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Video Help & Information

The best video system for common computer, media player, Blu-Ray player and other usage at this time is technically known as H.264, but most think of it as a video file that ends in ".mp4". More recently there has been an upgraded version known as H.265, that also uses the .mp4 file extension. For our needs they are both the same and interchangeable.

The H.264 codec (**CO**der / **DE**Coder) can produce great quality with small file sizes (quick to download) and can be used to produce a large variety of video formats and resolutions. Videos and movies encoded in the H.264 format can use a variety of extensions (end of the file name). Here, as with most other websites, we have selected to use the .mp4 format container for our videos.

Many Hollywood movie companies now use H.264 when creating Full HD Blu-Ray discs and it is one of only 2 formats approved to meet Blu-Ray quality standards.

While newer formats are coming into the market our research and testing indicates that using H.264 to produce an .mp4 file is the best option to keep video & audio quality good while allowing for a file size that is easy to download and store on your hard-drive, and at the same time not outdating older computer systems.

The .mp4 format created using the H.264 codec specification is so popular that many hardware manufacturers are creating video cards and other types of processors with the decoders built in – which improves quality of both the image and the playback smoothness.

The .mp4 format also allows us to embed a security tag to the files to help limit and trace pirating.

The .mp4 video file might not play automatically on all computers that are more than a few years old. The notes below will help solve any issues you may encounter.

Windows 7, 8 & 10

The latest versions of Windows come with a media player installed. The Microsoft site states that .mp4 files will play automatically in that player. At our office the files play instantly on all computers that have Windows 7 and 10 without installing anything.

If these new videos (.mp4) will not play automatically on your Windows 7, 8 or 10 computer you should first try updating the player by opening it, clicking HELP> UPDATE. After the update try the videos again.

If, after updating, you are not able to play these files on your computer you may wish install a free media player that has the proper codecs included.

VLC is a very popular free media player. Many have reported to us that they already use it for the various video formats they find online. You can find it at Videolan.org

Pot Player is a newer media player growing in popularity. It plays all our videos, and many, many other formats of video and audio files. You can find it at DaumPotPlayer.com

There are several other free media players out there that will play .mp4 videos. We have only tested VLC and Pot Player on our Windows system and prefer Pot Player. Be careful with other players so that you don't accidentally install a virus or unwanted toolbar.

Windows XP & Vista

The previous versions of Windows may have Windows Media Player 9, 10 or 11 installed. The newer version WMP 12 will not work on XP or Vista.

The Microsoft site states that .mp4 files will not play automatically in WMP 9, 10 or 11 unless an h.264 codec is installed. This leaves Windows XP or Vista users with two options.

Option 1 - You can install a free media player that has the codecs included. We recommend this as a long term solution to playing videos on XP and Vista because the players are updated often to improve performance and security.

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Option 2 - You can install the codecs that you need.

There are free codec packs available that are very easy to install. For older XP and Vista systems we have tested and prefer the "Codec-Decoder" available at Codec-Decoder.com as it is free and it doesn't include its own player. Note that these are 2012 Codecs and may not work for videos found from other websites.

We have it available online in ZIP file at this link:

<https://truteenbabes.com/assets/codecs/CodecSetup.zip> (Case Sensitive)

Open the ZIP, take out the file, install on your computer. The codecs are installed right in Windows Media Player (it detects and installs the 32bit or 64bit versions automatically).

After installing that series of Codecs on the first time you want to play a video file please follow these directions.

(A) Right Click the video file and select "Open With" from the menu.

(B) Scroll down the options and select "Windows Media Player" and be sure to check "Always use the selected program to open this kind of file".

That will set Windows Media Player, with the new Codecs, to play them automatically in the future by double clicking.

Mac OS X Systems

The QuickTime player that comes with all MAC based computers and laptops already has the proper codecs for playing back h.264/.mp4 videos. We've tested on the older Quicktime 7 and the more recent Quicktime X.

Many of our fans reported that they prefer the controls or options offered by third-party media players, including VLC (see Windows XP Section).

Linux OS Based Systems

We have two Linux (Ubuntu 20.04) based systems here and we use VLC for videos. It comes with the standard Ubuntu installation.

The GNOME desktop, part of the Ubuntu installation and many other Linux desktop systems, includes a video player simply called "Videos" and that also plays our videos just fine.

iOS Phones & Pads

All our videos play fine on Apple iOS phones model 5 or later.

Android Phones & Pads

All our videos play fine on Android devices that have version 4.4 (KitKat) or later.

There is also an Android version of VLC available in the Play Store that provides a few additional features compared to the stock video player.

Please remember these simple details:

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