This lesson resolves the issue where iMovie reports it can not find the original audio or video files for a project. This typically happens when you add a new drive, do some "house-cleaning" or you have incorporated a new media storage plan.



You open iMovie 09 and see the image above is in the View window of iMovie. In addition, a small yellow triangle shows up in the lower left hand corner of the clip that is missing. (see below)

Indentify missing clip



The clip that is missing is indicated by a small yellow triangle with an exclamation point (within red circle above.)

Determine where iMovie expected to find clip



When you hold the cursor over the yellow triangle, a small box will appear with the file path of the missing clip. Note the path of the missing file, in this case it is "/Users/lkoepsel/Pictures/iPhoto Library/Originals/2008/Ogden Breakfast July 2, 2008/MVI_0661.AVI"

Determine where clip has been moved

	-
	lovie Events
	Bear
▶ 🗎	Cisco
▶ 🗎	Flip
▶ 🗎	Flip_Day1
▶ 🗎	Fountain
▶ 🗎	Lief
· · · · □	🛛 Ogden
•	iMovie Cache
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	MVI_0649.AVI
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	MVI_0652.AVI
	🎮 MVI_0653.AVI
	MVI_0655.AVI
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	MVI_0661.AVI
	1 MVI_0662.AVI
	💹 MVI_0663.AVI

The clip was moved out of iPhoto Library and in to a new directory for iMovie projects. Complete path of clip is now "~/Movies/iMovie Events/Ogden/MVI_0661.AVI". **Note**: Though it is not shown above, the folder iMovie Events has a longer name, it is this long name that must be used later. To determne the longer name use Right click (or control-click) on the folder and click on Get Info. In the Get Info box, the field Name and Extension will show the full name of the folder is "iMovie Events.localized".

Find the iMovie project



The iMovie project is called Missing and is in the iMovie Projects folder.

Open the project					
	•	iMovie Projects		Today, 6:25	
	Ŧ	Introducing Bear		Jun 10, 200	
		🌉 Missing		Today 6:28	
		🌉 Ogden's Breakfast	Open	Texter days.	
		🏙 OgdenAcquiesce	Open With	•	
OgdenAcquiesce 1 Partner News		🏙 OgdenAcquiesce 1	Show Package	Contents	
		🖬 Partner News	Show Package Contents		
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Right click (or control-click) on the project file "Missing" and choose "Show Package Contents" from the menu.

See the contents of the project file				
00		🔓 Missing		\bigcirc
		•	=- 🔞 🤇	٩
▼ DEVICES	Name		Date Modified	Size
🗐 WD1000	Movies		Jul 4, 2008, 2:05 PM	
WD1000 Backup	Project		Yesterday, 8:16 PM	16 KB
ECS Scratch	Proxies		Jun 10, 2009, 9:15 PM	
MasBaakBaa	QuickLook		Jul 4, 2008, 2:03 PM	
Пасвоокрго	Still Images		Today, 6:26 AM	56 KB
🔄 FW300	💾 Still Thumbnails		Today, 6:26 AM	68 KB
▼ SHARED				
🖂 Macmini				
▼ PLACES				
Applications				
🔯 Dropbox				
🔜 Desktop	·			
🐴 lkoepsel				
Documents				
Ownloads				
▼ SEARCH FOR	() 4 +
6 items, 295.55 GB available				

The command "Show Package Contents" will open a Finder window showing the projects files. The file that contains the paths of the media files is called "Project". This file is a binary flie and needs to be converted to text to edit then back into binary. If you don't make it binary then iMovie won't recognize the project. Close the window so that you can see the iMovie project.

Open T	Terminal					
	Terminal	Shell Edit	View	Window	Help	
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	Last login: Fr Mac-Pro:∼ lkoe	i Jun 12 20:13: psel\$	01 on tty	s000		Т
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Within Terminal, you will change the directory to the directory with the Project file. The easist way to do this is to type the letters "cd " (for change directory) and then drag the project file onto the terminal screen. This will place the path of the project immediately after the "cd ". Pressing return will change the directory to the project.

Drag project into Terminal



Type "cd " (be sure to add a space after the "d"). From the Finder window on the right side, drag the project "Missing" into the terminal window. This will put the path of the project on to the command line. Press "Return".



In Terminal, type "Is" and press Return to view a list of the files in the project. The file "Project" is the file that needs to be edited.

Convert file



In Terminal, use the command "plutil" to convert the binary file into xml. To do this type "plutil -convert xml1 Project" and press Return.

Edit file



Type "open -a TextEdit Project" and press Return. This will open the file Project in a window in TextEdit.

Find the incorrect media location in the file

🗯 TextEdit File Edit Format Window Help	
\varTheta 🔿 🔿 Find	Project
Find: July Replace with: Ignore Case Wrap Around Contains Replace All Replace Replace & Find Previous Next	<pre></pre> </td

Use the Edit - Find - Find... command in TextEdit to find the line that contains the incorrect location. In this case, I used the word "July".

Replace the incorrect location with the correct one

🗯 TextEdit	File Edit Format Window Help	
$\Theta \cap \Theta$	Find	OOO Project
Find: Replace with: Replace All	Pictures/iPhoto Library/Originals/2008/Ogden Breakfast J Movies/iMovie Events.localized/Ogden Ignore Case Wrap Around Contains Replace Replace & Find Previous	<pre>story.ct.ontor(xto)> </pre> <pre> <key>pathName</key> <key>CF\$UID</key> <key>CF\$UID</key> <key>CF\$UID</key> </pre>

I took the entire path following the "~/" to the filename and replaced it with the new path. Click on Replace to replace the text, make sure the change is correct then click Next. Repeat this procedure until "Not Found" appears on dialog box. **Note:** It is important to use the long name of iMovie Events.

Save and close file TextEdit File Edit Format Window Help Terminal - bash - 80×24 0 0 000Project Last login: Sat Jun 13 07:36:19 on ttys001 <key>CF\$UID</key> Mac-Pro:~ Ikoepsel\$ cd /Users/Ikoepsel/Movies/iMovie\ Projects.localized/Missing <integer>127</integer> .rcproject </dict> Mac-Pro:Missing.rcproject lkoepsel\$ ls <key>pathName</key> Movies Proxies Still Images ⊲dict> Still Thumbnails Project OuickLook <key>CF\$UID</key> Mac-Pro:Missing.rcproject lkoepsel\$ plutil -convert xml1 Project <integer>126</integer> Mac-Pro:Missing.rcproject lkoepsel\$ open -a TextEdit Project </dict> Mac-Pro:Missing.rcproject lkoepsel\$ dey>thumbSize</key> ⊲dict> _dkev>CF\$UID</key> <integer>128</integer> </dict> </dict> string>~/Movies/iMovie Events.localized/Ogden/ MVI_0663.AVI</string> <string>{640, 480}</string> <string>{120, 90}</string> <integer>38</integer> <integer>350</integer> ⊲dict> _key>\$class</key> ⊲dict> _key>CF\$UID</key>

Use File - Save to save file then Textedit - Quit Textedit, to close file and exit TextEdit.

Convert file back to binary



In Terminal, type "plutil -convert binary1 Project and press Return. This will convert the file into the format that iMovie requires. If this step is missed, iMovie won't recognize the project file.



All of the yellow triangles have disappeared! Woohoo!