AmbiBox Script for XBMC v 0.0.10

This script provides functional communication between XBMC and the AmbiBox windows application for switching profiles and providing data for capture when using the XBMC direct method of capture.

Installation

It is assumed that you have already installed the AmbiBox application prior to installing this script. This can be downloaded at http://www.ir-max.ru/download.php. For the XBMC script installation, first unzip the script to a convenient, temporary location and then copy the entire directory named 'script.ambibox' with its structure intact to the XBMC add-ons directory. In windows, this is typically located on your system drive at 'Users/Username/AppData/Roaming/XBMC/addons/'. If you have a previous installation, please back it up to a safe place before installing.

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On this page you can specify which IP address and port that the AmbiBox windows application is using for communication. This will typically be at the local host at 127.0.0.1 and port 3636. As shown. You can also choose to turn on or off notifications, but it is recommended that you leave them on until you are confident that things are working as expected. You also enter your native screen geometry to be used if there is an issue with a file not reporting it's dimensions and you are using XBMC Direct capture mode.

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The first option is to setup and enable a default profile. If this is not specified, XBMC will launch with whatever profile is currently being utilized by the AmbiBox windows application. Take care when entering the name of the default profile that it exactly matches the name of one of your profiles in the AmbiBox application. No checking is done by the configuration screen to ensure that what has been entered matches one of the profile names.

The next option is to enable and specify a profile for use during music playback. Typically this would be a profile utilizing either the built-in ColorMusic mode or the ColorMusic plugin in the AmbiBox application. The same precautions are needed when typing in the name of the profile to ensure that it exactly matches one of your named profiles.

There are four choices for profile switching during video playback:

1) *Use a default video profile*. This is as above where the profile name is specified and used during video playback, similar to the default and audio profiles.

2) *Autoswitch based upon AR*. This option attempts to read the aspect ratio of the video file and then chooses a profile based upon that aspect ratio. This REQUIRES that the user edits an XML file to specify the names of the profiles and under what circumstances they would be used. An example profile is installed with the script and is located at Users/Username/AppData/Roaming/XBMC/addons/script.ambibox/resources/data/. The filename is dardata.xml. The general appearance of the file is as follows:

```
<profile>
    <AmbiboxName>My 16:9 Profile</AmbiboxName>
    <LowerLmt>1.6</LowerLmt>
    <UpperLmt>1.85</UpperLmt>
    <Format>Normal</Format>
</profile>
<profile>
    <AmbiboxName>My 4:3 Profile</AmbiboxName>
    <LowerLmt>1.25</LowerLmt>
    <UpperLmt>1.45</UpperLmt>
    <Format>SBS</Format>
</profile>
...
```

Using this mode requires that the user has setup different profiles for different aspect ratios in the AmbiBox windows application. For instance for users with standard HD sets, there might be a profile for video that is fullscreen 16:9 such as most full screen HD television shows, another for 4:3 for most SD television shows and one at 2.35:1 or 2.40:1 for many movies. In the XML file, the name of each of those profiles needs to be entered along with range of aspect ratios when that profile should utilized (sometimes during editing/conversation, a video file may lose a few columns or rows and thus, one needs to allow for some error here). For example if the profile that has been setup for 16:9 capture is called 'My 16:9 Profile' then that is the 'AmbiBoxName'. Since 16/9 = 1.7778, in the above example that profile will be used for all files with aspect ratios from 1.6 to1.85. Lastly there is a field for 'Format'. For non-3D content this is 'Normal', while for 3D content it is either 'SBS' or 'TAB'. Again, the user needs to manually edit the XML with this information!

3) *Show Menu of profiles*. Using this option, at the time of video playback, a menu of the currently available profiles that have been setup in the AmbiBox windows application is displayed and the used may select which profile to use. One thing to note is that for users utilizing external video player applications, such as MPC-HC, the player will cover the XBMC window and the menu of choices. This would require the user to minimize the player window temporarily in order to access the menu.

4) *Turn off LED's*. The LED's are off during video playback.

Last there is an option to indicate that the AmbiBox windows application is using a screen capture mode with the XBMC Direct method. This method of capture can only be utilized when using the native video player and thus can be turned off if not using XBMC Direct or are using an external player.

FAQ's

Why would I want to go through the trouble of setting up all of these different profiles, my display is 16:9, why would I use other profiles?

When video files are played that have display aspect ratios that differ from your display, some people may either zoom or stretch the video so that it fills the screen. Under those circumstances, only one profile is needed because the video content reaches to the edge of the screen and can be correctly captured in order to drive the LED's.

The other, often preferred, method of display is using letterboxing. Black or gray bars are placed either above and below or on either side of the video in order to display the content without distortion. In this case, there is no active video content in these areas and the AmbiBox application would be capturing whatever color is in those bars if it is using a standard setup to capture around the periphery of the display. By setting up different capture profiles for content with different aspect ratios, one can capture from the edge of the active content and have the LED's display correctly.

Why don't my LED's light while music is playing? I have set up a profile using ColorMusic and AmbiBox switches to it but the lights remain dark.

AmbiBox cannot hook into the audio stream if you are using WASAPI for audio output. Please go to System -> System -> Audio Output and go to the very bottom (often times this setting isn't seen if you do not scroll) to Audio Output Device and choose something other than WASAPI.