

Copying Yahoo Music Videos to an iPod Video for Free

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Overview:

This tutorial will walk you through step by step a method to copy music videos from Yahoo Music to your computer and then how to convert that video into a format that is readable by an Apple iPod Video. WARNING: This tutorial has your computer do some pretty resource heavy work, and a single video can take a about 15 minutes to copy and can temporarily take up over 2GB of storage.

Note:

It should be noted that I do not have access to an iPod Video so I don't know for sure that these videos will play on an iPod but from what I have read and other research I have done I have come to the conclusion that they should be playable.

Programs Used:

VLC Media Player (<http://www.videolan.org/vlc/>)

This program will be the main program we use during this tutorial. We will use it to download and convert the video into a format that will work with the iPod. In this case we went with the most recent version of VLC, v0.8.4a which can be directly download from here:
<http://downloads.videolan.org/pub/videolan/vlc/0.8.4a/win32/vlc-0.8.4a-win32.exe>

URL Snooper 2 (<http://www.donationcoder.com/Software/Mouser/urlsnooper/index.html>)

We will be using this program to get the URLs for our stream ripping, you may find other programs online to do the same, but this is the only one that I have found and had no trouble using. Every time you start it up you will get a little ad/request for a donation which you can just ignore. This can be downloaded from here:
<http://www.donationcoder.com/Software/Mouser/urlsnooper/downloads/URLSnooper.exe>

STOIK Video Converter 2 (<http://www.stoik.com/products/svc/index.html>)

This program we may need to use to convert the download video to raw video to take care of some DRM protection. Not all videos need to be converted to raw video before being converted for the iPod but lots of the newer music videos have been embedded with some sort of protection that VLC has trouble reading. I will cover this issue more later. This can be downloaded from here:
http://www.download.com/Stoik-Video-Converter-Pro/3000-2194_4-10438426.html?tag=lst-0-1

Step 1 (Get the URL of the Video Stream):

First you must go to Yahoo Music (<http://music.yahoo.com>) and login using a free Yahoo account, this gives you access to the highest quality streams they offer (700kbps). Next you will want to start up URL Snooper. Now find the video you want to copy. Click to view it, and if needed go through some configuration, and make sure to set the "Video Quality" to "700kbps", and start sniffing the network using URL Snooper by clicking "Sniff Network". Let the video of the song run for a little, or watch the whole thing. But after a while you can stop the sniffing by clicking "Stop Search" on URL Snooper. Now sort the results by "Protocol" by clicking the header of the "Protocol" column. Find the streams that have the "WindowsMedia mms stream" protocol. Take a look at them and find the one that doesn't have the word "ad" in it. The one with the word "ad" is the ad that you viewed before the video. Right click and "Copy Selected URL(s) to Clipboard" the stream that isn't the ad. Paste that in a document for safe keeping for now or just jump to the next step.

Step 2 (Download the Video):

Start up VLC player. Click "File" > "Open Network Stream". In the "HTTP/HTTPS/FTP/MMS" box paste that URL that you just copied. Now below check the "Stream output" box and click "Settings..." Under the "Output methods" check the check box next to "File" and the one on the other side saying "Dump raw input", click "Browse..." and find a place to store a file temporarily (ie Desktop) and make sure to save the file with a ".WMV" extension. Then click "OK" and "OK" again. Then let VLC do it's magic and download the stream. You will see the progress bar work it's way across, when it disappears again you know it's done downloading.

Step 3 (Convert the Video to Raw AVI):

Now you can try skipping this step and going right step 4 but if you have problems with the end result return to this step. Start up STOIK Video Converter 2. Select the file you just downloaded as the "Input file(s)", and again save the "Output file" to a easy to access destination (ie Desktop). And for the "Output format" use "Uncompressed AVI (preserve original content)". And set the "Split by size" to "Unlimited size". And click record below. Depending on your computer this maybe slow, so let it run. At the end you will have a large file (ie ~2GB) what is the raw AVI, which can next be converted to something smaller that the iPod will have no troubles reading.

Step 4 (Convert the Video to H264 iPod Readable Video):

Now that we have the raw video we can use many different encoders to convert the video to different formats. In this case we want to use VLC again. Start up VLC go to "File" > "Open File..." "Browse" and find the raw video. Now below check the "Stream output" box and click "Settings..." Under the "Output methods" check the check box next to "File" and "Browse" to a place to store the end result and make sure to save the file with a ".MOV" extension this time. Under "Encapsulation Method" select "MOV". Now under "Transcoding options" check "Video codec" and change it to "h264" and the "Bitrate" to "768kbps" or "1024kbps", and leave the "Scale". And for the "Audio codec" do the same setting it to "mp4a" with a "Bitrate" of "128kbps" and set the "Channels" to "2". Click "OK" and then "OK", and let it convert. This to make take some time, but in the end you will have the final product, and iPod playable video off of Yahoo Music.

What To Do Now:

Now you have a video that is readable by an iPod Video, all you have to do is import it into iTunes, and transfer it to your iPod and enjoy.

Conclusion:

I hope you found this tutorial helpful and I acknowledge that there are other ways to go about this process that gives quick/better/smaller results. If you find other programs that quicken the process or you find work better feel free to contact me. Keep checking back for updates to this tutorial. And don't forget this is not to be used for illegal activities.