CompuServe Registration
CompuServe subscribers can **GO SWREG** and register **# 6583**.   You will be provided with a key (i.e., S/N) via email that is **valid for all VidFun 1.x versions**; ofcourse, the latest registered version will be sent to you as well.

What's Next?
Since registered users, are provide with a key (ie., S/N) valid for all 1.x versions, we intend to update frequently and *at will* .   With your support, updates will include more multimedia devices/features and file formats, exotic image processing techniques, scanning processes (eg., descreen)... and eventually full hypermedia authoring. Coming soon ... a Multimedia screensaver based on VidFun's AVL scripts.

Support the Shareware Concept and we'll develop this product (and others) like nothing seen commecially ... otherwise, it will simply *die* from lack of support.

Shareware Distribution
Please feel free to and copy/distribute VIDFUN12.ZIP or VIDFUN12.EXE, in it's unmodified and uninstalled form, to all your friends and associates as well as upload to various online services.

Mach64 Incompatibilities
Mach64-based cards may crash during Quicktime for Windows playback. Make a backup then edit the [Macx] section in your SYSTEM.INI file with a text editor (eg., NotePad) and add this:

DeviceBitmap=OFF

When scanning in 24-bit mode, a warning will pop up if the suggested change is not present. Use 64K-color modes for scanning.

Diagnosing Multimedia Setup
If you get MCI driver errors when opening AVI, MOV, WAV, MID or FLI files you may have an incomplete setup. Ensure proper setup by using Media Player to test playback.

For FLI playback check your SYSTEM.INI and WIN.INI files for the following entries.

In SYSTEM.INI file:

[mci]
Animation1=mciaap.drv

In WIN.INI file:

[mci extensions]
fli=Animation1

Apple QuickTime for Windows (QTW)
To run *.MOV (Apple QTW MOVie) files, MCI drivers for Windows are required. Use the Media Player accessory to verify setup. If you don't have QTW drivers, CompuServe users can:

1. GO QTIME
2. Purchase Quicktime for Windows 2.x ($9.95 US) by downloading it (free connect time).

QTW 1.x drivers are adequate but QTW 2.x is prefrerred due to new compression schemes and

improved 256-color palette management. If you are not yet a CompuServe subscriber, but have a CDROM and several CDROM titles, you may already have older QTW (1.x) runtime files BUT may not be setup for MCI playback.

1. Copy all QTW runtime files to your \windows\system directory.
  The QTW files are usually placed in a separate directory; you must have:

  MCIQTW.DRV, MCIQTENU.DLL, QTIMCMGR.DLL, QTIM.DLL
  QTOLE.DLL, QTHNDLR.DLL, QTVHDW.DLL, QTNOTIFY.EXE
  PLAYENU.DLL, VIEWENU.DLL, and several *.QTC files

**Note: Since YOU purchased the book w/ a CDROM or CDROM title, only YOU are
              licensed to use the QTW runtime files on ONE/YOUR single computer.**

2. Create a QTW.INI file and place it in your \windows directory;
   add the following sections and entries.

[Options]
VideoOptimize=DIB

[Video]
Optimize=DIB

[QuickTime for Windows]
Implementation=Full

3. Modify your SYSTEM.INI file; add under the [mci] section

QTWvideo=MCIQTW.DRV

4. Modify your WIN.INI file; add under the [mci extensions] section

MOV=QTWvideo

Video Setup & Diagnostics

Firstly, you MUST have Windows (or WfW) 3.1 or 3.11.

Should I update to VFW 1.1d (or later) or QTW 2.x (or later)?
Playback of video files encoded with new compression schemes will result in an MCI error with older drivers. For VFW, download VFW11D.exe (or later version); run it in a temporary directory (self-extracting), then run it's setup. For QTW, see previous section. Always back up your entire \windows and \windows\system directory so that you can restore your entire setup.

Is my video card incompatible ?
Change your Windows video setup to VGA 640x480 (16 colors). Video files should playback, albeit jerky, slow and grainy. Test other video modes to see which one works. If specific modes don't playback correctly, you need updated drivers from your card's manufacturer.   For QTW, see previous section regarding QTW.INI changes.

Insufficient Windows memory?
Close all open applications. If the video file plays then "insufficient memory" was the issue. "Ram-doublers" may help or cause problems; switch them off if you suspect a problem.

Multi-tasking interactions with other apps?

Close all open applications - particularly DOS sessions, screen savers, clocks, schedulers, e-mail, fax, communications apps, "green"/power savers ... anything requiring a timer or is in the background. If the video file plays then you've isolated interactions with other Windows apps. One or several of those concurrent apps caused an incompatible interaction.

Hard Disk/CDROM caching ?
Generally there should not be a problem with SMARTDRV; the worst case is less extended memory (see "Insufficient Windows memory?" above) or jerky playback.

To isolate problems related to caching:

a. Backup your CONFIG.SYS and AUTOEXEC.BAT; copy it to *.BAK.
b. Delete any caching driver (eg., SMARTDRV) from your CONFIG.SYS or AUTOEXEC.BAT file.
c. Reboot you computer; restart Windows and try playing your AVI file again.

32-bit drive access?
Depending on your hard disk, disk controller, non-standard DOS driver, and bus type (eg., VLB, PCI, ISA, EISA), a combination can exist that may be incompatible with video playback. Activate Control Panel and 386 Enhanced icon; TURN OFF 32-bit access. If that resolves your problem then it had to do with one of the components in the hard disk sub-substem(s).

Compressed drives.
Do not play video files from compressed drives (eg., Stacker, ...). The device driver will interfere with rapid data transfer. Always place video files in the uncompressed drive for playback.