

Fix Mac OS X camera problems - Tell which application is using Mac OS X builtin Camera

Author : admin

```
1. sh
sh-3.2# ps aux | grep -i VDC
root          723   0.0  0.0  4285160    900 s000  S+   12:02AM    0:00.01 g
rep -i VDC
sh-3.2# lsof | grep "AppleCamera"

systemsta 373          root  txt      REG          1,4    408432  85
91318364 /Library/CoreMediaIO/Plug-Ins/DAL/AppleCamera.plugin/Contents/MacOS/App
leCamera
AppleCame 375 _cmiodalassistants  txt      REG          1,4    1868960  85
91318366 /Library/CoreMediaIO/Plug-Ins/DAL/AppleCamera.plugin/Contents/Resources
/AppleCameraAssistant
avconfere 545          svetlana  txt      REG          1,4    408432  85
91318364 /Library/CoreMediaIO/Plug-Ins/DAL/AppleCamera.plugin/Contents/MacOS/App
leCamera
sh-3.2#
sh-3.2# lsof | grep "iSight"
com.apple 149          _coreaudiod  6r      REG          1,4    249664  85
90064640 /Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/HAL/iSightAudio.driver/Contents/MacOS/iSightAud
io
sh-3.2# lsof | grep "VDC"
sh-3.2#
```

It is a common problem on **Mac OS X** notebooks (**MacBook Air** , **MacBook Proc**) with builtin Video Camera to have issues with **Camera** in **Facetime**, **Skype** and other applications which use it.

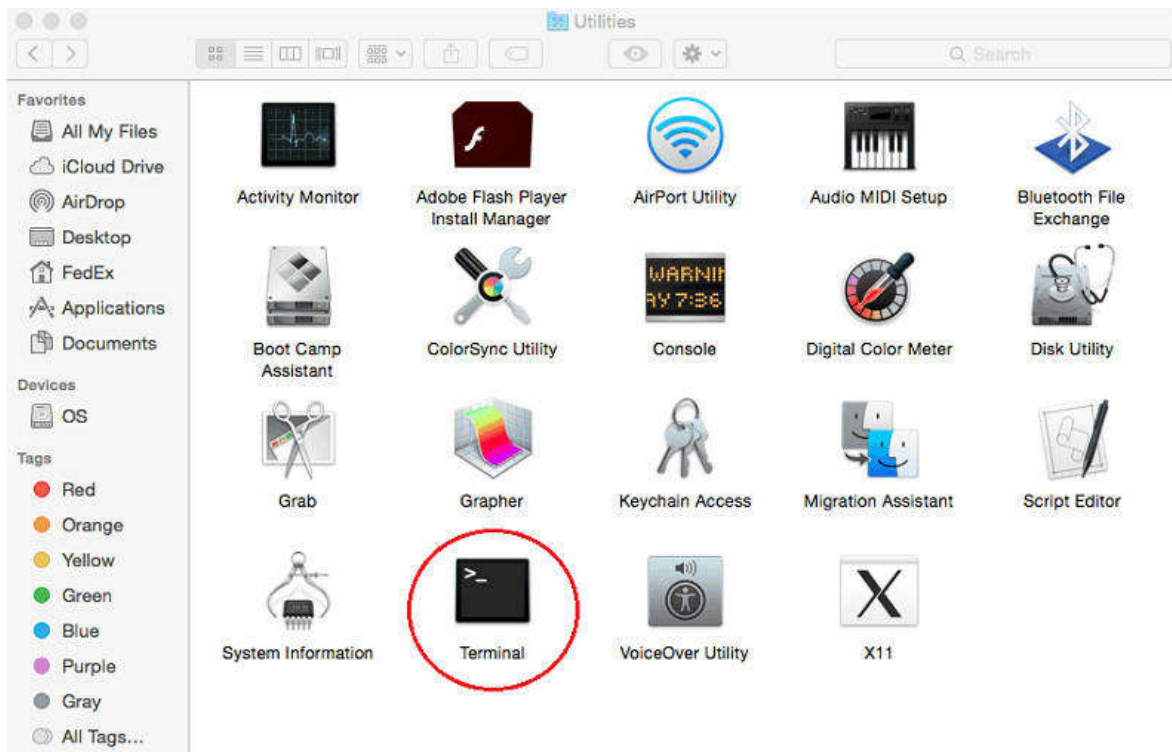
Considering that the Camera is physically working on the Mac (it did not burn etc.) and it stopped working suddenly (is not detected by Mac OS applications which support it), the most common cause for that is the fact that another application running on the system is using it.

With the spread of spyware and malware that can easily hit your computer by exploiting Javascript bugs in browser interpreter (**Firefox**, **Chrome**, **Chrome**) it is not impossible that your Mac PC got infected with a kind of WebCam spy software that keeps your Video Camera active all time.

Webcam spying is a real issue of today so to secure yourself partially you can place [Oversight App](#) to **get notifications when an application starts using Mac's Webcam or audio**.

Open Finder and run Terminal to check whether the Web Camera is used by some of the Mac running processes.

Applications -> Utilities -> Terminal



MacBook-Air:Volumes root# lsuf | grep "AppleCamera"

You should see one or more results. If you don't see any results, try running the following commands as well.

One of the below commands may be necessary if you're using an older version of macOS.

```
MacBook-Air:Volumes root# lsof | grep "iSight"
```

```
MacBook-Air:Volumes root# lsof | grep "VDC"
```

```
...
```

If VDCAssistant process shows running kill it.

```
MacBook-Air:Volumes root# killall -9 VDCAssistant
```

```
1. sh
sh-3.2# ps aux | grep -i VDC
root          723   0.0  0.0  4285160    900 s000  S+   12:02AM    0:00.01 g
rep -i VDC
sh-3.2# lsof | grep "AppleCamera"

systemsta 373          root  txt      REG          1,4    408432  85
91318364 /Library/CoreMediaIO/Plug-Ins/DAL/AppleCamera.plugin/Contents/MacOS/App
leCamera
AppleCame 375 _cmiodalassistants  txt      REG          1,4    1868960  85
91318366 /Library/CoreMediaIO/Plug-Ins/DAL/AppleCamera.plugin/Contents/Resources
/AppleCameraAssistant
avconfere 545          svetlana  txt      REG          1,4    408432  85
91318364 /Library/CoreMediaIO/Plug-Ins/DAL/AppleCamera.plugin/Contents/MacOS/App
leCamera
sh-3.2#
sh-3.2# lsof | grep "iSight"
com.apple 149          _coreaudiod  6r      REG          1,4    249664  85
90064640 /Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/HAL/iSightAudio.driver/Contents/MacOS/iSightAud
io
sh-3.2# lsof | grep "VDC"
sh-3.2#
```

You can also check whether the Mac Camera is being detected by Mac OS with `system_profiler` command (this is Mac's equivalent of Linux's `lspci` / `lsusb` / `lshw` / `dmidecode` for more on the topic you can check my previous article [Get hardware system info on Linux](#) etc.)

`/usr/sbin/system_profiler`

...

Type8Camera::12.781 system_profiler[1075:84585] Exception NSInvalidArgumentException

Version: 10,1

Obtained from: Apple

Last Modified: 13.12.2017, 9:34

Kind: Intel

64-Bit (Intel): Yes

Signed by: Software Signing, Apple Code Signing Certification Authority, Apple Root CA

Location: /System/Library/Image Capture/Devices/Type8Camera.app

Get Info String: 10.1, © Copyright 2002-2014 Apple Inc. All rights reserved.

Type5Camera:

Version: 10,1

Obtained from: Apple

Last Modified: 13.12.2017, 9:34

Kind: Intel

64-Bit (Intel): Yes

Signed by: Software Signing, Apple Code Signing Certification Authority, Apple Root CA

Location: /System/Library/Image Capture/Devices/Type5Camera.app

Get Info String: 10.1, © Copyright 2001-2014 Apple Inc. All rights reserve

Type4Camera:

Version: 10,1

Obtained from: Apple

Last Modified: 13.12.2017, 9:34

Kind: Intel

64-Bit (Intel): Yes

Signed by: Software Signing, Apple Code Signing Certification Authority, Apple Root CA

Location: /System/Library/Image Capture/Devices/Type4Camera.app

Get Info String: 10.1, © Copyright 2001-2014 Apple Inc. All rights reserved.

PTPCamera:

Version: 10,1

Obtained from: Apple

Last Modified: 13.12.2017, 9:34

Kind: Intel

64-Bit (Intel): Yes

Signed by: Software Signing, Apple Code Signing Certification Authority, Apple Root CA

...