

## Getting Video thumbnails from YouTube

Posted At : 28 March 2011 21:45 | Posted By : Shaun McCran  
Related Categories: Coldfusion

I want to display an image thumbnail on a page, so that a user can click on it and the video will pop up in a lightbox. But how do I get a thumbnail image of the video I want? This article shows you how you can quickly and easily use a Youtube URL to get video thumbnails.

There is a demo of this here: <http://www.mccran.co.uk/examples/youtube-thumbs/>

Youtube has an API you can use to pull down data on a video, including several thumbnail images, if you don't want to get your head around that they also have a URL you can use.

```
http://img.youtube.com/vi/ video id /#.jpg  
use 1,2,3 for thumbs  
use 0 for a large image
```

You can use the URL above along with the video ID from the 'embed' code on Youtube and either 1,2,3 (replace the #) to get a thumbnail image. The thumbnails seem to be roughly from the start, middle and end based on the number.

I have put together a small CFC that accepts a video id and returns a structure of thumbnail URL's.

```
cess="public" output="false" returntype="struct" hint="I get the url paths for the  
  
    <cfargument name="videoId"  
        type="string"  
        required="true"  
        hint="Video id to use">  
  
    <cfset var youtubeUrl = "http://img.youtube.com/vi/">  
    <cfset var thumbData = structNew(>  
  
    <cfset thumbData['thumb1'] = youtubeUrl & arguments.videoId & "/1.jpg">  
    <cfset thumbData['thumb2'] = youtubeUrl & arguments.videoId & "/2.jpg">
```

```
<cfset thumbData['thumb3'] = youtubeUrl & arguments.videoId & "/3.jpg">

    <cfset thumbData['thumbWidth'] = "120">
    <cfset thumbData['thumbHeight'] = "90">

<cfset thumbData['full'] = youtubeUrl & arguments.videoId & "/0.jpg">

    <cfset thumbData['fullWidth'] = "480">
    <cfset thumbData['fullHeight'] = "360">

    <cfreturn thumbData>
</cffunction>
```

There is a demo of this here: <http://www.mccran.co.uk/examples/youtube-thumbs/>

Maybe for a next version I may add cfhttp calls to download the images and store them locally.