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HyperCard: PICT Compression (8/93)

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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.
- The size of the picture file.
- The type of compression used.
- The parameters you pass to the Picture XCMD.

The method used to compress an image affects its final size and the speed of decompression. Faster display speed may be achieved by allocating more memory to HyperCard. However, the method of compression is a more important factor.

The Picture XCMD seems to be able to display files quicker if you do not pass a parameter for bit-depth (fifth param). Do so only if memory conservation is important. Instead, let the XCMD figure it out the appropriate bit-depth. 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.

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