

Using Cooliris to Switch Control YouTube

Created: 03/10
Updated: 0/00
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YouTube is a popular video sharing website on which users can upload and share videos. However, due to its design and abundance of links it's very hard to access using switches. Not to worry though since there is an application called [Cooliris](#) which when used in conjunction with [Facebook](#), will allow access to this huge library of videos. You don't just have to use Facebook since the slideshow can be hosted on other social networking sites such as [Bebo](#) or [Twitter](#). Or, if you prefer, create an html file which can be run from your desktop or web space.

Applications Required

- **Cooliris:** Web browser plug-in that provides interactive full-screen slideshows of online images and videos.
- **Facebook:** Social networking service which will host the web slideshow of YouTube videos.

NB: This guide uses Facebook but the same instructions will work for all social networking sites.

Theory

1. Create a slideshow of YouTube videos (such as the most popular music) using Cooliris;
2. Add this slideshow to a Facebook page which can then be viewed using a switch.

Setup a Facebook account to host your slideshow

First, you need to [setup a Facebook account](#) so that when you create your slideshow, you can place it on a web page.

Use Cooliris Express to create the YouTube slideshow (3D Wall)

[Cooliris Express](#) is a flash based builder that allows you to create a slideshow in 3 easy steps.

1. **Select source:** Pick the content to appear on the slideshow, i.e. YouTube videos;
2. **Customise appearance:** Change the appearance of the slideshow;
3. **Post:** Automatically post this slideshow to your social networking site, i.e. Twitter.

Step 1: Select Source

When you first access the builder you may see a slightly different setup as appears in Image 1. So, you need to click on the **change source** link which appears just under the **Source tab**. This will now allow you to click on the YouTube button.

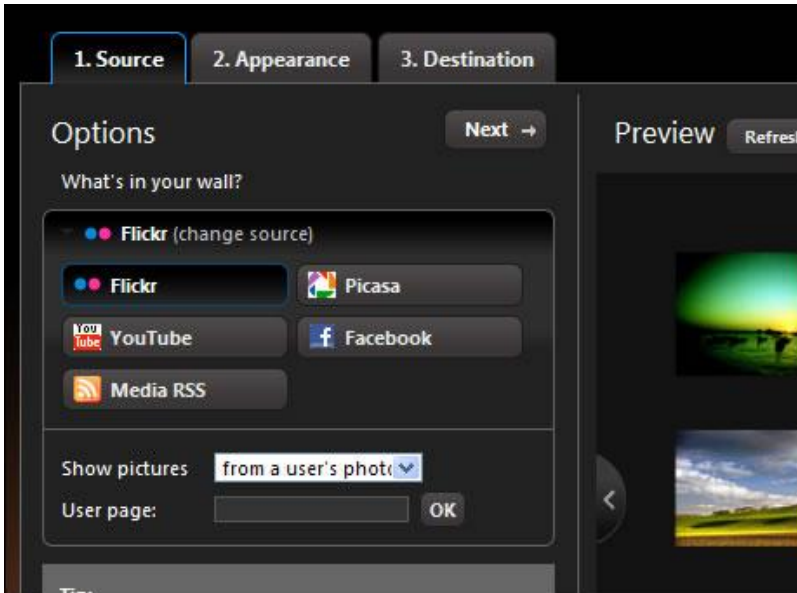


Image 1: Source

For **Video Source** (Image 2), select **Keyword search** and then type in a keyword in the field below this menu such as music, funny animals or football.

There are further parameters for order and time and its best to order by **Most Viewed** which usually ensure the videos don't send you to sleep!

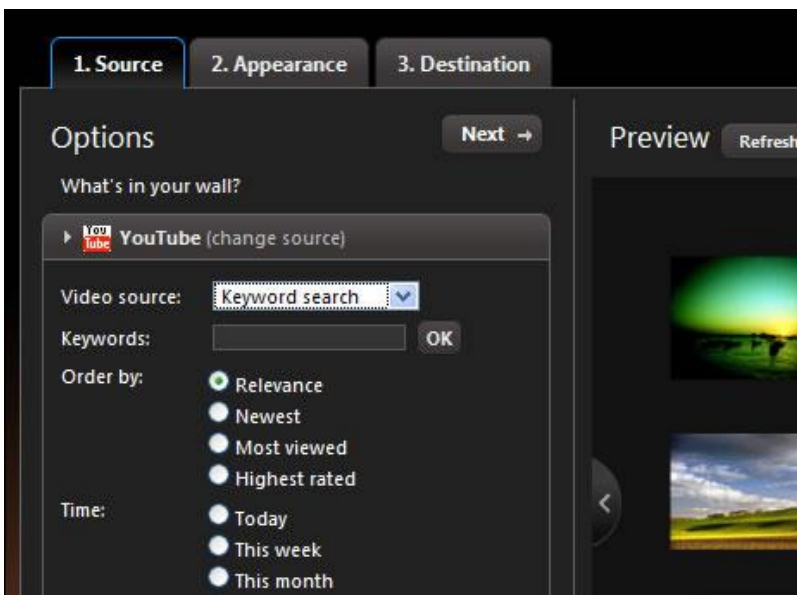


Image 2: Configure YouTube Source

Step 2: Customise Appearance

Select the **Appearance tab** or just click on the **Next button** to access this step. There are two options to configure: **number of rows** and **background theme**.

For easy scrolling through the slideshow it's best to set the **number of rows to 1**. Unpick all the check boxes for Search button, Embed button, Show tutorial and Toolbar background.

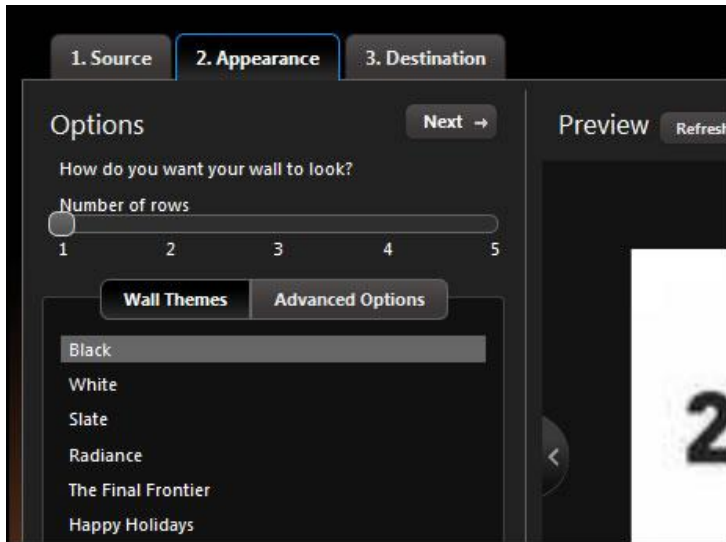


Image 3: Appearance

Step 3: Post to Destination

The final step will post the slideshow to your web space (Facebook). Ensuring you are logged onto Facebook, just simply click on the Facebook button which will redirect you to your Facebook account and post the slideshow.

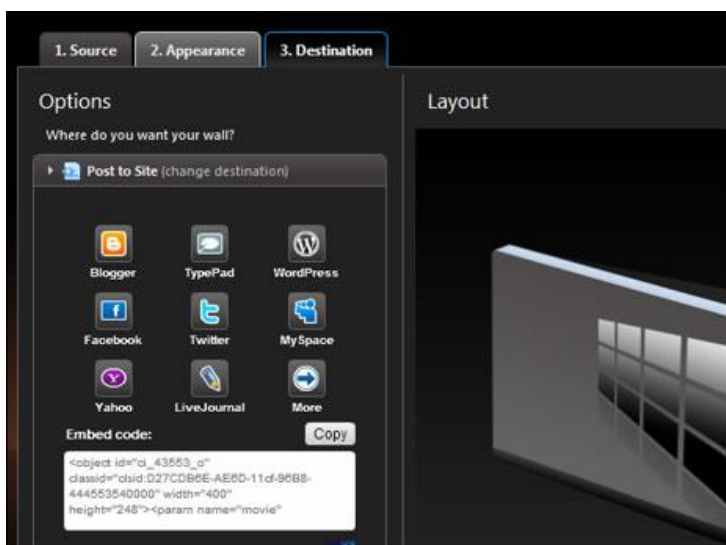


Image 4: Post

Step 4: Facebook

The slideshow should now be appearing in Facebook and at this stage you can change the title and description if you wish.

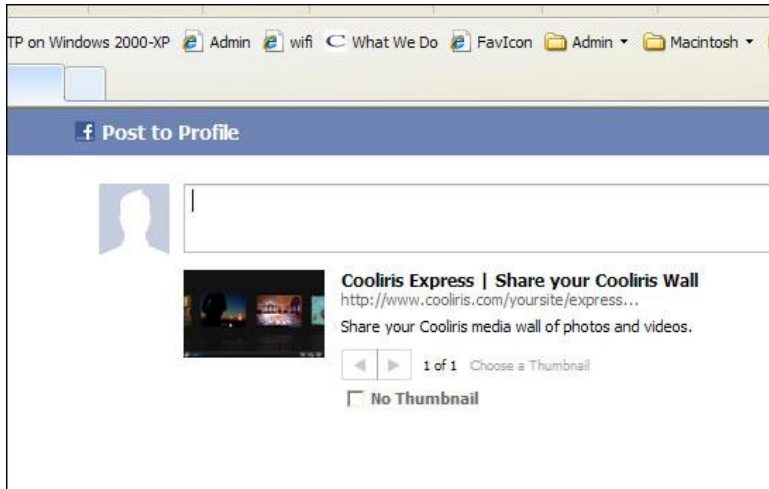


Image 5: Facebook

Then click on the **Share** button at the bottom of the screen.

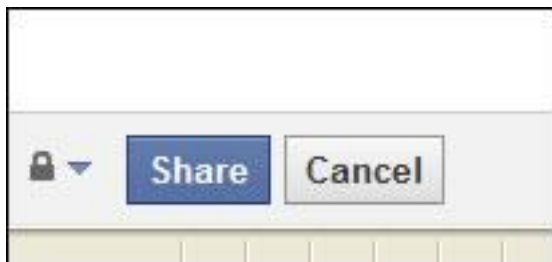


Image 6: Share button

- A success screen appears and you need to click on the **Close this window** link.
- Go to your Profile **window** by clicking on the link in the top right of the screen.
- You should now see a thumbnail of your slideshow, click it and a new window will open with your slideshow.

If you have come this far then Success!! All you need to do now is click (with your mouse) on the slideshow to activate it and then you can use the right key (or your switch) to step through the videos.

Instead of using Facebook, try creating a desktop web file (.html)

Another way of viewing the slideshow without using social networking sites is to create your own web file which can be viewed from the desktop. It's actually easier than it looks:

Step 1

- Open a blank text file;
- Copy and paste the code below into this file and save it to your desktop as **slideshow.html**:

```
<!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Transitional//EN"
    "http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-transitional.dtd">
<html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml">
<head>
<meta http-equiv="Content-Type" content="text/html; charset=utf-8" />
<title>Slideshow</title>
<style type="text/css">
<!--
body {background-color: #000000;}
-->
</style>
</head>
<body>

<!-- Insert the code below here →

<!-- Insert the code above here →

</body>
</html>
```

Step 2

During **step 3: Post to Destination** (when creating a slideshow for Facebook) you may have noticed an **Embed code** box. Copy the code inside that box and paste it into the file you have just created (below where it says **<!--Insert code here**) and save the file.

So, the code will look something like this:

```
<!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Transitional//EN"
"http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-transitional.dtd">
<html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml">
<head>
<meta http-equiv="Content-Type" content="text/html; charset=utf-8" />
<title>Slideshow</title>
<style type="text/css">
<!--
body {background-color: #000000;}
-->
</style>
</head>
<body>
```

<!-- Insert the code below here →

```
<object
id="ci_85211_o" classid="clsid:D27CDB6E-AE6D-11cf-96B8-444553540000" width="400"
height="248"><param name="movie"
value="http://apps.cooliris.com/embed/cooliris.swf"/><param name="allowFullScreen"
value="true"/><param name="allowScriptAccess" value="always"/><param name="bgColor"
value="#121212" /><param name="flashvars"
value="numrows=1&feed=api%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2F%3Fsearch%3Dcars%26tim
e%3Dall_time%26sort%3Drelevance&showsearch=false&showembed=false&showchrome=fals
e" /><param name="wmode" value="opaque" /><embed id="ci_85211_e" type="application/x-
shockwave-flash" src="http://apps.cooliris.com/embed/cooliris.swf" width="400" height="248"
allowFullScreen="true" allowScriptAccess="always" bgColor="#121212"
flashvars="numrows=1&feed=api%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2F%3Fsearch%3Dcars%26
time%3Dall_time%26sort%3Drelevance&showsearch=false&showembed=false&showchrome=f
alse" wmode="opaque"></embed></object>
```

<!-- Insert the code above here →

```
</body>
</html>
```

Step 3

The slideshow will probably appear fairly small so we can change its size by modifying the code above (highlighted in Bold and red). Change the width and height from:

width="400" height="248"

to

width="700" height="434"

Now, save the file and go to your desktop and double click on that file and it should run your slideshow from the desktop.

Infinity and beyond...well, hosting the slideshow on your website

Now, if you know a bit about html/javascript coding then there is so much more you can do with Cooliris. In theory you could setup a website with links for a whole range of subjects such as music, cars, jokes, and much more. However, for full independent access this would require four switches:

Tab key to skip between links;
Right arrow key to skip through slideshow;
An access key to skip to navigation links.

If you required a user playlist then you could also look at [RSS media files](#) which can also be used in Cooliris.

It's getting a bit 'techie' now but it shows you the potential of Cooliris!