

VTI Capture - Version 1.1

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a.f.miertschink@ti-cas-br.org

VTI Capture is one more option for the capture of images of the Windows emulator Virtual TI (VTI) of Rusty Wagner.

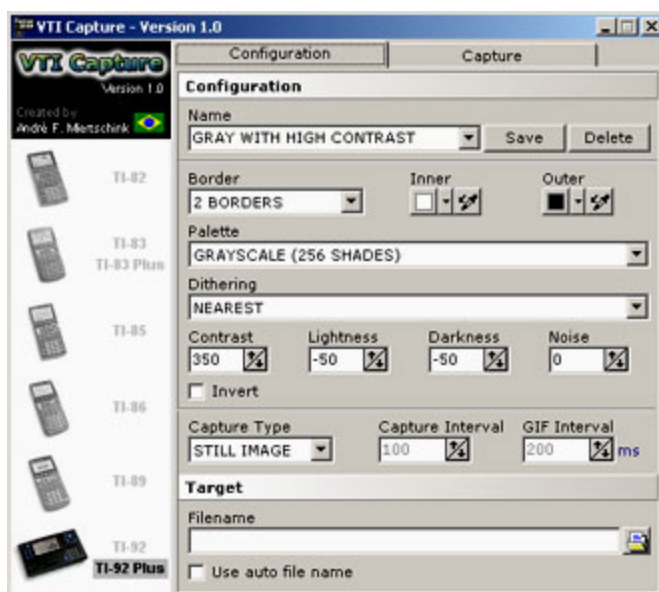
As I'm developing a Web page (www.ti-cas-br.org), I needed a program to capture the images and that it transformed automatically in grayscale using the skins of VTI. As I didn't find this option in other programs, I decided to elaborate a new program with this and other resources. This version includes support only for Virtual TI v2.5. Additional support will be included in the next version.

The program allows to captures the images using the standard skins of VTI or even without the skin. The capture of images is only allowed using the standard size 1x and 2x. If the size of VTI were altered arbitrarily, the program won't work.

I tested the program only in Windows 2000 and I don't know if the program will work correctly in other versions of Windows. If somebody had some negative result in the capture of the image, please enter in contact so that it can fix the problems.

The program can be installed (put) anywhere in the hard disk.

After the execution of the program, the following screen will appear:



NOTES:

In the left part the calculator TI-92 Plus appears, therefore the Virtual TI are emulating this calculator.

VTI Capture detects the calculator that is being emulated automatically.

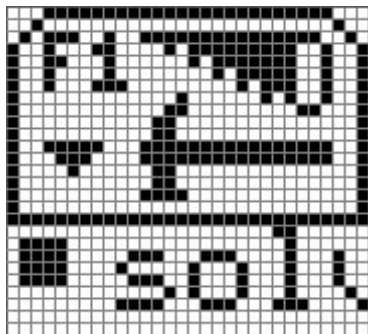
If the program doesn't find VTI, all the calculators will appear grayish.

In the field "Name" writes the name of a configuration that you want to use. After altering some option, on top of the buttons "Save" and "Delete" will appear the information "config changed". If this message is visible, it will only be allowed to change to the tab "Capture", if the configuration be stored clicking on the button "Save" or if another configuration be chosen, losing the made alterations. The saved configurations can be excluded clicking in the button "Delete".

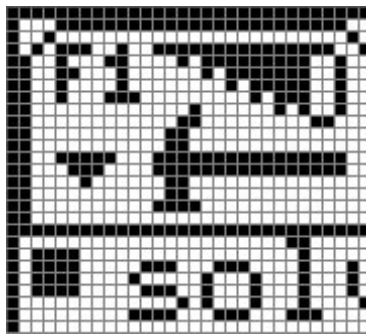
The configuration "GRAY WITH HIGH CONTRAST" is standard of the program and it cannot be altered and deleted.

Three options exist for "Border". The first "Without" is the normal option of the other capture programs, in other words, in this case no border is added in the captured image.

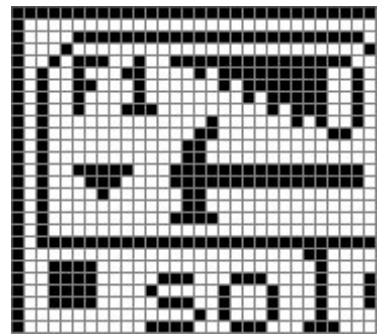
The second option "1 Border", does with that the program adds a border automatically in agreement with the color selected in the field "Outer". The last option is "2 Borders", that it adds two borders automatically, and the color of the first (the intern) it is the chosen color in the field "Inner" and the color for the border outside, it is the color that was chosen in the field "Outer".




Border : Without



Border : 1 Border
Outer : Black



Border : 2 Borders
Inner : White
Outer : Black

In the options "Inner" and "Outer" is possible to capture a color of the original image of VTI, so that the same can be used in the borders. For this color capture, it is necessary that the user clicks in the button . After the user to click in this button, the program will change automatically to the tab "Capture", where the user will must selects a color clicking on some point of the image in "Image from VTI".

In "Palette" it is possible to choose the option of colors of the adjusted image. The captured image can be adjusted to Black/White, Grayscale or the image can stay with the VTI LCD color.

The user will also be able to select an option for "Dithering", where the usual is to use the option "Nearest".

The options of "Contrast", "Lightness" and "Darkness" are important for the adjustment of an image captured with Skin (with colors) to grayscale.

The option "Invert" was added for the inversion of colors of the captured image.

In it "Capture Type" can be chosen the option "Still Image" or "Animation", where this last option generates animated GIFs.

In it "Capture Interval" should be chosen a time for the interval of the captures of images. The value doesn't refer the "ms", because it depends on the computer and of the processing of the images. It is advisable that the user makes some tests to discover the best value, for the animation to be in agreement with the wanted result.

In "GIF Interval" it should be chosen a time for the interval in that the images in the GIF file will be changed.

NOTES:

- The user can alternate the values doing with that the animation is faster than the own sequence of captured images, or the user will be able even delaying the animation.
- The users should make tests in browsers, because if the "GIF interval" goes very low, the browser will consume a lot of resource and the image will be slow with elapsing of the animation. The animation will correctly be able to appear in VTI Capture, but not in the browser.

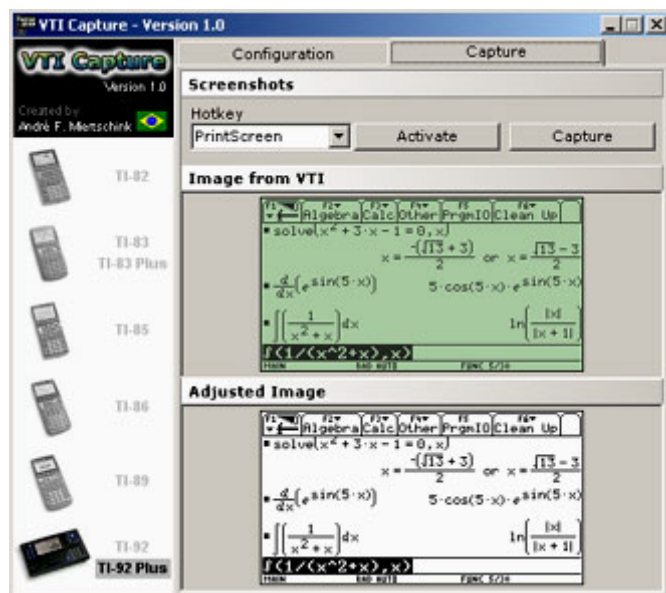
- When beginning the capture of animations, in the right top of the screen a small black screen will appear informing the number of captured images.
- It is not advisable to capture animations of TI-92/TI-92 Plus using the size 2x, because when using the size 2x, the computer it will be much slower and the capture of the images also.

The name of the file should be chosen in the field "Filename". The user can capture an image without having selected a file, and after having liked the result of the capture, to choose a file and to click in the image "Adjusted Image" to save, without the need of a new capture.

The option "Uses auto file name" will include sequential numbers automatically to the name of the file.

Example: If the selected name is C:\TEST.GIF, when capturing the first image, the file C:\TEST0001.GIF will be created, the second file will be C:\TEST0002.GIF and so on.

Below, the image of the tab "Captures":



NOTES:

In this case, an image of the screen of the calculator TI-92 Plus was already captured.

As the emulator VTI uses almost all the keys in the keyboard (some internal functions), it was added only two options for the Hotkey. The first option is the key "PrintScreen" and the other is the key "NumLock". To capture an image or an animation using one of these Hotkeys, it is necessary activate them clicking in the button "Activate". To disable, it is enough to click again in this button, and that will have the name "Desactivate".

To capture an image, it is enough to click in the button "Captures." Also an animation can be captured clicking in this button and soon after having begun the capture, the name in the button it will change for "Stop Capture". After having clicked in the button "Capture", the program will begin the capture after a little less than 1 second. In this instant the program will emit a tone of high frequency in the speaker of the computer. If the program is configured to capture an animation, then the program will emit a tone with the same frequency when finishing the capture (When the user presses the shortcut key or after pressing the button "Stop Capture"). When the program will finish the adjustments of the image, the same will emit a tone with a lower frequency.

As informed previously, the program will show the message "Image not saved!" if the user doesn't choose a file. To save the image already captured, the user should go to the tab "Configuration" and to choose the name of a file, and later to click on the image in "Adjusted Image" in the tab "Capture".

NOTES:

- It is advisable to use only the Hotkeys for capture of animations.
- If the program will capture an animation, the program will just put the first image captured in "Image from VTI".
- The user can capture an animation with in the maximum of 3000 images in the total. To increase this number, the user will have to enter in contact with me.
- When stopping the capture of a great animation, the program it will emit a tone informing that it finished the capture and it can delay to emit another tone informing that it finished adjusting. The program delay, because it will adjust the colors, it will compress the maximum so that the final file of the animation is not very big.
- Don't move the window of VTI Capture when it is capturing an animation.
- If the emulator captures an image of the emulator that it is using the size 2x, the dimension of the image in the file will be of 2x, in other words, the program won't decrease to the original size of 1x.
- If the program doesn't put the screen of VTI forward of the other ones, click in the program VTI and use the shortcut key to capture the images.

To close the program, the user should click with the right button of the mouse on the program, and when appearing the popup, to select the option EXIT, or click in the small button "x" in the caption of the program.

FINAL WORDS

If somebody has problems with the program, has some question or want to do some comments, please email me at a.f.miertschink@ti-cas-br.org.

This is free software. Use at your own risk!

The author is not responsible for any damages, indirect or consequential, resulting from the use of this program, including but not limited to loss of property or money.

Any one can use this program freely as long as they don't attempt to decompile, reverse engineering, etc. the program itself.

Any one can distribute this program freely as long as it is kept in its unmodified archived form (2 files in ZIP – **VTICapture.exe** and **VTICapture.pdf**) and not charge for the distributed copies of the program.

HISTORY

Version 1.0:

- The version 1.0 showed an incorrect message. If the user uses a Skin or the emulator with the resized window, the program showed the message "Please, don't move the program when capture a image."

FUTURE

Version 2.0:

- Option of choosing the language.
- Possibility to capture the images using different Skins.

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