

## How to Add a Transparent Flash FLV movie to your Web Page

Tutorial by R. Berdan Oct 16 2008

To do this tutorial you will need Flash 8 or higher, Dreamweaver 8 or higher.

You will also need some movie clips that have transparent backgrounds – this is usually done by filming in front of a green screen and using a program like After Effects to erase the background. There are many other tutorials on how to do this e.g.

<http://www.pjenkins.co.uk/blog/index.php/2006/09/22/transparent-flash-video-for-a-website/>

Making Flash movies transparent:

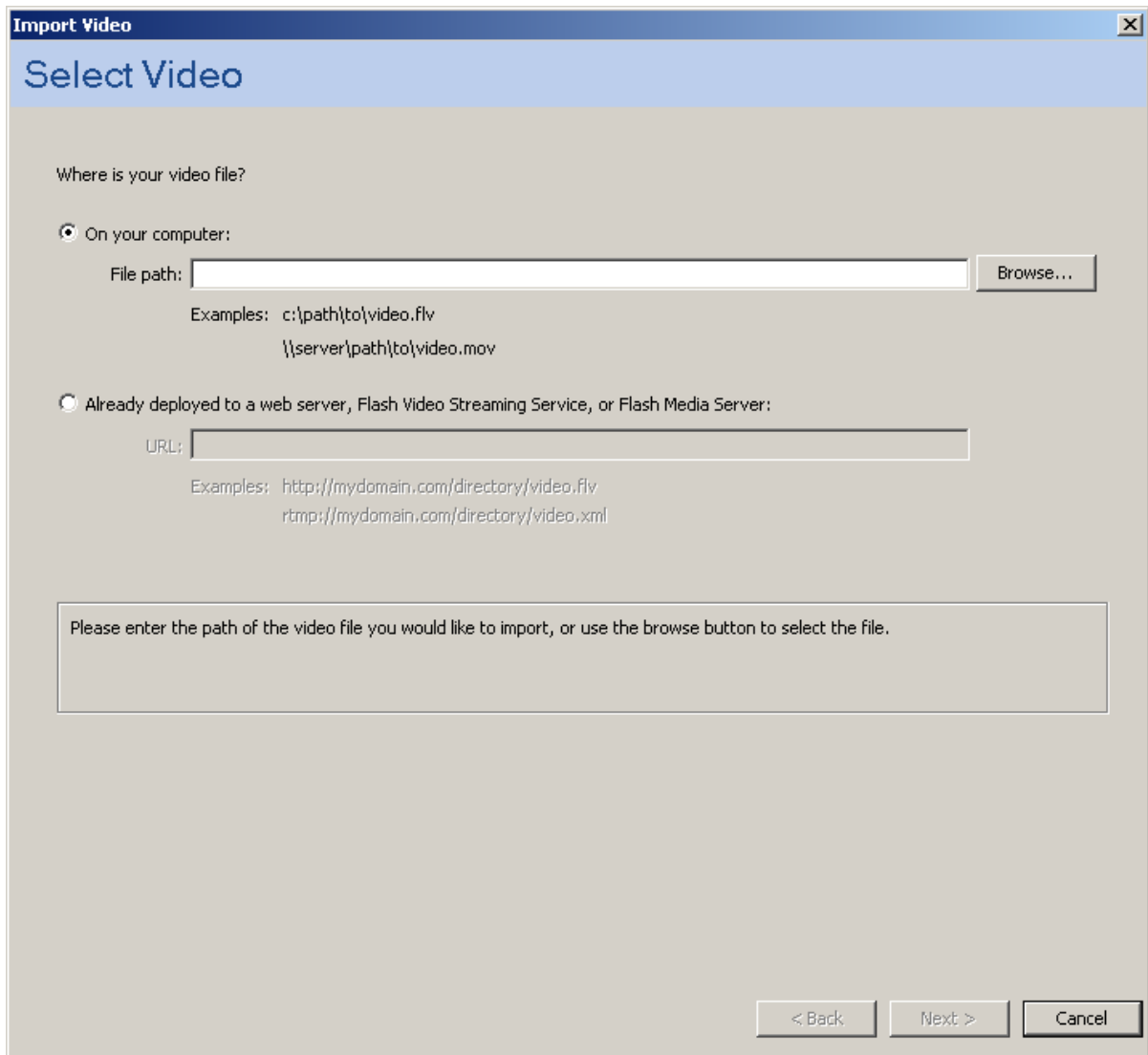
<http://www.kirupa.com/developer/mx/transparency.htm>

or you can pay someone to show you how to do this at this web site:

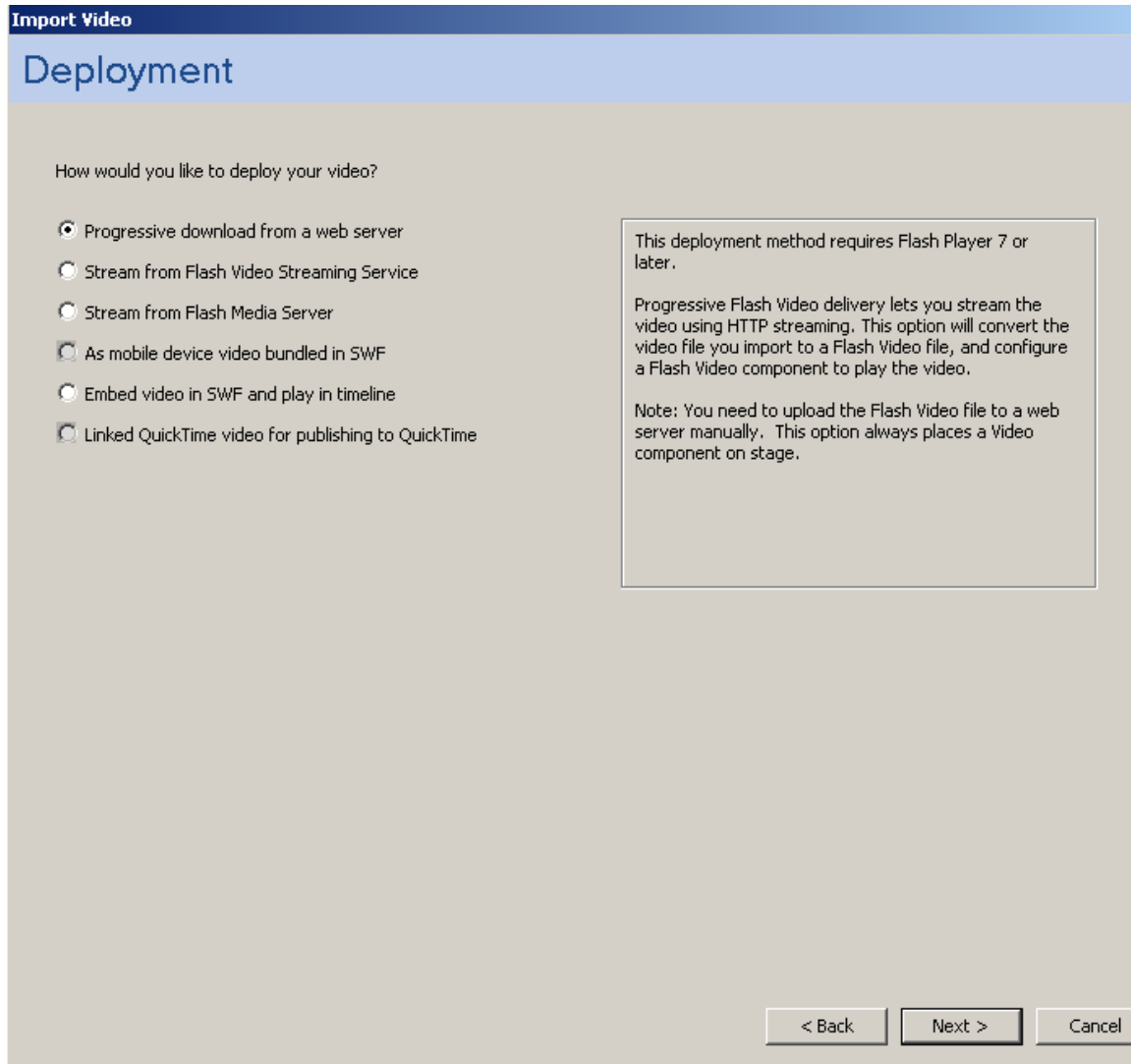
<http://www.totalwebvideo.com/>

This tutorial describes how to insert a FLV movie with a transparent background so floats on top of the web page, has controls to play, stop and turn off sound – and how to add hyperlinks so you can make the movie clip disappear (Hide) and reappear (Show.).

1. You need a movie that has a transparent background it can be .mov .wmv or .avi file (you can use the example news.mov) file.
2. Start Flash - if you know the dimension of the movie clip Select Modify>Document and make the background the same size as your movie – if you don't know – no problem we can resize after you import the movie clip.
3. In Flash Select >File>Import>Import movie clip - you will see the Movie Import box
4. Place your cursor in the File path field and select browse to find and select your movie clip.

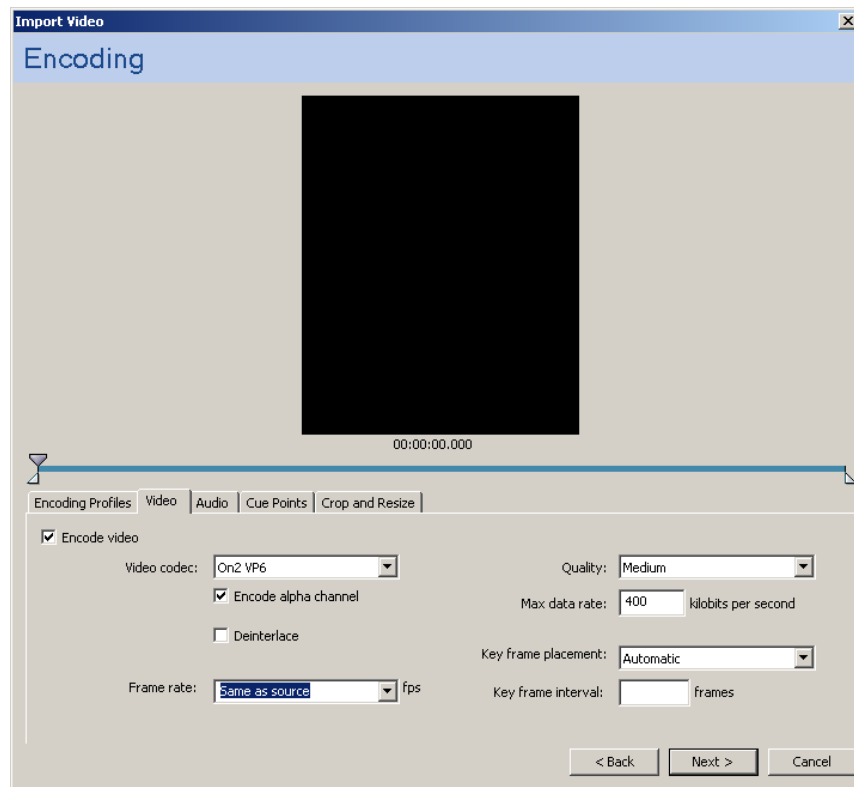
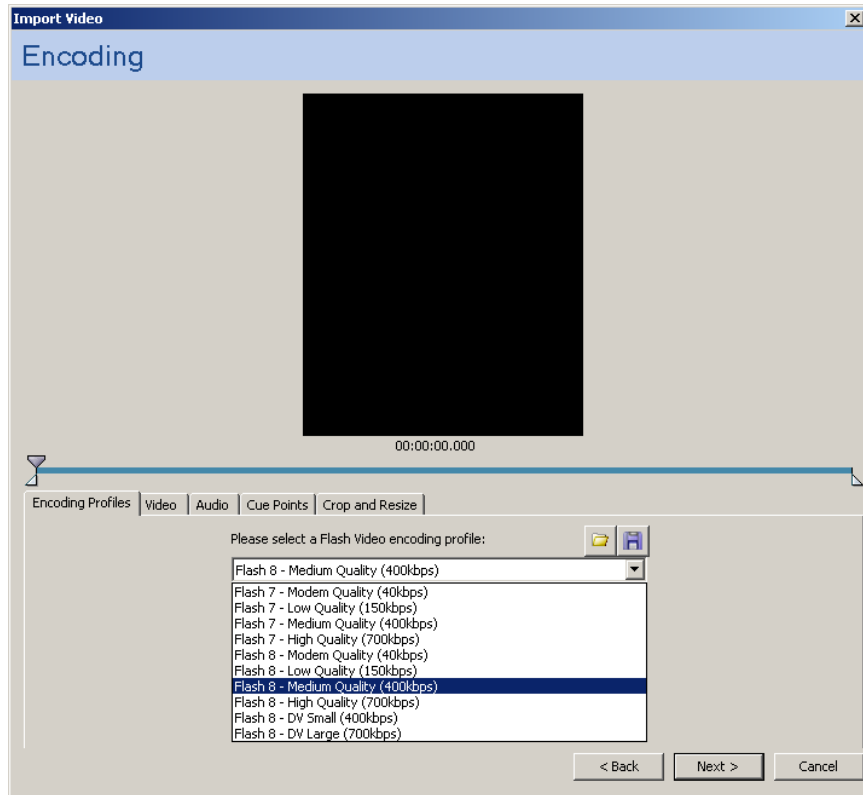


5. Select Next in the next window – select the radio button Progressive – which means the movie will download and play from your server. The other options are for specialized purposes. The Embed video in a shockwave file should only be use for very short clips 10 seconds or less – this feature embeds the movie into flash. Progressive only uses the final flash movie (i.e. file.swf) as a container to stream the movie into and it allows you to add custom controls or skins.



6. After selecting next – you will come to the Encoding window where you can select various features.

First from the drop down menu select the Flash version and quality – to start select: Flash 8 Medium Quality 400kbs then select the next tab called Video.

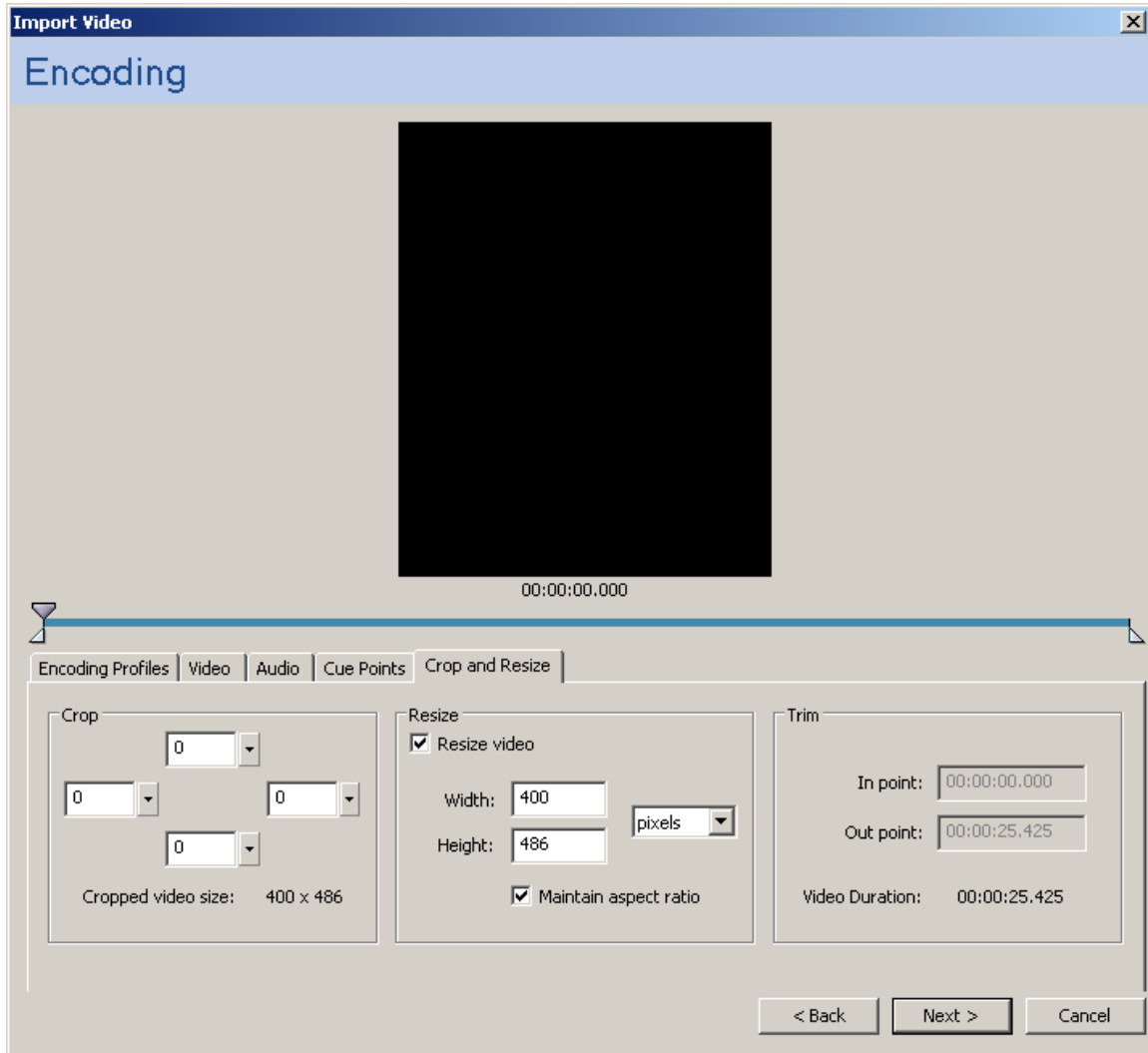


7. From the Video tab select Video codec On2VP6 and check the box Encode alpha channel. If you are using interlaced video you have the option of also

select Deinterlace. Leave the Frame rate as – Same as source, Select Quality> Medium, Max Data rate: 400 Kilobits per second and Keyframe placement – Automatic. Leave the Key frame interval – blank.

8. Select Audio Tab – encode audio should be selected, you can also select a Data rate. For talking videos – 96 Kbs is fine.

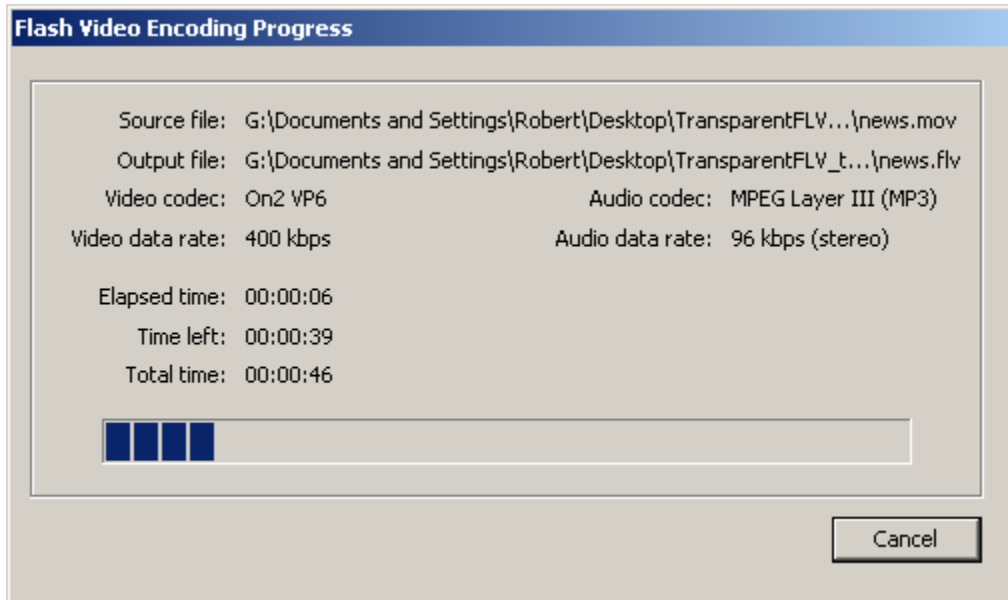
9. Skip to cue points – don't make any changes here, then select Crop and Resize.



You can use this window to resize your movie clip or change its proportions. Generally you want to keep the aspect ratio. Sometimes its necessary to enter the values particularly with HD video so the proportions are not modified into standard TV 4:3 aspect ration. Often you can just leave this as it is. Select Next.

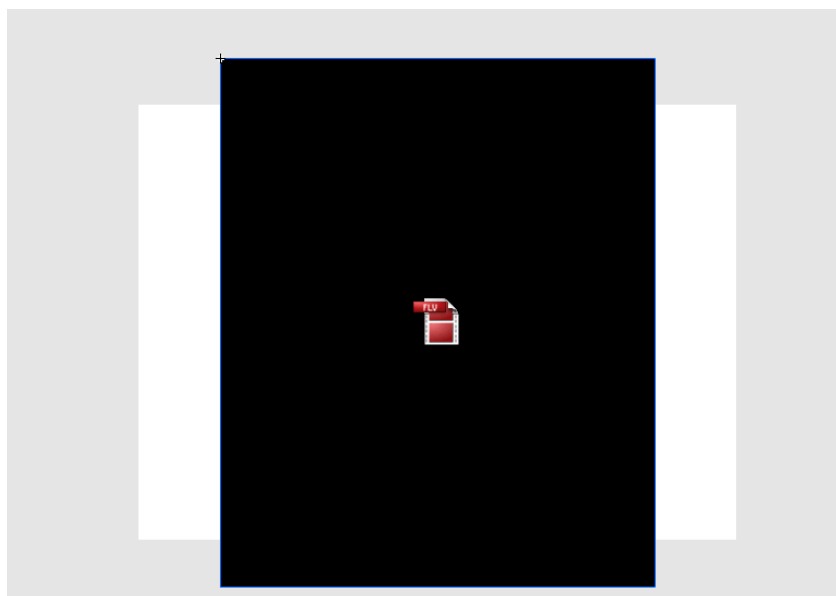
10. Select the skin – i.e. the appearance of the overlay controls start, stop buttons etc and you can select the color. For transparent video – select none – we will add a simple skin using Dreamweaver instead.

11. The last screen will ask you to finish and save the file with a filename e.g. news.flv



The movie clip will then be encoded into an FLV file – the amount of time that it takes depends on how big the movie file is and how fast your computer is. Usually this takes a few minutes.

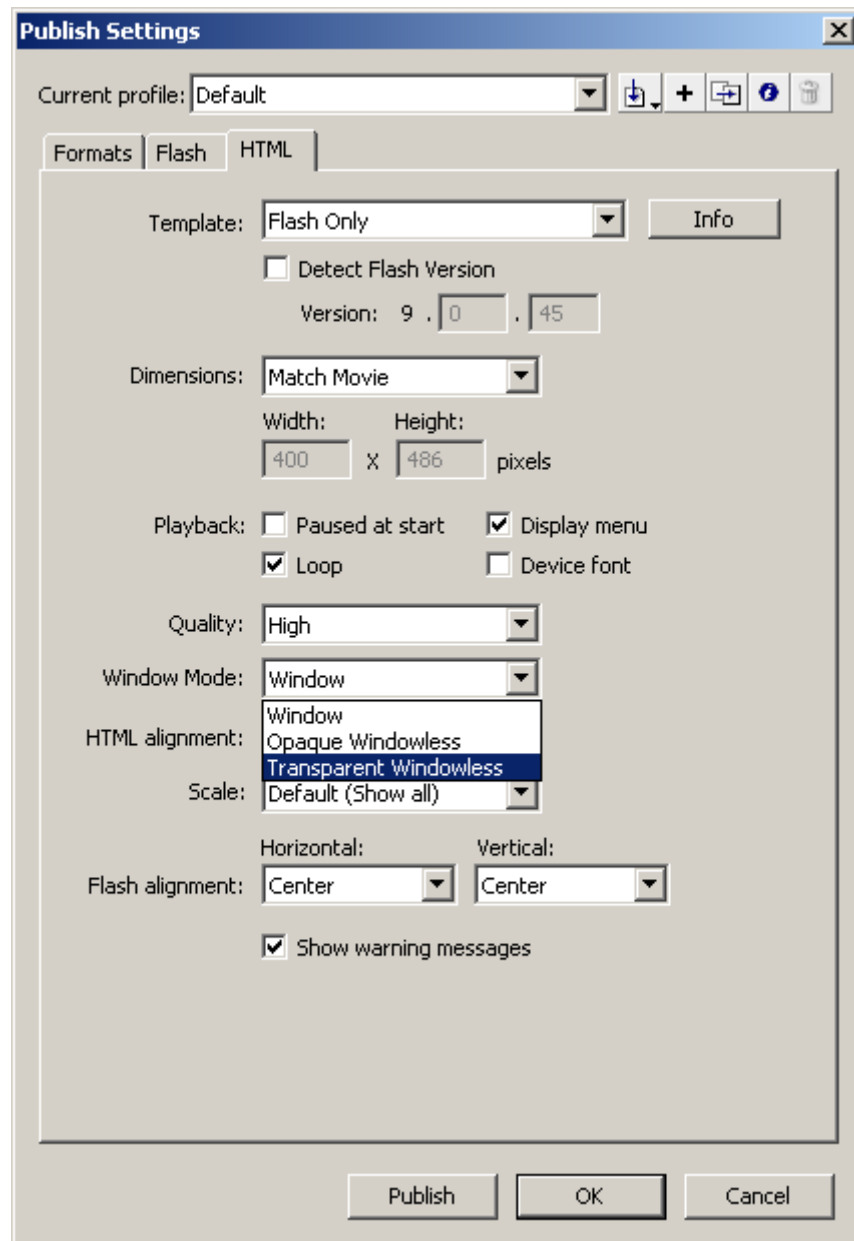
When the encoding is done your screen will look like this:



12. In this instance our movie clip (black) has different dimension from the flash movie. Select the movie clip using the selection tool (black arrow on the top left of the Flash tool bar) and below in the properties box it will tell you the dimensions of the movie in this case it is 400 x 486.

13. Select Modify>Document and set the flash movie to the same size as the encoded video i.e. 400 x 486 in our example. The move the encoded video so it is aligned with the background in Flash.

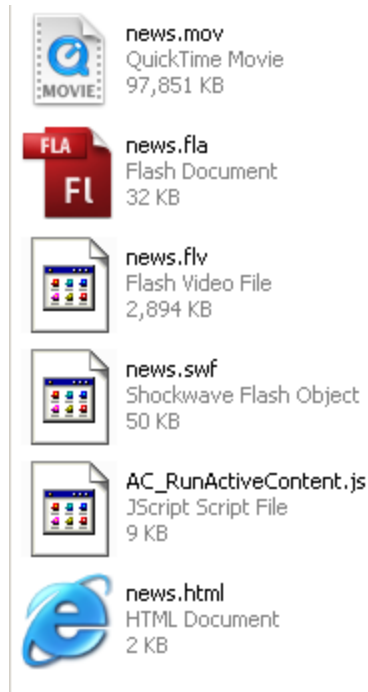
14. The last step in Flash is to publish the movie > Select File>Publish settings.



15. Select the HTML tab at the top then the Window Mode option drop down and select “Transparent Windowless”.

*If you select Opaque Windowless – you are supposed to be able to access buttons and links below the transparent movie*

16. Press the publish button . Check your folder and you should see the following files.

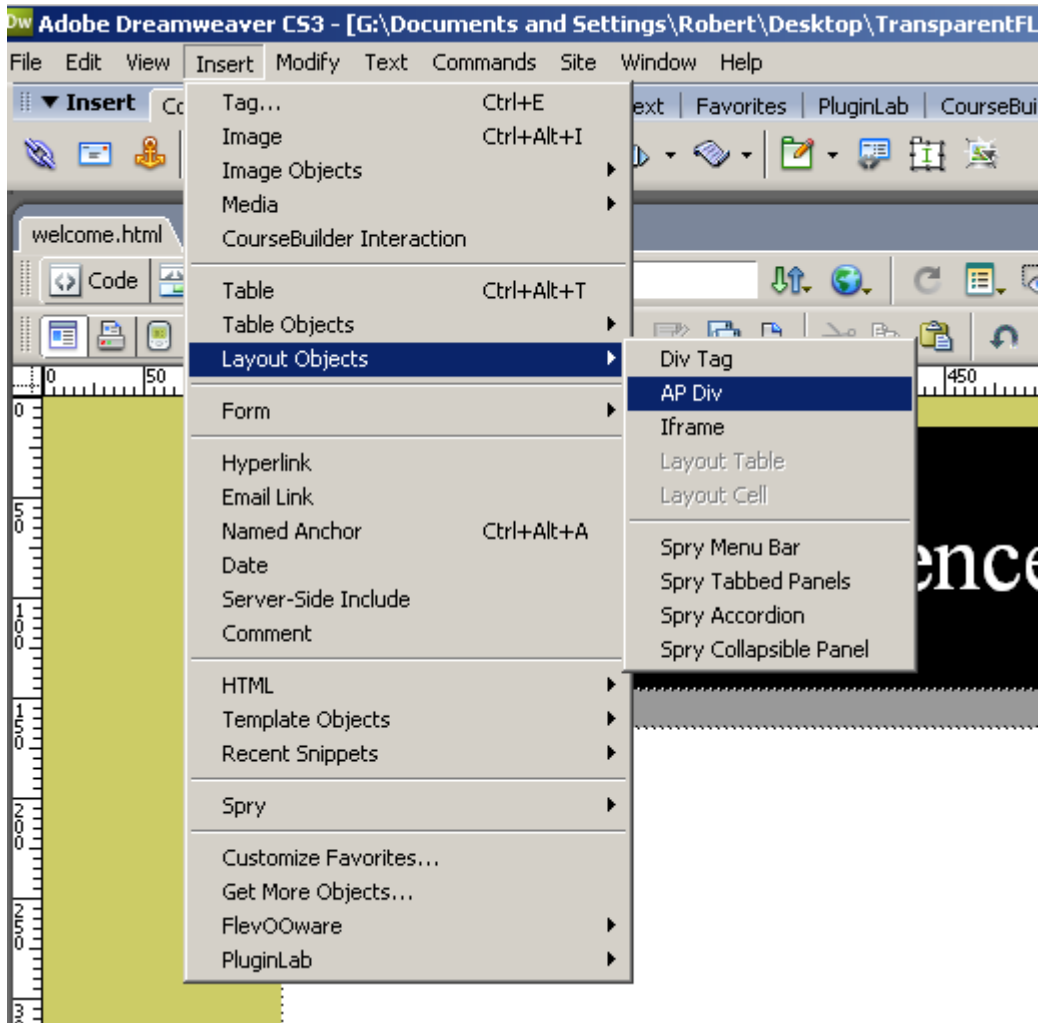


17. If you are using Dreamweaver 8 or higher to insert the FLV into an existing web page then you will only need the news.flv . If you selected a skin in Flash then you will want to include the news.swf and AC\_RunActiveContent.js file as well.

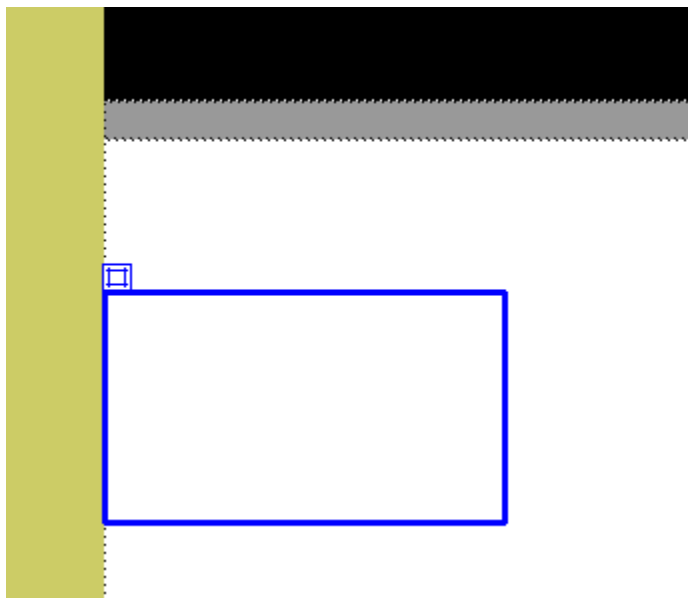
18. Open dreamweaver and use an existing web page or create a new web page. Either move the FLV file into the folder with your web page or save the web page into the folder you have the FLV file.

We want to place the video on the page, with a custom skin or controls and we want the movie to be positioned In the lower right corner just above the status bar in your browser. To do this we need to add the movie into an AP element (old terminology a layer) then add some code so the layer is transparent.

19. Select Insert>Layout Objects>AP Div



You should then see a small blue box – this is your AP div

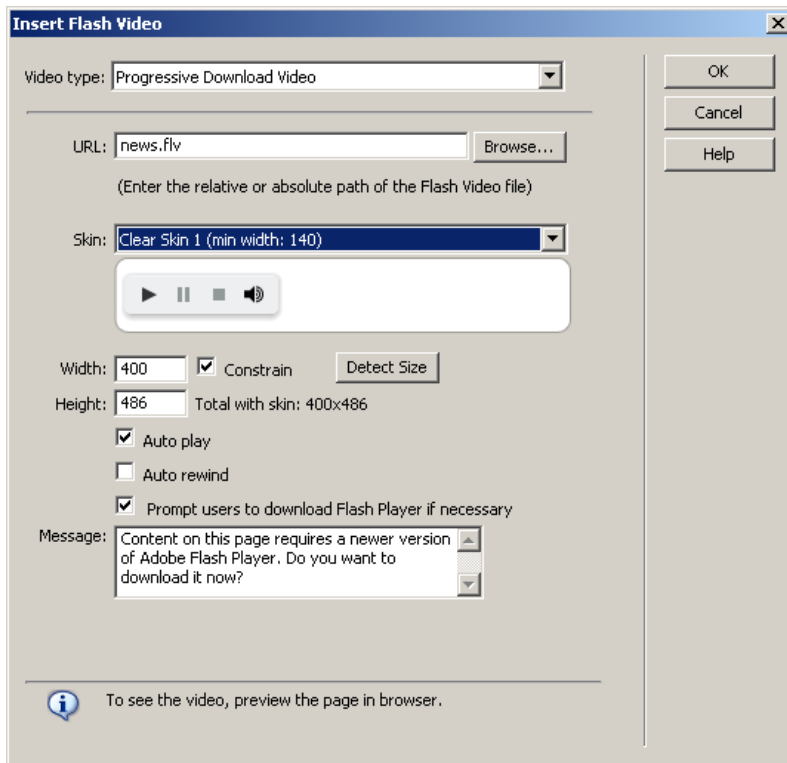


20. Place your cursor inside the AP Div box and select Insert>Media >Flash video or use the drop down box in the insert menu at the top to do this (see below).



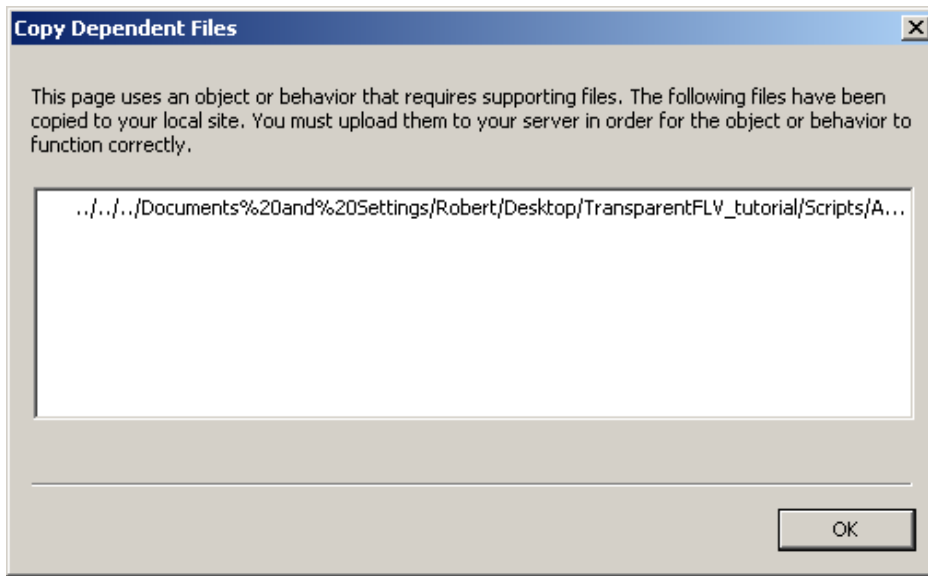
IMPORTANT – if you already added a skin with controls to your movie in Flash or you don't want any controls to appear on your movie, then you don't select the FLV file you insert the news.swf instead.

By inserting the .FLV file that does not have a skin (controller) you can add one using Dreamweaver.



21. Select a skin (controller) from the drop down menu, Select Detect size or change the size if you want to make your movie smaller. Be sure Constrain proportions is selected and you can select Auto Play if you want the movie to start automatically when the page is loaded.

Save your page and you will see the box below – Click OK it is saving a javascript file to your folder that fixes a bug in Internet Explorer.



22. Click on preview page to view your page in a browser.

You should see your video clip – however notice that it is not transparent and hides objects behind it. The controller will appear and disappear as you move your mouse over the movie. .



23. Make the movie transparent – to do this we need to add two lines of code.

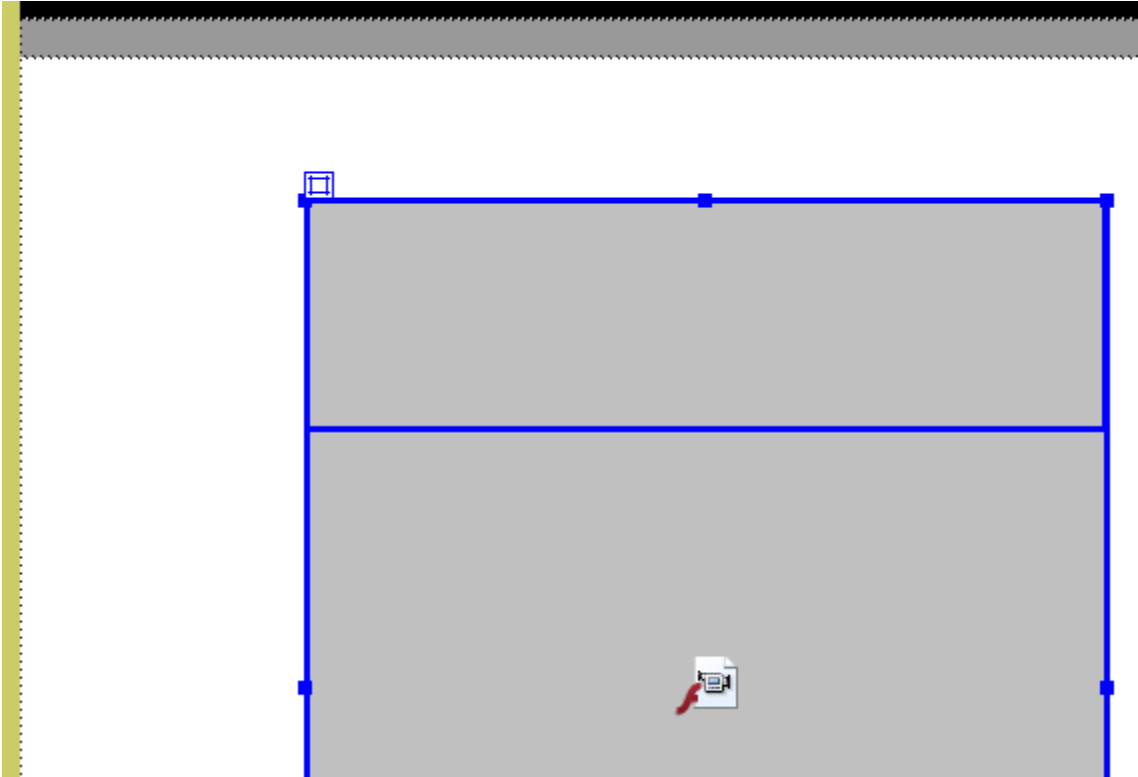
`<param name="wmode" value="transparent" />` inside the object tags

And

`Wmode="transparent"` inside the embed src tag as follows – see bold red text below.

```
</script><noscript><object classid="clsid:D27CDB6E-AE6D-11cf-96B8-444553540000"
codebase="http://download.macromedia.com/pub/shockwave/cabs/flash/swflash.
cab#version=8,0,0,0" width="400" height="486" id="FLVPlayer">
  <param name="movie" value="FLVPlayer_Progressive.swf" />
  <param name="wmode" value="transparent" />
  <param name="salign" value="lt" />
  <param name="quality" value="high" />
  <param name="scale" value="noscale" />
  <param name="FlashVars"
value="&MM_ComponentVersion=1&skinName=Clear_Skin_1&streamName=news&autoPlay=true&autoRewind=false" />
  <embed src="FLVPlayer_Progressive.swf"
flashvars="&MM_ComponentVersion=1&skinName=Clear_Skin_1&streamName=news&autoPlay=true&autoRewind=false" quality="high" scale="noscale"
width="400" height="486" name="FLVPlayer" salign="LT" type="application/x-shockwave-flash"
pluginspage="http://www.adobe.com/shockwave/download/download.cgi?P1_Prod_Version=ShockwaveFlash" wmode="transparent" />
</object>
```

**For some strange reason – you also have to select the div tag handle (blue square at the top left of the movie and move it on the page, doesn't seem to matter how much - even a small amount or the transparency does not take effect. Not sure why you must do this in Dreamweaver!**



Select the left blue box and just drag your movie a few pixels, then preview your page and your movie should be transparent.

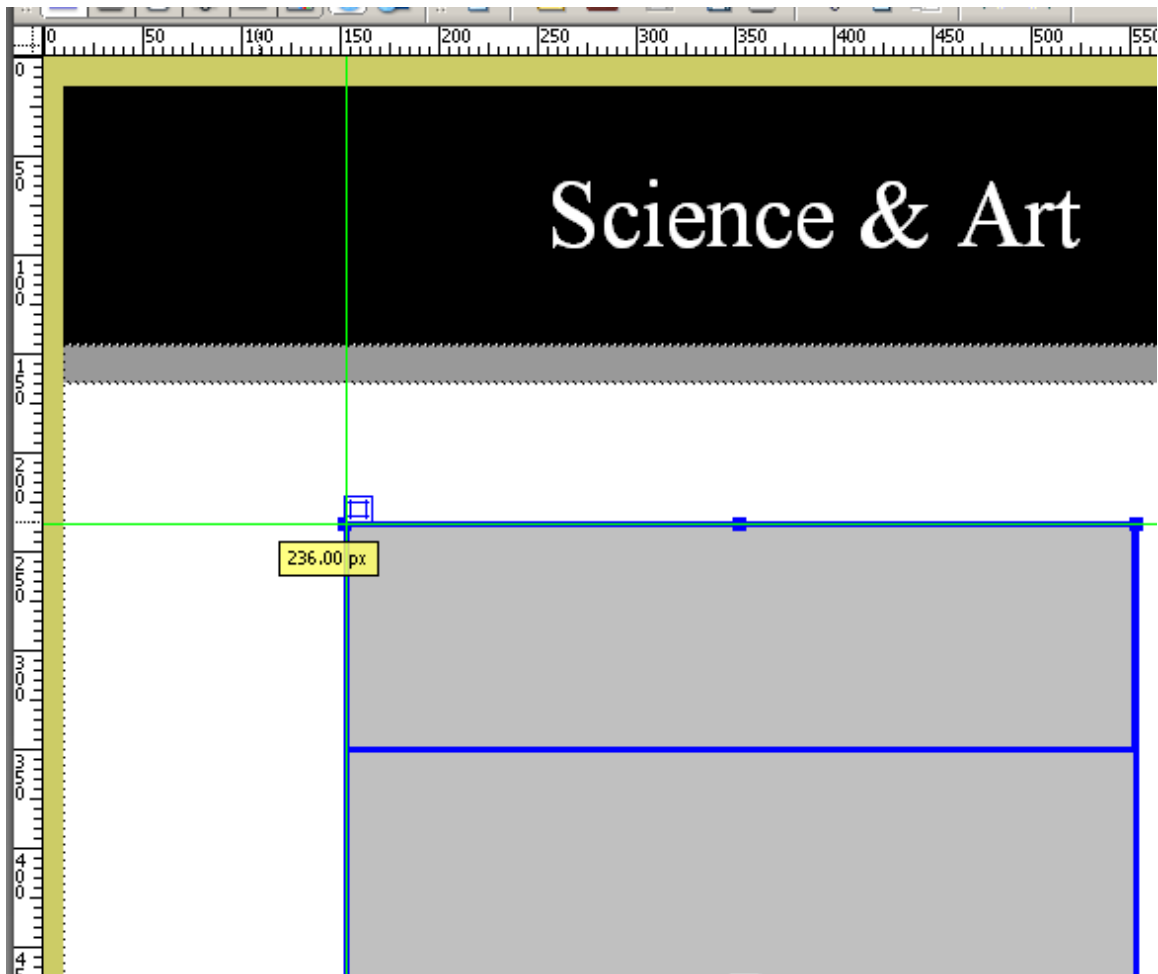


Now you can see the web page behind the video.

24. At this point our movie is positioned within an AP div tag and has the coordinates shown in the CSS style within the <head></head> tags at the top of the web page.

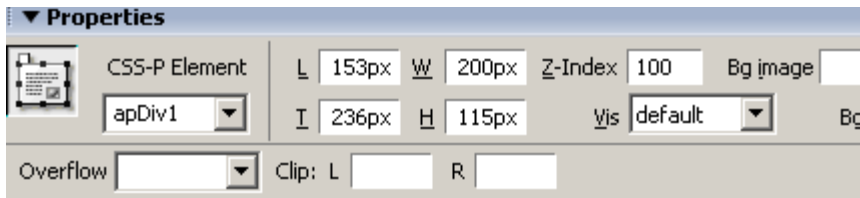
```
<style type="text/css">
#apDiv1 {
    position:absolute;
    width:200px;
    height:115px;
    z-index:1;
    left: 122px;
    top: 237px;
}
</style>
```

This code position the movie 122 pixels from the left margin and 237 pixels



You can use

Left  
Right  
Top  
Bottom



They are also indicated in the properties box at the bottom as L and T – and refer the position of the square box handle. You can drag the handle to move the movie clip anywhere on the page in Dreamweaver.

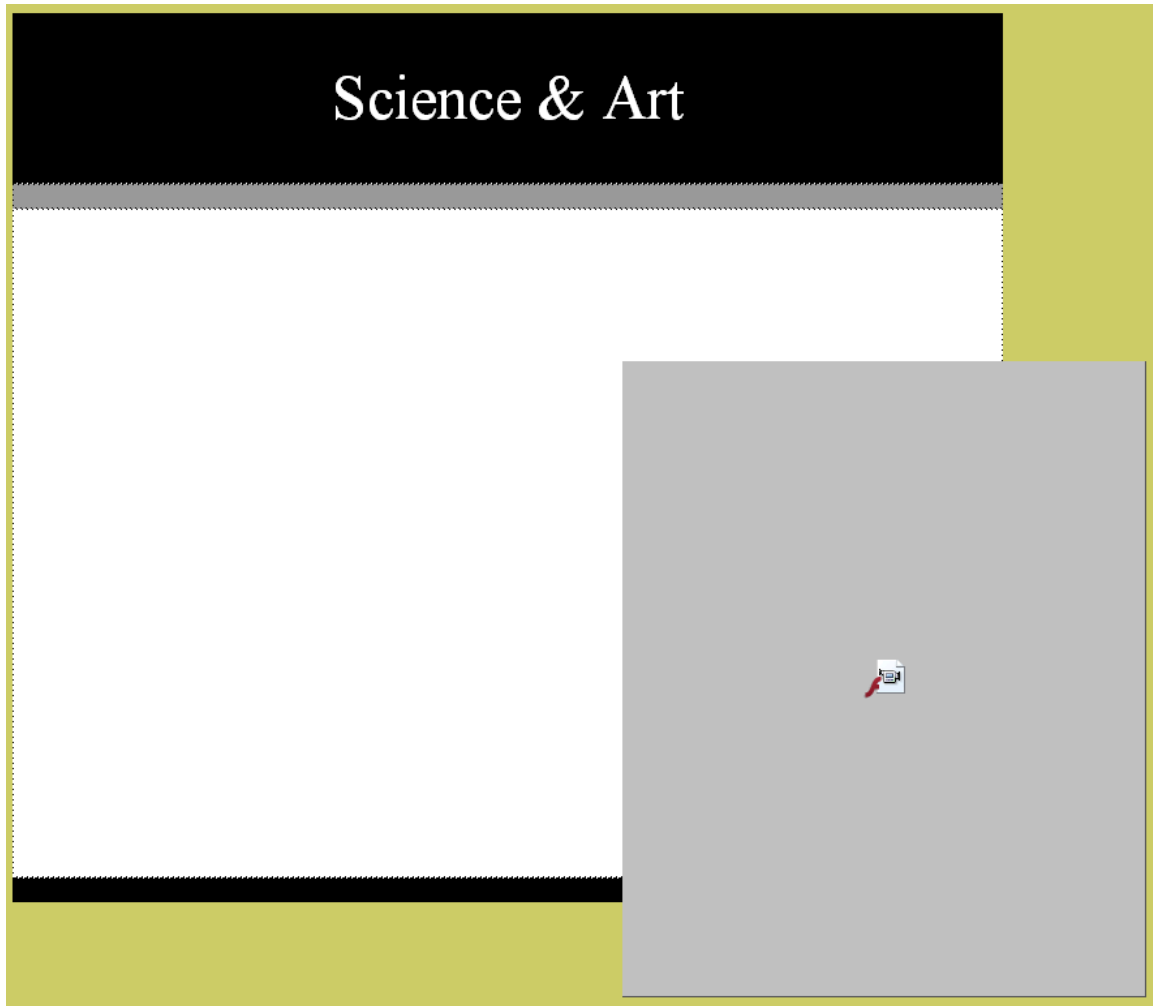
If you want your video to float above the bottom of the page (status bar) and on the right side of the page you would change the CSS code to something like this:

```
#apDiv1 {  
    position:absolute;  
    width:400px;  
    height:486px;  
    z-index:100;  
    right: 10px;  
    bottom: 10px;  
}
```

The layer now moves to 10 px from the right and 10 from the bottom – see below.

**TIP**

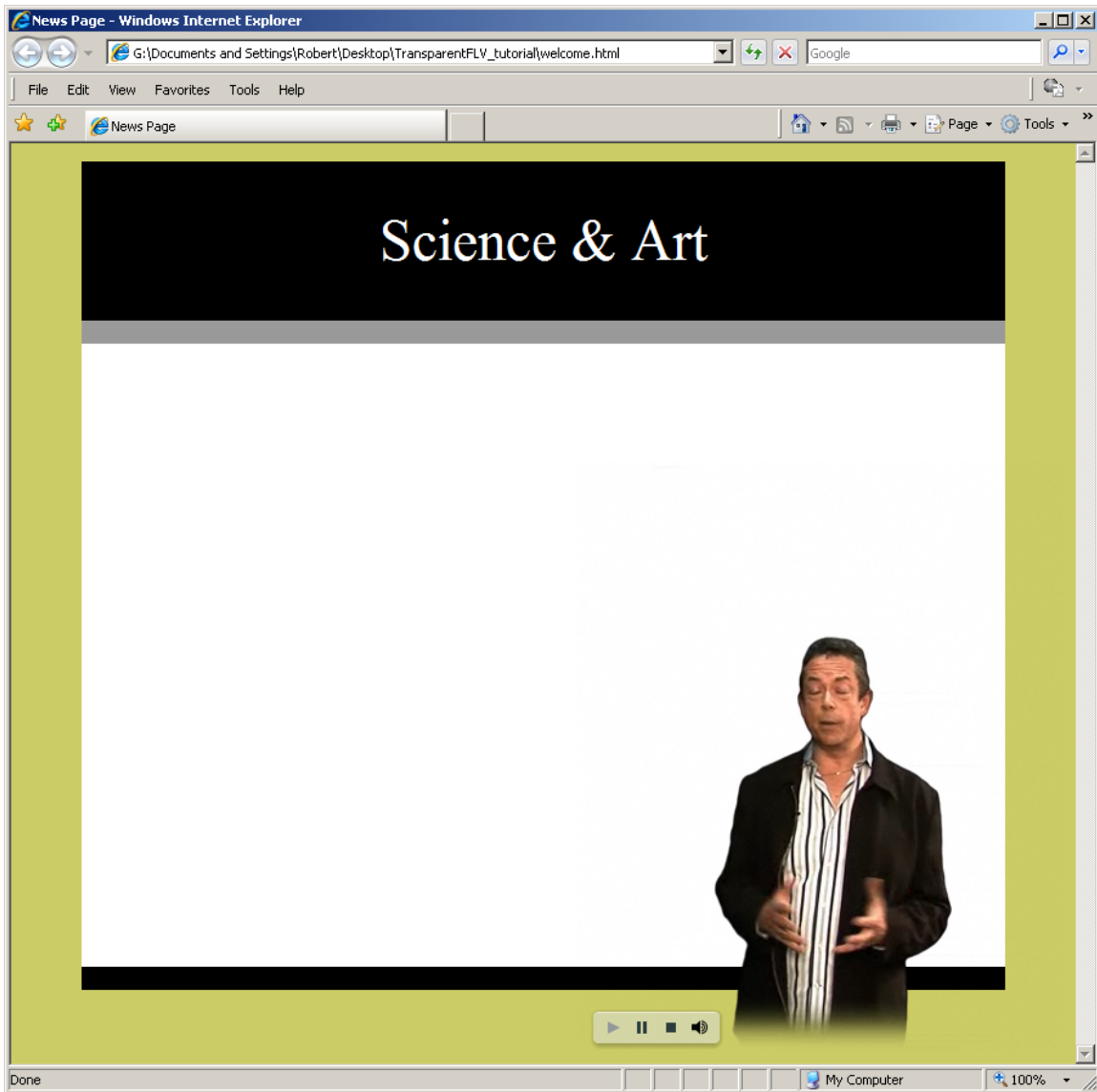
Before you make changes make sure the size of your movie and the dimension of the div tag are the same in this case they should both be width= 400 and height=486 or the coordinates will give you some weird results.



Set the results to:

```
#apDiv1 {  
    position:absolute;  
    width:400px;  
    height:486px;  
    z-index:100;  
    right: 10px;  
    bottom:10px;  
}
```

Make sure the div tag size and movie size are the same and you should see your movie clip floating 10 px above the bottom status bar and 10 px to the right of the scrolling bar on your browser as show below.



Final Result with talking movie on the bottom of the page – the movie will scroll up and down over the page.

The code to hold the movie can be a `<span>` or `<div>` tag – and its usually little things like move the tag before it will become invisible that can be frustrating at times. Of course if your movie is not transparent to begin with – the movie will float over top of your page instead.