

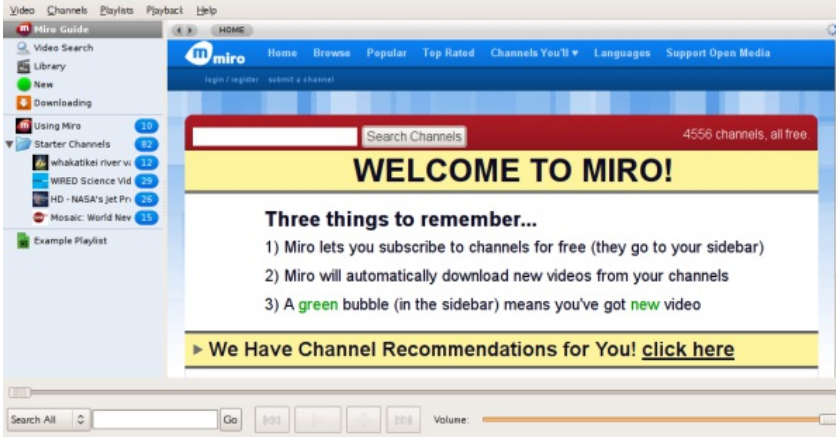
MIRO

Published : 2013-10-12
License : None

MIRO

Miro is an Internet player which enables you to :

- Subscribe and manage video and audio podcasts
- Play video files (QuickTime, WMV, MPEG, AVI, Ogg and more)
- Play audio files (OGG, MP3, ...)
- Choose to download content from a variety of free channels available in the MiroGuide and anywhere else on the Internet
- Save videos from YouTube and other video hosting sites
- Subscribe to and download from video and audio podcasts that use Bittorrent links



Miro works on Mac OSX, Windows Vista, Windows XP, and Linux.

INSTALLING

1. WINDOWS INSTALLATION
2. INSTALLING MIRO ON UBUNTU
3. INSTALLING MIRO ON MACINTOSH OS
X

1. WINDOWS INSTALLATION

Software name : Miro

Homepage : <http://www.getmiro.com/>

Software version used for this installation : 12.8

Operating System used for this installation : Microsoft Windows (XP)

Recommended Hardware : 200 MHz processor (CPU) minimum

Go to the home page for Miro (<http://www.getmiro.com>) and the page should recognise your operating system and offer you to the relevant download option in the green download box.

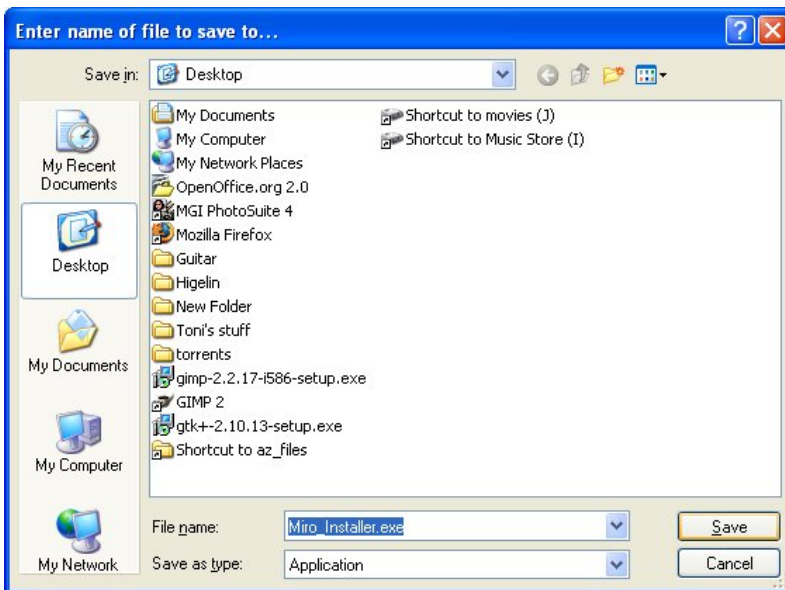


If this is not the correct version — for example if you are using a **Windows** computer and it suggests a download for **Mac** — you can select the download tab in the top menu.

Otherwise, if it is the right version, click on the green box and you are asked to download Miro:



You are offered to save the file on your computer (or your browser may be set up to download it automatically to your Desktop or a folder you have chosen). If you are presented with the above window, then clicking "Save File" leads you to a file browser.



Choose a location to download your Miro install file to and click "Save". When the file has been downloaded, browse to where the file has been downloaded and double-click it. This causes an installer window to appear:



The installer shows a list of fifteen or so languages. Choose the language that you want to use for the application menus and messages, and click "OK".

Follow these steps to proceed through the setup program:

1. On the "Welcome to Miro" setup page, choose either "Easy Install" or "Custom Install", and click "Next".
2. If you chose "Custom Install", you can choose options on the following screens. If you are unsure about any option, you can accept the default options that are already selected. On each screen, click "Next" after you have chosen options.
 1. On the "Choose Components" screen, select the boxes for the components of Miro that you want to be installed.
 2. On the "Choose Install Location" screen, specify where on your computer to install Miro's files.
 3. On the "Choose a Start Menu" screen, specify a folder on your Start Menu for Miro's shortcuts. Click "Install".

A progress bar appears while the setup program installs files on your computer.

3. The setup program may offer to install other software. These programs are other free, libre open source applications. Choose an option for whether to install this software, and click "Next".
4. If you want to run Miro right away, leave the "Run Miro" box selected. Otherwise, clear the box. Click "Finish" to end the setup program.

RUNNING MIRO FOR THE FIRST TIME

The first time that you run Miro, you see the "Miro First Time Setup" window.

1. If you want Miro to run whenever your computer starts, leave "Yes" selected. Otherwise, select "No". Click "Next".
2. Choose one of the following options:
 1. If you want Miro to look for video files that are already on your computer, leave "Yes" selected. If you keep your video files in a location that is not typical, select "Search custom folder" and click "Change", which opens a file browser so you can select your video folder. Click "Finish" when Miro is done searching for files.
 2. If you don't want Miro to look for video files, select "No" and click "Finish".

Once you click "Finish", Miro starts for the first time.

2. INSTALLING MIRO ON UBUNTU

Software name : Miro

Homepage : <http://www.getmiro.com/>

Software version used for this installation : 1.2.8

Operating System used for this installation : Ubuntu 8.04 (Hardy)

Recommended Hardware : 200 MHz processor (CPU) minimum

To install Miro on Ubuntu, you need to know a little about the **Synaptic Package Manager**. If you already know about the package manager, then skip to the section "Installing Miro".

SYNAPTIC PACKAGE MANAGER

The Synaptic Package Manager (SPM) is used for more than just installing software. It can also upgrade your entire operating system, and manage all software installed on your computer. However most people use SPM for just installing new software. Before you embark on this process, there are a few concepts that you may wish to get familiar with. It's not crucial you understand them thoroughly, so just read the explanations and then let it soak in over time. The ideas behind SPM will become clearer with use.

What is a repository?

SPM can automate the installation of software on your computer because it has a direct connection to one or more online software repositories. These repositories are vast archives of programs that have been pre-configured for installation on your operating system. When your computer is online, SPM can connect to these archives, check what software is available for installation, and present you with a list of installable software. All you have to do is select the software from the list that you want. SPM then downloads the software from the repository and takes care of the installation process.

So SPM is actually a repository manager: it manages which repositories (there are many) you wish to access, and which programs to download and install from those repositories.

SPM allows you to choose which repositories it accesses through its settings. The default repositories used by Ubuntu can be extended through the SPM settings so you can access a wider range of programs. Ubuntu calls each repository by a simple name. They are: **Main**, **Universe**, **Multiverse**, **Restricted**. By default Ubuntu only uses the **Main** online repository. If you wish to access you the other repositories, you must do this by changing repository settings of SPM.

What is a package?

When SPM downloads a programs for installation, it is in the form known as a 'package'. This means that it is a compressed archive of the program, pre-configured so that it can install nicely on your computer. If the package has been configured nicely (and the Ubuntu project team spends a lot of time making sure this is the case), then many of the headaches that installing software can bring are taken away — it's the aspirin of software installation. One of the biggest issues with installing software on any form of Linux (Ubuntu is one of many types of Linux), is **dependencies**. Dependencies are all the other packages required by a particular package. If, for example, I want to install an audio editor, that audio editor software may use some functionality of other programs to do its job.

SPM takes the (often) dark art of dependencies away from you, and manages this itself. So if you wish to install a program and it has dependencies (and the list can be long), you don't have to work this out yourself. SPM knows already what is needed, finds it, and installs it along with the software you have chosen.

So, SPM, as well as managing which repositories you access, is also a package management software. Hence the name: *Synaptic Package Manager*.

apt

You don't really need to know about 'apt', so if you are on the verge of being confused then don't read this short section. If you are a geek wannabe, then read on.

Ubuntu is a form of Linux that has derived from another form of Linux called Debian. This family of Linux has in common (amongst other things) the package/repository management system. Both Ubuntu and Debian use the **apt** system for managing packages. APT is an acronym for **Advanced Package Tool**.

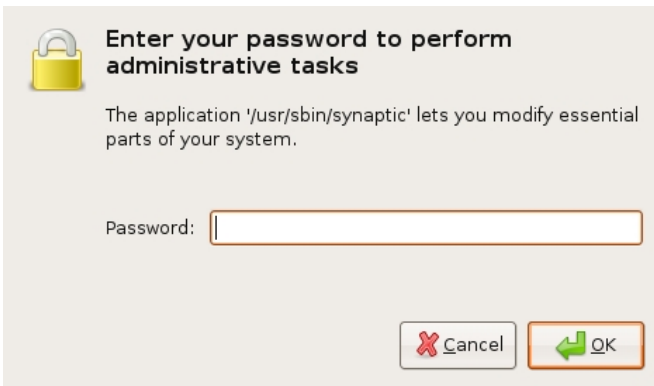
SPM is actually a 'front end' (graphical interface) for controlling 'apt'. So SPM is the nice user interface that you see, but the real work is done by 'apt'. There are other ways of managing 'apt', such as the command line interface known as **apt-get**. In the world of Linux, there are many varieties of Linux users and they have their own ways of doing things. In general it's safe to say most Debian users use apt-get, and most Ubuntu users are happier using SPM.

CONFIGURING SYNAPTIC PACKAGE MANAGER

To install most software on Ubuntu, you need to change the default repository settings of SPM, because many programs are not contained in the default repository. To do this, you need to open the Synaptic Package Manager, which you can do via the **System** menu. If you haven't changed the default Desktop of Ubuntu, then the System menu can be accessed at the top left of your screen:

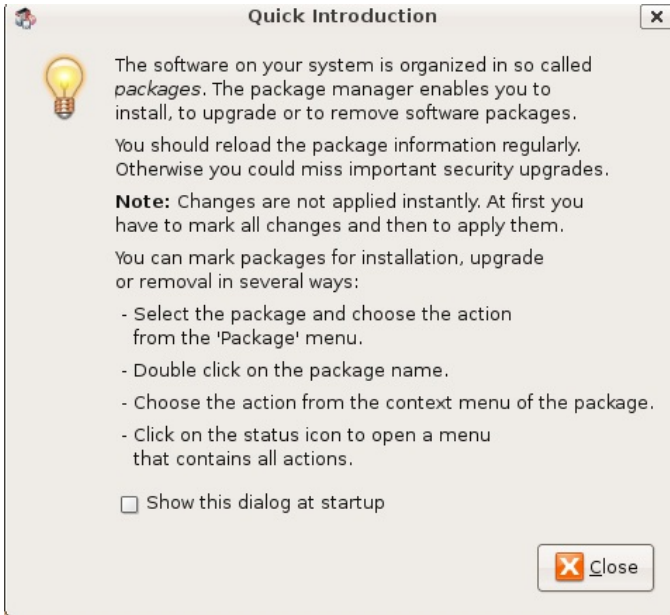


If all is good, you are prompted for a **password**.



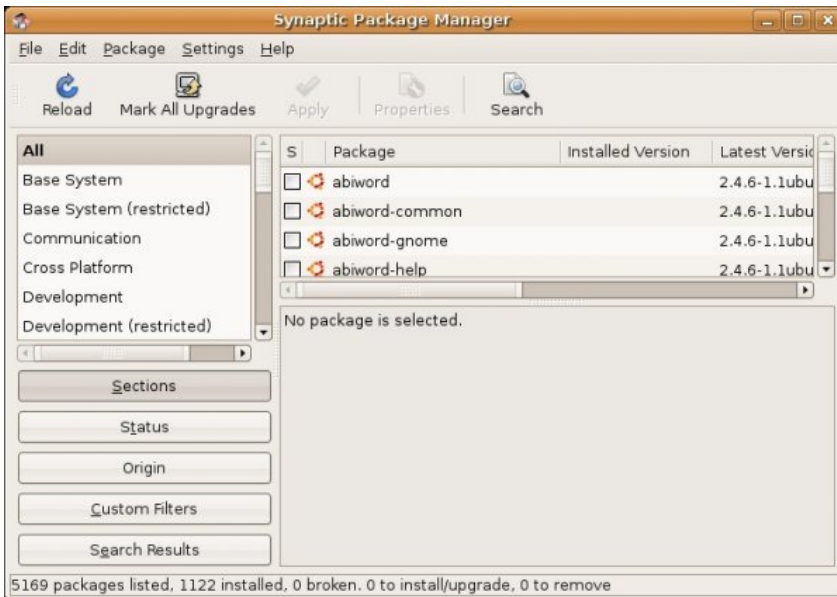
Here you must enter your password (the same one you use to log into the system). If you don't know the password, then you have a problem and it's probably caused by the fact that the computer you are using is not yours. In this case you have to find the computer's owners and ask them for the password (which is usually not polite unless you know them well) or ask them to input the password while you look casually in the other direction.

Assuming the password entered is correct, you now see the SPM open in front of you. It may be that you first see the following 'Quick Introduction' (which appears if you haven't used SPM before).

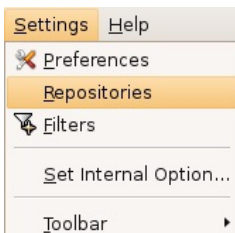


Just click **C**lose and move on.

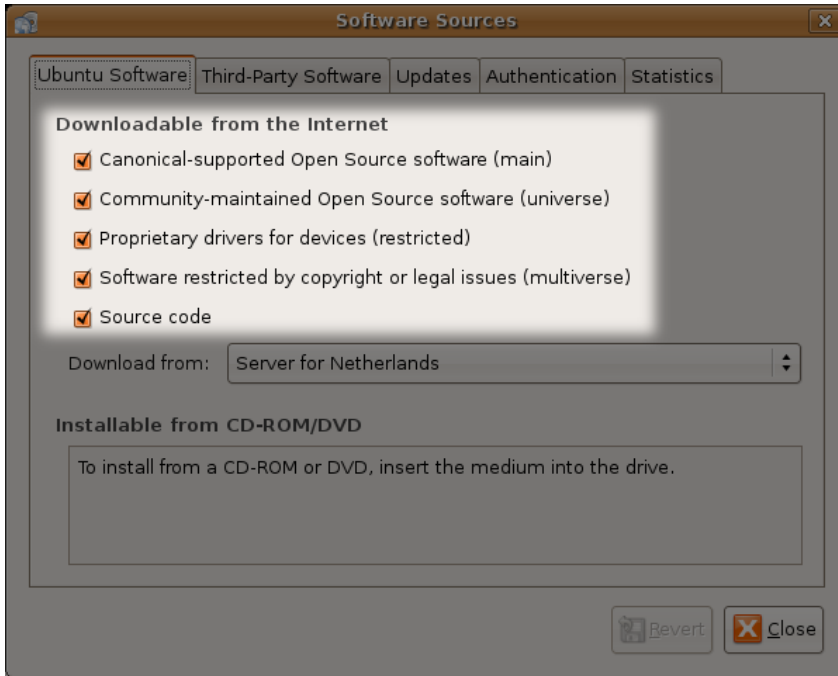
Let's look at the Synaptic Package Manager interface.



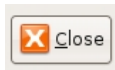
Let's not worry about the details of the interface for now. All we want to do is change the repository settings. To do this, on the **S**ettings menu, click **R**epositories.



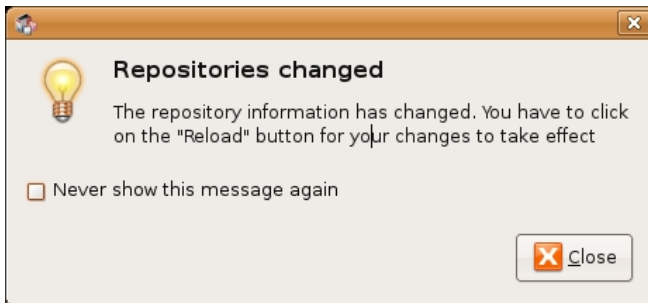
Now we get to where we can do some business. Make sure that all the options are selected:



Now close that window by clicking the big **C**lose button at the bottom right.



Next, you see a warning telling you the repository has changed:

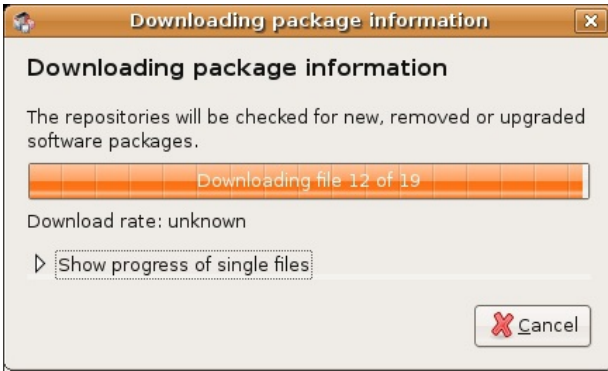


Click the **C**lose button.

Back in the SPM interface, you need to refresh the repositories as the warning suggests. To do this, click **R**eload:



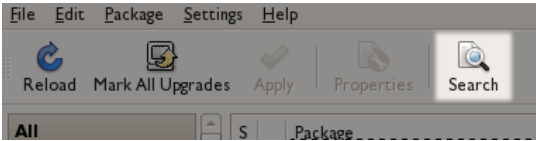
You then see a status window saying the repositories are being updated and showing the progress.



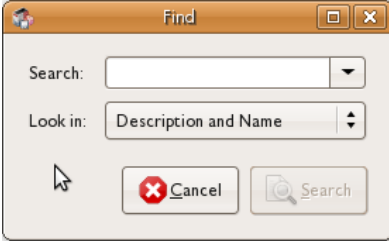
INSTALLING MIRO

Now we need to install Miro using the package manager.

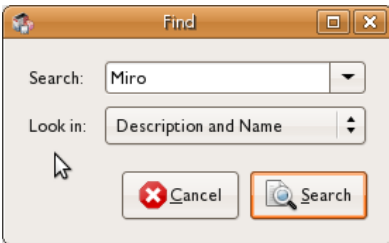
1. In the Synaptic Package Manager, click 'Search'.



2. A search window appears:



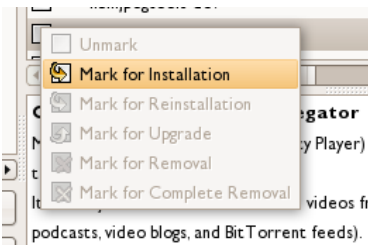
3. Type 'Miro' into the Search field :



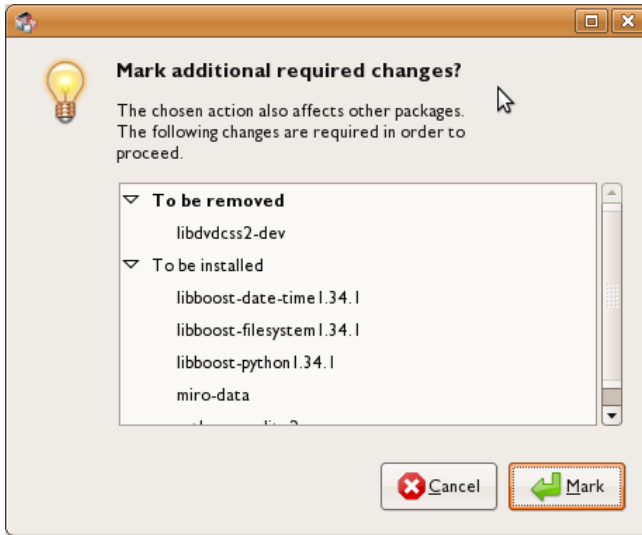
4. When you click 'Search', a number of results may eventually be displayed:

S	Package	Installed Version	Latest Version
<input type="checkbox"/>	democracyplayer		1.1.2-0ubuntu2
<input type="checkbox"/>	libmjpegtools0c2a		1:1.8.0-0.2ubun
<input type="checkbox"/>	libmjpegtools-dev		1:1.8.0-0.2ubun
<input type="checkbox"/>	miro		1.1.2-0ubuntu2

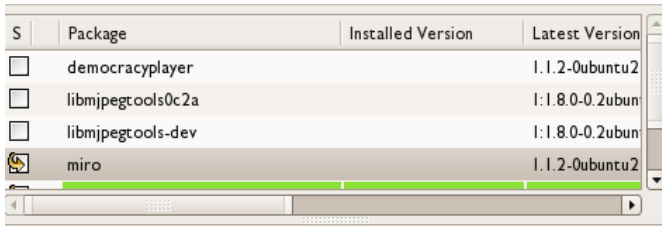
5. Click 'miro' and choose 'Mark for Installation':



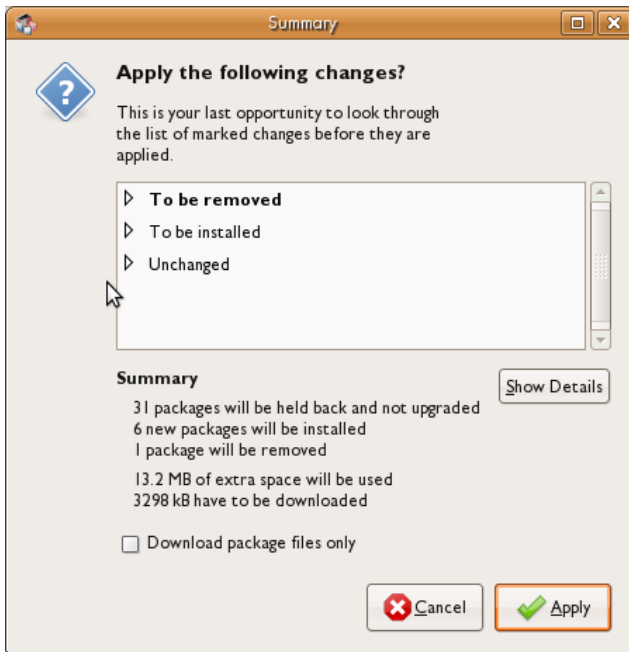
6. A window asks you to confirm the extra packages (dependencies) that need to be installed:



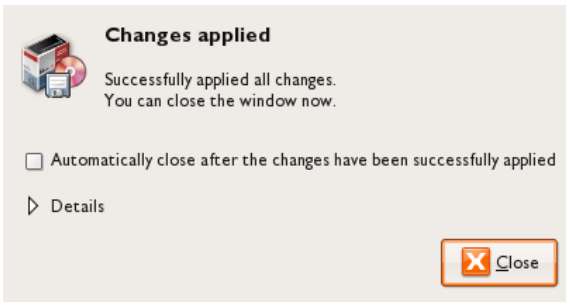
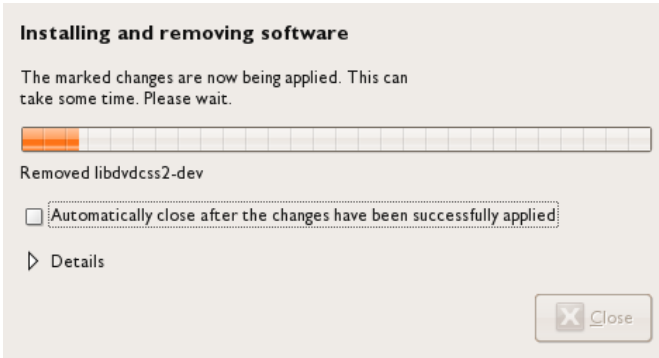
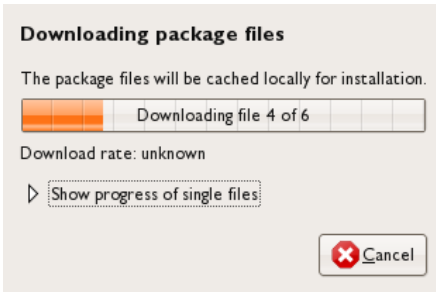
- Click 'Mark'. The window disappears, and you see the icons in the Synaptic Package Manager change to show that Miro has been selected for installation :



- Click 'Apply' in the main window. A summary window appears:



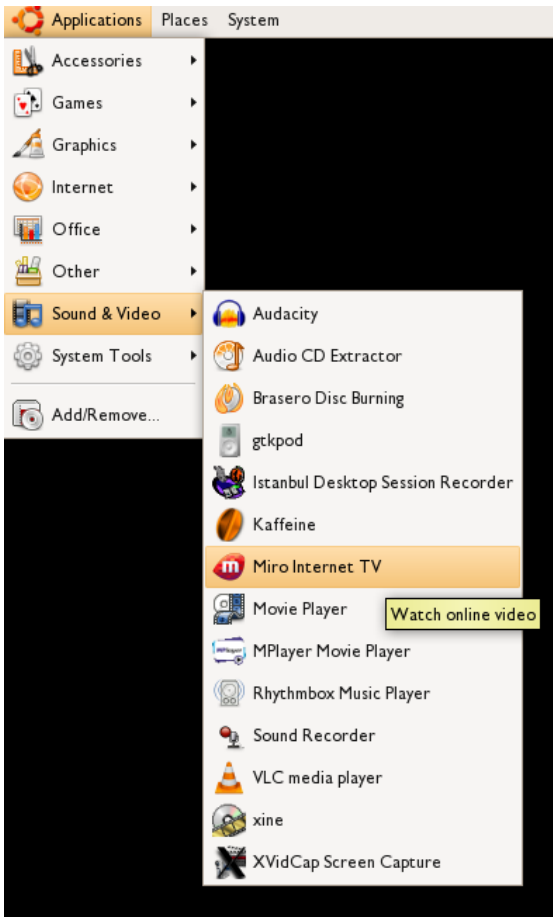
- Click 'Apply' again and the installation process begins. The following three windows appear (one after the other) :



10. Close this window to complete the installation process. You can also close the Synaptic Package Manager.

STARTING MIRO

Miro is added automatically to the Applications menu. Select its shortcut to start Miro.



If you don't see a shortcut for Miro in the Applications menu, then try restarting your computer.

3. INSTALLING MIRO ON MACINTOSH OS X

Software name : Miro

Homepage : <http://www.getmiro.com/>

Software version used for this installation : 1.2.8

Operating System used for this installation : Macintosh OS X

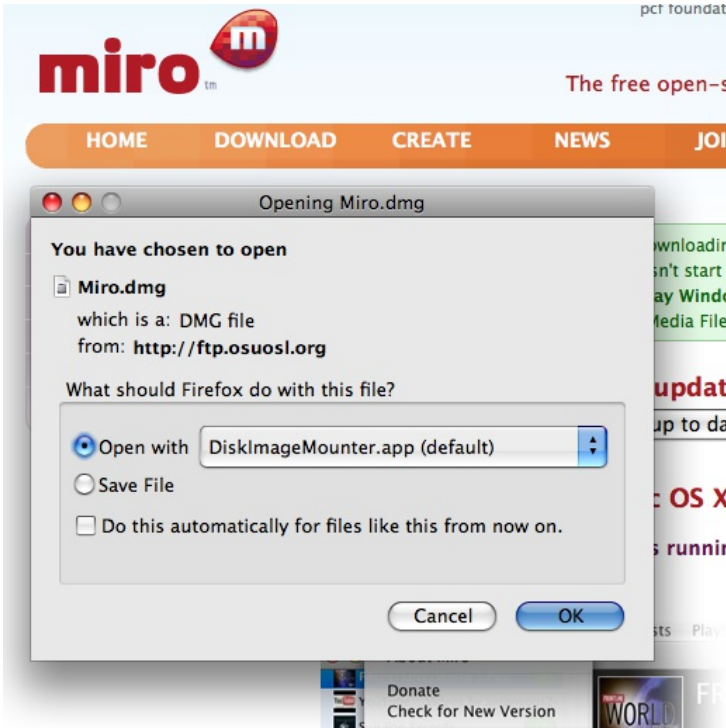
Recommended Hardware : 200 MHz processor (CPU) minimum

DOWNLOADING MIRO

Go to the home page for Miro (<http://www.getmiro.com>). When you click the green box labeled "Download Miro - Free".



The browser switches to a different page, and a window appears for downloading an installation file.



If this does not happen (or if the installation file is for a different type of computer, such as Microsoft Windows), click "DOWNLOAD" at the top of the page, and then click the "Download Now" link for Mac OS X.

You can choose to either open the file automatically, or save it. If you save it, then you need to find where it was saved, and double-click it to open it.

INSTALLING MIRO

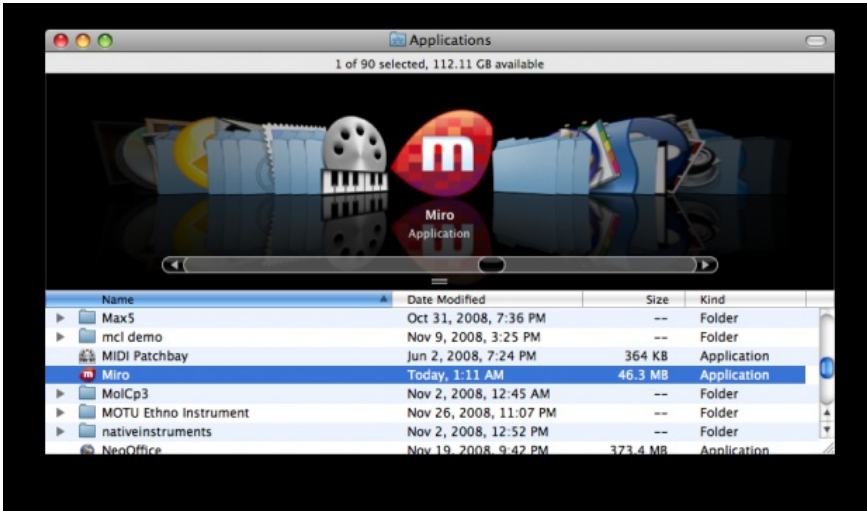
When the file is opened, it looks like this:



Drag the Miro icon onto the Applications shortcut. Then double-click the Applications icon, which opens the Applications folder.

STARTING MIRO

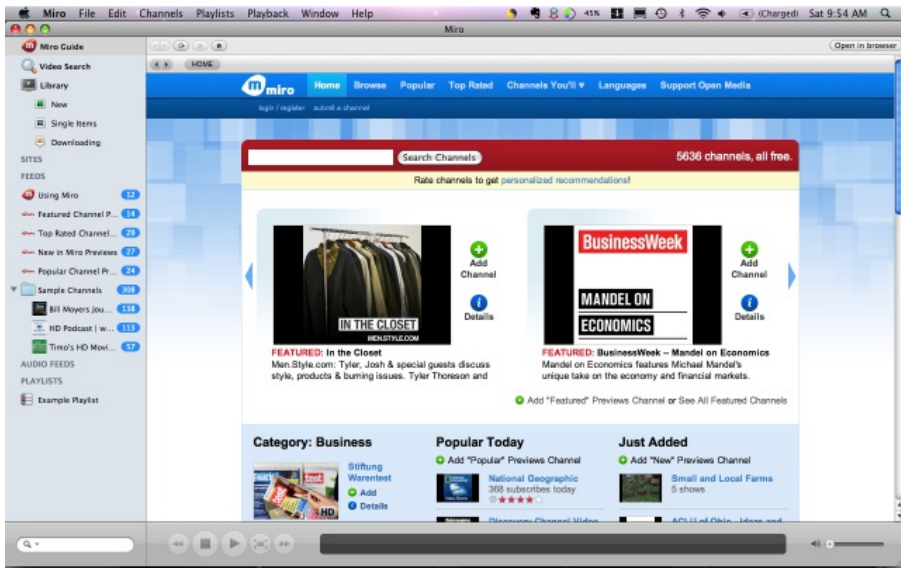
Locate the Miro icon in the Applications folder, and double-click it.



A window asks you to confirm that you want to run Miro. Click "Open".



The Miro software starts running:



USING MIRO

4. SUBSCRIBE TO VIDEO PODCASTS
5. VIEWING VIDEO FROM A CHANNEL
6. PLAYING VIDEO FULL SCREEN
7. AUTOMATIC DOWNLOADS
8. KEEPING FILES
9. FINDING FILES
10. ADDING VIDEOS FROM A LOCAL DRIVE
11. CREATING PLAYLISTS
12. SEARCHING THE WEB FOR VIDEOS

4. SUBSCRIBE TO VIDEO PODCASTS

This chapter details how to subscribe to a **Video Channel** from an RSS feed from a video sharing site or video blog. Note that you can use Miro to subscribe to video channels that aren't listed in the Miro interface.

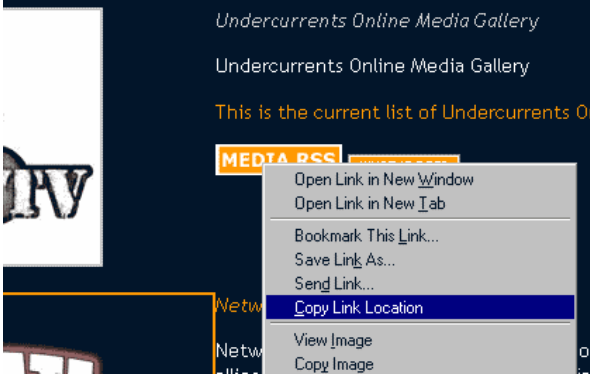
We assume that you have used a browser to open a site that has a video podcast available. You need to find out the web address ('URL') of the video podcast or channel. Technically, this is channel called an **RSS feed**. You find RSS feeds on **Video Blogs** or news sites. They are normally identified by a graphic which links to a text file. Some sites might refer to it as a 'vodcast'.

The image associated with the channel could be anything. There has been an attempt to standardise the icons related to 'RSS feeds' and it has been somewhat successful. For example if you see an image like this it indicates an RSS Feed:

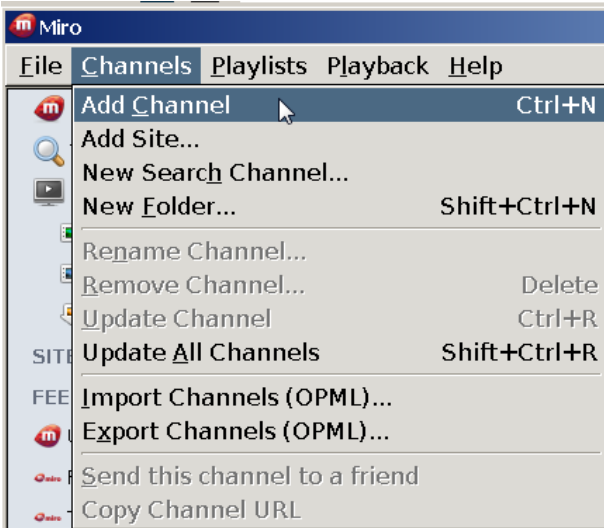


However there are no rules and any link or image might be used.

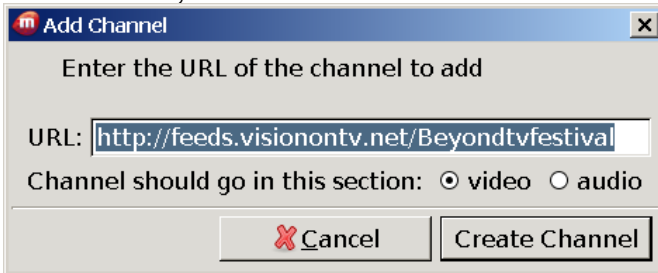
1. Once you have found the link, **right Click** (**Ctrl + Click** on Mac) it and choose 'Copy Link Location' or 'Copy Shortcut'. This copies the URL into the computer's memory or 'clipboard'.



2. Now that you have the URL of the Channel 'in memory', open Miro and copy this information to Miro. To do this, select **Channels > Add Channel** on the Miro menu bar as shown below:

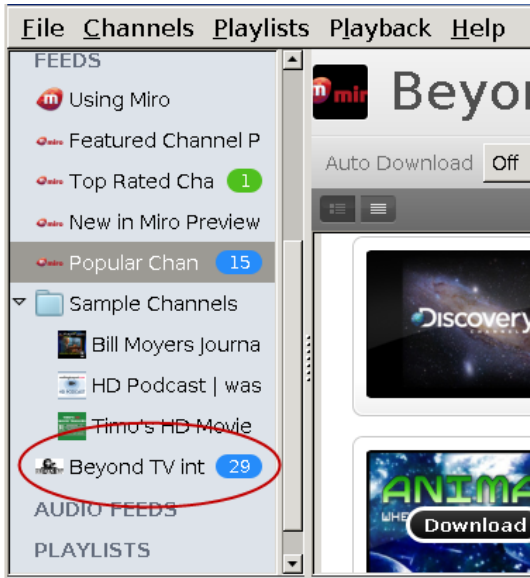


When the **Add Channel** box appears, you might see the URL of the channel already in it:



This happens because Miro knows that there is something in the memory of your computer. When you open this box, Miro guesses that what is in memory is probably the URL of a channel.

3. If it doesn't appear, then try pressing **Ctrl + V** (or **Apple + V** on a Mac) to 'paste' the address of the channel into the box. When the address appears in the "URL" box, click "Create Channel". Miro adds the channel to the list on the left (called the 'sidebar'):



Miro automatically starts updating the list of videos available through this channel. This may take some time depending on how much content is available on the new channel and how fast or slow your Internet connection is.

5. VIEWING VIDEO FROM A CHANNEL

You can watch video from Miro's channels directly from within Miro. Let's look at how to view a video from the 'Using Miro' channel (it is one of the default channels in Miro when you first install it).

When you open Miro, you may notice on the left is a list of channels, called the sidebar.

You can click on a channel on the left of the screen and the information about that channel appears in the main window. In this picture, we choose 'Using Miro':

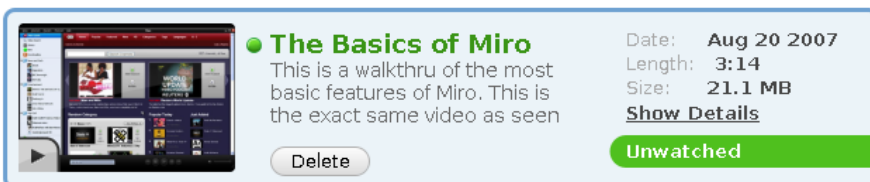


Miro automatically updates the videos available on the channel and displays this information on the right.

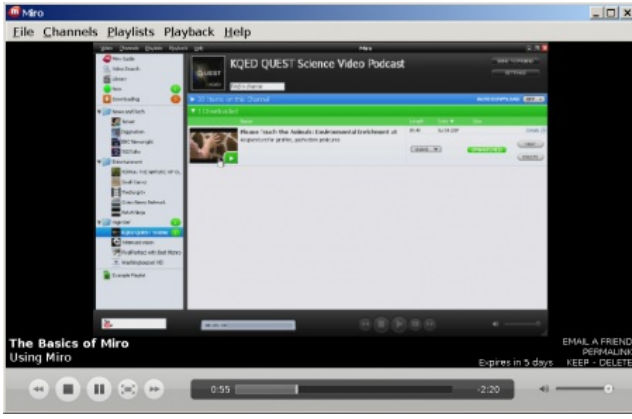
You can click the image or the "Download" button to start downloading. When you do, the video name changes to orange and an orange dot appears next to the name:



When the film has been downloaded the title and the dot become green:



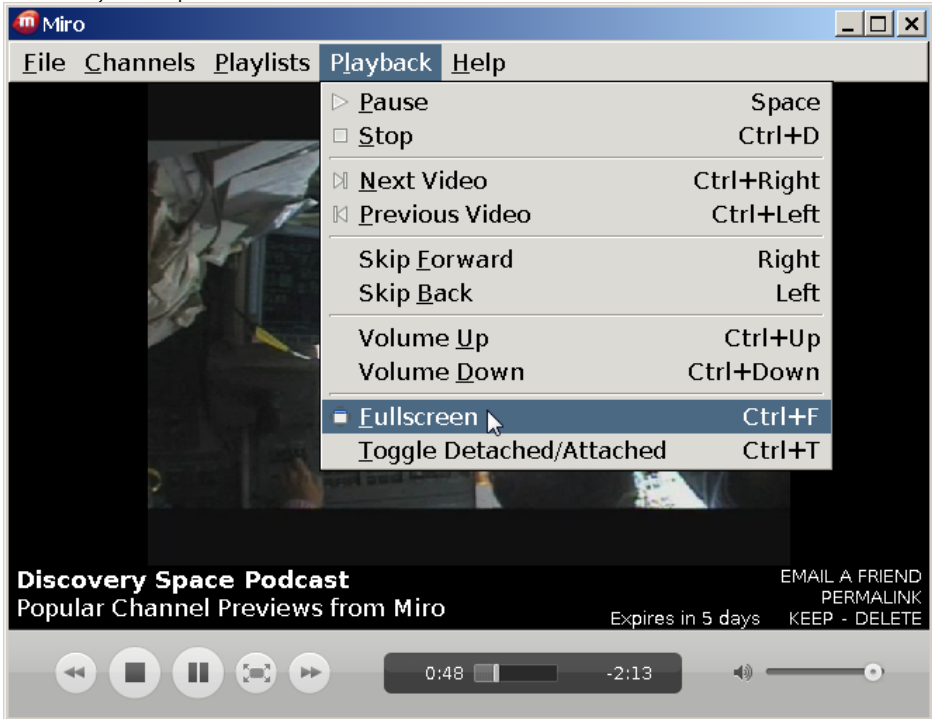
To start playing the video, click the image:



6. PLAYING VIDEO FULL SCREEN

You may wish to view a video so that it uses the entire screen. You can do this in three ways:

- On the main menu, select **Playback > Fullscreen**.
- On the keyboard, press **Ctrl + F** or **Alt + Enter**.



- While the video is playing, click the button to the right of the Play

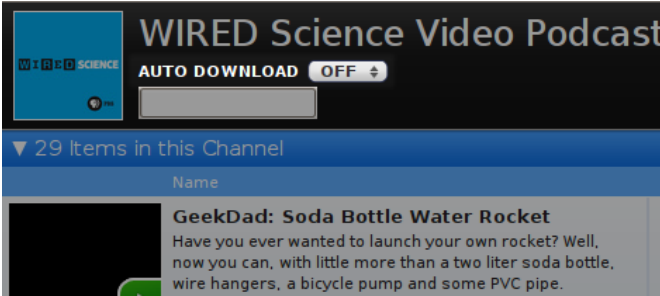


/ Pause button.

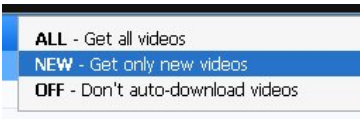
To exit Fullscreen mode you can press **Alt + Enter**, **Ctrl + F**, or the **escape** key on your keyboard.

7. AUTOMATIC DOWNLOADS

If you decide you like a channel in **Miro**, you can set up Miro to automatically download any new videos that gets published on that channel. In the image below, you can see that **AUTO DOWNLOAD** is turned off :



If you click the button ('OFF') you get three choices :

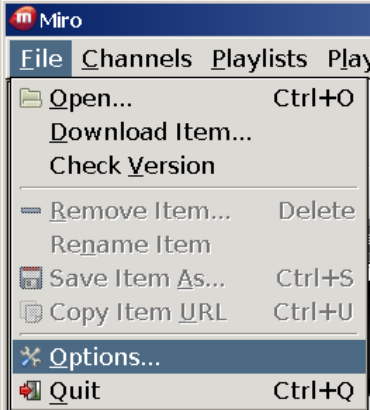


- **'ALL'**: Miro downloads all the videos in a channel.
- **'New'**: Miro gets new videos published in this channel whenever you start Miro or when you ask Miro to check for new videos.
- **'OFF'**: Miro does not automatically download videos. You must select each video that you want to download.

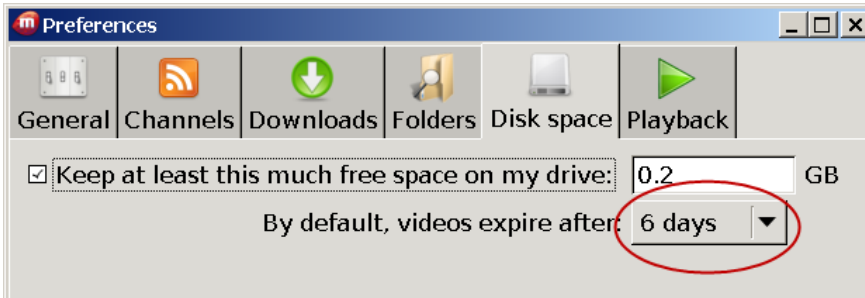
8. KEEPING FILES

Miro deletes downloaded video files automatically. To keep a video you must specifically tell Miro not to delete it. Do do this, click the 'KEEP' button after you have watched the video.

To set how long you want to leave videos before they get deleted, select **File > Options**.



Click the 'Disk Space' tab. Select the number of days to keep videos.

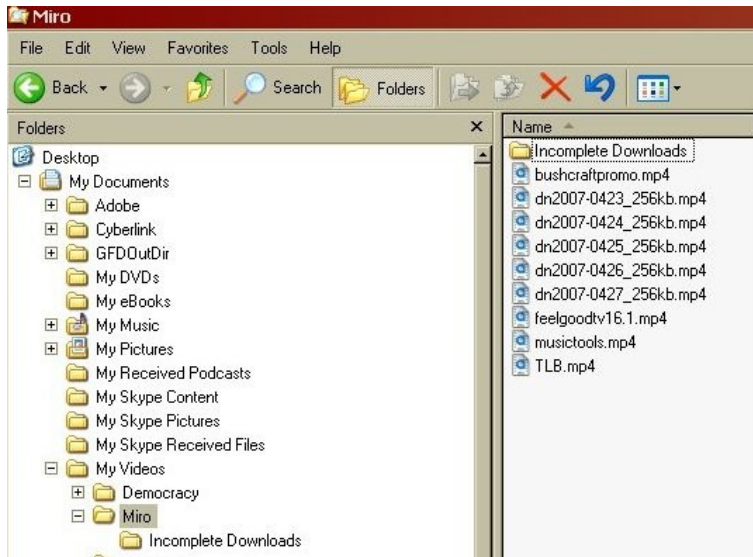


9. FINDING FILES

If you want to use one of the files you downloaded to put onto CD, iPod or turn into a DVD, you need to know where Miro stores the files it downloads.

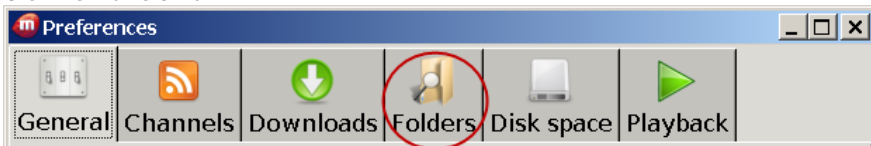
WINDOWS

On **Microsoft Windows**, Miro stores videos inside the 'My Videos' folder. To access them, open **Windows Explorer** and browse to 'C:\My Documents\My Videos\Miro'.



If you want to change where Miro stores its files, do this:

1. On the Miro "File" menu, click "Options". The "Preferences" window opens.
2. Click the "Folders" tab.



3. Click the "Change" button. A window opens where you can browse for folders on your hard drive.
4. Select the folder where you want Miro to start saving files, and click "Choose". The location of the folder you selected is displayed under "Store downloads in this folder".
5. Click "Close" to close the "Preferences" window.

MAC OS X

On Mac OS X, Miro stores videos in a "Miro" folder inside the "Movies" folder of your home folder:



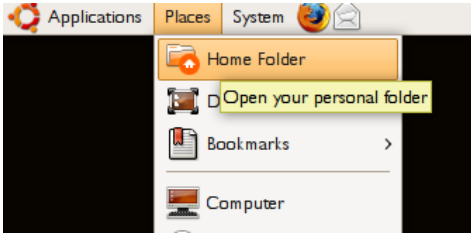
UBUNTU

It is a little trickier to find the files under **Ubuntu**. The files are stored in your 'home folder' in a directory called '.miro'

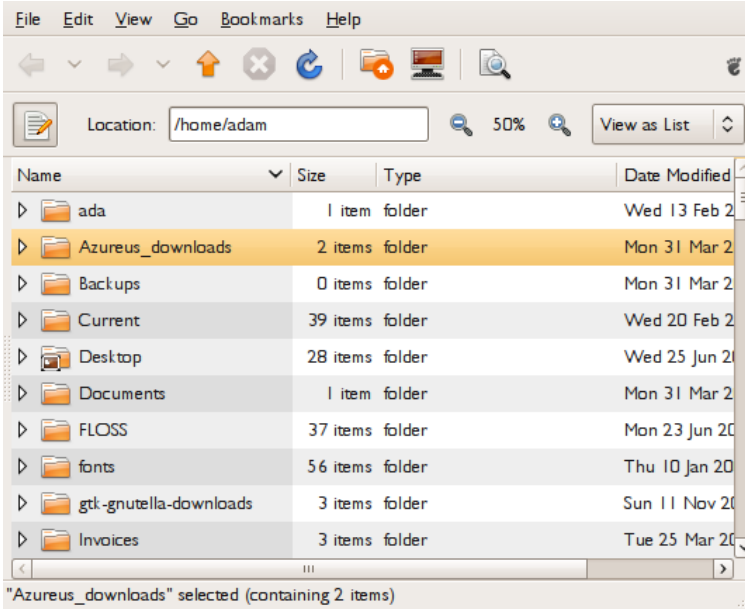
Sound easy? Well, maybe, except that Ubuntu does not let you see directories that start with a period ('.') unless you first enable this. Ubuntu works like this because it stores a lot of configuration files for software in this kind of directory and it thinks you probably don't want to see hundreds of folders like this every time you look at your home directory.

So how do you then find the Miro files?

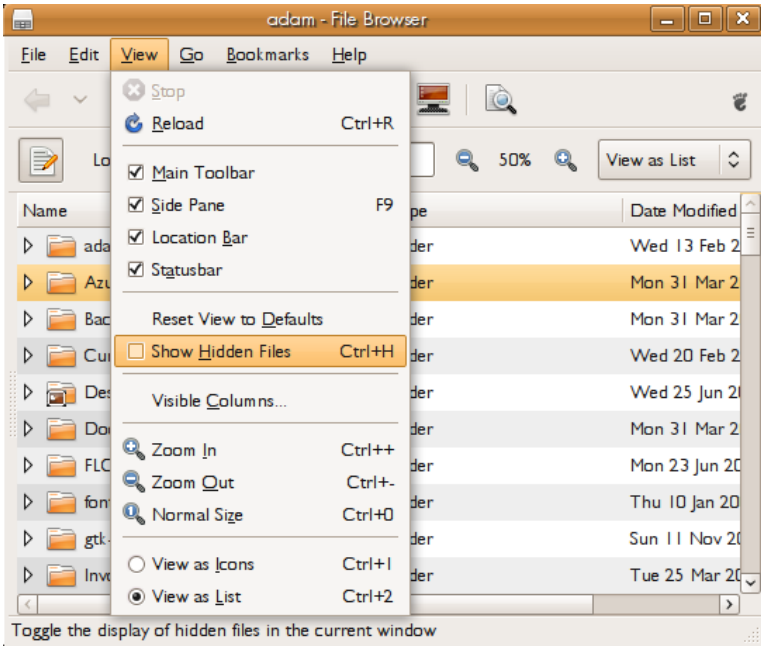
1. On the top menu bar of your desktop, click 'Places' and choose 'Home Folder':



This opens a file browser:

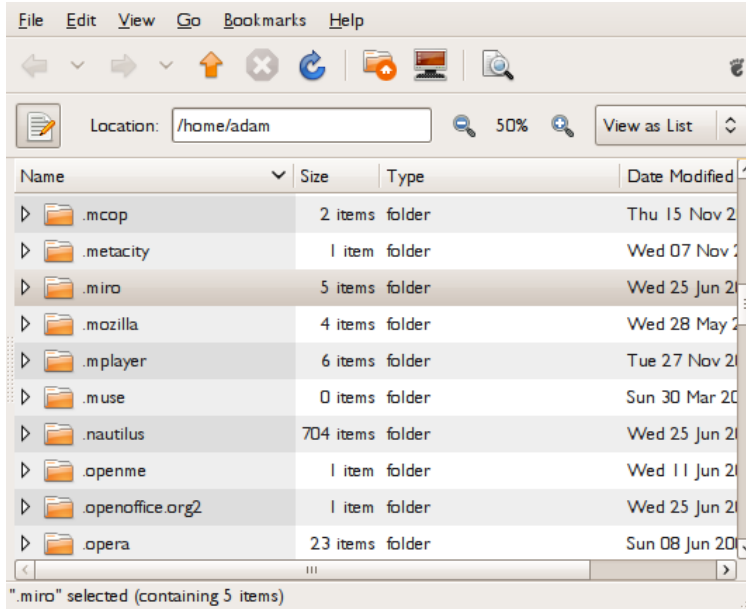


2. Click 'View' and choose 'Show Hidden Files':

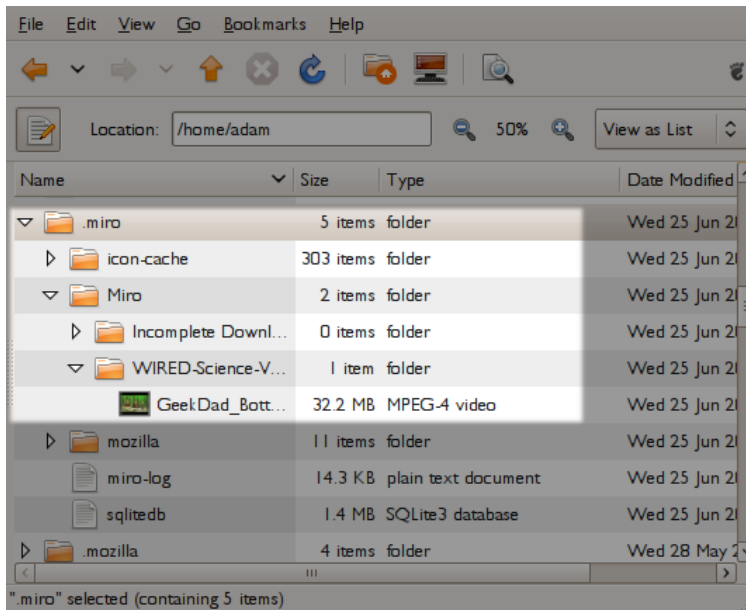


You can see all the files and folders starting with a period. There is likely to be a lot of them.

3. Scroll down until you find the '.miro' folder:



4. Click the arrow next to the folder to see the contents:

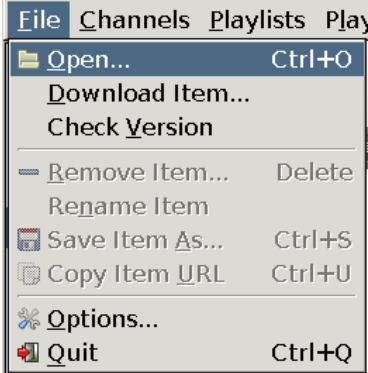


Miro's stores video files under folders named for their channels.

10. ADDING VIDEOS FROM A LOCAL DRIVE

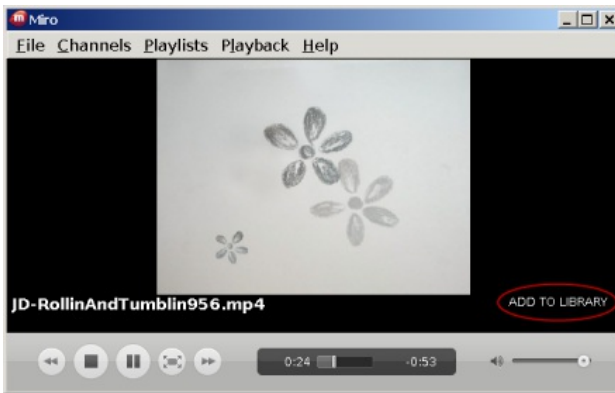
You might want use Miro to watch videos that are located on your computer, rather than downloaded from the Internet. They might be on your hard disk drive, or on a removeable drive such as a USB "stick". You can add them to your Miro library so that you can watch them easily, whenever you want.

1. On the "File" menu, click "Open".



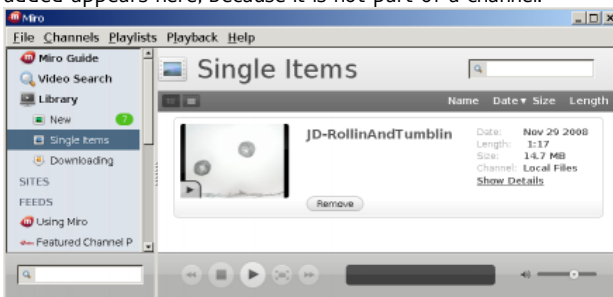
A window opens to let you select the file.

2. Browse to the location where the file is on your local drive, select it, and click "Open". The video immediately begins playing in Miro.
3. In the lower left corner of the playback window, click "ADD TO LIBRARY".

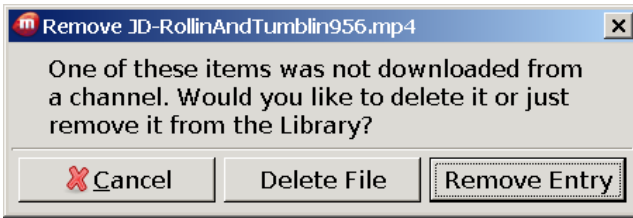


The text you just clicked changes to "DELETE". When the video finishes (or you stop it), it appears

4. In the Miro sidebar, click "Single Items". The video that you added appears here, because it is not part of a channel.

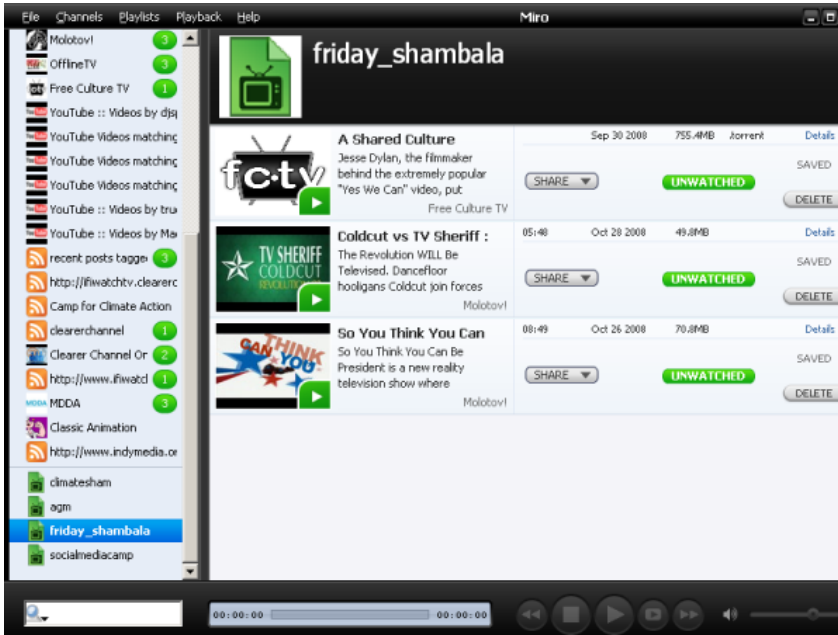


If you decide you don't want this video in your library any more, click the "Remove" button for the video when it is shown in the right side of the window. A window appears that asks whether you want to completely delete the file, or just remove it from the library. If you want to keep the video on your computer, click "Remove Entry".



11. CREATING PLAYLISTS

If you want to do a film screening, or show a series of films, an easy way to set it up is to create a playlist. Using Miro for a presentation or screening is also a great way to promote a fine piece of Free Software.



With a playlist, Miro automatically plays each video in sequence, starting from the first video you play, until it reaches the end of the playlist. So, you can set the first video to be full screen, and then just sit back and watch.

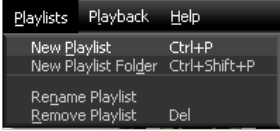
STARTING A NEW PLAYLIST

There are two ways to start a new playlist, from the main menu, or from a video.

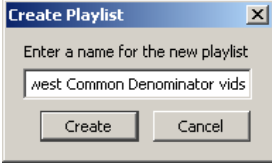
Starting an empty playlist

To start an empty playlist:

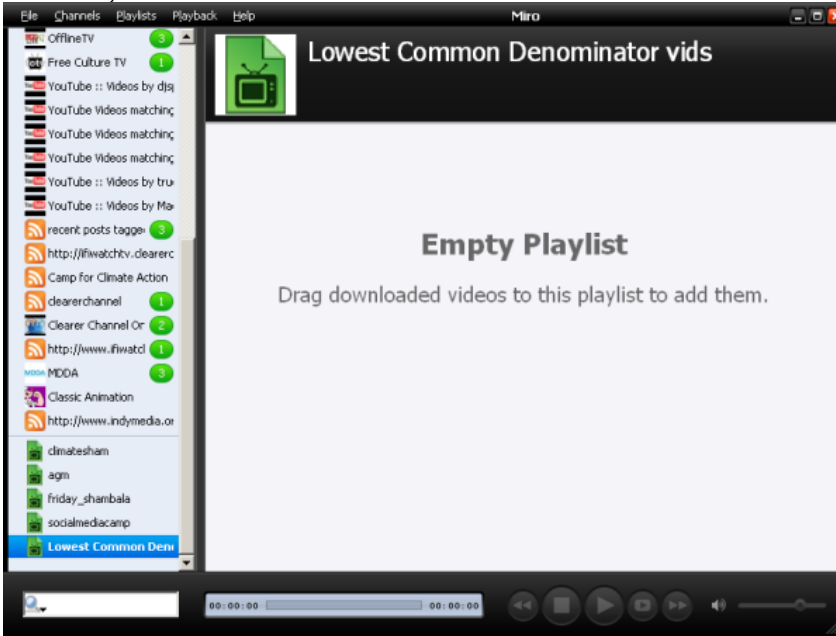
1. From the main menu, on the *Playlists* menu, click *New Playlist*.



2. Enter a name for your playlist and click *Create*.

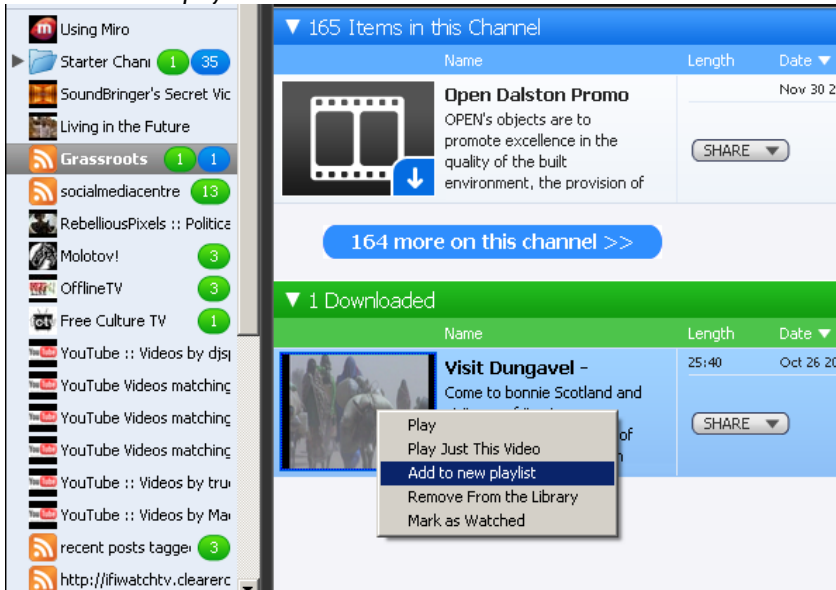


Your playlist appears at the bottom of the list of channels on the left of your screen.



Starting a Playlist with a Video

1. While you are viewing the listing for a downloaded video, right-click (or Cmd-click on a Mac) the thumbnail image. A menu pops up.
2. Click **Add to new playlist** on the menu.



ADDING VIDEOS TO YOUR PLAYLIST

To add videos to your playlist, drag and drop them from either a channel view or from your Library.

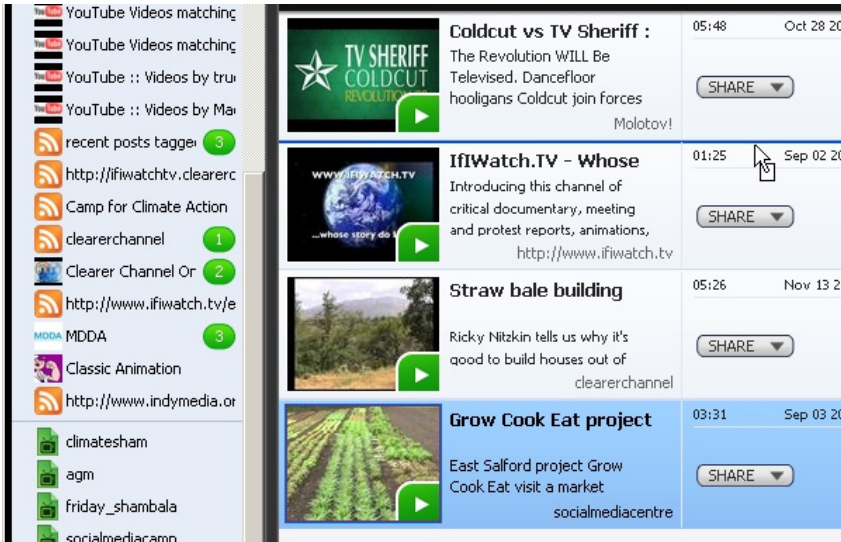


To add a video to a playlist:

- Click the image of your chosen video and drag the mouse pointer over the name of the playlist you want to add it to, in the Miro sidebar. Then release the mouse button when the mouse pointer is over the playlist name and it becomes highlighted.

To re-arrange the order of your playlist, drag and drop videos into the correct order:

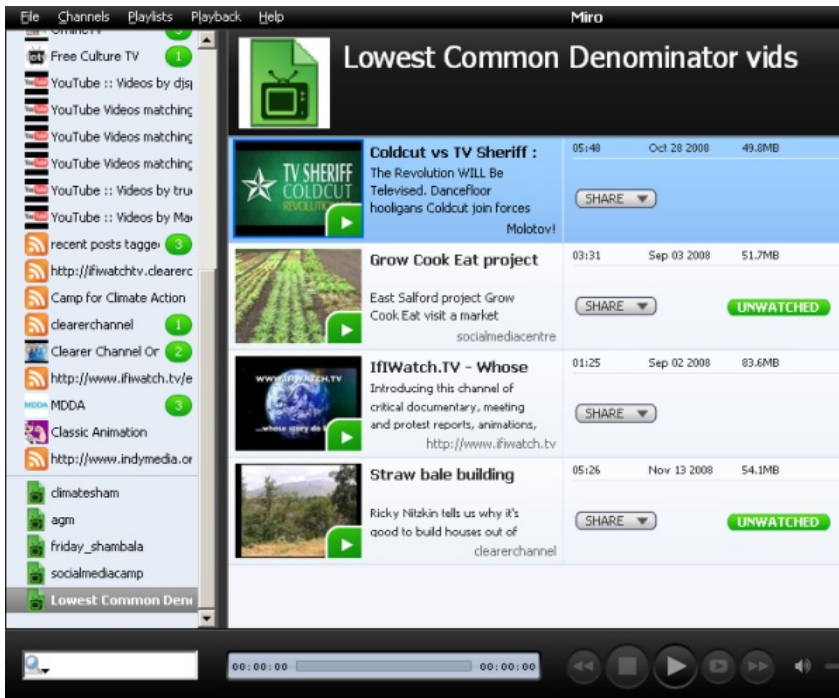
- Click and drag the mouse pointer when it is over the Title and description of the video you wish to move. As you move the mouse pointer a dark line appears between the other video listings, indicating where your video will appear when you release the mouse.



PLAYING PLAYLISTS

When you have added a few videos to your playlist, they appear in order on the right, when you click the name of the playlist on the bottom left.

You can click the first video and choose full screen mode to enjoy a TV like experience (only without the adverts).

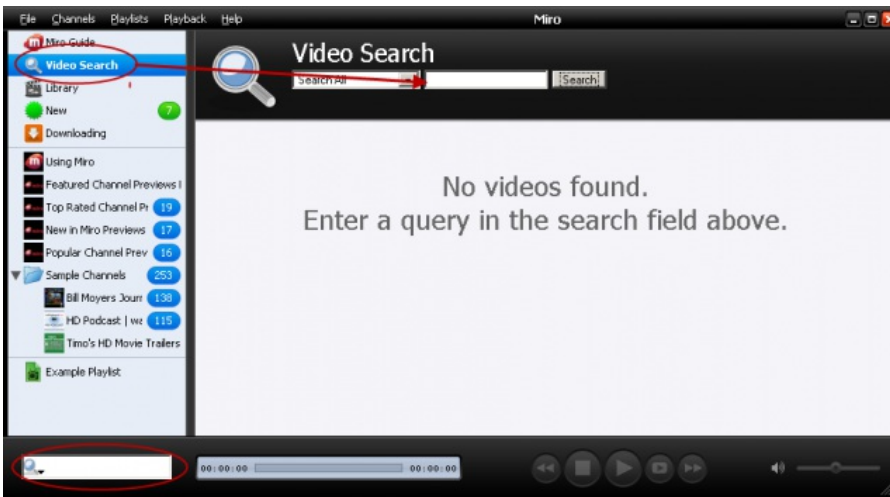


12. SEARCHING THE WEB FOR VIDEOS

You can use Miro to search the World Wide Web for videos that you are interested in, even if they are not in existing Miro channels, and you can save your search as a channel.

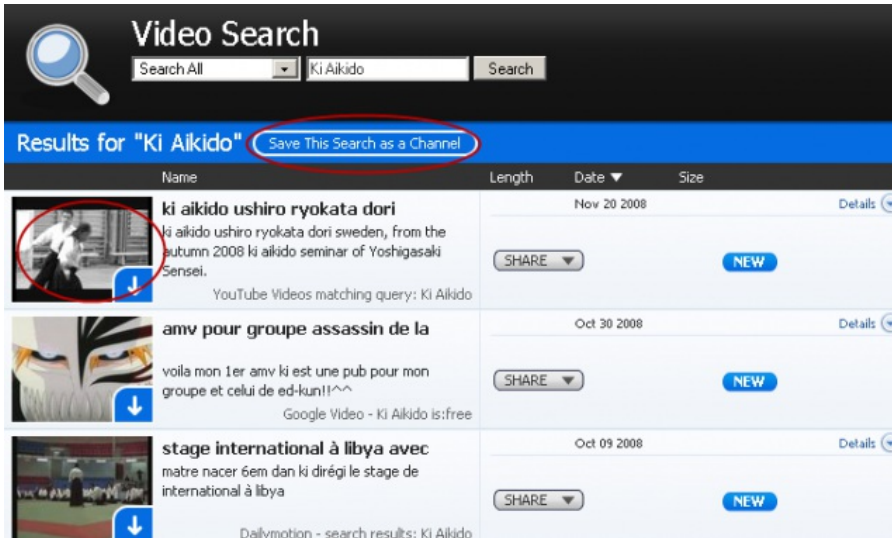
There are two ways to access Web search in Miro:

- Click "Video Search" in the sidebar, then type words that describe what you're looking for in the "Video Search" box, and click "Search".
- In the lower left corner of the Miro window, type your search words, and press the "Enter" key.



Miro searches the video-searching Web sites that it knows about, and lists matching videos in the "Video Search" view. (If you used the lower-left search box, Miro switches to the "Video Search" view, from whatever view it was in when you typed your search.)

In the image below, Miro shows videos that match a search for "Ki Aikido". You can download any video by clicking its thumbnail image.



You can also save your search by clicking "Save This Search as a Channel".

When you do, the search appears as a channel in side bar, with a name based on where you searched, and the words you searched for:

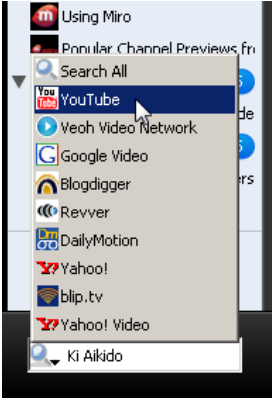


SEARCHING SPECIFIC SITES

You can search a specific Web site for videos, rather than all sites that Miro knows about.

When using the search box in the lower-left corner of the Miro window:

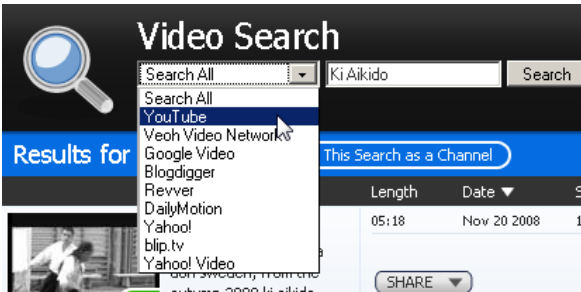
1. Click the icon in the left side of the box. A menu pops up that lists sites to search.



2. Click the name of the site you want to search (for example, YouTube).
3. Type your search words in the box and press the "Enter" key.

When using the search box in the "Video Search" view:

1. Click the triangle next to the box that says "Search All". A menu pops up that lists sites to search.



2. Click the name of the site you want to search (for example, YouTube).
3. Type your search words in the text box, and click "Search".

- 1.

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13. LICENSE

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AUTHORS

ADDING LOCAL FILES
© Janet Swisher 2008

AUTOMATIC DOWNLOADS
© adam hyde 2008
Modifications:
Janet Swisher 2008

CREATING PLAYLISTS
© adam hyde 2008
Modifications:
Janet Swisher 2008
mick fuzz 2008

CREDITS
© adam hyde 2006, 2007, 2008
Modifications:
mick fuzz 2007

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Modifications:
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OSX
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Modifications:
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Matteo Cortese 2008

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Modifications:

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Jakub Misak 2008

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Will Kahn-Greene 2009

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