

MPEG-Interface

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Chapter 1

MPEG-Interface

1.1 MPEG Interface

MPEG Interface V1.0

John Godley © 1994

==== Standard Warranty =====

I take no responsibility for any damage caused by this program. This product is FREEWARE. Do with it as you want (copyright still remains with me however:)

Introduction

Requirements

Useage

KingCON problems

Credits

1.2 Introduction

This program is a GUI interface for the MPEG-Play program by Michael van Elst, available on the Aminet. Basically it allows you to control the different dither/colour settings which are then sent to the CLI based MPEG viewer. All options of MPEG-Play V1.03 are supported, including saving the MPEG as a series of IFF's.

1.3 Requirements

The program requires any Amiga computer with Workbench 2.0 and greater. It does not require a hard drive or a vast amount of memory (the program itself is only about 15K) but since you are playing MPEG's then a hard drive would be beneficial, and the more memory the better (a fast processor wouldnt go amiss either :)

You will also need the `mpeg_play` program - this should be available from the aminet, or elsewhere (?) It is important that the you rename the `mpeg_play` program to '`mp`', and that it is located somewhere within your path, `C:` assigns, or current directory, so that the GUI interace can locate it.

And finally you will need an MPEG to actually see anything!

NOTE: The `mpeg_play` program I have requires an 020, with 2mb of memory. If you use another MPEG viewer then as long as it uses the same command line options as `mpeg_play`, and that you rename it to '`mp`' then it should work just the same.

1.4 Usage

Useage:

Run the program from Workbench and the select your MPEG file by pressing on the get file button, or entering it into the string.

When you are ready, press on the Play button to begin viewing.

Options:

Display - Screen/IFF file/No display

Screen displays the animation on screen.

IFF file saves the MPEG animation as a series of IFF files which can be collected and made into a standard IFF animation (which will run much faster). Upon selecting this option, the IFF save string will be enabled allowing you to choose the destination for the IFF files. The IFF's will be named as specified with the frame number appended on the end of each - see the `mpeg_play` instructions for more details.

Ignore B/P frames - Ignore B (bothway interpolated) or P (predicted) frames.

Blue, red, luminance - Specifies the values for the blue, red, and luminance colours. Some MPEG's may display bad colours using the default 4R, 4B, and 16L. See `mpeg_play` docs for more info.

Dither modes - Choose a dither mode to suit your needs

The exact details are not given here and may be found within the original `mpeg_play` documentation.

Loop - Does what it says!

Once an MPEG has been started, the screen will flip to the MPEG animations screen. Meanwhile, back on the Workbench screen a CLI window will have opened displaying the frame number. If you wish to pause the MPEG then press any key in this window - delete the character when you wish to continue again. To enter a key into the frame window you will have to flip

back to the Workbench screen either by pressing on the invisible back-to-front gadget in the top right, or using the AMIGA+M combination. Now select the window and enter the key, or flip back again. As long as you do not press anywhere within the MPEG animation window the frame window will remain active allowing you to control it without having to flip back to the Workbench screen. To quit the animation you will have to enter a CTRL+C into this window.

When the animation has finished, or if you exit early using CTRL+C a window will pop-up displaying the statistics for the animation, the frame rate etc... Close this, and the frame window when you have finished.

Read KingCON note for CON: problems.

1.5 Credits

Programmed in C by John Godley

Comments and suggestions to:

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Thanks go to Michael van Elst for converting the MPEG viewer to the Amiga.

1.6 KingCON notes

NOTE for KingCON and other CON: replacement users:

I have experienced problems with using the program with KingCON - you cannot exit an animation by pressing CTRL+C. Instead you must BREAK the process from another shell window or the EXECUTE COMMAND menu option. If you are unsure on how to do this then follow these steps:

- 1) Open a new Shell window.
- 2) Type in 'status' and press return.
- 3) Look for something like "Process x: Loaded as command: mp"
where x is a number
- 4) Type in 'break x' where x is the number found in the status listing

This *should* send a signal to mpeg_play to stop.

I think the problem has something to do with the fact that KingCON doesn't handle double redirection properly. Since my program uses double redirection then you it doesn't work properly. If anyone knows of a better way of communicating with a CLI program then please let me know.
