

# podcaster user guide

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# **podcaster user guide**

by John-Paul Stanford

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This document describes usage of the application podcaster version 1.2

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# Table of Contents

1. Introduction .....	1
Features .....	1
2. Installation .....	2
1. Linux Binary Distribution Packages .....	2
2. Any platform static Jar Disturbution .....	2
3. CLI Usage .....	3
podcaster .....	3
Optional arguemnts: .....	3
Required arguemnts: .....	3
Examples .....	3
capture-stream .....	3
Optional arguemnts: .....	4
Required arguemnts: .....	4
4. Configuration .....	5
5. Credits and Licenses .....	6

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## List of Examples

3.1. Using podcaster in a cron job .....	3
4.1. A configuration file for downloading from iPlayer and a Stream .....	5

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# Chapter 1. Introduction

podcaster is a application which can capture Internet radio stations and store them locally. It can then add them to a pod cast for downloading onto portal devices. The encoded podcast/media files can have cover art/meta data added to them.

## Features

- Capture Internet radio to audio files.
- Create MP3, WAV, FLAC and MP4 files.
- Encodes metadata and cover art into the media files.
- Create podcast from captured radio stations.
- Supports real audio and Microsoft ASF format streams via mplayer application.
- Supports BBC iPlayer streams via get\_iplayer application.

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# Chapter 2. Installation

There are a few different ways to install podcaster. The different distributions can be found at *Downloads* [<http://code.google.com/p/pod-caster/downloads/list>]

All of the distributions will require a Java 1.6 compatible JRE.

## 1. Linux Binary Distribution Packages

There are several linux distribution packages that can be found in the downloads section of the website. If your distribution uses RPM packages, then following these instructions.

1. Pick the packages for your distribution
2. Download them to a directory
3. Change to that directory from the console
4. Log in as root and run the command **rpm -Uvh \*.rpm**

This will install the application and scripts to launch it. This will install the scripts **/usr/bin/capture-stream** and **/usr/bin/podcaster**.

## 2. Any platform static Jar Distribution

There is a static jar distribution available on the downloads page. This will run on any platform with the correct JRE. Simply download it to your system, and type the command:

```
java -jar podcaster-1.2-static-bin.jar [options]
```

This can be used to capture audio and add it to a podcast the same command line parameters as the podcaster script.

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# Chapter 3. CLI Usage

## podcaster

The podcaster command is used capture audio from internet radio stations and store it as a audio file in a directory. This audio file is then added to a podcast.

`podcaster [-h] [-v] [-c] [-p] [-l]`

This command uses the system tools to capture audio streams specified in the configuration file to a audio file. These are then added to a podcast. All the configuration for the podcasts and audio file is done via a configuration file. See the configuration chapter for more information on the format.

### Optional arguemnts:

#### -l, --log\_config

This option is used to control the loggin of the tool. The default option if this option is missing is *INFO*, which will log only messages considered suiteable for information level. If the option *DEBUG* is used then their will also be debug messages and the format will be changed to make debugging easier.

It's also possible to pass a log4j configuration file path to this option which will cause the logging setup to be configured with the contents of the file.

#### -h, --help

Show the help message

#### -c, --config\_file

This option is used to override the default configuration file been used.

#### -v, --version

This is used to display the application version

### Required arguemnts:

#### -p, --podcast

The ID of the podcast from the configuration file

## Examples

### Example 3.1. Using podcaster in a cron job

The following line is a example of using podcaster to record a radio show and insert it into a podcast. The line is a crontab  
`<code> 50 18 * * 1 /usr/bin/podcaster -p zaneLowe </code>`

## capture-stream

The capture-stream command is used capture audio from internet and store it in a media file.

`capture-stream [-h] [-v] [-c] [-p] [-l] [-o]`

This command uses the system tools to retrieve the audio and encode it into audio files, by default the tool will look for these in on the path, however it possible to change the location of these via a configuration file. See the configuration chapter for more information on the format.

The details of audio file been captured is specified by the podcast ID and the details are configured in the configuration file.

## Optional arguemnts:

### **-l, --log\_config**

This option is used to control the logging of the tool. The default option if this option is missing is *INFO*, which will log only messages considered suitable for information level. If the option *DEBUG* is used then their will also be debug messages and the format will be changed to make debugging easier.

It's also possible to pass a log4j configuration file path to this option which will cause the logging setup to be configured with the contents of the file.

### **-h, --help**

Show the help message

### **-c, --config\_file**

This option is used to override the default configuration file been used.

### **-v, --version**

This is used to display the application version

## Required arguemnts:

### **-p, --podcast**

The ID of the podcast from the configuration file

### **-o, --output**

The path to the file the captured audio should be saved in.



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# Chapter 4. Configuration

The applications make use of a XML configuration file. This tells them which for example were to find the system tools like mplayer and ffmpeg

The applications have CLI options that can be used too tell it which configuration file to use. If this option is not present, then it will look for the file at the locations `/etc/podcaster-conf.xml` or `~/.podcaster/podcaster-conf.xml`.

## **Example 4.1. A configuration file for downloading from iPlayer and a Stream**

```
<podcaster><!-- Configure the paths to system tools that are used --><global><conf
```

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# Chapter 5. Credits and Licenses

podcaster

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