Reducing the Size of a Video File
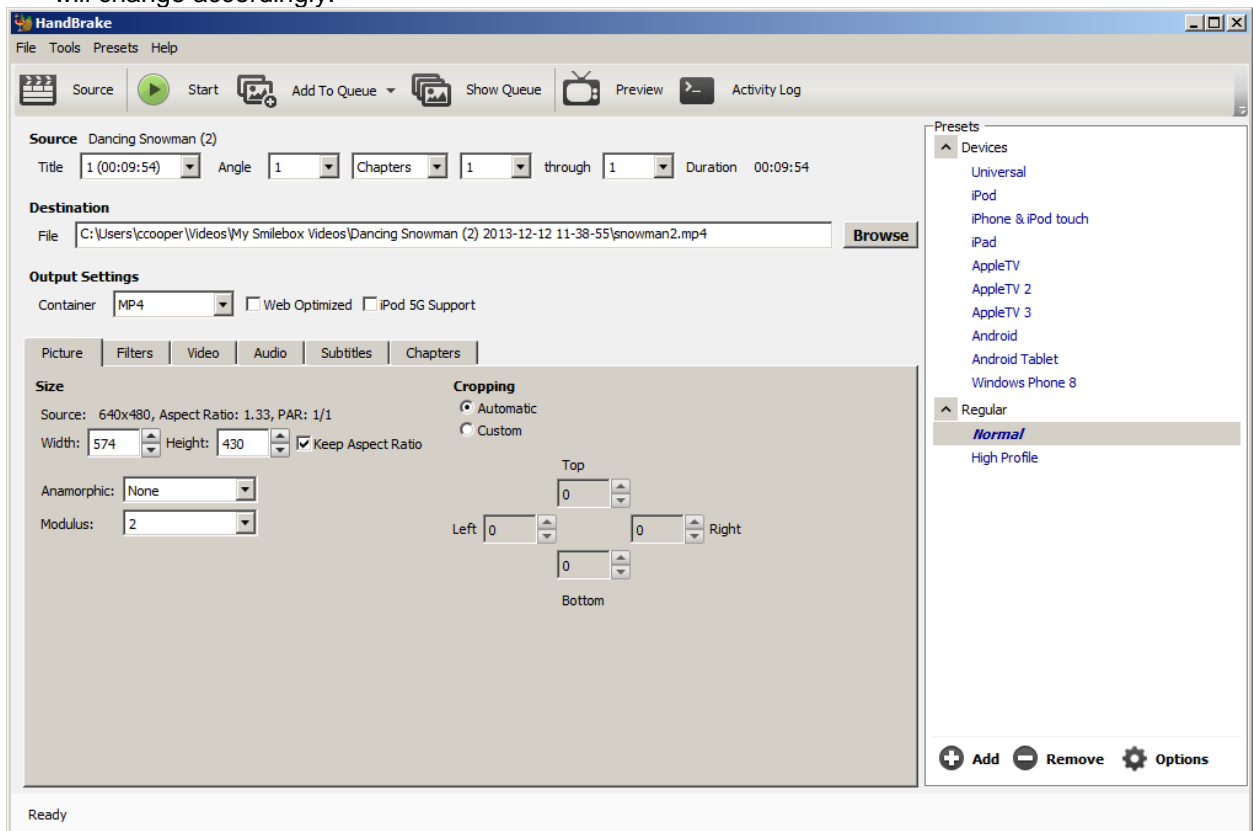
Note: It is suggested that you do not shoot video in high definition (HD) or the highest resolution setting of your recording device. Doing so usually results in a video that takes too long to upload. Also, a reliable/strong internet connection is required for video uploads.

Although it is possible to upload a video file that is as large as 2GB, it will take a long time to upload and is more likely to fail during the process. In turn, it is a good idea to reduce large video files prior to uploading them to Blackboard. You can try using one of the methods below to reduce the file's size. Another option is to record videos in shorter 5-10 minute segments instead of hour-long videos.

Handbrake If your original video is in a format not supported by Windows Movie Maker, you may download Handbrake - http://handbrake.fr/. Handbrake can process most common file formats.
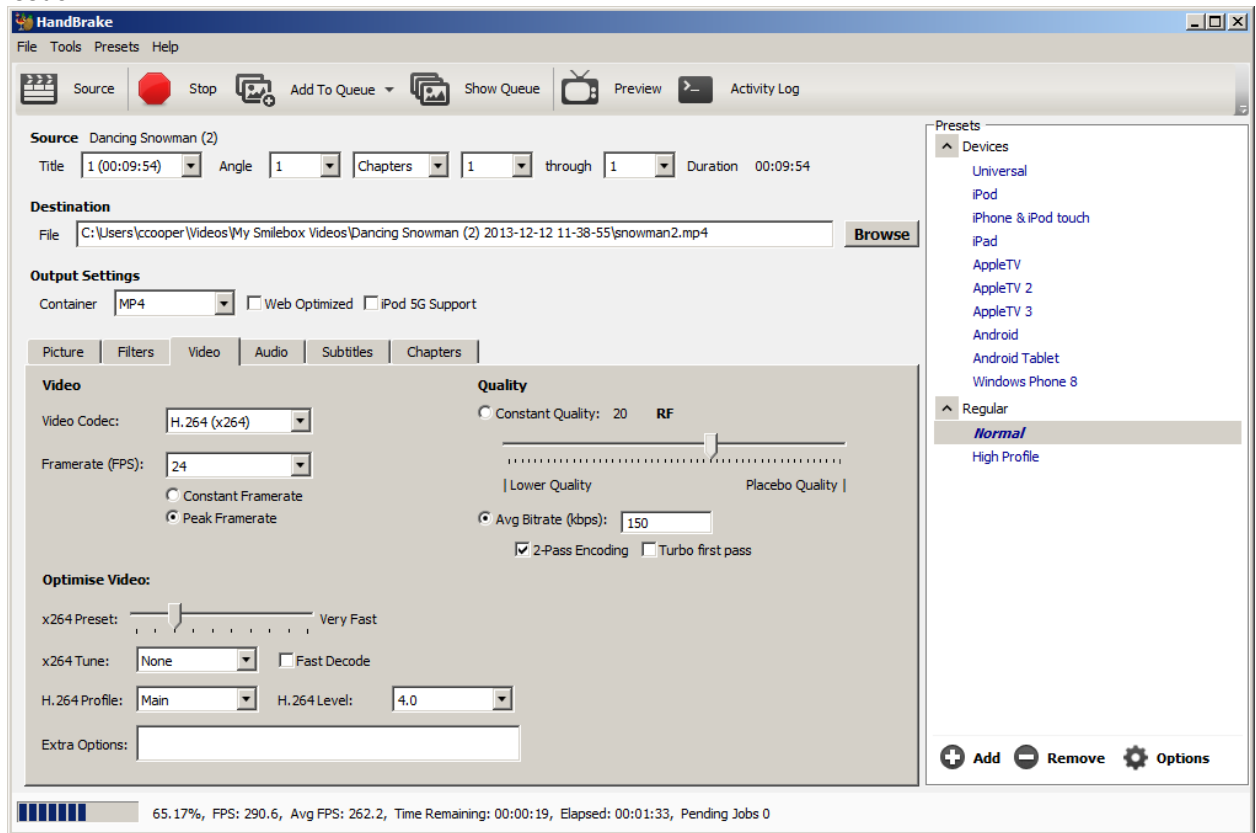
After installing Handbrake, open it up from your Programs menu.
1. Click on the Source button and choose "File".
2. Browse your computer for the video and click **Open**.
3. In the Destination section, click on the **Browse** button and select the folder that you would like the final output saved and enter a file name (different from the original file name so that the original does not get overwritten. Then click **Save**.
4. In the right panel under Presets, select "Normal".
5. Under Size, for the Anamorphic option, choose **None**.
6. Ensure that "Keep Aspect Ratio" is checked. Change the height to approximately 240. The width will change accordingly.
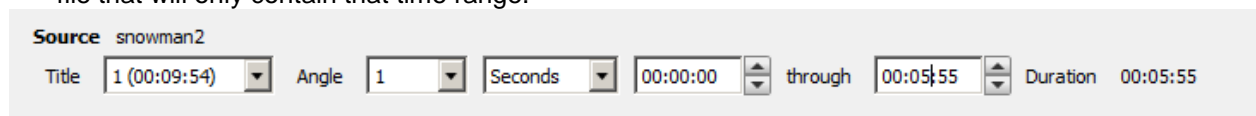

7. Switch to the Video tab
8. Change the Framerate (FPS) to "24".

9. Under "Quality" change the Avg Bitrate to 150 and check off "2-Pass Encoding".
10. Click the **Start** button. Your video will then be re-encoded with the new settings.
11. On your computer, browse to where you saved the final output to ensure the video plays without issue.

Segmenting a Long Video Using Handbrake (Please consult your instructor if this is your only viable option. Some Blackboard assignments are not set up to accept multiple file uploads.)
1. Click on the Source button and choose "File".
2. Browse your computer for the video and click Open.
3. In the Destination section, click on the **Browse** button and select the folder that you would like the final output saved and enter a file name. Then click **Save**.
4. In the right panel under Presets, select "Normal".
5. From the drop-down where you see "Chapters", select "Seconds" instead.
6. In the fields to the right, you may change the number of seconds in order to create a new video file that will only contain that time range.

7. Click the **Start** button to begin the process.
8. On your computer, browse to where you saved the final output to ensure the video plays without issue.
9. Repeat for every segment you need to create. This is highly recommended for long videos.

On a Mac

Install **MPEG Streamclip**, which can be downloaded at http://www.squared5.com/.

1. Open MPEG Streamclip.
2. Click **File** and select **Open Files**.
3. Locate your video file and click **Open**.
4. Click **File** and then **Export to MPEG–4**.
5. A new window will open. Check the **Limit Data Rate** box.
6. In the empty box next to the **Limit Data Rate** box, type 400.
7. In the drop-down menu, select **Kbps**.
8. Click the **Make MP4** button in the bottom right hand corner.
9. Name your file in the **Save As:** box. Make sure to name the video file something different from your original clip.
10. Then click the **Save** button. Make sure you save the file in a place where you can find it easily later.
11. A box with a progress bar will appear. Once the bar reaches 100%, your file will be saved.
12. If you find that this file does not upload to VoiceThread, you can go to http://www.flash-video-mx.com/video4web-converter/ and convert the file to FLV format. This file should work, and it may reduce the file size even more.