

YT Audio Downloader

User Documentation

GUI_Download.pyw — Powered by yt-dlp

1. Overview

YT Audio Downloader is a desktop application that provides a graphical interface for yt-dlp, a command-line tool for downloading audio from YouTube and hundreds of other websites. Instead of typing commands in a terminal, this app lets you configure and launch downloads through a clean, dark-themed window.

The application is a single Python script (GUI_Download.pyw) and requires yt-dlp.exe to be placed in the same folder. No installation is needed beyond having Python installed.

Requirements

- Python 3.8 or later (python.org)
- yt-dlp.exe placed in the same directory as GUI_Download.pyw (github.com/yt-dlp/yt-dlp/releases)
- ffmpeg.exe in the same directory, or on the system PATH — required for MP3/Opus conversion

ffmpeg is needed whenever you choose MP3 or Opus format. The Original format skips conversion and does not require ffmpeg.

2. Interface Overview

The window is divided into labelled sections from top to bottom:

Video URL (single link)

Paste or type a single URL here to download one track. Supports YouTube, SoundCloud, Bandcamp, and any other site supported by yt-dlp.

Right-click inside the field to access a context menu with Cut, Copy, Paste, Select All, and Clear.

You can fill in both this field and the URL list at the same time. Both sources will be processed in the same download run.

URL List (optional)

Use this field to point to a plain text file (.txt) containing multiple URLs, one per line. This is the recommended way to batch-download a playlist or album.

Example file content:

```
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AAAAAAAAAAAA
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BBBBBBBBBBBB
https://soundcloud.com/artist/track-name
```

- Click Browse... to open a file picker.
- Click Clear to remove the selection.

Empty lines and lines starting with # are treated as comments by yt-dlp and are ignored.

Cookies File (optional)

Some content requires you to be logged in to access it — age-restricted videos, members-only content, or private playlists. Providing a cookies file passes your browser session to yt-dlp so it can authenticate on your behalf.

To export your cookies, install the browser extension “**Get cookies.txt LOCALLY**” (available for Chrome and Firefox). Browse to the site, log in, then use the extension to export a cookies.txt file in Netscape format.

- Click Browse... to select your cookies.txt file.
- Click Clear to remove it if it is no longer needed.

Keep your cookies file private. It contains your login session and should not be shared.

3. Download Options

Audio Format

Choose how the audio should be saved after downloading:

Setting / Field	Description
MP3	Re-encodes the audio to MP3. Most compatible format — works on all devices and media players.
Opus	Re-encodes to Opus. Better quality than MP3 at the same file size, but not supported by all players.
Original	Keeps the original audio stream without re-encoding. Fastest option. The file extension will match whatever format YouTube used (usually .webm or .m4a).

MP3 and Opus both require ffmpeg. If ffmpeg is missing, the download will fail during the conversion step.

Bitrate

Controls the audio quality when re-encoding to MP3 or Opus. This setting is ignored when Format is set to Original.

Setting / Field	Description
Default	MP3 at 192 kbps / Opus at quality level 5. Good balance of quality and file size for most uses.
High	MP3 at 320 kbps / Opus at quality level 0 (best). Larger files, highest quality. Recommended for music archiving.

Speed Limit

Caps the download speed to avoid saturating your connection while doing other things. Select Unlimited (∞) for maximum speed.

Setting / Field	Description
∞ (Unlimited)	No cap. Downloads as fast as your connection allows.
100 MB/s	Suitable for most broadband connections.
10 MB/s	Moderate throttle. Useful on shared connections.
1 MB/s	Heavy throttle. Leaves most of your bandwidth free.

Download Folder

The folder where completed files will be saved. Click Browse... to open a folder picker. The selected path is shown to the right of the button.

Make sure the folder exists before starting. yt-dlp will not create it automatically.

4. Running a Download

Starting

Once you have filled in at least one URL source (single URL or list file) and selected a download folder, click the  Download button. The progress bar will start animating and log output will appear in the log panel at the bottom.

You can click Download again at any time to queue another download, even while one is already running. Each download runs in its own background thread.

Stopping

Click  Stop to cancel the current download. yt-dlp will be terminated immediately. Any partially downloaded file may be left on disk in an incomplete state.

Skipping existing files

If a file with the same name already exists in the download folder, yt-dlp will skip it automatically and log a message saying the file was already downloaded. Nothing will be overwritten.

File naming

Files are saved as:

```
<video title>.<extension>
```

Special characters in titles that are not allowed in file names are automatically replaced by yt-dlp.

5. The Log Panel

The log panel shows real-time output from yt-dlp. Each line is colour-coded:

Setting / Field	Description
Teal	Success messages — download complete, file already exists and was skipped.
Red	Errors — download failed, file not found, authentication problem.
Yellow	Warnings — non-fatal issues such as missing metadata or unsupported options.
Blue	Informational — which file is being downloaded, destination path, format details.
Grey	General output from yt-dlp.

Click  Clear log at any time to empty the log panel. This does not affect any running download.

Per-second progress percentage lines and ffmpeg internal messages are filtered out to keep the log readable. You will still see the final status of each download.

6. File & Folder Structure

All files must be in the same folder:

```
your-folder/
  GUI_Download.pyw    ← the application
  yt-dlp.exe          ← required
  ffmpeg.exe          ← required for MP3 / Opus
  cookies.txt         ← optional, placed anywhere
  url-list.txt        ← optional, placed anywhere
```

The cookies and URL list files can be stored anywhere on your computer — you select them through the Browse buttons. They do not need to be in the same folder as the script.

7. Troubleshooting

Setting / Field	Description
 yt-dlp.exe not found	yt-dlp.exe is missing from the script folder. Download it from github.com/yt-dlp/yt-dlp/releases and place it in the same folder as GUI_Download.pyw.
 Download failed (exit code 1)	Usually a bad URL, or the video is unavailable in your region. Check the URL and try again.
 ERROR: ffmpeg not found	ffmpeg.exe is not in the script folder or on the system PATH. Required for MP3 and Opus formats. Use Original format as a workaround.
 ERROR: Sign in to confirm age	The video is age-restricted. Export and provide a cookies file from a logged-in browser session (see Section 2 — Cookies File).

Setting / Field	Description
✗ HTTP Error 403 / 429	YouTube has temporarily blocked requests from your IP (too many downloads) or yt-dlp needs updating. Wait a few minutes or run: yt-dlp -U
No audio, wrong extension	You selected Original format. The file is likely a .webm container. Open it in VLC or convert with ffmpeg separately.
Window does not open	Make sure you are running the file with Python (pythonw.exe for no console, or python.exe). The .pyw extension should be associated with pythonw automatically on Windows.

8. Keeping yt-dlp Up To Date

YouTube frequently changes how it serves video data. If downloads suddenly stop working, the most common fix is updating yt-dlp. Open a terminal in the script folder and run:

```
yt-dlp.exe -U
```

This checks for a newer version and replaces yt-dlp.exe automatically. No need to download anything manually.