

Using the Multimedia Player

Use the multimedia player to view multimedia files such as WAV sound files, AVI movie files, MPG movie files, MID midi sound files and RMI sound files.

You can also play movies with sound. AVI files are a standard form of video file that can be in numerous formats internally.

AVI files can be in compressed format internally using one of the many codecs that are available in Windows. You may come across some video files that you cannot view until you hunt down the codec on the Internet.

It is best to avoid using exotic codecs to compress your movie files if you are planning on sharing them with others.

To view your available codecs, open Control Panel, then double-click on the multimedia icon. The video and audio codecs will be displayed in the window there.

Editing video

You can load an AVI video file into the multimedia player and then copy an individual frame, or dump all the frames to bitmap format.

To copy frames or dump them to disk, choose the camera icon and use the AVI cap manager.

To dump all frames to disk, you will be prompted for a folder to place them in, and you may add a prefix to the set of files. eg: Mymovie will become

Mymovie000.bmp.... Mymovie0001.bmp etc.

You can then edit the frames manually loading them into the program as bitmaps, and add frames such as transitions, into the video segment now as bitmaps.

You can use the animation manager to preview the frames. When you are satisfied with the sequence and want to make it back into a movie, you can use bmp2avi or similar free utility.

bmp2avi is available at our website at:
<http://www.islandnet.com/~pstudio/dwnldsr.htm>

There is also a link to AVIedit via
<http://www.islandnet.com/~pstudio/hindex.htm>

You may want to transfer them to an animated GIF or to the Netshow format for realtime showing on the net.

There are hundreds of formats available, some are proprietary like GIF, (GIF is the copyright property of Unisys Corp.)

Personal TV Studio in an attempt to be as compatible with other systems as possible, works with the individual bitmap frames. The owe-ness is on the individual to convert these frames to the format of their choice.

We recommend bmp2avi because it is free and easy to use. (just place a copy in the same folder as your frames and doubleclick on it with explorer).

Adding Sound

To add a sound file such as a WAV to your AVI, we recommend AVIEdit. (see above)
Load the AVI then choose <file><merge> and load a WAV file.

To match the sound with the video, select <edit> and adjust the frame rate to match the sound length.
Use <Save Options> to compress the AVI internally using codecs.

Be sure you have lots of available disk space if you are planning on working with video. Video files in their uncompressed format for editing, can easily be hundreds of megabytes in size.

Using your Capture Card

With a capture card, a video camera, and a little practice, you can create real professional quality movies.

Insert your Windows CDROM into the CDROM Drive and select the Windows Start Button, then Find, Files and folders.

Select the CDROM Drive to search and search for **vidcap32.exe**. Using this Windows program, you can capture TV or Video to an AVI file. Your capture card may also come with software for this purpose. If you can't find this file, you might try searching the Microsoft site at <http://www.microsoft.com>

Once in AVI format, you can use Personal TV Studio to edit or add frames.