

# Video and Audio Conversion

Oh boy, here we go.

Converting video and audio is a delicate process. If done incorrectly, it can result in the quality of the video or audio dropping significantly. Sometimes, it can result in a file so bloated it puts some of Coalgirls' releases to shame. Other times, video or audio quality drops even when the conversion is done correctly. All in all, video conversion should be avoided if possible. But, if you absolutely, positively, must convert a video, then this part of the guide will help you with that.

First, some vocabulary you need to know.

## “Codec

The algorithm used to encode and decode a video or audio stream. It is stored in a Container

## “Container

The file extensions you are all probably familiar with. MOV, MKV, and MP4 are all “containers” that store video and audio streams encoded using codecs. Most containers, like MP4 and MOV, can only store specific codecs. A few, like MKV, can store almost any codec.

Next, install ffmpeg. Ask in #general-discussion on the discord for help with installation if you don't know how, or consult everyone's good friend Google. Make sure at some point you add ffmpeg to your “System PATH Variable,” sometimes just called “PATH.” There are other ways of converting video, but this guide will only use ffmpeg for the sake of simplicity.

First, navigate in the command line to the directory containing the video file you want to convert. Next, run this command:

```
ffmpeg -i "(filename).(fileext)"
```

*(Replace “(filename)” and “(fileext)” with the file name and file extension, respectively)*

You should get a bunch of text that looks something like this:

