

Webs Review

Multimedia and new formats

COMFM

<http://www.comfm.com>

In French and English, this directory facilitates access to a large number of television and radio stations that broadcast online, as well as live programmes and webcams located around the world. It also includes sections devoted to the cinema, music and downloads. It can be used to search for videos and audio works by country, subject and target publics. The website is updated nearly every day, with new links to online media.

MPEG-4 Industry Forum

<http://www.m4if.org>

MPEG-4, developed by MPEG (Moving Picture Experts Group), is a standard video format for the Internet that can be used with multimedia content and interactive graphic applications as well as digital television.

MPEG-4 Industry Forum is a non-profit organisation that aims to establish this video format among application and content creators, service providers and end users. The website is in English and offers technical and current information, programs and demonstrations.

ICTnet Virtual Expert Communities

<http://www.ictnet.es/ICTnet/cv/>

The Catalan Institute of Technology promotes the creation of virtual communities, meeting points and discussions by experts and other people interested in specialist topics. The ICTnet portal has established two communities that specialise in multimedia digital formats: Streaming, which focuses on this technology that makes it possible to broadcast videos over the Internet, and Desarrollo Multimedia, with a broader vision about online and offline technologies, including the treatment of digital audio and video. Both have a mailing list and an extensive directory of

resources on these issues. It is necessary to register as a member before you can access the available information.

Atomfilms

<http://www.atomfilms.com>

The characteristics that define the Internet today make it the ideal medium for short films made on video or animated works. The Atomfilms website has become a reference point for the creation and screening of short films and provides visitors with a broad range of works in different genres, such as comedy, drama and suspense.

Digital Digest

<http://www.digital-digest.com/index.html>

One of the principal objectives of Digital Digest is to provide information on digital videos through articles and links. The website is structured around four main sections: DVD Digest, DVDR Digest, DivX Digest and a Forum on Digital Video in four languages.

One highlight is DivX (<http://www.divx-digest.com>), a format that makes it possible to record from DVD to CD with an acceptable quality. Articles are included in various languages, including Spanish. The website follows the updating of the format, offers programs to create and reproduce video on DivX and includes links to trailers and films.

Digital Webcast

<http://www.digitalwebcast.com>

One of the best technical magazines about programs and hardware for the creation of digital video and audio works. It assesses new products on the market and follows industry developments. The website is in English and facilitates interaction with a discussion forum and an area of articles on technical assistance and tutorials on creating digital audiovisual material.

TVC Multimèdia

<http://www.tvcmultimedia.com/>

TVC Multimèdia is the subsidiary of the Catalan Radio and Television Corporation (CCRTV) that works on the development of interactive applications and services for digital television. Although it uses the latest technologies, it focuses its activity particularly on MHP (Multimedia Home Platform), the format chosen by most European terrestrial television stations for the migration to digital television. In Catalan, Spanish and English, the TVC Multimèdia website reports on its interactive TV projects, provides weather information (AWS) and multimedia applications such as Automatic TV.

Internet2

<http://www.internet2.edu>

Internet2 is a platform made up of over 200 US universities that work in collaboration with private industry and public organisations to promote the development of web technology and applications. The Internet2 website provides information in English on the initiatives carried out and offers an online summary of Internet-related news.

At the Catalan level, Internet2 CAT aims to promote Catalonia's role as a leader in second-generation Internet and the provision of broadband services and applications, particularly in relation to television and web-based audiovisual content: see <http://www.i2cat.net>