Once you select the menu sequence, you see the **Export Selected Audio** dialog, where you select the digital audio data format. As you can see in Figure 6-5, I'm using the FLAC audio format for the assets for the book, because it gives me 100% perfect reproduction of the waveforms used in this book, along with at least a 50% lower data footprint than what the uncompressed PCM format would give me. More on this later in Chapter 12.
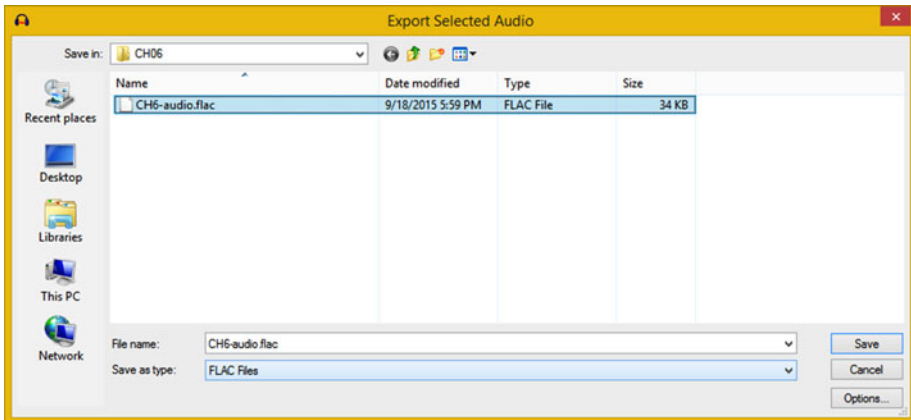


***Figure 6-5.*** *Use Export Selected Audio dialog and name CH6-audio*

Next, let's take a look at another recent feature upgrade for Audacity 2.1—real-time, **bi-directional**, digital audio data sample **scrubbing**!

This is not really scrubbing (cleaning) the audio sample data, else I would have put it in the audio clean-up chapter! I think you will find this particular feature both useful as well as fun to use, as it allows fine-tuned sample playback control.

## Scrubbing Digital Audio: Sample Playback Rate

Another feature that Audacity upgraded considerably in version 2.1 is real-time audio sample scrubbing, which now works forward as well as backward, so that you can play samples in reverse! This feature allows you to drag your cursor over the audio waveforms and see what they are, change the playback rate based on how fast you drag, and play them backward if you drag the cursor in that direction. To enable audio sample scrubbing in Audacity, all you have to do is hold down the Control (**Ctrl**) key on your keyboard, and click your left mouse button. As you can see in Figure 6-6, this turns on an Audacity transport Play button; to turn off this feature, simply click the (depressed) Play button. It's as simple as that, and fairly fun to use. Try it now so that you can get used to this useful, real-time digital audio editor previewing tool.
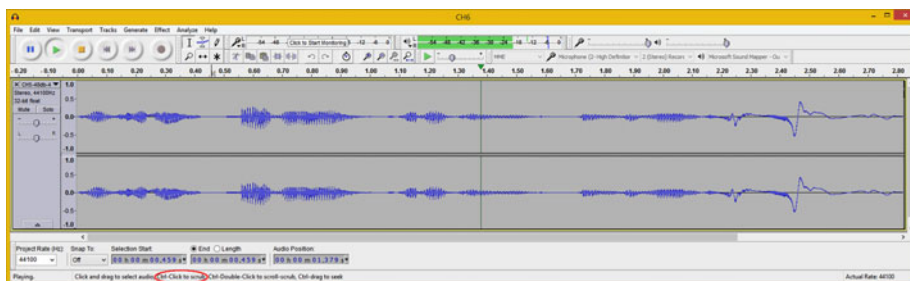
***Figure 6-6.*** *Use Ctrl-Click to enable the data scrubbing function*

Next, let's take a look at how to re-arrange the order of the title of the book inside the voice-over waveform by using the cut, copy, and paste features in Audacity 2.1.1.

# Rearranging Digital Audio: Cut, Copy, and Paste

Let's pretend that the title of this book is "Editing Digital Audio: Fundamentals," and that I recorded the vocal sample incorrectly. The work process for correcting this using Audacity editing tools involves selecting the word "Editing" with an even margin of silence around it, removing that section from the audio data sample, moving the cursor to time location 0.00, and pasting the section at the front of the voice-over sample.

Select the vocal portion representing the word "editing" and leave some of the silence margin on the right side (end) of the subsample, as shown selected in blueish-gray in Figure 6-7. Play the selected portion using the **play** button, and then click the **scissor icon** to remove the sample data.
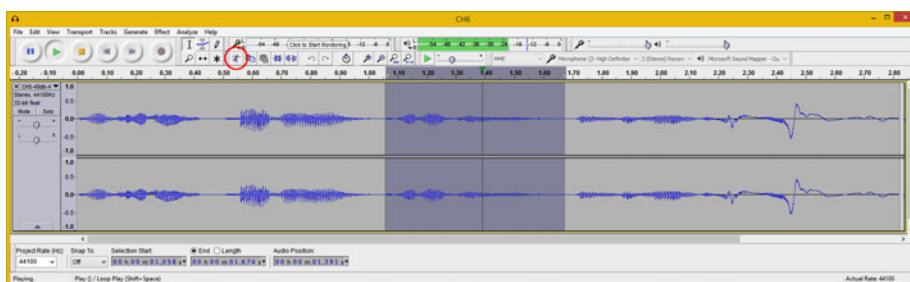


***Figure 6-7.*** *Select a sample for the word "editing," and preview*

I circled the **cut** (scissor) tool in Figure 6-7. Figure 6-8 shows the result, with the insertion (position) bar sitting right where the editing vocal used to be.
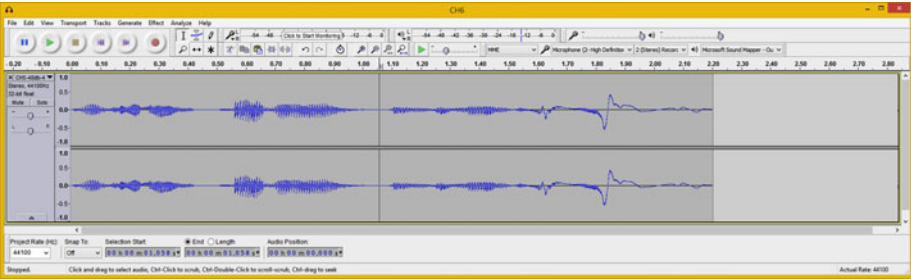
**Figure 6-8.** *Sample data for "editing" removed from data sample*

The next step in the work process is to position the bar at position **0.00**, which you can do by clicking the vertical bar tool. You can make sure that you're at 0.00 by using the **Edit ➤ Move Cursor ➤ to Track Start** feature, seen in Figure 6-9 on the left-hand side of the screen.
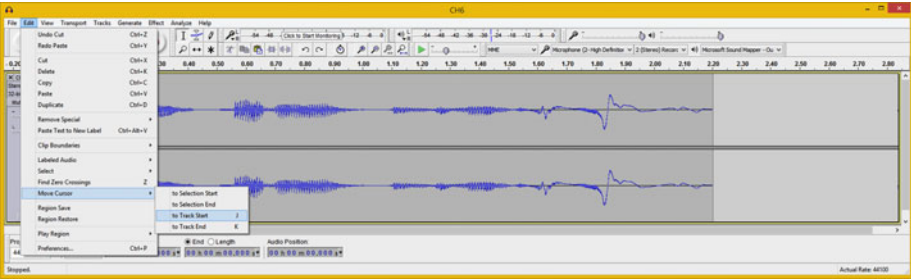


**Figure 6-9.** *Use the Edit ➤ Move Cursor ➤ to Track Start feature*

The **Move Cursor** submenu options allow you to perform surgically correct edits, so familiarize yourself with them now so that you know where to find these basic but valuable tools for aligning your editing "moves." Figure 6-10 shows the result of the work process. And now when you play the sample, it correctly states the "Editing Digital Audio Fundamentals" book title.