0820d3a8-0

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COLLABORATORS

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REVISION HISTORY

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1.2   Introduction

Introduction.

Over the past few months there have been several releases of ports of UNIX
sound and video players for the Commodore Amiga.

These are available on AMINET in various forms and revisions by various
authors. Every port seems to have a different way of doing things.

You may already have these utilities. They are:

OmniPlay (multi format 16/8 bit sample player)
Play16 1.3a (sample player)
Xanim Beta

These utilities are fantastic for us Amigans. They allow us to play and see
just about any audio format in any bit depth, as well as see for the first
time QuickTime(tm) and VFW(AVI)(tm), with and without audio, as well as
FLI/FLC animations and a few other non-Amiga video formats, amongst other
things.

I used to use all of these utilites manually from a shell. Labouriously

setting stack sizes, keying in options, and setting environment variables, with my EGS card.

I have recently switched to the CyBERgraphics WorkBench Emulation and dumped the EGS system that was supplied with my card. I haven't looked back since installing CyBERgraphics. There exists a situation at the moment where the current crop of FLI(Flick1.4), AVI/QT(TapAvi) and MPEG(mp) players do not directly support the CyBERgraphics way of doing things. I hope they will in their next incarnations (please???).

So, I have been investigating the XAnim ports as replacement FLI/FLC and QT/AVI players, seeing I am getting strange reactions from my existing players.

What this suite of programs does,is supply you with a File requester driven front end to the otherwise normally shell driven programs.

The Xanim, OmniPlay and Play16 1.3a executables are NOT supplied with these files. You must obtain them from AMINET for yourself.

The scripts are simple implimentations of the WB3.1 "Requestfile" and "Requestchoice". I am not a programmer, but they get the job done:)

1.3 Requirements

 Requirements

o A Fast Amiga 68020+
o As Much RAM as possible although 2Mb 1200's should
  be okay but slow.
o OS 3.1 o A CD-ROM drive (optional)

1.4 Usage

 Usage

o You MUST have the following versions of the these files in your C:
  directory:

  Xanim 2.68.3 BETA_4 by Joop van de Wege ((re)named "XAmiga")
  Xanim 2.69.7.6   by Mark Podlipec (named Xanim)
  Play16 1.3a
  OmniPlay(oplay)
  IconX
  Requestchoice
  Requestfile

o Place the files from the archive anywhere you want.
  They require no assignments or special setting up, apart from the above
  mentioned files being in the C: directory.

o To use any of them – simply double click on the icon and you will be
  asked for a path to the files you want to hear or see. The XANIM_GUI1.1
  file will also ask you if you want audio or silent playback.

  The reason I use two different ports of Xanim is that one supports audio
  and the other doesn't. Use the "silent" setting for faster playback and
  better colour and the audio one when you need to hear it. The vison in
  the audio one isn't as nice as the silent one.

  To stop the audio port of Xanim please read the documentation you
  received with the file. A simple "Q" on the keyboard should be enough to
  stop it.

Both versions of Xanim, Oplay and Play16 play from your Hard
Drive/CD-ROM. I have implimented this feature of the Xanim players because
more often than not AVI and MOV files exceed 2Mb in size. If disk reading
isn't switched on they will load everything into ram before display.

You can turn the playing from disk off by editing the script. Find the
occurences of the variable "+f" and remove them. I don't recommend this
though unless you have copious ram.

o Use SOUND_GUI.Low for SOUND playback in normal Amiga 8bit on slower
  machines.

o Use SOUND_GUI for SOUND playback in "HIFI" 14bit mode on accellerated
  Amigas.

o Use SOUND_GUI.oplay for playback using OminPlay on all machines.(020+)

o Use XANIM_GUI1.1 for Video playback of AVI/QT/FLI/FLC and still viewing
  of formats supported by Xanim (you'd be surprised what this software can
  show! – read the docs with the original files to find out)

1.5 HISTORY

 History

10th May 1995 – V1.0 SOUND V1.0 XANIM
11th May 1995 – V1.0 SOUND V1.1 XANIM (added the requestchoice functions)

1.6 PLAnS

PLANS

I plan to to intergrate the SOUND files into one general interface instead
of having 3 seperate files.

Also I may intergrate the whole thing into one bigger program soon.

Extend the concept to control other GUI-less programs so the "masses" who love their WorkBench can enjoy them.

Possibly I will also add less than 3.1 support too. But if you're serious about your Amiga you should be using 3.1 by now any way ;P

1.7 DISCLAIMER

Disclaimer

NO RESPONSIBILTY IS IMPLIED OR ASSUMED BY USING THIS SOFTWARE. IF YOUR MACHINE BREAKS...DON'T BLAME ME. YOU USE THIS ENTIRELY AT YOUR OWN RISK. NO LIABILITY ASSUMED WHAT-SO-EVER.

These are simple programs, anyone could write them.

They are FREEWARE. Send me a post card if you find them useful.

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