

How to check and install missing codecs on Windows 10

How to check the codecs that are installed on the computer, check the missing codecs and how to find and install the missing codecs on Windows 10

If you are getting an error message like 'A codec is required to play this file' or 'Windows Media Player encountered an error' then there is a high chance that your computer is missing or damaged codec.

So what are codecs? What do you already know about codecs? How to know if your computer is missing a codec? and how to install the missing codecs on the computer.?

Well, in this article we will learn more about codec together. But first, let's go through a bit of the concept of codecs first.

I. What is Codec?

Codec (combined by 2 words code and decode) is a software, a necessary program used to compress large files, or to convert between analog audio and digital audio.

Video and Audio files are often very large, so it is quite difficult to share over the network. So to reduce download time, codecs were born to encode or shorten the transmitted signal, and then decode it for viewing and editing.

As I mentioned, a codec is a piece of software that encodes (compresses) a file and then decodes it (decompresses) it for playback. Some codecs contain only the encoder, some contain only the decoder, and some include both.

Each audio file and video file will use separate codecs. So if it does not contain the codec technologies used for encoding, your device will not be able to play it, leading to the error message like the beginning of the article I mentioned.

II. How many Codecs does a computer need?

Currently, there are hundreds of different codecs, and usually we will use a combination of these codecs to make music / video playback more convenient.

Some types of codecs such as: Codec to compress video, audio, multimedia files streamed over the network, slides, video calls, screenshots.

Typically, a computer needs about 10-15 codecs to play music and videos.

III. What are the common codecs?

Some codecs are very popular today such as MP3, WMA, RealVideo, RealAudio, DivX and XviD.

Many of you say AVI format is a codec, but this is a mistake guys. AVI is just a container format that many codecs can use.

There are hundreds of codecs that are compatible with AVI format content, so it can be a bit difficult to know what type of codec is needed to play the file.

Some very popular codec packs that you should use for your computer are:

1. X Codec Pack: An All-in-One codec pack but quite light, no ads, no spyware. This codec pack is light but it is quite complete, can help your computer play most popular types of Video and Audio today.
2. K-Lite Codec Pack: This codec pack includes 4 versions: Basic, Standard, Full and Mega. Normally, for ordinary users, just installing the Standard package is enough - helping the computer to play all popular movie formats.
3. K-Lite Mega Codec Pack: This is a compilation codec pack, this codec pack contains everything you need.
4. CCCP (Combined Community Codec Pack): It can be said that this is the most diverse codec pack. This codec pack helps the computer to run 99% of today's video formats.

IV. Check Codecs Installed in Windows 10 (without software)

There are many ways to check what codecs are installed on your computer, and the Windows 10 operating system itself already has some codecs created by Microsoft.

#first. Check installed codecs from System Information

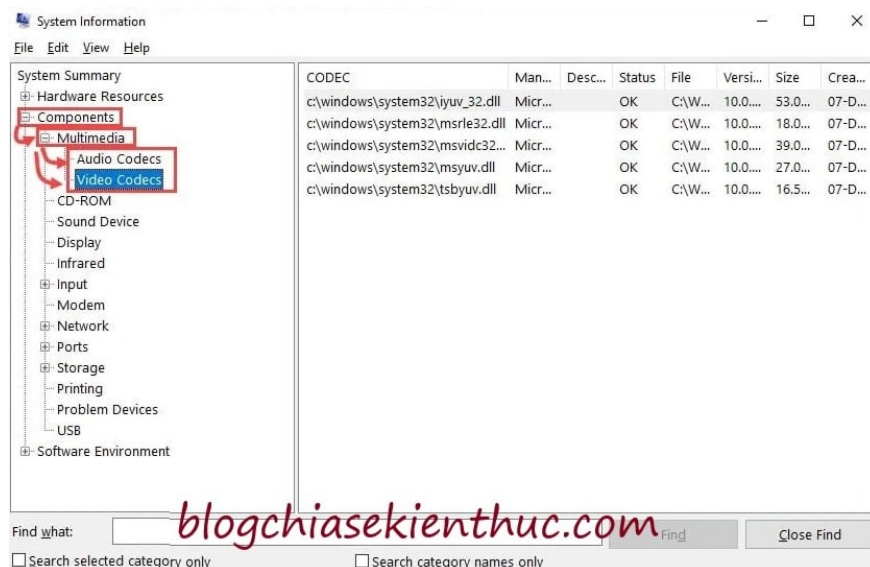
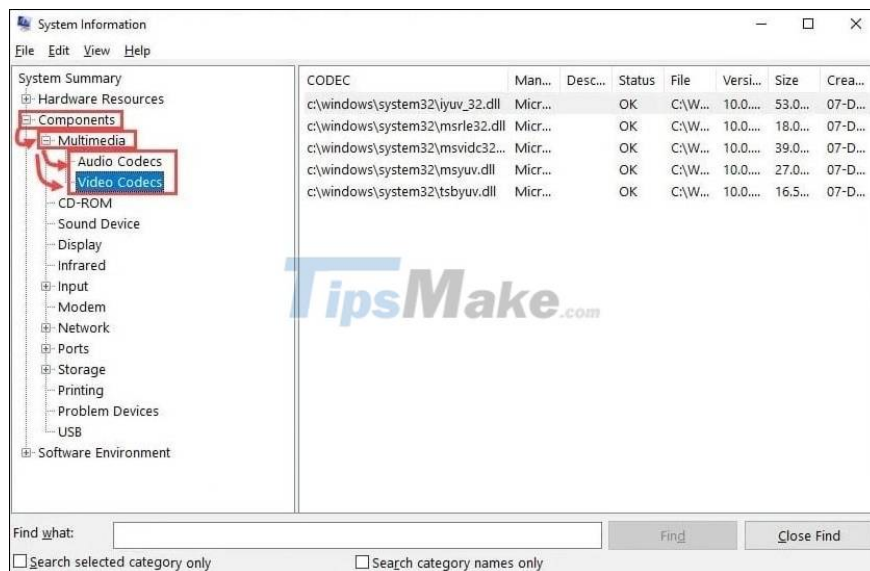
You can check which codecs are installed on your device using the 'System information' page in Windows.

However, it only shows at a basic level, or in other words, it is not very detailed. And another thing is that not all codecs are shown here.

+ Step 1: You open System Information by opening the Run dialog box (Windows + R) => enter the command msinfo32 => and press Enter.

+ Step 2: In the System Information window, select Components => select Multimedia in the left column.

=>Here you will see Audio Codecs (Audio Codecs) and Video Codecs (Video Codecs) options. You can click either option to see information about the respective codecs installed.



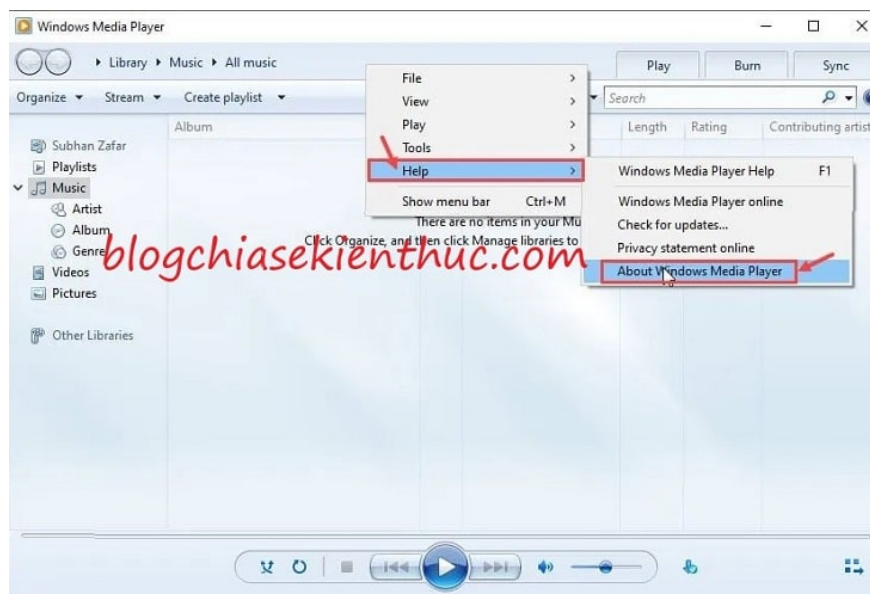
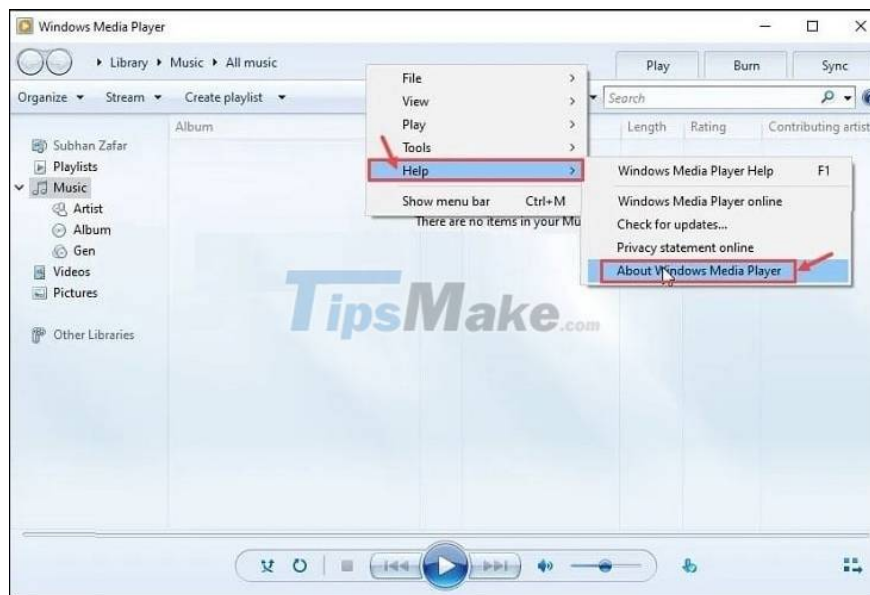
#2. Check installed codecs from Windows Media Player

As you know, the Windows Media Player audio/video player is built into Windows 10, and it is also the default audio and video player of the Windows operating system.

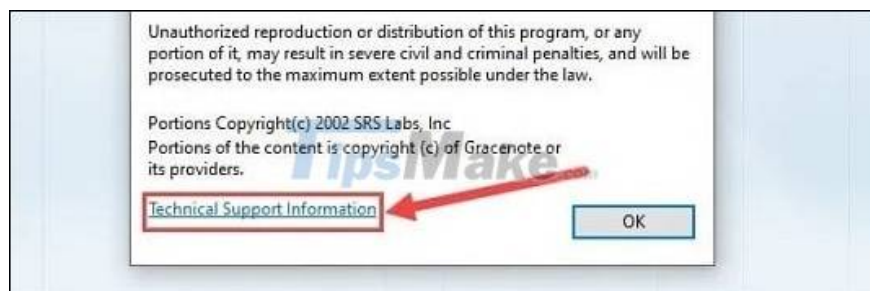
So you can get a detailed list of codecs installed on your computer with this software.

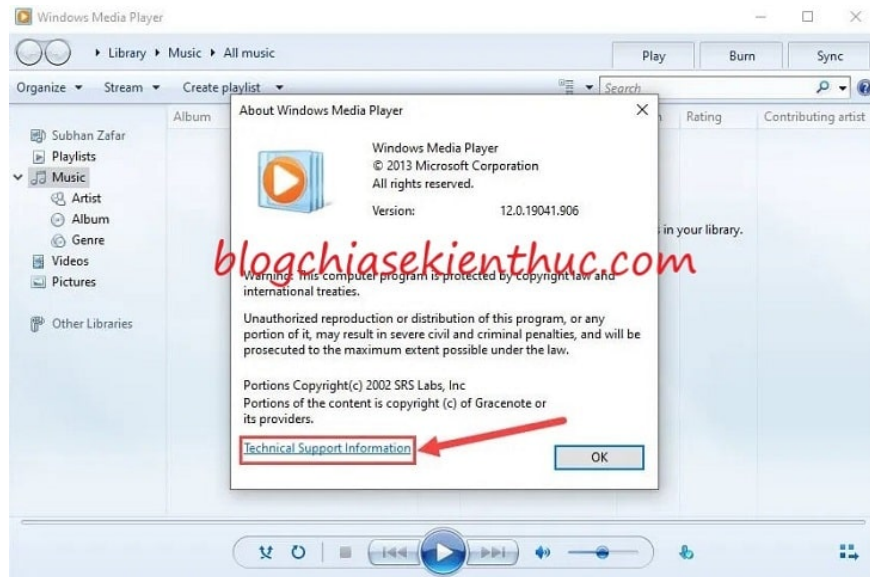
+ Step 1: You open Windows Media Player through the Desktop screen, or you can also use the `wmplayer` command in the Run dialog box (Windows + R) => and press Enter.

+ Step 2: Next, right-click any space in the Menu bar at the top (right below the title bar) => then select Help => select About Windows Media Player.

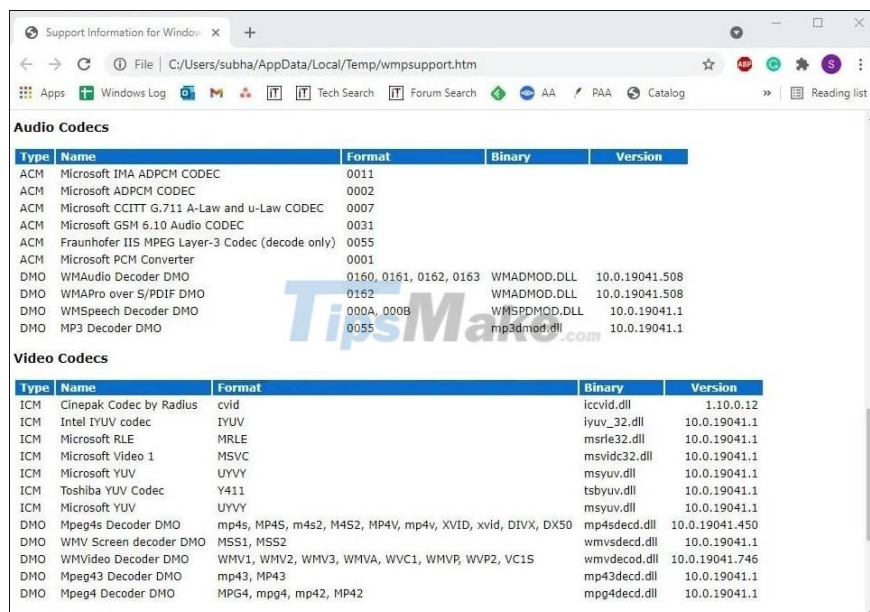


+ Step 3: In the new window that appears => click on Technical Support Information.





+ Step 4: This will open a details tab on your web browser. Scroll down and you will find the audio and video codecs already installed on your computer.



Audio Codecs

Type	Name	Format	Binary	Version
ACM	Microsoft IMA ADPCM CODEC	0011		
ACM	Microsoft ADPCM CODEC	0002		
ACM	Microsoft CCITT G.711 A-Law and u-Law CODEC	0007		
ACM	Microsoft GSM 6.10 Audio CODEC	0031		
ACM	Fraunhofer IIS MPEG Layer-3 Codec (decode only)	0055		
ACM	Microsoft PCM Converter	0001		
DMO	WMAudio Decoder DMO	0160, 0161, 0162, 0163	WMADMOD.DLL	10.0.19041.508
DMO	WMAPro over S/PDIF DMO	0162	WMADMOD.DLL	10.0.19041.508
DMO	WMSpeech Decoder DMO	000A, 000B	WMSPDMOD.DLL	10.0.19041.1
DMO	MP3 Decoder DMO	0055	mp3dmod.dll	10.0.19041.1

Video Codecs

Type	Name	Format	Binary	Version
ICM	Cinepak Codec by Radius	cvid	iccvid.dll	1.10.0.12
ICM	Intel IYUV codec	IYUV	iyuv_32.dll	10.0.19041.1
ICM	Microsoft RLE	MRLE	msrle32.dll	10.0.19041.1
ICM	Microsoft Video 1	MSVC	msvid32.dll	10.0.19041.1
ICM	Microsoft YUV	UYVY	msyuv.dll	10.0.19041.1
ICM	Toshiba YUV Codec	Y411	tsbyuv.dll	10.0.19041.1
ICM	Microsoft YUV	UYVY	msyuv.dll	10.0.19041.1
DMO	Mpeg4s Decoder DMO	mp4s, MP4S, m4s2, M4S2, MP4V, mp4v, XVID, xvid, DIVX, DX50	mp4sdec.dll	10.0.19041.450
DMO	WMV Screen decoder DMO	MSS1, MSS2	wmvdec.dll	10.0.19041.1
DMO	WMVideo Decoder DMO	WMV1, WMV2, WMV3, WMVA, WV1, WMVP, WVP2, VC1S	wmvdecod.dll	10.0.19041.746
DHO	Mpeg43 Decoder DMO	mp43, MP43	mp43dec.dll	10.0.19041.1
DHO	Mpeg4 Decoder DMO	MPG4, mp44, mp42, MP42	mpg4dec.dll	10.0.19041.1

V. Check installed codecs with third-party apps

In addition to the two ways above, you can also check installed codecs with third-party applications.

#1. InstalledCodec

[InstalledCodec](#) is a small software of Nirsof, portable, so it does not need to be installed when using. It allows you to view detailed information about the codecs installed on your system easily.

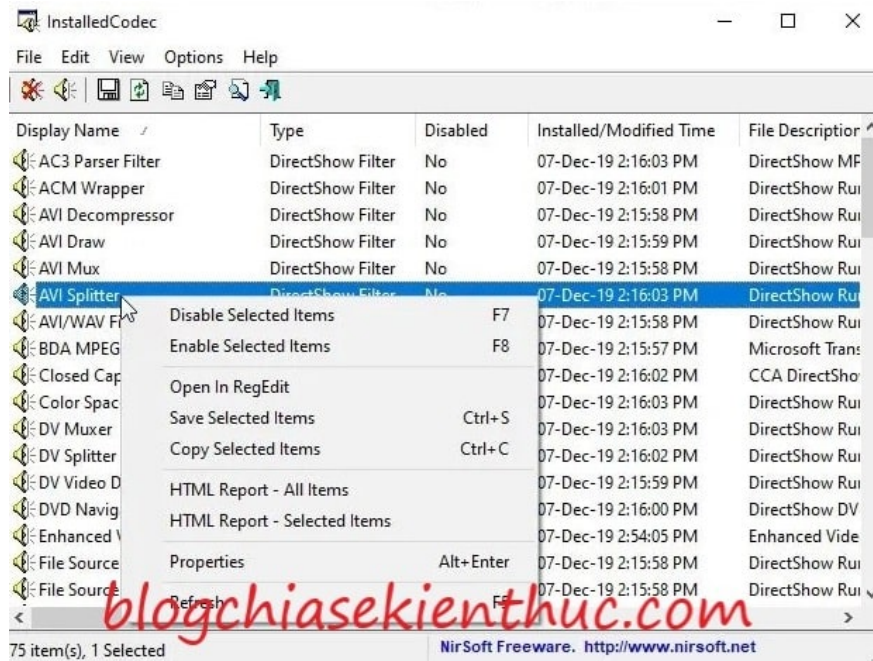
You can use different filters (like showing only 64 bit codecs...). You can also disable or enable these codecs through the context menu of this software.

InstalledCodec

Display Name	Type	Disabled	Installed/Modified Time	File Descriptor
AC3 Parser Filter	DirectShow Filter	No	07-Dec-19 2:16:03 PM	DirectShow MF
ACM Wrapper	DirectShow Filter	No	07-Dec-19 2:16:01 PM	DirectShow Rui
AVI Decompressor	DirectShow Filter	No	07-Dec-19 2:15:58 PM	DirectShow Rui
AVI Draw	DirectShow Filter	No	07-Dec-19 2:15:59 PM	DirectShow Rui
AVI Mux	DirectShow Filter	No	07-Dec-19 2:15:58 PM	DirectShow Rui
AVI Splitter	DirectShow Filter	No	07-Dec-19 2:16:03 PM	DirectShow Rui
AVI/WAV Filter	DirectShow Filter	No	07-Dec-19 2:15:58 PM	DirectShow Rui
BDA MPEG	DirectShow Filter	No	07-Dec-19 2:15:57 PM	Microsoft Trans
Closed Cap	DirectShow Filter	No	07-Dec-19 2:16:02 PM	CCA DirectSho
Color Spac	DirectShow Filter	No	07-Dec-19 2:16:03 PM	DirectShow Rui
DV Muxer	DirectShow Filter	No	07-Dec-19 2:16:03 PM	DirectShow Rui
DV Splitter	DirectShow Filter	No	07-Dec-19 2:16:02 PM	DirectShow Rui
DV Video D	DirectShow Filter	No	07-Dec-19 2:15:59 PM	DirectShow Rui
DVD Navig	DirectShow Filter	No	07-Dec-19 2:16:00 PM	DirectShow DV
Enhanced V	DirectShow Filter	No	07-Dec-19 2:54:05 PM	Enhanced Vide

Context menu for AVI Splitter:

- Disable Selected Items (F7)
- Enable Selected Items (F8)
- Open In RegEdit
- Save Selected Items (Ctrl+S)
- Copy Selected Items (Ctrl+C)
- HTML Report - All Items
- HTML Report - Selected Items

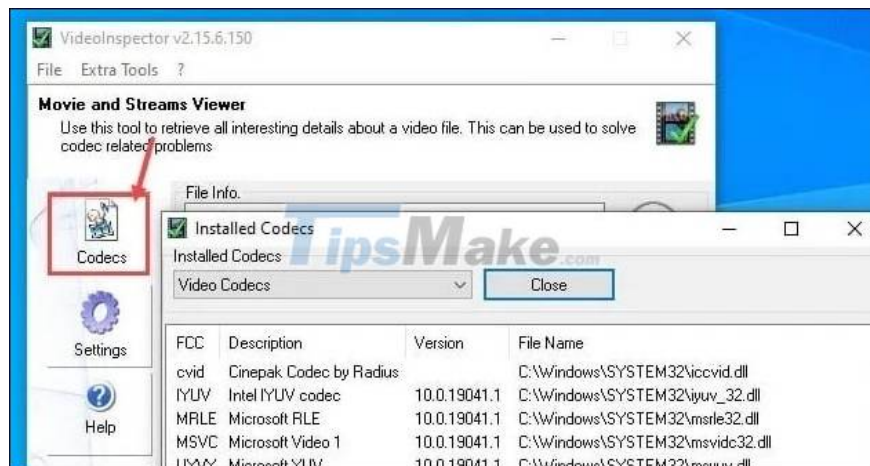


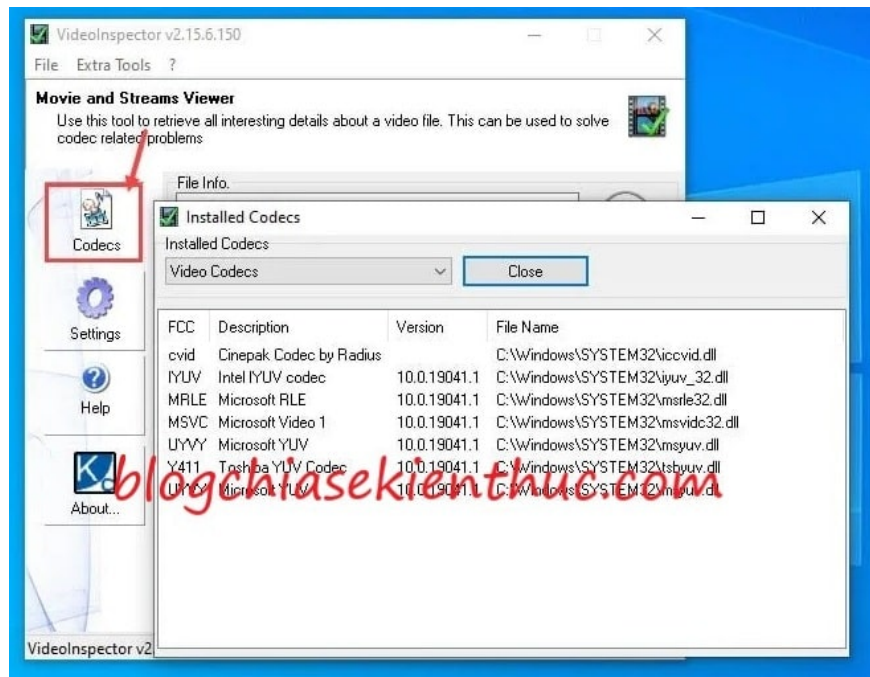
#2. Video Inspector

[Video Inspector](#) is another option that helps you quickly see the codecs installed on your computer.

You access the website address (link above) => then click Download and install the software to view this codec on your computer.

=> After the installation is complete, open the application and click on the Codecs tab on the left. Another window will open where you can view the video and audio codecs installed on your computer.





NOTE: This app can do more than display the installed codecs on your device. But within the framework of this article, I only focus on viewing the codec function to avoid diluting the article.

BECAUSE. How to install missing codecs on Windows 10

I see many of you have difficulty determining which codec is missing on your computer => resulting in video or audio playback errors.

Well, actually to determine the codec of a video or audio file is quite simple. You can easily identify/test it yourself => and from there you search for it on the Internet and install it on your computer.

#first. How to determine a file's codec

+ Step 1: Right-click the file you want to find the codec => and select Properties from the right-click menu.

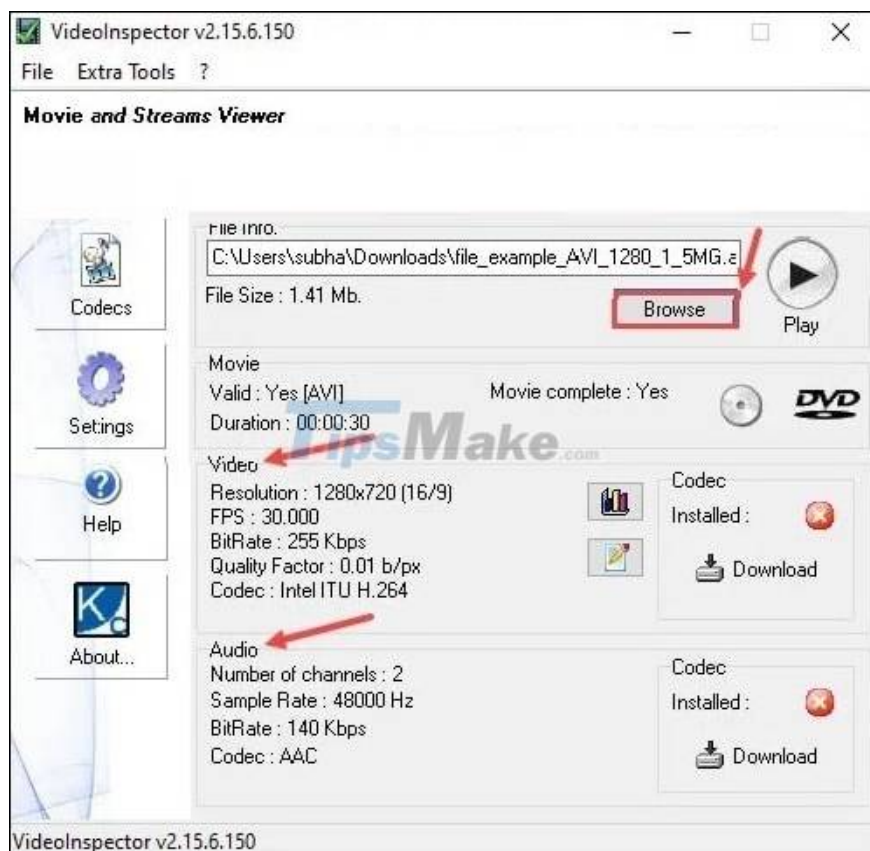
+ Step 2: Switch to Details tab to find Audio Codec and Video Codec information.

NOTE: If you can't find the information, you can use the backup [Video Inspector](#) / [Link tool](#). And I also encourage you to use this software, because it will be more convenient to download the missing codec.

+ Step 3: You download and install this software on your computer. The installation is too easy, so I will not guide you further.

+ Step 4: In the main interface of the application, click Browse. => then select the file to determine its codec.

+ Step 5: Video Inspector will display the information you need, as shown below:



+ Step 6: In this example, we see that the codec is not available in the computer. Now you just need to click the Download button next to each codec and you will be taken to the codec finder in the browser.

+ Step 7: Finally, you just need to download that codec and install it!

VII. Conclude

Well, so through this article, you already understand what a codec is, right?

Through this article, you also learned more about how to check the codecs installed on your computer, and check the missing codecs, as well as how to find and install those missing codecs.

Although a codec is a small piece of software, it plays a very important role in a computer.

We only encounter codec errors when playing videos downloaded from the Internet or the Windows 10 system has been changed. And from now on, if you encounter an error like this, you already know how to handle it.

Hope the article is useful to you. Good luck.

You finished reading the article "**How to check and install missing codecs on Windows 10**" edited by the [TipsMake](#) team. We hope this article has provided you with many useful tech tips and tricks. You can search for similar articles on tips and guides. Thank you for reading and for following us regularly.