

QuickTime Video Codecs

Codec (Primary Use)	Pros	Cons	Availability
Cinepak CD-ROM	Plays on wide range of machines ('486/040 or better), generally gives acceptable image quality	Doesn't work well under about 30 KBps, slow compression, mediocre image quality	Included in QuickTime
Sorenson Video WWW and CD-ROM	Very good image quality at low data rates	Very slow compression; playback requirements higher than Cinepak	Included in QuickTime 3
Eidos Escape CD-ROM (4x), DVD-ROM	High video quality, fast compression	High data rates; current QuickTime version has some limitations	Available through Terran
ClearVideo WWW	Well suited to the Web, good at data rates between 2 and 30 KBps	Needs at least a mid-range PowerMac or Pentium for optimal playback	Available from Iterated Systems
Indeo 3.2 CD-ROM	Slightly better than Cinepak when compressing "talking heads" video, compression is a bit faster	Not well suited to Web data rates, more color artifacting than Cinepak	Free from Intel
Indeo Video Interactive 4 CD-ROM	Excellent image quality (similar to MPEG)	Requires fast Pentium for playback	Included in QuickTime 3 for Windows (no Mac version yet)
PowerVideo CD-ROM (4x), DVD-ROM	Very good image quality at high data rates	Not well suited to 2x CD-ROM or Web data rates	current status unclear
Video Video	Good for testing edits, doesn't "top out" at higher data rates	Not generally useful for final delivery	Included in QuickTime
Animation 2-dimensional animations	Lossless at 100%, produces smaller files than the None codec	Files may be quite large at 100% quality	Included in QuickTime
Photo-JPEG Photographic still images	Generally has good image quality, works well for "slide show" type movies with very low frame rates	relatively slow decompression; limited usefulness for motion video	Included in QuickTime
Component Video Video capture	Can improve capture frame rate, can help eliminate degradation when used as interim storage format	Not generally useful for final video delivery	Included in QuickTime
MJPEG Video editing	At 100% quality, image degradation is minimal	Requires large amounts of CPU power, large image and/or high frame rate movies don't play smoothly without special hardware	Included in QuickTime 2.5
Graphics 2-dimensional animation	Generates a compressed image 1/2 the size of the same image compressed by the Animation codec	Slower decompression than the Animation codec	Included in QuickTime
None Processing	Lossless, can extend the capabilities of other codecs	Produces huge files, movies usually won't play smoothly	Included in QuickTime
MPEG-1 CD-ROM	Excellent image quality	Majority of systems can't playback (requires special hardware or very fast computer)	Included in QuickTime 3 for Mac (no Windows version yet)

QuickTime Audio Codecs

Codec (Primary Use)	Pros	Cons	Availability
IMA CD-ROM	Low playback requirements; works well on most samples	Relatively high datarates	Included in QuickTime
QDesign Music Codec WWW music	Full bandwidth, 16-bit, 44.1kHz stereo over a 28.8K modem	Not as well-suited for voice as PureVoice	Included in QuickTime 3
Qualcomm PureVoice WWW voice	Excellent speech reproduction over a 14.4K modem	Not well-suited for music	Included in QuickTime 3