

Using Zamzar for Converting Online Videos (YouTube, Google Video, TeacherTube) for Staff/Student use in the Classroom!

Contrary to popular belief, there are some very sound educational videos to be found on the web. Because of their popularity these sites, if left unblocked would bog down our internet pipeline to a slow crawl. Therefore when trying to access some of these sites staff/students are directed to the “Access Blocked” page by ISD11.

There is a neat web site that can help staff convert these videos (from home) to a usable format or allow the Technology Teacher who has been given rights (less filtered rights) to do so from within his/her building.

Hints:

I have found using Safari on the OSX Mac more successful than FireFox.

I have found using FireFox on the PC successful. I have not used any other browser at this time.

Let's get started.

1. Go to www.zamzar.com/.



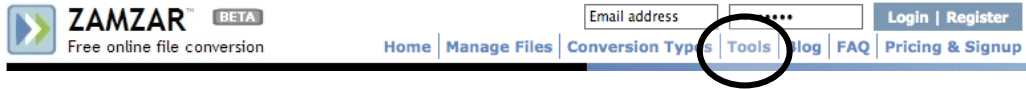
2. You will discover that Zamzar not only converts video files, but it will also convert many other files such as PDF to Word .doc as shown below.

Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4
Select files or URL to convert (up to 100MB in size):	Choose the format to convert to:	Enter your email address to receive converted files:	Convert (by clicking you agree to our Terms of Service)
<input type="button" value="Choose File"/> no file selected	<input type="text" value="Convert file(s) to:"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="Convert"/>

You simply select (navigate to its location) the File to be converted, choose the format you want to convert it to, enter your email address for notification, and click “Convert”. There will be a short wait for the file location be sent to your email address. Pretty slick way to convert PDF's to another format that you can actually make changes to.

Let's continue with the video conversions.

3. In order to use Zamzar, you will need to get the correct tool or browser button. At the Zamzar Homepage look for the **Tools** menu at the top and click on it.



4. Adding the Zamzar “Convert It” button onto your browser for quick access is an essential step.

Simply drag the “Convert It!” button to your browser toolbar. Now you are ready to do some video clip conversions.

Tools

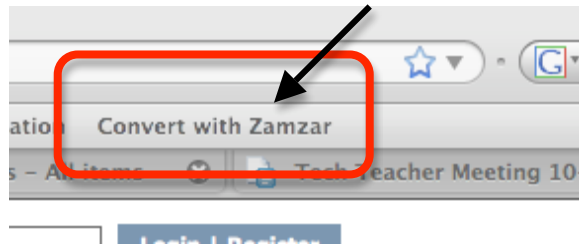
We've put together some tools to make converting files with Zamzar even easier. Check them out below:

Zamzar web browser button

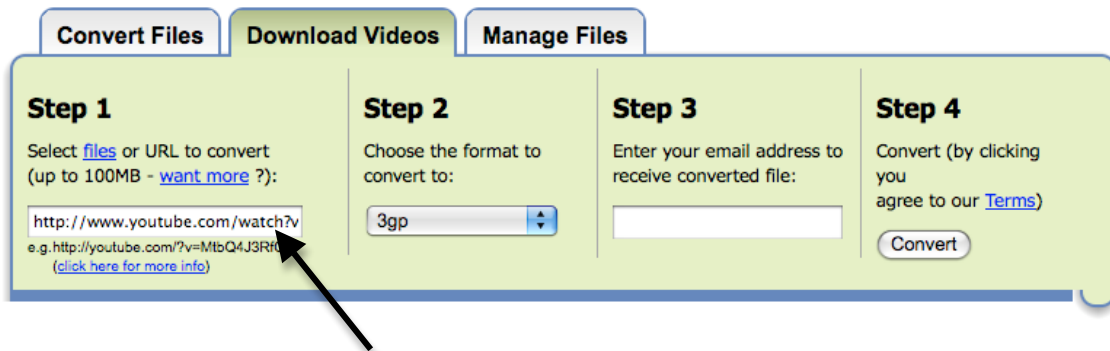
- What is it ?**
The Zamzar web browser button is a link you can add to your web browser's "Bookmarks Toolbar". You can use it to convert files from all your favourite websites at the click of a button.
- How do I get it ?**
 1. Make sure your "Bookmarks Bar" is visible by choosing "Show Bookmarks Bar" under the "View" menu of your Safari browser.
 2. Simply drag the button below onto your "Bookmarks Bar"
- How do I use it ?**
If you are on a video sharing website such as YouTube or Google Video you can click the Zamzar button to convert and save the video you are watching ([click here](#) for a full list of supported video sites).
On any other website if you click the button Zamzar will auto-detect if any of the files on the page can be converted and highlight them on that page for you - you can then click a button to convert them. See a video of the button in action [here](#).

4. I logged on (less filtered access) to youtube and selected a short video clip from the Reading Rainbow TV series.

5. If I am interested in capturing and converting this video clip, all I need to do is to go to my Browser Toolbar and click on the “Convert with Zamzar” button.



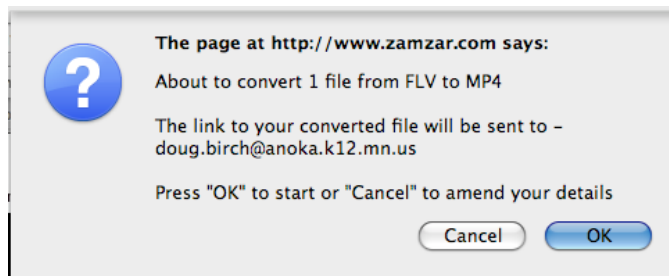
6. You are now given an incredible amount of video conversion file choices. The **mov** format works great. Experiment on using different types of formats to see what is most successful for you and your platform. Sometimes if a video will not play, I have changed the extension to make it work.



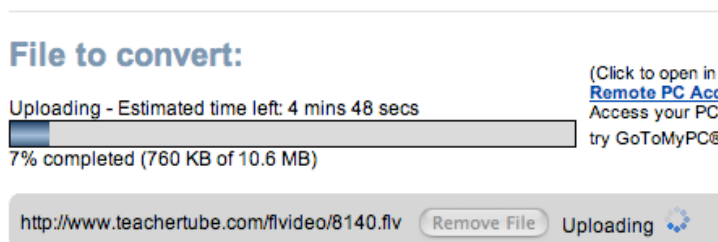
The file/video you choose to convert is listed here. Step 1 is done for you.

Select your file type in Step 2. Type your email address in Step 3. Finally click “Convert” in Step 4.

You will be asked to verify the format you choose and the email address that you want the converted video link will be sent to. Click OK

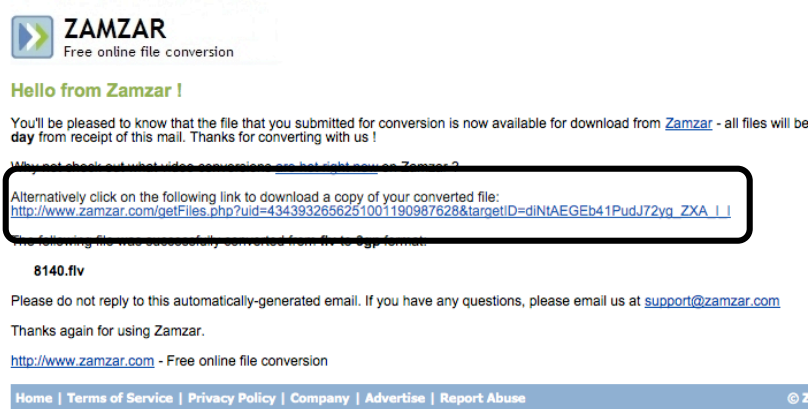
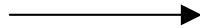


The video will need time to be uploaded to the Zamzar site. Time will vary according to the length of the video and your connection speed.

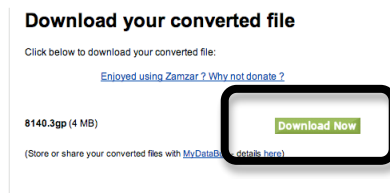


7. You will receive an email notification letting you know that the conversion has been successful. Amazingly this takes a relatively short time. Here is an example of the email notice.

Click the active link to be directed to the download site at Zamzar.



Click the “Download Now” link on the Zamzar Page and choose the location on your computer where you would like the converted video file.



Email (if not too large) to the teacher, or better yet place it in their user folder, or burn it to a disk for them. Enjoy!

D. Birch 506-6067 or doug.birch@anoka.k12.mn.us with any questions.