

How to Capture Video From a DVD

Equipment needed: Computer with DVD drive, DVD

Software needed: **VLC** (Video Lan Client) and **FRAPS (with Direct X installed)**

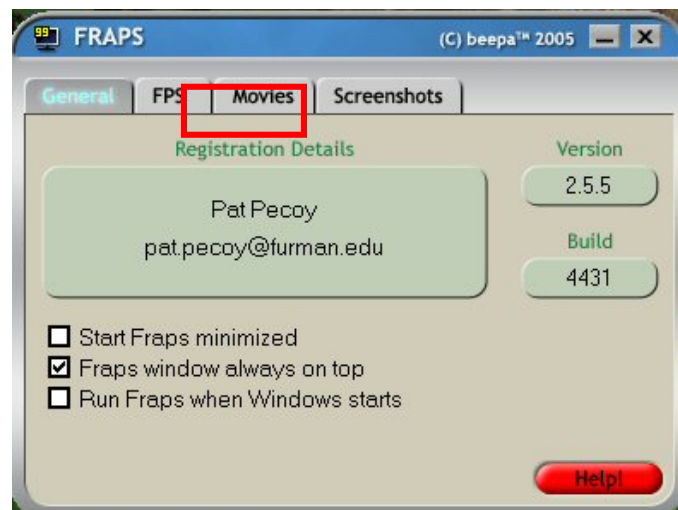
Until recently, capturing video from a DVD was a fairly difficult task. However, with the advent of two software packages, VLC and FRAPS, capturing video from a DVD is almost as easy as capturing video from a camcorder or a VHS tape. But in order to pull it off, you will need BOTH packages. VLC is available for either Windows or Mac computers but FRAPS is for Windows only. A word about each one before we begin:

VLC (Video Lan Client): VLC is a cross-platform (meaning it will work on either Windows or Mac computers) media player. So why do you need yet another media player if you've already got Windows Media Player, Real Player, etc.? Two reasons: (1) VLC ignores region codes, meaning that you will be able to view DVDs purchased anywhere in the world, not just the US and (2) you need it to be able to capture video from a DVD!! VLC is available on the CD distributed for the faculty workshops, it is also available to MLL faculty on millie\labshare, or it can be downloaded from <http://www.videolan.org/>. This is freeware; it can be downloaded and installed without charge on as many computers as you wish. We will use VLC as the player for the DVD from which we want to do our captures.

FRAPS: FRAPS is the software we will use to do the actual captures from a DVD. This software is shareware – meaning you can try it and use it under limited circumstances (30 seconds of video capture at a time) until you purchase it, when its use becomes unlimited. The registered version costs about \$30.00 and is worth every penny. We will use it again when we discuss capturing streaming video. FRAPS can be downloaded from <http://www.fraps.com/>. One other requirement: FRAPS must have DirectX installed in order to work. If you do not have DIRECTX installed on your computer, you can download it (for free) from Microsoft at <http://www.microsoft.com/windows/directx/default.aspx>.

These two packages will work in tandem for capturing video from a DVD. Let's get started. First, put your DVD in the DVD drive of your computer. If a player (such as Windows Media Player) opens up to play the DVD, just close it out (click on the X in the upper right-hand corner).

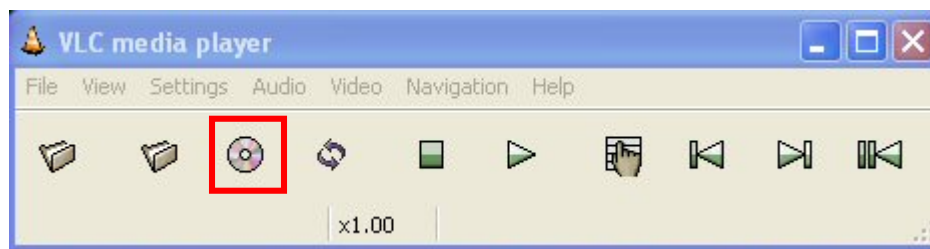
1. First, let's get FRAPS set up for our captures. Launch FRAPS. The opening screen looks like this: Click on the **Movies** tab to select the capture settings.



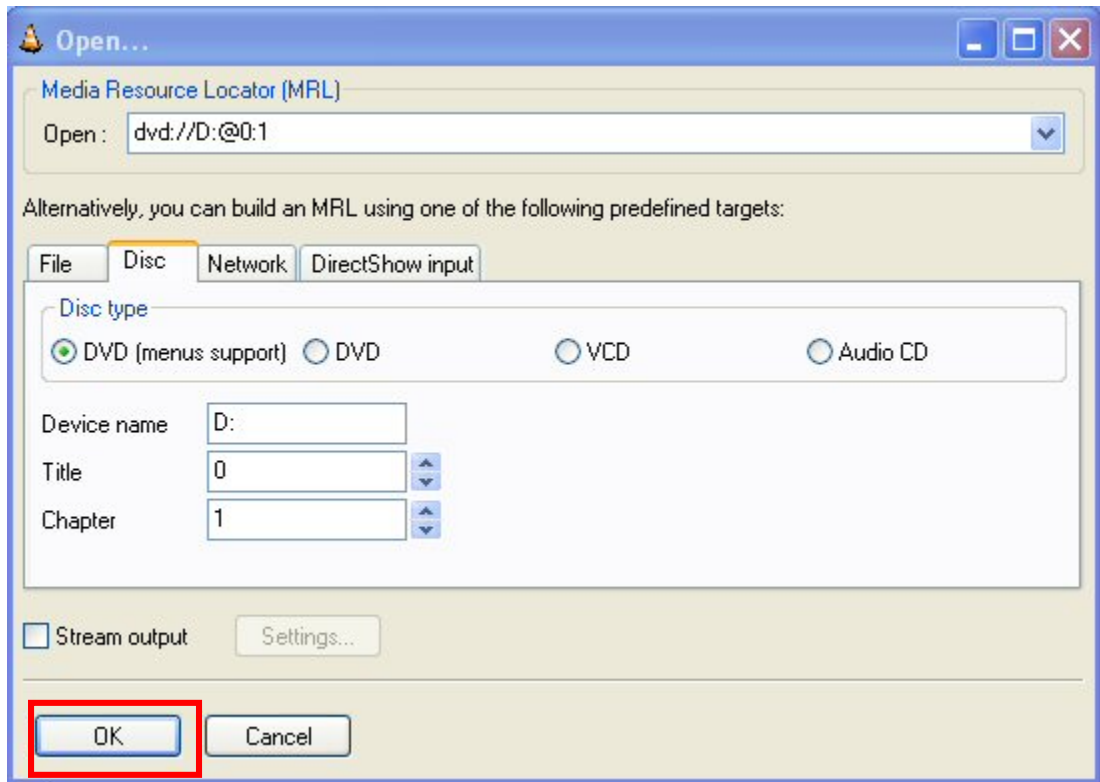
2. We have only one thing to do before we're ready to capture and that is to tell FRAPS where we want to save our captures. You will see a green sentence that says "Folder to save movies in." Below this sentence is the location where FRAPS is currently set to save captures. You can change this folder by clicking on the **Change** button, then navigating to the folder you want to use, selecting it, and clicking OK. The path to the folder you have chosen should now show in the light green tab below the sentence "Folder to save movies in."



3. Notice that the video capture hotkey is F9 (this is the function key in the row above the numbers on your computer). Although you can change this, we will use the default capture hotkey. As our video plays, when we get to the point where we want to begin capturing, we will press F9 to activate the capture. We'll let the video play until we get to the end of what we want to capture and then we'll press F9 again to stop capturing. That's all there is to it!!
4. OK, FRAPS is ready to go. Let's minimize it (do NOT close it out completely) for now (click on the underscore character in the upper-right hand corner of the screen). Notice that the FRAPS icon is now residing in the system tray in the lower right hand corner of your screen. It has been activated and is awaiting your F9 command. Now let's go get VLC so we can play our DVD.
5. Now launch VLC. The opening screen looks like this:



Click on the CD icon to open up the disc settings box:



Your settings should look like this. Under the disc tab, you should show DVD with menu support and the device name should be D (or whatever letter designates your DVD drive). Everything's good, so click OK to start the movie.

6. As the movie plays, when you reach a point where you want to begin capturing, press F9. Continue to capture to the end of what you want and then press F9 again to stop the capture. You now have your first clip.
7. Not convinced? Double-click on the FRAPS icon in your system tray. When the movie screen appears, click on the **VIEW** button which will open the folder in which you saved your clip. Double-click on the clip to play it and reassure yourself that magic really did happen!!

