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Convert Real audio and video into MP3 and AVI files



Fri, Sep 8 2006 at 7:30AM PDT • Submitted by Anonymous

This hint might be useful for others, like me, who know nothing about Terminal. I download obscure and international music, a lot of which comes in Real format. You can use a quality product, like Audio Hijack, to record the pieces and then convert them to MP3 for use in iTunes and iPod. However, that takes time. The following are instructions for converting audio and video Real files (downloaded .rm files, not streaming .ram ones) into MP3s and AVIs -- and they also work for converting most non-protected Windows Media audio and video files into MP3s and AVIs that QuickTime and iTunes can read.

I looked everywhere for such instructions (ones that do not require the Terminal) and could not find them, so I thought this might be useful to others. Here's what you need to do:

- 1. Download ffmpegX. Also download the mencoder and mplayer binaries, as well as the mpeg2enc binary, all from the same web site.
2. Follow the installation instructions exactly.
3. Download the free Real Player from real.com and install.
4. Create a new folder on your desktop named reallib.
5. Go to your Applications folder, control-click on Real Player and choose Show Package Contents from the pop-up menu.
6. Navigate into Contents -> Frameworks -> HXClientKit.framework -> Helix Plugins -> Codecs. Inside the Codecs folder should be 14 items. Copy all of them and paste them into the reallib folder you created on the desktop.
7. Move the reallib folder into the /Library/Application Support/ffmpegX folder.

You're now ready to convert audio and video files.

RM audio files:

- 1. I've found that downloaded rm audio files often have the following name -- filename.rm.ram. Remove the ram and add a wav, so it reads filename.rm.wav. Make sure you do that whether or not the ram extension is there. For some reason, if you drop an rm audio file onto ffmpegX, it freezes the application -- so make sure you add .wav to the end first.
2. Launch ffmpegX, which should be in your Applications folder.
3. Drop filename.rm.wav into the slot next to Open. In the Target Format side of the window, choose Audio file to MP3. It's toward the bottom of the list.
4. Press Encode, give the app a minute to do its work, and you're done. You now have an MP3 file.

RM video files:

- 1. For video files, make sure they have an rm extension, i.e. filename.rm.
2. Launch ffmpegX.
3. Drop filename.rm into the slot next to Open. Click on the Video tab and there choose MPEG4 [.AVI](mencoder). Make sure you check the Encode Video Button.
4. Click Encode and give the app a minute to do its work. You now have a video file that you can play in QuickTime, on your iPod, in Front Row, etc. (assuming quality is OK).

For Windows Media files, just follow the above steps, but you don't need to mess around with filename extensions. If you have Flip4Mac installed, you can view most Window Media files in QuickTime. Converting audio files to MP3s means you can use them in iTunes and your iPod.

[robg adds: I haven't tested this one.]

[137,195 views]

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• A script to use voice recognition wit...
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• 10.6: Show country flag on Input Menu... [+5]
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• 10.5: Create an updated OS X install ...
• 10.6: Add NFS Mounts using Disk Utility
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The following comments are owned by the person who posted them. This site is not responsible for what they say.

Convert Real audio and video into MP3 and AVI files

By: gklinger on Fri, Sep 8 2006 at 8:04AM PDT

The first link does not work. I believe http://www.ffmpeg.com/download.html is the correct link.

Convert Real audio into MP3

By: mesa on Fri, Sep 8 2006 at 8:32AM PDT

I usually use ram2mp3, http://bradley.chicago.il.us/projects/ram2mp3/ for sound. It's basically the same thing but in a droplet.

FFmpeg is hosted by mplayer now: http://ffmpeg.mplayerhq.hu/

- ram2mp3 PC-only - By: SiRGadaBout on Thu, Sep 28 2006 at 8:42AM PDT

Convert Real audio and video into MP3 and AVI files

By: fbitterlich on Fri, Sep 8 2006 at 8:59AM PDT

There is no

Contents -> Frameworks -> HXClientKit.framework -> Helix Plugins -> Codecs

in my Realplayer... I've got a

Contents -> MacOS -> Library -> Codecs

directory there, could that be the right one? Could you post the names of the correct files to grab from Realplayer? Thanks...

Convert Real audio and video into MP3 and AVI files

By: xSmurf on Fri, Sep 8 2006 at 9:50AM PDT

Does this also work with RealPlayer 10 video codec? If not, using VLC would work and probably be better suited for Terminal newbies. Albeit if it does, this is a real gem!

MacBook Pro 2.16Ghz / 2Gb / 100Gb 7200rpm / CD/DVD±RW
PM G4 DP 800 / 1.25gb / 120Gb+80Gb / CD/DVD±RW/RAM/DL
- The only APP Smurf

- Convert Real audio and video into MP3 and AVI files - By: vocaro on Fri, Sep 8 2006 at 9:57AM PDT
Convert Real audio and video into MP3 and AVI files - By: lesarros on Sat, Dec 9 2006 at 1:36PM PST

Convert Real audio and video into MP3 and AVI files

By: vocaro on Fri, Sep 8 2006 at 9:53AM PDT

I download obscure and international music

From a legal and reputable online music store, no doubt.

iSquint!

By: sirmarcos on Sun, Sep 10 2006 at 8:50AM PDT

It's much easier to use iSquint than all these command line utilities.

iSquint is a very nice GUI for converting virtually any video file to MPEG4/iTunes/Quicktime compatible files. http://www.isquint.org/

- re: iSquint! - By: sirmarcos on Sun, Sep 10 2006 at 11:19AM PDT
iSquint! - By: vocaro on Mon, Sep 18 2006 at 12:25AM PDT

Convert Real audio and video into MP3 and AVI files

By: m2a2sen on Mon, Sep 11 2006 at 6:50AM PDT

or have a look at CocoaJT : http://www.macupdate.com/info.php/id/14465

Works as advertised...mostly

By: vocaro on Mon, Sep 18 2006 at 1:13AM PDT

I like this hint. It basically works, but note these caveats:

- My Real Player application bundle had 12 items, not 14 as the hint indicated.
When I did the conversion of a RealVideo file, ffmpegX reported many duplicate frames.
The audio track of the resulting movie file was slightly but annoyingly out of sync with the video. I believe the cause of this may be item 2 above.
The hint doesn't mention what setting to use for the Target Format (in the Summary tab, not the Video tab). It looks like the default is DivX, which isn't playable in QuickTime (unless you install DivX). However, ffmpegX refused to convert the RealVideo file unless I set the target format to DivX.

- 10.6: Insert hyperlinks into Mail's s...

LINKS last 2 weeks
No recent new links

What's New in the Forums?

- My client is not able to join Mac OS Server 10.6 Leopard Snow - kGotAuthenticati...
iChat Screen Sharing Problems in Snow Leopard
Snow Leopard: the Isregister program makes copies of an app look the same.
Error 3253 when attempting to forward e-mail with Entourage
Dock is gone after attempt at customizing
Unable to restore from Time Capsule
dyld_library_path and info.plist
WMV Needs Quicktime in Snow Leopard
Website outline constructive criticism?
Convert WMV files with DRM

The Editor's Corner...

Here are some of my (robg) other projects...

- The Robservatory
My blog - Macs, tech, etc.
Mac OS X Power Hound
The best of Hints in print
Inside iWork
An iWork training DVD
Macworld
Column, features, online...

Hints by Topic

Apps Go!

News from Macworld

- Apple rises in "Best Global Brands" ranking
DOJ: Court should reject Google book search settlement
Boston Acoustic updates Duo-i iPod/iPhone clock radio
The Macalope Weekly: Money, money, money
Report: FCC will formalize net neutrality rule
Bose SoundDock goes to 11 (not really, just to 10)
Review: Brain Quest Blast Off for iPhone
Apple flubs its improved support for Exchange e-mail security
Second lawsuit threatens Skype sale
Griffin intros kid-friendly MyPhones headphones
See hidden files in Snow Leopard's Open and Save dialogs
No more Windows Mobile phones from Palm
Bugs & Fixes: Too many iPhone notes in Mail?
Sprint president takes a shot (or two) at AT&T 3G
Music industry wants Apple, Amazon to pay up

The macosxhints Poll

It's that time again -- Browser wars #10. Which web browser is your current favorite?

- Camino
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Chromium
Firefox
Flock
iCab
IE for Windows - on a PC
IE for Windows - virtual on a Mac
OmniWeb
Opera
Safari
Shiira
Stainless
Other
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- [Works as advertised...mostly](#) - By: [iCeb0x](#) on Mon, Oct 9 2006 at 5:46AM PDT
 - [Works as advertised...mostly](#) - By: [blgrace](#) on Mon, Dec 4 2006 at 6:15PM PST

Convert Real audio and video into MP3 and AVI files

By: [vocaro](#) on Mon, Sep 18 2006 at 1:15AM PDT

CocoaJT can only record streams. It can't convert Real files.

Convert Real audio and video into MP3 and AVI files

By: [hermes.trismegis](#) on Tue, Oct 3 2006 at 4:43AM PDT

Thanks for the great 'hint'!

However, I've had a few difficulties.

I grabbed ffmpegX 0.0.9x. I downloaded mpeg2enc.intel as well as ffmpegXbinaries20060307 (including mencoder/mplayer). I followed directions and 'found' the appropriate files, then installed.

I made the reallib folder on the desktop and copied the 14 files from inside realplayer.

I went to Library > Application Support, and there is no ffmpegX folder.

WTF?

On the ffmpegX page they direct to Helix, for a copy of macos-gcc3-pb. I see no OSX builds. I tried to search on their main page and returned a bunch of lame emails.

So Helix looks über complicated and purposely not user friendly.

If I can go the route of just copying the files to the Library, that'd be great, but WTF?

Namaste.

- [Convert Real audio and video into MP3 and AVI files](#) - By: [chyna4xena](#) on Tue, Oct 3 2006 at 6:46PM PDT
 - [Convert Real audio and video into MP3 and AVI files](#) - By: [chyna4xena](#) on Tue, Oct 3 2006 at 6:48PM PDT
 - [Convert Real audio and video into MP3 and AVI files](#) - By: [yvinne](#) on Sun, May 4 2008 at 9:07AM PDT
- [Convert Real audio and video into MP3 and AVI files](#) - By: [hermes.trismegis](#) on Tue, Oct 3 2006 at 8:53PM PDT

Doesn't work for me

By: [Skeeve](#) on Tue, Nov 14 2006 at 4:46AM PST

I've downloaded a this file: <http://www.chumba.com/media/stream/SongForDerekJarman.rm>

and followed the instructions given. But all I get is a 0byte mp3 file and this messages:

Encoding started on Tue Nov 14 13:47:11 CET 2006

FFmpeg version CVS, Copyright (c) 2000-2004 Fabrice Bellard

Mac OSX universal build for ffmpegX

libavutil version: 49.0.0

libavcodec version: 51.9.0

libavformat version: 50.4.0

[NULL @ 0x45a630]Unsupported video codec

[NULL @ 0x45a630]Unsupported video codec

Input #0, rm, from '/Users/me/Desktop/New_Music/Chumbawamba/some_B-Sides/SongForDerekJarman.rm.wav':

Duration: 00:05:48.9, start: 0.000000, bitrate: 212 kb/s

Stream #0.0: Data: 0x0000

Stream #0.1: Data: 0x0000, 64 kb/s

Stream #0.2: Audio: cook, 44100 Hz, mono, 32 kb/s

Stream #0.3: Audio: cook, 44100 Hz, mono, 20 kb/s

Stream #0.4: Audio: cook, 22050 Hz, mono, 16 kb/s

Stream #0.5: Audio: cook, 44100 Hz, mono, 64 kb/s

Stream #0.6: Audio: cook, 44100 Hz, mono, 44 kb/s

Stream #0.7: Audio: cook, 44100 Hz, mono, 32 kb/s

Stream #0.8: Audio: cook, 44100 Hz, mono, 32 kb/s

Codec type mismatch for mapping #0.0 -> #0.0

Convert Real audio and video into MP3 and AVI files

By: [steelbullet14](#) on Tue, Dec 5 2006 at 5:58AM PST

This hint really sucks... First of all, it doesn't go past the stripes on the progress bar and when i click on the details it keeps saying 1-5 duplicate frames found and that keeps happening forever... can someone propose a solution?

Convert Real audio and video into MP3 and AVI files

By: [straniero](#) on Wed, Jan 17 2007 at 1:47AM PST

I want to thank the person who started this thread! I've been trying for years to convert my South Park Real Movie collection to Quicktime and have finally managed thanks to them!

But... The instructions are not real clear! Here's plain and clearly what you need to do to convert .rm video to Quicktime....

1) Download ffmpegX.dmg, mencoder and mplayer from ffmegx.com/download.html
mencoder and mplayer are zipped together as "ffmpegXbinaries20060307.zip"

Unzip them after downloading or FFMPEGX can't find them while it's installing (D'uh!)
Run FFMPEGX so that it can complete the installation!!!!

2) Download and install Real Player 10 (not 9 or any other version!) from real.com

I tried it with 9 and realized that these people who are saying that they couldn't find the "codecs" folder in the right place were doing the same thing, and it doesn't work! (I did only find 12 codecs and not 14, but it works!)

3) Control-click on the Realplayer icon and "open package contents". Navigate to Contents -> Frameworks -> HXClientKit.framework -> Helix Plugins -> Codecs. Take all of the files in the "codecs" folder and copy them to a new folder that you create inside of /Library/Application Support/ffmpegX and name the folder "reallib".

4)That's it! Open FFMPEGX and convert your Realplayer media to Quicktime! For some reason though, you must use the DivX Mencoder preset or it won't work, (So, export it again when you're done!)

Other tips....

FFPEGX just has stripes on the progress bar while it's doing this conversion, it's normal.

If you do a "get info" while you're converting, you'll see millions of "1 Duplicate frame(s)!" messages. It's not stuck in a loop! I think what it should say is "1 Frame has been duplicated!". These messages just mean that it is working!

I also found that by putting the 3ivx codec into FFMPEGX in the same way as the Real codecs I could convert videos that I could get to run in Quicktime before! Who knows the possibilities?

Happy encoding!

The Straniero

www.thestraniero.com

- [Convert Real audio and video into MP3 and AVI files](#) - By: [gassjack](#) on Sat, Mar 22 2008 at 4:18AM PDT
- [Convert Real audio and video into MP3 and AVI files](#) - By: [Raro](#) on Thu, Jul 23 2009 at 2:31PM PDT

Convert Real audio and video into MP3 and AVI files

By: [gassjack](#) on Sat, Mar 22 2008 at 4:19AM PDT

OH MY CHRIST, IT REALLY WORKS!!! You are a bloody genius!

I thought the file had crashed coz nothing seemed to be happening but I left it alone and sure enough it worked.... so happy!! Now I can watch my Interpol videos on my iPod... oh yeah!!

Convert Real audio and video into MP3 and AVI files

By: [yvinne](#) on Sun, May 4 2008 at 9:12AM PDT

i still don't find the folder ffmpegX in library/application folder

Can anyone tell me where did i go wrong? Strangely i can convert avi files to any other files but when it comes to real video files, the whole application just gets stuck. Please advise.

- [Convert Real audio and video into MP3 and AVI files](#) - By: [artemio](#) on Fri, May 16 2008 at 2:49PM PDT

Convert Real audio and video into MP3 and AVI files

By: [drcsulder](#) on Sun, Jul 6 2008 at 4:52AM PDT

the system works nicely.

Installing ffmpeg should not be a problem these days.

the codecs you need to add can be found at http://www.mplayerhq.hu/design7/dload.html#binary_codecs

and to my surprise (found it at another site) things thing even works for converting .rmvb files. You just change the extension to .rm instead of .rmvb and you are ready to go.

I had to use this as my wife wanted to watch some chinese series in .rmvb format with Cantonese/Mandarine on left/right audiochannel and i wanted to extract the audio from the rmbv files.

I'm all set now ;)

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