

MovieBrowser™

Peter Hoddie

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Introduction

The MovieBrowser application provides a simple way to bundle a group of movies together. It works with QuickTime 1.5 or later. The user can easily move between the various movies without having to constantly return to the standard file dialog or Finder. Below the currently movie, an scrollable icon bar of all available movies is displayed. Above the movie, the movie's name is displayed.

Using

To play a movie double click on the movie itself, or its icon in the icon bar. Use the arrow on the left and right to scroll through the available movies. You can also chose from any of the available movies using the "Movies" menu which lists all movies.



MovieBrowser documents have an icon which looks like a stack of movie documents. You can have multiple MovieBrowser documents open at one time.



Options

You can copy the current movie to the Clipboard using the Copy command. No other editing is supported in MovieBrowser.

MoviePlayer™ takes care of that functionality.

If the movie contains text, you can search through the text track using the “Find...” and “Find Again” commands in the Edit menu.

The Movie Controller can be displayed by using the “Controller” option in the Edit menu.

Edit	
Undo	⌘Z
<hr/>	
Cut	⌘H
Copy	⌘C
Paste	⌘V
Clear	
<hr/>	
Find...	⌘F
Find Again	⌘G
<hr/>	
Controller	⌘K

Authoring

You can easily create your own MovieBrowser documents using BrowserMaker. The authoring tool very rough but functional. When it runs it asks you to select a movie. Every movie from the folder that that movie is in, is included in the document. It then prompts you for where to create the new MovieBrowser document. Because MovieBrowser remembers when its referenced movies are using aliases, it is best to not to move the new document after creating it.

There are many options in a MovieBrowser document. BrowserMaker uses a set of default settings. Using ResEdit it is possible to customize your documents further. A better option would be for some noble soul to modify the BrowserMaker source to actually have a user interface.

Document Format

The movies that the document refers to are contained in Alias resource ('alis'). They must be numbered sequentially from 128. The name of the movie that is used is actually the name of the corresponding 'alis' resource, rather than the file name.

The icons bar pictures are taken from Picture resources ('PICT') numbered sequentially from 128. These pictures all must be the same size.

The 'RECT' resource describes how large the movie area should be. BrowserMaker creates this rectangle to be the size of the largest movie plus some slop around the edges.

The 'RGB ' resource is optional and defines the background color. Changing this is probably a bad idea in most cases.

An optional 'PICT' 1048 resource in the document allows you to control the background area behind the movie name. Again, changing this is probably a bad idea in most cases.

An optional 'MCmc' resource describes whether the Movie Controller should appear by default. It is a one byte resource. If its value is 0, no movie controller is displayed. If it is 1, the controller is displayed.

Source Code

Complete source code to Movie Browser is provided for you edification. It provides a reasonable example of how to work with movies and the movie controller. It is not intended to show the best way to write a Macintosh application. It avoids calling Gestalt in several places where it should. The dialog behavior under System 6 is not ideal.

It does illustrate several interesting QuickTime programming techniques. In particular, avoiding calling WaitNextEvent too often is particularly helpful in making movies play back more smoothly. MovieBrowser is probably too aggressive in this area, however. Also using the Image Compression Manager Alignment routines helps playback in many cases.