How to Convert YouTube Video into MP3 Audio

Posted on October 29,2018 by admin

This is a useful tool and tutorial if you, for example, make a video on Youtube and then want to publish the audio quickly on Soundcloud (or somewhere else). If you aren't already running Ubuntu on your computer this will be a couple of steps more difficult for you but well worth the effort.
Step 1: Get Ubuntu on your computer

If you don't know what this, look it up and get it done. Apple and Microsoft are so restrictive, un-secure, and 1990....
Step 2: Open a terminal

If you don't know what this is, go look that up too.
Step 3: Install Youtube-dl tool with Terminal

Make sure the youtube-dl app thing is installed on your machine by pasting this into your terminal. Note, you cannot just 'control c/control-v' into a terminal but you need to hold down both control *and shift* before pressing V to paste... ready? Ok, control C this into your computers clipboard:

```
sudo apt install youtube-dl
```

Now press enter in Terminal. This will complete the installation of the tool. Say 'yes' if it asks you to do anything since it's just hard to argue these days...
Step 4: Copy the 'magic line' into your clipboard

We say 'magic' in technology when we're doing something that is harder than sending an email. Copy this 'magic line' of whatever to your computer with control C

```
youtube-dl --extract-audio --audio-format mp3
```

Step 5: Paste the 'magic line' into your Terminal

Paste the 'magic line' into your terminal taking note of my notes in Step 3... pay special attention that there is only one trailing space and no other stuff after the '3' in mp3. You are going to paste a URL here from the video in the next step so extra garbage before or after the 'magic line' could mess it up.
Step 6: Copy Video URL from Youtube to clipboard

Using the 'share' link from the Youtube video (I find this works better than the main video URL...) copy the URL to the computer clipboard.
Step 7: Paste video URL to Terminal

Paste the video URL at the end of the magic line in your terminal using again my notes from Step 3.
Step 8: Press 'enter' in Terminal and get some popcorn

Press 'enter' on your keyboard. The thing should run and it will be dumping the mp3 audio into your 'home' folder on your computer. It takes a bit of time for this step so let it go and have a coffee Boom. A nice MP3 of your video. Thanks to all the folks who made the youtube-dl tool! Thanks to all the efforts of the free software community who make all of this possible. Extra note: If, for some reason everything looks like it was running fine and you can't find your new MP3 file in the Home directory, it's possible the defaults were changed by you or something else and the Terminal downloaded the video somewhere

else. Do a system wide search for your file and you'll probably find it somewhere. This happened to me a few times :(