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Subject: Unpack a Picture using the PackBytes compression format

Posted by Oz on Sat, 11 Oct 2014 15:21:38 GMT

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Games are using a lot of graphic resources, most of the time stored as individual 320\*200 pictures (using 1 or 16 palettes). Even if Apple has defined a standard named Apple Preferred Format (aka APF), most of the Apple IIgs Paint programs have the capability to save the pictures using the PackBytes format (PAK). The compression efficiency is about the same for both formats. The PackBytes format doesn't have the flexibility of the APF (where pictures can have any size) but it has the advantage to have its unpacking routine in the Rom of the Apple IIgs. We access such routine calling the UnPackBytes function from the Miscellaneous Tool Set.

One bank (BankLoad) has been allocated and the compressed graphic file (PAK) has been loaded at \$0000. We unpack the data in the same memory bank, at location \$8000. The Uncompressed picture will be 32 KB long. The only parameter sent to the UnpackPicture function is the size (in bytes) of the PAK file (=size of packed data), which is <= 32 KB.

```
*----- Unpack a PackBytes Picture -----
UnpackPicture STA    UP_PackedSize    ; A = Size of Packed Data
              LDA    #$8000          ; Size of output Data Buffer
              STA    UP_UnPackedSize
              LDA    BankLoad        ; XX/00 = Bank used for Loading ($0000-$7FFF) and
Decompression ($8000-$FFFF)
              STA    UP_Packed+1     ; Packed Data Address
              ORA    #$0080
              STZ    UP_UnPacked    ; Reset because these values are modified by the
_UnPackBytes call
              STZ    UP_UnPacked+2
              STA    UP_UnPacked+1  ; Unpacked Data buffer Address
*---
              PushWord #0           ; Space for Result : Number of bytes unpacked
              PushLong UP_Packed    ; Pointer to buffer containing the packed data
              PushWord UP_PackedSize ; Size of the Packed Data
              PushLong #UP_UnPacked ; Pointer to Pointer to unpacked buffer
              PushLong #UP_UnPackedSize ; Pointer to a Word containing size of unpacked data
              _UnPackBytes
              PLA                    ; Number of byte unpacked
*---
              RTS
*-----
UP_Packed    HEX    00000000        ; Address of Packed Data
UP_PackedSize HEX    0000          ; Size of Packed Data
UP_UnPacked  HEX    00000000        ; Address of Unpacked Data Buffer (modified by
_UnPackBytes)
UP_UnPackedSize HEX    0000        ; Size of Unpacked Data Buffer (modified by
_UnPackBytes)
*-----
```

We can chain the LoadFile and the UnpackPicture function to end up with a LoadPicture function  
:

```
*----- Load and Unpack a PackBytes Picture -----  
LoadPicture JSR    LoadFile    ; X = Picture File Path, A = XX/00, Bank used for Loading  
            BCS    LP_End  
            JSR    UnpackPicture ; A = Packed Data Size  
            CLC    ; no error  
LP_End     RTS  
*-----
```

Olivier

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