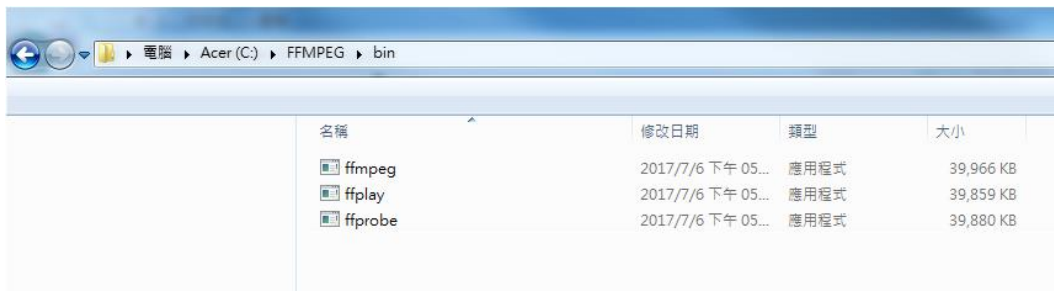


How to extract snapshots from camera stream to PC using FFMPEG

FFMPEG is a tool that can allow you to get video streams from the camera and manage them (<https://ffmpeg.org/>). In this guide we will teach you how to extract snapshots from your camera's RTSP stream instead of using the CGI command ([cgi-bin/viewer/video.jpg](#)). Please follow the next steps:

1. Download FFMPEG tool from the following link:
<ftp://fae:fae@ftp.vivotek.com/Tool/FFMPEG.zip>
2. Extract the files contained in the .zip folder in your preferred location (e.g C:/)



3. Open the windows console (cmd.exe) and go to the folder in where you exported the files using the following command:

```
Microsoft Windows
Copyright (c) 2009 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:/Users> cd <Folder Path>/bin
```

4. Use the following command to retrieve the snapshots from the camera stream:

```
ffmpeg -i rtsp://<IP Cam>/live.sdp -vf fps=1 -qscale:v = 1
C:\<destination>\img%03d.jpg
```

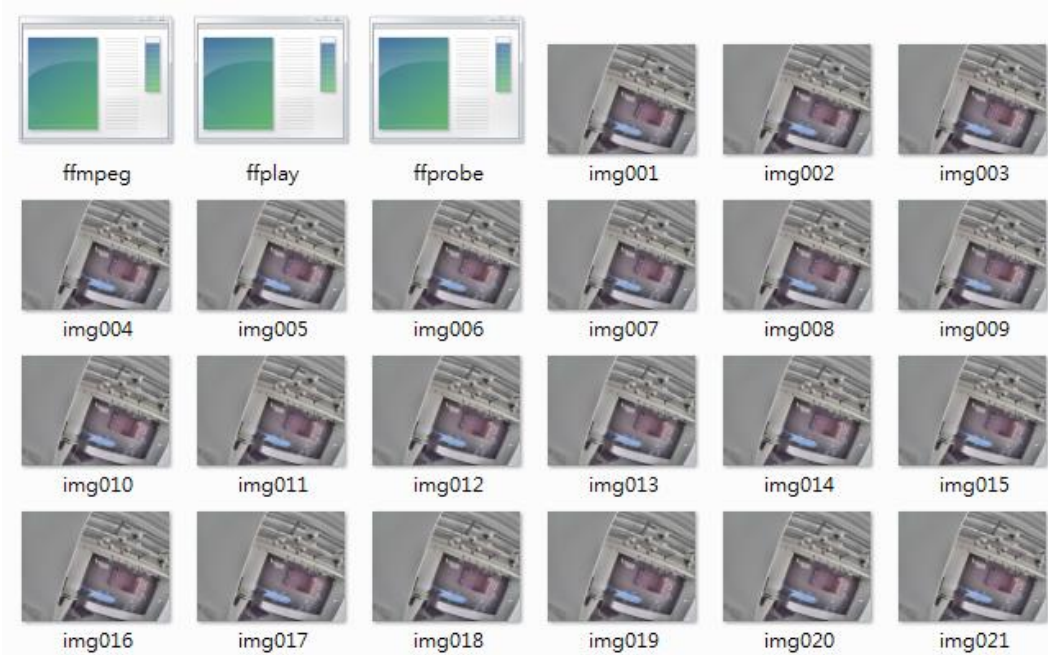
Where,

-i rtsp://<IP CAM>/live.sdp	camera video stream (audio + video)
-qscale:v	quality of the video (1~31 with 1 being the best quality and 31 the worst quality)
-vf	set the number of video frames to output
fps	set the number of frames per second
C:\<destination>\img%03d.jpg	download path
img%03d.jpg	jpeg file name (The %03d dictates that the ordinal number of each output image will be formatted using 3 digits.)

Please note that in this example we used stream 1 (live.sdp) but you can choose any stream you want. We strongly suggest setting the stream used to JPEG in order to avoid quality loss. Additionally, if the camera has a user/password configured you will need to add it to the RTSP line as follows:

```
rtsp://user:password@<IP Cam>/live.sdp
```

5. Stop the process by pressing "CTRL C", then go to the download path and check the snapshots recording.



For more information please check:

<https://trac.ffmpeg.org/wiki/Create%20a%20thumbnail%20image%20every%20X%20seconds%20of%20the%20video>