

ogg theora videos to avi

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I've been writing a Ruby computer programming textbook (the going is slow). Along with the book will be a series of instructional videos on CD showing video computer screen clips with audio narration.

I've been using `gtk-recordmydesktop` to record my computer screen and narration. This is working fairly well, both in terms of video and audio quality.

However, since `gtk-recordmydesktop` records in ogg theora form, I need to convert these videos into something that most MS-Windows users can play (without downloading and installing vlc media player). Also, I can't use Linux video editing software on ogg theora videos--they won't work with this format (I've tried cinelerra, lives, and others).

I've done very little with video on computers, and I find the number of codecs/compression formats/container formats bewildering.

But I have done some research on how to do the ogg theora to avi conversion. I finally found a solution that seems to work, using `mencoder`.

Assuming the input file is `out.ogg`, and the desired output file is `out.avi`, the syntax looks like this:

```
mencoder out.ogg -o out.avi -oac mp3lame -ovc lavc
```

I need to do more testing, but, so far, this seems to work ok.

And, before somebody flames me, I do realize that we should encourage the use of open formats like ogg theora.

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[1] <http://www.tuxmachines.org/taxonomy/term/58>