

October 29, 2002



### Diversions with dogs

I recently watched the movie *Dr. Dolittle* (the 1998 version, not the Rex Harrison classic), and I rolled over laughing when a boxer dog said, in a very doggy voice, "I love you" to Eddie Murphy. Hollywood has made extensive use of computer graphics to make it look like animals are talking. And I approve of the results.

That's why I'm having such fun with [CrazyTalk](#), an app that lets you make still images look like they are talking. I imported a picture of a Chihuahua, recorded myself saying some wacky things, then exported a compact little AVI file and sent it around to my friends. (And now I get to reply to their concerned e-mails and insist that I am still sane.)

I like this app because it offers fairly immediate satisfaction. You may have to crop pictures and edit sound files beforehand, but it all comes together in minutes, with hilarious results. For my next feat, I plan to make a squirrel recite John Donne's sonnet, *Death, Be Not Proud*.

Do you have a favorite multimedia application? Let me know at [newsletters@download.com](mailto:newsletters@download.com).

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