

How To Post Mobile Videos On The Web

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Some of the latest mobile devices, such as Nokia N70 and N90, are capable of recording Internet standard MP4 videos. The quality is “similar to VHS,” as they say in advertising. In practice this means it is quite bearable. Having shot your once-in-a-lifetime masterpiece with your device, you might want to put in on the Web for everyone to admire. This task is quite straightforward but there are some things you need to check to get it working.

The Steps to Success

1. Upload your video to a Web server

Use the tools given by your Internet service provider (ISP); for example, FTP or a Web upload form.

2. Check that your Web server supports MP4 videos

Type the URL of the video to a Web browser, and try it out (for example, www.mygreatsite.com/mobile/coolvideo.mp4). If you get a screen full of weird characters, or the browser offers to save the file with an `.html` or `.htm` file extension, your Web server is not configured for MP4 videos. You need to contact your ISP, and tell them the following:

“I am putting an MP4 video on my Web site, but your Web server doesn’t support this file type. Could you make sure files with an `.mp4` extension are mapped to MIME type `video/mp4`.”

Don’t worry if you don’t understand the above — you don’t need to, but your ISP should. If they don’t, consider changing ISPs.

3. Check that your computer supports MP4 videos

Try to download your video by using the same link as in step 2. If your browser gives you the choice to open or save the file, choose Open. Now you should see your video playing either in the browser window or in a player application.

If you only get a dialog asking where to save the file, and it says something like ‘Unknown file type,’ your system doesn’t yet support MP4 videos. You will have to download and install an MP4 player. On Microsoft Windows, a good choice is Apple Quicktime, which also handles more advanced MP4 videos appearing in mobile devices in the near future (see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/H.264/MPEG-4_AVC). Make sure to download it from <http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/standalone.html> if you don’t want Apple’s iTunes software smuggled in at the same time. Another choice is Nokia PC Suite (<http://www.nokia.com/pcsuite>), which includes a player for MP4 videos as well as other useful tools for Nokia devices.

4. Link the video file to your Web page

Use your favorite Web authoring tool, or if doing it the manual way, just use the normal `<A HREF>` tag, for example:

```
<A HREF="coolvideo.mp4">Link to my cool video</A>
```

It might also be a good idea to write the size of the file to the page, so that people who may download the file have an idea of how big your video is. For mobile Web users this is especially important, since they may pay “by the bit.”

5. Try it out

Browse to your page with the video link, and give it a go. You should see your video playing. If you have a device with Internet browser and MP4 support (most likely you have since you are reading this), you can try to browse the page with that too.

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