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**H**ave you ever browsed the internet and found something REALLY interesting that could be used for your teaching? Or have you watched a colleague using some nifty programmes and thought, 'I'd like to do this in my lectures'? Or did you have a specific problem when for example preparing a lecture and could not find the answer anywhere? Or even better, you found the answer to a teaching-related problem on the web and thought, 'this could be useful for other people'? Well, we have been in the same position and therefore we decided to share our 'experience' with colleagues. We thought that people might be interested in some tricks, tweaks, new software or additions to well-known programmes that help to make lectures more interesting and engaging. The aim of this project is to develop a teaching resource information service that alerts colleagues of potentially useful software and applications and how to use them. I hope you find this newsletter useful - and if you know of any software, application or tricks and tweaks to make teaching more interesting, or if you have any specific questions please drop us [a line](#). We are always interested to hear from you.

**T**he focus of this first TRIS Newsletter is on how to put videos from the internet into your PowerPoint slides. This approach is becoming increasingly popular and rightly so. There is some good stuff out there (and also some really awful), so whenever you want to add a bit of interest to your lectures, why not have a look at YouTube or other sites. There is a good chance that people have already made some videos, which support your lectures. So really all you need to do is, find the good stuff, check whether this is what you want and then put it into your lecture slides. Obviously, I don't know what you are looking for and whether it is suitable for your lectures, so I can't help you with the first two issues. However, I can show you, how you can put YouTube videos into your slides.

In principal there are two ways of dealing with this problem, both have advantages and disadvantages. You could either decide that all you want is to link from your PowerPoint slides to the video you want to show. This means that the video stays on the web and you just put the link into your presentation, so that the video is played within the slide. You don't need to download anything. In order for this to work properly, you need to have a fast internet connection whenever you want to show the video.

The second approach is to download the video and then put it into your slide presentation. Obviously, you need to download a file, store it on your computer (and remember where you put it) and know, how to get it to play in your presentation. Once you have downloaded the video, you can play it anywhere, even without a connection to the internet. Here the big disadvantage is that this process comprises a number of steps and, most importantly, it can get you into a lot of trouble with copyright. In the following, I will describe a method using a YouTube video online..

I am using Microsoft Office 2007 and Firefox 3.0.11, but I am sure these methods also work for other versions (I will put in information about other versions wherever I know about it).

## Use an online YouTube video in your PowerPoint presentation

Ok, I found a great video on let's say cellular mechanisms of plant fertilization on YouTube (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AWXb6z1eD0o>), which I want to use in my lectures. I know that I will have a good internet connection, when I am going to show this video, so I don't really need to download it. To put the link for this video into PowerPoint 2007 I am going to use a PowerPoint add-in. This is a small file that can be added to your PowerPoint installation. The file is available to download at: <http://presentationsoft.about.com/od/powerpoint2007/ss/071213youtube07.htm>.

The screenshot shows a Mozilla Firefox browser window displaying an article on About.com. The article title is "Download the YouTube Videos Add-in" and it is part of a tutorial series. The instructions listed are:

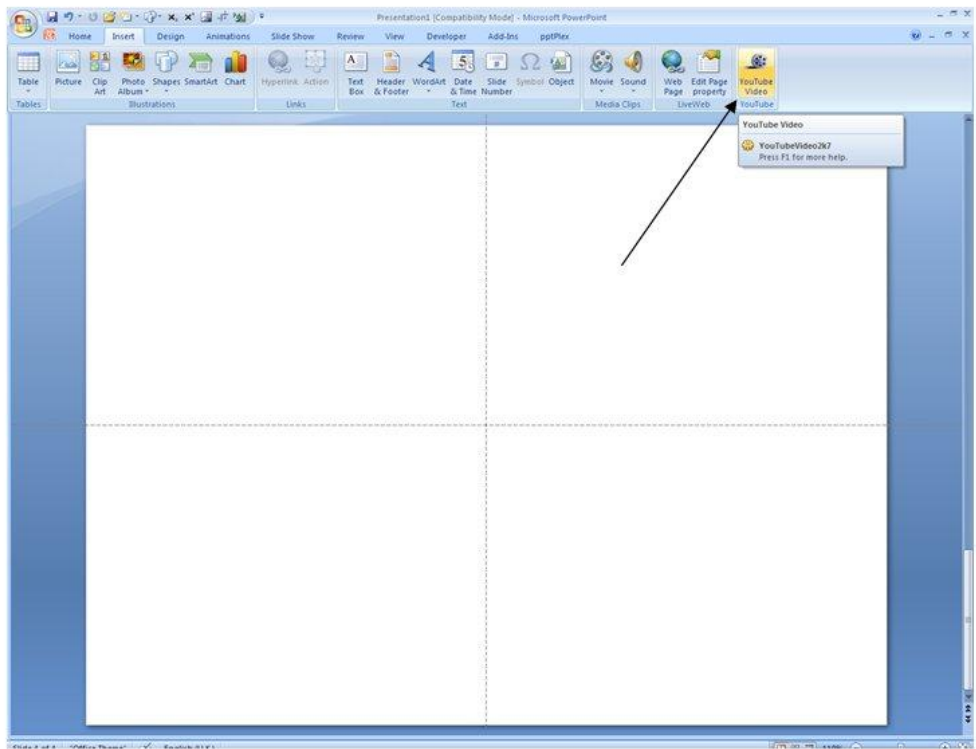
1. Double click on the newly saved zipped file.
2. Right click on the file named **YouTubeVideo2k7.ppam**.
3. Click on Copy
4. Navigate to the location on your computer where you wish to save the add-in file.
5. Paste the YouTubeVideo2k7.ppam file to this new location.

Below the instructions, it says "Now you are ready to move on to [installing the Add-in](#)." The page navigation shows "1" is selected, with "2" being the next step. Three numbered boxes (1, 2, 3) are overlaid on the page with arrows pointing to the download link, the instructions section, and the page navigation controls respectively.

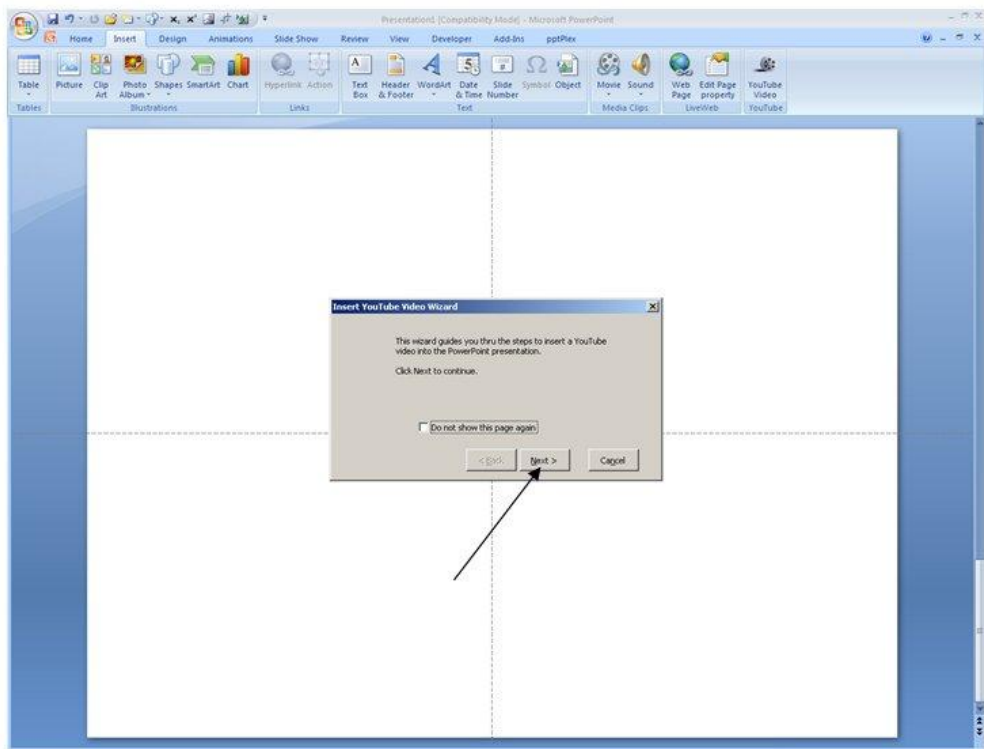
Download the add-on (1).

Install the add-on by following the instructions (2 and 3).

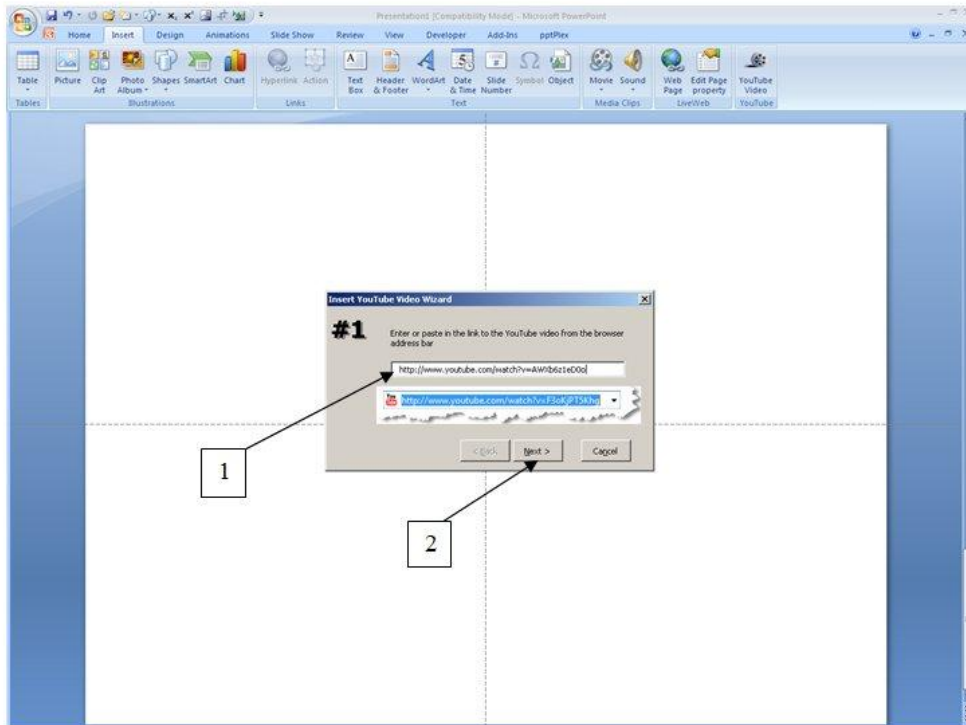
Open PowerPoint 2007 and click on 'Insert' - you should see a new icon in the toolbar:



Clicking on this button will open a new dialog box - just click 'Next >'

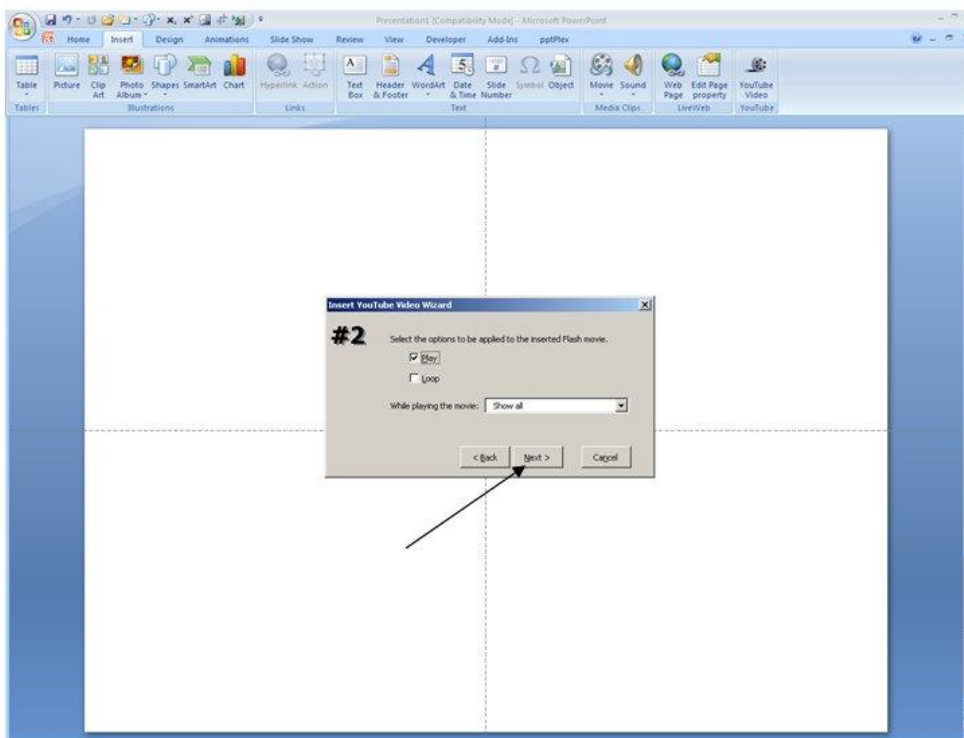


In the next dialog box you need to enter the URL of your video:



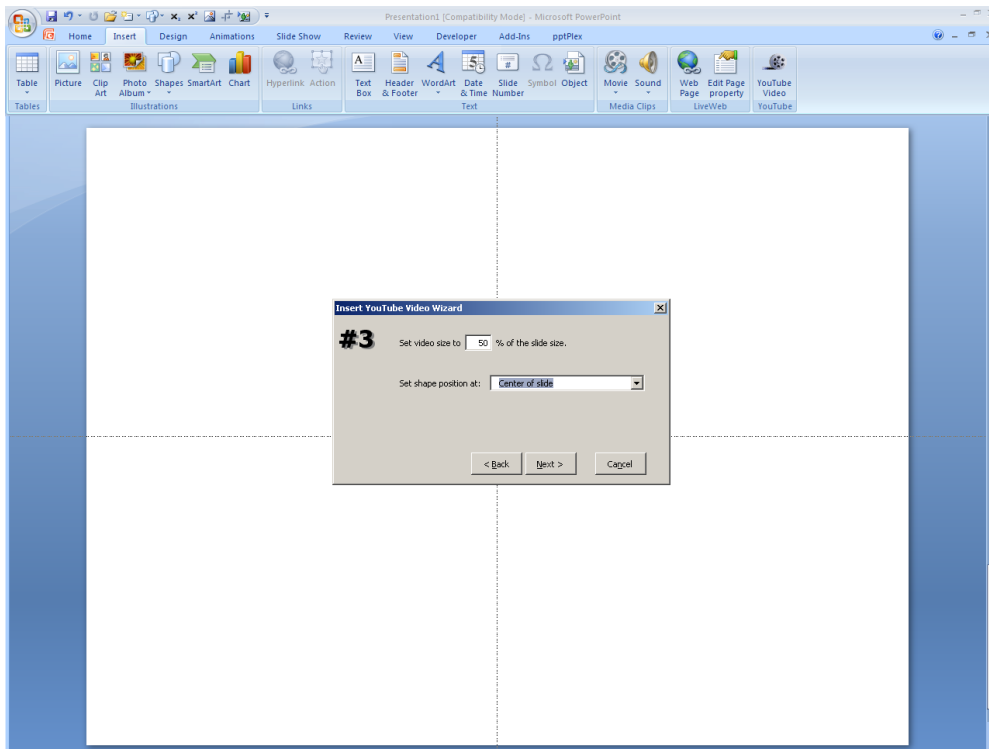
The annoying thing here is that you cannot do a right mouse click and 'paste' the link (which you have copied earlier by highlighting the URL of your YouTube video, right click and then 'copy'). Instead, you need to use the shortcut combination 'Ctrl' + 'v' to paste it (1).

Click 'Next >' (2).

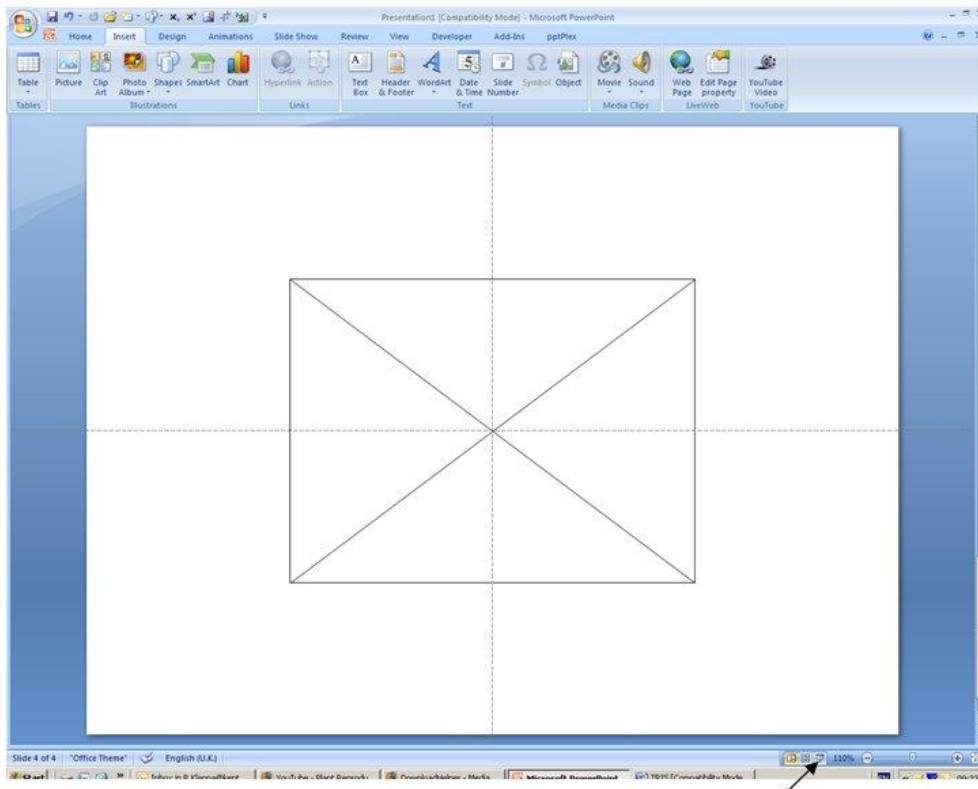


And 'Next >' again.

In the next dialog box you can modify the size and the position of the video:



Click 'Next >' and the 'Finish'.  
You will probably get a screen like this:



Just click on the slide show icon and you will see your video:



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Click the 'Play' button and voila! If everything went ok, your video should be playing without any problems.

What is good about the Add-on?

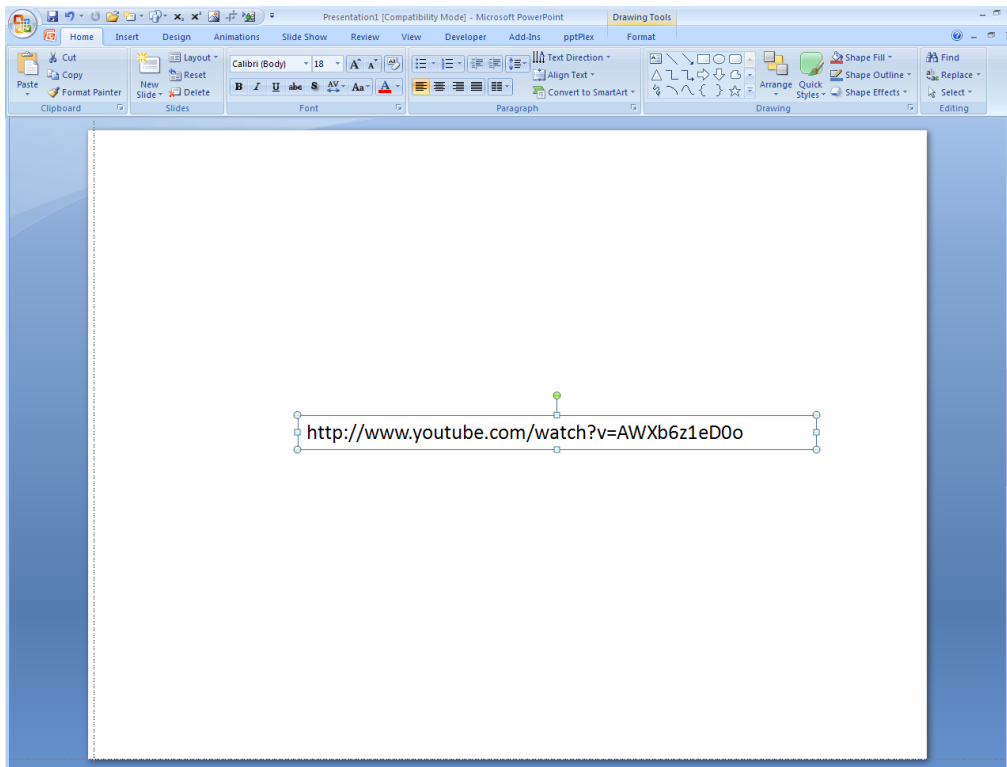
It's pretty straightforward to install and once you've got it, it'll take you less than 30 seconds to put a video into your presentation.

What's not so good about it?

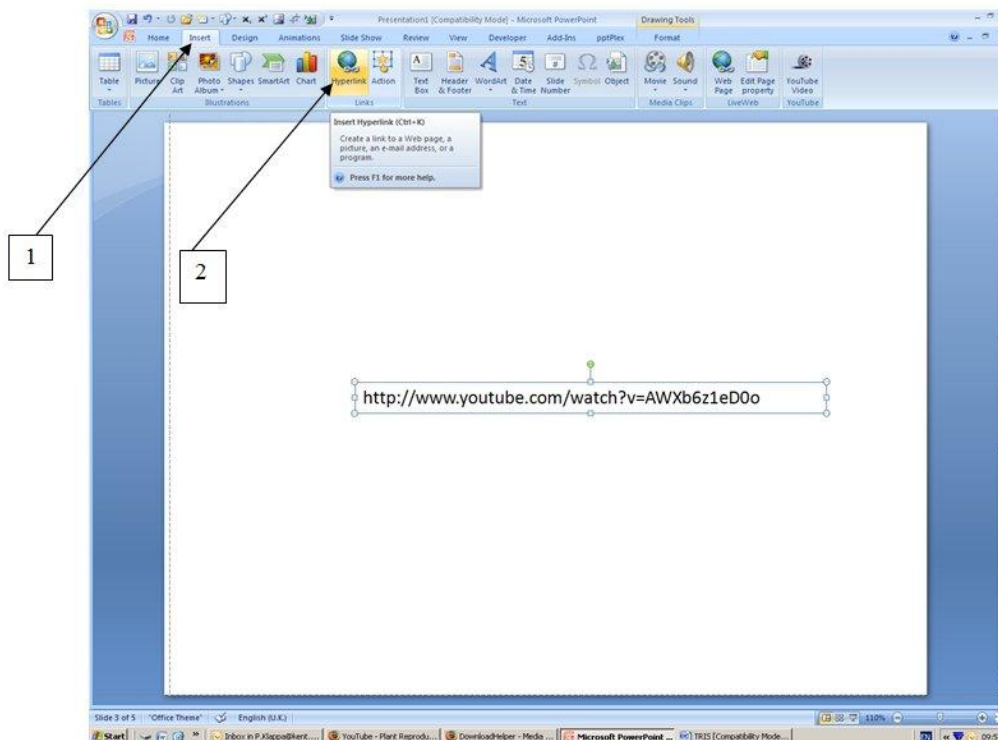
Using 'Ctrl' + 'v' in order to paste the URL into the text box is a bit annoying. The biggest problem is that the add-on only accepts URL's linked to YouTube videos. I think that certainly needs improvement, since there is good stuff available from other sites (like Google videos).

**Rating: 4/5**

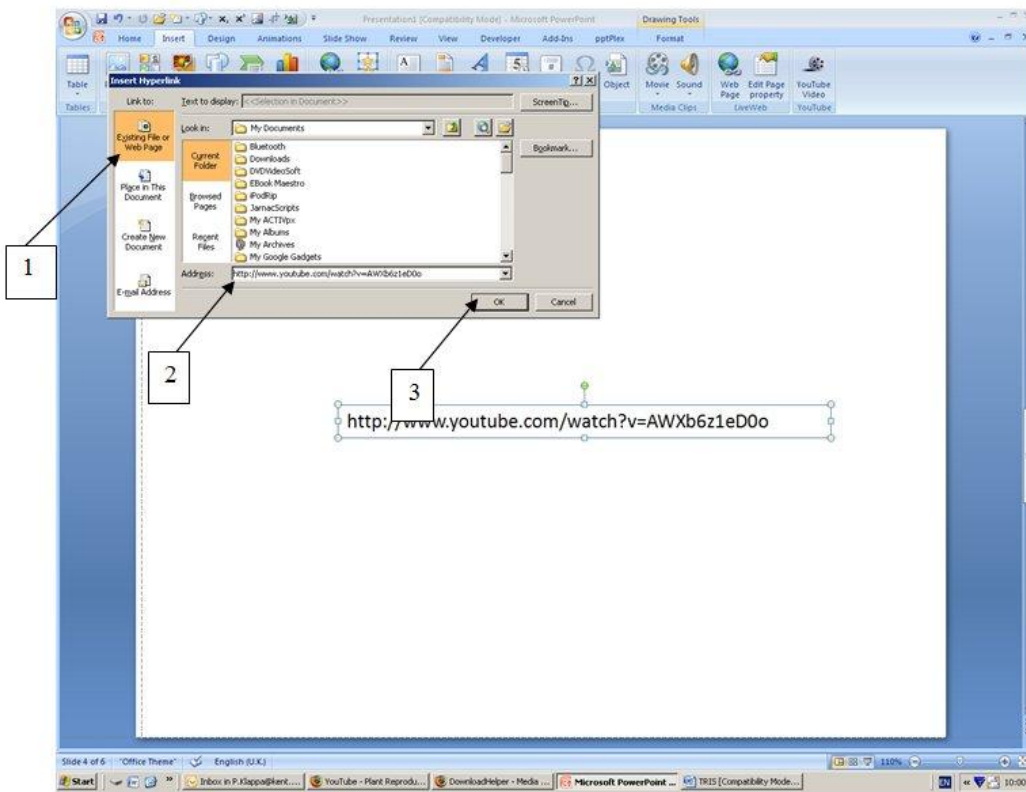
An alternative, and rather crude method is to simply paste the URL for your video into a PowerPoint slide:



To get this to play, you need to link the text to the actual URL. Click on 'Insert' in the toolbar (1) and then the 'hyperlink' icon (2):

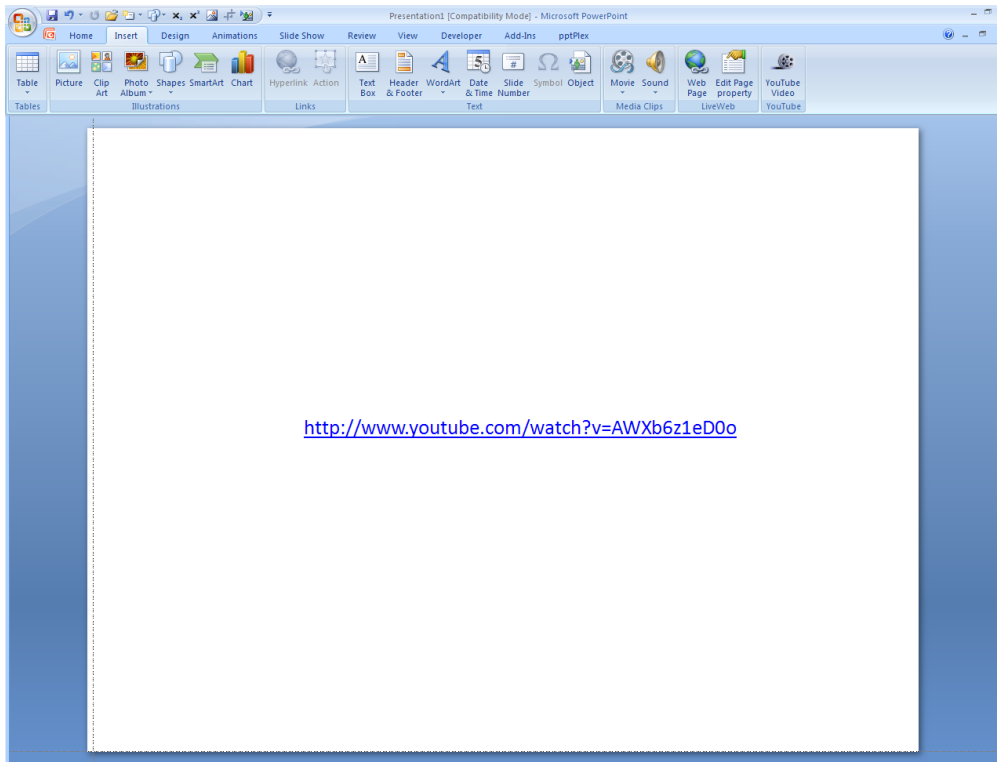


A new dialog box will open:

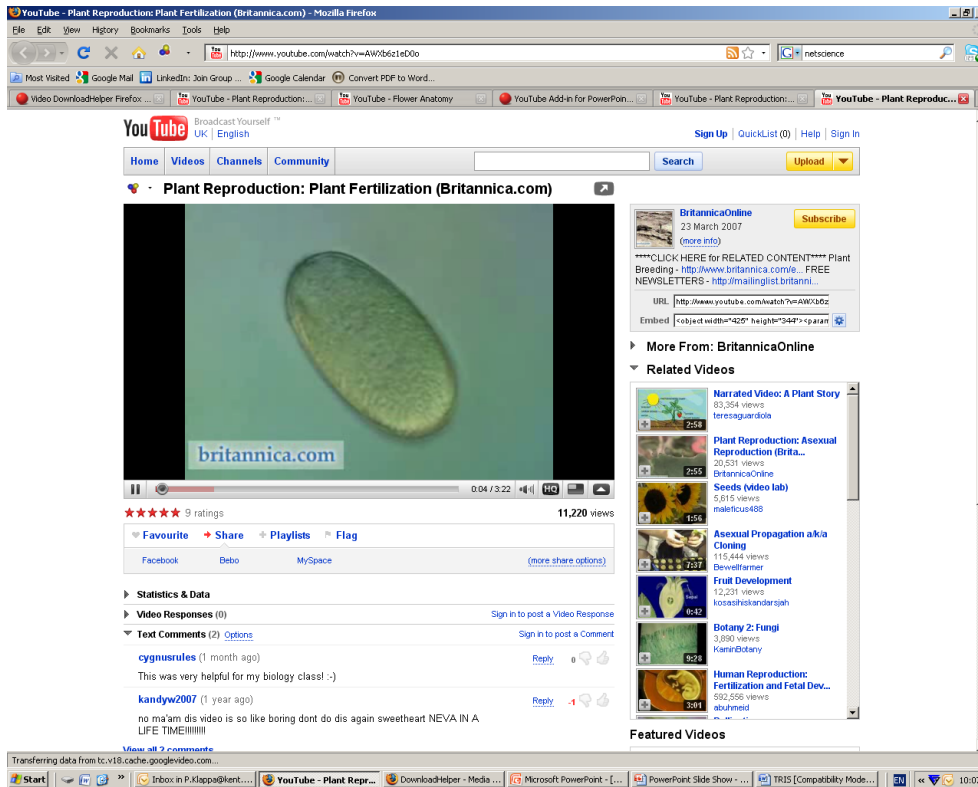


Make sure that the field 'Existing file or web page' is highlighted (1). Copy/paste the text of the link into the Address bar (2) and click 'OK' (3).

The text should now look like a proper link:



When you start your slideshow (as before) and click on the link, the video will open in your web browser and start to play:



The disadvantage of this approach is that you have to leave your PowerPoint slideshow. Once you played the video you then have to go back to one of the many open windows, find the correct PowerPoint slide show and re-start it again. Surely not a big problem, if you have only one or two videos, but things get easily crammed and always start/stopping your slideshow is rather interrupting.