Creating Persistent Links to YouTube Music Videos

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Linking YouTube Videos
Social Networks
Linking YouTube Videos

Blogs

“Redemption Song” is the last song on 1980’s “Uprising”, the final studio LP from Bob Marley and The Wailers. With the possible exception of “No Woman No Cry”, “Redemption Song” is probably my favorite BMATW song. The 7” version of “Redemption Song” had both the acoustic version (from “Uprising”) as well as “band version” with The Wailers.

There are dozens of covers of “Redemption Song”; I won’t even try to list them all. When Joe Strummer covered it on his 2003 LP “Streetcore”, there was only one way to improve on it: a duet with Joe Strummer and Johnny Cash, from the 2003 posthumously released box set “Unearthed”. Once again, you have to hand it to Rick Rubin for putting this together (see also: my review of “God’s Gonna Cut You Down”). Honestly, does it get any better than Joe Stummer & Johnny Cash covering a Bob Marley song?

Bob Marley (acoustic solo) [YouTube]. This is closest to the version you’re used to.

Bob Marley and The Wailers [YouTube].

Joe Strummer [YouTube].

2011 (11)
December (5)
November (3)
October (1)
September (1)
August (3)
Bob Marley and the Wailers - “Redemption Song” (th…
Joe Strummer & The Mescaleros - “Streetcore” (LP R…
The Cribs - “I’m A Realist” (LP Review)

July (4)
June (2)
May (2)
April (3)
March (3)
February (2)
January (2)

2009 (67)

SCORES FOR LP REVIEWS

10: Genre defining. The world is a better place because this exists.
The Problem

Pointing a link to a specific video copy has a risk of getting an error page instead of the desired content.
Copyright Infringement

"The Rolling Ston...
This video is no longer available due to a copyright claim by ABKCO.
Sorry about that.
Removed by YouTube User
Half Life of YouTube Videos

![Graph showing the half life of YouTube videos for different categories: Top 40 US Singles Charts, Music Blogs @ blogspot.com, and The 500 Greatest Songs. The graph depicts linear regression lines for each category, illustrating the rate at which views decrease over time.]
Hundreds of Copies Available at Any Time
video title: Jessie's Girl
Artist’s name: Rick Springfield
Available Copy of the Same Video
2000+ Copies Available in YouTube
Metadata on Available YT URIs
Incomplete Metadata
Missing Metadata
Querying the WI for Structured Metadata

Music-related APIs

- Last.fm
- 7Digital
- Yahoo!
- Grooveshark
- Amazon MP3
- iLike
- Rhapsody
- Pandora
- MusicBrainz
Retrieving and Publishing Metadata into Web Infrastructure

Introducing a level of indirection by pointing the original given URI to an outsourced service
Resolver Service

$URI = youtube.com/watch?v= videoid

$newURI = $serviceURI . $URI

$URI = $newURI

if (($video == "200 OK") && ! Seen_already($video)){
    Twitter($video)
    Tumbler($video)
    Blogger($video)
    Delicious($video)

    Redirect to YouTube to play the video
}
else if (($video == "200 OK") && Seen_already($video)){

    Redirect to YouTube to play the video
}
else if (($video == "404 Not Found ") && Seen_already($video)){

    Retrieve metadata and search for available alternative copies
}
else if (($video == "404 Not Found ") && ! Seen_already($video)){

    Request the metadata for the desired video from the user
}
Metadata Preservation
Example: Delicious
Metadata Preservation

Example: Twitter
The response for this video is 200.

The metadata found is:
upload_title: Rick Springfield - Jessie's Girl
duration: 196
title: Jessie's Girl
duration: 196

Caught exception: Tumblr services are temporarily unavailable.
The metadata for this video is already preserved in the blogger.
The metadata was already preserved in delicious.
The metadata was sent to twitter.

Final Result:
The response for this video is 404.
The preserved metadata:
id: adaYUM5wl7c
u: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=adaYUM5wl7c
ma: Rick Springfield
ms: Jessie's Girl
d: 196

Caught exception: Tumblr services are temporarily unavailable.
The metadata was retrieved from blogger.

Remove the debugging information

Final Result:
Provide information for the expected video

Video title: 

Artist's name: 
Conclusion

- A 404 response does not mean that YouTube videos like *Jessie’s Girl* went away.
- We are working on automating indirection to a service that finds YouTube songs at other URIs.