NAME

qp – Command Line QuickTime Player

SYNOPSIS

qp [-i] [-g range] [-v] [-V] filename

DESCRIPTION

This program plays QuickTime media files from the command line. Any file format that can be opened by QuickTime on the current host can be played.

The **-i** option invokes interactive mode, which turns this program into a GUI-like application, providing a very light-weight method of playing media files. In this mode, a window with a movie controller is presented, allowing complete interactive control of the playback.

If interactive mode is not requested, the file is played in a strictly sequential manner. The program terminates automatically upon completion of playback. The user can terminate the program early (for example, by keyboard interrupt with Control-C). In this mode, if the file is audio-only, no visual indication of any kind is given. This provides a very non-intrusive way to play audio files.

OPTIONS

-i   Request interactive mode. A window with a movie controller is displayed. To exit the program, close this window.

-g range

Play a segment of the file, instead of the entire file. The range specification has the form:

hh:mm:ss[.fff]-hh:mm:ss[.fff][xn]

The two time values specify the start and end of the segment. The optional ".fff" specifies milliseconds, allowing very precise segment selection.

The optional "xn" trailer is only significant in non-interactive mode (i.e., when -i is not given). The x is a literal lower-case 'x', and n is a number. This causes the segment to be played repeatedly and without pause for n times. If this trailer is not specified, the segment is repeated indefinitely, until the program is manually terminated by the user.

-v   Print program version and exit. All other arguments are ignored.

-V   Disable all video tracks in the file. The file will then behave as an audio-only one. Depending on the complexity of the video content so disabled, using this option may significantly reduce resource usage during playback.

MULTIMEDIA CONTROL KEYS

The program provides basic support for multimedia control keys on the keyboard.

play/pause

Start if currently not playing, or pause if currently playing.

rewind

Move to the beginning of the file.

fast forward

Move to the end of the file. In non-interactive mode, this will immediately exit the current program invocation if repetition is not in effect, because playing has ended. This is useful for skipping the current file when using the "qpl" shell script.

EXAMPLES

To play an audio file non-interactively:

qp song.mp3

To disable video content and play only the audio portion of a file:

qp -V movie.mp4

To play the first 5 seconds of a file repeatedly (until manually terminated):

        qp -g 00:00:00-00:00:05 song.mp3

To play the first 5.333 seconds of a file repeatedly for 5 times:

        qp -g 00:00:00-00:00:05.333x5 song.mp3

WARNING

The qp program is a command line utility and not a bundled application. When it displays a window, that window floats on top of normal application windows, but is unrelated to the current front-most GUI application, i.e., the one displaying the menu bar.

To close qp's playback window, you must click its close box. If you use the menu shortcut Command-W (or any other window-related shortcut), you would be operating on the front window of the currently active GUI application, and *not* the qp playback window.

SEE ALSO

A shell script named "qpl" is distributed with this program. It can be used to play multiple files, loops, and user-defined play lists. Detailed instructions are provided as comments in the script.