

Viewing and Using American Memory Movie Clips

File Formats and Attributes

Movie Clips in American Memory are available for viewing in several different formats, including:

- MPEG (.mpg)
- QuickTime (.mov)
- QuickTime 3 (.mov)
- Real Media (.ram, .rm)

The attributes of each video file format will determine:

- File size
- Picture quality
- Download time
- Compatibility with PowerPoint or other applications, etc.

The attributes of each video file format are listed in the chart on the back of this sheet.

Media Players/ Viewers

Some video formats may require a specific brand of Viewer for playback. While the Windows Media Player comes included on any Windows computer, both the QuickTime media player and the RealPlayer are not readily available on Windows, and may need to be installed before you are able to see a movie clip in its proprietary format. These Viewers are free, however, and can be downloaded to your computer directly from the internet addresses provided below. Links to these Viewers are also available from the homepage of the American Memory site in the How to View section (<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amviewer.html>).

- **QuickTime media player** – <http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/>
- **RealPlayer** – Go to <http://www.real.com/player/index.html> and click on “[Free RealPlayer](#)” in the upper right-hand corner.

About Streaming

American Memory movie clips available in streaming formats are QuickTime 3 and Real Media. Streaming media formats require a live Internet connection for viewing. For this reason, these formats are not entirely reliable for use in presentations where Internet connections are questionable. When using streaming formats, the following two factors are important in determining the quality of playback:

- Speed of the Internet connection
- Amount of Internet traffic

The advantage of using streaming formats is that playback of streaming formats does not require first downloading a file to your computer. Therefore use of streaming media eliminates the wait time necessary for downloading files for playback and reserves your computer’s storage capacity.

Saving and Using American Memory Movie Clips

First THINK about how you want to use the object you intend to download. You may need to save the file in a different way depending on the software into which you are putting the object. Different software programs may only allow you to insert (or import) certain types of files (and this may vary depending on which version of the software you are working with). Look in the documentation of the program in which you want the object to ultimately reside to determine the type(s) of files you need to have (Quinn).

For example, PowerPoint most easily accepts MPEG movies. Although you cannot Insert REAL (.ram, or .rm) or QuickTime movies (.mov) into PowerPoint, you can hyperlink to either of these formats from within PowerPoint to make the movie open into a new window. Be mindful, however, that REAL movies require an Internet connection for playback.

To **SAVE AND NAME A MOVIE CLIP** from the internet, simply right-click on the link to the clip you would like to save, and then left-click on **Save Target As**. A dialogue box will appear that you will use to browse to the location where you would like to save your movie clip.

MOVIE CLIPS									
Format	File Extension	Viewer Required	File Size/ Quality	Streaming	Windows System Requirements	Pixel Size Width/Height	Frames per Second	Bytes per Second	Bytes per Minute
MPEG (Moving Picture Expert Group)	.mpg	Standard Windows Media Player, QuickTime media player, or RealPlayer.	very large/highest	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pentium 90 or better (PC) • enough hard disk space to download the video file • PCI or AGP graphics card • .mpg playback software 	320 x 240	30 fps	150 KB	9 MB
QuickTime (Cinepak codec, QuickTime Movie)	.mov	QuickTime media player	small-medium/good	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 386/20Mhz • enough hard disk space to download the video file • A local bus (PCI recommended) graphics card with a minimum of 32,000 (15 bit) color support at 640 x 480 screen resolution and video acceleration capability 	160 x 120	10-15 fps	80-100 KB	5 MB
QuickTime 3 (Sorenson codec, QuickTime Movie)	.mov	QuickTime media player	small-medium/high	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Internet connection approaching a T1 line. • At least a Pentium 90 MHz 	320 x 240	15 fps	100 KB	6 MB
Real Media	.ram, .rm	RealPlayer	small-medium/okay	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 28.8 modem connection to the Internet, 486/66 computer using RealMedia 5.0, or a Pentium 120 using RealMedia G2. 	160 x 120	3-6 fps	2.5 KB	150 KB

American Memory. "Video Viewer- Additional Playback Information." How to View. 2004. Library of Congress. 17 February 2004. <<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/videomore.html>>

Quinn, Susan. "Capturing Multimedia Objects (Pictures, Movies, Sounds, etc) from the World Wide Web." University of South Carolina, Columbia: Susan Quinn, Fall 1998. p. 3