

Linux: How to make audio CDs from YouTube videos

This morning I was asked if I could extract the audio tracks of certain Youtube videos and make a compilation of them on an audio CD in order to listen to them using a CD player. "I don't know how or if it's even possible," I replied. "Come on!" she said, "I know you can figure it out if you tried." And so I was faced with another technical challenge. But thanks to the ease of looking up information from the Internet, in only minutes I learned I have all the tools I needed on my Fedora 17 Linux PC.

You might wonder, "Why would anybody want to do *that*?" In her case, it was to be able to listen to some guy's seminar without using a PC. He was just standing there talking. What he had to say was much more important than watching him say it.

First we must download the Youtube. I use a Mozilla Firefox add on called "Flash Video Downloader Youtube Downloader". It gives me a choice of what format to download with. In this case I downloaded in .flv format. The file downloaded to Downloads of my home directory.

First open Terminal and enter the following commands based on the name of the files you downloaded:

- `$ ffmpeg` (This is to make sure you have ffmpeg on your system: If you get a command not found message, install ffmpeg)
- `$ cd Downloads`
- `$ ffmpeg -i nameoffile.flv -vn -acodec copy yourfile.m4a`
- `$ ffmpeg -i nameoffile.m4a yourfile.wav`

Now the file is in wav format, perfect to make audio CDs out of. Just use your favorite CD Burner application to make an audio CD out of it. I use K3b.

If you are a Windows or a Mac user, I'm sure you can get the tools you need for this job, but it they may not be freeware.