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MultiMedia Swiss Army Knife:

Introduction

The MultiMedia Swiss Army Knife is a fully functional MultiMedia display and playback application designed and coded using Microsofts Visual Basic 3.0 Professional Edition.

The application was designed to give users a single place where they could browse through multiple files and file types in a seamless manner, without the hassle of starting a separate *Player* program for each file type.   Major consideration has been given to supporting all the *standard* Windows bitmap formats and MCI file formats.

MMSWAK supports Viewing and Playback for the following file formats;

File Description	File Type	Default Ext.
CompuServe Graphics Interchange Format	BitMap	*.GIF
Windows BitMaps	BitMap	*.BMP
Windows Device Independent BitMaps	BitMap	*.DIB
ZSoft Graphic Format	BitMap	*.PCX
Tagged Image Format (TIFF)	BitMap	*.TIF
Targa Graphic Format	BitMap	*.TGA
Windows Audio Video Interleave	MCI Digital Movie	*.AVI
Windows Wave Audio	MCI Sound Sample	*.WAV
MIDI Music Files	MCI Audio	*.MID, *.RMI

MultiMedia Swiss Army Knife:

Using MMSWAK

Menu Commands

File Menu
Options Menu
Help Menu
Start SlideShow

Screen Layout

Files Window
Directory Window
Viewer Window

Mouse Actions
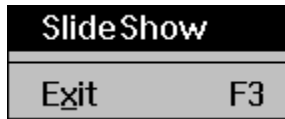
Selecting Files
Zooming a Graphic
Playing/Pausing an MCI File

MultiMedia Swiss Army Knife:

File Menu

The File menu contains the menu items SlideShow and Exit.

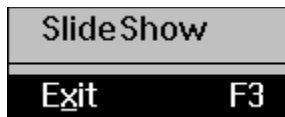**SlideShow**

Clicking the right mouse button on the SlideShow menu item will allow the user to select multiple files from the Files Window and view them consecutively.   This feature can be used for all supported file types and different file types can be viewed in a single slide show.

When selected, display of the files will not begin until the Start SlideShow menu item has been selected.   This will allow you to complete the file selection process before you start the slide show.

Exit (Also F3)

Clicking the right mouse button on the Exit menu item will close all files and exit the MMSWAK program.   This feature can also be utilized by pressing F3 from anywhere within the application.

MultiMedia Swiss Army Knife:

Options Menu

Graphics Options (BitMaps Only)

Display FullScreen

Graphics	Display FullScreen
AVI	256 Gray Dither

Selecting this menu item will cause BitMaps to be displayed in a separate window at 100% of scale.

256 Gray Dither

SlideShow	
E_xit	F3

Selecting this option will convert all BitMaps to 256 shades of gray prior to display.   Use this option if your system does not support 8 or 24 bit color.
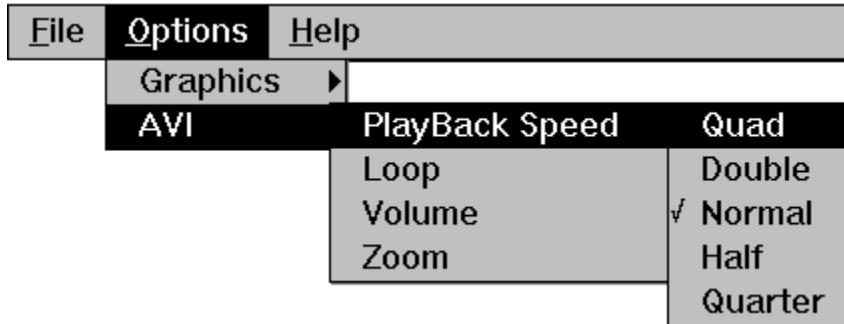
AVI Options (MCI Digital Movies Only)

PlayBack Speed
Loop
Volume
Zoom

MultiMedia Swiss Army Knife:

AVI PlayBack Speed

File	Options	Help

Graphics ▶

AVI PlayBack Speed **Quad**
Loop Double
Volume √ Normal
Zoom Half
Quarter

Selecting this option will allow you to alter the speed (<u>frame rate</u>) at which the AVI Video file will play on your computer.   The current selection is indicated by the √ mark.

Depending on your <u>hardware configuration</u> you may experience more <u>dropped frames</u> when playing AVI Video at accelerated speeds.   Conversely, slowing the playback will allow you to view more frames per second (up to 100%).

This option is also effected by the <u>Zoom</u> setting.   Higher Zooms may require slower PlayBack Speeds to avoid a <u>Stop Motion</u> effect.
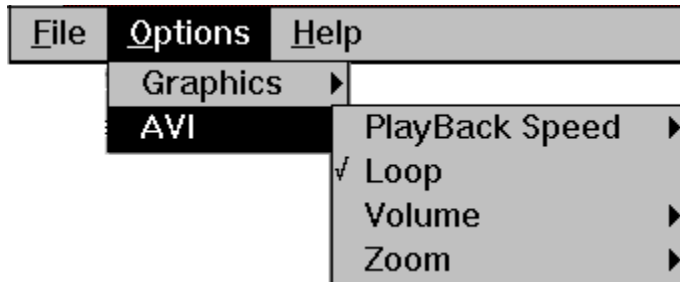
See Also:
<u>Hardware Requirements</u>
<u>File Display/Playback Requirements</u>

MultiMedia Swiss Army Knife:
AVI Loop

Selecting this option will toggle looping of AVI Video on and off.

When looping is active, indicated by the √ mark, the AVI Video clip will repeat continually until the stop button is selected with the mouse.

When looping is inactive the AVI Video clip will stop automatically after playing the last frame.   The clip can be played again, from the beginning,   by selecting the play button with the mouse.
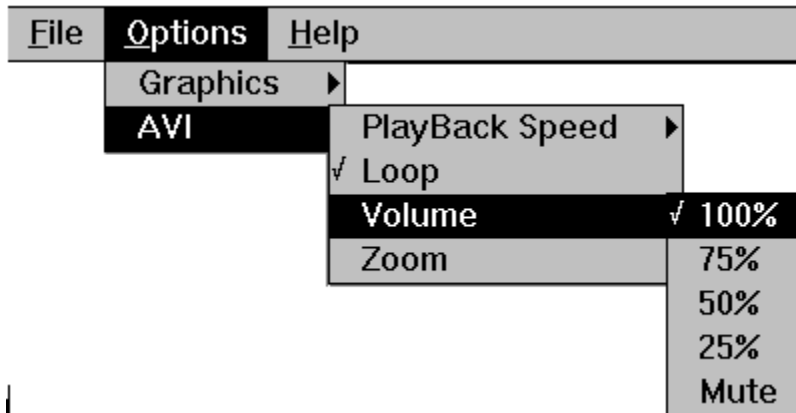
See Also:
  Hardware Requirements
  File Display/Playback Requirements

MultiMedia Swiss Army Knife:

AVI Volume

File	Options	Help

Graphics ▶

AVI

PlayBack Speed ▶
√ Loop
Volume   √ 100%
Zoom   75%
                50%
                25%
                Mute

Selecting this option will allow you to alter the default audio volume of the AVI Video clip.   The current selection is indicated by the √ mark.

Selecting Mute will allow the playing of AVI Video clips without any sound at all.   These settings do not change any sound levels you may have set from within the control software for your sound board hardware or speaker volume dials.   (i.e. 100% means 100% of *current levels*, not that volume will be increased to 100% of you systems potential output)
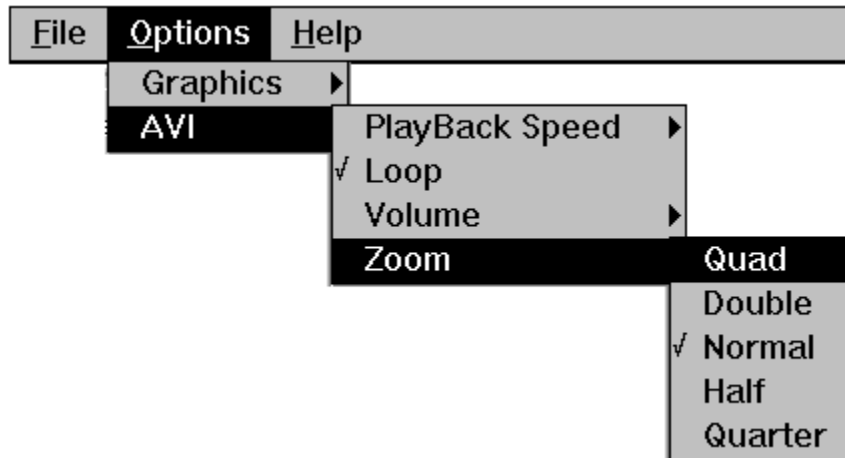
See Also:
  Hardware Requirements
  File Display/Playback Requirements

MultiMedia Swiss Army Knife:
AVI Zoom

File	Options	Help

Graphics ▶
AVI

PlayBack Speed ▶
√ Loop
Volume ▶
Zoom

Quad
Double
√ Normal
Half
Quarter

Selecting this option will allow you to alter size of the AVI Video clip while it is displayed on your computer.   The current selection is indicated by the √ mark.

Depending on your hardware configuration you may experience more dropped frames when playing AVI Video with larger than normal frame sizes.   Conversely, displaying frames at a size smaller than normal will allow you to view more frames per second (up to 100%).

This option is also effected by the PlayBack Speed setting.   Faster PlayBack Speeds may require smaller frame sizes to avoid a Stop Motion effect.

See Also:
   Hardware Requirements
   File Display/Playback Requirements

 MultiMedia Swiss Army Knife:

Help Menu

Help Contents }

Selecting this menu item will bring you to this help file.

Help About

For more information about the application, the author or registration, select this menu item.

See Also:
   Distributing the Program to Others
   Technical Support

MultiMedia Swiss Army Knife:
Start SlideShow

File   Start SlideShow   Options   Help

This option is only available after having selected SlideShow from the File Menu.   When selected, any files that have been selected in the Files Window will be displayed/played in the Viewer Window.

This option will disappear after the conclusion of the slide show.
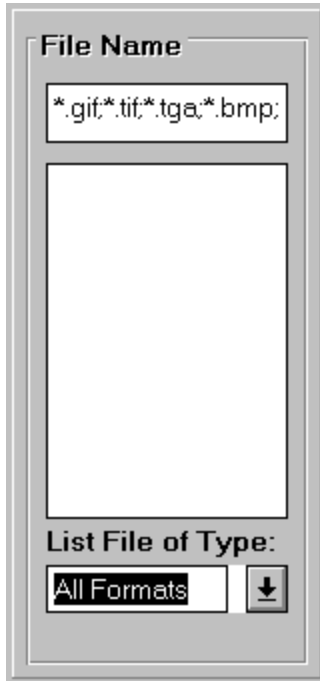
See Also:
    Selecting Files
    Options Menu
    Playing/Pausing an MCI File
    File Display/Playback Requirements

MultiMedia Swiss Army Knife:
Files Window

The Files Window is displayed below.   Click on any area for additional information.

File Name

```
*.gif;*.tif;*.tga;*.bmp;
```

List File of Type:

```
All Formats  ▼
```

The Files Window displays a listing of all available files, in the current directory, of the specified file type.   Selected file names are listed in the file name label and are highlighted in the file list box.

See Also:
  Selecting Files
  Directory Window
  Viewer Window

MultiMedia Swiss Army Knife:

Directory Window

The Directory Window is displayed below.   Click on any area for additional information.

Directories

c:\mmswak

📂 c:\
📂 **mmswak**

Available Drives:

c:

The Directory Window displays all available subdirectories, in the current drive and location, and allows you to select alternate directories and disk drives.   The currently selected directory is listed in the label just above the directory listing.
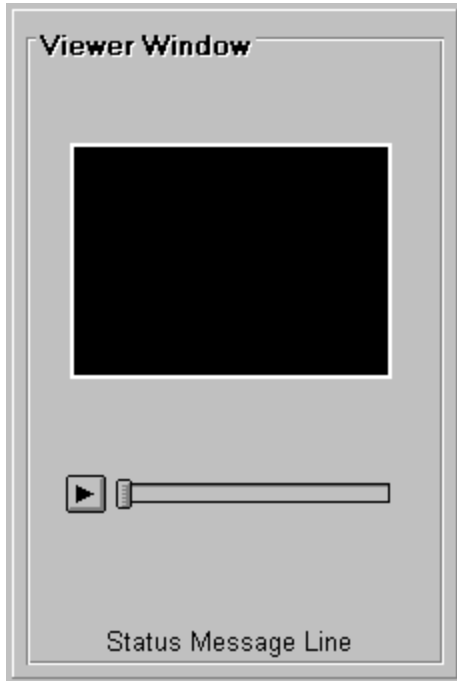
See Also:
   Selecting Files
   File Window
   Viewer Window

MultiMedia Swiss Army Knife:

Viewer Window

The Viewer Window is displayed below.   Click on any area for additional information.

The Viewer Windows provides the area to display bitmap files, AVI Video clips, Wave Audio and MIDI/RMI Music files.   The window caption changes to display the name of the active file, its type and its scaling percentage (if appropriate).   BitMap graphics appear in a display window that is scaled to the largest possible size (up to 100%) that still fit within the Viewer Window.   AVI, MIDI and RMI files are displayed along with a play bar.   The play bar allows you to start and stop the play process and graphically view the current position in the file.   The status line a the bottom of the Viewer Window provides information on additional features of the viewer and the status of any MCI operation.

See Also:
   Selecting Files
   Directory Window
   Files Window
   Zooming a Bitmap
   Playing/Pausing an MCI File
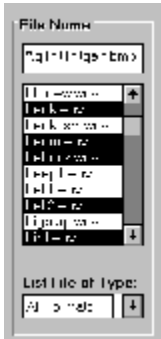   File Display/Playback Requirements

MultiMedia Swiss Army Knife:
Selecting Files

Single File Selection (Normal Mode)

Selecting files is don with the left mouse button.   In normal mode when a file name is selected, that name will appear in the file name box and processing to display/play that file will begin immediately.

Multiple File Selection (SlideShow Mode)

CTRL - MOUSE Combination - When SlideShow mode has been selected.   The user is free to select as many files as display in the file list box.   Processing will not begin until the menu item Start SlideShow is selected.   Standard Windows selection criteria apply. To select more than one file when they are *not* in sequence, hold down the CTRL key while selecting (see example at right).

SHIFT - MOUSE Combination - To select all files in between to points, select the first file, hold down the SHIFT key and select the last file (see example at right).

MultiMedia Swiss Army Knife:

Zooming a BitMap

Whenever a BitMap is displayed in the viewer window at less than 100% of scale, the status line gives you the option of viewing the BitMap in a separate 100% Zoom window.

To Access this feature, place the cursor on the BitMap being displayed and double-click.   To EXIT the zoom windows select exit.
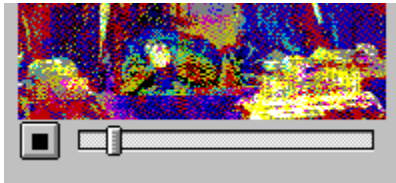
 MultiMedia Swiss Army Knife:

Playing/Pausing an MCI File

When an MCI file is selected for playback you will be presented with a play back bar.   The playback bar has two states, Playing and Stopped. (see below)

To begin or resume playing a stopped MCI file, click the play button.   The MCI will begin/resume playing and the play button will toggle into the stop button.

To stop an actively playing MCI file click the stop button.   The MCI file will stop and the stop button will toggle into the stop button.

MultiMedia Swiss Army Knife:

Operating System Requirements

This application requires Microsoft Windows or Windows for Workgroups versions 3.1 or greater in order to make use of the MCI device drivers contained in these versions of the Operating System.   The MultiMedia Swiss Army Knife will also work with Windows 3.0 with MultiMedia Extensions if you have them.

See Also:
   Hardware Requirements
   File Display/Playback Requirements

MultiMedia Swiss Army Knife:

Hardware Requirements

Your computer hardware must meet the following *minimum* requirements in order to be able to use the MMSWAK application:

A 386DX CPU or Faster (486SX or better preferred)

One Half Megabyte of Hard Disk space for program and supporting files.

A monitor and video adapter capable of supporting a resolution of 640x480 with 16 colors (640x480x256 preferred)

See Also:
Operating System Requirements
File Display/Playback Requirements

MultiMedia Swiss Army Knife:

File Display/Playback Requirements

Sound Files

To hear Wave Audio (*.WAV) file, MIDI Music (*.MID) files and RMI Sound Sample (*.RMI) files you will need either a sound card installed in your PC (i.e. Sound Blaster, Adlib, Microsoft Sound System, Turtle Beach, etc.) or have installed one of the PC speaker drivers available in the public domain, on BBS's and CompuServe.   This is a limitation of the PC and Windows.

AVI Movie Clips

To view Microsoft Audio Video Interleave (*.AVI) files you must first install the Microsoft Video for Windows© Runtime program.   The runtime is available via CompuServe or Microsoft. You can view AVI files without a sound card or driver, the sound will just be turned off.

BitMap Files

No additional files are required to view BitMaps (GIF, BMP, PCX, TIF, TGA, DIB, etc.).   The MultiMedia Swiss Army Knife supports 16, 256 (8 Bit)   and up to 16.4 million (24 Bit) colors and 256 shades of gray (whatever your video adapter puts out).   BitMaps are best viewed in full screen mode with resolutions of 800x600 or 1024x768 but it will work under 640x480.   BitMaps may appear strangely "pixelated" or "dithered" when viewing 8 or 24 bit images using a 16 color adapter.   Let me know if your system only supports 16 colors and I'll cut a "special" version of the application that will improve this for you.

See Also:
  Hardware Requirements
  Operating System Requirements

MultiMedia Swiss Army Knife:

Registration

Author's Note:
I am very pleased that you liked the idea of The MultiMedia Swiss Army Knife enough to try it.   It is my hope that you find it unique and useful.   I want to take this time to *Thank You* in advance for evaluating this application!

The Hook:
I have invested a lot of time and effort in designing and supporting it and the ultimate complement would be that you might value it enough to register and pay for it.

This application is continually under development.   If you use the application for more than 30 days, please support the shareware concept by taking the time to register.   Send a check or money order for $5.00 US funds (*that's right, only $5*) to the address below.

If you would like a copy of the latest version on diskette then please send $10 and your return address.   Please specify disk size (3½ or 5¼).

Make all checks payable to;

       Thomas R. White
       23 Honeysuckle Ave
       Erial, NJ 08081

Thank You for Your Support!

MultiMedia Swiss Army Knife:
Distributing the Application

Please feel free to distribute this version of MMSWAK to all your friends, associates and any BBS where you think it might be found useful.   PLEASE distribute copies of **the original ZIP file only** - **No modifications, additions or deletions**, please.   This will ensure that the program will work the same way for others as it works for you.   Registered users will find the MMSWAK.ZIP file on the diskette.   Remember, this application and all its associated files remain the property of Recreational Engineering Associates.

If you obtained the application in ZIP form from CompuServe, you will need to contact me for the version that contains the VBRUN300.DLL file and the proper modifications to the SETUP.EXE program or you will have to provide the VBRUN300.DLL to each individual to whom you distribute the application.

Sysops, feel free to offer the MultiMedia Swiss Army Knife to your members/subscribers with my blessings -- and with the following conditions;

   No charge can be made for distribution or use of this software except from the author.

   This application can not be modified, renamed, reversed engineered, or misrepresented in any way without violation of copyright.

   No additions or alterations can be made to the ZIP file or it's contents without the express written consent of the author (or the commissioner of baseball, if available).

   You must inform me of your intention to distribute the application via written letter or CompuServe or the Internet.   Please include your name, the name and number of your BBS and an E-Mail address so I can notify you of updates and future product releases.

See Also:
Technical Support (Reaching the Author)

MultiMedia Swiss Army Knife:

Technical Support

I am always available for technical support (whether you have registered or not) via CompuServe at account number **70474,2741** or on the Internet at **c62os20@IBX.COM**.

If you have problems with the application, need an auxiliary file or just wish to make suggestions, please feel free to send me an E-Mail.

Directory Window Label
Displays the active drive and directory.

Directory Listing Window
This scrolling window displays all available subdirectories (to the active directory).   To open a directory, double-click on the directory name.

Drive Selection List Box
This drop down list box will display a listing of all available hard drives, floppies and active network connections.   To change your drive select a drive from the list.

Active File Window
This text box displays the name of the selected file.   If SlideShow mode is active this box displays the name of the first selected file.

File Listing Window
Displays a listing of all available files that meet the selection criteria displayed in the File Type drop down list box.

File Type List Box
This drop down list box allows you to select the type of file to be displayed in the File List Window.   Use All File Types for a listing of all supported files.

Viewer Window Label
This label will change to reflect the name of the active file, its Zoom % and file type (where applicable).

BitMap Display Window

This frame will display the BitMap file at the highest possible Zoom % (up to 100%).   Double-click the image to display it in a full screen window.

MCI File Play bar
Allows you to start/stop/pause the playback of AVI, MID, WAV and RMI Files.

Viewer Window Status Line
Displays the current state of the MCI Play bar or instructions for bitmap features.

BitMap
Any raster or point by point graphic file format.   The image is composed of individual dots of color.

MCI files
Stands for MultiMedia Computer Interface.   A group of file formats written to be accessed by MultiMedia devices and drivers (i.e. CD-ROM, AVI Movies, Wave Audio, etc.)

Frame Rate
The number of Frames-Per-Minute that can be played from an AVI file.

Dropped Frames

When the MCIAVI driver cannot maintain the frame rate specified in an AVI file, it selectively drops individual frames during playback.

Stop Motion
A term used to describe when an AVI playback drops so many frames the presentation resembles a film strip, not a movie.

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