ImageKnife/VBX (TM)

The Complete Professional Image Handling Tool

Cutting Edge Image Handling Capabilities in an Easy-To-Use Custom Control

ImageKnife/VBX is much more than a file format converter! It provides a complete solution for acquiring images, processing them in memory, printing and storing them to either files or databases. Capabilities include:

- Full range of options for high performance display of true color (24-bit), Super VGA (8-bit), VGA (4-bit) and monochrome images.
- High quality printing to Windows(R)-based devices (including color Postscript(R)).
- Extensive image processing: rotate, mirror, negate, sharpen, matrix filter, etc.
- Powerful image resizing, compositing and masking for cropping and combining images.
- Extensive color palette tools: color reduce, grayscale, optimize, remap, edit, etc.
- Open access to image data via DIB handle and scanline get/put functions.

A Precision Balance of Capabilities, Performance and Cost

ImageKnife/VBX is designed to make it easy to add basic functionality while still allowing straightforward implementation of more complex tasks. For example:

- Flexibility to be used bound to a data field for simple applications and unbound in complex queries.
- Full support for the OLE Paintbrush Object format used in the full Microsoft(R) Access product (even Visual Basic (R) 3.0's Picture Box and Image controls can't read this format).
- TWAIN scanner interface speeds start-up using TWAIN's built-in user interfaces, while also providing extensive programmatic support for customizing user jobs.

An ImageKnife/VBX Standard: Outstanding Documentation and Support... plus a 90-day trial period!

A development tool is only as good as its ability to be used quickly and efficiently. ImageKnife/VBX comes complete with a comprehensive manual featuring appendices explaining complex subjects such as Windows palette handling and JPEG compression, plus sample code. Support is available via phone, BBS, Internet or a CompuServe(R) forum.

There are no runtime royalties, regardless of usage or volume. A flexible "no-hassle," 90-day return policy allows full ImageKnife/VBX testing without risk.

Our Customers Say:

"Not only did ImageKnife/VBX save me months of programming, it was extremely easy to use."

Brian Richardson

"I've used other imaging add-ons, but for its simplicity, power and comprehensiveness, I'm going to stick with ImageKnife/VBX."
Don Resnick, 20/20 Software

"Your technical support is superior."

Robert Shelton, Jr., Subsystems Technologies, Inc.

MediaKnife/VBX and ImageKnife/VBX are developed by Media Architects, Inc. Based in Portland, Oregon, Media Architects creates and markets software tools which enable developers to efficiently produce world-class interactive multimedia applications and titles for Microsoft Windows platforms using standard development systems. By staying close to our customers, and being our own customer as well, Media Architects promises continuing innovation in our development tools.

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ImageKnife/VBX Version 2.0 Technical Specifications

Image Input and Output

Formats Read and Written	Color Depth	Read Compression	Write	Notes
Windows Bitmap (.BMP)	1,4,8,24	RLE, none	none	Windows or O/S 2
Device Independent Bitmap (.DIB)	1,4,8,24	RLE, none	none	Windows or O/S 2
Graphics Interchange Format (.GIF)	2,4,8	LZW(1)	LZW(1)	Restrictions apply(1)
Zsoft (.PCX)	1,2,4,8,24	RLE, none	RLE	Not older fomats
Tagged Image File Format (.TIF)	1,2,4,8,24	LZW(1), Packbits, none	LZW(1), none	No CCITT G3/4
Truevision Targa (.TGA)	8,16,24,32	RLE, none	none	(16 written as 24-bit)
JPEG Interchange Format (.JPG)	24	quality 5-95	quality 5-95	(Pro Pak only)
Iterated Systems Fractal (.FIF)*	4,8,24	Fractal Transform(TM)	separate(2)	Restrictions apply(2)

Database Support

Environments	Bound	Unbound
Visual Basic 1.0/2.0	no data access support	
Visual Basic 3.0		
Standard Edition	yes	no
Professional Ed.	yes	yes
Visual C++ 1.0	no data access support	
Borland C++ 4.0	no data access support	

Field Data Types	Readable in Access ?
Paintbrush Picture OLE Object	yes
GIF(1)	no
JPEG	no

Uses Microsoft Access and ODBC to access other databases.

Image Acquisition Device Support (Pro Pack only)

TWAIN interface provides access to a wide range of scanners, digital cameras and other devices. Based on level of support provided by the manufacturer's TWAIN Source software, developers can use built-in user interfaces or programmatic control.

Image Display

Zoom and Pan (painting optimized*)
Auto scrollbars/programmatic scrolling*
Multiple views on a single image*

Image Resizing

Replicate (for speed)
Resample (for quality)

External Access to Image

Get image scanline
Put image scanline
Import/export hDIB
Import/export hBitmap to/from PicBuf*

Printing

Output to graphics-capable Windows devices, including color Postscript

Drawing*

Place lines, arrows, arcs, filled polygons, autosized text into image

Image Processing

Blur image
Brightness adjustment

Contrast adjustment
Composite images together
Variable opacity masking/copying
Crop image
Cut/Copy/Paste via Windows clipboard
Gamma adjustment
Extract edges
Matrix filter application (3x3 or 5x5)
Mirror horizontal or vertical
Rotate (in 1 degree increments)
Sharpen image
Soften image

Selection Box Control*
Place selection box with resizing handles over image

Color Processing
(Identity palette aware*)
Force to a palette by dithering
Get color count
Get color at palette location
Get color at X,Y coordinates
Get image palette
Gray scale conversion
Increase color depth
Negate image
Optimize palette (from several different palettes)
Reduce colors (to 32K, 256-2) (4-9x faster with Version 2.0*)
Replace colors in a range
Remap palette
Set color at palette location
Set screen palette

Minimum Configurations
Windows 3.1 or higher, 4 MB RAM, Visual Basic 1.0 or higher, Visual C++ 1.0 or higher, Borland C++ 4.0 or higher
*An asterisk indicates a new feature for version 2.0.
(1) Use of GIF and or TIFF/LZW requires direct licensing from Unisys Corporation.
(2) Restrictions apply to decompressor .DLL and compression requires Iterated Systems product.