

Downloading courses from Linux Academy

youtube-dl is a phenomenal tool

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Forward

Every month, Linux Academy releases courses for free. I'm a very busy college student and don't have time to whirl through everything I want to before it goes behind their paywall again so I figured out how to download a course or two every month using [youtube-dl](#).

Setup

- Install [youtube-dl](#)
- Make sure you have a browser handy
- Create a community account on [Linux Academy](#)
- Get some food
- Maybe a drink
- Sit back down in your chair
- Spin around a bit
- Read on

Downloading

- Log into your account
- Pick the course you want
- Open the developer console and go to **Network** (Ctrl+Shift+E in Firefox)
- You'll want to select **Media** as shown in the screenshot below

In moving my posts around, this screenshot has disappeared :shrug:

- Click the video you want to start with
- Watch the network logs
- You'll see an entry that starts with `playlist` (screenshot below)

In moving my posts around, this screenshot has disappeared :shrug:

- Right click it
- Copy the URL
- Paste it after `youtube-dl` in a terminal:

```
1 amolith@poseidon:~ $ youtube-dl
  https://video-cdn.linuxacademy.com/vods3/_definst_/smil:box/cdnstore/modules/lots-of-stuff-i
```

- Press enter
- Watch the magic unfold

At a high level, `youtube-dl` is acting like your browser and following the `m3u` playlist to download chunks of the file. After it fetches them all, it runs them through `ffmpeg` to stitch them together into a single video!

I found it useful to open a text editor and script downloading a whole course at a time. All you have to do is type `youtube-dl -o` and copy/paste it however many times there are videos. Then, copy and paste the video title in quotes after `-o` and add `.mp4` to the end (command example below). After that, paste the URL. Do that with every video in the series, save the script, run `chmod +x <script>`, then `./<script>` and (after a bit) you'll have an entire course you can watch at your leisure!

```
1 amolith@poseidon:~ $ youtube-dl -o "04 - Conclusion and Next
  Steps.mp4"
  https://video-cdn.linuxacademy.com/vods3/_definst_/smil:box/cdnstore/modules/lots-of-stuff-h
```

NOTE: You may want to set up your directory structure beforehand so it's easier to script the process. Here's an example of one of mine:

```
1 amolith@poseidon:~/Videos/Courses/Ansible - Playbooks Deep Dive $
  tree
2 .
3 +-- 01 - Course Overview
4 |   +-- 01 - About the Course.mp4
5 |   +-- 02 - About the Training Architect.mp4
6 |   +-- 03 - Course Features and Tools.mp4
7 |   +-- 04 - About Ansible Playbooks.mp4
8 |   \-- 05 - Advanced Inventory Configuration.mp4
9 +-- 02 - Playbook Basics
10 |   +-- 01 - Using YAML for Ansible Playbooks.mp4
11 |   +-- 02 - Creating an Ansible Play.mp4
12 |   +-- 03 - The ansible-playbook Command.mp4
13 |   \-- 04 - Understanding Playbook Tasks.mp4
```

```
14 +-- 03 - Essential Playbook Syntax
15 |   +-- 01 - Using Variables in Playbooks.mp4
16 |   +-- 02 - Working with Templates.mp4
17 |   +-- 03 - Using Ansible Facts.mp4
18 |   +-- 04 - Conditional Execution in Playbooks.mp4
19 |   +-- 05 - Using Loops in Ansible.mp4
20 |   \-- 06 - Working with Handlers in Ansible.mp4
21 +-- 04 - Advanced Playbook Syntax
22 |   +-- 01 - Executing Selective Parts of a Playbook.mp4
23 |   +-- 02 - Working with Sensitive Data Using Ansible Vault.mp4
24 |   +-- 03 - Error Handling in a Playbook: limit, ignore_errors,
25 |     changed_when, and failed_when.mp4
26 |   +-- 04 - Error Handling in a Playbook: Block Groups and The
27 |     Debug Module.mp4
28 |   +-- 05 - Asynchronous Tasks within a Playbook.mp4
29 |   +-- 06 - Delegating Playbook Execution with delegate_to and
30 |     local_action.mp4
31 |   +-- 07 - Parallelism in Playbooks.mp4
32 |   +-- 08 - Using run_once.mp4
33 |   +-- 09 - Overview of Ansible Roles.mp4
34 |   \-- 10 - Ansible Role Demo.mp4
35 \-- 05 - Conclusion and Next Steps.mp4
36
37 4 directories, 26 files
38 amolith@poseidon:~/Videos/Courses/Ansible - Playbooks Deep Dive $
```