

Re: Problem recognizing supportable files

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<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Media/microsoft.public.windowsmedia/2008-06/msg00067.html>

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On Fri, 27 Jun 2008 20:13:00 -0700, carl43m
<carl43m@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

I have my windows Media Player set as the default to play any mp3 or wma audio file. If I plug my mp3 plauer into the pc and go to one of the audio files and double click on it, it plays thru my pc using Windows media Player. However, If I go first to windows media player and launch it and then go to "open" and browse to the folder with mu audio tracks on the MP3 player—once the folder is opened it shows no files available to play. If I try a second time to click on the follder I get a message saying "no supportable files " This has to be incorrect because as I mentioned first , if I go directly to the mp3 player and click on a track it plays using media player. Does anyone know why media player indicates no supportable files when the files I am trying to play from the mp3 player have a WMA extension.

It sounds like peculiar behaviour, but I'll offer an explanation.

Devices connected to the PC, like your MP3 player can quite often appear as a (small) removable hard disk. In that situation, windows explorer treats it as a standard set of files on a disk.

If you start WMP then connect the MP3 player, it may switch the connection – and behaviour – to use it as a MTP (media transfer protocol) device. That makes it look more like a mobile phone or PDA

See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Media_Transfer_Protocol and note "Most MTP-compatible devices do not appear through drive letter assignment in Windows Explorer, instead they will appear as "devices" in Windows Explorer" and the other details about this mode.

In that case (a) WMP pretty much has control of the device connection, to do clever stuff and (b) it no longer "looks like" a hard drive – the files shown might be able to be copied from the device in windows explorer, but they're not directly something that can be "played" if that makes sense.

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I used to have this with my Dell PDA, and get it with my current phone – when connected, it wouldn't be possible to open the files directly from the device (though I could see and copy them off it) because in that case, ActiveSync was managing the view in windows explorer as some kind of special view.

HTH

Cheers – Neil

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