VLC media player

4 languages

Page   Discussion

Read   View source   View history   Tools

From the project **home page** :

> VLC is a free and open source cross-platform multimedia player and framework that plays most multimedia files as well as DVD, Audio CD, VCD, and various streaming protocols.

1 Installation

Install the **vlc split package**, that depends on a minimal subset of VLC plugins. See the optional dependencies for more functionality.

Notable variants are:

- **vlc-git**^{AUR} - Development branch.
- **vlc-nox**^{AUR} - Without X support.

2 Language

VLC does not offer an option to change language in its *Preferences* menu. But you can use the *LANGUAGE=* prefix. For instance, modify the `vlc.desktop` **desktop entry** to change:

```
Exec=/usr/bin/vlc %U
```

to:

```
Exec=env LANGUAGE=fr /usr/bin/vlc %U
```

to switch VLC interface to French.

3 Skins

VLC can be "skinned" for a different look and feel. You can get skins at the **skins website** .

To install a skin download it and move it to `~/.local/share/vlc/skins2/` .

Open up VLC, click *Tools > Preferences*. When the preferences window opens up you should be in the "Interface" tab

Choose the "Use custom skin" radio button, and select the downloaded skin.

Restart VLC for the change to take effect.

4 Web interface

Run VLC with the parameter `--extraintf=http` to use both the desktop and web interface. The `--http-host` parameter specifies the address to bind to, which is `localhost` by default. To set a password, use `--http-password`, otherwise VLC will not allow you to log in.

```
$ vlc --extraintf=http --http-host 0.0.0.0 --http-port 8080 --http-password yourpasswordher
e
```

To enable the web interface from the graphical interface, navigate to *View > Add Interface > Web Interface*. Set the password via *Tools > Preferences > Show settings: All > Interface > Main interfaces > Lua > Lua HTTP > Password*.

VLC defaults to port `8080` : **http://localhost:8080**

5 Tips and tricks

5.1 Twitch.tv streaming over VLC

See **Streamlink#Twitch**.

5.2 Playing streamed content from a local DLNA server

If you find that trying to play UPnP/DLNA content (by going to *View > Playlist > Local Network > Universal Plug'n'Play*), that vlc fails to see the DLNA server on the local network, then make sure that the firewall is not blocking port 1900 UDP. It is essential that this port is open in order to play local UPnP/DLNA content.

5.3 Control using hotkeys or cli

Install **openbsd-netcat**.

Get script at: **https://crunchbang.org/forums/viewtopic.php?pid=112035** [**dead link** 2025-08-03—The CrunchBang forums are now offline. See **the archive page at Web Archive**]

Follow instructions in script to setup a socket for VLC.

Either run the script from the command line or register the script with keyboard shortcuts through your desktop.

Alternatively, you can use **MPRIS** to interact with VLC.

It is also possible to start *vlc* with an ncurses interface:

```
$ vlc -I ncurses
```

see the **documentation** for more information

5.4 Preventing multiple instances

By default, VLC opens a new instance of the program every time it is launched with one or more files. This can be annoying if you use VLC to play something like your music collection. You can open multiple files at once by selecting them in the file manager, or disable this behavior from the menu: check *Tools > Preferences (set "Show settings" to "Simple") > Interface >*

Playlist and Instances > Allow only one instance, and also check *Enqueue items into playlist in one instance mode* which keeps current file playing and adds any newly opened files to the current playlist.

There is also an option called *Use only one instance when started from file manager* — when this is enabled, all files opened via the file manager will be played in a single instance. The *Enqueue items into playlist in one instance mode* option still applies.

> **Note:**
>
> There is a current **bug** in VLC: if you enable *Use only one instance when started from file manager* without enabling *Allow only one instance*, you will not be able to (un)check the *Enqueue items into playlist in one instance mode* option.

5.5 Hardware video acceleration

See **Hardware video acceleration**.

VLC automatically tries to use an available API, but you can override it by going to *Tools > Preferences > Input & Codecs* and choosing the suitable option under *Hardware-accelerated decoding*, e.g. `Video Acceleration (VA) API` for VA-API or `Video Decode and Presentation API for Unix (VDPAU)` for VDPAU.

5.6 systemd service

VLC's web interface can be started from systemd. First, you need to create a default user:

```
# useradd -c "VLC daemon" -d / -G audio -M -p \! -r -s /usr/bin/nologin -U vlcd
```

Now create the systemd service file:

```
/etc/systemd/system/vlc.service

[Unit]
Description=VideoOnLAN Service
After=network.target

[Service]
Type=forking
User=vlcd
ExecStart=/usr/bin/vlc --daemon --syslog -I http --http-port 8090 --http-password password
Restart=on-abort

[Install]
WantedBy=multi-user.target
```

Start and **enable** `vlc.service`. Log in to http://*yourmachine*:8090/ with no username and with the password you put in the service file.

5.7 Chromecast support

Starting with 3.0 release (*Vetinari* branch), VLC can stream to Chromecast devices on the same network.

Install packages:

- **libmicrodns** - VLC can find the Chromecast device and it shows up in *Playback > Renderer* menu
- **protobuf** - enables streaming to the selected device in *Playback > Renderer* menu

Then, edit the file `/etc/nsswitch.conf` and change the `hosts` line to include `mdns_minimal [NOTFOUND=return]` before `resolve` and `dns`:

```
hosts: ... mdns_minimal [NOTFOUND=return] resolve [!UNAVAIL=return] dns ...
```

> **Note:**
>
> - If you experience slowdowns in resolving `.local` hosts try to use `mdns4_minimal` instead of `mdns_minimal`.
> - Look towards **avahi** for more information.

5.8 Pause click plugin

Install **vlc-pause-click-plugin**^{AUR}, which allows you to click on the video inside VLC's window, and it will be paused or resumed. It is a commonly expected behavior.

It is not activated after installation, you need to manually enable it in settings as described in **https://github.com/nurupo/vlc-pause-click-plugin#usage** .

6 Troubleshooting

6.1 Video broken or other issue after upgrade

Now and then VLC will have some issues with configuration even in minor releases. Before making bug reports, remove or rename your configuration located at `~/.config/vlc` and confirm whether the issue is still there.

If using a ffmpeg variant from the AUR, be sure that you have upgraded it as well. Pacman will not upgrade it when necessary and a mismatch will break VLC.

6.2 Segmentation fault

6.2.1 Fault when initiating VLC

When starting VLC you can get a segfault, and ruling out general factors such as **Microcode**, a possible workaround to this is running the following:

```
# /usr/lib/vlc/vlc-cache-gen /usr/lib/vlc/plugins
```

Then reinstall VLC.

6.2.2 Fault when playing a video

If VLC can open and play audio files, but closes when you play a video with a segfault, then **Hardware video acceleration** was wrongly configured, making VLC unable to refer to graphics devices. It occurs especially when you are using different graphic cards on one computer.

6.3 Missing icons in dropdown menus

This can happen under XFCE, there will be no more icons in dropdown menus, like the PCI card icon.

Execute these commands to reactivate these icons:

```
$ gconftool-2 --type boolean --set /desktop/gnome/interface/buttons_have_icons true
$ gconftool-2 --type boolean --set /desktop/gnome/interface/menus_have_icons true
```

6.4 Failed to open VDPAU backend

See **Hardware video acceleration#Failed to open VDPAU backend**.

Since your system probably does not support VDPAU you should tell VLC to use VA-API instead, see **#Hardware video acceleration**.

6.5 VLC fails to open a second time after closing

The factual accuracy of this article or section is disputed.

Reason: The two statements in this wiki page – "VLC automatically tries to use an available API" (**#Hardware video acceleration**) and "VLC seems to select VDPAU by default, which is broken for many people" – appear contradictory/inaccurate and need to be verified. (Discuss in **Talk:VLC media player#About hardware video acceleration**)

Manually set VLC to use the VA-API acceleration backend in Settings -> Input/Codecs. VLC seems to select VDPAU by default, which is broken for many people.

6.6 No playback via SFTP of media files names containing spaces

If VLC does not play any videos or audio files over SFTP make sure you have **sshfs** installed.

If it refuses to play any media files containing spaces via SFTP and always asks for authentication change the Exec line in the `vlc.desktop` file to:

```
Exec=/usr/bin/vlc --started-from-file %F
```

See **[1]** .

6.7 VLC on iOS/tvOS can't connect to Arch via SFTP

Due to app store licensing restrictions, VLC's iOS and tvOS apps use an incomplete ssh implementation. **openssh** needs a config change to be compatible. Create a file `/etc/ssh/sshd_config.d/vlc.conf` with contents:

```
HostKeyAlgorithms +ssh-rsa
KexAlgorithms +diffie-hellman-group16-sha512
```

Then, run `systemctl reload sshd`.

6.8 Cannot open DVD

To be able to play DVDs via *Media > Open Disc*, VLC optional dependencies **vlc-plugin-dvd** and **libdvdcss** need to be installed.

Other plugins such as **vlc-plugin-dca** may be required for certain DVDs. Alternatively, install **vlc-plugins-extra**, which will install the above two plugins, as well as others.

If you have all of the above packages and still cannot open DVDs, try deleting your `~/.dvdcss` folder. This will force a re-download of your CSS keys, which may fix the problem.

6.9 Cannot navigate DVD menus

> ✂️ **This article or section is being considered for removal.**
>
> **Reason:** This is now a hard dependency from `vlc-plugin-dvd`. (Discuss in **Talk:VLC media player**)

To navigate DVD menus and play episode by episode, VLC optional dependency `libdvdnav` needs to be installed.

6.10 Media does not load

If some RTP, RTSP, DVB-T streams or Blu-rays look like they are endlessly buffering or silently do not load, without giving an error message in the logs (e.g. IPTV from French FAI Free) install `vlc-plugin-aribb24`.

6.11 Wayland support

`vlc-git`^{AUR} builds with Wayland support by default. Set the `QT_QPA_PLATFORM=wayland` **environment variable** to enable Wayland. See **Wayland#Qt** for more info.

Note that although the `--enable-wayland` build flag is used in the **vlc PKGBUILD** (which **currently uses VLC version 3.0**), **Xwayland** is used anyway, as Wayland support on VLC 3 is broken. Video output in VLC may be cropped or otherwise malformed unless `xorg-xwayland` is installed.

With the following command VLC 3 will start using Wayland:

```
$ env -u DISPLAY vlc
```

This works because VLC 3 checks for the environment variable `DISPLAY` on startup and will use Wayland if it is not set. Globally removing `DISPLAY` from the environment is not recommended, because some older Applications still rely on this variable.

6.12 Failed to connect to RTSP stream

When connection to RTSP stream ends up with the `failed to setup rtsp session` error, **install vlc-plugin-live555**.

6.13 Random colors when playing streams with Streamlink

Install the optional dependency `vlc-plugin-aribb24`.

6.14 Unresponsive system when playing HEVC video with AMDGPU

When playing a video encoded with HEVC (H265), users may encounter a total system freeze and are unable to do anything or shutdown.

This can be fixed by changing the settings for *Open GL/GLES hardware converter* to something other than *Automatic* (e.g. *VDPAU OpenGL surface converter* or *VA-API OpenGL surface converter for Wayland*).

See **https://gitlab.freedesktop.org/drm/amd/-/issues/2113#note_1602599**

6.15 Sound disappears briefly after changing playback progress

Set *Tools > Preferences (with "Simple" view) > Audio > Output module"* to the audio server currently in use. (For **PipeWire**, you need to install **vlc-plugin-pipewire**^{AUR}, otherwise only compatibility layers can be used.)

6.16 VLC could not decode the format "[format]"

Depending on the media format, users may need to manually install extra plugins. **vlc-plugin-ffmpeg** can be a good start. In some cases, **vlc-plugins-all** might be needed.

6.17 VLC not showing subtitles and OSD

Even if you have the plugin to decode subtitles, you will not see them on the screen (and there will not be any error on the Messages/Console), if you are missing the **vlc-plugin-freetype**, which is not included in **vlc-plugins-base** but **vlc-plugins-extra**.

7 See also

- **Wikipedia article**
- **List of applications/Multimedia**
- **VLC homepage**
- **playerctl** : A command-line utility and library for controlling media players
- **Control VLC via a browser**

Categories: Video | Audio | Streaming