MoviX

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1) What is Movix?

MoviX is a so called "Live Linux" distribution - a Linux system running completely from the CD-ROM drive without touching existing data.

To use MoviX, you neither have to know Linux nor understand it.

MoviX' sole purpose is to provide you with a media player that runs independent from already installed systems like Windows or Linux.

- You can use MoviX to play all kind of media - even if the usual Windows-Codec-Chaos renders your Windows installation useless for media playback.
- If you want to take a movie to your friends, you can watch it at their place using MoviX - without having to alter their existing installations first.
- Or maybe you want to use „leftover" PC hardware as a media player without having to buy a harddisk or install a system first.
- Some Linux distributions (like the German Suse) removed the codecs for playback of MPEG4 media (like DivX or XVID) because of legal issues. The only way to watch movies on such systems is to download new MPlayer sources, codecs and other stuff, then configure, make and install them. If you're afraid of doing this, use MoviX instead.
- Just insert your own media playing problem here...

MoviX can:

- playback all kinds of video codecs like MPEG 1&2, MPEG4 (DivX/XVID) etc.
- playback all kinds of container formats like AVI, Quicktime, OGM etc.
- play DVDs, VCDs, SVCDs, Audio CDs
- play MP3, Ogg Vorbis, Wave files etc.
- run slideshows of your pictures

Limitations of Movix 0.8.1 pre2:

- Matroska (mkv) playback is not possible due to the fact that MPlayer 0.92 (that's used in MoviX) cannot do this. Once MPlayer 1.0 gets used, everything will be fine. :-)
- The official MoviX distribution cannot playback encrypted DVDs because of the legal status of libdvdcss-1.2.6-1.i386.rpm in many countries. The MPAA was very active to influence legislation - that's what they use their money for... On how and where to insert a downloaded libdvdcss-1.2.6-1.i386.rpm into your existing MoviX ISO, please search the web or read the upcoming guide on the MoviX Win32 Script.
- Cycling of subtitle streams included in e.g. OGM files is not possible via the MPlayer menu. For workaround see section 4). External subtitles are not affected by this limitation.

2) Version info and URL:

This tutorial was made for

movix-0.8.1pre2

features introduced after this version obviously can't be dealt with.

Find news, updates, help etc. on:

http://movix.sourceforge.net/

3) Basics I (preparing and burning the CD):

a) First unpack the downloaded ZIP-file.

b) The movix-version-etc.iso file is the one that has to be burnt onto CD.

c) Open the CD-burning-program of your choice. Use a template called "Burn existing image to CD" (or similar). Burning the movix-version-etc.iso as a file onto a data CD is WRONG.

d) In some programs (e.g. Disc Juggler) you have to enter the CD-parameters manually: Image format is "Mode1", blocksize is 2048, offset is 0, TOC/CD-type is CD-ROM. You can also load the movix-version-etc.iso into a virtual CD-ROM drive (like DAEMON TOOLS) and just make a direct CD copy from there.

e) Furthermore, enabling "write Raw data" and "add a post gap to existing image" might be a good idea.

f) When burning of the CD is finished, you can leave the CD in the CD-ROM drive, as now the computer has to be restarted and booting takes place from the CD.

g) When restarting, enter the BIOS-setup (usually this is done by pressing "Delete" when prompted).

h) Now change the boot options in order to boot from CD-ROM. If that option is not available - bad luck! Maybe a BIOS update helps?

j) Save the new BIOS settings and restart again. Now the system should boot from CD. If nothing happens, your CD-ROM might not be able to boot (too old?) or you made a mistake when burning the CD. If you have access to another PC check if the CD works there.

4) Basics II (using MoviX):

When booting, the first thing you see is the so called "bootprompt", here you could enter some "boot options".

If you just wait long enough (or press "Enter") booting takes place automagically. If you're of the inquisitive disposition, want to use special screen resolutions or simply want to solve boot problems, press "F2" to display the available options. Pressing "F5" after that shows even more options.

Some notebooks have trouble starting MoviX or some hardware doesn't get recognized correctly - try some boot options or contact the help forum.

The automagic boot should bring up the MoviX main screen after booting.

Here, you find nice menus for doing all the things you wanted to do with MoviX. Be curious and use the arrow keys - it's worth it. ;-)
While playing a file, pressing "m" brings up the MPlayer menu. You navigate using the arrow keys: activate/next menu level is the right arrow - back/previous menu level is the left arrow.

As explained above, subtitle switching via the MPlayer menu isn't possible for subtitles stored within the container file (e.g. OGM). To choose subtitle streams you have to use the "-sid" options of the MPlayer options menu before playing the movie. For example, the first sub stream should be "-sid 1", the second "-sid 2" and so on (always without the quotation marks).
Attention: Sometimes audio streams get counted as subtitle streams; so, with a movie file containing two audio streams, the first sub stream might be "-sid 3".

Sometimes, when coming back to the main MoviX screen, the menus aren't activated - pressing "CTRL+p" activates them.

If you don't hear any sound, it might be that your soundcard wasn't correctly recognized/configured - restart with special boot options for using another sound system than ALSA. On the other hand, it might be possible that the important channels of your soundcard are muted. To find out press "STRG+ALT+F2" to see the mixer in the "second console". Consoles are like virtual screens running just one program. On the first console the MoviX main menu can be found (press "STRG+ALT+F1" to get back there), the second console shows the mixer (press "STRG+ALT+F2") and on the third (press "STRG+ALT+F3") experienced Linux users could enter commands directly.

Now, looking at the mixer, check if all relevant channels are activated (unmuted). If the column shows "mm" at the top, this channel is muted - change this by pressing "m". Volume can be adjusted with the up-down-arrows and changing the channels is done via the left-right-arows.

People owning soundcards can (hopefully) enable digital output via the mixer - just unmute the digital output channels. For correct AC3 passthrough enter "-ac hwac3," in the MPlayer options of the movix main menu. Drop the quotation marks, but not the comma. The trailing comma enables "fallback" to other codecs if AC3 decoding fails for any reason.

That's it - these are the basics and I don't know any more than that. ;-))).

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P.S.:
Don't change any options if you're not sure, what you're doing - you might have to reboot. Go to the MoviX help forum to ask questions.