Basic AVI Playback Solutions for Mac OS X

By
Mikio Moriyasu

What is the issue?

- **QuickTime for Mac OS X will play some AVI files.**

What is the issue?

- **But it will not play all AVI movie files.**

Why is this the case?

- **The AVI file format is a container.**

-

- **AVI movie files are comprised of a Video Track & Audio Track.**

-

- **Each one is encoded using a specific CODEC.**

-

Why is this the case?

- CODEC = (COmpressor/DECompressor) or (COder/DECoder).

-

- You need the correct CODECs to view the movie.

-

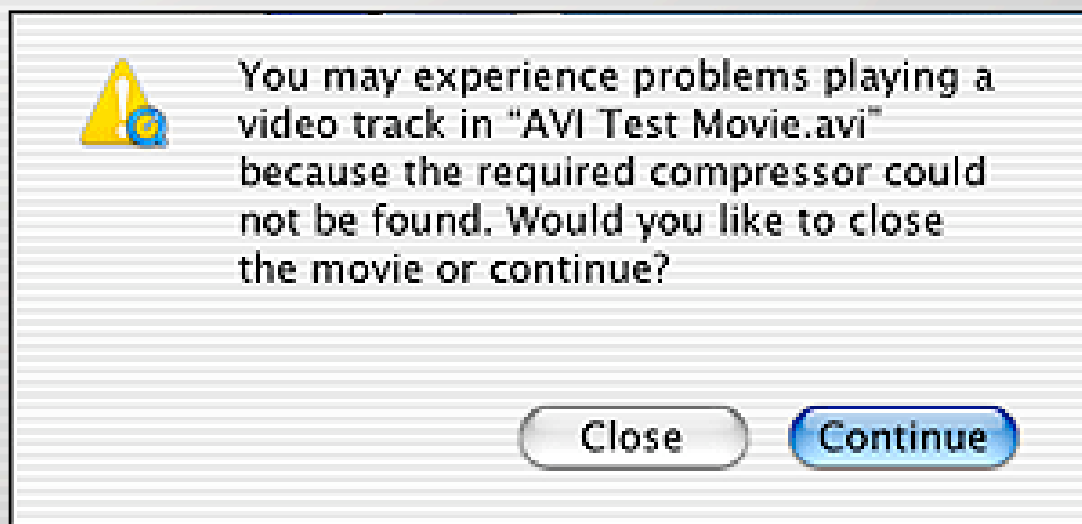- Certain AVI movies have no "native" CODEC within QuickTime Player.

What happens if you try?

- **"QuickTime is missing software required to display this movie file."**

QuickTime is missing software required to display this movie file.
Unfortunately, it is not available on the QuickTime server.

OK

What happens if you try?

- **"...the required compressor could not be found..."**

You may experience problems playing a video track in "AVI Test Movie.avi" because the required compressor could not be found. Would you like to close the movie or continue?

Close   Continue

UNIVERSITY OF UTAH
STUDENT COMPUTING LABS

What happens if you try?

- **Spotty playback**

-

- **Video but no audio**

-

- **Audio but no video**

-

- **No video or audio**

One Wall 25 ft..avi

00:00:02

What can I do about it?

- **Determine, find, & Install the appropriate CODECs.**

-

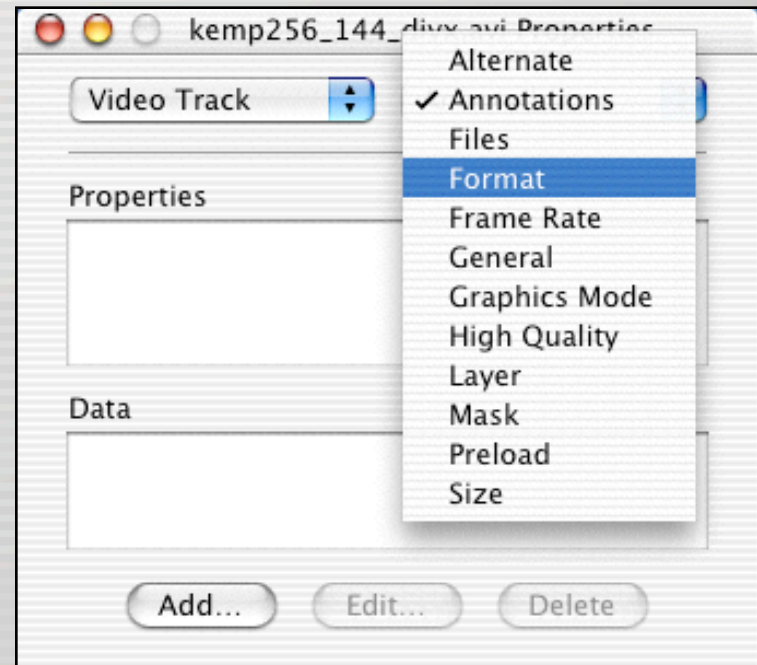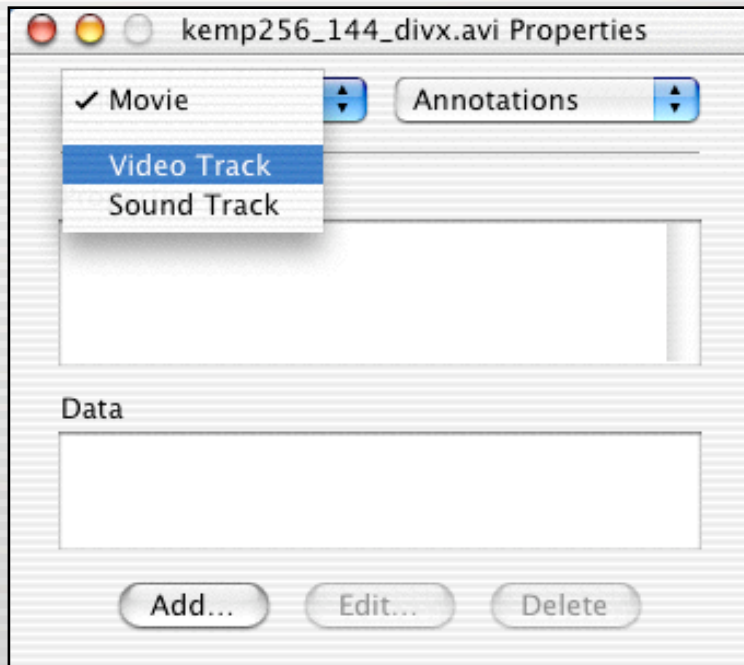- **Find and use a broadly compatible third party media player.**

UNIVERSITY OF UTAH
STUDENT COMPUTING LABS

Installing CODECs

- ## Determining the CODECs you need.
  - **QuickTime "Get Movie Properties"**

Movie	Favorites	Window
Loop		⌘L
Loop Back and Forth		
Half Size		⌘0
Normal Size		⌘1
Double Size		⌘2
Full Screen		⌘F
Present Movie…		⇧⌘F
Show Sound Controls		
Show Video Controls		⌘K
Get Movie Properties		⌘J

Installing CODECs

- **Determining the CODEC you need**
  - **Select "Video Track" & then "Format"**

UNIVERSITY OF UTAH
STUDENT COMPUTING LABS

Installing CODECs

- **Determining the CODEC you need**
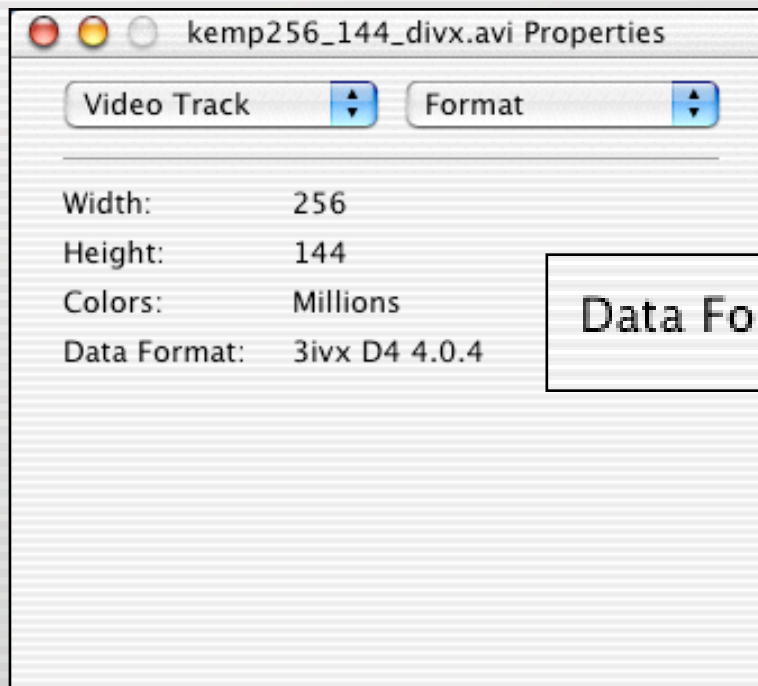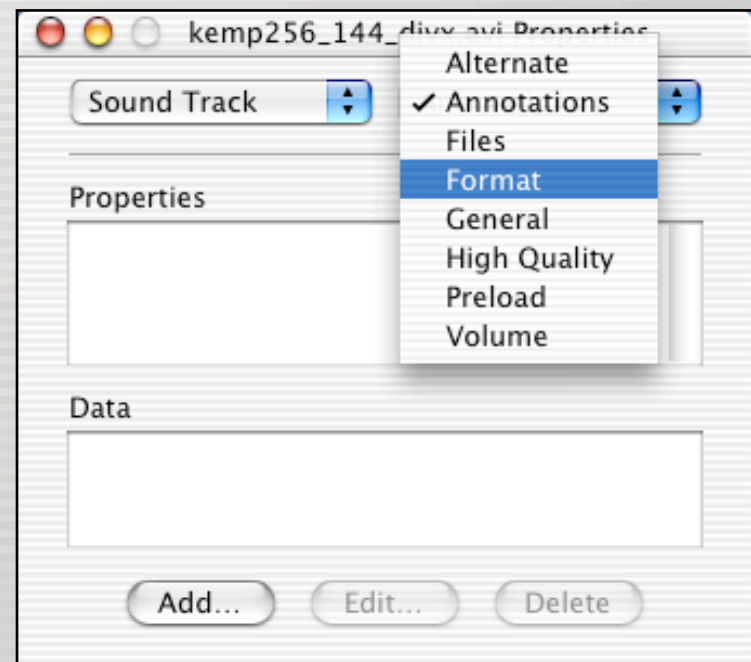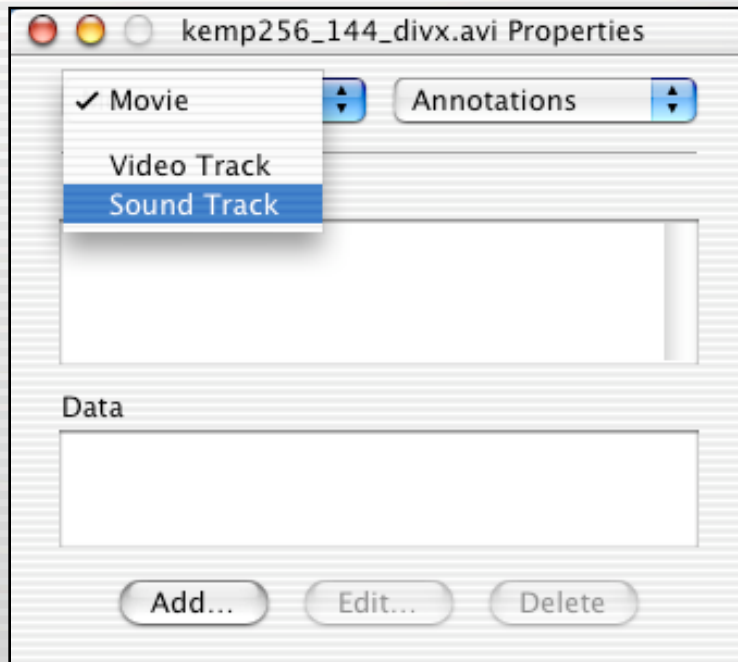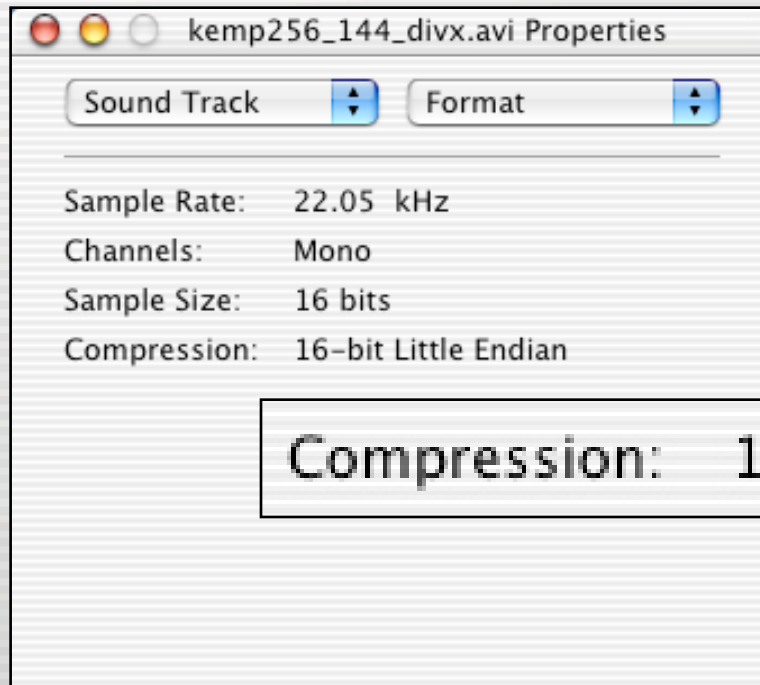 - **Video CODEC given as "Data Format"**

Installing CODECs

- **Determining the CODEC you need**
  - **Select "Audio Track" & then "Format"**

Installing CODECs

- **Determining the CODEC you need**
  - **Audio CODEC given as "Compressor"**

kemp256_144_divx.avi Properties

| Sound Track | Format |

Sample Rate: 22.05 kHz
Channels: Mono
Sample Size: 16 bits
Compression: 16–bit Little Endian

Compression: 16–bit Little Endian
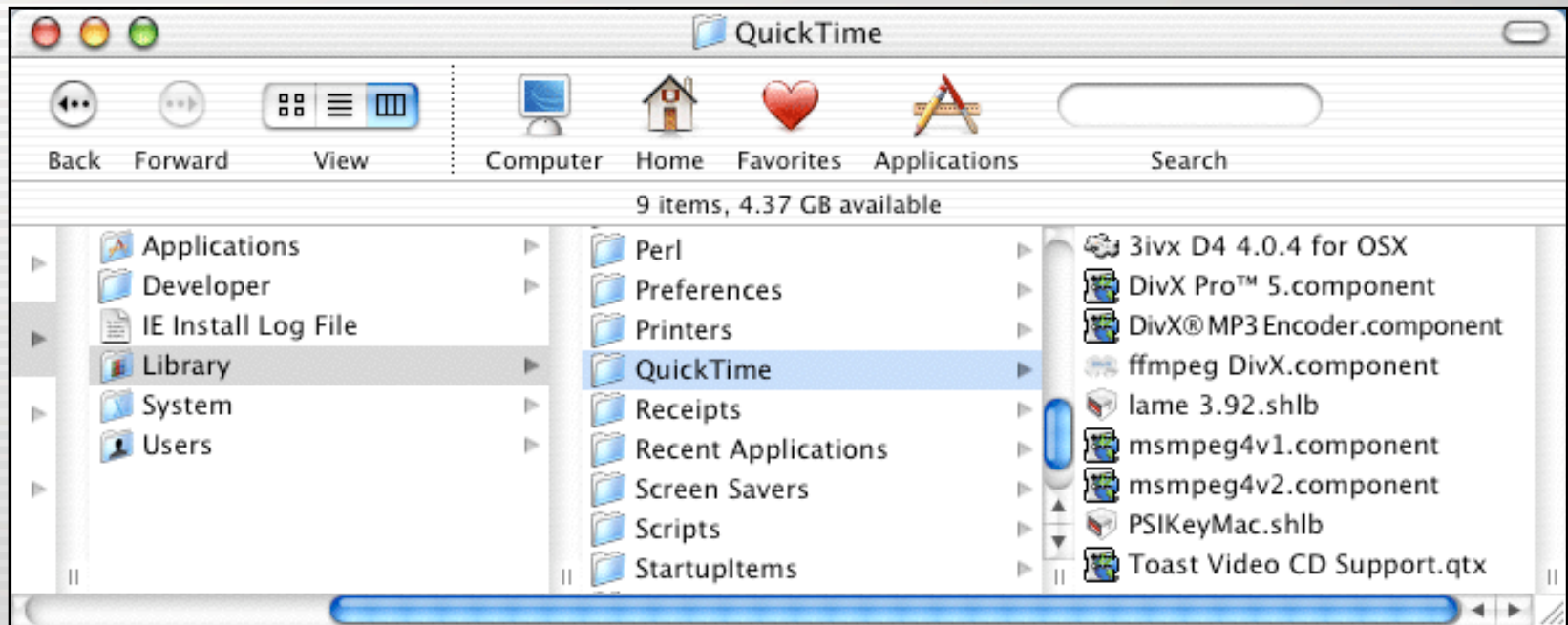
Installing CODECs

- **Finding the necessary CODEC & downloading it from Internet**
  - **www.versiontracker.com**
  - **www.google.com**
  - **Search for any combination of; codec, AVI, 3ivx, DivX, MPEG, and Mac OS X.**

Installing CODECs

- **Commonly used CODECs**
  - 3ivx D4 4.04 for OSX
  - DivX Pro™ 5.component
  - msmpeg4v1.component
  - msmpeg4v2.component
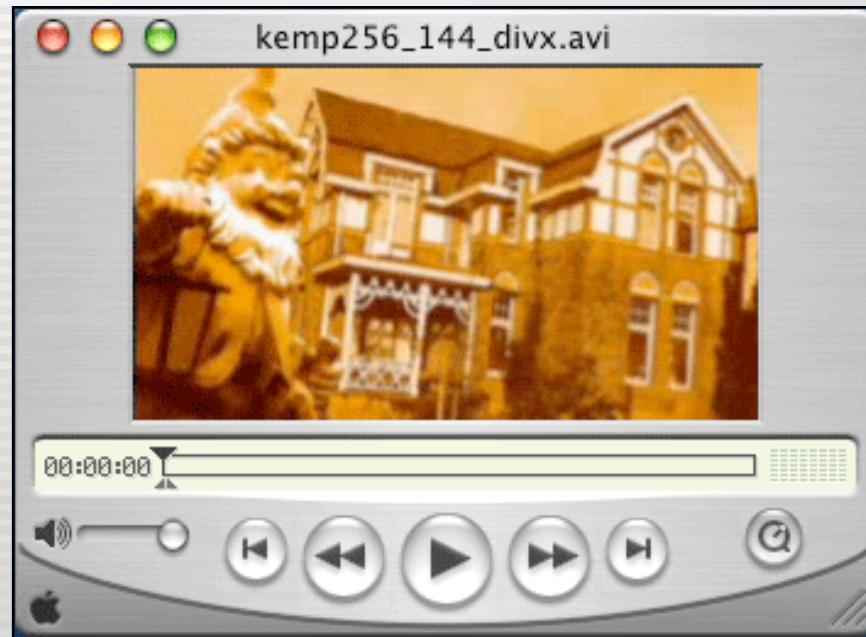 - ffmpeg DivX.component

Installing CODECs

- ## Install in "/Library/QuickTime" folder

Installing CODECs – If it works

- **Once the CODECs are installed, the movie will play in QuickTime.**

Installing CODECs – Issues

- Windows only AVI movie files will not play.

- Not all available CODECs will work with Mac OS X.

- May have either the video CODEC or Audio CODEC but not both.

- Can be a time consuming, hit or miss affair.

UNIVERSITY OF UTAH
STUDENT COMPUTING LABS

Installing CODECs

Demo

UNIVERSITY OF UTAH
STUDENT COMPUTING LABS

3rd Party Media Players

- Can play a variety of Mac and Windows movie file formats.

-

- Come equipped to process CODECs that QuickTime Player will not.

-

UNIVERSITY OF UTAH
STUDENT COMPUTING LABS

3rd Party Media Players

- **They can be downloaded from Internet**
  - www.versiontracker.com
  - www.google.com
  - Search for any combination of; codec, AVI, DivX, MPEG, Player and Mac OS X.

3rd Party Media Players

- **MPlayer OS X 2.0**
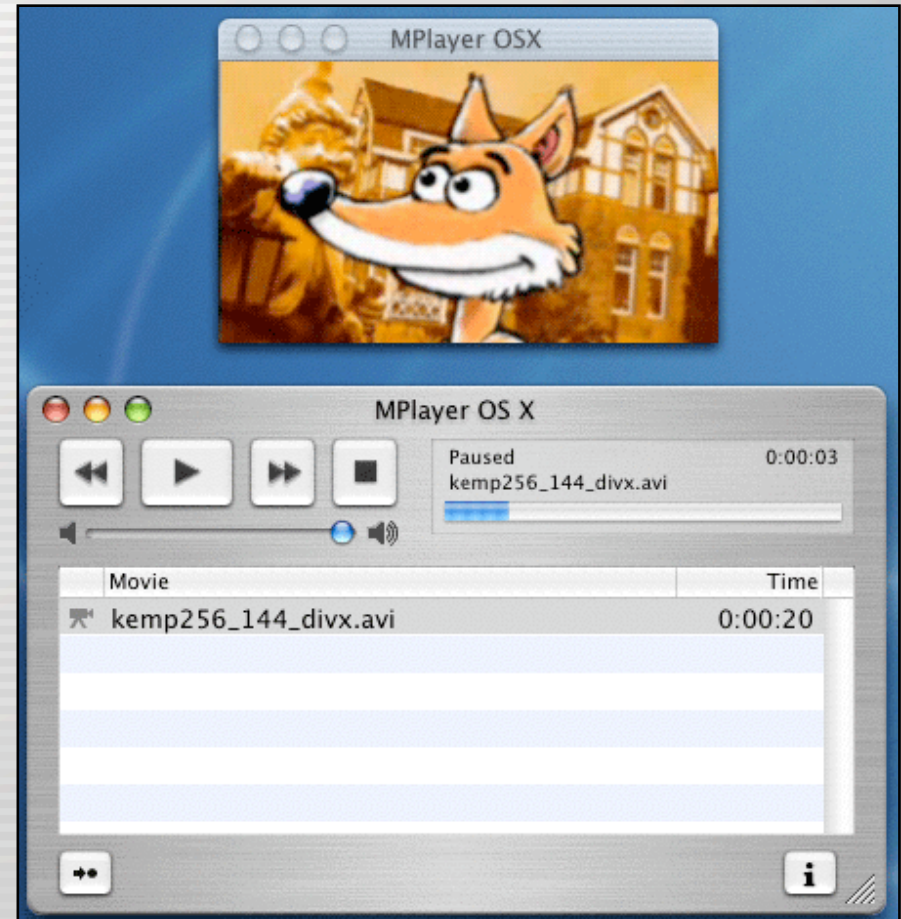-
-
-
- **VideoLAN VLC 0.5.3**
-

3rd Party Media Players

- **MPlayer OS X 2.0**
  - Multimedia Player with Playlist
  -
  - Based on MPlayer movie player for Linux.
  -
  - Found at:
    - http://mplayerosx.sourceforge.net

3rd Party Media Players

- **MPlayer OS X 2.0**
  - **Plays the following:**
    - **MPEG 1–4 & MPEG layer 1–3**
    - **DivX, AVI, ASF, Ogg Vorbis, RealMedia, & QuickTime Movie**
    - **AC3 & Windows Media Audio**
  - **Also plays movie subtitles of various formats (MicroDVD Player, & Subrip)**

3rd Party Media Players

- **MPlayer OS X 2.0**
  - **Movie Viewer**
  -
  - **Controls**
  -
  - **Playlist**

3rd Party Media Players

- **VideoLAN VLC 0.5.3**
  - Multi–purpose Media Tool.
  -
  - Will play DVDs, VCDs, and streams.
  -
  - Found at:
    - http://www.videolan.org/

3rd Party Media Players

- **VideoLAN VLC 0.5.3**
  - Originally developed for GNU/LINUX systems.
  -
  - Plays the following:
    - MPEG 4
    - DivX
    - Other media formats

UNIVERSITY OF UTAH
STUDENT COMPUTING LABS

3rd Party Media Players

- **VLC 0.5.3**
  - **Movie Viewer**
  -
  -
  - **Controls**

3rd Party Players – Issues

- **Windows only AVI movies will not play.**

- **Movie files requiring a non Mac OS X compatible CODECs may not play.**

- **Not very many players out there.**

- **Some players not as flexible or reliable as others.**

UNIVERSITY OF UTAH
STUDENT COMPUTING LABS

Demo

What if this doesn't work?

- **You suspect movie file is encoded for Windows only playback.**
  - **No Mac based conversion options available (QuickTime).**
  - **Conversion may be done with a Windows based professional video editing software (Adobe Premiere).**
  - **Results may be mixed at best.**
    -
      -

What if this doesn't work?

- **According to QT; Video Track is DivX/ 3ivx & Audio Track is MP3.**
  - **Use MPlayer or VLC**
  -
  - **Use ConvertToQT or DivX Pro Validator to convert the MP3 track into a QuickTime compatible format.**
    -

What if this doesn't work?

- **According to QT: Video Track uses an Indeo CODEC:**
  - **"IV32" encoded Video Track – Use MPLayer.**
  -
  - **"IV41" & "IV50" encoded Video Track – Use QuickTime for Classic along with the appropriate Indeo CODECs.**
    -

UNIVERSITY OF UTAH
STUDENT COMPUTING LABS

Q & A

Next Up

Open Discussion