

Time to archive

How to archive an entire YouTube channel

1. Create a directory where you want your files to be
2. [Download](#) or create the necessary files to create directories, move files and download videos. Examples:

```
#!/bin/sh

if [ ! -d "video" ] ; then
  mkdir video && mkdir metadata && mkdir thumbnails && mkdir descriptions && echo "Created
directories"
fi
```

```
#!/bin/bash

if compgen -G "*.mkv" > /dev/null ; then
  mv *.mkv video/ && mv *.webp thumbnails/ && mv *.description descriptions/ && mv *.info.json
metadata/ && echo "Moved files"
fi
```

```
#!/bin/bash

yt-dlp --config-location /srv/dev-disk-by-uuid-fa1e36be-9ccc-4549-8734-
fe6117b30317/croni/andre/andre/Archive/yt-dlp/yt-dlp_video.conf --download-archive
youtube_backup_downloaded.txt --yes-playlist
'https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLLeEbifL6wH9okMEgTQP459RcTrjBWkF_b'
```

3. Execute these files however you want. I personally would recommend to set up a cron job to periodically download new videos. Example:

```
nohup ./backup.sh > backup.log &
```

4. If you execute the command above your only way to know what yt-dlp is currently doing is to tail the log with `tail -f backup.log`

5. While waiting for the download to finish you can create the necessary directories to organize all your downloaded files. Example:

```
#!/bin/sh

if [ ! -d "video" ] ; then
mkdir video && mkdir metadata && mkdir thumbnails && mkdir descriptions && echo "Created
directories"
fi
```

6. When the download is finished and you created the directories it is time to move them to their dedicated directory. Example:

```
#!/bin/bash

if compgen -G "*.mkv" > /dev/null ; then
mv *.mkv video/ && mv *.webp thumbnails/ && mv *.description descriptions/ && mv *.info.json
metadata/ && echo "Moved files"
fi
```

7. You successfully archived an entire YouTube channel ☑

Tips

- Make your files executable with `sudo chmod +x file.sh`
- You can execute the files with `./file.sh`
- This guide can be adapted to download playlist and even single videos
 - If you only want to download one video then remove `--yes-playlist`

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