

QuickTime Conferencing: Can't Upgrade to Apple VideoPhone (1/97)

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TOPIC				

Our company purchased the QuickTime Conferencing Kit and now would like to upgrade to the Apple VideoPhone software. Where can we get this upgrade? What differences are there between upgrading to Apple VideoPhone Lite and the software purchased with the Apple VideoPhone Kit?

DISCUSSION -----

Apple Media Conference (bundled with the QuickTime Conferencing Kit) has been replaced by Apple VideoPhone as the software used for audio and video conferencing. Currently, there is not an official upgrade for Apple Media Conference, other than downloading Apple VideoPhone Lite from: http://gtc.quicktime.apple.com.

Apple VideoPhone Lite is essentially the same application as Apple VideoPhone bundled with the Apple VideoPhone Kit. The biggest difference between Apple VideoPhone and Apple VideoPhone Lite is the H.263 video codec (compression/decompression) extension. In addition to the new codec, there are some additional pieces of software including Apple Internet Dialer, Apple Internet Status, and Apple Guide support.

About the H.263 Codec

The H.263 codec improves overall performance and error recovery when using low-bandwidth dial-up connections. However, H.263 may be used over other networking standards to improve performance and reduce network use.

 $\rm H.263$ adds several resolutions in addition to those supported under $\rm H.261$. Supported resolutions include CIF (352x288) and QCIF (Quarter Common Interchange Format, 176x144) - both part of $\rm H.261$, as well as SQCIF (Sub-QCIF, 128x96), 4CIF (704x576), and 16CIF (1408x1152) resolutions.

More information on the H.263 ITU Recommendation may be found on the Internet. The International Telecommunications Union (ITU) website (http://www.itu.ch) provides information on the H.263 standard.

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