

VLC Playlist from file

These scripts make VLC behave like MPC-HC, ie when you open a file with VLC in a folder, it will automatically add all the files in this folder to the playlist (starting with the opened file, then sorted alphabetically), so that you can use Previous and Next to navigate through the folder.

<https://github.com/x-hgg-x/Utils/tree/master/VLC%20Create%20playlist%20from%20file>

Usage

Notes Due to internal behaviour of VLC, you cannot replace current playlist by another, only append it. Therefore the script must kill existing instances of VLC to launch a new playlist, so it works only when VLC is in one-instance mode.

You may want to activate the loop option in VLC preferences if VLC is configured to play the next track automatically. (Tools → Preferences → Show all settings → Playlist → Repeat current item)

Linux

Copy vlc.sh in ~/.local/bin directory and mark it executable, then copy the desktop file of VLC /usr/share/applications/vlc.desktop to ~/.local/share/applications/vlc.desktop and change the field Exec to the path of vlc.sh (remove argument -started-from-file %U). Known extensions are stocked in variable \$extensions.

[~/.local/bin/vlc.sh](#)

```
#!/bin/bash

shopt -s extglob
extensions='@(avi|mp4|mkv|m4v|mov|mpg|mpeg|wmv|ogg|flac|m4a|mp3|wav) '
# list of extensions for searching in current directory

# kill other instances of vlc to keep playlist clean (one-instance
mode)
killall vlc; sleep 0.1

# launch empty vlc if no argument provided
if [ -z "$1" ]; then
    vlc; exit
fi

# parse argument
filename=$(realpath -- "$1")
dirname=$(dirname "$filename")
basename=$(basename "$filename")
```

```
# count files with matching extension, and get position of filename in
current directory
n=$(ls "${dirname}"/*.*${extensions} -1 2>/dev/null | wc -l)
pos=$(ls "${dirname}"/*.*${extensions} -1 2>/dev/null | grep -n -F --
"${basename}" | cut -d: -f1)

# if the filename does not have one of the extension above, launch vlc
with provided filename
if [ -z "$pos" ]; then
    vlc -- "${filename}"
    exit
fi

# change positions in playlist such as the first element is the opened
file
ls "${dirname}"/*.*${extensions} -1 | tail -n$((n-$pos+1)) >
/tmp/vlc.m3u
ls "${dirname}"/*.*${extensions} -1 | head -n$((pos-1)) >>
/tmp/vlc.m3u

# launch playlist
IFS=$'\n'; read -d '' -r -a files < /tmp/vlc.m3u; vlc "${files[@]}"
```

```
chmod 755 ~/.local/bin/vlc.sh
sed "s#Exec=/usr/bin/vlc --started-from-file
%U#Exec=/home/$USER/.local/bin/vlc.sh#g" /usr/share/applications/vlc.desktop
> ~/.local/share/applications/vlc.desktop
```

Windows

Copy vlc.ps1 and vlc.bat in your home directory, then you can open your video/audio file with vlc.bat like this :

vlc.bat video.mp4.

You may want to run Set-ExecutionPolicy -Scope CurrentUser -ExecutionPolicy UNRESTRICTED once in a powershell terminal to allow execution of powershell scripts.

You can check if the variable \$vlcPath is correct in vlc.ps1, and modify known extensions with the variable \$Extensions.

vlc.bat

```
@echo off
powershell -File %USERPROFILE%\vlc.ps1 %1
```

vlc.ps1

```
Param([string]$filename)

# kill other instances of vlc to keep playlist clean (one-instance
mode)
Stop-Process -Name vlc -ErrorAction SilentlyContinue

$vlcPath = "C:\Program Files (x86)\VideoLAN\VLC\vlc.exe"
$Extensions='(\.avi$|\.mp4$|\.mkv$|\.m4v$|\.mov$|\.mpg$|\.mpeg$|\.wmv$|
\.ogg$|\.flac$|\.m4a$|\.mp3$|\.wav$)'

if ([string]::IsNullOrEmpty($filename)) {& $vlcPath; exit} # launch
empty vlc if no argument provided

# parse argument
$filename = Resolve-Path -LiteralPath $filename
$dirname = Split-Path -LiteralPath $filename
$basename = Get-ChildItem -LiteralPath $filename | ForEach-Object {
$.Name }

# count files with matching extension, and get position of filename in
current directory
$filelist = Get-ChildItem -File -LiteralPath $dirname | ForEach-Object
{ $.Name } | Select-String -Pattern $Extensions | ForEach-Object {
$.Line }
$count = $($filelist | Measure-Object -Line).Lines
$position = $filelist | Select-String -Pattern $basename | ForEach-
Object { $_.LineNumber }

# if the filename does not have one of the extension above, launch vlc
with provided filename
if ([string]::IsNullOrEmpty($position)) {& $vlcPath $filename; exit}

# change positions in playlist such as the first element is the opened
file
$filelist | Select-Object -last ($count-$position+1) | ForEach-Object {
"$dirname\" + $_ } > $Env:TMP\vlc.m3u
$filelist | Select-Object -first ($position-1) | ForEach-Object {
"$dirname\" + $_ } >> $Env:TMP\vlc.m3u

# launch playlist
& $vlcPath $(Get-Content $Env:TMP\vlc.m3u)
```

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