

NAUTILUS and Media Player Tips

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Media Player Shortcuts

When NAUTILUS opens an .AVI file using Media Player, you see a standard Windows window (ie, it has System menu and border, etc) with some VCR-like control buttons at the bottom (Play and Stop). It may not seem like the Media Player you're used to. But just try this:

Double-click the Title bar; Media Player will display its standard control bar and menu for all media types. Check out Media Player help for more keyboard shortcuts (like Ctrl-S for Stop).

Centering The Media Player Window On Your Screen

Since NAUTILUS uses Media Player (MPLAYER.EXE) to playback .AVI ("Video For Windows") files, the question became - how does Media Player position the AVI window? As a nicety, NAUTILUS would prefer to center the window on the user's screen (as it does with DIB files and in a similar fasion, as it does with Write and Notepad files by maximizing them).

It turns out, in typical Windows fashion, there is a MPLAYER.INI file in your Windows directory. If you take a look at this file (with SysEdit or Notepad, for example), you'll notice a "DisplayPosition" entry in the [Options] section. This entry is the default window coordinates Media Player uses. So... all we need is a little math.

A typical AVI video is displayed in a 160 x 120 pixel frame. So, on a 640 x 480 screen, you can set the entry to:

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DisplayPosition=236,154,404,326
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If you really do the math, you'll discover that this creates a window sized 168 x 172. The extra pixels come from the window border and controls (the Play and Stop buttons) that Media Player adds to the window.