flashmovie.sty

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Warning

It is recommended to use the latest available version of the Adobe Reader to view PDF files generated with flashmovie.sty.

Basics

This package allows direct embedding of flash movies into PDF files. It is designed for use with pdflatex.

Basically it uses the fact that the Adobe Reader 9 contains an embedded Adobe Flash player which can be invoked with the "rich media annotation" feature which is described in "Adobe Supplement to the ISO 32000 BaseVersion: 1.7 ExtensionLevel: 3".

This means that you can only use flash-movie.sty in combination with Adobe Reader 9 and upwards.

P.S.: This sample video is courtesy of the NASA (saturn5.avi).



Explanation

The source code used for the video on the previous page is:

\flashmovie[width=6cm,height=5cm]{saturn5.swf}

This means that the movie is really a flash animation and is not rendered by a player. So no controls are available.

Issues with the flv-player

- Sadly the flv-player does not work reliably with the latex package beamer. If
 you try it, the acrobat reader often crashes while trying to change the page. I
 have no idea what is the cause of this problem.
- The only reliable way to use beamer is to directly embed the videos as flash animations.
- Another option is to use the JW player. It seems to work with beamer, but is only rudimentary supported.
- Any competent help on this issue would be appreciated. This might be another open source player which works with beamer or a fix of the flv-player or something else.

Advanced use

Rich media annotations are not restricted to videos. You can use flash animations, too. Here for example is a clock written in action script:

\flashmovie[width=8cm,height=5cm]{clock.swf}

