yt-dlp Video downloader

CONCEPTS

Only download what you may: respect the site's terms of service and copyright.

Extract read page, list formats
↓ `-f` / `-S`
Download video + audio streams
↓ `ffmpeg`
Merge into one container
↓ `-x`, `--embed-*`
Post-process audio, subs, metadata
↓ `-o`
Output file named by template

Merging, audio extraction and embedding need ffmpeg (and ffprobe) on your PATH.

Sites change often; if a download breaks, run yt-dlp -U first.

DOWNLOAD

`yt-dlp` *`<url>`*
Download best video and audio

`yt-dlp -a` *`<file>`*
Download all URLs listed in a file

`yt-dlp -P` *`<dir>`* *`<url>`*
Save into a directory

`yt-dlp -r 2M` *`<url>`*
Limit download speed

FORMATS

`yt-dlp -F` *`<url>`*
List available formats

`yt-dlp -f` *`<id>`* *`<url>`*
Download a specific format ID

`yt-dlp -f "bv*[height`≤ *720]+ba/b[height*≤ *720]"`** *`<url>`*
Cap resolution at 720p

`yt-dlp -S res:1080` *`<url>`*
Prefer up to 1080p when sorting

AUDIO

`yt-dlp -x` *`<url>`*
Extract audio, keep source codec

`yt-dlp -x --audio-format mp3` *`<url>`*
Extract audio as mp3

PLAYLISTS

`yt-dlp --yes-playlist` *`<url>`*
Download the whole playlist

`yt-dlp --no-playlist` *`<url>`*
Only the single video from a mixed link

`yt-dlp -I 1:5` *`<url>`*
Items 1 to 5 of a playlist

`yt-dlp --download-archive` *`<file>`* *`<url>`*
Skip IDs already recorded in a file

OUTPUT NAMES

`yt-dlp -o "%(title)s.%(ext)s"` *`<url>`*
Name the file by title

`yt-dlp -o "%(uploader)s/%(title)s [%(id)s].%(ext)s"` *`<url>`*
Folder per uploader

`yt-dlp -o "%(playlist_index)03d - %(title)s.%(ext)s"` *`<url>`*
Number playlist items

SUBTITLES

`yt-dlp --list-subs` *`<url>`*
List available subtitle languages

`yt-dlp --write-subs --sub-langs en` *`<url>`*
Download English subtitles

`yt-dlp --write-auto-subs` *`<url>`*
Include auto-generated subtitles

`yt-dlp --embed-subs` *`<url>`*
Embed subtitles into the video

METADATA

`yt-dlp --embed-metadata` *`<url>`*
Write title, artist and more into the file

`yt-dlp --embed-thumbnail` *`<url>`*
Embed the thumbnail as cover art

LOGIN AND NETWORK

`yt-dlp --cookies-from-browser firefox` *`<url>`*
Use your browser's login cookies

TOOL

`yt-dlp -U`
Update to the latest release