

Re: Vista media center, ATSC HDTV, and 853x480

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.mediacenter/2007-09/msg00339.html>

- *From:* "JW" <JW@xxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sun, 9 Sep 2007 10:10:58 -0700
-

That is my opinion also that the resolutions shown in the file label(s) are incorrect.

A SD program file size is about 2GB per hour an HD program file size is about 8GB per hour so I suggest that you check the size of the recorded file. I would also be interested to know if the reported resolutions differ between CBS HD (1080i) and ABC HD (720p).

Also a 720p program would look blurrier on your 24" monitor first since it is bigger and more importantly since it is being upscaled to the higher resolution whereas on your 19" monitor very little scaling if any is being performed.

"RCMe" <rcme_1_nospam@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
[news:uCxc\\$Cw8HHA.5164@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:uCxc$Cw8HHA.5164@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

The monitors are connected to two different computers. The 19" connected to a Windows Vista computer and the 24" connected to a Windows XP computer.

Playback scenarios:

- 1) Play recorded TV from HD channels in Windows Vista MC on 19" monitor. The show video is displayed to fill the horizontal dimension of the monitor with the expected bars on top bottom due to 1280x1024 monitor resolution. Unable to determine actual show video image size from Vista MC or whether Vista MC is scaling 853x480 image or displaying an actual 720p image, although the image does look "sharp".
- 2) Play recorded TV from HD channels in Windows Vista WMP on 19" monitor. The show video image can be scaled to whatever the WMP window is sized to. This can be a smaller window to fullscreen. WMP reports the image size as 853x480, but when WMP is fullscreen (1280 wide with bars top and bottom), the image does look "sharp". The WMP "video size | 100%" feature does nothing, regardless of the WMP window size. From Windows Explorer, the Public | Recorded TV folder, file properties report the video size as 704x480.
- 3) Play recorded TV from HD channels in Windows XP WMP on 24" monitor. The show video image can be scaled to whatever the WMP window is sized to. This can be a smaller window to fullscreen. WMP reports the image size as 853x480. When WMP is fullscreen (1920x1080), the image is noticeably "blurrier" than when the WMP window is sized smaller. The WMP "video size | 100%" feature does nothing, regardless of the WMP window size.

I did some searching on TheGreenButton, and it appears there may be a bug in Windows Vista MC, in that it is incorrectly marking the video size of recorded TV.

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Can anyone confirm this? Does anyone else see this problem with recorded TV from HD channels in Vista MC?

-rcme

"JW" <JW@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:EAF34B72-7D29-4A9C-971F-8D291593510C@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

When you switched from the 19" standard screen monitor to the 24" widescreen monitor did you go back through the TV setup in MC and change the settings for your display?

When watching "Men in Trees" on you widescreen monitor does the video extend all the way to the sides without any sidebars or distortion? If yes then it appears that you are in fact watching an HD program in HD? I don't have an HD tuner so can not confirm that the possible resolutions being stated where you saw them are not the actual resolutions of the encoded files but are carryover in the file headers from the days when MC only handled SD programs in DVD format which is 704x480.

"RCMe" <rcme_1_nospam@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:eyZRTOQ8HHA.600@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Thanks for your reply JW,

All the TV shows were recorded on channels greater than 1000 (i.e. 1121, 1361, etc.)

As a test, I just recorded a short bit of the ABC show "Men in Trees" from channel 1121. The Titan TV guide indicates this show is "HD". I checked the recorded show properties and again, WMP lists the video size as 853x480.

Interestingly, on the Vista computer, from Windows Explorer I was able to get the properties for the file from the Recorded TV folder and it lists the show video size as 704x480.

What's going on here? Is there any way to actually determine the video size for Vista MC recorded TV?

-rcme

"JW" <JW@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:1690E452-A073-4A61-91AB-96DFFCC4EE64@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

As I stated before all digital OTA channels are not broadcast in HD and each network such as ABC uses may use multiple channels

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ABC-1, ABC-2

It appears that you are either using your analog tuner(channel number not grater then 1000) or you are using a SD Digital channel broadcasting in 843x480

CBS,NBC and the PBS channels broadcast in 1080i when broadcasting HD resolutions OTA. ABC and FOX broadcast in 720P when broadcasting HD resolutions OTA.

I also have a 4:3 aspect ratio 1280x1024 19" monitor and my graphics card upscales all graphic and video inputs to that output resolution over either my VGA or my DVI connection.

I assume that your graphics card is also upscaling all of your outputs to your 16:10 aspect ratio 24" monitor.

"rcme"

<rcme@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

wrote in message

news:45404F15-B1FC-44C1-8302-6EA13866DF08@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

These shows were all recorded using Vista MC from the digital OTA channels for the respective broadcasts (i.e. ABC, NBC, CBS, PBS, etc.).

The Vista MC computer has a 19" LCD (1280x1024) via VGA connector and the Windows XP computer has a 24" LCD (1920x1200) via DVI connector. Although, I am not clear what impact this would have in this case.

When viewing the shows from the Vista MC interface, they all fill the horizontal dimension on the 19" monitor (i.e. 1280). As such, my expectation was that they were all broadcast/recorded as 720p.

However, when viewing in WMP (in either Vista or XP), since WMP is able to

scale the image, it is not clear what the "actual" image size is. When I started viewing these recorded TV shows on my Windows XP computer (1920x1200), I would "fullscreen" the shows to 1080p (1920 wide with expected black bars on top and bottom due to 1200 vs 1080), at which point they would appear to be slightly "blurry". I suspected that WMP must be scaling the 720p shows to create a 1080p image on the 24" monitor, thus creating the less than optimal image.

I then tried to get WMP to resize its window to the expected 720p dimension (to get the optimal image on a smaller window), and found that setting WMP to "100%", didn't do anything (the WMP window just stayed where it was last). At which point I checked the WMP properties for the recorded TV shows and found that they are all 853x480 (according to WMP).

I have downloaded other 720p video (i.e. movie trailers, etc.) and the WMP properties show the resolution on those to be the expected 1280x720.

Also, when viewing the downloaded 720p videos, they can be set to fullscreen (1080p, creating some blur), however, setting WMP to

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"100%" will resize the WMP window to the expected 720p window size. However, this doesn't seem to work with the Vista MC recorded TV shows, setting them to "100%" doesn't change the WMP window to the expected 720p size. In fact, setting WMP to 100% doesn't seem to work at all with the Vista MC recorded TV shows, as the WMP window just remains at whatever size it was last set to.

Is there some other way to determine the video properties for the Vista MC recorded TV shows? The Windows Explorer (Vista and XP) file properties don't provide any video details for these Vista MC recorded TV shows.

-rcme

"JW" wrote:

No all OTA digital channels are HD channels there is enough bandwidth available for the networks to transmit both HD and SD digital broadcasts simultaneously

using sub
channels.
Check with
Titan
TV.com to
make sure
what the
schedule for
actual HD
programs is
on the
individual
channels
and
sub-channels
in your
area. Just
because the
HDTV
watermark
is present
does not
mean that
you are
watching
the program
in HD It
may just
mean that it
is "filmed"
in HD and
then of
course it
will only
actually be
in HD
resolution
on an HD
resolution
capable
digital
channel and
will be in
SD
resolution
on a regular
analog
digital
channel or
possibly in
SD on a

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digital sub
channel.
The normal
clue that
you are
watching an
actual HD
program is
that there
are
no black or
gray
sidebars
showing on
widescreen
display.
What type
of display
are you
using with
what
resolution
over what
interface?

"RCMe"

<rcme_1_nospam@xxxxxxxxxxxx>

wrote in
message

news:uJIdbMD8HHA.3916@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

>I have a
Vista Home
Premium
box with an
HVR-950
HDTV
tuner. The
>Vista MC
>works fine
and I have
recorded a
bunch of
OTA
HDTV
shows (or
what I
>thought
>were
HDTV).
Shows like
Lost,
Survivor,

CSI,
Dancing
with the
Stars,
>Leno,
>Letterman,
Warplane,
etc.
However,
when
playing
them back
in Windows
>Media
>Player
(Windows
Vista and
Windows
XP), the
WMP video
properties
for >ALL
>these
recorded
TV shows
indicates a
resolution
of 853x480.
That's >not
HDTV.
>What's up?
I had
thought that
these shows
would have
been
broadcast
>in at
>least 720p,
as almost
all have a
"HDTV"
watermark
in the
corner.
>
> When
watching
these
recorded
shows in

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Vista MC
and with
WMP on
my >
Windows
> XP
computers,
they do
look to be
better than
480p,
however,
now I > am
not
> so certain.
>
> Are the
shows being
broadcast in
853x480? Is
Vista MC
for some >
reason
>
down-converting
these shows
to this
non-HDTV
resolution?
Or has >
Vista MC
> somehow
tagged the
file
incorrectly?
Or is WMP
getting the
> resolution
> wrong?
>
> -rcme
>

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