

SeePod

Lesson Manager



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1. Introduction

SeePod Lesson Manager is a free, cross-platform application designed to assist users of ChinesePod.com language resources. The application includes a lesson manager, a GUI for the WeLoveChinesePod Python script, ID3 tag editor, vocabulary/dictionary functions and a ChinesePod lesson database.

The lesson manager functions are specifically designed to scan lesson directory trees and display a list of ChinesePod lessons. This includes any MP3 files generated by the WeLoveChinesePod script. The lesson manager has the following functions:

- Scan a lesson directory tree for all ChinesePod lessons or a subset of lessons: Newbie, Elementary, Intermediate, Upper-Intermediate, Advanced and Media.
- Edit the lesson lists generated by the scan function and create lesson sets.
- MP3 player and playlist. Add individual lesson MP3 files or entire lesson sets to a playlist and play the audio.
- View lesson PDF files.
- Progress tracking icons for bookmarking lesson, mark for review or mark as completed.

The WeLoveChinesePod GUI provides functions to automate the WLCP download process. The functions include:

- Personal ChinesePod RSS feed download and RSS lesson summary display.
- Add lessons from the RSS feed to the WLCP download list.
- Run the WLCP python script (requires at least a premium ChinesePod subscription).
- Automatically add ID3 tags to the expansion and vocabulary MP3 files generated by WLCP.
- Archive or delete sentence files downloaded by WLCP.

The ID3 tag editor provides display and editing functions for tag data in the ChinesePod MP3 files. It can also be used as a general purpose tag editor for music files etc. The ID3 tag editor can:

- Scan directories and sub-directories and display a directory tree.
- Display and edit ID3 tags for single or multiple MP3 files, or update tags for entire directory trees.
- Automatically archive or delete sentence files downloaded by WLCP.

The Vocabulary and Dictionary panel has functions for viewing vocabulary lists and dictionary searches:

- CEDICT Chinese - English dictionary lookups.
- Import and view vocabulary lists in four formats: ChinesePod CSV and XML, Anki 0.9 and Pleco 2.0 XML.
- Display flashcards for vocabulary list review.

The ChinesePod lesson database panel has functions for viewing and updating the CPOD lesson list:

- Updates the lesson list from the ChinesePod RSS feed.
- View all lessons or lessons by level.
- Bookmark lessons to study, mark for review, or mark as completed.

2. Download and Installation

SeePod can be downloaded from <http://www.seepod.net/download.html>

The application and source code can be downloaded separately or as a single package in zip and gzip formats. After downloading the application extract the contents of the zip file into any directory.

***Note:** If Weepod WLCP GUI is already installed do not put Seepod in the same directory, this may cause configuration problems and prevent the application from starting.

The zip file should contain the following files:

- SeePod_Lesson_Manager.jar
- seepodlookandfeel.xml
- a lib directory containing all the required library JAR files
- a user guide directory containing this document in PDF format
- a database directory containing various data files used by SeePod
- LICENSE.TXT the GNU General Public License

Requirements:

1. SeePod is a Java application and requires the Sun Java Runtime Environment (JRE) version 6, also referred to as version 1.6. The JRE is available free for all major platforms and can be downloaded from: <http://java.sun.com/javase/downloads/index.jsp>
2. The WeLoveChinesePod GUI can use any version of the WLCP python script, but the auto-tagging functions work best with newer versions. The latest version - 2009_03_22 of the WLCP script can be downloaded from <http://code.google.com/p/wlcp> or from the SeePod download page.

The WLCP script requires Python 2.5. Python can be downloaded from: <http://www.python.org> If you do not wish to use WLCP then you can ignore this requirement.

Configuration:

Start SeePod by double clicking on SeePod_Lesson_Manager.jar or use the command line:

```
java -jar SeePod_Lesson_Manager.jar
```

After SeePod has launched go to the main menu item "Options", open the "Settings" dialog and set the values for your main lesson directory, WLCP directory and Python directory. For faster configuration place the SeePod files in your WLCP directory and SeePod will automatically detect the script. SeePod will also use its home directory as the default starting point for lesson scanning.

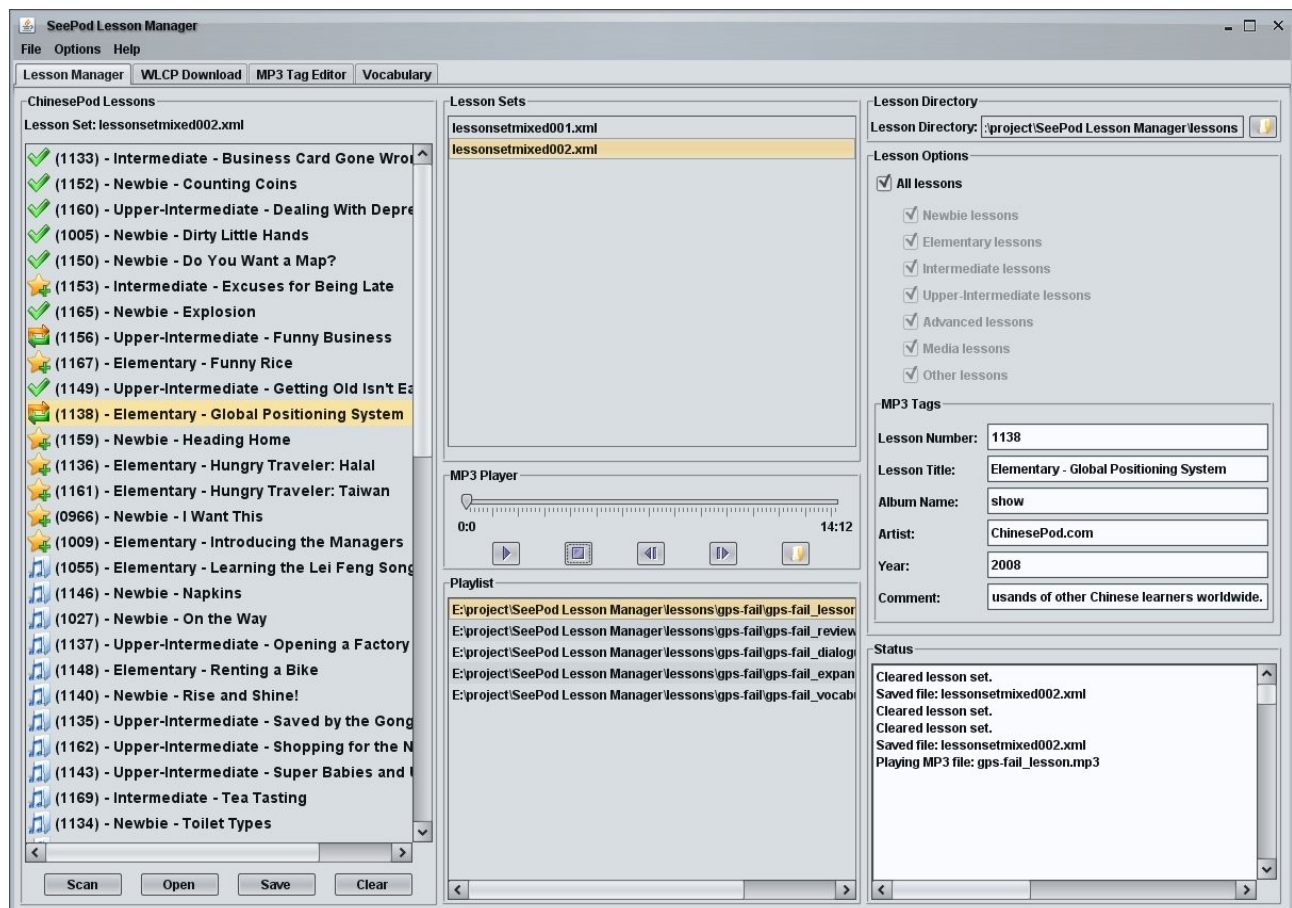
On startup SeePod will also attempt to detect the location of the Python application. If SeePod cannot find Python it will set the Python path to "Unknown". If this occurs you will have to enter the Python path manually, for example, on Windows: c:\python25\python.exe or on Linux: /usr/bin/python

***Note:** If you have installed SeePod and the WLCP script in different directories and have problems running the script in SeePod then try putting them both in the same directory or download the latest version of WLCP, version 2009_06_26 has a fix for this issue.

You are now ready to go. The following sections contain instructions for using the lesson manager, ID3 tag editor and WLCP functions.

3. Lesson Manager

The lesson manager allows you to scan your lesson directories for ChinesePod lessons and create lesson sets based on lesson levels or directory contents. The manager panel also includes an MP3 player, playlist and PDF file viewer functions.



Lesson Manager Panel

Creating Lesson Sets:

To start a search for all lessons, select the “All Lessons” check box in scan option panel then click on the “Scan” button at the bottom of the lesson list panel. To restrict the scan to particular lesson levels, de-select the “All Lessons” check box and select the desired levels. The search can be further restricted by selecting a subdirectory using the “Lesson Directory” field.

When the scan is complete a list of lessons will be displayed in the Lesson List panel. To remove lessons from the list, right click on the lesson and select “Remove Lesson” from the popup menu. To save the lesson list as a set, click on the “Save” button at the bottom of the lesson list panel. A file dialogue will be displayed so you can enter a file name for the new lesson set. Lesson sets are saved in XML format and can be displayed in a web browser or edited manually with any text editor.

After saving the lesson set file, the new set will be added to the "Lesson Sets" panel. To

delete a lesson set, right click on the file name in the lesson set panel and select "Delete Lesson Set" from the popup menu.

Playing MP3 files:

The MP3 files for a lesson set can be added to the playlist by double clicking on the set in the "Lesson Set" panel. The MP3 files for a single lesson can be added to the playlist by double clicking on the lesson in the "ChinesePod Lessons" panel. Individual MP3 files can be added to the playlist by right clicking on the lesson in the "ChinesePod Lessons" panel and selecting an item from the popup menu. You can add the lesson, review, dialog, WLCP expansion and WLCP vocabulary files individually. Other MP3 files can be added to the playlist by clicking on the file chooser button in the "MP3 Player" panel.

After adding files to the playlist click on the play button in the "MP3 Player" panel to start playback.

Viewing PDF files:

The lesson PDF files can be opened by right clicking on a lesson in the lesson list panel and selecting "View Simplified PDF" or "View Traditional PDF" menu items. A PDF viewer will open and display the selected lesson PDF.

Progress Tracking Icons:

To bookmark a lesson, right click on the lesson and select the required bookmark from the popup menu. The progress icons are:



Bookmark for study.



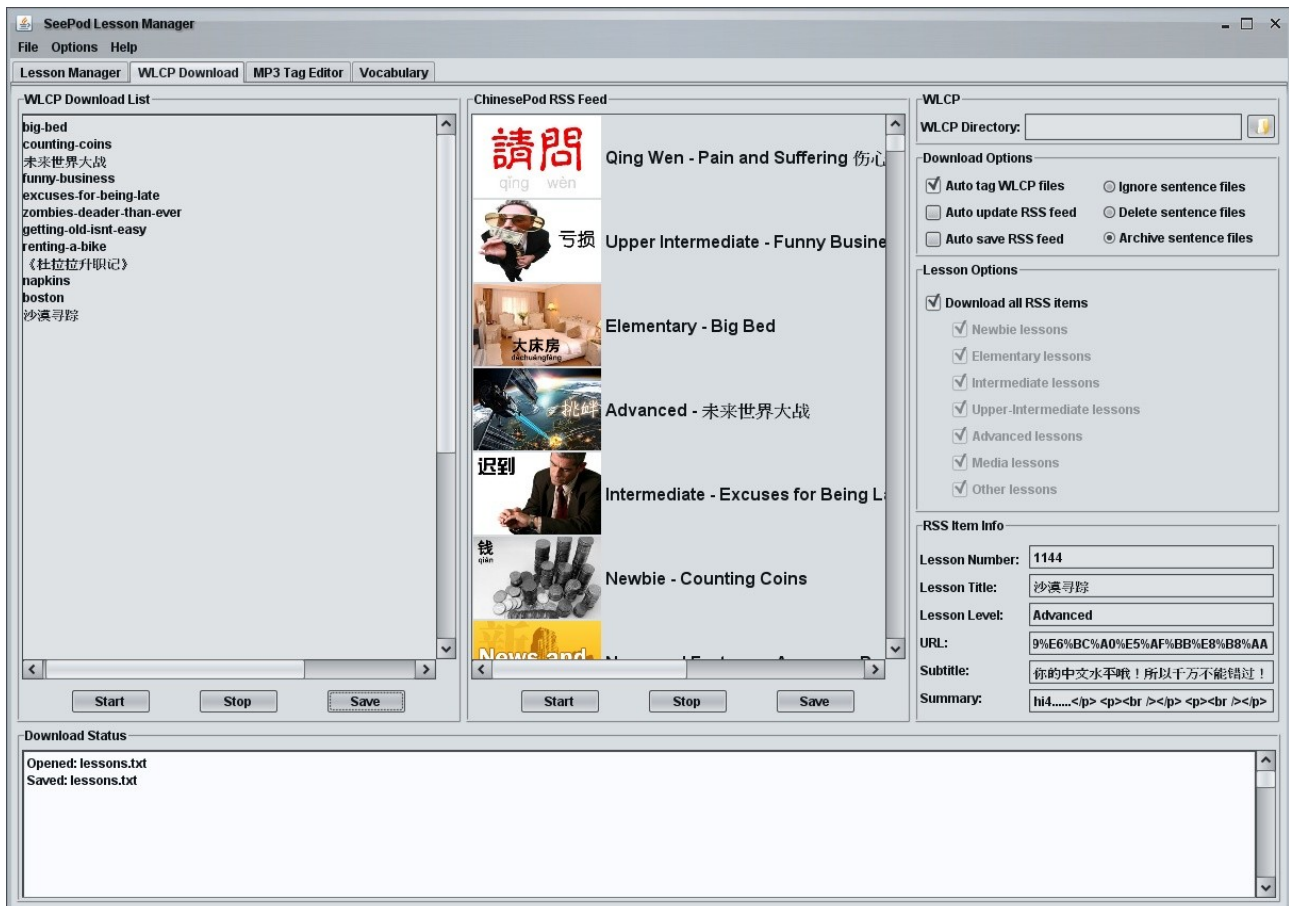
Bookmark for review.



Bookmark as completed.

4. WeLoveChinesePod GUI

The WLCP GUI panel provides functions to download your personal ChinesePod RSS feed, create a lesson list and run the WLCP script. To use the WLCP functions you must have at least a premium ChinesePod subscription.



WLCP Download Panel

Downloading:

Before starting a WLCP download ensure that the location of Python and WLCP are set correctly in the “Settings” dialogue. If SeePod is installed in the WLCP directory it should detect the script automatically. If you have not used WLCP before, read the WLCP configuration instructions before attempting to start a download. SeePod does not use or store ChinesePod account names and passwords, so your account must be set in the WLCP configuration file.

To create a lesson download list for WLCP you can type lesson names into the lesson download panel or double click on items in the RSS feed panel. When you have finished creating a lesson download list, click on the “Start” button at the bottom of the download panel. You can save the list for later use if you do not wish to start downloading immediately. The list is saved in the “lessons.txt” file used by WLCP.

To download your personal ChinesePod RSS feed you must enter the feed URL in the

“Settings” dialogue. Your RSS feed URL can be obtained by logging into Chinesepod, the RSS feed URL is displayed in a text field on the right side of your personal page after you have logged in. The RSS feed items can be restricted to certain levels by selecting the lesson level check boxes in the RSS Feed Options panel. Click on the “Start” button at the bottom of the RSS Feed panel to start the download. When feed items are displayed in the RSS Feed panel you can display each lesson summary by right clicking on the feed item and selecting “Show Lesson Summary” from the popup menu.

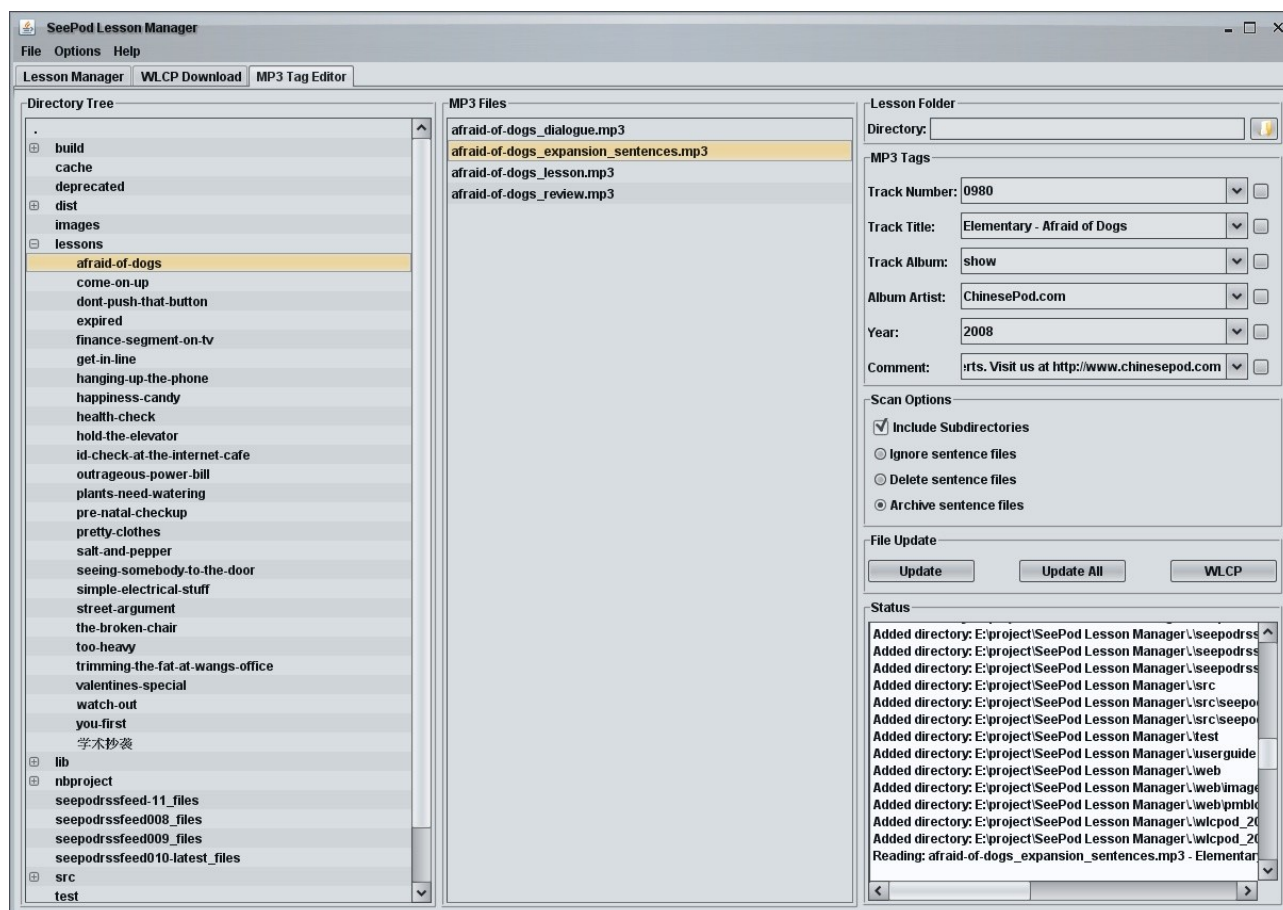
Post Processing:

After WLCP has completed downloading lessons, SeePod can automatically add ID3 tags to the the expansion and vocabulary files generated by WLCP. To enable auto-tagging select the “Autotag WLCP Files” check box. SeePod will copy the ID3 tags from the main lesson MP3 file and add the tags to the expansion and vocabulary files. If Seepod does not find a lesson file with ID3 Tags it will set the tags with default values: Artist -> Chinesepod.com, Album -> Show, etc.

Seepod can also archive or delete the expansion and vocabulary sentence files downloaded by WLCP. Use the “Ignore”, “Delete” or “Archive” radio buttons to set the required option. If “Archive” is selected, the sentence files are placed in a ZIP file in the lesson directory.

5. ID3 Tag Editor

The tag editor panel provides functions to edit ID3 tags in MP3 files. It has some ChinesePod specific functionality, but can also be used as a general purpose ID3 tag editor.



ID3 Tag Editor Panel

Displaying and Editing ID3 Tags:

The tag editor displays a directory tree in the left panel, a file list in the center panel and editing options in the right panel. The directory tree panel uses the SeePod home directory or the lesson directory in the "Settings" dialogue as the default start directory. You can change this using the directory field at the top of the right panel. To display the MP3 files in a directory click on directory name in the directory tree. The MP3 files in the directory will be displayed in the file list panel. To display the ID3 tags, click on a file in the file list, the tag values will be displayed in the fields in the "MP3 Tags" panel. The tag fields can be edited manually or values can be selected from drop down lists. To enable updating of tag values, the check box at the right side of the tag field must be selected. The check boxes allow for selective tag updating of multiple files.

Updating ID3 Tags:

There are four methods for updating ID3 tags:

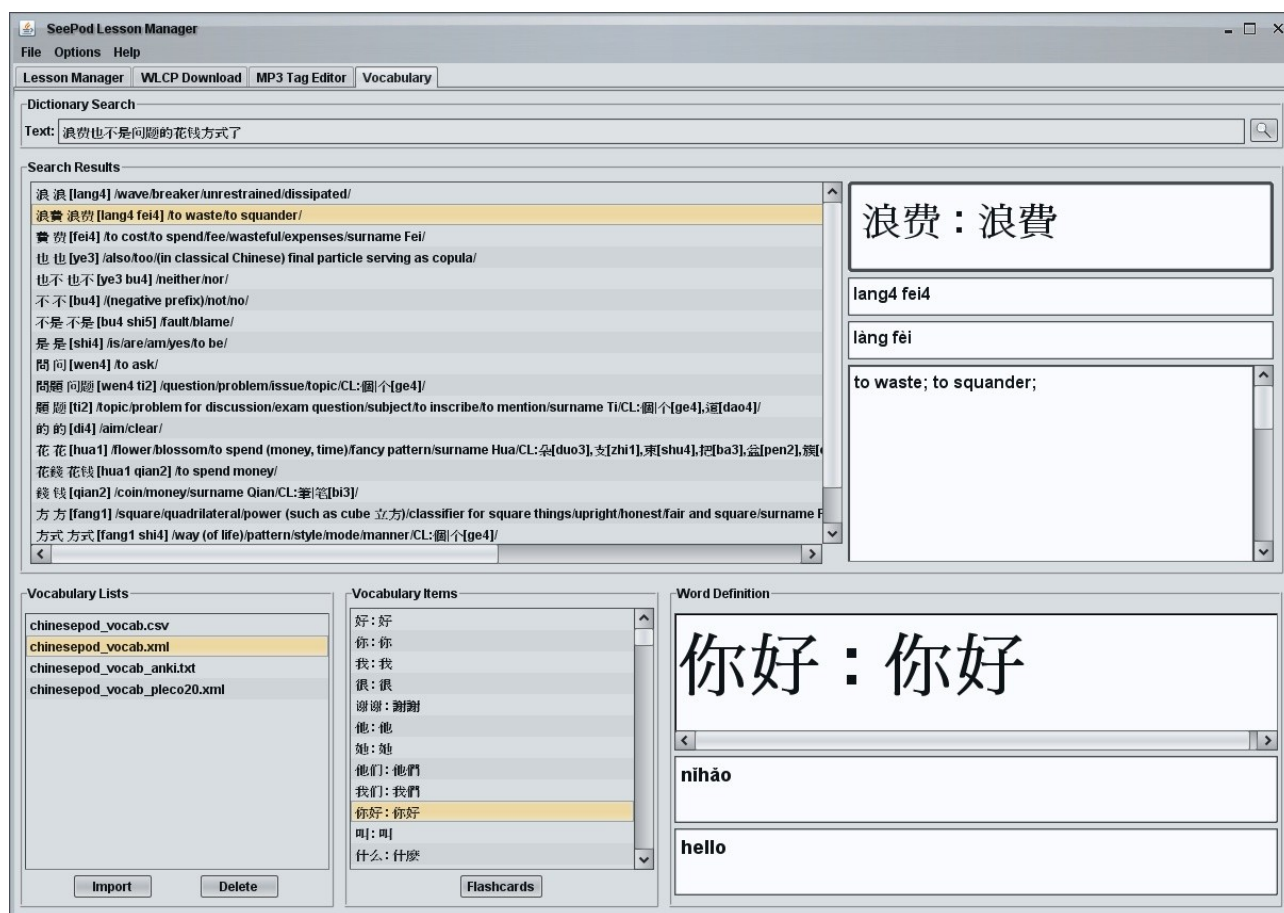
- 1. Update:** Use the “Update” button to write tags to one or more files selected in the file list panel.
- 2. Update All:** Use the “Update All” button to write tags to all MP3 files in a directory and subdirectories. This option can be restricted to the current directory by de-selecting the “Include Subdirectories” check box in the "Scan Options" panel.
- 3. WLCP:** This is the same as the “Autotag” function in the WLCP Download panel. Click on the “WLCP” button to add tags to the expansion and vocabulary files generated by WLCP. It can also archive or delete the sentence files.
- 4. Copy and Paste:** Use this function in the file list panel to copy ID3 tags from one file into another. Just right click on the source file and select “Copy Tags” from the popup menu. Then right click on the target file and select “Paste Tags” from the popup menu. The ID3 tags will be automatically written to the target file.

Technical Note:

SeePod writes ID3 version 2.3 tags, not the latest version 2.4 tags. This is because many media players will not display version 2.4 tags properly. For example, Windows Media Player will not display version 2.4 tags, although Microsoft claims it does support them. Chinesepod MP3 files have ID3 version 1.0 and version 2.3 tags. Version 1.0 tags are useless things, but are kept for backward compatibility with older media players.

6. Vocabulary and Dictionary

The vocabulary panel has functions for searching the Chinese - English dictionary and importing and viewing vocabulary lists in various formats.



Vocabulary Panel

Dictionary Functions:

SeePod uses the CEDICT Chinese - English dictionary containing 84,000 definitions. To search for Hanzi definitions type or paste the text into the Dictionary Search Text field and press enter or click on the search button. A list of definitions will be displayed in the Search Results panel. Click on a definition in the Search Results list to display the Hanzi definition in the information panel to the right of the results list.

Vocabulary Functions:

SeePod supports four vocabulary list formats: Chinesepod CSV and XML, Anki 0.9 and Pleco 2.0 XML. Vocabulary files can be imported into SeePod by using the Import button in the Vocabulary Lists panel or by copying the files into the SeePod "database" directory. On

startup SeePod will search the "database" directory for new vocabulary files and display them in the Vocabulary Lists panel.

To remove a vocabulary list use the Delete button in the Vocabulary Lists panel. Alternatively, you can manually delete the file from the "database" directory and restart SeePod.

To view a vocabulary list click on the vocabulary file name in the Vocabulary Lists panel, the list will be displayed in the Vocabulary Items panel. Click on an item in the Vocabulary Items panel to display the Hanzi information in the Word Definition panel.

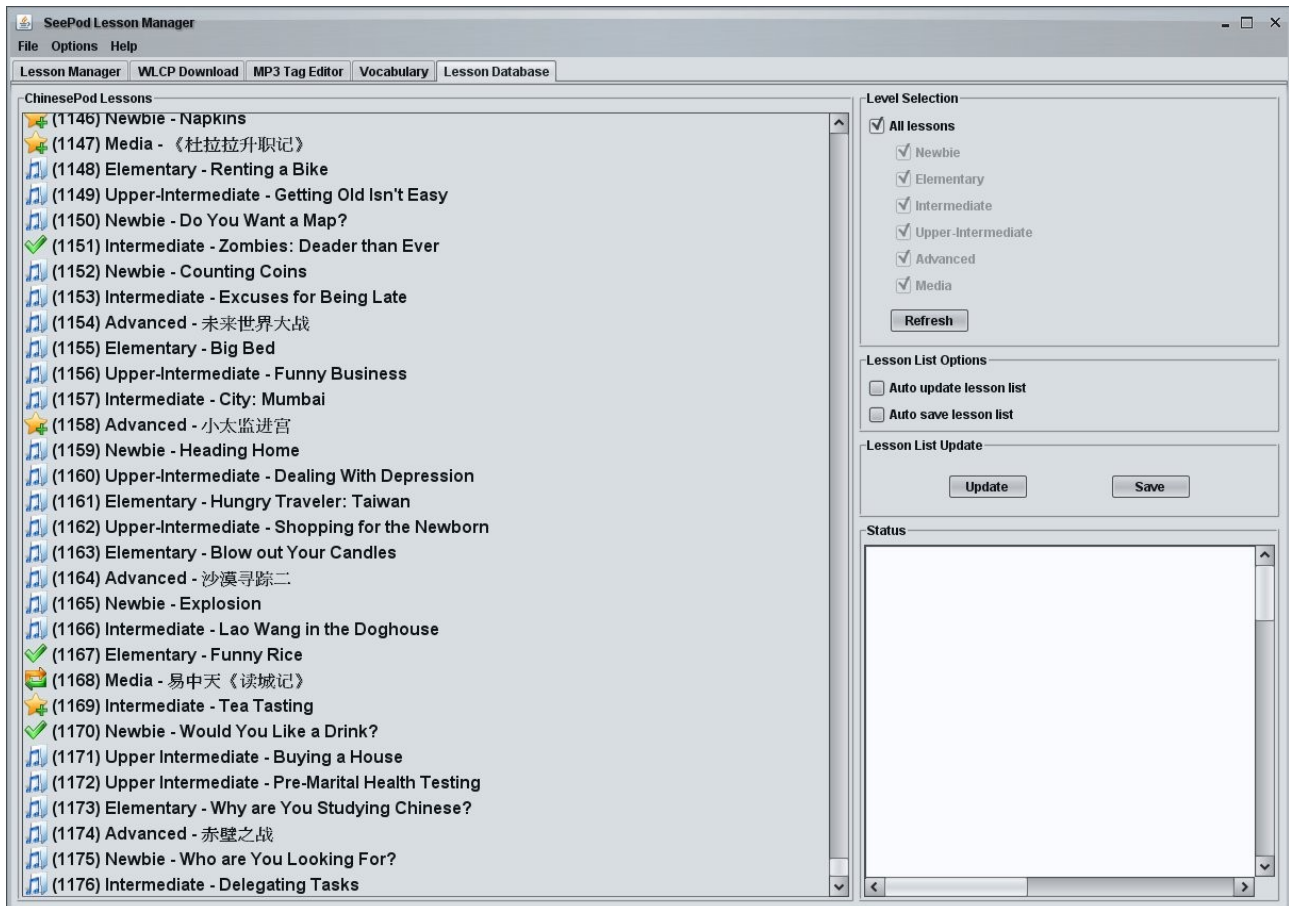
Flashcards:



To start the Flashcards Dialogue click on the Flashcards Button in the Vocabulary Items panel. Use the Next and Prev buttons to view each vocabulary item and click on the Info Buttons if a pinyin or english hint is required. Use the Shuffle Button to randomly reorder the vocabulary list. The Hanzi font size can be changed to small, medium or large using the Font Buttons at the top of the Flashcards Dialogue panel.

7. Lesson Database

The lesson database panel has functions for viewing the CPOD lesson list.



On startup the lesson database panel will automatically display all lessons. Lessons for particular level can be displayed by selecting the checkboxes in the level selection panel and clicking on the refresh button.

To update the lesson database click on the "Update" button. This function uses your personal RSS feed URL to download the latest lesson information, so you must put your RSS feed URL in the settings before trying to update the lesson list. Bookmark icons can also be added to each lesson by right clicking on the lesson and selecting the required bookmark from the popup menu.

To save changes to the lesson list click on the "Save" button in the update panel.

8. GUI Look and Feel

The SeePod GUI “Look and Feel” can be changed dynamically using the “Colour Scheme” dialogue in the option menu. Currently 36 skins are supported:

Java System Default Look and Feel (All Platforms).
Java Cross Platform Look and Feel - “Metal” (All Platforms).
Substance AutumnSkin look and feel (All Platforms).
Substance BusinessBlackSteelSkin look and feel (All Platforms).
Substance BusinessBlueSteelSkin look and feel (All Platforms).
Substance BusinessSkin look and feel (All Platforms).
Substance ChallengerDeepSkin look and feel (All Platforms).
Substance CremeCoffeeSkin look and feel (All Platforms).
Substance EmeraldDuskSkin look and feel (All Platforms).
Substance MagmaSkin look and feel (All Platforms).
Substance MistAquaSkin look and feel (All Platforms).
Substance MistSilverSkin look and feel (All Platforms).
Substance ModerateSkin look and feel (All Platforms).
Substance NebulaBrickWallSkin look and feel (All Platforms).
Substance OfficeBlueSkin look and feel (All Platforms).
Substance OfficeSilverSkin look and feel (All Platforms).
Substance RavenGraphiteGlassSkin look and feel (All Platforms).
Substance RavenGraphiteSkin look and feel (All Platforms).
Substance RavenSkin look and feel (All Platforms).
Substance SaharaSkin look and feel (All Platforms).
Substance FieldOfWheatSkin look and feel (All Platforms).
Substance FindingNemoSkin look and feel (All Platforms).
Substance GreenMagicSkin look and feel (All Platforms).
Substance MangoSkin look and feel (All Platforms).
Substance StreetLightsSkin look and feel (All Platforms).
Nimrod SeePod Look and Feel (All Platforms).
Squareness Look and Feel (All Platforms).
Lipstik Look and Feel (All Platforms).
JTattoo Aero Look and Feel (All Platforms).
JTattoo Acryl Look and Feel (All Platforms).
JTattoo Aluminium Look and Feel (All Platforms).
JTattoo Fast Look and Feel (All Platforms).
JTattoo HiFi Look and Feel (All Platforms).
JTattoo Mint Look and Feel (All Platforms).
JTattoo Noire Look and Feel (All Platforms).
JTattoo Luna Look and Feel (All Platforms).

*Known Issues:

1. The application frame sometimes does not update when dynamically changing the "Look and Feel". This usually happens when changing from a Substance or Qua Qua skin to the Java System Default skin. This is because of the limitations of the Java application frame. The problem does not effect SeePods operation and the application frame is set to the correct "Look and Feel" when SeePod is restarted.
2. Several of the Substance skins use watermarks for the background colour, these can take 5 – 10 seconds to load due to heavy graphics computation.

9. Acknowledgments and Copyright

1. All material downloaded from ChinesePod.com is copyright of Praxis Language Ltd and may not be redistributed or transmitted in any form without the consent of Praxis Language Ltd.

2. WeLoveChinesePod is copyright of Andrew Corrigan, distributed under the GNU Public License, with modified versions by Jon Lee.

3. SeePod Lesson Manager, the SeePod website and this document were developed entirely with free and/or open source tools:

- OpenOffice.org v2.4.1
- GIMP v2.6
- XAMPP v1.4.15
- JLayer ID3 Tag Library
- PDF Renderer v1.8
- Substance Look and Feel Library
- Nimrod Look and Feel Library
- JTattoo Look and Feel Library
- Squareness Look and Feel Library
- Lipstik Look and Feel Library
- Netbeans IDE v6.5
- Sun Java Development Kit v1.6
- CEDICT Chinese - English Dictionary