

Chapter 1

Various emails

A small selection of emails we have chosen to include to show some of our communication with the open source community and how this has proceeded.

1.1 Communication with a teachers

Here are a couple of the mails we received from teachers who used our program with their classes.

Sunndal ungdomsskole (Norwegian)

Subject: Stopmotion
From: Ole-Anders Andreassen
 <ole-anders.andreassen@sunndal.kommune.no>
Date: 15-02-2005 12:07
To: bjoern.nilsen@hig.no, fredrik.kjoelstad@hig.no,
 herman@skolelinux.no

Hei!

- Jeg og noen elever har lekt litt med stopmotion,
og vi synes det ser lovende og spennende ut.

Vi har tatt bildene med et Nikon Coolpix kamera.
Når vi skulle importere bildene så oppdaget vi et
lite problem. Vårt kamera genererer filnavn bestående
av store bokstaver. Det gjør at vi hver gang må velge
"alle filtyper" for å få sett filene.

En av elevene lurte på om det ville bli muligheter
for å kopiere sekvenser av bilder ved å markere disse

på tidslinja øverst, så velge "kopi" for så å lime inn sekvensen på et nytt sted på tidslinja?

--

Ole-Anders Andreassen
IKT-ansvarlig
Sunndal ungdomsskole

The bug with the picture names was fixed the same day and the copy functionality added in the next release.

Halden friskole (Norwegian)

Subject: Stopmotion
From: John Steinar Bildøy <johnsbil@haldenfriskole.no>
Date: 07-04-2005 19:07
To: bjoern.nilsen@hig.no, fredrik.kjoelstad@hig.no

Hei!

Vi har lagt inn programmet på skolen, men får ikke kontakt med kamera. Det lille vidu med bilde kommer opp utenom stopmotion, men når jeg trykker på kamera i progr kommer det opp en feilmelding.

Er det noe av dere jeg kan ringe til en dag?

Vennlig hilsen

John Steinar Bildøy
IKT-lærer Halden Friskole Skole:
www.haldenfriskole.no

This teacher got a telefonnumber called us later. We discovered the source of his problem and got Stopmotion working on his system.

1.2 Communication with Aardman features

Some of our communication with Aardmans which we hope can start using our program in the not to distant future.

Email 1

Subject: Stop Motion Animation Project

From: Neil Baker <neil.baker@aardman.com>
Date: 02-03-2005 13:57
To: bjoern.nilsen@hig.no, fredrik.kjoelstad@hig.no

Hello,

I have found your project and it has stirred interest because: we, (Aardman) are currently investigating new video assist facilities for the feature film operation. I am responsible for keeping this sort of thing working and developing kit and software for the future. Part of this is integrating studio and edit suite activities.

As something like 50 units will be involved, plus servers etc. I am keen to try a system that can run on a Linux platform. I have produced a list of our requirements, based on our Animator's wishes and our experience going back ten years. If you are interested, please email me and I will send you a copy. If you are not familiar with the DPS Animate (our current) software I will enclose some stuff on that as well.

Some of the utilities I have developed are described at:
<http://www.sgns.co.uk/NeilCVPPage.shtml>.

Bye for now,

Neil Baker,
Production Systems Engineer. Aardman Features,
1410 Aztec West, Almondsbury, Bristol. BS32 4RT.
+44 (0)1454 859000 ext. 4234.

=====
Visit our brand new website at <http://www.aardman.com>
=====

Email 2

Subject: Re: Stop Motion Animation Project
From: Bjoern Erik Nilsen <bjoern.nilsen@hig.no>
Date: 03-03-2005 12:01
To: Neil Baker

Neil Baker wrote:

>> Bjoern Erik Nilsen <bjoern.nilsen@hig.no> writes:
>>

```
>
>>>>I would like to take a look at this stuff. Please send
>>>>me the requirements and some stuff explaining the DPS.
>>
>>>>>Some of the utilities I have developed are described
>>>>>at: http://www.sgns.co.uk/NeilCVPage.shtml.
>>
>>>>This page is currently not available.
>
>>
>> Oops! sorry, should be:
>> http://www.sgns.co.uk/NeilCV/NeilCVPage.shtml
```

Thanks. That's better.

```
>>
>>>>--
>>>>Bjoern Erik Nilsen
>
>>
>>
>> Thanks for the quick response, I have attached our latest
>> 'spec'.
```

It seems like your system is exactly what we are developing, so the spec should be useful for us. Thank you very much. I would go in detail of the spec later today.

```
>>
>> Briefly, Animate was originally written to use DPS
>> Perception hardware (PVR).
>> This has been ported to later products. If you follow
>> the link above and then click Animate you can download
>> it's help file which explains it in detail. I wrote the
>> help file.
```

Sounds interesting.

```
>>
>>
>> Neil Baker,
>> Production Systems Engineer. Aardman Features,
>> 1410 Aztec West, Almondsbury, Bristol. BS32 4RT.
>> +44 (0)1454 859000 ext. 4234.
```

Thank you for contacting us. If you have some suggestions

to our program you're welcome.

Email 3

Subject: Re:Re: Stop Motion Animation Project
From: Neil Baker <neil.baker@aardman.com>
Date: 04-03-2005 11:31
To: Bjoern Erik Nilsen

Bjoern Erik Nilsen <bjoern.nilsen@hig.no> writes:

>>

>>Thank you for contacting us. If you have some suggestions
>>to our program you're welcome.

>>--

>>Bjoern Erik Nilsen

>>

Over the next six months to a year, we will be looking to
scrap our existing 50 systems and start from scratch. We are
very keen to get something that fits our requirements. So I
can probably help you with things like your user interface
and general usability, (having done quite a lot of this sort
of thing), having access to a lot of animators and camera
people to try stuff out on.

All The Best

Neil Baker,
Production Systems Engineer. Aardman Features,
1410 Aztec West, Almondsbury, Bristol. BS32 4RT.
+44 (0)1454 859000 ext. 4234.

1.3 The RFP which was sent to the BTS

To: Debian Bug Tracking System <submit@bugs.debian.org>
Subject: Bug#302414: RFP: stopmotion -- Excellent program
for creating stop motion animations
From: Bjoern Erik Nilsen <bjoern.nilsen@hig.no>
Date: Thu, 31 Mar 2005 18:57:57 +0200
Message-id: <HIG2QdOgl4rhYQYx3G50000067b@hig2.hig.no>
Old-return-path: <debbugs@bugs.debian.org>
Reply-to: Bjoern Erik Nilsen <bjoern.nilsen@hig.no>,
302414@bugs.debian.org

Package: wnpp
Severity: wishlist

```
* Package name      : stopmotion
  Version           : 0.2.0
  Upstream Author   : Bjoern Erik Nilsen <bjoern.nilsen@hig.no>
* URL               : http://developer.skolelinux.no/info/-
  studentgrupper/2005-hig-stopmotion/
* License           : GPL
  Description        : Excellent program for creating stop
  motion animations
```

Stopmotion is an application for creating stop motion animations by combining images imported from a v4l-device with sound. The animations can then be saved as .sto files

or exported as video files.

Some of the other features are project saving, scenes and mixing/onionskinning.

```
-- System Information:
Debian Release: 3.1
APT prefers testing
APT policy: (500, 'testing')
Architecture: i386 (i686)
Kernel: Linux 2.6.10
Locale: LANG=no_NO, LC_CTYPE=no_NO (charmap=ISO-8859-1)
```