

Note of usage to some command in imagemagick

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1 Convert

It seems ‘Convert’ is the command most be used, it can convert the format of photos as basic function.

1.1 Change format

This is too simple, and you can just execute:

```
convert source target
```

and convert will change format of image by it’s suffix.

But it is not good at to convert bitmap to vector, if you want to do it, you should have potrace installed and you can convert the source image to bmp, bpm, or pbm, and then type:

```
potrace source -s -o target
```

‘-s’ option is for svg format, there are some other options for other vector formats, but unfortunately, potrace can only convert graphics with gray scale.

There is also an autotrace command, it can deal with colorful image, but autotrace algorithm is poor when compared with potrace.

If you want to convert image to ico, use this:

```
convert source -bordercolor white -border 0 \  
    \( -clone 0 -resize 16x16 \) \  
    \( -clone 0 -resize 32x32 \) \  
    \( -clone 0 -resize 48x48 \) \  
    \( -clone 0 -resize 64x64 \) \  
    -delete 0 -alpha off -colors 256 destination.ico
```

1.2 Cut

```
convert source -crop wxh target
```

This command was used to divide the source image into several subfigures with specified size, if the size of source was not the interger multiple of subfigures, and the size of subfigures in right and bottom will take the size in reality.

```
convert source -crop wxh+dx+dy target
```

‘w’ was the width of target photo and the ‘h’ was the height. ‘dx’ was the offset in the x axis and ‘dy’ was the offset in the y axis, the origin was the top left.

1.3 Make a color block file

```
convert -size wxh xc:color target
```

This command can also create a image with specified color and specified size.

```
convert -size wxh xc:color source -geometry +dx+dy -composite target
```

‘color’ was the color of background, you can use the name of color like ‘cyan’, ‘blue’, ‘red’, or the color code like ‘#44ff88’.

1.4 Replace color in images

```
convert source -fuzz percent% -fill color1 -opaque color2 target
```

‘percent’ was the threshold value, and color2 was the color which will be replaced and the color2 was the color which will replace color1.

```
convert -negate source target
```

This command was used to reverse the color in the image.

If you want to reverse the color in only a part of image, you can use this:

```
convert -region wxh+dx+dy -negate source target
```

or

```
convert -gravity direction -region wxh+dx+dy -negate source target
```

And if argument ‘direction’ was chosen as center, the latter was located from where the area was in the center of source, you can use other direction like southeast and so on.

Also, you can use ‘-region’ or ‘-gravity’ to make other processing on only a part.

Some times, you don’t know the code of color which you want to replace, and this command will help you:

```
convert source -crop wxh+dx+dy txt:-
```

This command will output the color code of all points in the area you pick.

1.5 Adjust some attribute of the whole image

```
convert source -type Grayscale target
```

This command will help you to convert a image to gray mode.

```
convert source -brightness-contrast dbxdc target
```

db is the increment of brightness, and the dc is the increment of contrast, this will adjust the brightness and contrast of the image.

Add a background to transparent-background PNG:

```
convert source -background color -flatten destination
```

1.6 Merge

```
convert  $\pm$  append source1 source2 \dots source_n target
```

The ‘ \pm ’ decided the direction of merge, when it was ‘-’, merge was in

portrait, and when it was '+', merge was in landscape. You can put '-append' just behind the target, it's ok.

You can also use the background to merge these figures.

1.7 Border add

```
convert source -bordercolor color -border width target
```

This command was used to add the border to the image in specified color and specified width.

You can also use this:

```
convert -mattecolor "color" -frame wxh source target
```

This time 'w' was width of vertical border and 'h' was width of aclinic border.

You can use this to make the border solid:

```
convert -mattecolor "color" -frame wxh+down+up source target
```

This was a command to remove border:

```
convert source -trim target
```

1.8 Draw on the image

```
convert source -font fontname -fill color -pointsize size -annotate +dx+dy @textfile target
```

'fontname' was the absolute path to the font file, the 'size' was the size of words, 'dx' and 'dy' was offset, and 'textfile' was the file including the words, or you can directly replace '@textfile' by the words.

```
convert source fill color1 -stroke color2 -strokewidth width -draw shape x1,y1x2,y2 target
```

'color1' was the padding color filling the shape, and 'color2' was color of the line, width was linewidth, shape was the shape you want to draw on the

image, such as rectangle, line, circle. $x1,y1$ was the origin coordinate and $x2,y2$ was target coordinate.

If you want to add mark to the specified graph, you can also use composite:

```
convert source mark -gravity direction -geometry +dx+dy -composite target
```

‘mark’ was the photo you want to add as a mark.

1.9 Zooming and rotating

```
convert -resize wxh source target
```

Because of zoom in equal ratio, so the target usually not in the size you specified, but at least one of width and height will match your request.

You can also only specified only one of the size, but if you specified height, remember to add ‘x’ before the height.

If you do not need ratio, you can add ‘!’:

```
convert -resize wxh! source target
```

If you don’t know whether the size of photo match your request, you can use ‘<’ and ‘>’ to control it:

```
convert -resize "wxh  $\geq$ " source target
```

If you use ‘>’, it will zoom when the size of image larger than specified; Or if ‘<’, it will zoom when size smaller.

You can also use ‘!’ to confirm the size behind ‘ \geq ’.

Rotate the source image in a certain angle:

```
convert -rotate angle% source target
```

1.10 change color mode

```
convert source -colorspace colormode destination
```

For CMYK colormode, for *destination*, it seems only work for few formats, such as pdf and tif. some times colors are reversed, and you may need to reverse it by “-negate” option.

1.11 Compress

```
convert -strip -quality percent source target
```

Quality was an attribute of image. the higher quality is, the bigger space it occupied. Usually, if you reduce the quality to 85, you can’t find obvious difference, and the space occupied will reduce a lot.

And the profile recorded some information of image, such as the information of camera, the unit data in photoshop and the table of colors, you can use ‘-strip’ to remove this, or you can also use ‘-profile “*”’.

1.12 Make animation gif

```
convert -delay seconds source1 source2 ... sourcen target
```

‘seconds’ was the seconds delay between frames.

You can use ‘-loop *times*’ argument to limit the times target play, and the default setting was 0, which represent loop with no limit.

And if you want to add a background to the gif:

```
convert -loop times bgimage -page +dx+dy source target
```

If you want to divide a gif into frames, you can use this:

```
convert -coalesce source target
```

This will create several images and they will be named as target-0, target-1, ... , target-n, as the frames in the gif.

1.13 Verbose

You can use identify to get the verbose information of image, but convert can also realize this function.

`convert source -verbose target`

This command was used to output identification information of source image when you convert it into another format.

You can also convert the image into ASCII text file to get information in detail, it will point out the color of every point in the image.

2 Identify

To output the informations of certain photo, and use ‘-vvv’ can get info in detail.

3 Display

As the name means, to display the photo, and it have many commands after you open it, such as:

- </>: scale up/down
- q: quit
- +: enlarge part
- ...

4 Exiv2

Output the exif informations of photos. use ‘-pa’ to print Exif, IPTC and XMP metadata.