M₃U M3U (MP3 URL[1][2] or Moving Picture Experts Group Audio Layer 3 Uniform Resource Locator[3] in full) is a computer file format for a **M3U** multimedia playlist. One common use of the M3U file format is creating a single-entry playlist file pointing to a stream on the Internet. The created **Filename** .m3u, .m3u8 file provides easy access to that stream and is often used in downloads from a website, for emailing, and for listening to Internet radio. extensions Although originally designed for audio files, such as MP3, it is commonly used to point media players to audio and video sources, including online **Internet** various; see § media type Internet media types sources. M3U was originally developed by Fraunhofer for use with their Winplay3 software, but numerous media players and software applications now support the format. Initial c. 1996 release Careless handling of M3U playlists has been the cause of vulnerabilities in many music players such as VLC media player, [5] iTunes, [6] Winamp, [7]

File format Extended M3U **M3U8 Internet media types Examples Software** Tag editors Media players See also References

Each entry ends with a line break which separates it from the following one. Furthermore, some devices only accept line breaks represented as CR LF, but do not recognize a single LF.

The M3U file can also include comments, prefaced by the "#" character. In extended M3U, "#" also introduces extended M3U directives which are terminated by a colon ":" if they

artist - title.mp3

#PLAYLIST: Music TV

#EXTART:Various

#EXTBYT:34124

#EXTENC: UTF-8

#EXTM3A

#EXTBIN:

cover.jpg

Example

NAME="English", TYPE=AUDIO, GROUP-ID="audio-stereo-64", LANGUAGE="en", DEFAULT=YES,

#EXTGRP:Foreign Channels

#EXTGENRE: Jazz Fusion

#EXTIMG: front cover™

Apple used the extended M3U format as a base for their HTTP Live Streaming (HLS)[12] which was documented in an Independent Submission Stream RFC in 2017 as RFC 8216.[13] Therein, a master playlist references segment playlists which usually contain URLs for short parts of the media stream. Some tags only apply to the former type and some only to the

HLS M3U extensions

The Unicode version of M₃U is M₃U8, which uses UTF-8-encoded characters. M₃U8 files are the basis for the HTTP Live Streaming (HLS) format originally developed by Apple to

The only Internet media type registered for M3U and M3U8 is application/vnd.apple.mpegurl, registered in 2009 and only referring to the playlist format as used in HLS

The current proposal for the HLS playlist format acknowledges two media types which it treats as equivalent: application/vnd.apple.mpegurl and audio/mpegurl.[14]

For non-HLS applications, no media types were standardized or registered with the IANA, but a number of media types are nonetheless associated with the historical and ongoing use

These types, plus application/vnd.apple.mpegurl and application/vnd.apple.mpegurl.audio, are supported for HLS applications by (for example) Microsoft's

This is an example of an extended M3U file on the Windows platform. Sample.mp3 and Example.ogg are the media files. 123 and 321 are the lengths in seconds. [20] A length of -1 or o may be used when the media file is a streaming file, as there is no actual, predefined length value. The value after the length is the title to be shown, which is generally the same as the

This example shows how to create an m3u file linking to a specified directory (for example, a flash drive, or CD-ROM). The m3u file should contain only one string: the path to the

Here is another example, using relative format. The M3U file is placed in the same directory as the music, and directories must be preserved when moving the playlist to another device

■ "Bar" is in a different directory at the same level as the playlist directory. The double-dots reference the parent directory of the playlist directory, then into the sub-directory "Other

The following is an example of a M3U playlist file for "Jar of Flies" album by "Alice in Chains" that was created by Mp3tag with the following custom option settings: [21][22][23]

The 2015 proposal for the HLS playlist format uses UTF-8 exclusively and does not distinguish between the "m3u" and "m3u8" file name extensions. [14]

#EXTALB: Album Title (2009)

#EXTM3U

Example

#EXTINF:123,Artist Name - Track Title™

#EXTINF:123 logo="cover.jpg", Track Title

Required

1×

No

No

1×

No

1×

1×

1×

1×

No

No

1×

No

Standard

Yes

Yes

IPTV

IPTV

IPTV

 $AL,^{[10]}M3A^{[11]}$

 $AL,^{[10]}M3A^{[11]}$

AL^[10]

 $M3A^{[11]}$

M3A^[11]

 $M3A^{[11]}$

No

No

Description

The maximum Media Segment duration in seconds

The segment represents the start of a new period

The segment represents a "spacer" before a new period

Indicates encryption method used and decryption key

Indicates start of numbering of periods

appearing in the playlist file

separated by commas

ISO 8601 format

The Media Sequence Number of the first Media Segment

Parameters have either one combined value or one per stream,

M3U extensions

Description

track information: runtime in seconds and display title of the following resource

file header, must be the first line of the file

additional properties as key-value pairs

album information, title in particular

playlist for tracks or chapters of an album in a single file

binary data follows, usually concatenated MP3s

text encoding, must be the second line of the file

TIME-OFFSET=0

VOD or EVENT

1024@256000

METHOD=NONE

ID=foo

toggle without parameters

toggle without parameters

URI=MediaInitializationSection

2010-02-19T14:54:23.031+08:00

i-frame Toggle without parameters

DATA-ID=com.example.movie.title

stream video and radio to iOS devices, and which is now a popular format for adaptive streaming in general.

location of the file which is on the second line. On the macOS and Linux platforms, Unix paths are used.

if subdirectories are used. This method is more flexible, as it does not rely on the file path staying the same.

This format in an M3U allows copying to another device for playback. All files and directories referred to must also be copied.

■ "Foo" is in the specified (Windows) volume and directory, which may or may not be the same directory the playlist is in.

This is the same file as above, saved as sample.m3u in C:\Documents and Settings\User\My Music\

■ Alternative and Classical are sub-directories of the directory that this playlist is stored in.

References to other M₃U playlists, for example, are generally not well-supported.

playlist filename format = "%artist%_%album%_00_Playlist.m3u"

tag to filename conversion format = "%artist%_%album%_\$num(%track%,2)_%title%"

The following tag editor software allows users to edit the ID3 tags in MP3 files, and has support for creating M3U files.

■ "Stuff" is in the same directory that the playlist is stored in.

playlist extended info format = "%artist% - %title%"

■ "Song" and "New Song" are in sub-directories of the directory that this playlist is stored in.

End-of-list signal without parameters

Likewise, these are the two types recommended for HLS use by Microsoft. [17]

10

4

2

Toggle without parameters

AUTOSELECT=YES, URI="english.m3u8"

BANDWIDTH=1123000, CODECS="avc1.64001f,mp4a.40.2

playlist display title

album artist

album genre

file size in bytes

cover, logo or other image

latter type of playlist, but they all begin with #EXT-X-.

begin named grouping

Playlist

playlist

HTTP Live Streaming

Type of

format

Extended to

File format

External links

WikipediA

and many others.[8]

Contents

an absolute local pathname, e.g., C:\My Music\Heavysets.mp3 a local pathname relative to the M3U file location; e.g. Heavysets.mp3 a URL

Extended M3U

support parameters.

Directive

#EXTM3U

#EXTINF:

#PLAYLIST:

#EXTGRP:

#EXTALB:

#EXTART:

#EXTM3A

#EXTBYT:

#EXTBIN:

#EXTENC:

#EXTIMG:

Directive

#EXT-X-INDEPENDENT-

#EXT-X-PLAYLIST-TYPE:

#EXT-X-TARGETDURATION:

#EXT-X-MEDIA-SEQUENCE:

#EXT-X-VERSION:

#EXT-X-MEDIA:

#EXT-X-STREAM-INF:

#EXT-X-BYTERANGE:

SEQUENCE:

#EXT-X-GAP

#EXT-X-KEY:

#EXT-X-MAP:

TIME:

M3U8

#EXT-X-DISCONTINUITY

#EXT-X-DISCONTINUITY-

#EXT-X-PROGRAM-DATE-

#EXT-X-I-FRAMES-ONLY

#EXT-X-SESSION-DATA:

#EXT-X-SESSION-KEY:

Internet media types

■ application/mpegurl

■ audio/x-mpegurl^{[1][2]}

■ audio/mpegurl

Examples

Example 1

#EXTM3U

Example 2

Example 3

#EXTM3U

Sample.mp3

Example 4

Stuff.mp3

Notes:

Example 5

Example 6

#EXTM3U

Software

Tag editors

EasyTAG, puddletag.

Mp3tag, puddletag.

Media players

Multi-platform

Programs

Amarok

Audacious

Banshee

Kodi

mpv

iTunes

Android

Kodi

macOS

Music

Nintendo

Windows

See also

List of tag editors

Other playlist file formats

XSPF - Xiph.Org Foundation

■ WPL - Windows Media Player

ASX - Windows media

■ PLS - SHOUTcast

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UTF-8 (M3U8)"

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MPlayer

Clementine

GNOME Videos

VLC media player

Astro Player^{[24][25][26]}

■ N7Player^{[27][28]}

■ Musicolet^[29]

Phonograph

QuickTime Player

Linux

Windows

AnotherPlayList.m3u

Greatest Hits\Example.ogg

Here is a mixed example:

D:\More Music\Foo.mp3 ..\Other Music\Bar.mp3

Alternative\Band - Song.mp3

Music" to reach "Bar".

■ "Listen" is a Shoutcast stream.

■ "Mine" is an MP3 stored on a web server.

#EXTINF:419,Alice in Chains - Rotten Apple

Alice in Chains_Jar of Flies_02_Nutshell.mp3 #EXTINF:255,Alice in Chains - I Stay Away

#EXTINF:260,Alice in Chains - Nutshell

#EXTINF:256, Alice in Chains - No Excuses

#EXTINF:263,Alice in Chains - Don't Follow

#EXTINF:245,Alice in Chains - Swing On This

Alice in Chains_Jar of Flies_01_Rotten Apple.mp3

Alice in Chains_Jar of Flies_03_I Stay Away.mp3

Alice in Chains_Jar of Flies_04_No Excuses.mp3 #EXTINF:157,Alice in Chains - Whale And Wasp

Alice in Chains_Jar of Flies_05_Whale And Wasp.mp3

Alice in Chains_Jar of Flies_06_Don't Follow.mp3

Alice in Chains_Jar of Flies_07_Swing On This.mp3

Platforms

Linux

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

No

Other

No

No

Yes

Yes

No

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

No

New Nintendo 3DS (including XL and 2DS XL variants) with Internet Browser app

original (https://lockergnome.com/mp3/article14.html) on 2001-04-26.

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macOS

No

No

Yes

Yes

No

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Nintendo Switch with the YouTube (site-specific) app

Wii U with the Internet Browser or YouTube app

Windows

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

No

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Classical\Other Band - New Song.mp3

http://www.example.com:8000/Listen.mp3 http://www.example.com/~user/Mine.mp3

■ application/x-mpegurl

#EXTINF:123, Sample artist - Sample title

#EXTINF:321,Example Artist - Example title

#EXTINF:123, Sample artist - Sample title

#EXTINF:321, Example Artist - Example title

C:\Documents and Settings\I\My Music\Sample.mp3

C:\Documents and Settings\I\My Music\Greatest Hits\Example.ogg

directory. After starting, the media player will play all contents of the directory:

of the M₃U and M₃U8 formats for general playlists:

Windows 10^[17] and Internet Explorer 9,^[18] and LG's WebOS.^[19]

#EXT-X-ENDLIST

applications.[15][16]

#EXT-X-DATERANGE:

#EXT-X-START:

SEGMENTS

#EXTGENRE:

There is no formal specification for the M3U format; it is a de facto standard. An M3U file is a plain text file that specifies the locations of one or more media files. The file is saved with the "m3u" filename extension if the text is encoded in the local system's default non-Unicode encoding (e.g., a Windows codepage), or with the "m3u8" extension if the text is UTF-8 encoded. [9] Each entry carries one specification. The specification can be any one of the following:

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