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HyperCard: Opening QuickTime Compressed PICTs (7/92)

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TOPIC -----

The HyperCard Picture XCMD can open up compressed PICTs created with QuickTime. This is done by making a toolbox call (DrawPicture). QuickTime intercepts the call and does any decompression necessary.

DISCUSSION -----

Here are some factors that seem to affect the speed of the Picture XCMD:

- The amount of RAM allocated to HyperCard -- more memory may help.
- The size of the picture file.
- The type of compression used -- JPEG compression may be a lot slower than Video compression. Note also that JPEG gives you a smaller file but may take longer to decompress.
- The parameters you pass to the Picture XCMD -- Files may display quicker if no parameter for bit-depth (fifth param) is passed. Pass a fifth parameter only if memory conservation is important. If you try to display a file at a lower bit depth, it takes time to convert. If you pass 0 for the bit-depth parameter, then the XCMD does not set up an offscreen buffer. Hence, the window will seem to appear immediately, but the picture may take some time to get drawn into the window (it is drawn as it is decompressed). This method will give you slower updates.

This article is adapted from the Claris Tech Info database.

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