

Multi-Transcoding Sample

Overview

Multi-Transcoding Sample works with **Intel® Media SDK 2016** and **Intel® Media Server Studio 2016 for Windows* Server**.

It demonstrates how to use the **Media SDK for Windows* and Media Server Studio – SDK** (hereinafter referred to as "**SDK**") API to create a console application that performs the transcoding (decoding and encoding) of a video stream from one compressed video format to another, with optional video processing (resizing) of uncompressed video prior to encoding. The application supports multiple input and output streams meaning it can execute multiple transcoding sessions concurrently.

The main goal of this sample is to demonstrate CPU/GPU balancing in order to get maximum throughput on Intel® hardware-accelerated platforms (with encoding support). This is achieved by running several transcoding pipelines in parallel and fully loading both CPU and GPU.

This sample also demonstrates integration of user-defined functions for video processing (picture rotation plug-in) into **SDK** transcoding pipeline.

This version of sample also demonstrates surface type neutral transcoding (opaque memory usage).

The sample can work together with **Intel® Media Server Studio – HEVC Decoder & Encoder** (hereinafter referred to as "**HEVC**").

Features

Multi-Transcoding Sample supports the following video formats:

Format type	
input (compressed)	H.264 (AVC, MVC – Multi-View Coding), MPEG-2 video, VC-1, JPEG*/Motion JPEG, HEVC (High Efficiency Video Coding)
output (compressed)	H.264 (AVC, MVC – Multi-View Coding), MPEG-2 video, JPEG*/Motion JPEG, HEVC (High Efficiency Video Coding)

Hardware Requirements

See <install-folder>\Media Samples Guide.pdf.

Software Requirements

See <install-folder>\Media Samples Guide.pdf.

How to Build the Application

See <install-folder>\Media Samples Guide.pdf.

Running the Software

See <install-folder>\Media Samples Guide.pdf.

The executable file requires the following command-line switches to function properly:

-par <par_file>	A parameter file is a configuration file of specific structure. It contains several command lines, each line corresponding to a single transcoding, decoding or encoding SDK session.
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The following command-line switches are optional:

-p <perf_file>	Instructs sample to write performance statistics to a specified file.
-timeout <seconds>	Timeout for application. The value is set approximately because of using full transcoding cycles.
-?	Print help

Below are examples of a command-line to execute **Multi-Transcoding Sample**:

```
sample_multi_transcode.exe -par 1.par -p 1.perf -timeout 10
```

For each line in the parameter file, the following command-line arguments are mandatory:

-i::h264 h265 mpeg2 vc1 mvlc jpeg <Input File>	Input video type and (compressed) video file name and path. -i::mvlc requires a corresponding -o::mvlc and both are supported only with SDK API 1.3 and higher. The use of option h265 is possible only if HEVC is installed.
or	
-i::source	The session receives the output of the session using the -o::sink option at input (only one session using -o::sink is allowed in a parameter file.).
-o::h264 h265 mpeg2 mvlc jpeg <Output File>	Output video type and (compressed) video file, name and path. -o::mvlc requires a corresponding -i::mvlc and both are supported only with SDK API 1.3 and higher. The use of option h265 is possible only if HEVC is installed.
or	
-o::sink	Output of this session serves as input for all sessions using the -i::source (a parameter file can contain several sessions using -i::source).
or	
-o::raw <Output File>	Raw output data is written into the file. No compression will be done. This option works only with nv12, rgb4 and yuy2 color formats
or	
-vpp_comp_only <Sources Number>	

Note 1: You need to have **HEVC** installed to run with h265 codec.

The following command-line switches are optional:

-b <bitrate>	Bitrate of the encoded stream in Kbits/second, supported for all encoders except JPEG*/Motion JPEG
-f <framerate>	Frame rate of the encoded stream (30 by default)
-fe <frames per second>	Video frame rate for the output of the pipeline. It affects VPP output (if VPP is enabled) or/and encoder framerate. If this option is omitted, -f sets both input and output framerate.
-u <quality, speed, balanced>	Target usage, 4 (balanced) by default. This parameter specifies a trade-off between quality and speed. Supported for all encoders except JPEG*/Motion JPEG
-q	Quality parameter for JPEG*/Motion JPEG encoder. In range [1,100], 100 is the best quality
-w <width>	Width of destination video frame. If specified and the value is different from the source frame width, video preprocessing (VPP) for scaling (resizing) is invoked.
-h <height>	Height of destination video frame. If specified and the value is different from the source frame height, video preprocessing (VPP) for scaling (resizing) is invoked.
-hw -hw_d3d11 -sw	Implementation of SDK : platform-specific, platform-specific via Microsoft Direct3D11* or software. If not specified, platform-specific via Microsoft* Direct3D9* is used.
-sys	Force usage of external system allocator
-join	Join the session to another session. If a parfile contains several lines with a -join switch, the first session in the list acts as parent and all other sessions are joined to the parent. Option is effective only with SDK API 1.1 and higher.
-priority <0,1,2>	Set priority for the session (available only if session is joined): 0 = Low 1 = Normal (default) 2 = High
-threads <num>	Number of session internal threads to create
-gpubcopy::<on,off>	Enable or disable GPU copy mode
-n <num>	The number of frames to process
-async <depth>	Depth of asynchronous pipeline. 1 by default.
-angle 180	Invokes sample plug-in for 180 degrees picture rotation. CPU implementation is used by default. Rotate plugin module <code>sample_rotate_plugin.dll</code> must be available when running the application with this option.
-openc1	Invokes Intel®OpenCL™ implementation of 180 degrees picture rotation. Rotate plugin module <code>sample_plugin_openc1.dll</code> must be available. File <code>ocl_rotate.cl</code> must exist in the local folder when running the application with this option.

-deinterlace	Enables deinterlacing for an interlaced input stream.
-deinterlace::ADI	Forces VPP to deinterlace input stream using ADI algorithm
-deinterlace::ADI_NO_REF	Forces VPP to deinterlace input stream using ADI no ref algorithm
-detail <level>	Enables detail (edge enhancement) filter with provided level(0..100)
-denoise <level>	Enables denoise filter with provided level (0..100)
-FRC::PT	Enables FRC filter with Preserve Timestamp algorithm
-FRC::DT	Enables FRC filter with Distributed Timestamp algorithm
-FRC::INTERP	Enables FRC filter with Frame Interpolation algorithm
-field_processing t2t t2b b2t b2b fr2fr	Copy fields separately
-dc::nv12 rgb4 yuy2	Forces decoder output to use provided chroma mode
vpp_comp <Sources Number>	Enables composition from several decoding sessions. Result is written to the file.
vpp_comp_dst_x	X position of this stream in composed stream (should be used in decoder session)
vpp_comp_dst_y	Y position of this stream in composed stream (should be used in decoder session)
vpp_comp_dst_w	Height of this stream in composed stream (should be used in decoder session)
vpp_comp_dst_h	Width of this stream in composed stream (should be used in decoder session)
-l <num_slice>	Number of slices in each video frame. 0 by default. If num_slice equals zero, the encoder may choose any slice partitioning allowed by the codec standard.
-mss <slice_size>	Maximum slice size in bytes. Supported only with hardware library (-hw) and H.264 encoder. This option is not compatible with -l.
-la	Use the look ahead bitrate control algorithm (LA BRC) for H.264 encoder. Supported only with -hw option on 4th Generation (or later) Intel Core processors.
-lad <depth>	Depth parameter for the LA BRC, the number of frames to be analyzed before encoding. In range [10,100].
-hrd	Maximum possible size of any compressed frames in KB
-wb	Maximum bitrate for sliding window in KBps
-ws	Sliding window size in frames
-gop_size	GOP size in frames
-dist	Distance between I- or P- key frames
-cqp	Constant quantization parameter (CQP BRC) bitrate control method (by default constant bitrate control method is used), should be used along with -qpi, -qpp, -qpb.
-qpi	Constant quantizer for I frames (if bitrate control method is CQP). In range [1,51]. 0 by default, i.e.no limitations on QP.
-qpp	Constant quantizer for P frames (if bitrate control method is CQP). In range [1,51]. 0 by default, i.e.no limitations on QP.
-qpb	Constant quantizer for B frames (if bitrate control method is CQP). In range [1,51]. 0 by default, i.e.no limitations on QP.

set	This option is used to specify codec plugin to be used in multiple sessions, supported with -i::h265 and -o::h265 only. This plugin will be used for all sessions defined below. You can specify plugin as 32-character hexadecimal guid string or path to dll.
-stat <N>	Output statistic every N transcoding cycles
-fps <frames per second>	Transcoding frame rate limit.
-pd <plugin ID or path>	Set decoding plugin for this particular session. This setting overrides plugin settings defined by SET clause.
-pe <plugin ID or path>	Set encoding plugin for this particular session. This setting overrides plugin settings defined by SET clause.

The command-line interface allows 2 usage models (which can be mixed within one parameter file):

1. Multiple intra-session transcoding: several transcoding sessions, any number of sessions can be joined. Each session includes decoding, preprocessing (optional), and encoding.
2. Multiple inter-session transcoding: output of a single decoding session serves as input for several encoding sessions. Either all or none of the sessions are joined. Any of the encoding sessions can optionally include preprocessing (resizing).

Below are several examples of parameter file contents.

Single intra-session transcoding:

```
-i::vcl input.vcl -async 10 -o::h264 output.h264 -n 100 -w 320 -h 240 -f 30
-b 2000 -u speed
```

Multiple intra-session transcoding, several sessions joined:

```
-i::vcl input1.vcl -async 10 -o::mpeg2 output1.mpeg2
-i::h264 input2.h264 -o::mpeg2 output2.mpeg2 -join
-i::h264 input3.h264 -o::mpeg2 output3.mpeg2 -join
```

Multiple inter-session transcoding, all sessions joined:

```
-i::h264 input.h264 -o::sink -join
-o::mpeg2 output1.mpeg2 -i::source -join -w 640 -h 480
-o::mpeg2 output2.mpeg2 -async 2 -u 3 -i::source -join
```

Mixed model:

```
-i::vcl input.vcl -async 10 -o::h264 output.h264 -n 100 -w 320 -h 240 -f 30
-b 2000 -u speed
-hw -i::h264 input.h264 -o::sink -join
-o::mpeg2 output1.mpeg2 -i::source -join -w 640 -h 480
-o::mpeg2 output2.mpeg2 -async 2 -u 3 -i::source -join
```

Single intra-session MVC transcoding:

```
-i::mvc input.mvc -async 10 -o::mvc output.mvc -n 100 -w 320 -h 240 -f 30 -b
2000 -u speed
```

Single intra-session transcoding with rotation plugin:

```
-i::vcl input.vcl -async 10 -o::h264 output.h264 -n 100 -w 320 -h 240 -f 30
-b 2000 -u speed -angle 180 -opencl
```

Multiple intra-session transcoding, same **HEVC** is used in both cases:

```
set -i::h265 15dd936825ad475ea34e35f3f54217a6
-i::h265 input1.265 -o::h264 output1.264
-i::h265 input2.265 -o::mpeg2 output2.mpeg2
```

Multiple intra-session transcoding with **HEVC**:

```
set -i::h265 /path/to/dll/decoder_plugin.dll
set -o::h265 /path/to/dll/encoder_plugin.dll
-sw -i::h265 input1.265 -o::h264 output1.264
-sw -i::mpeg2 input2.mpeg2 -o::h265 output2.265
```

Tips

1. To achieve maximum throughput use `-async >= 5` and the `-join` option when running several transcoding pipelines.
2. If you need only one transcoding session you can avoid creating a par file and pass the arguments of this session to the application using command line. E.g.:

```
sample_multi_transcode.exe -i::vc1 input.vc1 -async 10 -o::h264 output.h264
-n 100 -w 320 -h 240 -f 30 -b 2000 -u speed -p 1.perf
```

Known Limitations

- Configurations <multiple joined inter-session transcoding where one of the encoders is MPEG2> are not supported when sample application uses platform-specific **SDK** implementation on systems with Intel® HD Graphics 3000/2000 and 4000/2500. Application can exit with error or hang. An example of a corresponding par file is given below:

```
-i::h264 input.h264 -o::sink -join
-o::mpeg2 output1.mpeg2 -i::source -join
-o::h264 output2.h264 -i::source -join
```

Systems with Intel® Iris™ Pro Graphics, Intel® Iris™ Graphics and Intel® HD Graphics 4200+ Series are free from this limitation.

- Picture rotation sample plug-ins do not swap view order in the pipeline with MVC encoder. This should be considered if viewing of the output video is involved.
- **Multi-Transcoding Sample** if run with `-opencl` option requires input video frame width to be aligned by 4.
- **Multi-Transcoding Sample** if run with `-f` option without `-FRC` or `-deinterlace` options does not perform frame rate conversion. Specified frame rate simply overrides frame rate value of the original stream and is used as decoder setting.
- In **Multi-Transcoding Sample** option `-f` does not work in encoding session (session with `-i::source` setting). You should use `-fe` setting if you want to override encoder frame rate, otherwise, frame rate obtained from decoder will be used.
- **Rotation Plug-in** and **OpenCL™ Plug-in** cannot be used with more than 1 encoding session. E.g. par-file:

```
-i::h264 input.h264 -o::sink
-o::mpeg2 output1.mpeg2 -i::source -angle 180
-o::mpeg2 output2.mpeg2 -i::source -angle 180
```

- In case of using HEVC plugin (h265 video type), plugin type (hardware or software) used by default is set depending on `-sw` or `-hw` sample options. However, hardware HEVC plugins work on specific platforms only. To force usage of specific HEVC plugin implementation, please use `-pe` and `-pd` options with proper plugin GUID.

- SW HEVC plugin in 10bit mode cannot be used together with HW library VPP. Although library allows that, this is bad practice because additional per-pixel data shift is required. Please use HW HEVC + HW library or SW HEVC + SW library instead.
- Sample may crash if composition filter is used with more than 10 sources (because of limitations in MSDK library).
- -timeout option set in command line together with par file name may work incorrectly. Please use -timeout option set inside par file instead.

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