

# Converting movies from VHS on a PC

VHS Video is great and VCRs are everywhere, but new VHS machinery is no longer being produced. People and commercial entities have been converting VHS tape into files that can be viewed on computers for some time. We have the ability to do that conversion here at the Canton Public Library.

This is a multi-step process, and depending on what you need, you may not have to do everything listed below

***Step 1:*** Make a digital copy (.mp4 format) of your movie on VHS tape using the **Elgato Video Capture** device and **Elgato Video Capture Software**

\*Upon completion of this step, you can save your movie to a flash drive, post it to Facebook or YouTube or Vimeo or Dropbox (anywhere you like)\*

***If you want to burn your video onto a DVD:***

***Step 2:*** Convert the .mp4 file generated by Elgato to a .wmv file at [www.zamzar.com](http://www.zamzar.com)

***Step 3:*** Burn the .wmv format digital movie to a DVD with **Windows DVD Maker**

## ***You will need:***

An original VHS tape to copy (Step 1)

An email address at which to receive the converted file from [zamzar.com](http://zamzar.com) (Step 2)

A blank DVD-R or DVD+R disc to burn (Step 3)

Additional blank DVD-R or DVD+R media (unless you expect to be perfect at Step 3 the first time)

Plenty of time to play your movie all the way through

Plenty more time to burn the DVD

**Ask a librarian if you'd like to borrow our Elgato Video Capture Device and work at home**

**You'll need to download the Elgato Video Capture Software to your home computer**

## Step 1: Making a digital copy of your movie with Elgato Video Capture

- The Elgato Video Capture device is all set up and ready to go at our Video Transfer Station, but the software will ask you some questions about setup before you can proceed
- Then you'll need to play your video all the way through and allow the software to capture it for conversion

### *Open the Elgato software:*

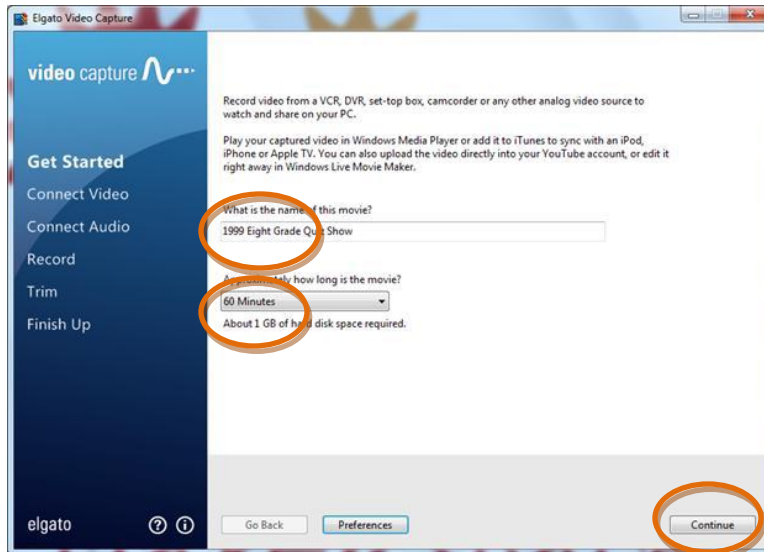
1. Login to PC – Ask a librarian for help since the Video Transfer Station isn't one of our public computers
2. Turn on VCR
3. Put VHS tape in VCR
4. Press Play on the VCR
5. Double click on **Elgato Video Capture** logo on the Windows taskbar
  - a. Or use the desktop shortcut
  - b. Or find Elgato in the Windows Start Menu under "All Programs"



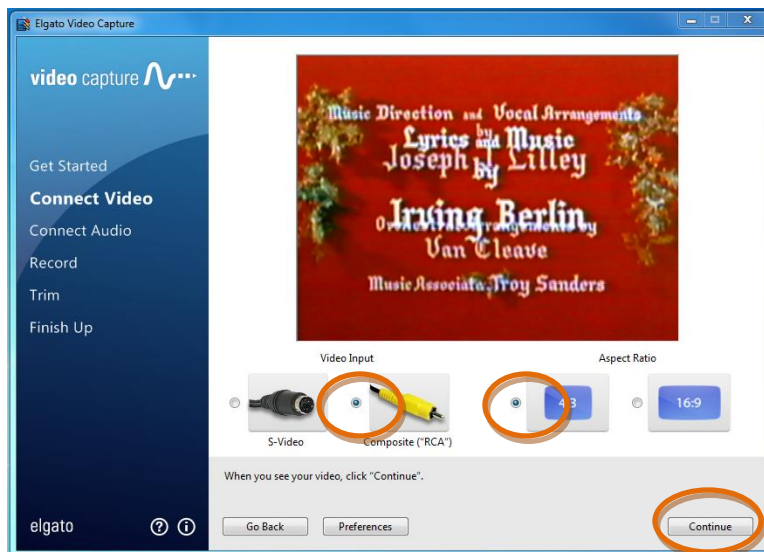
## Connect Video and Audio:

- Fill in name of your movie and choose an approximate duration on first screen

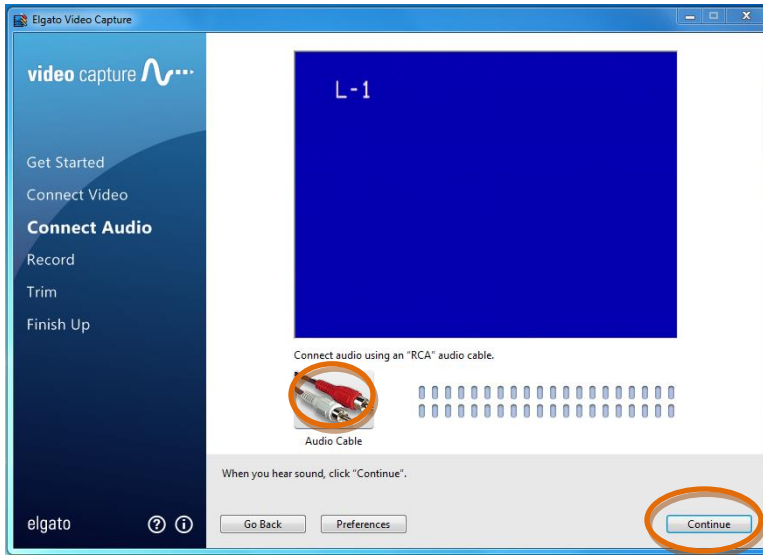
\* Make note of the name you assign so you can find the file later\*



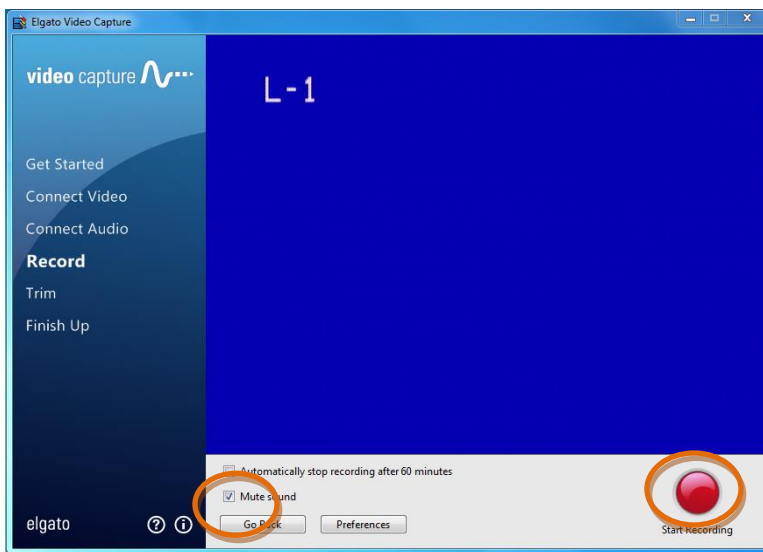
- Click Continue
- The yellow video and red and white audio Composite (“RCA”) connections are connected, but the software will prompt you to check them
- Select Composite “RCA” Video Input (DON’T Click S-Video unless you’ve brought your own S-Video Cable) and choose your desired aspect ratio (standard 4:3 or wide screen 16:9)



- Click Continue



11. Audio should connect automatically
12. Click Continue
13. Rewind VCR to start the video running at the proper point (if it has been playing this whole time)  
OR Press PLAY then click Start Recording button
  - a. Mute sound unless you want to listen during playback (Audio will be recorded to your file even if it is muted)



#### 14. Wait during playback

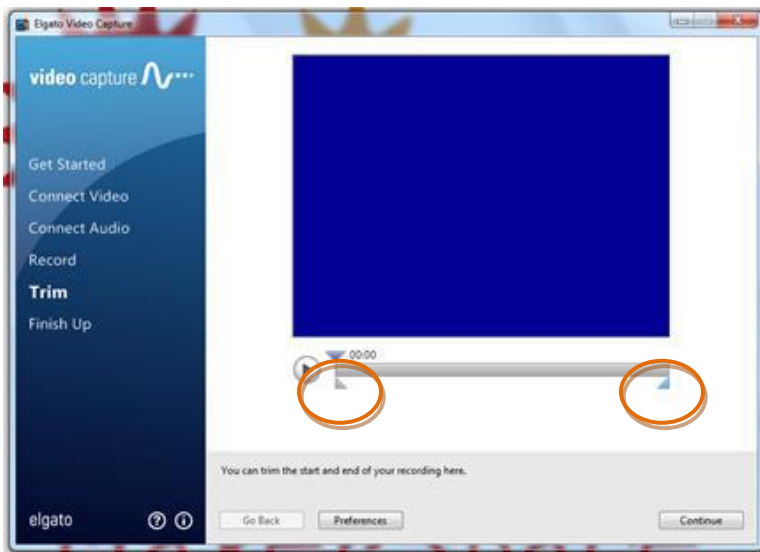
15. When you have copied as much of your movie as you want or the tape has finished playing click the Stop Recording button

16. Push and hold down the left side of the VCR shuttle control to rewind your tape



### ***Trim:***

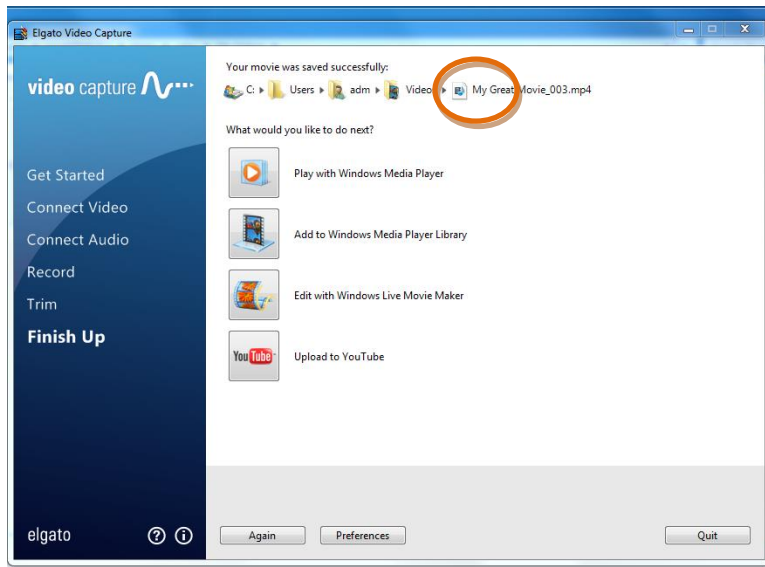
Remove extraneous material from the movie to ensure you are getting only what you want by moving the triangular start and end points towards or away from each other



17. Click Continue and Elgato Video Capture will process the movie you have trimmed and save it in the My Videos folder on the computer

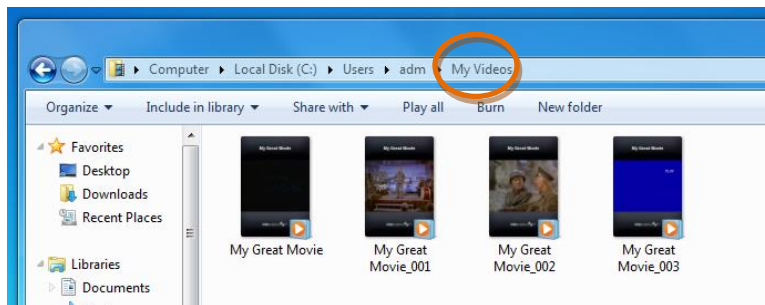
## Finish Up:

18. Your movie has been converted to an mp4 format digital file and is ready to be played on the Video Transfer Station, added to Windows Media Player, Edited or uploaded
19. Add your movie to Windows Media Player Library



20. The movie will be saved in the My Videos Folder attached to the Windows User you are logged in under

\*You can navigate to your movie by opening the **Control Panel**, clicking **Computer**, clicking **C:**, clicking **Users**, clicking the **User name** and clicking **My Videos** or you can use Windows Explorer if that's easier for you\*



## Step 2: Converting your .mp4 file to .wmv with zamzar.com

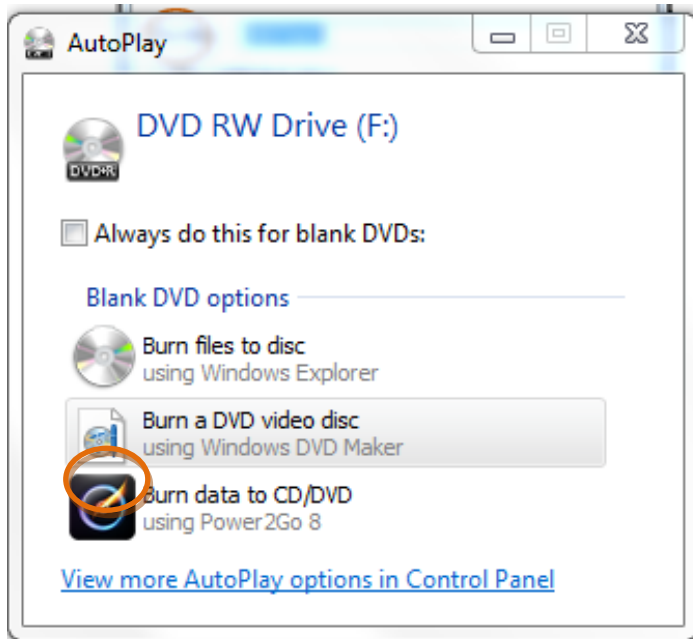
1. Open a Web Browser (Chrome or Firefox are preferable to IE)
2. Navigate to [www.zamzar.com](http://www.zamzar.com) (no need to login or register)

The screenshot shows the Zamzar website interface. At the top left is the Zamzar logo with the tagline "Free online file conversion". To the right are navigation links: "Developer API", "Manage Files", "Formats", "Blog", "FAQ", and "Signup". Further right are "Login" and "Register" buttons. Below the navigation is a banner featuring two chameleons and the text: "Have you ever wanted to convert files without the need to download software?". Below the banner is a social sharing section with "Share Zamzar with friends!" and buttons for "Tweet", "G+1", and "15k". At the bottom is a green conversion form with four steps: Step 1: "Select files or URL you wish to convert ..." with a "Choose Files..." button and "or drag and drop files" text; Step 2: "Choose the format to convert to:" with a "Convert files to:" dropdown menu; Step 3: "Enter your email address to receive converted files:" with an empty text input field; Step 4: "Convert (by clicking you agree to our Terms)" with a "Convert" button.

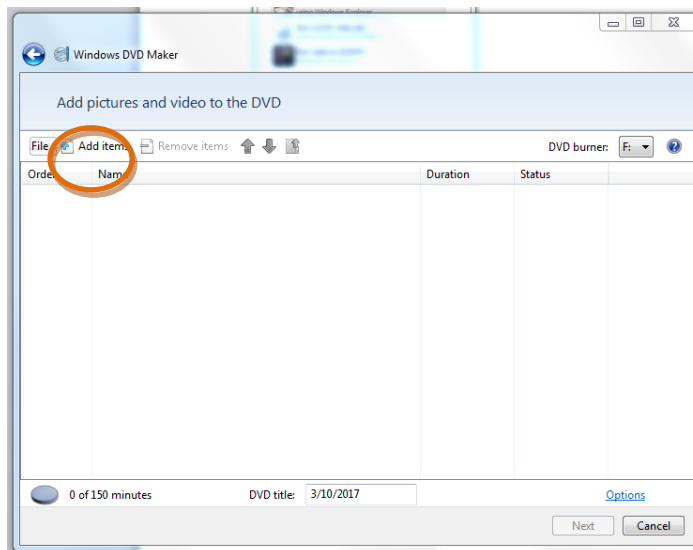
3. Click Button to choose File(s) from C:\Users\Adm\Videos
4. Select "WMV" from the Convert files to Dropdown menu (under Video formats)
5. Enter an email address which you can access to receive the converted file
6. Click "Convert"
7. Open your email and click the link from zamzar (when it arrives) to open your .wmv file
8. Save your file in C:\Users\Adm\Videos

## Step 3: Burning a DVD copy of your .wmv file with Windows DVD Maker

1. Insert a **blank** DVD into the DVD drive
2. Select Burn a DVD video disc in the AutoPlay Menu

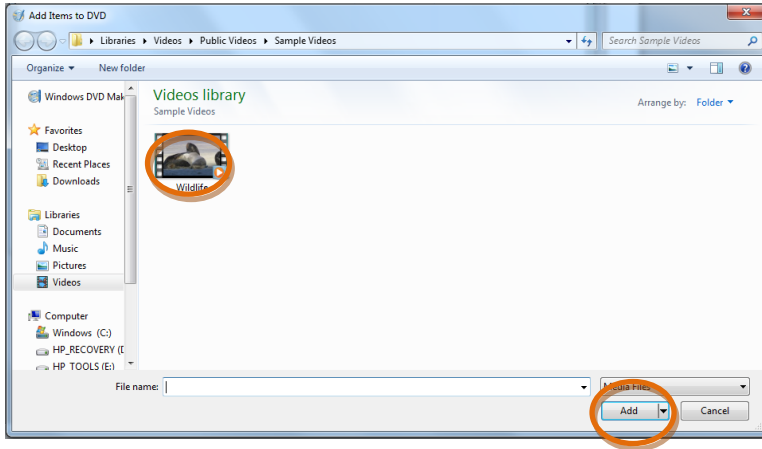


3. Click Add Items





4. If you don't see your video, navigate to the folder where your movie is saved, highlight your movie and click Add



## 7. Wait during DVD burn process

8. There are many, many options to customize the "Start Page" of your DVD available through Windows DVD Maker. Feel free to use any of them which you like
9. There are also **a lot of** other software products that will burn your movie onto a DVD, any of which you're free to use from home

**\*Ask a librarian for help if you need suggestions or assistance\***

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