



Advanced Online Media

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Streaming Video

Streaming Video resides on a special server that serves the video on request and plays directly from the server. It does not download to the user's computer. Most servers now support Progressive Download, which starts the video as it is downloading. Thus, the only real benefit of Streaming Video is that it makes it more difficult for users to acquire copies of the media.

We have access to a streaming server at <http://stream.its.txstate.edu/users/cr38>

I host the tutorial files for our class on this server. If you decide you need to use a streaming server to host files for the project, I can give you access.

This server only supports .mov and .mp3 formats. This works well for our usage of video on HTML pages. Users need to have Quicktime (or other app that can play mov's) on their computers to watch these videos.

Videos need to be hinted for streaming to work on this server. This can be done using Quicktime Pro's "Hinted Streaming" feature and making the movie "self-contained" in the Settings. You can also do this in the Expert Settings in iMovie.

Flash Video

For Flash, we encode video (that is originally mov) into the flv format. For flv files to stream, a special Flash Communications Server is required. But Progressive Download from a regular server is very effective for delivering Flash video.

You can encode video into the FLV format without even using Flash. Flash now comes with the Flash Video Encoder application. FLVs can reside on html pages without other Flash elements. It requires only the Flash Player for videos to play.

Streaming video is also most effective for hosting live events.