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Creative Voice file

Creative Voice, <u>filename extension</u>.voc is an audio format for digital audio data for developed in the 1990s Sound Blaster - sound cards from Creative Technology.

Filename .voc extension Internet audio / x-voc media type Developed by Creative Technology

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Construction

Original-Format (8-Bit)

The file format $^{[1][2][3]}$ consists of a 26-byte header and a series of subsequent data blocks containing the audio information. The byte order is Little Endian .

VOC-[Header]

Offset ([hex])	Length (in Byte)	content				
0x00	19	ASCII-StringCreative Voice File				
0x13	3	1A 1A 00 (hexadecimal)				
0x16	2	[Version] (Major, Minor), hexadecimal; For Example: 0x010a, Version 1.10				
0x18	2	Validation: ~Version + 0x1234, hexadecimal, truncated to 16-bit; For Example: 0x1129				

The header is followed by data blocks. Each data block begins with a type byte describing the contents of the data, followed by 3 bytes for the size of the data (as an integer). For two of the 9 defined types, the subsequent size of the data is missing, so the block ultimately consists of only a single byte - these are 0x00the terminator, and 0x07the repeat end.

If a size is specified, the first 4 bytes will be followed by a block of the content resulting from the specified type with the specified size.

VOC-Data block

Туре	Type Description		Size					
(hex)	engl.	deu.	(3-Byte-Integer)	Info				
0×00	Terminator	Separator	-	_				
	Sound data	Audio data	2+ size off the data	Audio Content				
				Offset	Description Meaning		ning	
				0x00	sampling rate	ng 256-(1000000/Samp rate)		
0x01						see table		
0.01				0x01	Codec	is ignored if a block of type 0x08(Extra info) defines a codec (from version 1.20)		
				from 0x02	Audio data in	dio data in the specified format (codec)		
0x02	Sound continue	further audio data	Size of the data		Iditional audio data in the same format as the evious block			
	Silence	Silence		Stille				
				Offset	description		meaning	
0x03			3	0x00- 01	Length of silence in the unit of the sampling rate		Integer-1	
				0x02	sampling rate		as with audio content	
				Marker number (2 bytes)				
0x04	Marker		2	The last marker remains in an intermediate memory during playback and can be jumped on again.				
0x05	ASCII string	ASCII- Character String	Length of the string	Null terminated string				
				Number of repetitions (2-byte integer) 0x0000to 0xFFFE1-65,535 repetitions, 0xFFFFfor infinite				
0x06	Repeat	To repeat	2					
0x07	End repeat	End of the repetition	_	_				

The file optionally ends with the terminator block (data block of the type 0x00)

Use

Creative Voice files were used in various DOS games when they could use sound blaster cards for audio output, such as Eye of the Beholder. (https://github.com/movAX13h/DrRiptideDissected)

The spread of the file format disappeared noticeably with the advent of RIFF WAVE , which was already supported in <u>Windows</u> by Microsoft operating system. However, the Creative Voice file format required the installation of additional player programs included with the <u>Sound Blaster</u> Card drivers. With the advent of AC'97 , WAVE, file extension .WAV, finally prevailed.

References

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