

Using the SMART Video Player

About the SMART Video Player

SMART Video Player software is a tool for viewing and writing over videos. You can use it to play standard video files or the output from a video hardware device that's connected to your computer.

Playing a Video

You can play a video stored on your computer, or you can access video content on websites by entering a URL. You can also capture streaming video content and play it with the Video Player.



Open the Start Center, and press **Video Player**.

- Press **File > Open**, and browse to the video file that you want to show. To enter a URL, press **File > Open URL**. Enter the URL of the video you want to view. If your video format isn't listed, check that you're using the correct device as the source for you files. To do this, close the *Open* dialog box and select that source from the **Hardware** menu. Then try to open the file again.
- To pause the video when you pick up a pen (or press the **Pen** button), select **Settings > Video Player Settings > Pause when tool(s) lifted**. If you want the video to continue to play, clear the **Pause when tool(s) lifted** check box. You can also have your note fade out after a few seconds.
- Press the **Play** button.
- Press the **Stop** button.

Writing Over Video

- Start playing the video.
- Pick up a pen or press the **Pen Tool** button in SMART Video Player or Floating Tools




, and then write on the screen.

Depending on your note settings, the video pauses or continues to play. If you've selected **Fade out note** in the *Video Player Settings* dialog box, your note will gradually fade away. Otherwise, you can erase your note or clear the screen.


TIP: If your video is from a VCR or DVD player, when you write on the screen, the video will continue to play in the machine, even though it's paused on the screen. To pause the video in the machine, you must press Pause on its remote control.

You can change the pen color by pressing the  and selecting a new color.

You can delete your note by pressing . When you do this, the button changes to the

Clear button . Press this button to retrieve your notes.

Drawing Over Video

- Play the video with SMART Video Player.
- Press the **Pen** button  in the *SMART Video Player* window and draw over the video image.

Depending on your note [settings](#), the video may pause or it may continue to play. You can also have your drawing fade away after a few moments.

Customizing the SMART Video Player

You can customize the settings for Video Player so that it works the way you want it to.

- Changing the Video Player View
SMART Video Player lets you view your movie at 100% (regular size), 200% and Full Screen. The 100% and 200% views display within a window that includes a title bar, menu bar, toolbar and status bar.

The Full Screen mode maximizes the available workspace on the interactive screen or the computer monitor by filling up the entire screen. A six-button **Full Screen** toolbar lets you play or pause the video, capture and clear notes, and return to the previous viewing size.



You can drag this toolbar anywhere on the screen, and you can also set it to disappear after a set period of time. To do this, select **Settings > Video Player Settings**. Select **Remove Toolbar in Full Screen Mode**, and then select a time period.

- To change the size of the window, select **100%**, **200%** or **Full Screen** from the **View** menu.
You can also keep the Video Player window over top of other applications. To do this, select **Settings > Video Player Settings**, and select **Always on Top**.
Select or clear the **View > Show Controls Toolbar** option to show or hide the toolbar. However, this option isn't available in Full Screen mode.

You can choose to have your notes disappear after a short period of time. SMART Video Player can also pause the video when you select a pen, or it can continue to play the video.

- To change your notes settings
Open SMART Video Player from the [Start Center](#) and select **Settings > Video Player Settings**.
Select **Pause when tool(s) lifted** if you want the video to pause as you write a note.
Select **Fade Out Annotations** if you want your notes to gradually disappear after you write them.

Integrating Video Files in SMART Notebook Lessons

In the SMART Technologies document, [What's New in SMART Board Software 9.5](#), on page 4: Video Files in Notebook Software, it states:

"You can now integrate **certain** video files directly into a Notebook file, where you can manipulate them just as you would any other object. Videos can be moved, resized, written over and added to the Gallery."

The following image is shown:



That word "certain" is really important. By "certain," the company means Flash video files **only**. This is clarified on a page of their website, [Importing Video Files into SMART Board Software 9.5](#): "SMART's Notebook software 9.5 supports video content in two formats; FLV (Flash Video) and SWF (Shockwave Flash)."

So, it is not possible to import video files in the more commonly used formats such as Windows Media Files (.wma), (.avi) or Quicktime (.mov) files directly into SMART Notebook lessons. These types of files would first need to be converted to Flash files in order to "embed" them into a SMART Notebook lesson. On the same web page, SMART Technologies states:

"Many third-party software products are available that can convert a variety of video formats into either of these Flash video formats." They go on to name a few products that can convert these types of files to the Flash format. Any of these products is an additional purchase (\$20.00-\$30.00) and would require the user to familiarize themselves with the software. Should you decide to go this route, it is suggested that you download the trial version of the software before purchasing and try converting a representative sample of videos you would like to embed in SMART Notebook to be sure the software works as needed.

Conclusion: Currently you can embed **Flash** format files directly into SMART Notebook 9.5. However, any of other more commonly used video formats (such as .avi, .mov, .wma, etc.) will need to be converted to a Flash file first and then imported. This is a time-consuming and inconvenient requirement. Your alternatives are to either hyperlink to a video file (resulting in Windows Media Player or QuickTime Player opening) or using the SMART Video Player. You may wish to submit a usability suggestion to SMART Technologies, indicating that it would be better if the more commonly used video formats could be embedded right into a SMART Notebook lesson as Flash files can. To do so, send an email with your suggestion to: featurerequest@smarttech.com.