

How to make ffmpeg write its output to a named pipe

I know i can make `ffmpeg` put its output to `stdout` and `stderr` using `pipe:1` and `pipe:2`, respectively, as `output_file` parameter. ([Docs](#))

But what about [named pipes](#), can i make it write to one?

If not, is there a way to redirect the data in `stdout` to a named pipe in Linux? (something like `ffmpeg <parameters> | pipe123`)

This question is a follow-up of [this question](#).

linux ffmpeg pipe

asked Sep 15 '15 at 10:55

 [Bastian35022](#)
532 5 15

1 Answer

You could create a named pipe first and have `ffmpeg` write to it using the following approach:

`ffmpeg` output to named pipe:

```
# mkfifo outpipe

# ffmpeg -i input_file.avi -f avi pipe:1 > outpipe
FFmpeg version 0.6.5, Copyright (c) 2000-2010 the FFmpeg developers
  built on Jan 29 2012 17:52:15 with gcc 4.4.5 20110214 (Red Hat 4.4.5-6)
...
[avi @ 0x1959670]non-interleaved AVI
Input #0, avi, from 'input_file.avi':
  Duration: 00:00:34.00, start: 0.000000, bitrate: 1433 kb/s
    Stream #0.0: Video: cinepak, yuv420p, 320x240, 15 tbr, 15 tbn, 15 tbc
    Stream #0.1: Audio: pcm_u8, 22050 Hz, 1 channels, u8, 176 kb/s
Output #0, avi, to 'pipe:1':
  Metadata:
    ISFT           : Lavf52.64.2
    Stream #0.0: Video: mpeg4, yuv420p, 320x240, q=2-31, 200 kb/s, 15 tbn, 15 tbc
    Stream #0.1: Audio: mp2, 22050 Hz, 1 channels, s16, 64 kb/s
Stream mapping:
  Stream #0.0 -> #0.0
  Stream #0.1 -> #0.1
Press [q] to stop encoding
frame= 510 fps= 0 q=11.5 Lsize=    1292kB time=33.96 bitrate= 311.7kbits/s
video:1016kB audio:265kB global headers:0kB muxing overhead 0.835379%
```

reading outpipe named pipe (Python example):

```
# python -c "import os; fifo_read = open('outpipe', 'r', 0); print
fifo_read.read().splitlines()[0]"
RIFFAVI LIST<hdlavih8j...
...
```

-- ab1

answered Sep 15 '15 at 12:06

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364 3 8

Exactly what i need! thanks =) – [Bastian35022](#) Sep 16 '15 at 9:31