Create thumbnail

ffmpeg -itsoffset -4 -i test.avi -vcodec mjpeg -vframes 1 -an -f rawvideo -s 320x240 test.jpg

ffmpeg -itsoffset -4 -i test.avi -vcodec mjpeg -vframes 1 -an -f rawvideo -s 320x240 test.jpg

ffmpeg -itsoffset -8 -i test.avi -vcodec mjpeg -vframes 1 -an -f rawvideo -s 320x240 test.jpg

ffmpeg -itsoffset -12 -i test.avi -vcodec mjpeg -vframes 1 -an -f rawvideo -s 320x240 test.jpg

ffmpeg -itsoffset -16 -i test.avi -vcodec mjpeg -vframes 1 -an -f rawvideo -s 320x240 test.jpg

FFMPEG command line

Let's get to business. First you need a proper tool for generating thumbnails. [FFMPEG](http://ffmpeg.org/) comes to a rescue (again). Install it on your computer and open up the command line. Hit following command against your video file and you'll get a splash image from*the first frame* of the video.

ffmpeg -i **[**video\_file**]** -f image2 -vframes 1 **[**output\_image**]**.jpg

Here [video\_file] represents your video file and [output\_image] is the generated thumbnail image. You may want to grab the thumb from another position from the video or you want to adjust the size of the thumb. Here are the command line options that are especially important in thumbnail generation.

| option | description |
| --- | --- |
| i | path to the input video file. this can be in any format such as mov, avi, mpeg, flv ... |
| f | format of the outputted image. image2 is suitable here for outputting JPG |
| s | dimensions of the outputted video. for example 320x240 (width x height) |
| vframes | number of video frames to record. supply 1 here for generating only one image as most people want. ignoring this argument will result to a multiple thumbnails taken in sequence from the file. |
| ss | grabs the image from given position of th video (in seconds) |

**Example**

I took our promo video in it's original MOV format and issued a following command against it.

ffmpeg -ss 12 -i flowplayer.mov -f image2 -vframes 1 flowplayer-12.jpg

<http://flowplayer.org/plugins/index.html>