

CrazyTalk 5 PRO (WIN)



CrazyTalk 5 PRO is a wonder of the computer age...software that can add animation and voice to a static facial image, essentially bringing it to life. The program syncs the facial expressions to the audio track, producing a realistic talking head. The process is relatively easy to accomplish, and the results are quite startling...approaching the animation of the dead! It is something that must be seen to be appreciated (see the demo reel at <http://reallusionchannel.com/VID/Product/ct5autodemo.html>).

The facial animation process is accomplished using real-time puppeteering controls, putting an incredibly powerful set of features in the hands of a user. Finished projects can be used with any NLE (non-linear editing) application, such as Adobe Premiere, Ulead Video Studio, or Magix Movie Edit Pro.

The user loads an image (.BMP, .JPG, or .PNG), preferably one that clearly shows the subject's face. The program provides image enhancement options such as color correction, rotation, and cropping. The subject can be a real person, a pet, or a comic illustration. The user makes a few settings over the face, indicating, for example, where the corners of the mouth and eyes are. Using these points the program creates a facial wireframe that is used for animation. A photographic background or dual-layer special effect, including text bubbles, can be applied. This process is supported with masking tools to remove the original background and replace it with an image or color. Pre-recorded wav files are imported, or the user can use their own voice to record directly in the program, or use text-to-speech. After these steps the user can run the animation and bring the face to life. Numerous adjustments can be made in the timeline editor that translates the voice into facial expressions, lip shapes, eye, head and shoulder movements, etc. The user can add keyframes to the timeline to represent expressions, available in the Emotive library, providing greater realism. Since the original photo may show the user with their mouth closed, the user can add teeth and a throat color for when the mouth is open while speaking. After tweaking the settings the finished animation can be output as MPEG-4, Flash FLV, Targa, WMV, AVI, RM, BMP images sequences, and more.

Add-in content, including motion clips, character puppet models, backgrounds and foregrounds, and more can be purchased separately at <http://www.reallusion.com/contentstore/>. \$149.95

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