

**For CastPodder®™ on Linux systems**

**Part of the CastPodder Documentation**



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## = 1. Introduction

CastPodder is Linux Podcast receiver. You can use it to Subscribe to Podcast's, receive them and listen to them on your computer or portable audio player.

With CastPodder you can easily Subscribe to your favourite Podcast feeds, or any Podcast you find on the Internet.

You can have CastPodder make periodic checks for new episodes, or even schedule a time for checking yourself. Bringing you always the freshest Podcast's as they are made available, CastPodder makes it easy for you to organize and synchronize content.

This User Guide will introduce you to the basics of CastPodder, and will help you to better enjoy your experience with it.

## = 2. Getting Started

To begin receiving the Podcast shows of your choice, you need to download and install CastPodder on your computer.

To download the latest version of the CastPodder software, please visit the website, at:  
<http://www.castpodder.net>

### == 2.1 Requirements

CastPodder requires the following in order to work properly in your system. Make sure your system meets the minimum requirements before you install the software.

#### Software

Operating Systems: Linux (Posix)

Audio Playback: XMMS or Beep-Media-Player

#### Hardware

Free Disk Space: 100 MB

RAM: 256 MB

### == 2.2 Installation

Depending on what you downloaded:

```
tar -jxf CastPodder-version.tar.bz2; cd to castpodder then ./install.sh
```

```
rpm -iUhv CastPodder-version.2006.0mdk.noarch.rpm
```

```
dpkg -i castpodder_version_all.deb
```

### == 2.3 Starting CastPodder

You can easily start CastPodder by clicking on the CastPodder shortcut located in the Start -> Multimedia -> Sound -> CastPodder.

Next versions of CastPodder will be located in Start -> Internet -> News

A splash screen featuring the CastPodder logo will appear and the software will appear on your screen.

### = 3. The User Interface

The CastPodder User Interface is organized in Tabs. These Tabs provide one-click access to different sets of information and control tools over the CastPodder software. The next few pages will introduce you to this environment and will guide you into gaining absolute control over your Podcasting experience.

#### == 3.1 Downloads

First Tab from the right is Downloads. Here CastPodder lists the various Podcast episodes you may be downloading at any given time. Separate types of information are provided on 6 different columns, while information on each download is grouped in a row.

In the Downloads Tab, you can see the Podcast episode's Name, State, Progress, Date, Playlist association and Location on the Internet.

In addition, the Tab's Status Bar displays information as to how many downloads are in progress, and the upload/download speed of the files. In the Status Bar of the window, live information on what CastPodder is currently doing and what it results to are provided (Such as scanning a number of feeds).

You can select items in the Download tab by clicking on them (Select multiple items by holding down the Ctrl or Shift keys), and then Remove or Cancel them with the red "x" and "-" buttons. You can even search the Download List by entering search terms in the available text box next to these buttons and pressing the "Enter" button.

Removing a download from the Downloads Tab will not delete the downloaded or partially downloaded file from your computer. To do this you need to use the Cleanup Tab.

If you right click on a Download from the list, you will see a pop-up menu with the options to play an Episode in your chosen Player software, remove the download from the list with "Clear selected items", or check any available information on it with "Show Notes".

#### == 3.2 Subscriptions

The Subscriptions Tab is key to the CastPodder application. It allows you to manage everything about your subscriptions to Podcast's. Here you can add a Podcast's Feed, check it, and begin receiving content. Every Podcast you add is displayed in the Subscriptions Tab's upper list, allowing you to easily check for new episodes which display in the list on the lower part of the window, and do several other things which we discuss here.

### === 3.2.1 The Subscriptions Tab buttons from left to right

1)"Check for new podcast's". Clicking this first button will tell CastPodder to check all the Podcast feeds you have listed (subscribed), for new Podcast Episodes.

2)"Catch-up". Clicking the second button tells CastPodder to only download the last new episodes from the Podcast feeds you have subscribed to.

This is called "Catch-up" and a pop-up window will ask you whether you want to skip other (previously available, not the latest) episodes you have not downloaded yet permanently or just this once. This will force Catch-up to perform as you prescribed from then on. (You can change this setting at a later time by going to the File / Preferences / General Tab).

3)"Add new feed" is the third button from the left. Click on it when you know the URL address to a Podcast feed you wish to subscribe to. A pop-up window will open, and will prompt you to enter the Feed's URL.

Make sure you are connected to the Internet and enter the Feed's URL in the URL box. Then click on the "Save" button. CastPodder will check the feed and enter the Title automatically. Optionally check and select in how many days after download episodes should be deleted.

4)"Remove selected feed" is the fourth button from the left (one with the red circle / white x) and it will banish the Feed from your Subscriptions. This means CastPodder will not be able to check that Podcast for content again, unless you subscribe to it again! It is important to notice that clicking on an Episode in the lower list and then on the "Remove selected feed" button will delete the Entire Feed and not that particular Episode. You can automatically delete Episodes which are older than any given count of days using the next button (Properties).

5)"Properties" is the fifth button from the left and it will display a pop-up window with information on the selected Feed

The "Feed properties" allow you to make changes to the Podcast Feed's URL address if appropriate, and if you check the option "Automatically delete episodes more than 14 days old" you can also change the number of days CastPodder will wait before deleting old Episodes from that Podcast.

6)"Check / download selected feed" is the sixth button from the left, and if you click it CastPodder will scan the selected feed for updates and start downloading new Episodes.

7)"Scheduler" is the final button in the series we are discussing and it provides you one-click access to the CastPodder Scheduler

The Scheduler gives users a variety of options for setting CastPodder to automatically check Feeds for new content and download them, at set times or regular intervals. This means you can either tell CastPodder to check for new content at 3 different times during a 24 hour period, or you can set it to check every so on, with options ranging from every 30 minutes to every 12 hours. If you would like to play Podcast shows right after Scheduler has downloaded them, check the available option at File / Preferences... / General Tab.

8)The text box next to the magnifying glass on the Subscriptions Tab, is a dynamic search box. This means that as you enter a word, CastPodder will try to match it in Podcast Feeds you are subscribed to and display them in the list below.

### === 3.2.2 More controls for Podcast's listed in Subscriptions

Some of the functions discussed as accessible via the Subscription Tab's buttons are also available if you right click on a Podcast Feed. A pop-up menu will appear, allowing you to Check and download new Episodes from it, Remove it, open the local folder on your computer where content from that Feed is stored at, or even open the Feed's URL with your web browser.

In the Episodes listing of a Podcast Feed, if you right click on an episode, another smaller pop-up menu "Show Notes" will appear, allowing you to visit a web page with more information on that particular Episode (such as a related blog post).

### == 3.3 Podcast directory

The Podcast directory Tab displays a "folder tree" type listing of Podcast directories. Podcast directories are where Podcast producers list their Feeds, much like a website owner would add her website to an Internet website directory.

You can use these to find all kinds of interesting, popular or content specific Podcast shows for you to subscribe to and get with CastPodder.

Also you can use the text box at the top of the Tab to add a Podcast directory's Feed which is not currently among the preselected Feeds available in CastPodder.

The three available buttons allow to (from left to right) Refresh the contents of the directories, Open all folders, and Close all folders.

To Open a particular directory's folder, simply click on it.

### == 3.4 Cleanup

The Cleanup Tab allows you to clean up your system from all the clutter of Podcast shows you've listened to in the past and are now just taking up valuable space.

You can select one of the Podcast Feeds you are subscribed to from the "Select a feed" drop-down menu.

According to the checked options in the "Look for episodes in" box, CastPodder will search for Episodes of that Feed in the "Player library" or / and the "Downloads folder". All Episodes found there will be listed in the available box below.

Then you can manually check any Episodes you wish to clean up, or use the "Select all" button and manually uncheck those you wish not to be disturbed by the Cleanup process.

You can also check the options "Delete library entries" or / and "Delete files" according to the type of Cleanup (Delete) you wish to perform.

### == 3.5 Log (Optional)

The Log Tab displays technical information about what the CastPodder does when it is prompted by the user to perform a task. It can be useful for troubleshooting or trying to establish whether a particular Feed is not functioning as it should.

You can delete the contents of the Log Tab by clicking the "Clear" button. The text that displays in the Log Tab's text box, can be Copied and Pasted as you do with any text on your computer. However the contents of the Log Tab are produced automatically by CastPodder and text cannot be entered there by the user.

Display of the Log Tab among the tabs of the main CastPodder window, is optional and can be enabled by checking the available option at File / Preferences... / Advanced (tab) / "Show log tab in application".

## = 4. Setting Preferences

To open the "Preferences" window in CastPodder, which allows you to edit / set options for the application, please click on File / Preferences...

The "Preferences" window will appear where you will see six different Tabs each containing options for different parts of the CastPodder, giving you maximum control over how the application works and how you enjoy your Podcast Receiving experience.

In this User Guide, we discuss each Tab and the options it provides the user with. Some of these options you may have been prompted for before, within the CastPodder main window. Here you can change or edit them.

### == 4.1 General

The "General" Tab, allows you to set the General option relating to the CastPodder application. The check boxes in the upper section of this tab, will make the statements next to them true if they are checked by the user.

There you can opt to have CastPodder do the following:

- At startup only show CastPodder in the system tray

The application stays minimized in a system tray CastPodder icon when it is started.

- Run a check for new podcast's when the application is started

Have CastPodder automatically check within your subscriptions for new content every time it is started.

- Play downloads right after they're downloaded

CastPodder will automatically call on your chosen Player to start playing a newly downloaded Podcast Episode.

- Check for new versions of the application at startup

This will allow CastPodder to check if a new version of the application is available for download. This is better left checked as new versions may offer bug fixes and more functions.

- Always use CastPodder for one-click subscription

Check this if you want CastPodder to catch Podcast Feeds available through one-click subscription and it will allow you to subscribe to them with a single click.

- Catch-up skips older episodes permanently

If this is checked, every time you run "Catch-up" in the main Subscriptions Tab, any older than the latest available Podcast Episodes you have not downloaded yet will be permanently skipped by CastPodder.

- Continue running in the background when I close the main window

If this option is checked, every time you close the CastPodder window (either by the x button, File / Close window, "Ctrl+w" or "Alt+F4") it will continue to work in the background and stay minimized in an CastPodder icon in the system tray. To quit the application you would then need to use File / Quit, Ctrl+q, or right click on the CastPodder system tray icon and select "Quit" from the menu. To restore the CastPodder window from the system tray, right click on the icon and select "Open CastPodder" or just double click.

#### === 4.1.1 Location and storage management

On the lower part of the "General" Preferences Tab, are the "Location and storage management" settings.

There you can set a minimal amount of available space on your hard drive that would trigger CastPodder to stop downloading should it ever be reached. This is a nice protective measure against absent mindedness having the free space on your hard drive all taken up by old Podcast Episodes.

Also you can choose the folder into which Podcast's will be downloaded. Remember, CastPodder makes new folders automatically for each Podcast you download Episodes from. All these folder and their content will be located where you indicate here. The default option is ~/iPodderData folder.

#### == 4.2 Threading

The Threading Tab allows you to set a number for:

Maximal threads for feed scanning per session  
(Available options range between 1 and 16)

Maximal downloads per session  
(Available options range between 1 and 6)

These settings can be very useful in improving download performance. If your bandwidth allows it you can experiment by changing the defaults and seeing which setting works best for you.

Any changes you make to how multiple downloads are treated should be saved by clicking the "Save" button on the Threading Tab.



#### == 4.3 Network settings

On the "Network Settings" Tab you are given the option to use a proxy server with CastPodder. To enable this option you must make sure the box next to "Use a proxy server" is checked and that you enter the full URL address of the proxy server you want to use as well as the port number.

The other available option, in experimental use in CastPodder 2.1 is "Coralize URLs". It is aimed at placing URLs in order.

#### == 4.4 Player

The "Player" Tab allows the user to pick between XMMS and Beep-Media-Player for the default Player they want to play and manage synchronization of Podcast Episodes with.

Of course if you want to use one of the listed Players you must first have it installed on your computer. If you want to use a different media manager / player, your best chance is to set the option to "No player" and then CastPodder will check with your system for the default media player you are using and use that.

#### == 4.5 Feed Manager

The "Feed Manager" Tab allows you to Synchronize your subscriptions to a remote service you may be using to store the URLs to your favourite Podcast's (Such as in my.podnova.com)

Simply enter the full URL to the OPML file holding your favourite podcast's and it will automatically be synchronize your CastPodder subscriptions to it.

A link to PodNova & GigaDial, are both on-line Feed Manager compatible with this CastPodder feature is also provided in the form of a button.

#### == 4.6 Advanced

On the "Advanced" Tab of the "Preferences" window the ability for Power Users to run custom commands after each download is given. The command's code is entered into the text box, and the box next to "Run this command after each download" should be checked in order for it to execute.

Another available option is the "Show log tab in application". The Log Tab in the main CastPodder window, offers valuable technical information about how CastPodder executes various tasks, and what problems such as a corrupt Feed could be hindering a download. Although ineligible to the uninitiated this Log output is of great use when troubleshooting or seeking expert advice.

#### = 5. Other Features

CastPodder boasts an easy to use, self explanatory user environment which is under continuous watch for improvements. The more you use CastPodder, you will soon realize which of the several paths, keyboard short cuts, you can use to do something best suits you. Some of the Features not accessible via the CastPodder Tabs but only through the top drop-down menus are explained in this section.

#### == 5.1 OPML Import / Export

CastPodder allows you to import your favourite Podcast Feeds from an OPML file you have stored

locally on your computer. Alternatively you can also export your current subscription list on another OPML file for backup purposes, or to use somewhere else.

#### === 5.1.1 Importing an OPML File

- 1)Click on the "File" drop-down menu and select "Import feeds from opml..." (or you can try holding down Ctrl+Shift+o on your keyboard while at the CastPodder main window)
- 2)From the "Select import file" window, locate the OPML file you wish to import to CastPodder on your computer, and double click on it (or click once to select and then click on the "Open" button).

CastPodder will then import the OPML file you selected.

#### === 5.1.2 Exporting an OPML File

- 1)Click on the "File" drop-down menu and select "Export feeds as opml..."
- 2)In the "Choose a name for the export file" window, enter the desired name for your OPML file, or keep the default name which makes it easy to identify the file as containing your CastPodder subscriptions. Also point to where you want the file to be saved.

CastPodder will then export the OPML file of the feeds in your Subscriptions and store it in the location you have designated on your computer.

#### == 5.2 Language Change

If you would like to change the User Interface language of CastPodder to one of the many (more than 15) different locales available, please do the following:

- 1)Click on Tools / Select language, and then on the language of your choice.
- 2)Restart CastPodder for the language file to be activated.

#### == 5.3 Update Checks

To manually check for a more recent version of the CastPodder application to the one you are using, click on the "Help" drop-down menu and then choose "Check for Update..."

Keeping your software applications up to date is vital to maintaining an up to speed, safe and enjoyable computer environment!

#### == 5.4 Placing Donations

Donations from satisfied users like yourself is what keeps the CastPodder project alive and constantly improving. If you enjoy using CastPodder and you would like to support its development, one easy way to do that is by clicking on the "Help" drop-down menu, and then selecting "Make a Donation".

## = 6. Walk Through's

Some people prefer to be guided step by step the first time they use something, such as a software application. In this section of the User Guide you will find a series of walk-through's to some of the essential functions of the CastPodder.

### == 6.1 Subscribing to a Podcast

When you Subscribe to a Podcast with CastPodder, it checks for new Episodes on that Podcast and makes it easy to discover and download them. Each Podcast publishes a news Feed in RSS or less commonly Atom. You need to give CastPodder that Feed's address in order to Subscribe to it.

A Podcast's Feed URL (Address) is usually given on the web page where you discover a Podcast. Look for a Feed's URL or a text or graphic link that says something like "RSS" or "Podcast Feed" on it.

If the Podcast Feed's address is in the form of a link on a web page, right click on it on your web browser and select "Copy Shortcut" on IE, or "Copy link location" on Firefox. Then you can paste instead of typing it as described on step number 4.

#### Steps

- 1)Start CastPodder
- 2)With the CastPodder window open, press "Ctrl+N" on your keyboard or go to "Tools / Add a Feed..."
- 3)An "Add a Feed" window pops up. In the URL text box, add the Feed's address (Not the website address, the RSS or Atom address).
- 4)Click on the "Save" button.

That's it, CastPodder checks that Feed URL and if it is a valid Podcast Feed it will add it to your Subscriptions so you can check and download Episodes from it.

## == 6.2 Downloading Podcast Episodes

Lets assume you are Subscribed with CastPodder on a number of Podcast's and you want to actually get the shows brought to you. What do you do?

The following steps show you how to get the latest or all missed Episodes of a Podcast.

### === 6.2.1 Download most recent episodes

#### Steps

- 1)Start CastPodder
- 2)Go to the "Subscriptions" tab.
- 3)Click on the Catch-up button, or press F6 on your keyboard, or select "Tools / Catch-up"
- 4)In the pop-up window, select the option "Skip this time only" if you want to later be able to download older Episodes from that Podcast with CastPodder.
- 5)Click on the OK button.

That's it! CastPodder will automatically check the Podcast's you are Subscribed to for new content and start downloading them. If you don't wish to download new Episodes for all these Podcast's, you can go to the "Downloads" tab, select the undesirable Podcast's and click on the "Cancel selected download".

### === 6.2.2 Download all Episodes you don't have already

#### >From All Podcast's in your Subscriptions

##### Steps

- 1)Start CastPodder
- 2)Go to the "Subscriptions" tab.
- 3)Click on the "Check for new podcast's" button.

That's it! CastPodder will check all Feeds in your Subscriptions for new content and start downloading them. All content since the last time you downloaded from a Podcast that is still available will be downloaded.

#### >From A Selected Podcast in your Subscriptions

##### Steps

- 1)Start CastPodder
- 2)Go to the "Subscriptions" tab.
- 3)Click on the Podcast you want to check from the list, to select it.
- 4)Click on the "Check / Download selected feed" button.

That's it! CastPodder will check that particular Podcast Feed and download any Episodes from it you haven't downloaded already.

## = 7. Guide Information

This User Guide is intended for users of the CastPodder software application on a compatible Windows operating system. Some or all of the information contained herein only apply to the versions of CastPodder for the Linux operating systems.

### == 7.1 CastPodder Documentation

The CastPodder Documentation is an ongoing project, with changes and updates on a frequent basis. If you would like to check for a more recent version of this User Guide, or the On-line (constantly updated) version, please visit:

CastPodder Documentation

<http://www.castpodder.net/docs/>

CastPodder On-line Documentation (CastPodderpedia)

<http://wiki.castpodder.net/>

More information and user support can also be found at:

CastPodder Support Forum

<http://castpodder.phpbbweb.com/>

### == 7.2 Credits

The CastPodder Team

<http://www.castpodder.net/team/>

### == 7.3 Errata Reporting

To report errors or omissions in this User Guide, please email [sgrayban@castpodder.net](mailto:sgrayban@castpodder.net)

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