created to illustrate how easy it is to create movies with IDLffVideoWrite. :-(

http://www.idlcoyote.com/gallery/index.html#AVI_MOVIE

It loads it, and plays the "frames", but there is no animation.
Plays great in Windows Media Player. (And I downloaded all the DivX codecs previously.)

Cheers,

David

P.S. Video just seems to be one of those things, like fonts and a couple of other things I can think of, that are designed from the start to be especially frustrating.

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.idlcoyote.com/>
Sepore ma de ni thue. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: high quality videos with idlffvideowrite?
Posted by [George.millward](#) on Thu, 25 Apr 2013 19:10:45 GMT
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On Thursday, April 25, 2013 11:43:44 AM UTC-6, Andrew Magill wrote:

> My favorite source for 'kitchen sink' builds of FFmpeg is <http://ffmpeg.zeranoe.com/builds/>
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>
> -Andrew Magill
>
> ExelisVIS

Andrew

I do have the '01fcbdf' build (from zeranoe) - so that's correct - but I'm using the win64 (shared) versions. That's because I'm using idl64. That's correct yeh ? I realize your limitations with this are due to the licensing issues - not your fault. This is a bit of a side project for me right now - so my progress is a little slow - but I'll figure something out.

David is right, video is staggeringly frustrating. What I think is needed is some solid examples of creating the 'needed' formats. To me these would be:

video for powerpoint presentations (both windows and Mac)
video for iToys (phone ipad etc.)
video for HDTV 1920 * 1080
video for internet (html 5?)

Anyhow, thanks for your help,

George.

Subject: Re: high quality videos with idlffvideowrite?

On Thursday, April 25, 2013 12:05:08 PM UTC-6, David Fanning wrote:

> AndrewM writes:

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>

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> --
>
> David Fanning, Ph.D.
>
> Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
>
> Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.idlcoyote.com/>
>
> Sepore ma de ni thue. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

I think when a video loads - but you just don't see anything - that's a codec problem (unsupported ?) - as you say, designed to be frustrating!

Subject: Re: high quality videos with idlffvideowrite?
Posted by [tushar](#) on Fri, 26 Apr 2013 06:06:33 GMT
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Does this command IDLffvideowrite works on IDL 7.1 or is their any other command for the same purpose ?? any one who knows that....

Subject: Re: high quality videos with idlffvideowrite?
Posted by [Phillip Bitzer](#) on Fri, 26 Apr 2013 16:34:46 GMT
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On Friday, April 26, 2013 1:06:33 AM UTC-5, tusha...@gmail.com wrote:
> Does this command IDLffvideowrite works on IDL 7.1 or is their any other command for the same purpose ?? any one who knows that....

Introduced 8.1. See <http://www.exelisvis.com/docs/IDLffVideoWrite.html>

Subject: Re: high quality videos with idlffvideowrite?
Posted by [George.millward](#) on Fri, 26 Apr 2013 16:35:39 GMT
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On Friday, April 26, 2013 12:06:33 AM UTC-6, tusha...@gmail.com wrote:
> Does this command IDLffvideowrite works on IDL 7.1 or is their any other command for the same purpose ?? any one who knows that....

I think it arrived with IDL8.1 - so, no, not 7.1. I'm not sure of any previous options.
