
Subject: Re: MPEG file creation

Posted by [davidf](#) on Wed, 15 Jul 1998 07:00:00 GMT

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Robert Pina (rpina@astro.ufl.edu) writes:

> I am running IDL5.1 under Windows NT 4.0 and am trying to create an MPEG
> file. I have a set of images which I can load and play using XINTERANIMATE.
> Everything looks fine. I then push the "Write MPEG" button. Again, everything
> looks ok with the file being written to disk. However, when I try to play the
> file back using a QuickTime Movie Player, I get an error saying it cannot
> open the file. When I try to insert the MPEG file into a Microsoft Powerpoint
> 97 Slide presentation, I get a message saying Powerpoint found an error that
> it can't correct. I've also tried creating the MPEG file using the MPEG_OPEN,
> MPEG_PUT, MPEG_SAVE, and MPEG_CLOSE procedures as described in the IDL5.1
> help and I still have no success reading the file back. Has anyone
> successfully created an MPEG file under IDL5.1 directly or using
> XINTERANIMATE?
>
> Finally, I've tried creating an MPEG file by EXACTLY running the example given
> in the IDL5.1 help for XINTERANIMATE (which uses the IDL bundled abnorm.dat
> data). Again, it seems to create an MPEG file (76 KB) when I press the "Write
> MPEG" button but I have no luck reading it with the two MPEG reading capable
> programs mentioned above. Am I missing something?

According to Technical Support at RSI, this problem is known to them and they are still in the process of trying to discover why some MPEG players have problems with the files created by IDL. They are pretty confident they are creating the MPEG files correctly according to the MPEG file specifications.

Until more is known, here is a list of MPEG players that was given to me by RSI that have apparently been tested and are known to work with the MPEG movie files created by IDL.

For Windows machines:

- ActiveMovie (<http://www.microsoft.com/directx/pavilion/amovie/default.asp>)

Version 2.0 and higher is recommended, but I find version 1.0 also works.

- VMPEG (<http://www.udel.edu/ps/sw/vmpeg.exe>)

There have been some problems with players dropping frames during playback. If this is occurring with your player, you may want to try this player, which is not susceptible to this problem.

For UNIX machines:

Xanim (<http://xanim.va.pubnix.com>)

Apparently source code is available for this viewer if you want to compile it for other platforms. See the web page for details.

For Macintosh machines:

Quicktime Player (<http://www.apple.com/quicktime/>)

Cheers,

David

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

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> XINTERANIMATE?

I've tried this today on my Windows NT machine and I find that I can't open the resulting MPEG movie file in my QuickTime for Windows, version 2.1.2.59. I found I *could* open and play the file, however, in my Microsoft ActiveMovie Control, version 1.0. I don't really know what to make of this, but I thought I would ask the folks at RSI about it and report anything I find here.

Cheers,

David

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