

TubeGrab User Manual

User Manual

Version: v0.3.10

Overview

TubeGrab is a Qt desktop app for downloading audio or video using `yt-dlp` and `ffmpeg`. It stores your preferences in a local `settings.json` so your choices persist between launches.

Quick Start

1. Paste a YouTube or YouTube Music URL.
2. Choose a download folder (default is your OS Downloads folder).
3. Select **Download Type** (Audio or Video).
4. Click **Download** and watch progress in the log panel.

Download Types

- **Audio:** Extracts audio and converts it to the chosen format (mp3, m4a, opus).
- **Video:** Downloads the best available video+audio and merges into the chosen container (mp4, mkv).

Playlists

- **Single item:** Forces a single video even if the URL belongs to a playlist.
- **Playlist (multiple):** Downloads the full playlist when a playlist URL is provided.

Dry Run

Enable **Dry run (no download)** to simulate a download without saving files. The app will still validate the URL and show output in the log.

Log Panel

The log panel is hidden by default. Use the **Log Output** accordion header to expand or collapse the panel.

Settings

The app auto-saves your preferences to `settings.json` in your OS app config folder. Saved items include: - Download folder - Filename template - Download type and formats - Playlist mode - Embed metadata/thumbnail toggles

Windows stores this file under
`%LOCALAPPDATA%\tubegrab\TubeGrab\settings.json`.

Filename Templates

The filename template controls how saved files are named. It uses `yt-dlp` field tokens.

Common tokens: - `%(title)s` - `%(artist)s` (when available) - `%(ext)s`

Examples: - `%(artist)s - %(title)s.%(ext)s` - `%(title)s.%(ext)s`

Buttons

- **Open Folder:** Opens the current download folder in your file manager.
- **About:** Shows the app version.
- **Donate:** Opens the support page in your browser.

Tips & Troubleshooting

- If `yt-dlp` or `ffmpeg` is missing, the app will offer to download them when you start a download.
- On Linux, the automatic tool download targets `x86_64` only; install compatible `yt-dlp/ffmpeg` manually on other architectures.
- If downloads fail, update `yt-dlp` and `ffmpeg` and retry.
- Canceling a download stops the process cleanly without showing an error popup.
- Use the **Default** button to reset the folder to your OS Downloads location.
- When **Embed metadata** is enabled, the description field is cleared.