

Creating Simple Animated Gif Files

A short while ago I had a request for help creating an animated gif, so here is a quick tutorial for "anigif" creation.

Animated gif files were, once, the animation standard on the internet but lately many of the animated files are scripts or flash files (flv, swf et al). There are, however, quite a number of people who refuse to allow flash files to run, and although flash files allow for a smoother appearance, and much more actual animation, they tend to be larger and slower to load than a small anigif. I seldom use animated gif files myself - loading my website up with jumping, bouncing, sparkling motion is just not a very professional way to display a business website, but there are still some uses for anigifs, such as avatar files.

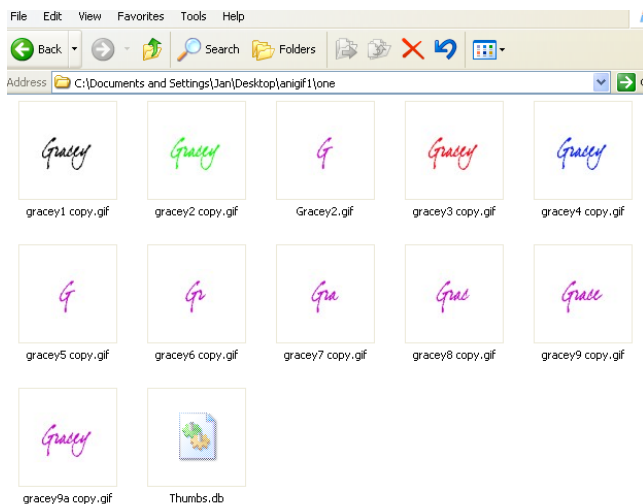
So, for those who just have to have a moving avatar but who don't have the know how or software to create flash files, this tutorial will give you the information, as well as a tiny, free piece of software to do a quick and simple animated gif.

First thing you will need is a graphic software - something that you can use to create the basic gif files you need. It doesn't have to be photoshop, any software capable of creating text or small photo files will do. You can use photoshop, of course, or photoshop elements, or gimp, or microsoft paint, or photo filter studio, paint.net - anything similar.

The second thing you need is this little program called "Unfreez" - this is a free program, and incredibly small, so even those on dialup should have no problem downloading it quickly. You can download it from here: [Unfreez](#)

Next step is to create your gif files. Normally, when you are saving files such as photos you would save them as .jpg, but to use them in Unfreez you'll need to save gif files.

If you want an animated text file you need to create the text and save it as a gif file - if you want the animation to change colours, create the word or text with different colours and save each colour as a separate gif file. Below you'll see a snapshot of text files created in photoshop and saved as gifs - each with a different colour, but the same font and size.



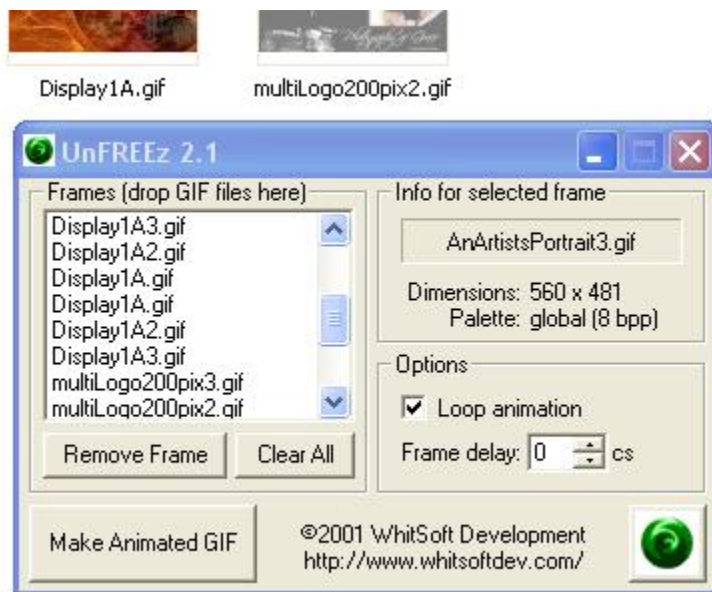
(click to enlarge)

To make this into an animated gif, you simply load each individual gif file into "Unfreez" in the order you want them displayed. To make a really fast animation, load only one of each image. To slow the animation down, load as many of each file as you need, in order. So to slow down an animation made up of four files (ie: gif1, gif2, gif3, gif4) you might load gif1 six or seven times, then load gif2 the same number of times, then gif3 etc. until you have loaded all the files in your animation.

This particular batch of files results in this small animated name gif - starting with the letter "G" in Gracey and adding a letter at a time until the full name displays, and then the colours of the full name change, and it starts over with the letter G (because the display is set to loop the animation):

G

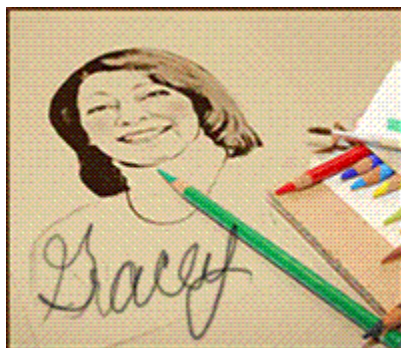
To load files into Unfreez, simply drag them from your folder and drop them into the box in Unfreez. Once the files are loaded, click on "make animated gif" - give your file a name and save it.



Double click on your saved file to see it running it's animation. You can use these gifs on websites, in forums as avatars, as profile pics or just about anywhere that allows uploading of .gif files.

You don't have to use simply text designs - you can use images too - simply make sure your images are all cropped or sized to the same pixel height and width, and that you save them as gif files. Be aware that saving photo files as gif files may change the colours in your images slightly, but for use as small avatars, you may not

notice this.



If you need any additional help, please feel free to contact me at gracey.stinson@gmail.com