

If you've ever tried to show a YouTube video during class, you know that this site can be slow, to say the least. I've heard some people say they go to the classroom ahead of time and start the video downloading so that MAYBE it will be ready by the time you need it during class. But is there a way to actually download and save a YouTube (or other mp4) video to be able to view it at any time? Well, yes there is! And there are probably several ways to do it, but here's one that was shown me by another faculty member (Thanks, Dee!), so I thought I'd share it with you...

First of all, you will need to use a site that will convert and save the file to a "smaller" version. One popular type of file to use is an .flv file. Then you will need a player that will be able to play .flv files – you will need to download/install that player to your computer. (If you are going to show the video using a classroom workstation, you will have to make sure the computer has such a player. Or, you could use your own laptop.) The site/program that I use are www.keepvid.com and AnyFLV Player (available for download at www.any-flv-player.com/download.html)...both free!

Once you have the AnyFLV Player installed, it's very easy to use! Just go to YouTube and find the video you're wanting to show. (I recommend "beginning" the download on YouTube...just to make sure the video is still "out there.") Then go to www.keepvid.com and copy/paste the URL from YouTube into the box found on the KeepVid site. It will download (and save to your designated destination on your computer) the file while converting it to an .flv file. Then open your AnyFLV Player and just tell it to open the saved file. The difference in size/quality of the video may be obvious, but it's fine for most classroom uses.

As I said, I'm sure there are many other ways to do this, but this one works for me...

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