

Save as AVI 1.0b1

Edit & save DivX files with QuickTime Pro!

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WHAT IS SAVE AS AVI?

Save as AVI is an AVI pass-through exporter component for QuickTime; it allows QuickTime Pro to save a QuickTime, AVI or DivX movie into an AVI container without recompressing audio and video.

With this component, you can cut/copy/paste DivX AVI files and save them back to another (or even the same) DivX AVI file. But you can also use this exporter to convert a DivX MOV file to a DivX AVI file, reinterleave a bad DivX file, or change the AVI audio header from CBR to VBR.

INSTALLATION

Drag & drop "Save as AVI.component" into /Library/QuickTime (the QuickTime folder of the Library folder of your startup disk) or ~/Library/QuickTime (the QuickTime folder of the Library folder of your Home folder).

To uninstall it, simply trash "Save as AVI.component".

REQUIREMENTS

Mac OS X 10.2 or later with QuickTime Pro 6 or later; if you want to edit a DivX file you must also install DivX and at least one DivX-compatible codec: DivX 5.1.1 or earlier, 3ivx D4, or XviD.

Note that DivX 5.2 and later no longer includes the DivX codec (!) and cannot be used instead of DivX 5.1.1. However, DivX 5.1.1 (which includes the codec) is still available for download. Go to <http://www.divx.com/>: click to download the latest version of DivX, but when you are asked to select your operating system, choose "DivX 5.1.1 for Mac OS" instead of "DivX 5.2.x for Mac OS X".

To edit DivX files with MPEG Layer 2 (MP2) sound, you must also install DivX 5.2 or later. You can install DivX 5.1.1 and DivX 5.2.x in the same computer with the provided script "Install Two DivX Versions". Install DivX 5.1.1, then run the script, and finally install DivX 5.2.x. Please put the script in a safe place: you will need it if you want to remove the two installed versions.

Alternatively, you can download and install 3ivx D4 from <http://www.3ivx.com/>, and XviD from <http://people.ee.ethz.ch/~naegelic/>. But remember that, to properly load and edit a DivX AVI file in QuickTime, you always need to install at least one DivX version later than 5.0.5.

USE

Open the AVI or MOV file in QuickTime Pro, use Cut/Copy/Paste/Clear to edit it or mix it with another AVI or MOV file, and then choose File > Export... and in the Export pop-up menu select "Movie to Save as AVI", eventually set the Options (see the next paragraph), and click Save. The movie will be copied into an AVI container.

If "Save as AVI" does not appear in the list of available exporters, it means that your movie's video track is not suitable for an AVI file (this also happens when you join two movies with different video compression or frame size). Similarly, if the audio track is unsupported, or you joined two files with different audio compression, the resulting file will have no sound.

OPTIONS

These are the available options:

Rendering Mode

If you make cuts in your AVI file, Save as AVI has to render (i.e. recompress) a new keyframe for each cut that is not keyframe-aligned. This is called "Fast" rendering mode.

Rendering just keyframes may not work if the AVI files has been encoded with a codec that is not installed in your computer (for instance: you have just 3ivx, but the file has been encoded with DivX or XviD). In this case, the whole GOP (Group Of Pictures, including all the pictures between keyframes) has to be rendered. This is called "Slow" rendering mode, and it takes more time.

If you set "Auto" for the rendering mode, Save as AVI tries to guess the right rendering mode (the chosen mode is shown each time you export a file). The guess may be wrong in some cases (e.g. if you reopen an already edited file).

In these cases, you can manually set the rendering mode to "Fast" or "Slow" (if the cuts in the AVI file look bad, always choose the "Slow" rendering mode).

Audio Header

The audio information in the AVI header (the first part of an AVI file) may be set in two different ways: CBR (constant bit rate) and VBR (variable bit rate). Only CBR audio is officially supported in AVI 1.0 (the specification used by Save as AVI). VBR audio is not supported, but it works in most players.

With this setting, you can choose to write a "CBR" or "VBR" audio header. You must choose "VBR" if the source AVI file has VBR audio or if you joined two AVI files with different audio bitrate. You can also choose "VBR" to improve A/V sync of certain AVI files with CBR audio. In all other cases, choose "CBR".

This setting does not change the audio data, but just the data in the AVI header. It does nothing if the audio format does not support VBR: Uncompressed is CBR only; MPEG Layer 2 (MP2), MPEG Layer 3 (MP3) and AC3 can be CBR or VBR.

LICENSE

Save as AVI is free. The license is the same found in MPEG Streamclip:

By using Save as AVI, you agree to be bound by the terms of this license.

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BUGS?

Please note that Save as AVI is still in beta phase. Please report any bug to squared5@alfanet.it.
