CD-ROM: Information on Different CD Formats

Article Created: 17 August 1989
Article Last Reviewed: 22 May 1992
Article Last Updated:

TOPIC ---

This article contains a list of CD format acronyms and some explanation of their function.

DISCUSSION -----------------------------------

A glossary of CD acronyms:

CD+G	Compact Disc plus Graphics
CD+V	Compact Disc plus Video
CD+MIDI	Compact Disc plus MIDI
CD+MIDI+G	Compact Disc plus MIDI plus Graphics
CDI	Compact Disc Interactive
CD-DVI	Compact Disc Digital Video Interactive

The graphics of the "CD+G" format are simple computer-type graphic images.

The video of the "CD+V" format is an NTSC video signal, such as what is found on laser discs. This format allows the use of part of the CD for the video signal. This is used most often for music videos. A typical CD will include twenty minutes of music without video and a five-minute or less music video.

The MIDI of the "CD+MIDI" format is MIDI data stored on the CD for use with MIDI-controlled electronic instruments. This allows use of your own MIDI instruments as supplemental instruments to what is recorded on the CD. For example, should you want more bass on a particular song, connect a MIDI instrument with a bass sound to a CD player supporting CD+MIDI, assign the MIDI instrument to the proper channel, and adjust the level of the MIDI device to complement the song coming from the CD music tracks.

The "CD+MIDI+G" format combines the "+G" format and the "+MIDI" format on one disc. This format require the chip sets for both the graphics decoding and the MIDI decoding.

"CDI" is very similar in many ways to the video disc/HyperCard

presentations that have been shown. Generally, however, the computer information and the video information are both stored on the CD.

"CD-DVI" is also very similar at the presentation level to the video disc/HyperCard environment. However, the chip set for this environment is proprietary to Princeton University and Intel. The difference between DVI and CDI relates to the method of storing the video images. DVI digitizes and compresses the video frames prior to storage on the disc. During playback the video frames are decompressed by the chip set. CDI uses analog video for its video storage.

With the exception of the CD+V format, these formats have been proposed by one or maybe two organizations. The worldwide CD industry has not adopted these formats. Much discussion is taking place among both the hardware manufacturers and the software producers concerning how this diverse set of standards are going to be handled. There are several limited projects taking place within each of these CD formats; however, without worldwide industry support, some of these formats may fall by the wayside.

Keywords: <None>

==========

19960215 11:05:19.00
Tech Info Library Article Number: 4243