

Finding, downloading and saving Streaming audio and video

Streaming Audio

VLC media player

<https://www.videolan.org/vlc/>

VLC is a free and open source cross-platform multimedia player and framework that plays most multimedia files as well as DVDs, Audio CDs, VCDs, and various streaming protocols.

Simple, fast and powerful.

- Plays everything - Files, Discs, Webcams, Devices and Streams.
- Plays most codecs with no codec packs needed - MPEG-2, MPEG-4, H.264, MKV, WebM, WMV, MP3...
Runs on all platforms - Windows, Linux, Mac OS X, Unix, iOS, Android
- Completely Free - no spyware, no ads and no user tracking.

Downloading VLC

Go to <https://www.videolan.org/vlc/#download>

and select the version for your device and operating system.

Be careful to avoid downloading any other software you don't want along with VLC.

To enable control of recording:

Go to View and select Advanced controls.

To select a folder for the recording(s):

Go to Tools -->Preferences-->Input/codecs. Go down to Files and use the browse button to choose the directory to save to, Open it and Save.

Complete instructions for using VLC are available via the Help menu (Press F1).

I suggest you start with the Quick Start guide https://wiki.videolan.org/Documentation:Quick_start_guide/

or [How to play files with VLC media player](https://wiki.videolan.org/Documentation:VLC_for_dummies)

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For detail click [wiki](#) for the full User Guide

For all the saving, converting, transcoding, encoding, muxing and streaming tasks, you should find useful information in the [Streaming Documentation](#).

Here is a summary of what I found most useful:

Playing media

Go to media and use any of the options to open any media you want. Use the Add and Remove buttons to add further media. When you press Play it will start playing the first item.

To compile a playlist

Open the media you want, adding them to the list as above. This is now the default "Now Playing" playlist. You can now go to Media-->Save playlist to file, go to the folder where you want to save it, and Save.

To record a media stream:

Open the media stream (Media-->Open network stream) and press the Record button. Press again to stop recording. It will be saved in the Record directory you chose (or the default download directory/folder).

Many network streams do not allow recording or downloading so you have to find ones that do. Some are listed here:

Audio sources:

Lifewire's list of the Top 11 free music Apps with PRO's and CON's:

<https://www.lifewire.com/top-free-music-apps-1357073>

My favourite is TuneIn.

TuneIn <https://tunein.com/radio/music/>

There are tabs for Sports, Music, News and podcasts

Click on Music and Local Radio and you instantly find all the local Waikato stations.

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

The Australian Broadcasting corporation makes it easy by providing a playlist file for each of their network streams.

ABC Direct stream URLs <https://radio.abc.net.au/help/streams>

There is an MP3 playlist and an MP4 playlist which uses the AAC codec to give CD stereo quality (and larger) files. I have made up a playlist of their main music audio streams (MP4 version)– ABCMusicList.xspf

I have done the same for RadioNZ (RNZ Concert and RNZ National (MP4 format) RNZAUDIOList.xspf

For RNZ I used the URLs <http://radionz-ice.streamguys.com/concert> and <http://radionz-ice.streamguys.com/national>

Streaming Video

Youtube-dl

Youtube-dl is a command line application available for Windows, Mac OS X or Linux.

Its main advantage is that it can download almost any video you can watch – if you can watch it you can almost always download it - just the video, usually without adverts, and in the best resolution, and with metadata included.

To see how to open a command prompt in windows see

<https://www.lifewire.com/how-to-open-command-prompt-2618089>

Downloading youtube-dl

<http://rg3.github.io/youtube-dl>

Click the Download link and select the appropriate version.

Notice the list of supported sites at <http://rg3.github.io/youtube-dl/supportedsites.html>

youtube-dl has options to suit almost any requirement. For example:

To download entire series season keeping each series and each season in separate directory under [C:/MyVideos](#)

```
$ youtube-dl -o "C:/MyVideos/%(series)s/%(season_number)s - %(season)s/%(episode_number)s - %(episode)s.%(ext)s"
https://videomore.ru/kino_v_detayah/5_sezon/367617
```

Click on the Documentation link and look at the README file, particularly the CONFIGURATION section. It tells you how to (if necessary) create the configuration file and put in options to customise youtube-dl for your purposes.

For example:

To save all videos under Movies directory in your home directory add the line

```
-o ~/Movies/%(title)s.%(ext)s
```

Using youtube-dl

Find your streaming video (most easily on Youtube) and start viewing it. Copy the URL of the video stream. On most browsers Ctrl-l to select the URL and Ctrl-c to copy it to the clipboard.

Open a command prompt or terminal. Type youtube-dl and a space. Then right-click and then chose Paste from clipboard or similar option. The command should look something like this:

```
youtube-dl https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vnIEHw-eqTs
```

Press Enter and youtube-dl will download the video into the default folder/directory. Depending on the speed of your internet connection this will usually take only 20% or less of the time to view it. You don't need to view the whole video - just long enough to get the URL. Once it is downloaded you can then view it at any time with any suitable media player.

You can choose any options for different formats, different folders multiple URLs etc by placing the options after youtube-dl<space>and the URL. So to save it into my Movies folder in my (Linux) home directory the command would have been:

```
youtube-dl -o ~/Movies https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vnIEHw-eqTs
```

VLC and youtube-dl are powerful Apps with many capabilities. You can just use the default options if that is all you need. Or you can explore using different options and customising them. These notes should be enough to get you started.

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