

Download Videos from Youtube Trick

🕒 January 12, 2012 👤 Kumar Bibek

First things first. Is it legal to download videos from Youtube?

As much I have understood from the [Terms of Service](#), it's not a straight yes or no. Basically, Youtube doesn't have a publicly available API or service that would allow users to download the videos. Of course, you can download back the videos that you had originally uploaded. But who would do that anyway?



However, there are workarounds and tricks with which you can actually download any video from the website. There are many softwares/add-ons that easily do this job. Here is a snapshot from the published "[Terms of Service](#)".

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From Youtube [Terms of Service](#)

It says, that you cannot exploit the content/content-owners by selling the videos or re-distributing it, thereby, making a profit against your sales. That's obviously illegal for any kind of content, unless of course, the license makes that content freely re-distributable. So, if you download the videos using those workarounds and tricks, only for your personal use (ex, offline viewing), you probably aren't breaking any rules. What about those add-ons/softwares that do this? Well, it's not illegal for them, since they are just distributing the software. So, they are off the hook.

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For personal use, it seems ok to download videos off from Youtube. So? let's see how hard or difficult it is to get this working. Actually, it's quite simple.

Step 1: You should have the **VIDEO ID** of the video that you want to download.

Step 2: You need to make a call to this api, to get the details for that video. The **fmt** parameter is for getting the specified format of the videos. See the “**Quality and Codecs**” section on [this page on Wikipedia](#).

“ URL => http://www.youtube.com/get_video_info?video_id=VIDEO_ID&fmt=6

Step 3: Process the response. You will get a plain string response. That response contains all the direct URLs to various formats of the video. Look for the key “**url_encoded_fmt_stream_map**” and the value for this key is what you need from this response. You will need to filter out all the URLs from here, and get hold of the URL to the format you want to download. Here are some sample URLs.

“ <http://o-o-preferred.bharti-bom1.v8.lscache7.c.youtube.com/videoplayback?sparams=id,expire,ip,ipbits,itag,source,ratebypass,cp&fexp=904510,914501,908302,902315,916201,905267&itag=45&ip=203.0.0.0&signature=095A9503E49931B0B849257048E73EB7388F515A.C13F40codecs=vp8.0,vorbis&itag=45>

“ <http://o-o-preferred.bharti-bom1.v11.lscache3.c.youtube.com/videoplayback?sparams=id,expire,ip,ipbits,itag,source,ratebypass,cp&fexp=904510,914501,908302,902315,916201,905267&itag=22&ip=203.0.0.0&signature=2C46F096073FDACEFD3B4895EDBC3CA1162682AD.3BCAcodecs=avc1.64001F,mp4a.40.2&itag=22>

If you notice the URLs, there is a type parameter, where you can determine which URL is for which format (**type=video/mp4**, **type=video/webm** etc).

Step 4: To finally be able to download the video, you need to strip off a few values from these URLs, just to make sure your calls don't fail due to long URLs. What I have noticed is that if you strip off (everything after the quality param) the last parts of the URLs, everything's just fine. So, the final URL would be something like:

“ <http://o-o-preferred.bharti-bom1.v11.lscache3.c.youtube.com/videoplayback?sparams=id,expire,ip,ipbits,itag,source,ratebypass,cp&fexp=904510,914501,908302,902315,916201,905267&itag=22&ip=203.0.0.0&signature=2C46F096073FDACEFD3B4895EDBC3CA1162682AD.3BCA>

Step 5: Save the file with the proper extension. That's it. You are done.

If you ask how I got to know about this trick? Well, everything's already out there on the web. A lot of people have already blogged about it before. But, I had to dig for it for almost 2 days. So, I hope someone finds it useful. So, if you want to make your own **Youtube Downloader**, now you know “How to Download Youtube Videos programmatically”.

Note: *This method might stop working as and when Google/Youtube blocks this loophole. In the past, Youtube has been known to block a few other workarounds that had existed.*

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11 thoughts on “Download Videos from Youtube Trick”



DeEpAK KaRtHiK (420)

- January 12, 2012 at 9:01 pm

there are some specific software 😊

[DeepaK](#)

[Reply](#)



Kumar Bibek

- January 13, 2012 at 1:03 am

Yes of-course. Just in case you need to make one of those. 😊

[Reply](#)



Matthew

- January 13, 2012 at 11:47 am

In linux you can just install 'youtube-dl' and pass it the URL, simple 😊

[Reply](#)



Anonymous

- May 15, 2012 at 1:15 pm

Well can I sale my downloader

[Reply](#)



Kumar Bibek

- May 15, 2012 at 2:03 pm

Read the fine print in the terms and conditions. I am not sure though. You could play the videos by streaming, but the terms say that you cannot save and cache them I guess.

[Reply](#)



kalai

- September 29, 2012 at 5:02 am

Sir i am looking for how to download youtube videos.

but i cant able to get proper solution for this case. When i read your blog i have an doubt. How to get this information (<http://o-o.preferred.bharti-bom1.v8.lscache7.c.youtube.com/videoplayback?>

sparams=id,expire,ip,ipbits,itag,source,ratebypass,cp&fexp=904510,914501,908302,902315,916201,905267&itag=45&ip=203.0.0.0&signature=095A9503E49931B0B849257048E73EB7388F515A.C13F4074ED92A82DF94BBD73E808E917369C224D&sver=3&ratebypass=yes&source=youtube&expire=1326412828&key=yt1&ipbits=8&cp=U0hRS1RMUF9HUKNOMV9MRIRJOjZ2TTNoOG9ialZD&id=c418f3a4b0f1b751&quality=hd720&fallback_host=tc.v8.cache7.c.youtube.com&type=video/webm; codecs="vp8.0, vorbis"&itag=45)from you tube link id..

Please help me sir...

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kalai

- September 29, 2012 at 5:03 am

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How to get this information from youtube vide link..Please help me....

[Reply](#)



limkokhole

- December 24, 2012 at 11:39 am

More than one &itag= would lead to 403 Forbidden, remove one of it and sometime have to replace with "MY SECRET" 😊

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Anonymous

- November 19, 2012 at 1:22 pm

It doesn't work mate! You can just paste those large links you've got here or the shortened one, in the address field and nothing happens! 😊

[Reply](#)



Alex

- April 23, 2013 at 9:07 am

hey,

Though downloading YouTube videos is not legal & it's not permitted by YouTube but If you and I were producers, we can allow YouTube downloading only if intended for fair use. Also you gonna find many youtube videos which is under creative common license and reuse is permitted. So you can download those kind of videos and also reuse it.

You can follow the above method for downloading videos or here is the [youtube downloader](#) which I

follow

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Anuj Dubey

- April 25, 2013 at 11:41 am

Mr. Alex,

I agree with you that youtube doesn't allow downloading their videos because they want their visitors to visit their website again and again, so that they can share their advertisers for displaying relevant ads on them. You recommended using DAP but it doesn't give you option to download videos in mp3. Here is the free [youtube to mp3 converter](#) which works perfectly.

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