

# Enhanced HTML5 video players

## INTRODUCTION

There are numerous "enhanced" video players, most are free and open source, some are commercial. They offer lots of features, listed below. Some of these features are not available in every player, this list just illustrates what can be added to the standard<video> element.

We call them "HTML5 enhanced video players" because on top of being based on the<video> element, they come with custom features, custom look'n'feel, chapters, etc., based on a JavaScript API that makes such customizations possible.

[An explanation of what enhanced video players can do](#), by the creators of the popular JW Player.

## ACCESSIBLE PLAYERS

For those of you interested in this particular topic, here is a very good resource that compares most of the players presented in this section, in terms of accessibility. This resource has links to players designed especially for people with disabilities: [accessible media player resources and demos](#).

## ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF USING A CUSTOM PLAYER

### **Advantages of enhanced video players:**

- Flash or ActiveX/Silverlight fallbacks to make the player work in old versions of Internet Explorer
- Support for all kinds of subtitle formats
- Customizable look'n'feel (add your logo, custom themes, etc.)
- Full screen mode without borders

- Consistent look'n'feel across browsers (menus for subtitles, etc.)
- 1.5x, 2x, 3x speeds for fast playback
- Social buttons for sharing on Facebook, Twitter, etc.
- Support for chapters
- Support for scrub bar thumbnails
- Extra features for better accessibility
- And so on...

**Advantages of relying only on the <video> element rather than on an enhanced player:**

- Total control!
- No need for external dependencies
- Lightweight: no need to download lots of JavaScript and CSS code (also, Flash fallbacks in some cases)

**WHICH SHOULD I USE? THE <VIDEO> ELEMENT AND MY OWN CUSTOMIZATIONS OR AN OUT OF THE BOX ENHANCED PLAYER?**

Either solution (basic player or enhanced player) is good and HTML5 compliant.

Popular players such as the [Sublime video player](#) and [JW Player](#) have lots of explanations and examples on their Web sites, and are either free of charge or come with free versions. The PayPal team open sourced [an "accessible video player"](#) used on the PayPal Web site.

**You might find interesting comparisons and reviews available on the following Web sites:**

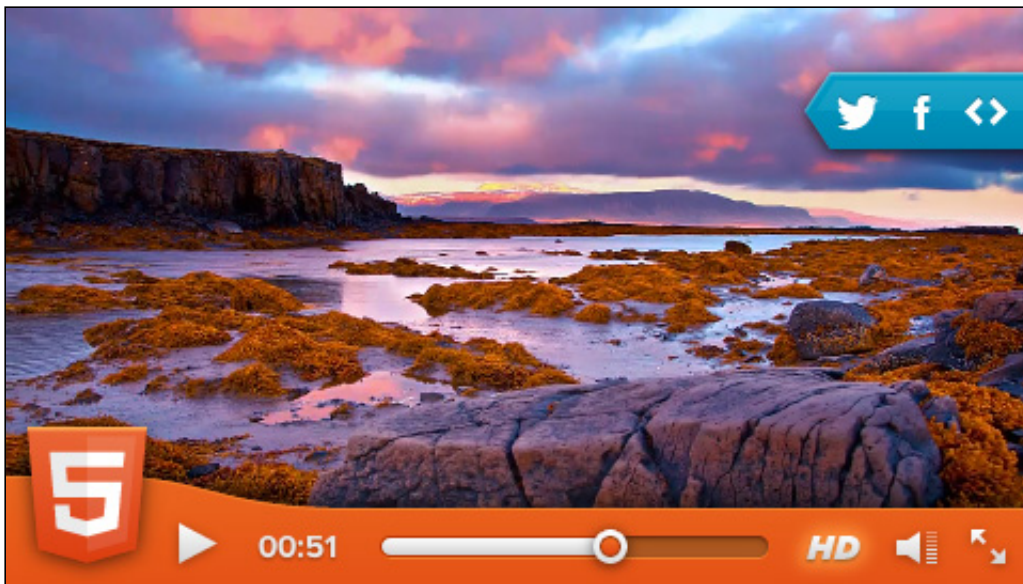
- [Comparison matrix of most of the existing video players](#)
- [10 recent players compared](#)

## EXAMPLE SCREENSHOTS

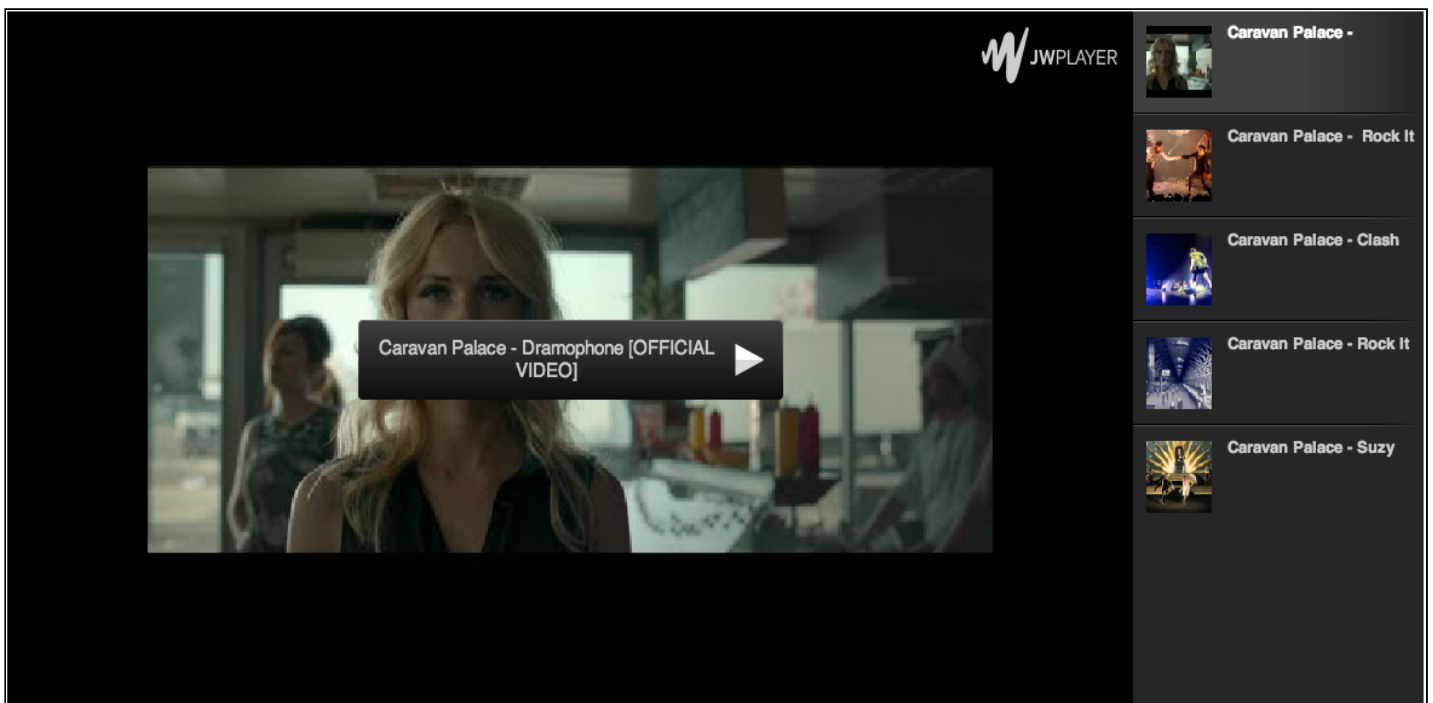
Scrub Bar thumbnails (JW Player)



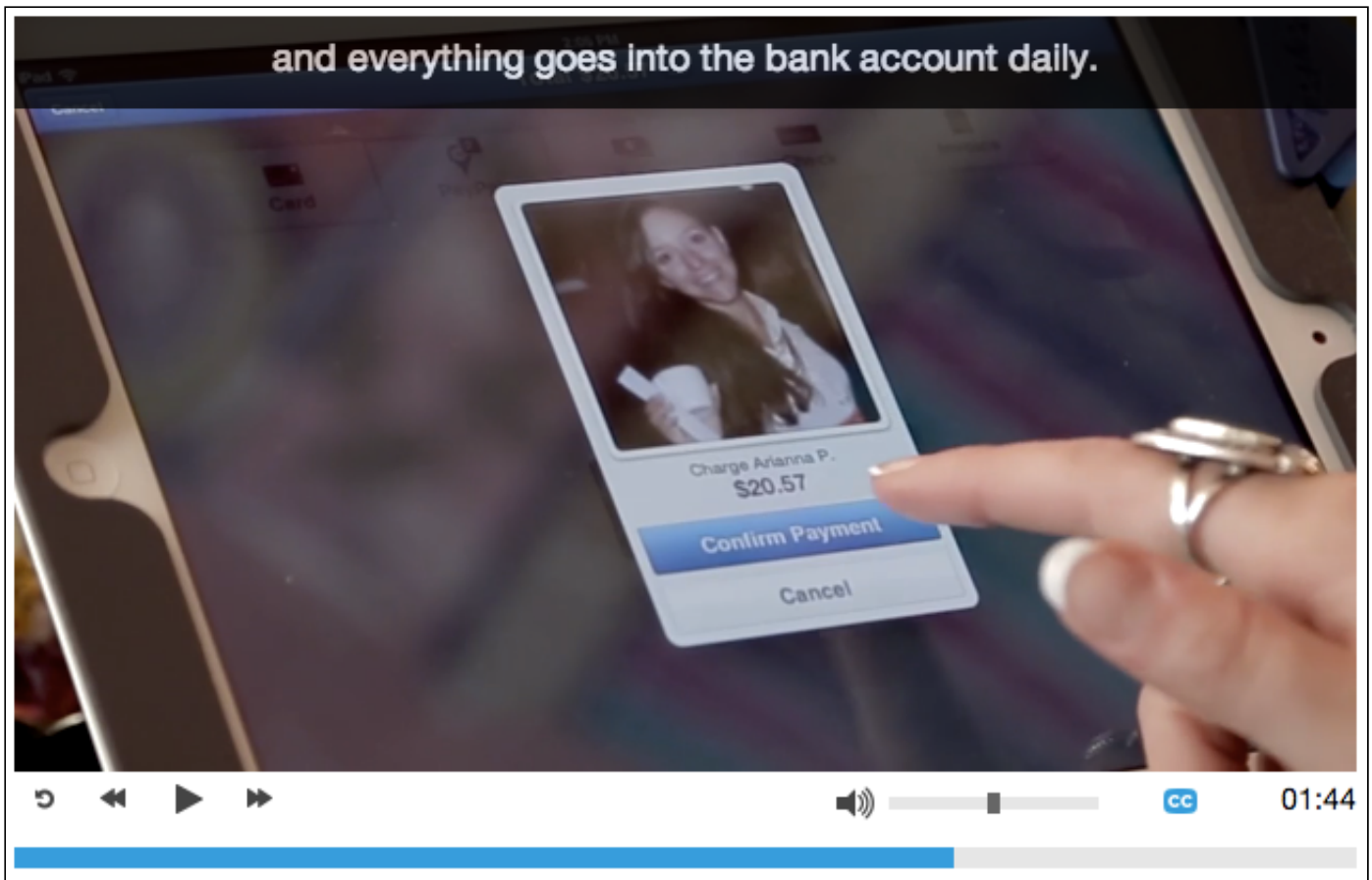
Custom look'n'feel and logo (Sublime video player):



Chapters and chapter thumbnails (JW Player):



PayPal accessible player:



LeanBack (100% free and open source):





Video-Sample: [Elephants Dream](#) © copyright 2006 Blender Foundation - Netherlands Media Art Institute

## LeanBack Player | HTML5 Media Player UI

LeanBack Player is a Javascript based HTML5 Media Player UI that uses build-in HTML5 <video> and <audio> element functionality of standard browsers, platforms and devices. It's very easy to integrate, it's skinnable by using CSS, it's independent of any other javascript libraries and it's adaptable by using extensions.

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Latest stable version: [0.8.0.89](#) - Languages: [en](#), [de](#), [nl](#), [es](#), [ru](#)

### Main HTML5 features of LeanBack Player

- ✓ Supports (multiple) HTML5 <video> and <audio> elements
- ✓ Supports subtitles through HTML5 <track> element
- ✓ Supports standard HTML5 media enabled browsers, platforms and devices
- ✓ Supports common HTML5 media formats and codecs

### Main features of LeanBack Player

- ✓ JavaScript library independent
- ✓ 100% skinnable by using CSS
- ✓ Extensions support to expand functionality

### Supported Desktop Browsers



### Supported (Mobile) Browsers and Platforms



### Supported HTML5 Video and Audio Codecs



**Build in Keyboard Shortcuts**