

---


**Home**  
**Open Source**  
**Technology**  
**Linux**  
**Linux Basics**  
**Linux Distributions**  
**Arch Linux**  
**CentOS**  
**Debian**  
**Fedora**  
**Linux Mint**  
**Mageia**  
**Mandrake**  
**Mandriva**  
**openSUSE**  
**Red Hat Enterprise Linux**  
**Scientific Linux**  
**Unix**  
**FreeBSD**  
**Free Videos and EBooks**  
**Donate**



**Backup tools**  
**Cloud**  
**Database**  
**Directory servers**  
**Mobile**  
**Android**  
**Reviews**  
**Security**  
**Encryption / Decryption**  
**Monitoring Tools**  
**Tips and Tricks**  
**Internet hacks**  
**Trouble shooting**  
**Virtualization**

BY SK · PUBLISHED AUGUST 12, 2016 · UPDATED AUGUST 9, 2017



For those who don't know, **youtube-dl** is a free, open source, command line downloader written using **Python** programming language. Using Youtube-dl program, we can easily download YouTube videos. Not only YouTube videos, we can also download videos from other popular websites such as Dailymotion, Vimeo, BBC, Bloomberg, CNN, ESPN, FOX News, and many more. The complete list of supported websites are given in [this link](#) . Youtube-dl is platform independent, so it will work on almost all modern operating systems including Linux, Microsoft Windows, and Mac OS X.

In this tutorial, we will see how to install youtube-dl and how to download YouTube videos with subtitle or without subtitle.

## Install youtube-dl on Linux and Unix

Installing youtube-dl is fairly easy.

First download the youtube-dl script using **curl** or **wget** as shown below.



---

Getting Started With Docker

---

Blockchain 2.0 – Explaining Distributed Computing And Distributed Applications [Part 11]

---

PiShrink – Make Raspberry Pi Images Smaller

---

3 CLI Image Viewers To Display Images In The Terminal

---

Blockchain 2.0 – Introduction To Hyperledger Fabric [Part 10]

---

```
sudo curl -L https://yt-dl.org/downloa
```

Or,

```
sudo wget https://yt-dl.org/downloads/
```

After downloading youtube-dl program, run the following command to install it.

```
sudo chmod a+rx /usr/local/bin/youtube
```

Youtube-dl downloader has been installed now. Let us go ahead and see how to download videos.

## Download Youtube videos with subtitles

SHARE



Let us download the following YouTube video with automatically generated subtitle files.

To do so, run the following command. Replace the URL with your own.

```
youtube-dl --write-auto-sub 'https://w
```

### Sample output:

```
[youtube] 2hsWBXsNHnQ: Downloading web
[youtube] 2hsWBXsNHnQ: Downloading vid
[youtube] 2hsWBXsNHnQ: Extracting vide
[youtube] 2hsWBXsNHnQ: Looking for aut
[youtube] 2hsWBXsNHnQ: Downloading MPD
[info] Writing video subtitles to: Dr
[download] Destination: Dr Wayne Dyer
[download] 11.9% of 119.06MiB at 214.2
```

SHARE



```
sk@sk:~  
File Edit View Search Terminal Help  
[sk@sk]: ~$ youtube-dl --write-auto-sub "https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2hsWBXsNHnQ"  
[youtube] 2hsWBXsNHnQ: Downloading webpage  
[youtube] 2hsWBXsNHnQ: Downloading video info webpage  
[youtube] 2hsWBXsNHnQ: Extracting video information  
[youtube] 2hsWBXsNHnQ: Looking for automatic captions  
[youtube] 2hsWBXsNHnQ: Downloading Web Manifest  
[info] Writing video subtitles to: Dr Wayne Dyer - Improve Your Life Using The Wisdom Of The Age-2hsWBXsNHnQ.en.vtt  
[download] Destination: Dr Wayne Dyer - Improve Your Life Using The Wisdom Of The Age-2hsWBXsNHnQ.F242.webm  
[download] 3.7% of 119.06MiB at 223.37KiB/s ETA 08:45
```

SHARE



To download the videos with actual sub-titles uploaded by the owner, run:

```
youtube-dl --write-srt --sub-lang en '
```

If you the video has subtitles, it be downloaded along with its sub-titles. Else, the following error message will appear.

### Sample output:

```
[youtube] 2hsWBXsNHnQ: Downloading web  
[youtube] 2hsWBXsNHnQ: Downloading vid  
[youtube] 2hsWBXsNHnQ: Extracting vide  
WARNING: video doesn't have subtitles
```

```
[youtube] 2hsWBXsNHnQ: Downloading MPD  
[download] Destination: Dr Wayne Dyer  
[download] 0.3% of 119.06MiB at 118.59
```

As you see in the above output, the command displays that there is no subtitle files for the specific video.

Now, play the downloaded video to verify whether the subtitle has been downloaded or not.

SHARE



Great! As you see in the above video, the subtitle has been downloaded.

## Download Youtube videos without subtitles

To download any video, just run the following command with the respective URL as shown below.

```
youtube-dl https://www.youtube.com/wat
```

SHARE



### Sample output:

```
[youtube] 2hsWBXsNHnQ: Downloading web  
[youtube] 2hsWBXsNHnQ: Downloading vid  
[youtube] 2hsWBXsNHnQ: Extracting vide  
[youtube] 2hsWBXsNHnQ: Downloading MPD  
[download] Destination: Dr Wayne Dyer  
[download] 2.6% of 119.06MiB at 260.88
```

The above command will immediately start downloading the specified video file in the best available format.

To list of available format of a video, you need to use option **“-list-formats”** with the **youtube-dl** command.



```
youtube-dl --list-formats https://www.
```

### Sample output:

```
[youtube] 2hsWBXsNHnQ: Downloading web
[youtube] 2hsWBXsNHnQ: Downloading vid
[youtube] 2hsWBXsNHnQ: Extracting vide
[youtube] 2hsWBXsNHnQ: Downloading MPD
[info] Available formats for 2hsWBXsNH
format code extension resolution note
249 webm audio only DASH audio 79k , o
250 webm audio only DASH audio 113k ,
140 m4a audio only DASH audio 133k , m
171 webm audio only DASH audio 138k ,
251 webm audio only DASH audio 221k ,
278 webm 192x144 DASH video 124k , web
160 mp4 192x144 DASH video 128k , avc1
133 mp4 320x240 DASH video 260k , avc1
242 webm 320x240 DASH video 276k , vp9
17 3gp 176x144 small , mp4v.20.3, mp4a
36 3gp 320x240 small , mp4v.20.3, mp4a
18 mp4 320x240 medium , avc1.42001E, m
43 webm 640x360 medium , vp8.0, vorbis
```

SHARE



To download a specific format, you need to use option **"f <format\_code>"** with 'youtube-dl' command.

I want to download "3gp" format audio (Format code number **36**), so I entered the following command:

```
youtube-dl -f 36 https://www.youtube.c
```

### Sample output:

```
[youtube] 2hsWBXsNHnQ: Downloading web  
[youtube] 2hsWBXsNHnQ: Downloading vid  
[youtube] 2hsWBXsNHnQ: Extracting vide  
[youtube] 2hsWBXsNHnQ: Downloading MPD  
[download] Destination: Dr Wayne Dyer  
[download] 9.3% of 120.22MiB at 259.95
```

SHARE



SHARE



As you see in the above output, the video is being downloaded in **3gp** format.

 Download – [Free Guide: “An Idiots Guide to Photoshop: Part 3 – Pro Tips”](#) 

---

Recommended read:

- [ClipGrab – A Free multi-platform YouTube Downloader and Converter](#)



For more details about **youtube-dl** command, check the **man pages**.

```
man youtube-dl
```

And, that's all for now. Hope this helps. If you find our guides useful, please share them on your social, professional networks and support OSTechNix. More good stuffs to come. Stay tuned!

Cheers!!

### Reference links:









- [\*\*youtube-dl website\*\*](#) 
- [\*\*youtube-dl documentation\*\*](#) 

**Thanks for stopping by!**

Help us to help you:

SHARE



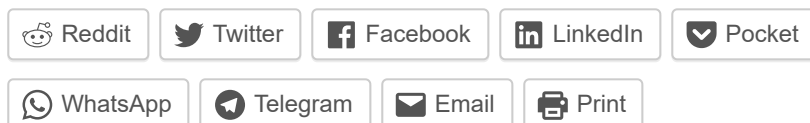
- Subscribe to our Email Newsletter : [Sign Up Now](#) 
- Support OSTechNix : [Donate Via PayPal](#) 
- Download free E-Books and Videos : [OSTechNix on TradePub](#) 
- Connect with us: [Facebook](#)  | [Twitter](#)  | [Google Plus](#)  | [LinkedIn](#)  | [RSS feeds](#) 

**Have a Good day!!**

SHARE



## Share this:



Tags: [Command line downloaders](#) [Download YouTube Videos with subtitles](#) [YouTube](#)  
[Youtube downloader](#) [youtube-dl](#)

### PREVIOUS STORY



Install Lumina Desktop  
Environment in Linux and Unix

### NEXT STORY



SMPlayer – Best media player  
with built-in codecs support



SHARE



## 2 RESPONSES

 **Comments** 2  **Pingbacks** 0



**AlekseyShi**  August 12, 2016 at 8:24 pm

Mmm... Very well! 😊 I should try it on my Arch Linux!

Reply



**SK**  August 13, 2016 at 10:55 am

I tried this on my Arch Linux desktop, it worked like a charm.  
Good luck!

Reply

## LEAVE A REPLY

Comment

Name \*

Email \*

**Website****Post Comment**

This site uses Akismet to reduce spam. [Learn how your comment data is processed.](#)

SHARE

**EMAIL NEWSLETTER****Subscribe to our mailing list****Sign Up Now****We respect your privacy****BLOG ARCHIVE**

Select Month

**WHO WE ARE**

- [About](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Donate](#)
- [Privacy Policy](#)
- [Terms and Conditions](#)



OSTechNix © 2019. All Rights Reserved.

This site is licensed under CC BY-NC 4.0.

SHARE

