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# ActiveSky Media Player for Pocket PC User Guide

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## 1 Welcome

### 1.1 Introducing ActiveSky Media Player for Pocket PC

ActiveSky Media Player for Pocket PC plays the proprietary video format (.sky) developed by ActiveSky. ActiveSky Media Player allows you to open, play, pause, and stop SKY files.

This document explains how to download a copy of ActiveSky Media Player from the ActiveSky website. It also explains how to obtain, install and play great video content on the ActiveSky Media Player.

### 1.2 Features

ActiveSky Media Player can:

- Play, Pause/Next Frame, Stop, Zoom during playback mode.
- Display elapsed time, total time, progress bar and audio state during playback mode.
- Customize player options to set the Playback speed, Autoplay, Continuous play, Audio Mute, 2x Zoom and Show status bar.
- Display File Properties about the open SKY file.

### 1.3 ActiveSky Media Player Device Requirements

The device requirements to run ActiveSky Media Player are:

- Requires Windows Powered Pocket PC running Windows CE 3.0. Compatible with MIPS, SH3 and StrongARM processors.
- At least 1MB of available memory for the program plus additional memory for SKY files on the device or Storage Card.
- Recommended 4096 color display or better.

Check our web site at [www.activesky.com](http://www.activesky.com) for a complete list of specific supported Pocket PCs.

## 2 Getting Started

### 2.1 Downloading ActiveSky Media Player

To download ActiveSky Media Player from our web site, go to the Pocket PC Download area at [www.activesky.com](http://www.activesky.com) and follow the instructions displayed.



## 2.2 Installing ActiveSky Media Player

Once ActiveSky Media Player is downloaded onto the desktop PC it needs to be installed onto the Pocket PC, to do this:

1. Ensure that the Pocket PC is connected to and communicating with the desktop PC via ActiveSync.

**NOTE:** Microsoft ActiveSync is supplied with your Pocket PC, for instructions on how to connect the Pocket PC to the desktop PC and use ActiveSync, please refer to the User Guide supplied with the Pocket PC.

Once the connection has been made, the Pocket PC is ready to install ActiveSky Media Player.

2. Run the ActiveSky installation program that was downloaded onto the desktop PC.
3. Follow the instructions displayed to install ActiveSky Media Player onto the Pocket PC.

## 2.3 ActiveSky Media Player Registration

ActiveSky Media Player for Pocket PC is limited to a 30-day trial period, after which you must register the program. When the ActiveSky Media Player is first run you will be prompted to enter a Registration Code.

Please note the DeviceID displayed on the Registration screen and visit our web site at [www.activesky.com](http://www.activesky.com) to obtain a Registration Code.

**NOTE:** Ensure that the numerical zeros in the Registration Code are not misinterpreted as the alphabetical letter "O". Registration Codes do not contain the alphabetical letter "O".

Tapping **File->Register...** can also access the Registration screen on your Pocket PC.



## 2.4 Transferring SKY files to the Pocket PC

SKY files can be found at [www.activesky.com](http://www.activesky.com) or at one of many content provider web sites. Visit [www.activesky.com](http://www.activesky.com) for a list of these sites.

To transfer SKY files from the desktop PC to the Pocket PC:

1. Download the SKY file to the desktop PC.
2. Ensure that the Pocket PC is connected to and communicating with the desktop PC via ActiveSync.
3. In ActiveSync, click the **Explore** button on the Toolbar. The **Mobile Device** window will open.
4. Using **Windows Explorer** on the desktop PC, select the SKY file(s) that were downloaded in Step 1, and copy them to the "My Documents" folder in the **Mobile Device** window.

NOTE: SKY files **MUST** be stored in the "My Document" folder or an immediate sub-folder under the "My Documents" folder on the Pocket PC or Storage Card; otherwise the SKY files cannot be opened from within ActiveSky Media Player.

## 3 Using ActiveSky Media Player

Before getting started it is a good idea to be familiar with the functions of ActiveSky Media Player.

### 3.1 Starting ActiveSky Media Player

To start ActiveSky Media Player:

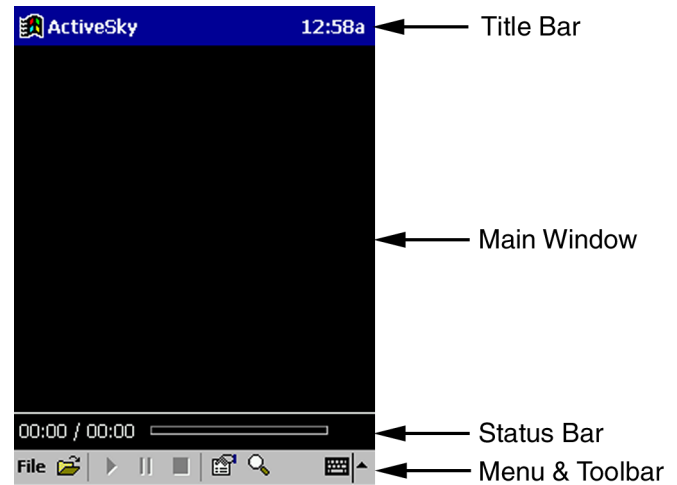
1. Switch on the Pocket PC.
2. Tap **Start->Programs**.
3. Tap the **ActiveSky** icon.

The Pocket PC is now ready to start playing SKY files.



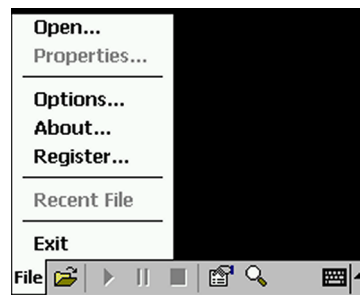
## 3.2 Getting Familiar

The application consists of a Title Bar, Main Window where the SKY videos are displayed, Status Bar and a combined Menu and Toolbar.



### 3.2.1 Accessing the Menu

Tapping File activates the File menu.



The File menu contains the following options:

<b>Open...</b>	Opens a SKY file.
<b>Properties...</b>	Displays a list of properties about an open SKY file.
<b>Options...</b>	Displays a list of options that allow ActiveSky Media Player to be customized.
<b>About...</b>	Displays information about ActiveSky Media Player and ActiveSky.
<b>Register...</b>	Displays the Device ID to register ActiveSky Media Player.
<b>Exit...</b>	Closes and exits ActiveSky Media Player.

### 3.2.2 Toolbar

The functions of the Toolbar are:



**Open**

Tap this button to browse for and open a SKY file.



**Play**

Tap this button to Play the open SKY file.



#### Pause



#### Next Frame

Tapping the **Pause** button when the SKY file is in playback pauses at current position. Once the SKY file is paused, this button changes to the **Next Frame** button. Tap this button again to advance frame by frame. This feature is useful for slide shows or viewing comic strips. Playback can be resumed at any time by tapping the **Play** button or stopped by tapping the **Stop** button.



#### Stop

Tapping this button stops playback of the open SKY file and rewinds the file back to the beginning.



#### Options

Tap this button to access the Options menu and customize ActiveSky Media Player.



#### Zoom

Tapping this button doubles the display size of the SKY file. If the SKY file is larger than the device display, then the SKY file will be centered and clipped or trimmed to size. If the display size is already doubled and the zoom button is tapped, the display size will be reset to normal.

### 3.2.3 Status Bar

The status bar at the bottom of the screen shows: length of current playback time in seconds, length of total playback time in seconds, a progress bar and a speaker icon if the SKY file contains an audio stream.



### 3.2.4 Playing SKY Files

To play a SKY file:

1. Tap **File->Open...**, or tap the **Open** button on the toolbar.
2. Select the SKY file to be played.
3. If Autoplay is enabled in the Options menu, the SKY file will begin to play automatically; otherwise, tap the **Play** button.



### 3.3 File Properties

To view the file properties of the open SKY file:

1. Tap **File->Properties...**

The Properties are divided into 3 sections: General, Details and Statistics.

The General tab contains File name, Title, Author, Date Created and Copyright information.

**NOTE:** Information will only be displayed if available.

The Details tab contains File name, File type, File size (in kBytes), Media length (in mm:ss), Picture size (Width x Height in pixels), Total frames, Frame rate (per second) and the Audio format.

The Statistics tab contains File name, Total time (milliseconds) and Average frame rate (frames per second).

2. To exit the file properties, tap the **OK** button in the top right corner of the screen.

### 3.4 Customizing ActiveSky Media Player (Options)

To customize ActiveSky Media Player:

1. Tap **File->Options...**, or tap the **Options** button.

The following options can be modified:

**Playback speed:** x0.5, x1, x2, Max (Default: x1).

Sets the speed of the SKY file in playback. Audio is only played during normal (x1) playback speed.

**Autoplay on open:** On/Off (Default: On).

Starts playing the SKY file as soon as it is opened.

**Continuous play:** On/Off (Default: Off).

Replays the SKY file in a continuous loop, until the **Stop** button is tapped.

**Audio mute:** On/Off (Default: Off).

Silences the audio stream, if one exists, of the SKY file.

**2x Zoom:** On/Off (Default: Off).

Doubles the display size of the SKY file.

**Direct screen access:** On/Off (Default: On)

Enables direct screen access for faster screen drawing.

**Show status bar:** On/Off (Default: Off).

Show or Hide the status bar.

2. To exit the Options screen, tap **OK** in the top right corner of the screen.



### 3.5 About ActiveSky Media Player

To view details about ActiveSky Media Player:

1. Tap **File->About....**

This displays the ActiveSky Media Player version, copyright information and the ActiveSky web site address.

2. To exit the About screen, tap **OK** in the top right corner of the screen.

### 3.6 Register ActiveSky

This option will only be displayed on the File menu if ActiveSky Media Player for Pocket PC has not been registered. The Register ActiveSky screen contains the Device ID and a space to enter the Registration Code. Please note the DeviceID displayed on the Registration screen and visit our web site at [www.activesky.com](http://www.activesky.com) to obtain a Registration Code.

**NOTE:** Ensure that the numerical zeros in the Registration Code are not misinterpreted as the alphabetical letter "O". Registration Codes do not contain the alphabetical letter "O".

### 3.7 Help

To access the help file:

1. Ensure that ActiveSky Media Player is running.
2. Tap on **ActiveSky** in the Title Bar.
3. Select **Help**.
4. To exit help, tap **OK** in the top right corner of the screen.

### 3.8 To Exit ActiveSky Media Player

To Exit ActiveSky Media Player:

1. Tap **File->Exit....**

### 3.9 Deleting a SKY file

Use **File Explorer** on the Pocket PC to locate and delete SKY files.

### 3.10 Uninstalling ActiveSky Media Player

To uninstall ActiveSky Media Player from the Pocket PC:

1. Tap **Start->Settings**.
2. Select the **System** tab.
3. Tap the **Remove Programs** icon.
4. Select **ActiveSky Media Player**, and then tap the **Remove** button.





## FAQs

### Q: Where do I get files to play?

A: SKY files can be found at [www.activesky.com](http://www.activesky.com) or at one of many content provider web sites. Visit [www.activesky.com](http://www.activesky.com) for a list of these sites.

### Q: Can I view SKY files on my desktop PC?

A: Some of the content providers have content samples that can be viewed by standard desktop media players. ActiveSky has not released a player for the desktop PC.

### Q: How do I transfer SKY files to my mobile device?

A: Connect your mobile device to your desktop PC. Copy the files from your desktop PC and paste them into the "My Documents" directory on your mobile device. (Refer to Section 2.4 for more information.)

### Q: Where do I put my SKY video files?

A: SKY files MUST be stored in the "My Document" folder or an immediate sub-folder under the "My Documents" folder on the Pocket PC or Storage Card; otherwise the SKY files cannot be opened from within ActiveSky Media Player.

### Q: I have transferred the SKY file(s) to my mobile device but there are no SKY files listed in the File->Open window, how do I locate the SKY file(s)?

A: SKY files MUST be stored in the "My Document" folder or an immediate sub-folder under the "My Documents" folder on the Pocket PC or Storage Card; otherwise the SKY files cannot be opened from within ActiveSky Media Player.

### Q: I have selected a SKY file but it will not play, how do I play this file?

A: The problem could be one or more of the following reasons:

- The file you have selected may not be a ".sky" file. ActiveSky Media Player only plays files with the ".sky" file extension.
- The SKY file you downloaded may be corrupt. Try downloading and transferring the SKY file again. If it does not work again contact the content provider.

### Q: What is the largest file size I can play on my device?

A: The largest file size you can use will depend on how much memory is available on the mobile device. (Refer to the mobile device User Guide for information about memory size.)

### Q: Do I have to use ActiveSky proprietary video format (.sky) files?

A: Yes. At the moment you have to use ActiveSky files (which are identified with a ".sky" file extension). In the future other file formats may be available.

### Q: How do I create my own SKY files?

A: If you want to develop your own content, visit our Encoding Services page on our web site. There you will find creative media houses that fit your content format needs.



**Q: I have downloaded ActiveSky Media Player but when I try to install the program it is corrupt, what do I do?**

A: The file may be corrupt because the download was not successful even though no error messages were displayed while downloading. Try downloading the program again, if it is still corrupt contact Technical Support below to send the program to you via e-mail.

**Q: Can I use other Windows CE devices?**

A: This version of ActiveSky Media Player requires Windows Powered Pocket PC running Windows CE 3.0. Compatible with MIPS, SH3 and StrongARM processors.

Supported Devices include:

- Casio E-115, E-125 & EM-500
- HP Jornada 540 series
- Compaq iPAQ H3630

You are welcome to try to run the player on other devices. You can let us know the results by sending an e-mail to Technical Support.

**Q: The video is running too slowly, how do I speed it up?**

A: You may have the Playback speed set to **x0.5**. Tap **File->Options** and set the Playback speed to **x1**.

**Q: The video is running too fast, how do I slow it down?**

A: You may have the Playback speed set to **x2** or **max**. Tap **File->Options** and set the Playback speed to **x1**.

**Q: Only half the picture fits on the screen, how do I view the whole picture?**

A: You may have **2x zoom** selected. Tap **File->Options** and de-select **2x zoom**, or tap the **Zoom** icon in the toolbar at the bottom of screen.

**Q: I do not hear any audio, how do I fix this?**

A: The problem could be one or more of the following reasons:

- Ensure **Audio mute** is not selected in the Options menu.
- Check that the Playback speed is set to **x1** in the Options menu (audio is only available at this speed).
- Check that the mobile device's sound is not turned down (refer to your mobile device User Guide on how to adjust the audio volume).
- Check that the SKY file contains audio (a speaker icon will be displayed in the Status Bar; refer to section 3.2.3).

**Q: My file keeps on playing, how do I stop it from repeating?**

A: De-select **Continuous play** from the Options menu.



**Q: How do I get optimum performance playing my files?**

**A:** Tap **File->Options** and ensure you have **Direct screen access** selected. Deselect all other options. Your files will usually play better if they are played from the mobile device's memory rather than from a Storage Card.

**Q: The video and/or audio is breaking up, how do I fix this?**

**A:** The problem could be one or more of the following reasons:

- The most likely reason for the audio and/or video breaking up is that the device does not have a powerful enough processor. It is also possible that the content may have been encoded at a frame rate and/or picture size that is not suitable for your device.
- There is not enough memory to run the application properly.
  - Memory settings can be adjusted on the device (refer to the device user guide on how to adjust memory settings).
  - Files and/or programs can be deleted to free up more memory (refer to the device user guide on how to remove files and programs).
  - Other open applications running in the background can be closed to free up more memory (refer to the device user guide on how to close running applications).
- The device may need to be reset (refer to the device user guide on how to reset your device).
- The SKY file you downloaded may be corrupt. Try downloading and transferring the SKY file again.

## Contact and Technical Support

For ActiveSky technical support, please contact us by e-mail at [pocketpc\\_support@activesky.com](mailto:pocketpc_support@activesky.com).

ActiveSky support is limited to ActiveSky provided products only.

For more information about ActiveSky, see our web site at [www.activesky.com](http://www.activesky.com).

Thank you for using ActiveSky technology!

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