YouTube expands support for HTML5

January 22 2010, by Lin Edwards

(PhysOrg.com) -- YouTube is the major video-viewing site on the Internet, and it is constantly working to maintain its edge over competitors such as Hulu, and to present the video-watching experience its users demand. YouTube recently demonstrated an HTML5-based video player, and users have asked it to do more with HTML5. In response, YouTube has now announced that a new experimental video player supporting HTML5 is going live.

According to YouTube, HTML5 is a new web standard rapidly gaining in popularity. It has many new features to provide a rich user experience, such as support for vector-based graphics and animation, geolocation, and drag-and-drop, but the feature of most interest to YouTube viewers is its support for audio and video playback without the need to download an Adobe flash player plug-in for the browser. With no need for a flash player, playback of video and audio are significantly faster.

At present, few browsers currently support HTML5, but YouTube lists [Internet Explorer](#) with Chrome Frame installed, Google's Chrome and Apple's [Safari](#) (version 4+) as being compatible, but other major browsers such as Mozilla [Firefox](#) and Opera are not yet compatible. There are other limitations, such as a lack of support in HTML5 for videos with user-created captions, annotations or adverts, and full screen viewing is not yet available, but YouTube says it will soon be expanding the capabilities of the HTML5-compatible player.

If your browser is compatible, you can use the new [video player](#) at [TestTube](#), but you will first need to opt-in to the HTML5 program. (If you are already signed on for other experiments at TestTube, you may not get the HTML5 video player.) Another option is to visit [Feather Watch](#), which YouTube promises will give you a faster and even simpler video-viewing experience.

HTML5 is an open standard, and YouTube says it is "very excited" to be getting behind the new web standard and helping to push it forward.

More information: -- [www.youtube.com/html5](#)
-- [www.youtube.com/testtube](#)
-- Google blog: [youtube-global.blogspot.com/20 …](#) [html5-supported.html](#)
-- HTML5: [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HTML5](#)

© 2010 PhysOrg.com

provided for information purposes only.