Important Information

About XLR8 WebCleaner
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This file contains information about the XLR8 WebCleaner application. You will find instructions on when and how to use XLR8 WebCleaner.

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When to use XLR8 WebCleaner

QuickTime movies are not always created in formats that are suitable for the web. In order to optimally view a QuickTime movie in a web browser, e.g. Explorer, or Navigator, the movie must adhere to the following: information describing the movie must appear at the beginning of the file, sound and video data must be interleaved, and the movie name should end with '.mov'. Also, in the case of the Macintosh, the file must not contain a "resource fork".

If these rules are not adhered to, the movie may play inefficiently, or even worse, not at all. Typical symptoms of a "bad" movie are:
- the movie does not appear at all, instead, a "broken" QuickTime icon is displayed after the entire movie has been downloaded,
- the entire movie has to be downloaded before it can be played,
- the movie playback is delayed unnecessarily because the sound data is not downloaded until after the video data (or vice-versa),
- the movie does not play inside the browser, instead it launches a separate application to play it.

If you see any of the above symptoms, with the exception of the last, you should be using WebCleaner on movies before uploading them. The last problem occurs either because your browser preferences do not correctly specify the QuickTime plug-in "File Helper" for files ending with the '.mov' filename extension, or the movie you uploaded does not end with the '.mov' filename extension.

WebCleaner will ensure that the movie adheres to the correct and optimal file format for use on the web.

How to use XLR8 WebCleaner

WebCleaner is easy to use. Just drop the movie you want to convert onto the application icon.

Any InterView 2.0 video tracks will be recompressed to a standard QuickTime format according to one of three options that can be set via the Preferences dialog accessable from the Edit menu:
• Do not recompress the movie
 -recompression is off.
• Ask for new compression settings for the movie
 -If the movie contains an InterView 2.0 video track, a dialog will be presented allowing you to select the format to which the movie should be converted. Note that the base format will always start with the "current settings" explained in the next option.
• Recompress the movie automatically using the settings below
 -If the movie contains an InterView 2.0 video track, the track will automatically be converted to the

QuickTime format described directly below this option in the dialog. The QuickTime format can be selected by using the "Custom…", or "Load…" buttons. A format can be saved by clicking the "Save…" button.

Each recompressed frame is displayed in a preview window as it is created.

Note that a useful feature of XLR8 WebCleaner is the preference dialog's "Recompress InterView movies only" checkbox. If this box is not checked, *all* video tracks in a movie will be recompressed to the specified format. This is particularly useful if you wish to limit the data rate of a movie to better accomodate the bandwidth limitations of your intended audience.

After recompression the movie will be "cleaned" and saved to one of three places, depending on a preference that can be set from the Edit menu in WebCleaner:

• Replace the original movie with the new movie
  - the original movie will be replaced by the new clean movie. It will not be renamed -if it does not already have the '.mov' extension, don't forget to add one before uploading it!
• Ask where to save the new movie
  - a dialog will be presented asking where to save the movie. The default name for the new movie follows the same rules as those described for "Create a new movie".
• Save the new movie automatically with '.web.mov' added to its name (default)
  - a new movie will be created with the filename extension '.web.mov'. If a file by that name already exists, the extension '.001.mov' will be used instead, and so on up to '.999.mov'.

If you would like to return to the factory settings in the preferences dialog, click the "Defaults" button. The factory settings are highly recommended if you are unsure of what to do.

In addition to dropping movies onto the WebCleaner icon, you can also open movies directly from WebCleaner, or drag and drop them into WebCleaner's status window.

Movies are converted one at a time. The status window shows a progress bar for each one, as well as a status report before and after the movie has been converted. Be sure to check the status before quitting WebCleaner so that you don't waste time uploading a movie that was not successfully converted!

You can cancel conversion using command-period. If you do so, the movie will remain unaltered. You can also quit before "pending" movies have been converted if you wish.

Be sure to have sufficient free disk space. Conversion will fail if the disk is full.

Tips for using the QuickTime format settings dialog

When you click the "Custom…" button in the preferences dialog, a standard QuickTime compression settings dialog will be presented. This dialog is not very intuitive. Here are some tips for getting the most from it:

The preview:
 At the top right of the compression dialog is a small preview of the video to be recompressed. When invoking the dialog from the preferences panel the preview will be blank. This is because there is no video available to preview. However, when the dialog is automatically invoked for a movie during XLR8 WebCleaner's recompression phase, the preview will show the first video frame of the movie. You can move the preview around by clicking and dragging on it.

Compressor:
 The top menu lets you choose a compression format. The names listed in the menu reflect the compressors you have installed on your system. QuickTime provides many standard compressors by

default. Third party compressors, if installed, will appear here as well. In general, you should pick a standard QuickTime compressor so that the most people will be able to view your movie.

   The best compressor, if available, is Sorenson. This compressor provides excellent quality and very high levels of compression. Most QuickTime movies found on the web are compressed this way and it is the default format selected by XLR8 WebCleaner.

   If you have an older version of QuickTime installed, or feel that some in your target audience may not have QuickTime 3.0 or later, you should choose Cinepak instead (XLR8 WebCleaner will choose this by default if Sorenson is not available).

   If you wish to have very high quality recompression you should choose one of the JPEG formats. However, be aware that the resultant file size will be significantly larger.

   The bottom menu lets you choose a color depth. Select the best option appropriate to your source movie. In the case of InterView movies, just select the best option available.

Quality:
 Choose the best quality available. You should only choose a lower quality if you are concerned about the resultant file size and the selected compressor does not support data rate limiting (discussed below).

Motion:
 •Frames per second.
   XLR8 WebCleaner does not support altering the frames per second of a movie. To alter the frames per second of an InterView movie it should be recaptured from the original source at the desired rate.

 •Key frame rate.
   A key frame is one that can be played by itself onto your computer screen. All other frames (called difference frames) depend on the previous key frame and define only those parts of the frame that changed from the previous frame. They can only be played if the previous key frame and all the intervening difference frames are played first.
   If the key frame check box is not checked, all frames in the recompressed movie will be key frames. The movie will be slightly higher quality overall but will also be much larger since there will be no difference frames in it.
   If the key frame check box is checked, and a 0 is entered in the text field, or it is left blank, XLR8 WebCleaner will make the key frame rate in the recompressed movie the same or higher as the key frame rate in the original movie. Everywhere a key frame occurs in the original movie, a key frame will appear in the recompressed movie. There may also be additional key frames inserted by the selected compressor at its discretion.
   If the key frame check box is checked, and a non-zero number is entered, XLR8 WebCleaner will produce a key frame rate in the compressed movie of at least the number entered. For example, if the number 5 is entered, at least every fifth frame will be a key frame. Again the selected compressor may insert additional key frames at its discretion.
   Note that 255 is the maximum key frame rate allowable by QuickTime.

 •Data rate limit.
   The data rate of a movie is the quantity of information that passes from the medium the movie is stored on to the processor while the movie is playing. It is measured in kilobytes per second. The higher the data rate, the harder it is to pass from slow devices like CD ROMs or 56k modems. Movies that have too high a data rate will not play well on devices that are too slow: frames will be dropped and sound will skip. In the case of a web browser, most of the movie will have to download before the user can begin to look at it. Data rate limiting can be used to put a cap on the size of a movie and can make it more suitable for slower devices.
   If a non-zero data rate limit is entered, XLR8 WebCleaner will dynamically adjust the quality of the compression used while recompressing the movie in an effort to limit the data rate of the movie. Note that very low data rates wll result in very poor quality recompression. Very high data rates may not have any effect at all. Experimentation is the best way to discover a suitable data rate if this feature is to be used. QuickTime Pro owners may use QuickTime Player's info window to see the data rate of any given movie. Another method is to divide the file size of a movie by the duration of the movie. Note that

sound tracks also count towards overall data rate but are not taken into account by XLR8 WebCleaner. The data rate limit only applies to the video track being recompressed.

Revision History

2.0.0
March, 2000
Added recompression features.

1.1.0
June, 1999
Made application much more responsive to user input.
Added saving preferences.
Installer ensures that icon will receive movie drags.

1.0.0
May, 1999
Initial release