Ultima Online Screenshot Utility

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Version 1.20E

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This program is designed to capture screenshots from Ultima Online - Origin's massive, global online RPG.

* This program is FREEWARE.
* Copyright 1997 Katsuyuki Namba. All rights reserved.
* Don't copy the UOSU ZIP file onto your Homepage without my permission.
* You can use the captured graphics freely (e.g. on your Homepage).
* Please feel free to mention UOSU on your Homepage.
* Point links to http://www.hh.iij4u.or.jp/~kmatuoka/english.html.
* Latest versions of UOSU will be available at the homepage listed above.
* UOSU uses the JPEG Encode/Decode DLL produced by K.Nishita.

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Features

(1)Press a single key to capture screen.

Press a key of your choice to capture a screenshot and save it as a JPEG formatted file. You can take a full-screen shot with the Print Screen key.

You can select a hot key from a list of several. Select a key that will not disturb you while you play the game (be sure that it doesn't clash with any macro you have made).

(2)Automatically saving JPEG files.

As you know, Ultima Online runs in 16-bit color. A full color bitmap file (640 x 480) can be as large as 1 megabyte per file. UOSU will encode the captured screen into a JPEG file. The JPEG format is good at compressing a full color image - for example, that 1 megabyte may be reduced to 70-200 kilobytes per file. The file size will change according to the compression rate you select (JPEG quality). Be aware that quality rates under 100 will visibly degrade picture quality.

(3)Sequence photographs up to 3 shots.

Because UOSU encodes JPEG files in a background thread, capturing shots will not affect foreground applications (i.e. Ultima Online).

However, encoding JPEG files is a slightly intensive task. Thus, it is not practical to encode too many JPEG files at the same time. UOSU can encode JPEG files one after another, but a maximum of 3 shots can be queued at any one time.

(4)Option : crop a title bar.

When you play UO as a window mode, you can capture the UO window without a title bar like a full-screen mode.

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How to use

(1)Install

Extract the ZIP file into the same folder. There are 2 DLL files. DLL files are invisible in an Explorer window using default settings, so please take care of DLL files when you copy the program to another folder.

(2)Run

Run the executable file, configure the screenshot folder, the quality of JPEG file, and select a hot key. You can create a new folder by right clicking on the folder tree.

(3)Capture

Hot Key (what you selected) : capture the active window.
Print Screen : capture the full screen.
Alt + Print Screen : capture the active window.

The last 2 keys are the same as Windows 95's system capturing functions.

HINT : Observation of the clipboard

UOSU constantly observes the clipboard, checking when it updates. When an application copies a graphic to the clipboard, UOSU will automatically save it as a JPEG file.

HINT : The process of encoding JPEG files

UOSU makes BMP files before encoding the JPEG files. Because of this, you'll need about 5MB HDD space. These BMP files will be deleted when JPEG encoding is finished.
The name of JPEG file (prefix and suffix) can be configured to your liking.

UOSU processes JPEG encoding in a background thread. It handles one file at a time, and up to 3 files can be queued, one after the other.

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NOTE : Compression Rate and Quality

The JPEG format is suitable for the compression of full color graphic files. It is IRREVERSIBLE compression, so it will lose some quality. The stronger the compression, the smaller the file size and the lower the quality. Less compression will produce a larger file size with a higher picture quality.

With UOSU, you can configure the quality within this range : 5% - 100%.

100%	Maximum quality. Suitable for printing and some other uses. However, the file size isn't small.
75%	Standard quality. The best balance between file size and quality.
30%	Minimum quality. It is the lowest viewable quality, but is very good as the file size is small. But the quality is rather bad. Use for web pages where file sizes (download times) are more important than quality.
5%	Nothing but a joke. :)

HINT : JPEG Quality

If you want to use the screenshot on your homepage, you should trim it and try to decrease the file size, thus reducing download times. If you want to edit a screenshot after capturing, it is better to set the capture quality at a higher level, because compression degradation is irreversible. It makes no sense saving a modified JPEG file at 70% compression, when the original JPEG was captured at 30%.

You must take care in setting a suitable quality level for capturing.

(4)Quit

Push the close button of the UOSU window. After all encoding is finished, UOSU will quit.

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Special Thanks to...

K.Nishita, who is a producer of JPEG encode / decode DLL (freeware).
Ultima Online Developing Team - ORIGIN.
miksha, who told me that UO couldn't capture a screenshot itself at the chat room on the Ultima Online Homepage.
All users, who tested this software and reported bugs and their feelings about the program to me.
Especially Hayate@EV, who told me the significant bug and weak point of UOSU.
And lastly, our honorable king, Lord British, and all the citizens of Britannia.

Conditions

This software works on Windows 95 / Windows NT.
This software is a FREEWARE.
All rights reserved. Copyright 1997 Katuyuki Namba.
You can use screenshots freely, i.e. for homepage or publishing.
This software will be updated without notice.

Copyright ... etc.

All rights reserved. Katsuyuki Namba (katuyuki@hh.iij4u.or.jp)
You can't recompile, reproduce or copy it to any other homepages.
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JPEG Encode / Decode DLL. All rights reserved. K.Nishita
I will not take responsibility for any trouble which may occur if you use this program.

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History

97/8/21	0.99 beta
97/8/22	0.99 beta 2
	The configuration options of assigning a key for capturing screenshots was made available.
	Added "crop a title bar" option.
97/8/22	0.99 beta 3
	Verified the cropping process.
97/9/27	0.99 beta 4
	Fixed the bug that caused the JPEG encoding thread not to be released.
	Decreased load to system from 20-30% to under 1%.
97/9/30	1.00
	English version is available.
97/10/5	1.01
	Fixed the bug that means it doesn't save settings under Win95(E)
97/10/12	1.10
	The Prefix and Suffix of filenames can now be configured.
97/11/17	1.11
	Refine the english of this document(Thanks to Stuart Loh).
97/12/24	1.20
	Fix the bug that means it doesn't save settings under Win 95(E)
	Fix the bug about capture UO in Fullscreen Mode.

Get The Latest Version at ...

Ultima Online Screenshot Utility
http://www.hh.iij4u.or.jp/~kmatuoka/english.html.

JPEG Encode / Decode DLL
http://einstein.ae.eng.ua.edu/nishita/index.htm

Ultima Online Official Site
http://www.owo.com/

Happy travelling and screenshot taking in Britannia!