Raspberry Pi Spy

*Unofficial Raspberry Pi tutorials, guides, scripts, help
and news*

Playing Videos On the Raspberry Pi Command Line

Posted on June 12, 2013 by Matt

If you need to play video files and you don't want to install a full media solution such as XBMC then you can play them directly from the command line using Omxplayer. This is a media player created by Edgar Hucek specifically for the Raspberry Pi and it takes advantage of the Pi's GPU.

Installation

Omxplayer is installed on the latest Raspbian image so you may already have it installed. If not you can install it using :

```
sudo apt-get update
sudo apt-get -y install omxplayer
```

Basic Usage

To play a video file you just need to type :

```
omxplayer myvideo.mp4
```

If you are using HDMI you should use this command to pass audio over the HDMI interface :

```
omxplayer -o hdmi myvideo.mp4
```

Other Command Line Options

If you type :

```
omxplayer
```

you will be presented with a list of the available command line options :

```
Usage: omxplayer [OPTIONS] [FILE]
Options :
-h / --help             print this help
-n / --aidx  index      audio stream index    : e.g. 1
-o / --adev  device     audio out device      : e.g. hdmi/local
-i / --info             dump stream format and exit
-s / --stats            pts and buffer stats
-p / --passthrough      audio passthrough
-d / --deinterlace      deinterlacing
-w / --hw               hw audio decoding
-3 / --3d mode          switch tv into 3d mode (e.g. SBS/TB)
-y / --hdmiclocksync    adjust display refresh rate to match
                        video (default)
-z / --nohdmiclocksync  do not adjust display refresh rate to
                        match video
-t / --sid index        show subtitle with index
-r / --refresh          adjust framerate/resolution to video
-l / --pos              start position (in seconds)
    --boost-on-downmix  boost volume when downmixing
    --subtitles path    external subtitles in UTF-8 srt form at
    --font path         subtitle font
                        (default: /usr/share/fonts/truetype/
                                  freefont/FreeSans.ttf)
```

```
--font-size size        font size as thousandths of screen height
                        (default: 55)
--align left/center     subtitle alignment (default: left)
--lines n               number of lines to accommodate in the
                        subtitle buffer (default: 3)
```

Keyboard Shortcuts

Here are the keyboard shortcuts that you can use to control features within the player :

```
Space or p    Pause/Resume
q             Exit OMXPlayer
z             Show Info

-             Decrease Volume
+             Increase Volume

i             Previous Chapter
o             Next Chapter

Left Arrow    Seek -30
Right Arrow   Seek +30
Down Arrow    Seek -600
Up Arrow      Seek +600

1             Increase Speed
2             Decrease Speed

j             Previous Audio stream
k             Next Audio stream
n             Previous Subtitle stream
m             Next Subtitle stream
s             Toggle subtitles
d             Subtitle delay -250 ms
f             Subtitle delay +250 ms
```

Omxplayer is particularly useful if you are creating videos with the Pi camera module and want to playback the files from the command line.

This entry was posted in Camera Module, Software, Tutorials & Help and tagged media, mp4, omxplayer. Bookmark the permalink.

◄ **5**   ◄ **93**   ◄ **11**

15 Responses to *Playing Videos On the Raspberry Pi Command Line*

chris.tal *says:*

June 14, 2013 at 11:29 am

It can even play streams and accepts some ffmpeg style URL options. Too bad the audio and video desyncs after a few hours

for me. :/

Reply

Sunil *says:*

July 8, 2013 at 8:19 am

Hi All,
I want to control the omxplayer using c script ,,
How can i do this?
please help me..

Thanks and regards
Sunil

Reply

---

vijay *says:*

November 27, 2013 at 4:22 am

Hi
when i am using omx player myvideo.mp4.It is just showing blank screen and going
any please help me.what is the problem with the omx player please help me.

Reply

> **Matt** *says:*
>
> November 28, 2013 at 10:08 am
>
> Where did you get myvideo.mp4 from? Have you tried another file?
>
> Reply

> **Thomas** *says:*
>
> August 26, 2014 at 9:58 pm
>
> It looks like your typing the wrong name.if you are typing 'omx' and then 'player filename.mp4'
> Then it won't recocnise you. The program is called 'omxplayer',
> not 'omx' then 'player'...
>
> So if you just type:
> omxplayer filename.mp4
>
> It should work. It's an easy mistake to make if you don't know, I hope that this helps.
>
> Thomas Asche
>
> Reply

---

monkeypi *says:*

November 28, 2013 at 1:13 pm

im getting no sound even if i use omxplayer –o hdmi (file) any simple help much appreciated I'm noob

Reply

Opiel16 *says:*

December 7, 2013 at 12:05 am

You may have the same problem I did – your volume is possibly zero
Type alsamixer to see volume control – if this doesn't work maybe you need to update or install some stuff, this page
got me through my problems;
http://elinux.org/R-Pi_Troubleshooting#Sound

Reply

Natha *says:*

August 7, 2014 at 4:56 pm

Hi
When i use omxplayer video.h264
I have problem with display a video.
omxplayer video.h264
video.h264 not found but one of the video file displaying.
please help me
Thanks

Reply

Matt *says:*

August 9, 2014 at 11:21 am

If the error message is saying the file isn't found it either doesn't exist or is spelt wrong. Check the filename and make
sure you are in the correct directory.

Reply

Gonzalo *says:*

September 12, 2014 at 11:21 pm

Hello, thanks for your time and very good tutorial,

I have to do a python program where I can select a video from GPIO pin, so could you tell me if is posible to select video in a
python Script? I have that question because I dont Know what happen if I change the video in the program and what happen
with HDMI video.

Thanks for your time.

Best regards.

Reply

Marco Rossi *says:*

January 19, 2015 at 4:22 pm

When I am running 2 instances of omxplayer on the Raspberry-Pi, if a pause one of them (p) and then resume it, the other
one then freezes for 1 or 2 seconds.

What can I do to remedy this?

Reply

TVM *says:*

February 26, 2015 at 7:28 pm

(sorry for my bad english)
ive got omxplayer and ive got an mp4 file on my raspberery pi 2 and i type the commend " omxplayer (filename).mp4 but the engine says me the file wasnt found
What did i wrong
Thanks for replys

Reply

> **Matt** *says:*
>
> February 26, 2015 at 7:56 pm
>
> Are you in the correct directory when you type the command? Are you typing exactly the same filename including the correct upper and lowercase letters?
>
> Reply
>
>> **TVM** *says:*
>>
>> March 17, 2015 at 8:52 pm
>>
>> must i put the directory of the file in the command?
>>
>> Reply

Dustin *says:*

March 14, 2015 at 2:07 pm

I'm trying to get video to play on the raspberry pi display. It's a non-hdmi display. One that connects to the 40-pin header. After attempting to play, I think the video is playing, it's just sending the video to the HDMI port. Because I can use keyboard controls to control the video and information displays in the command line on the display connected to the RPi.

The reason behind wanting to play it on the tiny screen, is to have a version of Jurassic Park without sound, play on the tiny screen. I'm then going to mount the Pi and the screen inside of a Jurassic Park pinball machine. So that when the machine is turned on, the video auto-plays. I found the little display perfect size for this. Just an accent, to the machine, nothing over-whelming.

Reply