



VLC

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Last updated: Oct 4, 2024

VLC is "a free and open source cross-platform multimedia player and framework that plays most multimedia files as well as DVDs, Audio CDs, VCDs, and various streaming protocols" (from the [VLC website](#)).

You can use VLC to play videos with file formats that may not open in the standard Mac (QuickTime) or Windows (Windows Media Player) video players.

VLC can also be used to convert mkv files to smaller access copies.

- VLC conversion creates files with an **m4v** extension.
- It is typically smaller in size compared to the FFmpeg conversion output (mp4).
- m4v is an Apple file format that can be opened by QuickTime and (typically) by Windows Media Player.
- Conversion using VLC requires full playback time.

^ Installation

Go the [VLC website](#) and download.

- Follow the onscreen prompts to install.

No special configuration required.

^ Convert a video file with VLC

To convert a video file with VLC:

1. Open VLC
2. From the menu bar, select **File > Convert / Stream**; a new window appears.
3. Drag or select the source file (mkv) into the **Drop media here** section.
4. Select the conversion format in the **Choose profile** section.

Video – H.264 + MP3 (MP4)

5. In the **Choose destination** section, click the **Save file** button.

6. You will be prompted to select the output location and give a file name.

7. Click the **Save** button.

The playback time will appear in the progress bar along the button of the VLC main window (conversion requires full playback).

^ Links

VLC Official site:

- <https://www.videolan.org>