

ARGH! Why is Youtube™ blocked?

by Ray Venables

Teachers often find it frustrating when their school boards block Youtube™. Although there are many good reasons to block Youtube™, the site has many valuable resources that educators like to access for pedagogical reasons.

Don't panic.

Although Youtube™ may be blocked, there are ways around the security measures that are probably intended to protect students rather than restrict teachers.

(Shhhhh! Don't share this information with your students! If the secret gets out, then there may be a tighter crackdown on the sites that are blocked.)

Method #1: Use a proxy

What's a proxy? Well, "proxy" means to act in place of another and, until recently, was a word almost exclusively used in law. But here's the basic idea: if your computer has been blocked from accessing Youtube™, then you need to change computers!

But wait! Using another computer in your school will not solve your problem. You see, computers have addresses, called I.P. addresses, much like a building has a street address. Unfortunately it isn't just your school computer that is blocked, it's all the computers in your school. Oh, and if you're thinking of bringing a computer into the building from home then forget it. Any computer using the Internet connection in your school will also be blocked.

I know. I know. I said that you had to change computers. Kinda. You need to use a computer outside your school, then. But the best thing is this: you don't even have to leave your building! The "blocked" computer can access a remote computer, called a proxy, and it will forward the website to you!

Now you're reading this and wondering, how do I do it?

1. Go to www.google.ca and type "internet proxy."



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2. Trial and error is the best practice at this point. Remember, as soon as a proxy site has been abused, it too will be blocked. For this example, I am using <http://Youtube™proxy.org/>
3. The Youtube™ video that I want to access is the “Dallas ISD Opening Speech.” On Youtube™, I copy the address of the video <http://www.YouTube™.com/watch?v=GjwjZe8u0-E> and paste it into the proxy site.



4. That's it! In this example, the site took an unusually long time before I could access my video on Youtube™. For that reason, I would begin again at step 1 and retry this procedure with another proxy. After you've done this a few times, you should bookmark your favourite proxy sites for future reference.

Method #2: Download the video

I saved the best for last! You can download the video from home and bring it to school, of course. But here's a little known secret: although watching a Youtube™ video is blocked, downloading the same video isn't!

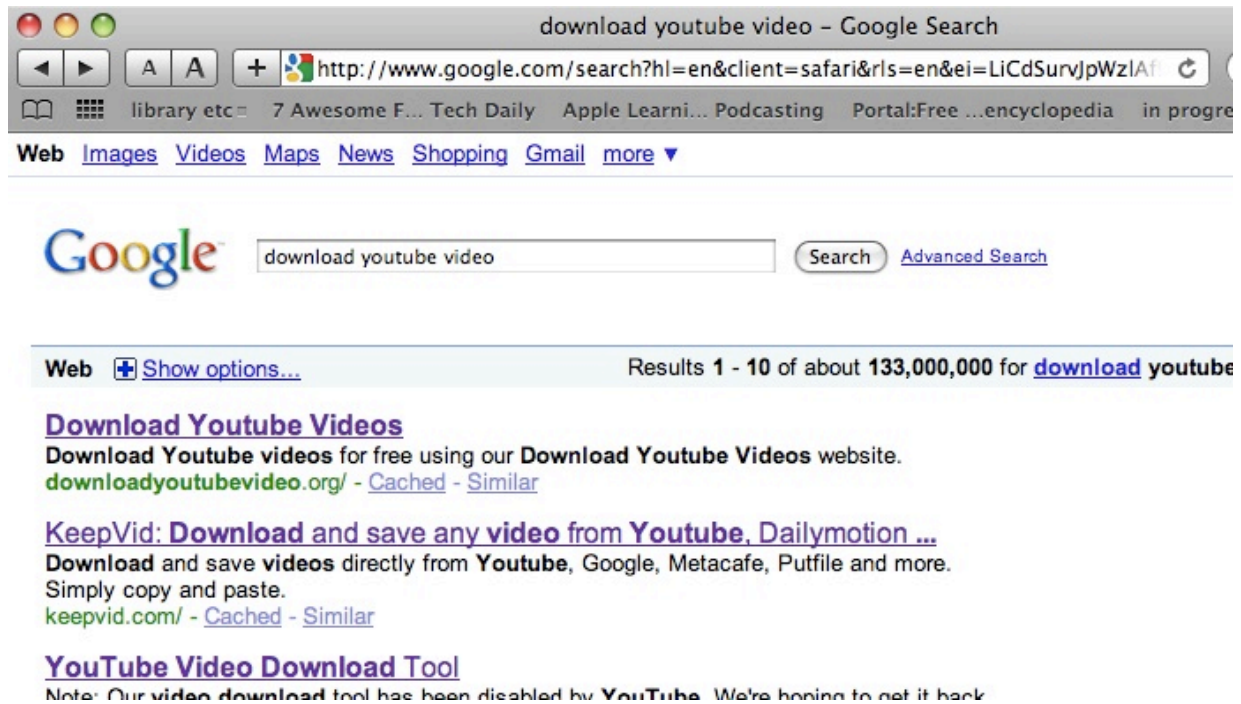
There are many ways of downloading videos from the Internet:

- You can install a plug-in. This is a small add-on program to your browser (e.g. Safari, Firefox, Internet Explorer) and when you click on the button, the video will download.
- If you have Safari (for Mac or Windows), all you have to do is launch the browser and go to Window > Activity. From there, find the very LARGE file (usually MB in size, rather than KB) and double-click on the filename. Your download will begin.
- Again, you can search Google for a website that will download the video for you. Here's how I did it:

1. I searched for “download Youtube™ video.”

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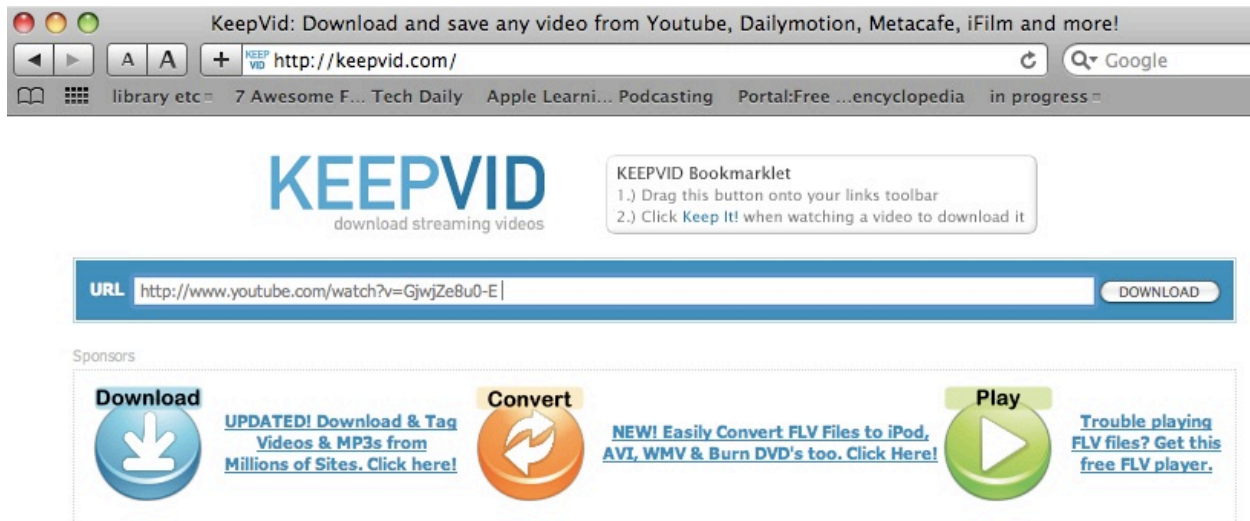
A screenshot of a Safari browser window showing a Google search for "download youtube video". The search results page displays several links, including "Download Youtube Videos", "KeepVid: Download and save any video from Youtube, Dailymotion ...", and "YouTube Video Download Tool".

Download Youtube Videos
Download Youtube videos for free using our Download Youtube Videos website.
downloadyoutubevideo.org/ - [Cached](#) - [Similar](#)

KeepVid: Download and save any video from Youtube, Dailymotion ...
Download and save videos directly from Youtube, Google, Metacafe, Putfile and more.
Simply copy and paste.
keepvid.com/ - [Cached](#) - [Similar](#)

YouTube Video Download Tool
Note: Our video download tool has been disabled by YouTube. We're hoping to get it back.

2. I wen to <http://keepvid.com/>
3. I copied and pasted the address of the video that I wanted to download on the "Dallas ISD Opening Speech" from Youtube™.



A screenshot of the KeepVid website. The page features the KeepVid logo, a "KEEPVID Bookmarklet" section with instructions, a "URL" input field containing a YouTube video link, and a "DOWNLOAD" button. Below the input field, there are three sponsored links: "Download" (UPDATED! Download & Tag Videos & MP3s from Millions of Sites. Click here!), "Convert" (NEW! Easily Convert FLV Files to iPod, AVI, WMV & Burn DVD's too. Click Here!), and "Play" (Trouble playing FLV files? Get this free FLV player.).

4. The next screen gave me the choice of .flv or .mp4 file. Choose the .mp4 file if you're not sure (you may need to right-click the file and choose 'Save Link As..' and rename the file to **video.mp4**). If you download the .flv file, be sure that you have a program that can read flash (e.g. VLC player).

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KeepVid: Download and save any video from Youtube, Dailymotion, Metacafe, iFilm and m

KEEPVID
download streaming videos

KEEPVID Bookmarklet
1.) Drag this button onto your links toolbar
2.) Click **Keep It!** when watching a video to download it

URL Enter URL of video page here - example: <http://youtube.com/watch?v=3V5a8mDTW6k>

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Download links

Links found on <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GiwizE8u0-E>
Report any problems to: keepvid.com@gmail.com

>> [Download <<](#) (video.flv - Low Quality 320x240)
Right-click download link, choose 'Save Link As...', and rename file to **video.flv**

>> [Download <<](#) (video.mp4 - High Quality 480x360)
Right-click download link, choose 'Save Link As...', and rename file to **video.mp4**

5. Now you can watch your video. Better yet, you can watch the video without and internet connection since it's on your computer's hard drive.

These methods of circumventing your the security measures in your school are meant for teachers only and for pedagogical reasons. I hope that this brief lesson on hacking will help you to enrich your classrooms with multimedia presentations and enhance your lessons. Youtube™