

Video for Windows 1.0 - Electronic Runtime

As any presenter knows, the best way to explain something clearly and memorably is to show it in action. And today, that means video. With Microsoft Video for Windows, you can do more than present the facts. You can tell the whole story:

- * Spice up electronic presentations with videos of actual product demonstrations.
- * Build credibility with customer testimonials that your audience can see and hear.

Because Video for Windows treats video as simply another data type, you don't have to redo presentations to take advantage of video. You can create video clips specific to your presentations; or, you can use and edit predigitized sequences from the Video Clip Library included with Microsoft Video for Windows. The Video Clip Library contains more than 200 predigitized video sequences that you can use much as you'd use standard clip art.

You can copy and paste video sequences from the Clipboard to use video where you need the impact or clarity, effectively turning your business communications from ideas into action. Video in a presentation graphics program such as Microsoft PowerPoint® is only a beginning. Any time you need to clearly convey complex ideas, processes, or concepts—such as how cost flow analysis assumptions relate to a particular manufacturing process—you can now show what can't easily be explained. Just use object linking and embedding (OLE) to drop video clips into word processing documents, spreadsheets or other forms of communication and tell the whole story quickly and easily. And since digital video is easy to copy and paste, the more people you need to explain your ideas to, the more of a time-saver video becomes.

How to use this Runtime.

This kit contains almost everything you'll need to experiment with software-based video on your own computer without any digitizing boards or other special video hardware. However, to get the full benefit of digital video, we strongly recommend a sound card (MPC- or Windows-compatible) and a 256-color monitor and video display adapter.

The electronic version of this runtime does not include any sample video files (*.AVI). You can obtain sample video files where you obtained this runtime. Video for Windows includes a the Video Clip Library CD-ROM disc with over 200 sample video files for Microsoft Video for Windows.

If you've gotten this far, Setup has installed and created a program group that includes an enhanced Media Player that makes video playback easy.

To see how easy it is to integrate video into your existing Windows-based applications, follow these steps:

1. Double-click the Media Player icon.
2. Open a video file (*.AVI).
3. From the Media Player Edit menu, choose Select Copy Object.
4. Open another document (e.g. word-processing, spreadsheet, etc) and go to the location to insert the video clip.
5. Paste the video clip from the clipboard. (Most often, you can use the Paste or Paste Special command from the Edit menu.)

Video appears in your application as any other graphic until you double-click it for the impact that only video can offer. Experiment with it in your own applications. Then visit your nearest software reseller to get the Microsoft Video for Windows full packaged product and put your ideas in motion.

Improving Performance of Audio and Video Playback

The video clip included in the Trial Pack has been prepared to play with on a computer system equipped with base-level multimedia components. If you encounter quality problems when playing this video clip, the following tips are offered to troubleshoot and improve playback on your system.

Audio Tips

- * **No sound** - install an audio-card and Windows-compatible driver in your computer system.
- * **Still no sound** - check the speaker-cable connections and adjust the audio-card volume control to the mid-range position.
- * **Background static noise from speakers** - move speaker cables away from the computer power supply. Or, lower the audio-card volume control and use an external amplifier if you need more volume.
- * **Tinny sound produced by the internal PC speaker** - Use external speakers. The PC speaker isn't designed for high-quality sound reproduction.

Video Tips

- * **Jerky video motion or discontinuous audio during playback** - If the video clip is on a floppy disk, copy the clip to your hard disk to improve performance. If the video clip already is on a hard disk, defragmenting the disk will improve performance. Disk defragmentation utilities, such as Norton's SpeedDisk, are available at most computer stores.
- * **Size of the video is too small** - In Media Player, from the Device menu, choose the Configure command. Then, select the Full Screen option and choose OK from the Video Playback Options dialog box to increase the playback size of the video.