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