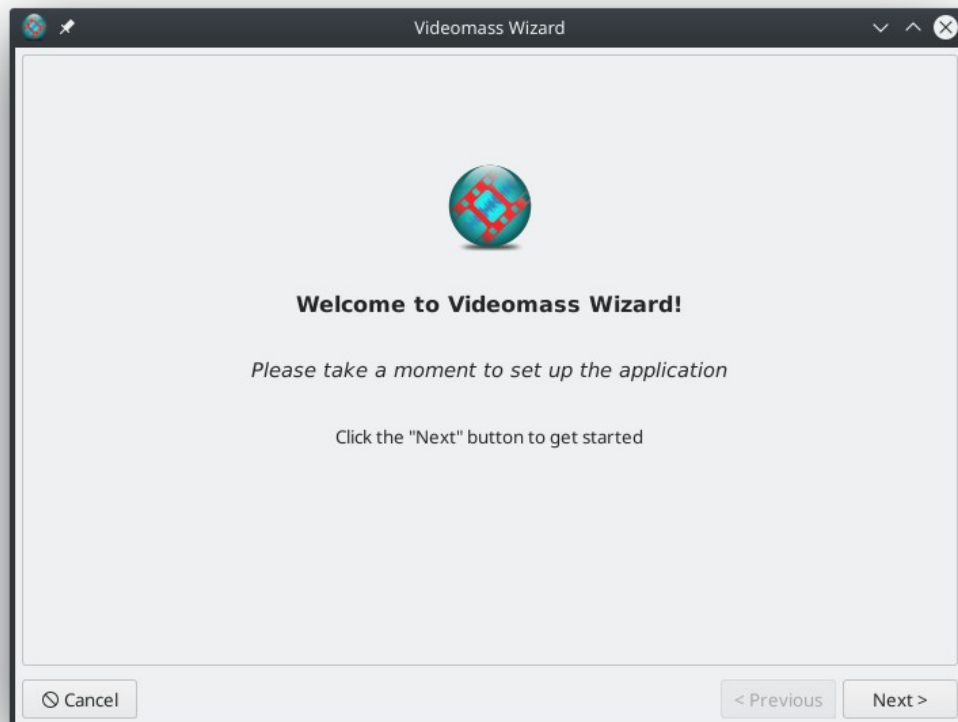# Videomass

Startup

When you start Videomass for the first time, you will be asked to choose some settings through the wizard.

All settings can be changed later, if you want, via the Preferences dialog (see below).
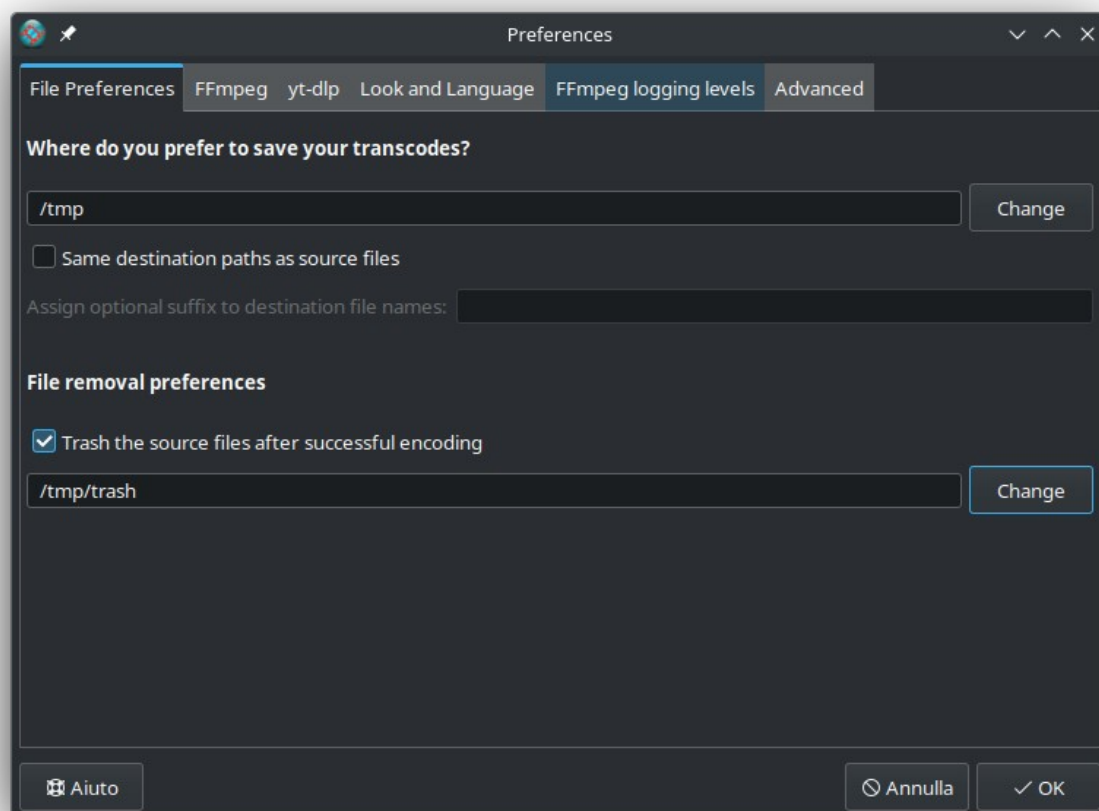
Preferences

File Preferences

Shortcut Ctrl+P or Menu bar → Edit → Preferences

The file preferences tab makes it possible to set the file destination for conversions and transcodes (by default, files and downloads are saved to the user's folder). Furthermore, you can customize some useful behaviors, such as saving each file to the same source folder and optionally assigning an additional suffix to the file name to reduce possible overwriting of files.

Another feature requested by some users, is the ability to remove source files after successful encoding or conversion. It should be noted that the source files are not exactly deleted but are moved to a specific folder called Videomass Trash folder located in the program's configuration directory (by default) or to a destination chosen by the user. Following this operation the files in the trash folder can be permanently deleted after confirmation.

All trashed files will have their source name followed by the exact date and time of deletion.
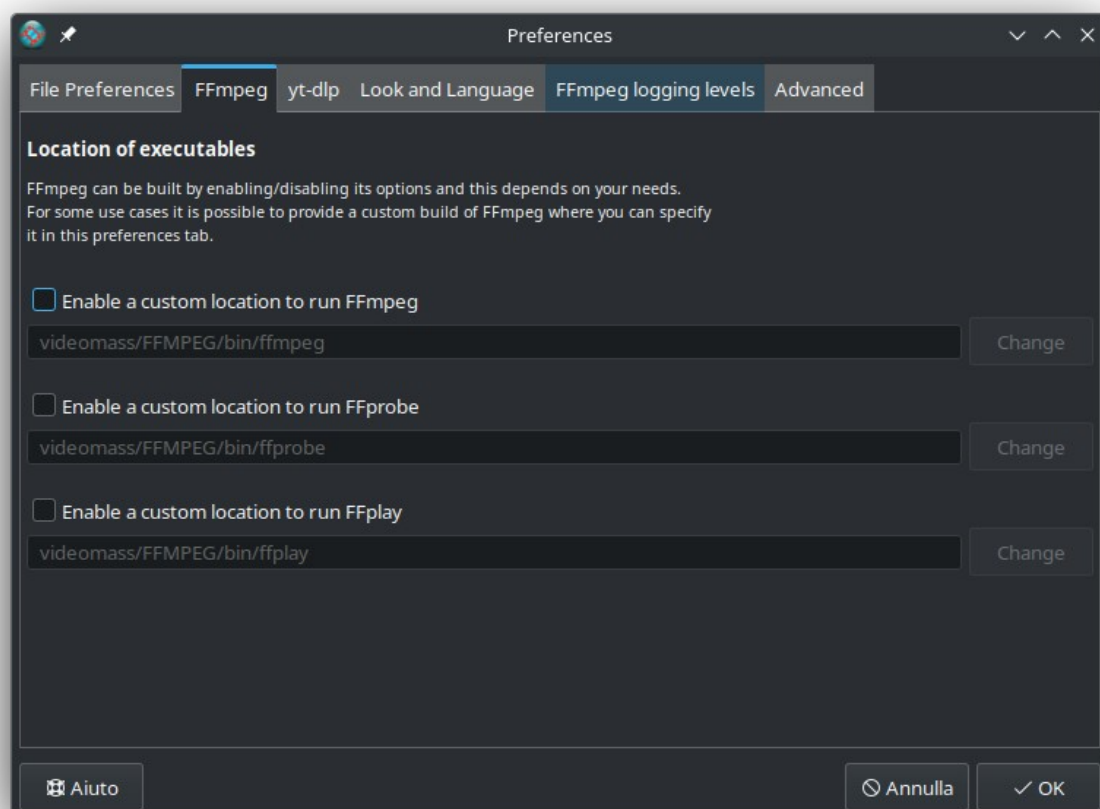
FFmpeg

The FFmpeg tab, mainly allows you to customize the paths of FFmpeg executables (binaries).

It is well known among more experienced users to compile FFmpeg in order to enable particular features or to optimize their performance; other users prefer to have regularly distributed copies of FFmpeg and use them locally rather than installing them on the operating system. For this purpose, this setting table can be very useful.

By default Videomass will always prioritize your operating system's environment variables to set FFmpeg executables. Later users will be free to set other locations with their custom FFmpeg builds.

There is also another place where Videomass will look for executables but it will only do so after it has not found FFmpeg on your system: This place is a folder called FFMPEG in the application sources inside which can be placed the "bin" folder containing the FFmpeg binaries that will be executed by Videomass.
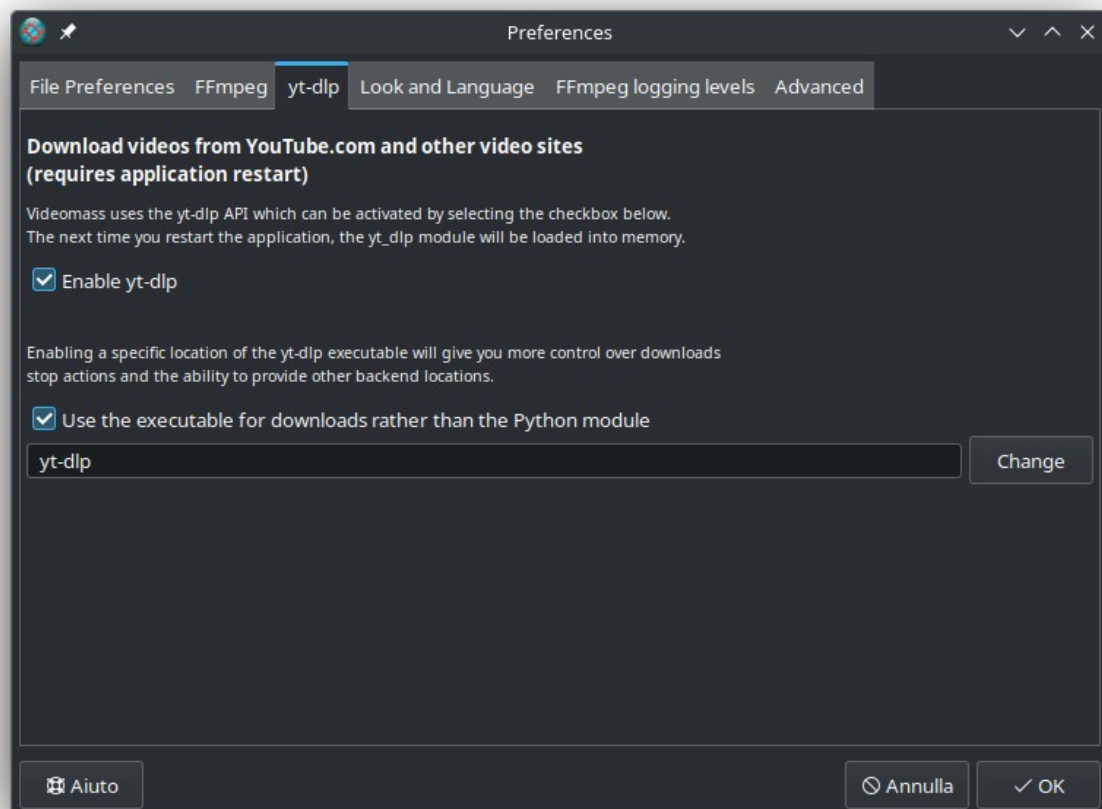
Yt-dlp

yt-dlp is the backend used to download audio and video from websites such as YouTube.com and others sites (over 200 are currently supported).

However, if you don't want to enable it at all, no problem, the application will launch without this feature and will start up even faster.

It is essential to understand that, unlike many other graphical interfaces, yt-dlp is used internally as a Python module (API). From Videomass v5.0.12 the possibility of also using the yt-dlp executable has been implemented only for download operations, allowing for some capabilities such as instantaneous interruption of downloads and the possibility of linking to a more updated executable of yt-dlp. In any case the module still needs to be loaded into memory for other required operations.
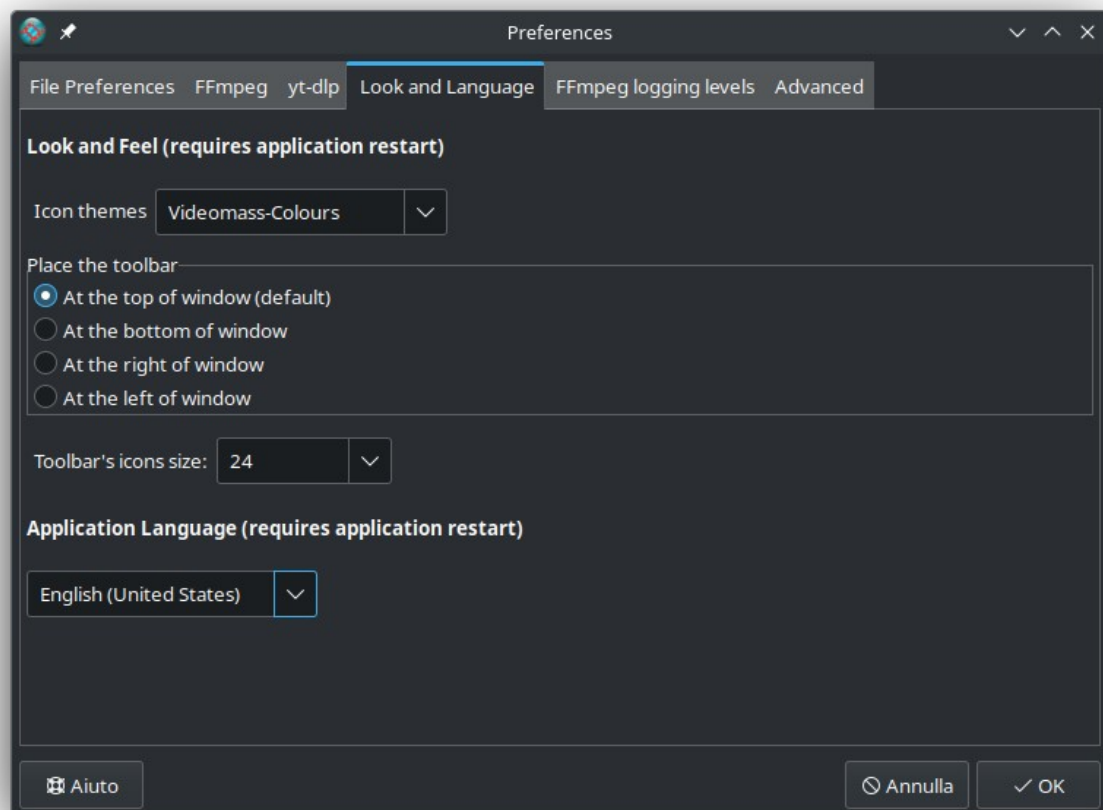
It is assumed that yt-dlp is completely managed by the user, through a package manager, not by Videomass. Videomass is not responsible for the installation of yt-dlp, nor for any related updates.

Look and Language

Here you can manage icon theme settings and toolbar customization. Videomass has icons for light, dark and colored themes, for an appropriate integration with your desktop.
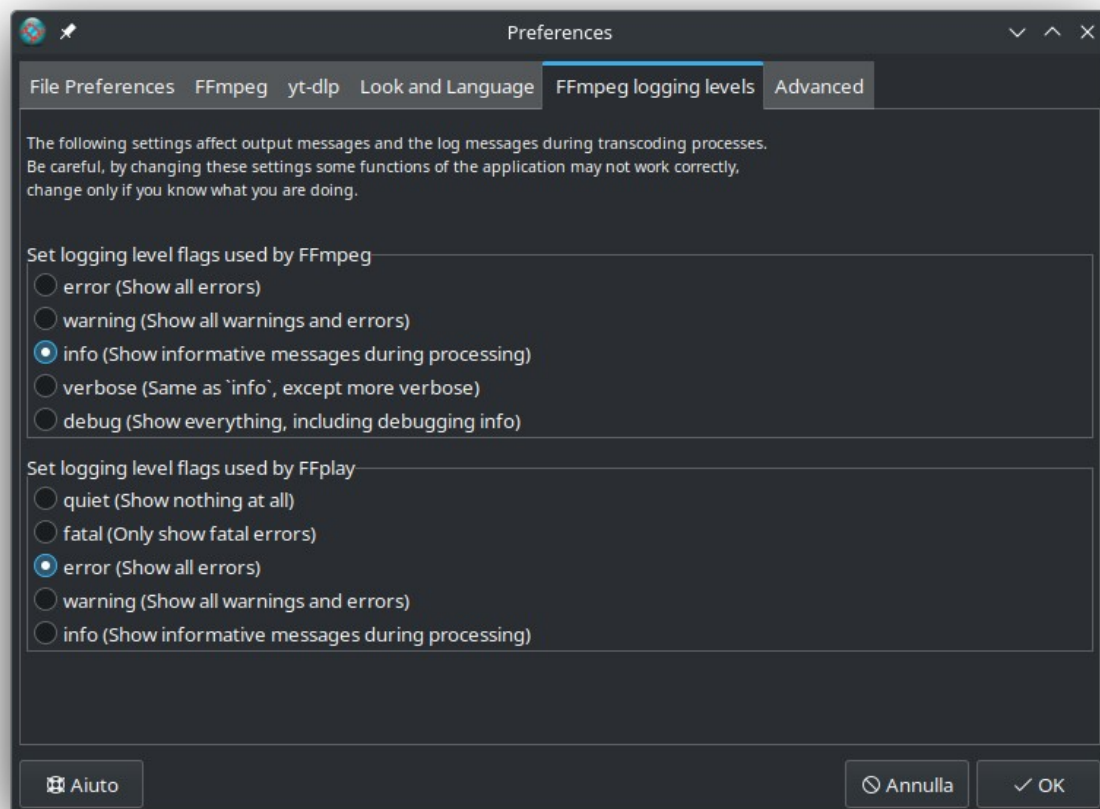
Videomass has also been partially translated into other languages, currently languages such as Italian, Russian, Dutch, French, Spanish, Portuguese and Chinese are available. Most translations are human, others machine translated. If you are interested in correcting current translations, or if you want to translate Videomass into other languages, feel free to contact the author on GitHub or send him an email.

FFmpeg logging levels

This tab is for advanced use of FFmpeg's log level management. By log we mean the text output generated during the sub-processes, which provides information on the output status of the background commands used by Videomass in the various tasks. The effect of changing these levels concerns different behaviors in the generation of the output itself.

It is not recommended to change these levels, as some program functions would not work correctly. The ffmpeg log level on Videomass must be set to "info" in order to obtain information relating to the analysis of sound volume, video stabilization data and EBU loudness data.

Advanced

Specify the characters encoding format

Sometimes when importing or dragging some files you may come across the character encoding error. As a workaround you can try setting another encoding code and importing those files again.

'utf-8' codec can't decode byte 0xd0 in position 804: invalid continuation byte

This error occurs when the metadata originally written in those files is not encoded with the UTF-8 standard. To address the output given by the stderr of the sub-processes and make it visible to the user through the graphical interface, Videomass must first encode it using the most used encoding standard which by default is UTF-8.

Default application directories

You can open all default directory paths of the application. These directories (and the files within them) are essential for Videomass to work properly.

- Configuration directory

Normally the configuration directory is placed in the user space intended for application configuration files and hosts the default and user presets subdirectory, a configuration file in JSON format, the trash folder and any files such as work notes, the queue file, etc.

A. On MS-Windows it is located in the hidden folder "c:\users\username\AppData\Roaming\videomass\"

B. On MacOs it is located in the hidden folder "/home/user/Library/Application Support/videomass"

C. On Linux it is located in the hidden folder "/home/user/.config/videomass"

- Cache directory

All those files that are used by the program as temporary files are created and stored in the videomass cache directory. You can schedule all of these temporary files to be deleted each time you exit Videomass by selecting **Remove cached files**.

- Log directory

The log directory contains all the log files written during the sub-processes and are useful for reading to find errors, warnings and all other useful information. Selecting the **Clean the log files** check box you can program the deletion of their contents every time you exit Videomass.

Note that videomass logs are not incremental, they are not subject to huge log lines. Their contents are simply deleted and rewritten with each operation (not necessarily with each new sub-process)