

MY SUPER VIDEO PLAYER

YOUR LIFETIME PLAYER

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INTRODUCTION

Thanks to Ali Tavakoli for his great art work both on the skin and the intro animation. Thanks to Delroy for allowing me to test the player with his streams. Thanks to Saeed Roomezi for giving me motivations and the last but not the least, thanks to my mother who supported me the whole way through with her home-made sweet cookies.

Regards,
Hadi

SERVER REQUIREMENTS

The player is designed to be run not inside other flash movies but directly through html pages. The player and the playlist are two separated files which have interactive communication with each other. They also have direct interaction with the page they run in as it supports deep linking. By deep linking you will have unique URL addresses for every video being played.

To run everything smoothly, you should just have PHP installed on your server and no other special software is required. Enjoy.

5-MINUTE INSTALLATION

The following steps will help you install the player on your server in less than 5 minutes. Our intention is to help you to run the main thing on your server the soonest possible. For detailed structures please read the following sections.

STEP 1

Create a back up from the folder “MySuperVideoPlayer” and then go to folder “source” and open “player fla” in your flash CS3 software (or other higher versions). After opening the FLA file, locate the layer named “AS” and click on the first frame in that layer and then press F9 to open the action panel.

In the action panel, from the beginning to line 24, you will have to set some easy settings which are mainly important to how the embed option will work on the player when you install it on your server. Note that we could have put these settings in the xml or even flashVars but for the player security, I thought to have these settings embedded into the FLA as they will not be something you want to change often, right? You would just have to set these parameters only once and you’ll be fine. (If you think they need to be set dynamically too, do let me know and I will upgrade the files)

In the FLA file you will see enough comments to help you modify the parameters. After you’re done, save the file and press ctrl + enter to publish the new swf file.

* NOTE: in case you receive any error messages when publishing your swf file, saying something like “There is no property with the name 'displayState'.” It means that you don’t have the new adobe settings for the fullscreen feature! But that’s easy to be fixed. Close your Flash software and go to the folder where you installed your CS3 in an address similar to below.

C:\Program Files\Adobe\Adobe Flash CS3\en\First Run\Classes\FP8

And open the file “Stage.as”. You should see the following line of code: static var displayState:String;

If you don’t see it, just add it and save the file. The final code must look like below:

```
//*****  
// ActionScript Standard Library  
// Stage object  
//*****  
  
intrinsic class Stage  
{  
    static var displayState:String;  
    static var align:String;  
    static var height:Number;  
    static var scaleMode:String;  
    static var showMenu:Boolean;  
    static var width:Number;  
  
    static function addListener(listener:Object):Void;  
    static function removeListener(listener:Object):Boolean;  
}
```

After you saved and closed the above file, go a folder similar to below:

C:\Users\Hadi\AppData\Local\Adobe\Flash CS3\en\Configuration\Classes\FP8

And there you will find another “Stage.as” file which you need to do the same exact thing as above in there. After you save it, close it and restart your Flash software and press ctrl + enter to publish your SWF file. This time you shouldn’t receive any error messages. It means that you have completed the first stage.

STEP 2

Upload everything in folder “MySuperVideoPlayer” except for the folder “source” to your server. After the upload, browse to “index.php” using your web browser. The address should be something like this: “http://www.site.com/video/index.php” and there you will see the videos being played which means you did good and managed to install the player correctly :)

CONTROLLING PLAYLIST

In folder “MySuperVideoPlayer”, open “playlist.xml” in a text editor. There you can add, remove or edit your videos. Here I try to explain some important points about the playlist xml file.

To add a stream from a Flash Media Server

The following XML line is necessary for adding a stream:

```
<item type="live" server="" appName="" clip="" embed="false" videoTitle="FMS Stream" description="supports streams from any FMS." length="LIVE" thumb="" />
```

** Notes

- 1) Do not turn the embed option on for live videos.
- 2) Make sure no “clip” attributes are similar to each other. You don’t want to have two videos at a same URL address do you?
- 3) The attribute “clip” here is actually your stream name.
- 4) Ask your FMS admin to help you about values for “server, appName and the stream name”.

To add regular progressive files, supporting .FLV, .MOV, .MP4

Use the following line for adding regular progressive files:

```
<item clip="00" format="mov" embed="true" videoTitle="Introducing the player features" description="This is a dynamic text and thumbnail that can be controlled from a XML file" length="55 sec" thumb="thumbs/00.jpg" />
```

** Notes

- 1) Make sure no “clip” attributes are similar to each other. You don’t want to have two videos at a same URL address do you?
- 2) The attribute “clip” will be transferred to the browser’s address bar for deep linking reasons. All videos must have a unique clip name.

- 3) The attribute “format” should be either, **mov**, **mp4** or **flv**.
- 4) If attribute “embed” is set to true, it means that the embed icon will appear on the player and users can copy the embed code to use in their own servers. If set to false, the embed icon will disappear all together.
- 5) The attribute “videoTitle” is the title for your current video, it will be shown in the playlist, and it will be transferred to your html page and will appear in your browser’s title bar.
- 6) The attribute “description” is just some more info about your video which will be shown in the playlist only.
- 7) The attribute “length” can be a subtitle for your video main title or you can put an estimated length of the video or anything else, I just thought to name the attribute, length! But you don’t have to put the video length necessarily. ****Note:** the player itself will find out the video size automatically. This attribute is for visual reasons only.
- 8) The attribute “thumb” is the address to your video thumbnail. Recommended size for your thumbnails is 123 for width and 87 for height.

FLASHVARS SETTINGS

Open “index.php” in your favorite text editor, my favorite is Dreamweaver. In lines 45 to 56 you will see the codes for initializing the file player.swf in your html page. We have set the following flashVars there.

```
defaultVolume=80
&singleStreamFolder=video
&enableAutoPlay=true
&buffer=3
&embedWidth=445
&embedHeight=450
&videoLink=http://www.myflashlab.com/item/msvp/index.php
&<?php echo 'uniqueNumber='.$uniqueNumber; ?>
&initialURL='+document.location+'&isMSIE='+isMSIE+'"
```

defaultVolume: This is the default volume you can set for your player

singleStreamFolder: depending on where “index.php” is placed on your server, you would need to locate the path to the folder where you have all your videos in it. For example if the html page where holds the player flash app is located in <http://www.site.com/player/index.php> and you have your video files in <http://www.site.com/player/video>, then you should just put the value “video” for the attribute “singleStreamFolder”.

enableAutoPlay: set it to true if you want your videos to be played automatically, else, set it to false.

buffer: indicates the number of loaded seconds of your video before playing the video. 3 seconds is the best I think!

embedWidth: when users are embedding your videos, the embed code needs to generate a default dimension for the embedded video. This sets the default width of the embedded player.

embedHeight: when users are embedding your videos, the embed code needs to generate a default dimension for the embedded video. This sets the default height of the embedded player.

videoLink: this parameters is important for the tell a friend feature. Make sure to put an absolute path to the page where you have your player in it. So that the embed option will work fine.

Nothing for you to modify on the last two parameters. But just for your information:

uniqueNumber: this is a unique number generated by your server local time on the very beginning of the “index.php” file so that it will help the player and playlist to connect to each other.

initialURL: this will help the deep linking process and lets the flash movie know which video to play first.

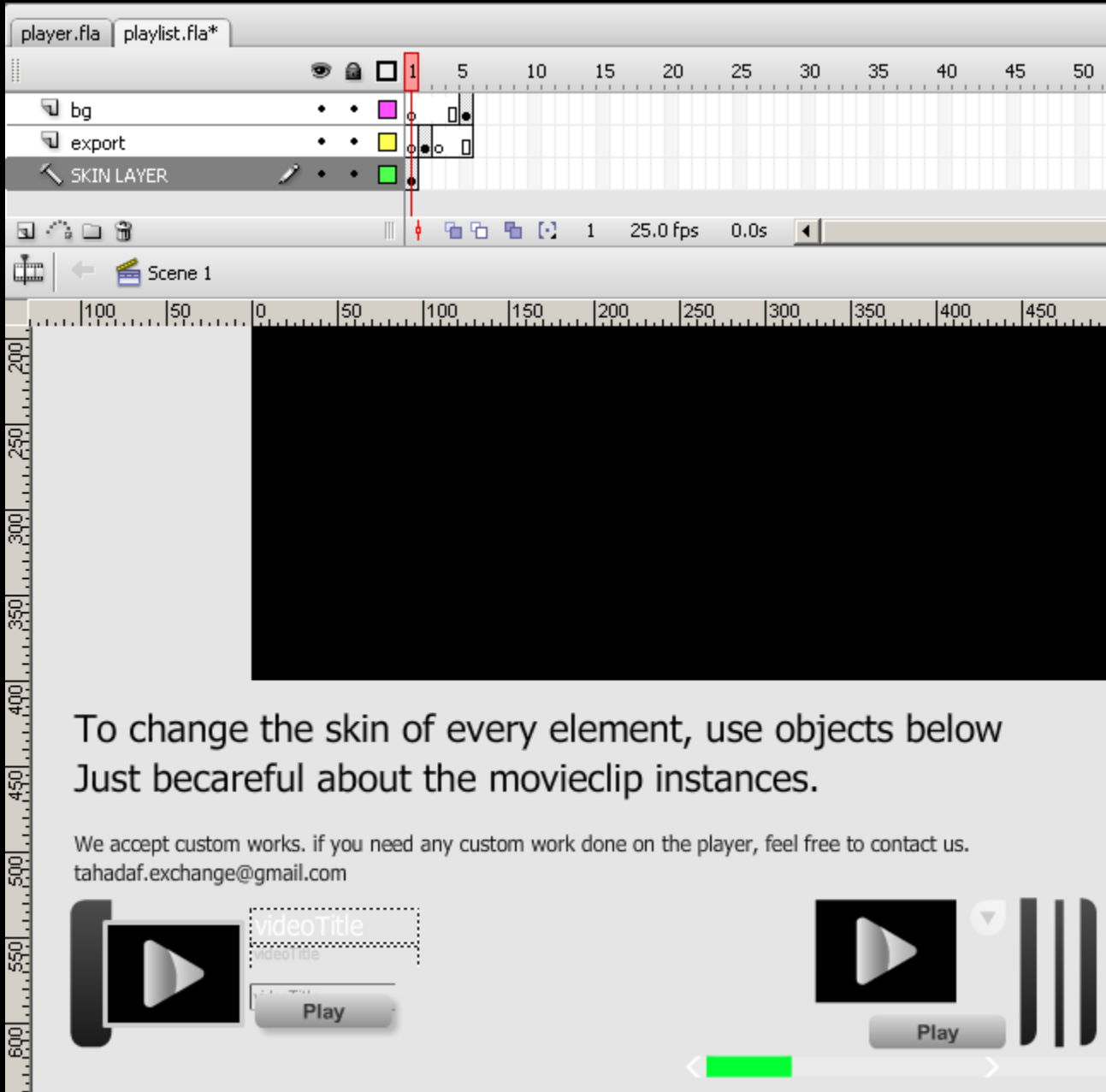
PLAYER FEATURES

Here are the features of “My Super Video Player V1.0”

- Tell a friend
- Embed
- Full screen
- Dynamic playlist with multi categories
- Resizable playlist
- Resizable player
- Playlist and player are two separated files and interact to each other tested on all popular browsers
- Player can be used completely separated from the playlist
- Unique link address for every video being played, the best practice for linking to the playlist videos
- Dynamic control of the page title based on every video being played
- Dynamic inputs for auto play, buffer time.
- Live video from FMS
- Supports, FLV, MOV, MP4 and Streaming videos from FMS

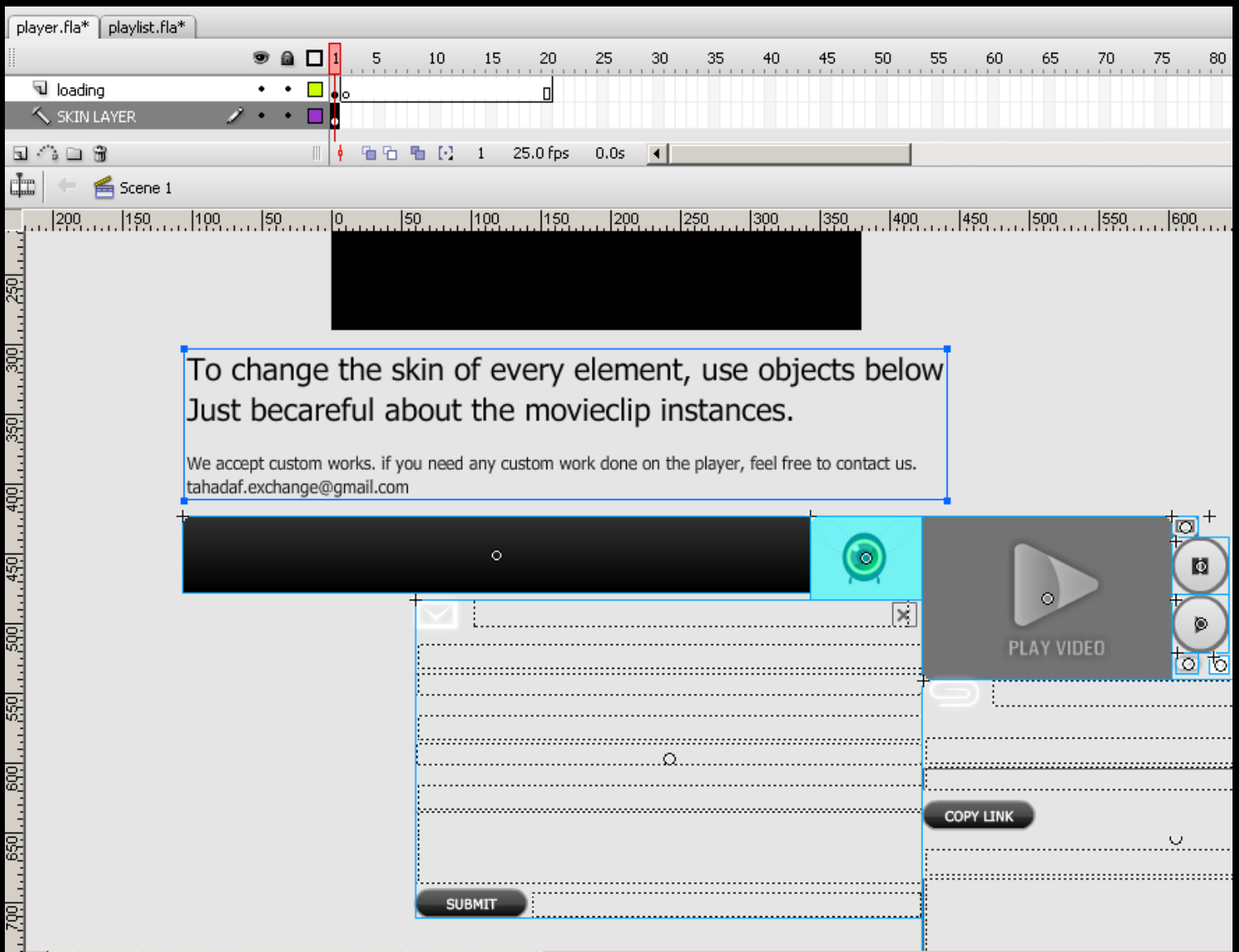
SKIN MODIFICATION

Go to folder “MySuperVideoPlayer\source” and there you’ll find two FLA files for the player and playlist. Let’s start with the playlist ... Open it in your CS3 and in the timeline locate the layer “SKIN LAYER” and there somewhere in your stage you should see below:



That’s it, double click and go to these movieclips and change color, etc. just be careful about the movieclip instance names. Make sure create backups though.

That’s the same thing about the player.fl. Open it in your CS3 and in the layer “SKIN LAYER” you will find some movieclips which I have put for your quick access to graphics.



Of course you can go to library and change design from there also.

*NOTE: As you see, I have put the logo in the FLA file for the player security... if you wish to load the logo also externally, please let me know and I'll consider an upgrade to the files.

*NOTE: The reason I have put some variables inside the FLA, is to disappoint some hackers who may try to use the player for their own without downloading it illegally.

FUTURE PLANS

We are going to build an AS3 version of the player soon, don't know when but it won't be in 2009 for sure! Some of the great features I am thinking of are:

- To make a screenshot button on the player so users can take screenshots from videos.
- To enable users record the video being played and export it to their desktop.
- To add advertising pages to any second of the playing video.
- Commenting system in the playlist
- Rating system in the playlist
- Make the playlist and player interact with JavaScript in the html page also
- Support YouTube inputs
- ...

If you have any new great ideas that you think an online video player should have please do email me at tahadaf.exchange@gmail.com

I will remember the good ideas and I will remember your name. Thanks.

SUPPORT

If you noticed any bug, please report it in the below address and I will look into it the soonest possible:

<http://www.emstris.com/2009/08/my-super-video-player/>

I'm giving out a great **free installation support**! To use the free support, you need to provide us with the following details.

- Your server FTP details: IP, username, password
- The exact folder on your server where you want to have the player files installed to.
- The exact address of the html page where you want to have the index.php file.
- [Optional], your transparent logo in PNG format.