

Using YouTube clips in iMovie



For this tutorial, you will need to have both QuickTime Pro and the free, open-source Perian (<http://perian.org>) plugin installed on your computer. Both of these are available in the Vitale Digital Media Lab.

YouTube movies are actually Flash video (.FLV) files. iMovie does not accept flash video files, so they need to be converted to a format it recognizes, such as .mov, .avi, or .mpg.

The basic steps are

- a) Download the FLV file from YouTube
- b) Convert the FLV file to a QuickTime file
- c) Import the QuickTime file into your iMovie project.

Detailed instructions:

1. Go to the YouTube page for the video you want to add to your iMovie project.
2. Copy the URL of that page. (example: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1AfkxHWxhs>)
3. Go to <http://keepvid.com/>
4. Paste the URL into the the box and click on the "download" button.
5. After a moment, a link labelled "Download Link" will appear beneath the box where you pasted the URL. Right-click on that and choose "Save link as" and save it to your desktop. This will take a while, depending on the length of the video you're downloading.
6. The movie will be saved as get_video or get_video.htm. Rename it to get_video.flv
7. Open Quicktime Pro. Go to File-->Open and choose the get_video.flv you just downloaded and renamed.
8. Play the video to make sure it's the clip you wanted.
9. Go to File-->Export
10. In the "Export" drop-down box, choose "Movie to QuickTime Movie" and in the "Use" dropdown box, choose "Default Settings". Click "Save." This will convert the FLV file you downloaded from YouTube into a QuickTime movie, recognizable by iMovie
11. Open your iMovie project, or start a new iMovie project.
12. Drag the QuickTime movie you just created into iMovie's clip bin. iMovie will import the movie as a new clip, and then you can use it the way you'd use any other clip in iMovie.