

Re: 320x240 movie doesn't show in full screen

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/PocketPC/microsoft.public.pocketpc.multimedia/2004-07/0047.html>

From: MS (*ms_at_nospam.com*)

Date: 07/09/04

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WME probably reads what is the aspect ratio of your original video, and takes that into account in making the final movie. For instance, if your PPC screen is 320x240 like mine is (and I think most are), you would like a movie to fill that screen (landscape mode, of course), as I do.

320x240 is the ratio 4:3, same as a standard TV screen. However, if the original on the DVD is wide screen, like 16:9, the program creating the movie file will take that aspect ratio into account, so that the movie is not distorted, and you will end up with something like (if 16:9, there are actually some different wide screen ratios) 320x176.

If the program changed the aspect ratio, stretching the height of the film while keeping the width the same, the picture would be all distorted, stretched longer.

I don't like that result though (widescreen on PPC) either. On a TV or computer screen, I don't mind the black space at top and bottom, but the PPC screen is so small, I'd rather fill it up with the picture, full screen, no blank space at top and bottom.

There are only two ways to deal with this. One is to crop the sides of the movie before you encode it, (perhaps you could do that with the Intervideo program you use, I'm not familiar with it), so that the width/height ratio is 4:3. Crop an equal amount off each side. If the movie you start with now has a 4:3 aspect ratio, and you set 320x240, you should actually get a video that fills your PPC screen. That is what they do when they re-format a movie to be full screen on a television screen. Purists hate the practice, but it's you who are viewing it. Usually the most important action in a movie is not on the sides, but in the center.

I have been using the program Betaplayer recently to view films on the PPC, and have found another solution with that. (It won't play WMV files though. I don't recall if WMP will do the following also, I don't recall.) It's basically doing the same as in the preceding paragraph, but on the playback side. Under "Zoom" in options, the default is "Fit to screen". That fits a 320x176 video to the width, with the empty black space above and below. There are also options "fit width" (which would give the same result as "fit

screen" in this case) and "fit height". If you choose the latter, "fit height", the video is stretched in size so that the height of the screen is filled, no black space on top and bottom. The aspect ratio of the movie is not changed, the movie just increases in size in all directions, so that the width ends up being larger than 320, so you cannot see what is on the sides, the same as if you had cropped it off, and the width fits the whole 240. Disadvantage of doing this, increasing the size of a video larger than its resolution is not considered a good idea, as it involves interpolation to increase the size. However, when I tried it with a 320x176 video, it looked quite acceptable. Another way to do this would be to encode the video larger so that the height would be 240 even with the wider aspect ratio (I think 432x240 for a 16:9 film). Then when you choose the "fit height" option in playback, just as above, the 240 height would be filled, and the sides of the video would not show on the screen. The advantage of the larger size video would be that no stretching would be required to fit that size. Disadvantage—of course, larger video =larger file size for the same compression quality.

When I mentioned this possibility in another thread (perhaps a different forum), some people replied that it's not a good idea, better to crop the video in advance. However, I see some definite advantages to this method, doing the "cropping" in the playback end (giving the same result as if I had cropped the video before encoding) rather than on the encoding end. For one thing, it makes the encoding job easier, not having to deal with cropping. Then, while playing back, although you might mostly be watching it with this "fit height" option, which gives the same effect as if you had cropped the sides, if you ever think there might be important things going on on the sides, you can easily switch the zoom to "fit screen" or "fit width", and see the full wide-screen video. Not having cropped the video, you can still see the full picture if desired. (Again though, I don't recall if WMP has these same zoom options.)

A different problem occurs when a movie is really wide screen, not cropped and re-formatted but it is still listed as 4:3, just with black bars on top and bottom. Then even if you crop the sides, even if you choose "fit height" on playback, those black bars will be there, as the movie thinks that is part of the movie. You are wasting file space too, in encoding the empty black space. Then it is important to crop off those black bars on top and bottom, before either cropping the sides, or encoding as is wide screen, perhaps to watch full screen with the zoom function. Some programs will sense such black bars in the movie, and automatically crop them off. I don't recall whether WME will do that.

"Sven, MVP-Mobile Devices" <sejohannsen@hotmail.com> wrote in message news:OIFoAzVZEHA.2516@TK2MSFTNGP10.phx.gbl...

> *You need to get one of the new widescreen PPCs :) I think what you are seeing is the widescreen effect where the width is significantly wider than*

> *the height in the original file. When you specify 320x240 it fits the wide*

> *width into 320 and makes the height proportional to the original height.*

It

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> *maintains the original aspect. Not doing so would make for tall skinny*
> *people, or cut off the edges.*
>
> --
> *Sven, MS-MVP Mobile Devices*
> *"John" <suck_me@msn.com> wrote in message*
> *news:OWdmCOVZEHA.712@TK2MSFTNGP11.phx.gbl...*
> > *I converted a widescreen DVD movie to an AVI (DivX, 352x240) using the*
> > *interVideo DVD Copy 2 program. When I play back the AVI movie on my PPC*
> > *HP5550, it shows up as like 320x120(not sure).*
> >
> > *I converted the AVI to WMV (320x240) using Windows Media Encoder*
program.
> > *The play back still shows up as 320X120(not sure). The properties shows*
> *the*
> > *file is 320x240.*
> >
> > *How can I make it to display at 320x240?*
> >
> > *Thanks,*
> > *PS. If I start with a standard type DVD movie, then it would show up as*
> > *320x240.*
> >
> >
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