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Article

Exporting video to alternative formats

Convert an existing movie file to a different format.

Overview

To convert an existing movie file to a format that makes it compatible with other devices, you need to generate a new movie file based on the contents of the existing file. Though you can't change the format of the saved video, you can create a new file in the desired format by following the steps outlined in this article.

Tip

If your app can save a movie directly from video capture, it's more efficient to change the default format during capture by following the steps in [Recording movies in alternative formats](#).

Export a new video to the desired format

To export a video to a different format, begin with an [AVAsset](#) movie file and perform these steps:

1. Choose an export preset from the list of [Export presets](#).
2. Choose an export file type from the list of [AVFileType](#) presets.
3. Verify that [AVAssetExportSession](#) can convert the movie from the input format to the output format you want.
4. Create and configure an [AVAssetExportSession](#) instance, and then use it to perform the export.

The following example defines a method and then uses it to perform these steps:

```
func export(video: AVAsset,
            withPreset preset: String = AVAssetExportPresetHighestQuality,
            toFileType outputFileType: AVFileType = .mov,
            atURL outputURL: URL) async {

    // Check the compatibility of the preset to export the video to the output file
    guard await AVAssetExportSession.compatibility(ofExportPreset: preset,
                                                    with: video,
                                                    outputFileType: outputFileType) != nil
        else {
        print("The preset can't export the video to the output file type.")
        return
    }

    // Create and configure the export session.
    guard let exportSession = AVAssetExportSession(asset: video,
                                                    presetName: preset) else {
        print("Failed to create export session.")
        return
    }

    exportSession.outputFileType = outputFileType
    exportSession.outputURL = outputURL

    // Convert the video to the output file type and export it to the output URL.
    await exportSession.export()
}

let video = // Your source AVAsset video. //
let outputURL = // The destination URL for your exported video. //

// Use a preset that encodes to H.264 to convert a video to the .mov file type,
// and asynchronously perform the export.
Task {
    await export(video: video,
                withPreset: AVAssetExportPresetHighestQuality,
                toFileType: .mov,
                atURL: outputURL)
}
```

See Also

Media export

class `AVAssetExportSession`

An object that exports assets in a format that you specify using an export preset.