

Introduction and Installation

The Microsoft® Video for Windows® Development Kit provides the resources you need to write applications that use the following services:

- **Video Capture**—These functions give your application easy access to video capture drivers. Your application can use these functions to obtain video sequences that you can use in AVI movies and in other applications using Video for Windows.
- **Video Compression and Decompression**—These functions give your application the ability to access video compressors and decompressors that use industry standard compression formats.
- **AVI Playback with MCI**—The MCI commands let your application use the AVI MCI driver to play AVI movies and manage the playback window.
- **Extended Display Services**—These services augment the standard video services to provide access to video decompressors, provide improved dithering of true-color images to 256 colors, and dither 8-bit images to 16-color VGA displays.
- **Read and Write AVI Files**—The AVI file examples and information let you develop routines to read and write AVI files.

This development kit also provides the resources needed by people developing video capture device drivers, and video compression and decompression drivers.

The software support supplied in this development kit includes:

- A collection of sample applications and drivers that use and provide Video for Windows services
- Header files defining the messages, data structures, and functions
- Documentation describing the features of the components of the development kit

Installing the Software

The distribution disks included with the development kit use a batch file to install the software. The following procedure describes the installation process.

U To install the Video for Windows Development Software:

1. From the MS-DOS command prompt, change to the floppy drive you are installing from and run the INSTALL batch file. The INSTALL batch file has the following syntax:

```
INSTALL C:\VFWDK
```

Replace C:\VFWDK with disk and path for the destination of the files.

2. When installation is complete, change your INCLUDE and LIB environment variables to include the INC and LIB directories in your destination path. For example, if you used C:\VFWDK as the path during installation, you could use the following:

```
SET INCLUDE=[previous include line];C:\VFWDK\INC
```

```
SET LIB=[previous lib line];C:\VFWDK\LIB
```

For these examples, replace [previous include line] and [previous lib line] with any existing paths for these statements.

3. You might also want to add the BIN directory to your PATH variable. The following example shows the template for modifying your PATH statement to include the Video for Windows BIN directory:

```
SET PATH=[previous path line];C:\VFWDK\BIN
```

As in the previous examples, replace [previous path line] with any existing path statements.

Documentation Overview

The chapters included in this guide describe the development of applications accessing Video for Windows services and development of drivers providing video capture, and video compression and decompression services. This guide contains the following chapters:

- Chapter 1, “Introduction and Installation,” provides background information about the contents of this guide.
- Chapter 2, “Using the Installable Compression Manager,” describes how applications use the Installable Compression Manager (ICM) functions for compressing or decompressing video image data. The chapter also contains a reference to the ICM functions.
- Chapter 3, “Using the DrawDib Functions,” describes how applications can use the DrawDib functions to access ICM services, and obtain improved support of low-end VGA display adapters. These functions significantly improve the speed and quality of displaying such images on display adapters with limited capabilities.
- Chapter 4, “AVI Files,” describes the AVI RIFF file format. The information in this chapter applies to applications and drivers that use this file format.
- Chapter 5, “DIB Format Extensions for Microsoft Windows,” describes the

DIB format extensions for Microsoft Windows that add new compression formats, custom compression formats, and inverted DIBs. Information in this chapter applies to both applications and video drivers.

- Chapter 6, “Playing AVI Files With MCI,” describes how to play AVI files using the MCI interface for Video for Windows.
- Chapter 7, “MCI Command Strings for MCIavi,” describes the MCI command strings for the Microsoft MCI video driver (MCIavi.DRV) that you can use with applications that support the MCI command-string interface.
- Chapter 8, “MCI Command Messages for MCIavi,” describes the MCI command messages for the Microsoft MCI video driver (MCIavi.DRV) that you can use with applications that support the MCI command-message interface.
- Chapter 9, “Video Capture Application Reference,” describes functions available for video capture.
- Chapter 10, “Video Compression and Decompression Drivers,” describes the installable driver interface used by video compressors and decompressors. This information applies to developers creating these types of drivers. This chapter also contains an alphabetical reference to the messages and data structures used to write video compression and decompression drivers.
- Chapter 11, “Video Capture Drivers,” describes the installable driver interface used by video capture drivers. This information applies to developers creating these types of drivers. This chapter also contains an alphabetical reference to the messages and data structures used to write video capture drivers.