Oracle Video Client™

Release Notes

Release 3.0.3 for Windows 95 and Windows NT 4.0

February, 1998

Part No. A53950-02

This document describes the Oracle Video Client, release 3.0.3 software. For release note issues concerning the Oracle Video Server, refer to the *Oracle Video Server Release Notes*.

In This Release Note

This document discusses:

New Features

Oracle Video Java Library

The Oracle Video Java Library enables Java applications to control media streams from the Oracle Video Server. From stand-alone Java applications you can start, stop, and seek within video streams from the Oracle Video Server and build customized user interfaces.

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Oracle Video Web Plug-in with LiveConnect Java and Javascript Support

The Oracle Video Web Plug-in is a Netscape-compatible plug-in that enables Web-based applications and HTML documents to embed streaming audio and video from the Oracle Video Server. The plug-in also supports the Netscape LiveConnect interface, which enables you to control the plug-in through Java and Javascript calls and to customize the user interfaces. New features include:

- Onscreen controls for play, pause, stop, volume, status, and video position
- Play-from and play-to settings
- Play audio-only settings

Oracle Video ActiveX Control

The Oracle Video ActiveX Control, formerly the Oracle Video Custom Control (OCX), allows multimedia applications on Windows 95 and Windows NT 4.0 to start, stop, and seek locations within media streams from the Oracle Video Server. The ActiveX control provides screen playback controls and dialog boxes to select videos from either the video server or a local disk. New features include:

- Play-from and play-to settings
- Getting and showing video file information
- Getting and showing playback statistics

Some methods, properties, and events have been changed to provide better consistency with the Oracle Video Web Plug-in and Java client interfaces.

Low-Bitrate Content Streaming

To stream low-bitrate content files through a 28.8 Kbps modem, you need low-bitrate video and/or audio codecs installed on your personal computer. The Oracle Video Client Software CD includes the Iterated Systems ClearVideo (fractal) video codec and the Voxware MetaSound audio codec. For more information on these codecs, see the "Hardware and Software Decoder/Codec Details" on page 8.

InstallShield Installer

The Oracle Video Client now uses the InstallShield Installer. The installation process has been streamlined to make installation easier and faster.

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Hardware/Software Alerts

Sigma Designs Hardware Decoders

Oracle has tested the Oracle Video Client with hardware decoders, such as the Sigma Designs REALmagic Maxima card, the REALmagic Ultra card, and the REALmagic NetStream card.

There are some issues with the stability of the system, predominantly with the Sigma Designs REALmagic Ultra card. These have been identified as bugs in the drivers provided for these cards. Oracle is actively working with Sigma Designs to find a solution to this problem. Please check the Sigma Designs Web page (**http://www.SigmaDesigns.com**) for the latest driver software updates.

Less frequent and not consistently reproducible are some issues observed with the Maxima card and sometimes with the NetStream card. Typically, pausing play and restarting repeatedly and quickly causes memory leaks in the decoder card drivers, which ultimately may result in an operating system crash.

Mediamatics Hardware Decoders

Occasional system halts occur at the end of a video and video playback is not reliable at approximately 3.0 Mbps and above when using the Mediamatics (MX-501) MPEG-1 hardware decoder card. Oracle is actively working with Mediamatics to find a solution to this problem.

Toshiba Tecra PC, Chips and Technologies 65550 Drivers

A display driver problem with the 5/96 version of Chips & Technologies 65550 drivers for Toshiba Tecra 730CDT causes the screen to split into four regions with the focus moving between the regions. Video appears on top of the screen as a thin bar.

Workaround: Download newer drivers from the Web site **http://www.toshiba.com/tais/csd/support/files/Win95_Drivers/ct554w95.exe**. Extract this file, then install the new 65550 Chips & Technologies drivers.

Toshiba Tecra 740CDT

The Java client will not play on the Toshiba Tecra 740CDT if Internet Explorer 4.0 is installed.

Oracle Video Client Alerts

Known Problems

You can obtain a list of known problems from the Oracle Video Server Web site **http://www.oracle.com/products/asd/video/video.html**.

Memory Leak Problems

The Oracle Video Client leaks memory when OSF files are opened and closed repeatedly. This becomes a problem only for continuous looping of the same piece of content.

Workaround: Shut down the Oracle Video Client and reboot your PC.

Oracle Video Web Plug-in Install

There are browser-detection issues concerning the Oracle Video Web Plug-in portion of the Oracle Video Client install:

- During install, if both Netscape Navigator 3.0 and Netscape Communicator 4.0 are installed on the same machine, the Oracle Video Web Plug-in is not installed in both products' plug-in directories. Currently, the plug-in is installed to the product that is associated with **HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Software\Microsoft\Windows\Current Version\App Paths\netscape.exe** in the Windows Registry. Oracle will address this issue in a later release.

  Workaround: You can manually install the plug-in (**npovc.dll**) in the plug-in directory where it is missing by copying it from the Oracle Video Client Software CD, copying it from the Netscape Navigator plug-in directory, or copying it from the Netscape Communicator plug-in directory.

- If Netscape Navigator 3.0 is installed, and then Netscape Communicator 4.0 is installed and uninstalled, the Oracle Video Web Plug-in does not get installed in the Netscape Navigator plug-in directory. Or, if Netscape Communicator 4.0 is installed, and then Netscape Navigator 3.0 is installed and uninstalled, the Oracle Video Web Plug-in does not get installed in the Netscape Communicator plug-in directory. The LiveConnect classes are also not installed.

  Workaround: You can find the plug-in (**npovc.dll**) in Internet Explorer's plug-in directory or copy it from the Oracle Video Client Software CD.

Java Sample Applications

Occasionally, termination of the sample applications from the DOS window using CTRL-C crashes the Java runtime. Oracle will address this issue in a later release.

Netscape Navigator

There are general instability issues with using the LiveConnect interface (Java applets & Javascript) under Netscape Navigator. Oracle recommends that you use the LiveConnect interface features of the Oracle Video Web Plug-in only with Netscape Navigator 3.0.

Under Netscape Navigator 3.0 When using the Oracle Video Web Plug-in with Java and Javascript, errors are generated when the plug-in **<embed>** statement is placed in an HTML table where the table width exceeds the browser's viewable area. The table has to be displayed entirely if you want to use Java and Javascript. Otherwise, Netscape's Javascript runtime will not find the plug-in's methods and the LiveConnect support will not work at all for Netscape Navigator 3.0.

Workaround: Enlarge the browser to a size large enough to display the table, and reload the HTML document, or right-click the plug-in to pull up the menu and play video.

Under Netscape Navigator 4.0 There is a problem running Java applets compiled using a version of the Java Developer's Kit (JDK) later than 1.1.2. This can cause problems if you want to control the Oracle Video Web Plug-in with a Java applet through the LiveConnect interface.

Workaround: There is a patch on the Netscape Web site **http://developer.netscape.com/software/jdk/download.html** that extends the JDK 1.1 implementation. Look for "NEW! MANUAL INSTALL OF THE JDK 1.1 SUPPORT FOR WIN 95 / NT" and then download the zip file.

Under Netscape Navigator 3.0 / 4.0 The Oracle Video Web Plug-in is not loaded for either Netscape Navigator 3.0 or Netscape Navigator 4.0 if the HTML tag **hidden=true** exists in the **<embed>** statement.

Netscape Communicator

Netscape Communicator's Javascript runtime or LiveConnect support frequently fails to initialize the plug-in context properly.

Workaround: Use Netscape Navigator 3.0.

Internet Explorer

There are some instability issues with using Internet Explorer:

- The Oracle Video Web Plug-in sample pages do not work in Internet Explorer 3.*x*.
- Internet Explorer crashes if a file with Oracle Video Web Plug-in / HTML calls is loaded in Internet Explorer and then closed with the video still playing.

Oracle Media Net

If the connection to the Oracle Video Server is lost, Oracle Video Client will block for 3 minutes. Oracle will address this issue in a later release.

Oracle Video Client Limitations

Uninstalling Earlier Versions

The Oracle Video Client 3.0.3 software install does not uninstall earlier versions of the client.

Workaround: Before installing the Oracle Video Client 3.0.3 software, use either the **Add/Remove Programs** icon in the Windows control panel or the Oracle Installer (**orainst**) to uninstall any earlier versions of the client.

Low-Bitrate Video Streaming

You must use the default UDP connection for low-bitrate client operation. Using TCP for low-bitrate connections could result in "resends" caused by bad or noisy connections, causing modem bandwidth to be exceeded. For optimal performance, configure the video pump to use 1K packet sizes for low-bitrate streaming. For more information, see the *Oracle Video Server Administrator's Guide and Command Reference*.

Using Two OVC Interface Instances in an Application

Oracle does not support the use of multiple instances of *any* Oracle Video Client interface in a single application. You can only have one ActiveX control, one plug-in, one Java player, and so forth.

Video Glitch Problems

There is a known bug with video glitching on content that has a bit rate of 1.2Mbps or below. Oracle will address this issue in a later release.

Workaround: Use content that has a higher bit rate.

Sequence Handling

You can segment video content into clips and combine sequences of clips into identifiable units of logical content. However, unless all clips in the sequence share the same characteristics (compression format, dimensions of the video picture, pixel aspect ratio, bit rate, and frame rate), the Oracle Video Player may appear glitchy or produce unexpected results instead of generating an error for the unsupported sequence. Oracle will address this issue in a later release.

Menu Display

Occasionally, when using the Oracle Video Player, pull-down menus are not displayed if the status bar is "**at end**". Oracle will address this issue in a later release.

Workaround: Changing the screen resolution or color-bit depth settings may avoid the problem. Otherwise, select **Pause** and then select the pull-down menu.

Circuit Allocation

Circuit allocation does not work on multi-NIC (network interface cards) clients because there is no one-to-one mapping between server addresses and clients. To stream video, you must specify which NIC to stream to, by binding to the client IP address and port. Oracle will address this issue in a later release.

Workaround: Set the **ovm.dsm-addr** value in **mnrc**.

```
ovm.dsm-addr=<ip-addr>:<port>
```

LiveConnect Methods Not Synchronous

The LiveConnect interface methods for Java and Javascript should be synchronous but currently behave *asynchronously*. You need to synchronize the calls to plug-in methods by checking states. For more information, see Appendix A, “Oracle Video Web Plug-in Reference” in the *Oracle Video Client Developer's Guide*.

Oracle Power Objects

The Oracle Video ActiveX control is not supported with Oracle Power Objects in this release. Oracle will address this issue in a later release.

Hardware and Software Decoder/Codec Details

The Oracle Video Client works with ActiveMovie decoders, so the decoder you use must be compliant with ActiveMovie 1.0. ActiveMovie, provided with the Oracle Video Client, includes a software MPEG-1 Mediamatics decoder for Windows 95 and Windows NT 4.0. ActiveMovie supports decoding of other formats, including Iterated Systems ClearVideo (fractal), Intel Indeo, and Radius Cinepak.

For the best MPEG decoding, use a hardware decoder card that is capable of providing full-screen, full-motion digital video at 30 frames per second (fps) with CD-quality audio. Hardware decoders used with Oracle Video Client must support ActiveMovie. See *MPEG-1 Hardware Decoders tested with Oracle Video Client* on page -9 for the list of decoders tested with OVC.

Note: If you experience problems when trying to play video, try playing video with the ActiveMovie Control. If you still experience problems, there may be an incompatibility between your hardware and ActiveMovie.

Decoders/Codecs Included with Oracle Video Client

The Oracle Video Client is shipped with the following decoders and codecs. OVC has been tested with these products:

MPEG-1 decoder

- Mediamatics software MPEG-1 decoder, included with Microsoft ActiveMovie software

Other decoders

- Other decoders included with ActiveMovie, for example, Radius Cinepak and Intel Indeo

Low-Bitrate Codecs

- Iterated Systems ClearVideo (fractal) video codec
- Voxware MetaSound audio codec

MPEG-1 Hardware Decoders tested with Oracle Video Client

The Oracle Video Client has been tested with the following MPEG-1 hardware decoders:

- Sigma Designs REALmagic Maxima (with 32-bit software drivers v4.0 or above)
- Sigma Designs REALmagic NetStream I (with 32-bit software drivers v4.0 or above)
- Sigma Designs REALmagic Ultra (with 32-bit software drivers v4.0 or above)
- Mediamatics (MX-501) for Windows 95

Related Documentation

For this Production release, only the *Oracle Video Client Release Notes* are provided in printed form. The following books are provided in Adobe Acrobat (PDF) format:

- *Oracle Video Client Developer's Guide* (ovcdev.pdf)
- *Oracle Video Server Content Administrator's Guide* (cag.pdf)
- *Oracle Video Client Release Notes* (ovcnote.pdf)
- *Oracle Video Client CD Insert* (ovcinstl.pdf)

The v3.0 Adobe Acrobat Reader has been provided on the Oracle Video Client Software CD. See **Install.txt** for instructions on installing Acrobat Reader.

Support Contacts

For basic troubleshooting information, visit **http://www.oracle.com/products/asd/video/video.html** to find out about customer support services and known problems for Oracle Video Client.

When you or someone in your company acquired this Oracle product, you probably also purchased some level of customer support. Oracle then sent you a package that includes telephone numbers, email addresses, and Web sites you should use to contact customer support. Oracle provides Web-based support for our OracleMetaLink and OracleMercury services at **http://support.us.oracle.com**.

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