
Subject: Re: AVIs for the Mac

Posted by [Michael Galloy](#) on Wed, 19 Nov 2008 01:48:36 GMT

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On Nov 18, 6:14 pm, Rick Towler <rick.tow...@nomail.noaa.gov> wrote:

> Dan Larson wrote:

>> On Nov 18, 9:40 am, "M. Katz" <MKatz...@yahoo.com> wrote:

>>> If you post a link to one of your AVI files, then you could ask Mac

>>> users to try to view it. Not everyone will have the same codecs

>>> installed, and some of us could try an 'out of the box' Mac

>>> installation.

>>> -M

>

>> Thanks Rick, I will try those suggestions. Since you don't mention

>> uncompressed AVIs, except for use in Quicktime Pro, I assume the

>> Quicktime freeware doesn't like them? i.e. is it always safer to use

>> some kind of codec?

>

> Well, I believe that Quicktime can play uncompressed AVI files but I

> don't think most people would appreciate downloading the extremely large

> files you'll generate. The reason you would generate uncompressed .avi

> files is that you don't want to lose image quality when re-encoding the

> video in QuickTime (or whatever program you ultimately use).

I downloaded your AVI file and viewed it with Quicktime successfully.

> Your original file was 180 MB. Compressed in Windows Media Encoder

> (free) as a 5Mbps "Hi-def" video you end up with a file that is 84 KB.

> KILOBYTES! 0.04% of the original videos size. And it looks great. I

> also ran it thru the Indeo Video 4.5 and 5 encoders. The output file

> was ~280 KB. 0.15% of the original. Still not bad but I couldn't avoid

> some ghosting around the red box in the video so it may not be the best

> choice. Neither of these codecs are playable in Quicktime but you get

> an idea of how much you can compress your animation. I also noticed

> that I didn't have Indeo 4.4 on my machine so it may not be available

> anymore.

>

> My guess would be that with Quicktime Pro you could get results similar

> to the .wmv. If you have \$30 to spend I would do that as it is by far

> the simplest way. If not, there are opensauce programs that you can

> cobble together to encode your uncompressed AVI (check out ffmpeg).

I converted your original to H.264 using Quicktime Pro, the result is 193K (but settings could probably be tweaked to get better compression). I couldn't see a difference, but here is the converted animation:

http://michaelgalloy.com/wp-content/uploads/2008/11/utr0810_001.mp4

Mike

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