Multimedia Viewer v1.0

For
Microsoft Windows 3.1 or
Microsoft Windows 3.0 with Multimedia extensions

This is a Windows Multimedia application. It will play MultiMedia Movies, Microsoft Video files, Wav files, Midi files, Animator FLI and FLC files. It will also view BMP, DIB and RLE graphics. To install, copy the files as follows:

FILES	DIRECTORIES
CAAPLAY.DLL	\WINDOWS
AAVGA.DLL	\WINDOWS
AAPLAY.DLL	\WINDOWS
MDICHILD.VBX	\WINDOWS\SYSTEM
THREED.VBX	\WINDOWS\SYSTEM
VBPLAY.VBX	\WINDOWS\SYSTEM
MMVIEW.EXE	Wherever you want to run it (e.g. WINDOWS\MMEDIA)

This program was written with Microsoft Visual Basic 1.0, and requires the file VBRUN100.DLL in your \WINDOWS directory. (This file is available on Compuserve under the MSBasic forum, or on one of the many fine Bulletin Board Services available.)

DETAILED USE OF MULTIMEDIA VIEWER

Multimedia Viewer is very simple to use. It has a simple interface, with convenience kept in mind. The Dir Browse window is a file/directory selector. This is where most of the input is done, once the multimedia or graphic file is found, a simple double-click will launch the file. Once you locate the desired directory, you can click on the <- button to collapse the window to show only filenames.

Looking at the status bar at the bottom, we see a trash can button, FLI/FLC Controls, and the Filename box. Pressing the trash can will delete the currently selected file, confirming you wish to delete first. (Turn off confirmation with the Options - Confirm Delete command).

If you need the space that the Browse window and Status Bar occupy to view your animation, you can opt to turn them off with the Window - Browse Window and Window - Status Bar commands. You can watch your FLI/FLC animations full screen by the Options - FLI - Full Screen command. To stop viewing full screen press a key or click the mouse.

Because MCI drivers are not perfect, and I can't guarantee which devices are in use (yet), I included the Options - MCI Close menu. When you wish to stop a media file from playing and close it out completely, choose this command. I sometimes got an error message stating that the device is already in use, the close command will correct this. I am still not satisfied with the way that MS Video AVI support is implemented: the resulting window can be lost beneath MM Viewer just by clicking on the MM Viewer window. And there are no controls to replay or stop the animation. I'll keep working on it.

What is Required

For the Microsoft Video (AVI) files to work, an appropriate run-time MCI driver must be installed. This driver is available on Compuserve under the Multimedia forum, Library 6 - Windows, Dos, OS/2. The filename is VFWRUN.ZIP. If you want sound, a multimedia sound device must be installed (a sound card is recommended, although there is a PC Speaker Driver

available) The sound driver must be installed to get sound from MS Video AVI files as well (I doubt the speaker driver will work for this, since it freezes the system) A midi driver must be present to listen to midi music files. (Imagine that! :)) I haven't been able to play .MMM files, I am assuming there is a driver for that too, I just haven't found it yet.

Future versions will include INI file support to save settings and full support for AVI files. If there is anything you would like to see included, please leave E-Mail on Compuserve to Geoff Faulkner # 72270,706 or drop a note in the mail. I appreciate your comments, suggestions and critisisms. Also look for my WAV conversion program Makin' Waves in a new book due to be released mid December - Multimedia Madness, Prentice Hall Publishing. It will include a CD-Rom packed with multimedia utilities and demos.

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