

Re: YouTube and WMP

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- *From:* John Lockwood <john.lockwood@xxxxxxxxxxxxx>
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On 17/7/07 08:10, in article
47DAB0DF-4462-430D-B12A-16FA1EBDFFBA@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx, "Ted."
<Ted@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

Hi, All,

I installed YouTube downloader and downloaded a few music clips using the MPEG compression. The audio and video quality In WMP was poor, but acceptable for me. I tried again using the AVI option and the results were noticeably improved. I had to install the Xvid codec to enable WMP to play them, though. I was agreeably surprised to find that the AVI files were no larger than the MPEG ones. Why is this?

I have always understood that AVI files, being uncompressed, are huge compared to MPEG, but I have been told that the AVI tag in this case is actually a container housing a compressed Xvid file. Does the MPEG option attempt to compress this already compressed Xvid file and would this explain the poorer quality.

As you say AVI is merely a container, so is MOV, MPEG, WMV and one or two others. As such its size depends on what you put in it (what CODEC you use).

Examples, for AVI are Xvid of course, Indeo5, and many many others. Some are better (more efficient at compressing than others). However all of them compress to some degree or another, so no it is not true that AVI is uncompressed.

By MPEG I presume you mean H.264 which YouTube are converting to (to support the iPhone and AppleTV). Generally this is regarded as delivering one of the best compromises between files size and image quality, if you say it is worse, then either the H.264 codec you are using is not very good at decoding the image (try another one, e.g. QuickTime) or YouTube has done a poor job at encoding or transcoding to that format. Reports indicate that on the AppleTV and iPhone such files are of good quality (both use QuickTime to play).

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Xvid does use a variety of MPEG4 but not the same as H.264. DivX likewise uses a variation of MPEG4, a lot of people consider the latest DivX to be the best (but it is not supported by the iPhone and AppleTV).