

Introduction to MediaBlaze 98

Keeping track of multimedia files can be a total nightmare. It doesn't matter if you're a professional designer or just Joe Average with a collection of pics, things get tossed all across your hard drive. Neat and orderly is usually not the word to describe it. Anyway, things get worse. Not only is finding files a chore but viewing them can be even worse. If you want to see some images you'll need an image program, to listen to sound files you'll need another program, and to check out video clips yet another program is required.

MediaBlaze is like a Swiss army knife when it comes to multimedia. Every file format you can think of, MediaBlaze can play for you. Here's a small sampling: JPEG, GIF, BMP, RLE, WMF, EMF, CUR, ICO, AVI, QT, MOV, MPEG, MP2, SND, AU, DAT, WAV, MID, RMI and other MCI Devices. MediaBlaze lets you browse through you computer and instantly display any files you want. It also uses tabbed dialogs to let you organize and categorize your multimedia files. Tabs for images, music, sound,MCI, and the MediaAgent tab let you access individual file types immediately.

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How to use MediaBlaze 98

MediaBlaze is designed to be as transparent to the user's tasks of viewing multimedia files as possible, therefore a great deal of documentation is not needed. A few things to keep in mind when using MediaBlaze are:

The toolbar at the top of the window has dynamically changing buttons, depending on what tab you're currently operating the tabs may change function, enable, disable etc. If you're not sure what each of the buttons on the toolbar does at a particular time simply hold your mouse cursor over it for a moment and a tool-tip will appear revealing its function. The same is true for most of the objects found throughout MediaBlaze.

The MCI Tab shows ALL files. Since the range of files that are possible to view in MediaBlaze is virtually infinite depending on the software MCI Drivers / MCI hardware your particular computer may or may not have installed on it, trying to open files which you do not have the capability of using will yield no result and no error message will be displayed.

Trying to open a sound, music or MCI file while another is playing may result in simply stopping the currently playing file, and you will have to opt to open the file again. This isn't serious problem with your MCI drivers and you can avoid this trouble by simply clicking on the 'cancel/close' button on the toolbar which is marked with a closed set of folders.

The MediaAgent is a special tab you can use to search your computer for specific types of media files and display them on the fly from directly within MediaBlaze.

If you wish to contact Dryad Systems for any reason including Registration, Technical Support or downloading the newest version of this software you can reach the Dryad Systems website at www.dryad.com

Tips and Tricks

You can associate MediaBlaze with your multimedia files so it will be the default application to load and play the file directly from the Windows Explorer by right clicking on the file you wish to open while holding down the shift key, then choosing "Open With", go to "Other" then find where you installed the application and choose the program file (usually in "C:Files'version' ").

Try playing, viewing and managing more than one multimedia file type at the same time! MediaBlaze can handle the multitasking of these operations if you simply choose a tab and start to play/view a file and simply go to another tab and start another task there!

Want to hide MediaBlaze out of the way, or just want to leave it playing one of your favorite MIDI Music files in the background while you work? Go to the "File" menu and choose "Shrink to Tray". This will make the window disappear. You can easily bring it back by right clicking on the small folder and magnifying glass icon in the tray portion on your windows taskbar.

Contacts, Help and Ordering / Registration

Dryad Systems Website: www.dryad.com

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Technical Support: Technical support and other contacts can be reached through the Dryad Systems website at www.dryad.com

