

Copying & Downloading YouTube Videos

Before we begin, it's important to say that there are copyright laws dealing with the copying and disseminating of copyrighted video media, and care should be taken not to infringe on an author's ownership of this material. For the purposes of this tutorial, I'm offering this as a tool that can be used to copy YouTube videos generated by SPCUG meetings and saved for the purpose of future reference.

This program, **VLC Media Player**, is multi-platform in nature. That is, it looks the same, and acts the same whether you're using Windows, Mac, or Linux.

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If you don't have VLC Media Player, it can be downloaded for free here:

<https://www.videolan.org/vlc/index.html>

Click on "Download VLC." It's a big orange button close to the top.



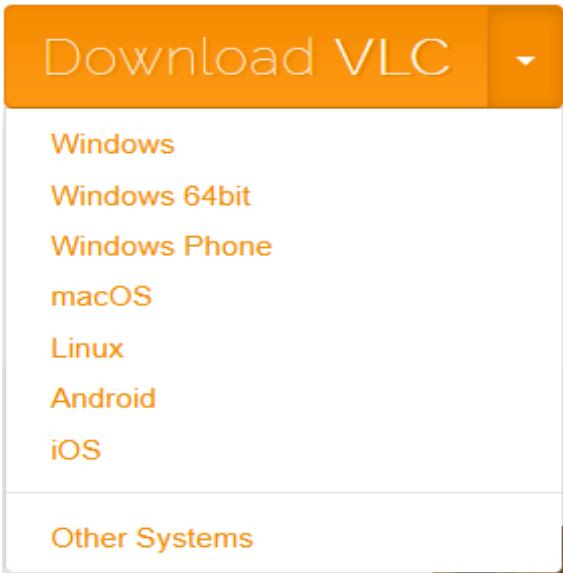
VLC for Windows

VLC is a free and open source cross-platform multimedia player and framework that plays most multimedia files as well as DVDs, Audio CDs, VCDs, and various streaming protocols.

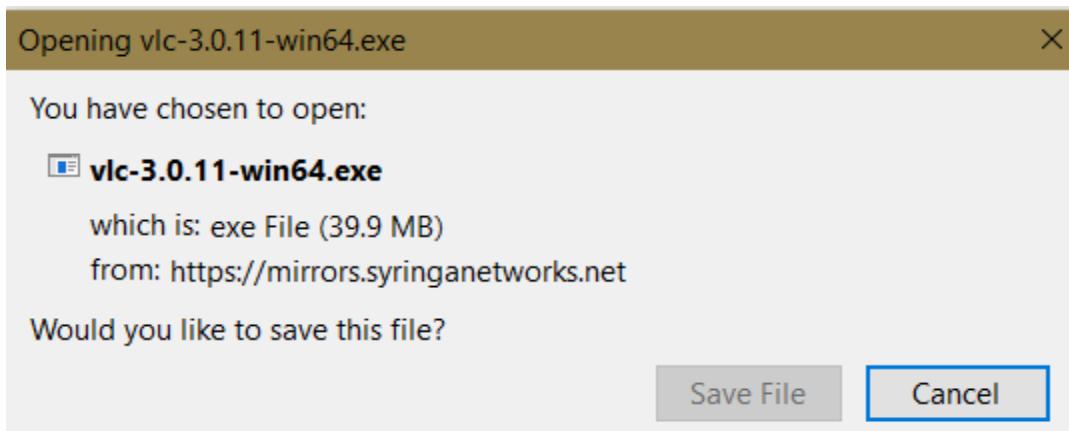
[Download VLC](#)

Version 3.0.11 • Windows • 38 MB
66,994,690 downloads so far

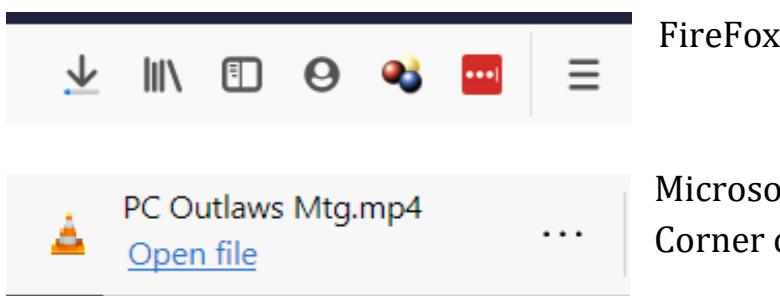
If you select the small down arrow to the right of VLC then you can select 32 or 64 bit depending on your OS.



Another window will pop up and appear shortly that looks similar to this:



Click on “Save File” or “Save File As”. As the program is downloading, you can check its progress by clicking on the icon close to the top of the computer’s web page display that looks like a down arrow pointing to a horizontal line. This is what it looks like in the FireFox browser, other browsers like Microsoft Edge show the download on the lower left of the browser.



Microsoft Edge download, Lower LH Corner of browser.

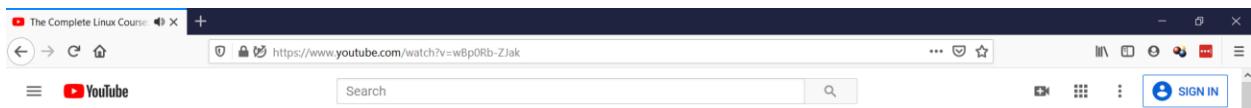
It's the icon on the far left of this display. That will open a small window showing the download progress. You'll know when it's done.

Go to your “Downloads” folder or the folder you saved the file in and double-click on the file named

vlc-3.0.11-win64.exe

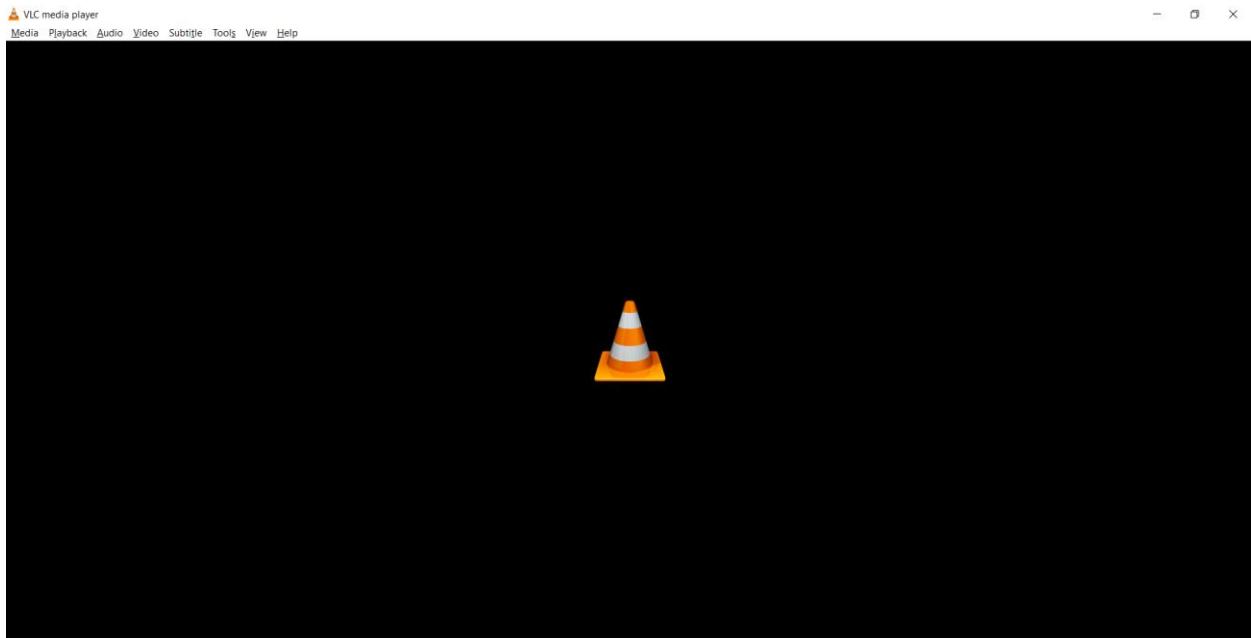
This will load the VLC Media Player, and make it ready for use.

Now that you have the program installed, the very first thing you need to do is copy the URL of the video that you want to save and save it to your clipboard. You'll need it shortly. Do that by highlighting the entire URL at the top of your browser and click Control-C. This is what it looks like:



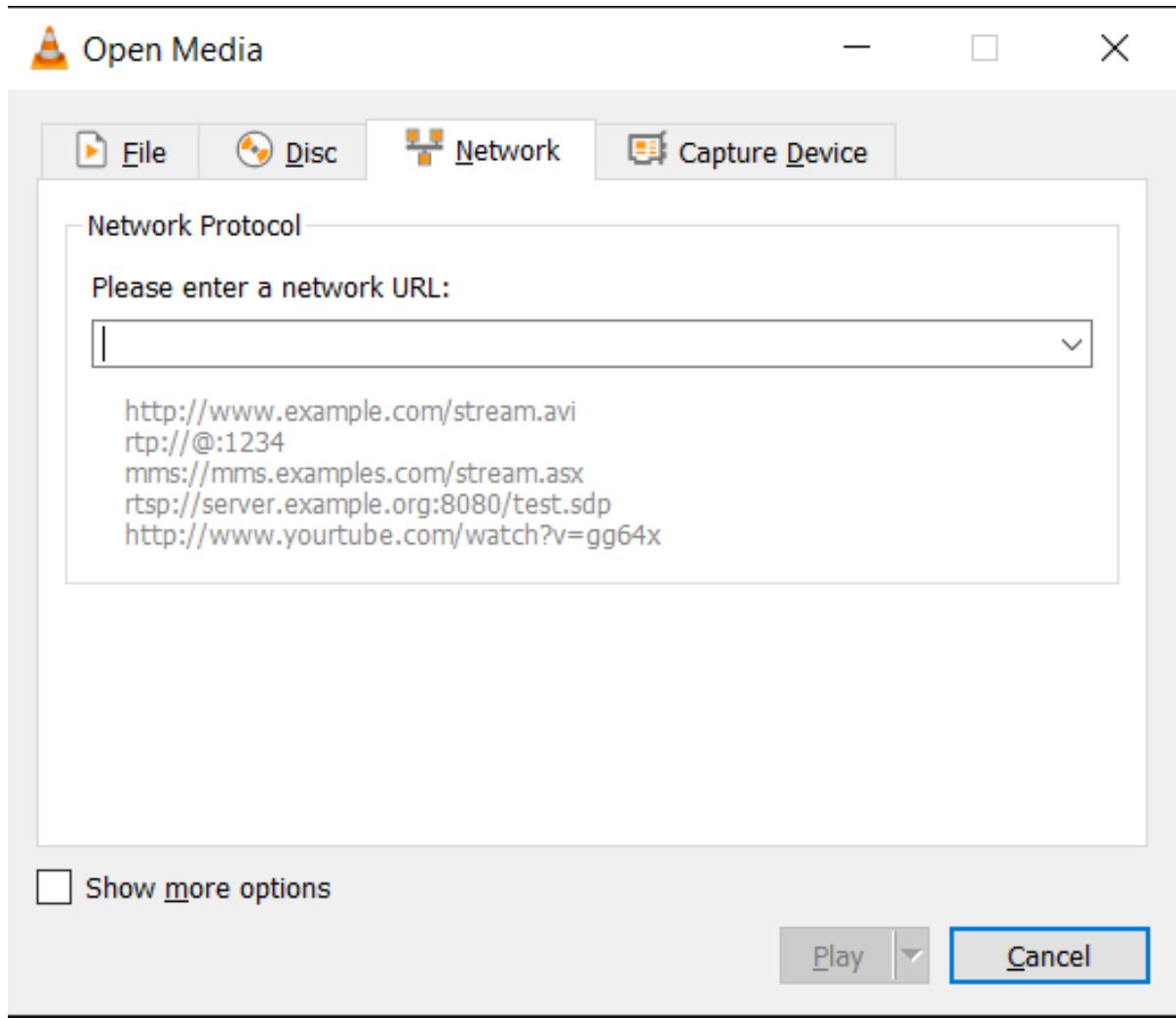
See where it says: <https://www.YouTube.com/.....?> Highlight everything in that box, and click on “Ctrl+C”.

Next, click on the “Type here to search” entry point down at the bottom left-hand corner of your screen, and type in “VLC”. A window will appear with “VLC Media Player” in it at the top, and on the right side of that window click on “open.” The program will open.



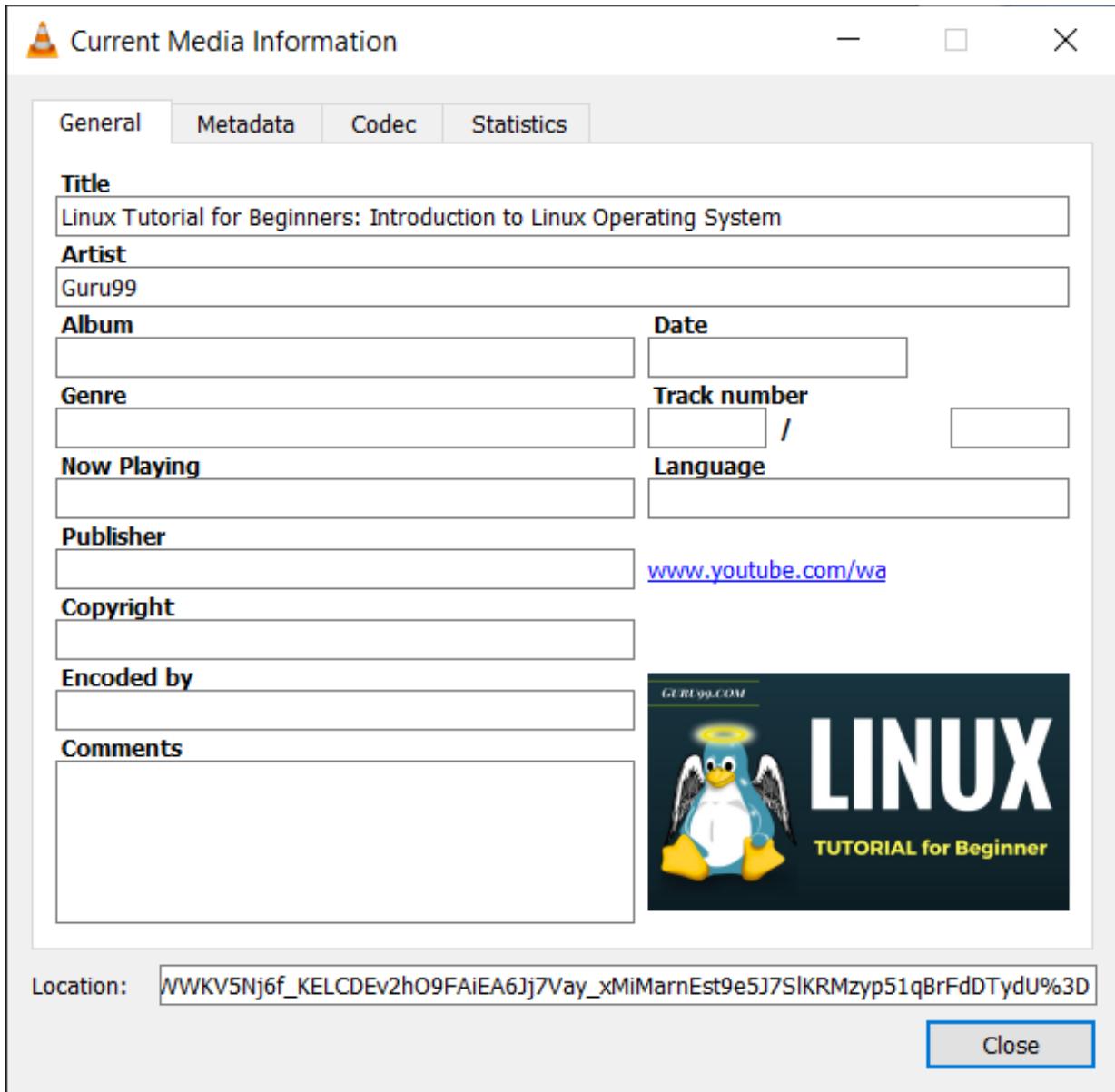
Your screen will look like this.

Now hit “Control-N”. The screen will look like this:

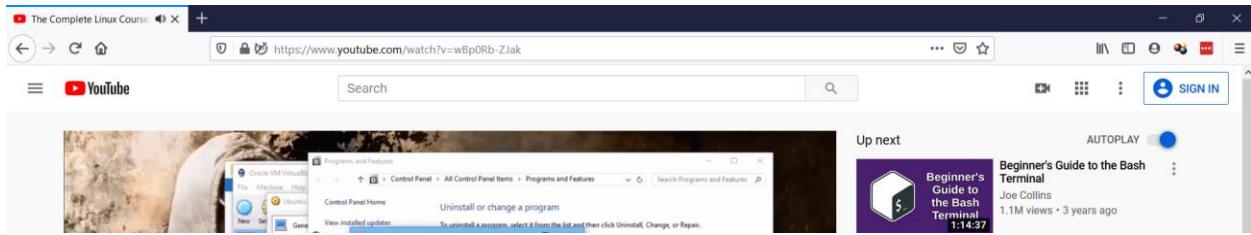


Where it says, “Please enter a network URL”, click inside that box and then click “Control -V.” That will paste the YouTube video’s URL inside the box. Click the “Play” button at the bottom.

The YouTube video that you want to save is going to start playing. When it does, click “Control-I.” This opens the “**Current Media Information**” window. It looks like this:



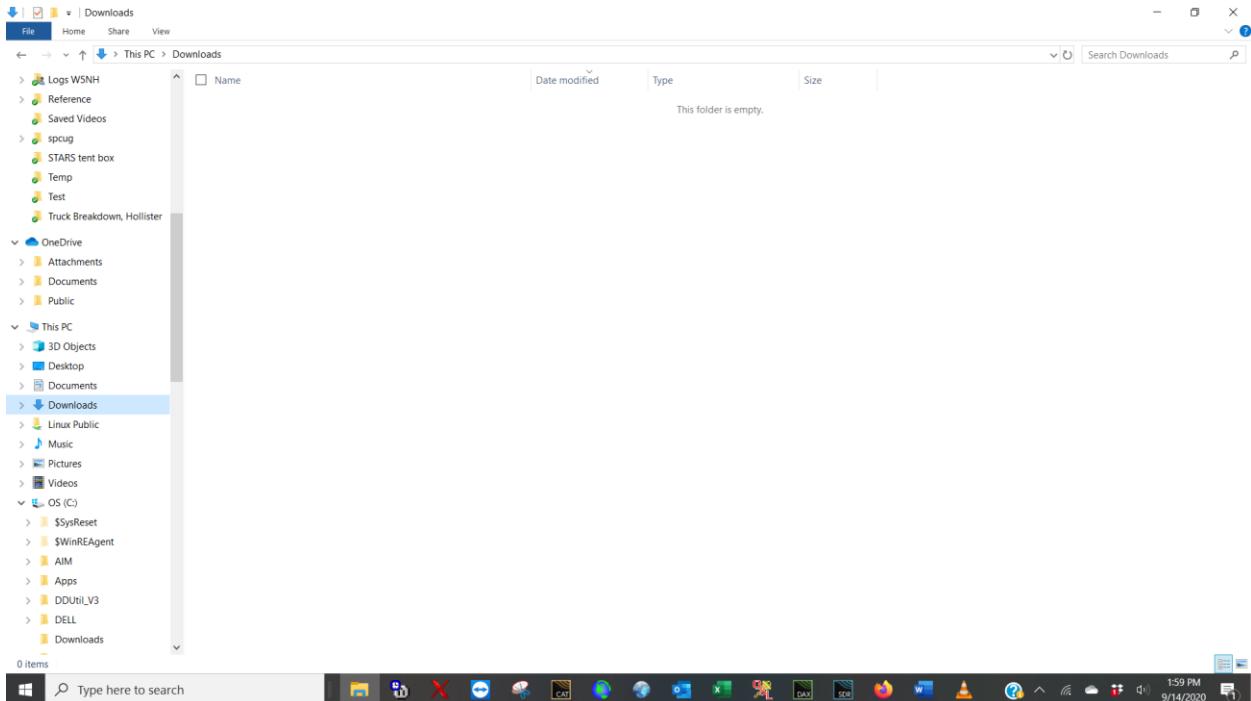
Down at the bottom of this screen you'll see the box labeled “**Location**.” Highlight EVERYTHING in that box, and hit “Ctrl+C.” Now open your browser, and erase everything in the “URL” field,



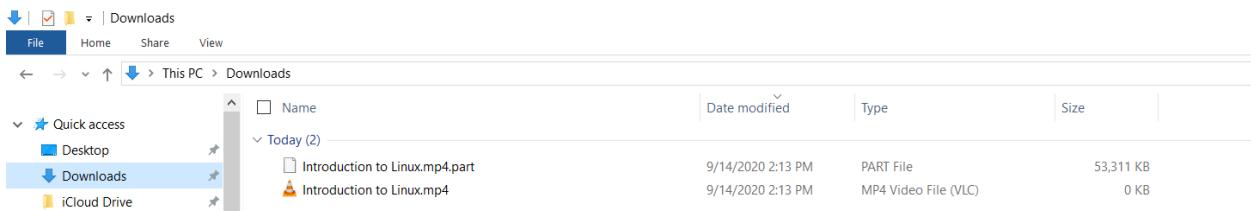
and hit “Ctrl+V.” within that field. What you just copied will be pasted in that box. Hit <enter>.

The video will now be streaming within your browser. To save it to your hard drive, right-click on the video itself, and select “**Save Video As**”. The video will be saved in your “Downloads” folder or whatever folder you choose.

To tell when the video-saving action has been completed, check the “Downloads” folder in “File Explorer”, or your chosen folder,



and look where the video is being saved. There should be two identical file names listed during the saving process; one with “.part” as the extension.



When that filename is gone, your video has been saved. This generally takes much less time than it takes for the video itself to play. If desired, move the video's filename to a permanent location.

For those that are a bit more advanced, and do not wish to wade through all the explanations with graphics listed above, here is an abbreviated look at this procedure.

1. First thing, copy the video's URL.
2. Open VLC and press "Ctrl+N."
3. On the "network" tab, paste the URL in the "Network URL Field."
4. Click "play."
5. Once the video starts to play, press "Ctrl+I." to open the "Current Media Information" window.
6. Copy the information in the "Location" field in its entirety and paste it in your browser's URL field.
7. The video will now be streaming through your browser. To save it to your hard drive, right-click anywhere on the video, and select "Save Video As." Note the location where it will be saved and click "Save."
8. To tell when the video is completely saved, open "File Explorer" and check where it's being saved. There should be two identical file names during the saving process; one with ".Part" as the extension. When that file disappears, your video has been saved. This generally takes much less time than it takes for the video to complete.

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