

GrafixStar 300 README version 1.2.4 29th June 1995

This readme file contains late-breaking information on GrafixStar 300.

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1. Putting SmartDesktop and SmartScale in the StartUp program group

SmartDesktop and SmartScale are installed in the GrafixStar program group. We recommend that you experiment with these applications, copying them into your StartUp program group if you decide to use them on a regular basis.

2. Using SmartDesktop

If some of the display sizes you choose using SmartDesktop are offset, you can use the GrafixStar Display Alignment application to center the display at each display size.

If in the process of changing the display and desktop sizes you lose Program Manager, move to the top left hand corner of the Windows desktop, double click on the desktop to bring up the Task List, and then choose Cascade. All open windows are moved to the top left hand corner of the desktop.

3. Recommendations for using SmartScale

Non-standard sized RLE CODECs

RLE video clips that have a resolution size which are a non-multiple of 4 may be distorted when played in Full screen mode. Choosing the Full screen option using SmartScale rather than checking the Full screen option in the Video for Windows Configure panel cures this problem. An application which uses non-standard sized RLE video clips is Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia.

Titles which do not support 256 colors

Some programs do not work properly with SmartScale when you use a display mode with 256 colors. You can solve this problem by using the GrafixStar Display application to choose a display mode with 65 thousand or 16 million colors. These titles include:

- CNN Newsroom (Softkey [Aris])
- Microsoft Complete Baseball (Microsoft)

Intel Indeo 2.1 CODEC

Video encoded with Indeo 2.1 does not use the DCI driver, and therefore SmartScale does not work with these clips. The 'Sports in motion CD-ROM catalogue' (Jasmine Multimedia Publishing) uses Indeo 2.1.

Intel Indeo 3.2 and Cinepak AVI's

When viewing Indeo 3.2 and Cinepak AVI's of a non regular size through the DCI, Graphics

Profiling occurs each time the clip is to be played. Additionally SmartScale will not work with these clips.

An example of an application that contain a few clips of this nature is Encarta 94.

QuickTime CODEC

QuickTime video does not support DCI, and therefore SmartScale does not work with these clips.

MPEG MCI CODEC

Any application which uses MPEG video and a DCI compliant MCI MPEG CODEC should work with SmartScale. The device driver supplied with Xing's MPEG Player is an example of a DCI compliant MPEG CODEC.

Full screen option

If you want to play back movies at full screen size, choosing the full screen option using SmartScale gives better results than checking the full screen check box in the Video for Windows Configure panel.

4. Recommendations for multimedia CD titles

To compensate for limitations with the following CD titles, we recommend that you follow these guidelines when using SmartScale.

JFK Assassination

You can use SmartScale to display full screen and video in a window, but you cannot resize windowed video using the mouse.

Return to the Moon

You can use SmartScale to display full screen and video in a window, but you cannot resize windowed video using the mouse. Also, you cannot use the hotkey to switch between windowed and full screen video during playback.

Microsoft Encarta95

You can use SmartScale to scale video in Encarta95 provided that you do not use the in-built Enlarge Video feature of Encarta95. If you use the Enlarge Video feature SmartScale will stop displaying video full-screen or in it's own video window until Encarta95 is restarted. To avoid these problems use only a single mouse click to select a video clip for playback in Encarta95.

5. Disabling the VideoLogic GrafixStar banner

If you don't want the VideoLogic GrafixStar banner to appear when you start Windows, you can disable it by adding the following line to the [videologic svga] section of your SYSTEM.INI file:

```
vllogo=off
```

6. Removing the GrafixStar 300 software

Follow the procedure below if you want to remove the GrafixStar 300 software from your PC:

1. Choose the GrafixStar 300 Setup icon from the GrafixStar program group. You will be prompted to insert the GrafixStar 300 Setup disk.
2. Choose the Remove option to remove all or some of the GrafixStar 300 software from your PC's hard disk.

7. Display refresh rate for DOS applications

The refresh rate for DOS applications that use VESA SVGA modes will default to the lowest value available for that resolution, as defined in the Technical details section of the User Guide.

A utility to change refresh rates is available from us on CompuServe and the VideoLogic BBS.

8. VGA feature connector pass-through

The VGA feature connector is disabled when you are using GrafixStar 300 in Windows. You may also see odd colors during boot-up and in DOS.

To solve the DOS problem, copy the device driver VLENABLE.SYS from the GrafixStar 300 Setup disk to the C:\VLPROD directory on your hard disk and then add the following line to the start of your CONFIG.SYS file:

```
device=c:\vlprod\lenable.sys
```

Once you have rebooted your PC, this fix should correct the odd palette colors seen in DOS.

9. Using Microsoft Flight Simulator

If your screen is split and flashes when you run Microsoft Flight Simulator, choose an S3 display mode rather than a VESA display mode from within Flight Simulator.

10. Using Norton Desk Top for Windows

Norton Desk Top for Windows can display corrupt icons when used with the GrafixStar 300 card.

The solution to this problem is to delete ICOCACHE.DAT from the NDW directory then restart Windows. Norton Desk Top will automatically recreate ICOCACHE.DAT and the icons will be normal again.

This problem is not found if the GrafixStar 300 card is installed first.

11. Troubleshooting

After installing the GrafixStar 300 card, PC will not boot

If you are using a PCI bus GrafixStar, you may have inserted your GrafixStar card in a slot reserved for a master hard disk controller, or in a slot on a secondary bus via a PCI to PCI bridge. Try moving your GrafixStar card to another PCI bus slot.

Windows will not run with my GrafixStar card

There maybe a conflict with a memory manager in your PC. Some memory managers use the Monochrome Display Adapter area of memory. Ensure your memory manager excludes the address range A000-C7FF.

Windows will not run with my GrafixStar 300 (VL bus cards only)

If your PC has a Digis motherboard using EDRAM system memory, then Windows will not run with GrafixStar 300. Contact your computer supplier/manufacturer for technical support.

If your PC uses an IBM 486SLC 'green' CPU, then it cannot access any graphics card that uses a memory aperture above 16 MB. As a result Windows has no icons or buttons and the pointer becomes a large black square. Contact your computer supplier/manufacturer for technical support.

Cannot align display on monitor using the Display Alignment application or using the monitor controls

If you cannot align the display on your monitor using the Display Alignment application or using the controls on your monitor, select a lower refresh rate for your display mode and try again.

Display shows ripples at the edge in some modes

Some monitors show a ripple effect when used at 1024 x 768 or 1152 x 864 running at a refresh rate of 80 Hz. Try selecting a lower refresh rate (75 Hz or less) for your display mode.

Lotus Organizer initial display is slow

This display can be speeded up by adding the following line to the [videologic svga] section of the SYSTEM.INI file:

```
HWPolygonSupport=Off
```

and then restarting Windows.

Note that other programs which draw polygons, such as benchmarks, run slightly slower if this line is added.

Bars and shadows appear along the right hand edge of the display with a GrafixStar 300 1 MB card, using a display size of 800 x 600, 65 thousand colors running at a refresh rate of 90 Hz

This problem occurs on older, slower PCs. Lower the refresh rate until the corruption disappears.

When running Borland Turbo C++ version 3.1, there is Windows screen corruption when the debugger is used

Switch to the Windows VGA driver using the Windows Setup application.

When running DIB 8/24 AVI files full screen, with 256 colors, a message '256 color VGA not available' is displayed

Use the GrafixStar Display application to choose a display mode that uses 65 thousand colors.

When using a 1MB card, different colored vertical lines appear on the screen

This problem occurs because the PC system is treating your 1MB card as a 2 MB card. Copy the file VLMEMCHK.SYS from the GrafixStar 300 Setup disk to the root level of your PC and add the following line to your CONFIG.SYS file:

```
DEVICE=VLMEMCHK.SYS
```

Next, Amend the line :

```
NonFeatureMB=2
```

in the [videologic svga] section of your SYSTEM.INI file to say:

```
NonFeatureMB=1
```

Finally power of your system.

You cannot see the control buttons in the GrafixStar Display Alignment application

You cannot see the OK button if you run help in the GrafixStar Display Alignment application with a 640 X 480 display size and large fonts.

Exit the Display Alignment help by pressing the ESC key, and then change the display size or the font size using the GrafixStar Display application.

Movie clips in Microsoft Encarta 94 run a graphics profile whenever they are played

Most movies of a standard size require a graphics profile to be run before the first time they are played, and after that they do not need profiling again. However, Encarta 94 contains some movie clips of a non-standard size which require profiling each time they are played.

With an ESCOM mother board, the mouse pointer and window buttons do not appear correctly

Add the following line to the [videologic svga] section of your SYSTEM.INI file:

```
LowMemoryBase=1
```

Incorrect colors when Indeo video clips at full screen

When MediaPlayers full screen option is used to play Indeo video clips in 256 color modes the video displays incorrect colors. If you wish to play full screen Indeo video with this or other applications, then use the full screen option within the SmartScale application provided in the GrafixStar program group.

Microsoft Complete Baseball

When using Microsoft Complete Baseball in 256 color modes the hour glass will be constantly displayed if the Almanac is selected. This will cause the system to operate slowly until the application is exited. It is recommended that you should use Complete Baseball in a 65k color display mode.

Microsoft Dinosaurs

When using Microsoft Dinosaurs in 256 color display modes, and the video plays back at full screen size, the colors will be incorrect. It is recommended that you should either use Microsoft Dinosaurs in a 65k color mode or add the following line to the MSDINOS.INI file:

```
VideolnWindow=1
```