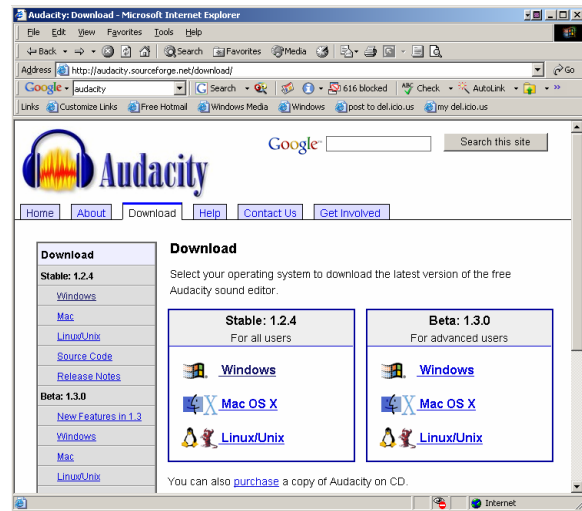


Downloading, Installing, and Configuring Audacity Under Windows

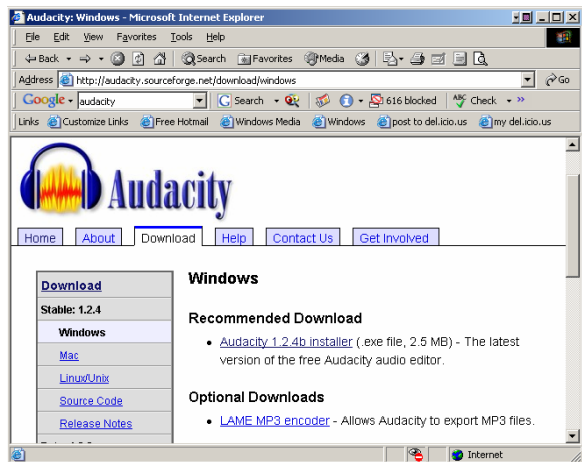
This tutorial describes downloading, installing, and configuring Audacity on computers using the Windows operating system. If Audacity is already on the computer you are using, you can skip the sections on downloading and installing Audacity, but you might want to glance over the section on configuring Audacity.

Downloading Audacity & LAME

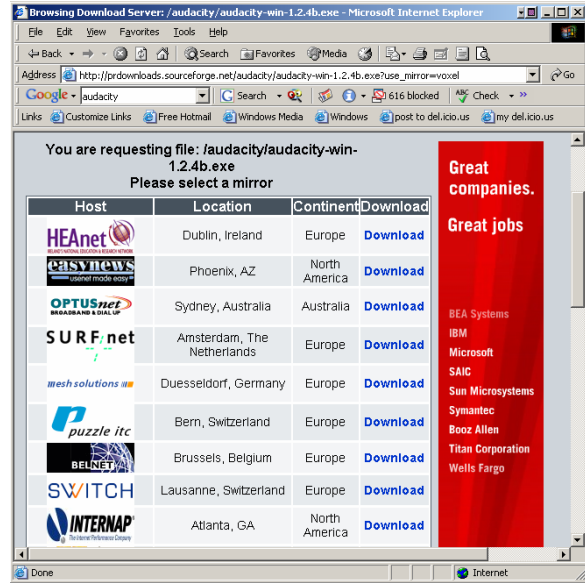
To work with MP3 files with Audacity, you will need to download and install both Audacity and the MP3 encoder LAME. You can get both by following the appropriate links from the Audacity download page at sourceforge.net. Point your favorite web browser to <http://audacity.sourceforge.net/download/> and follow the link to the stable release for Windows. When this document was prepared, that was 1.2.4.



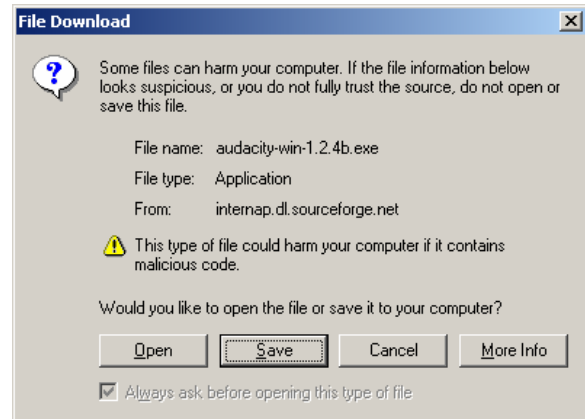
This will take you to a page with one link to download a Windows installer and another link for the LAME download. Start by following the link to Audacity. (You'll come back this page to follow the link to LAME later in the installation.)



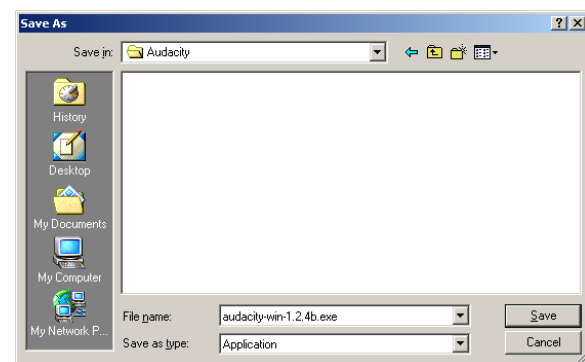
For the installer, sourceforge.net has a number of mirror sites with the software. Just select a site close to you and click on *Download*. If you have pop-ups disabled, you'll need to tell your browser it is okay to download the package. Otherwise, the download should begin.



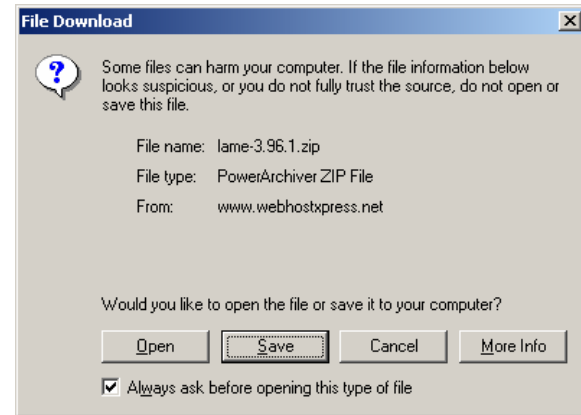
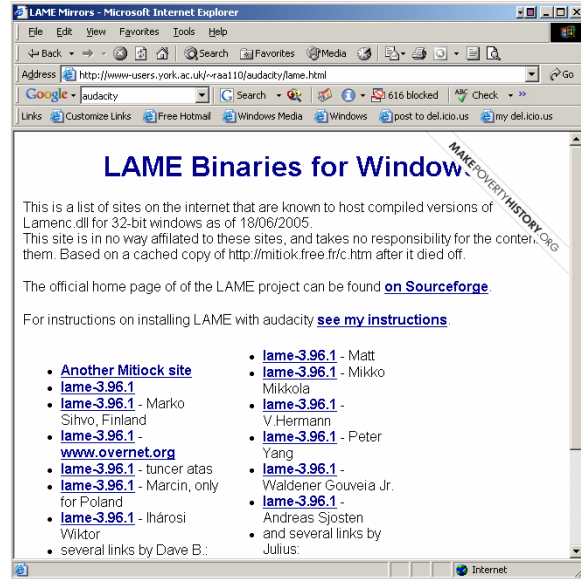
When prompted, select *Save* to save the file to your computer.



It can be helpful if you have a folder set aside for Audacity as shown here, but this really isn't necessary. You can reorganize files as you see fit once the download is complete.

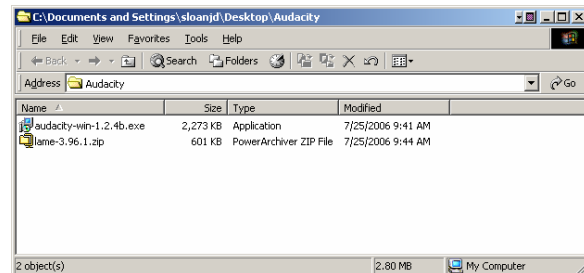


Now that you have Audacity, you need to download LAME. Go back to the download page and follow the links for LAME. Once again you'll need to select a mirror site and select Save to save the file to your disk.

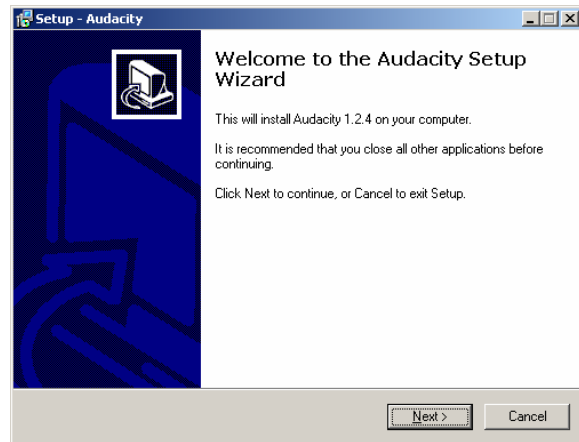


Installing the Software

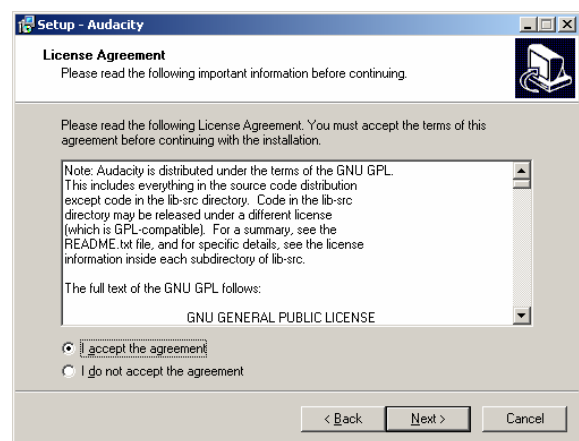
Now that you have the files on your computer, you are ready to install them. Double-click on the Audacity download to run the installer.



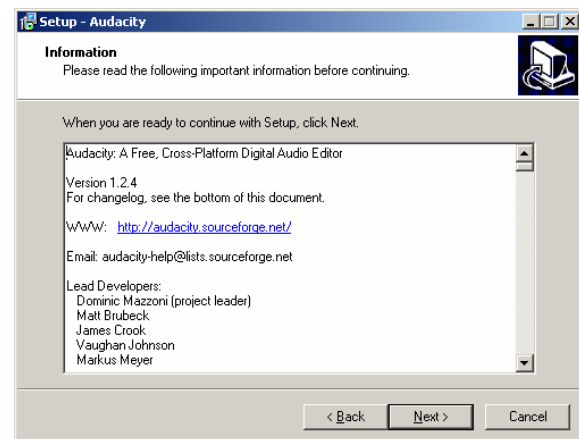
The installation will take you through several screens beginning with the welcome screen. Click on Next > to continue.



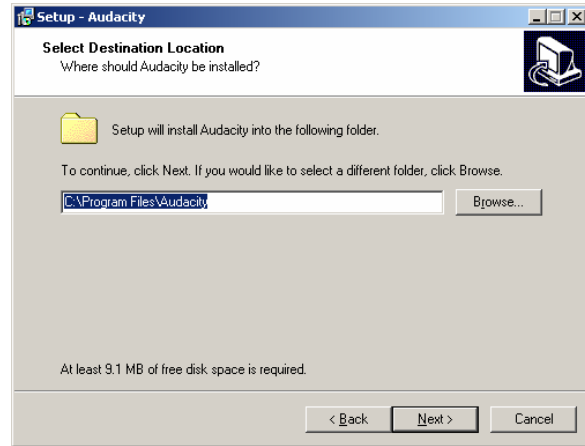
Next is the license agreement. You'll need to agree to it before you can proceed. Be sure to click on the radio button next to *I accept the agreement* after you read the license if you want to proceed with the installation. Then click on Next >.



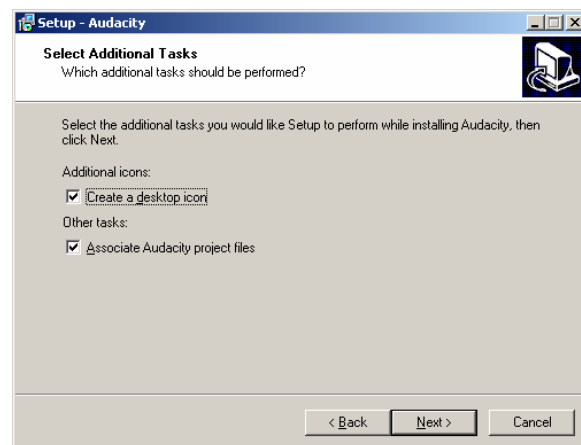
This is followed by a general information screen. Again, click on Next > to continue.



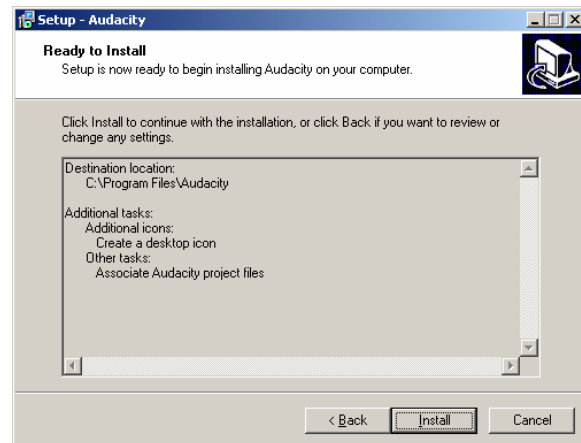
The next decision is where to place Audacity on your system. You can use the *Browse...* button to look around or just go with the default. Once you have selected a location, click on *Next >* to continue.



You'll be given an option to create a desktop icon and to associate the *.AUP* extension (and possibly others) with Audacity. This will not change the association of common music files, etc. so it is a reasonable choice. Click on *Next >* to continue after you make your selections.

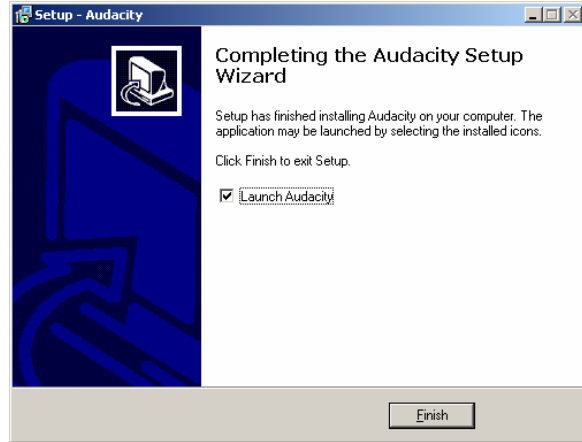


Review your selections and then click on *Install* to install the software or *Back* to make corrections to the selections.

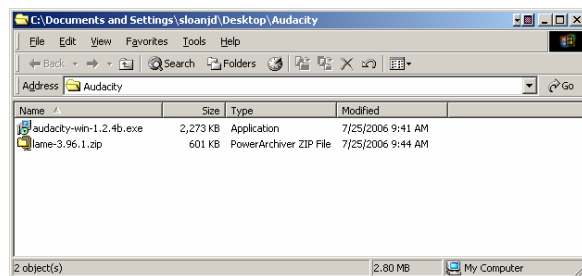


A progress screen will be displayed briefly as Audacity is installed and then the finish screen is displayed. Click on *Finish* to complete the installation.

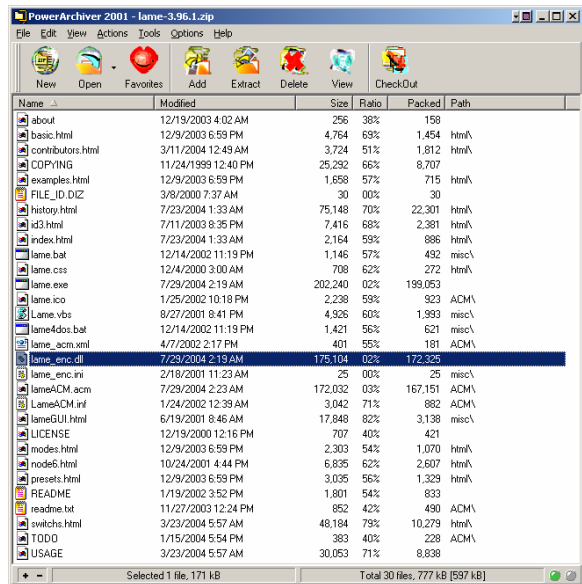
Audacity should start automatically to confirm the installation worked properly. You can close it for now.



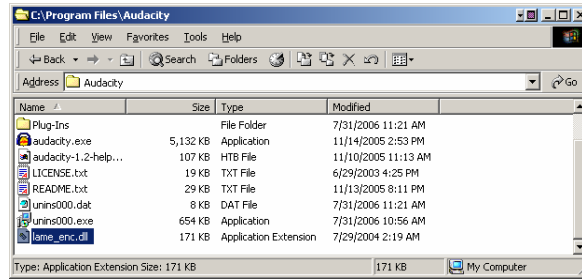
Once Audacity has been installed, you need to unpack the LAME library. Actually, you only need one file, *lame_enc.dll*, from the ZIP archive. Double-click on the LAME download to open it.



Depending on your software, you can probably drag the file you want onto your desktop.



From there, you can move it to a more permanent location. On my system, I put it in my Audacity folder. When you configure Audacity, you will need to tell it where to find this file so don't forget where you put it.



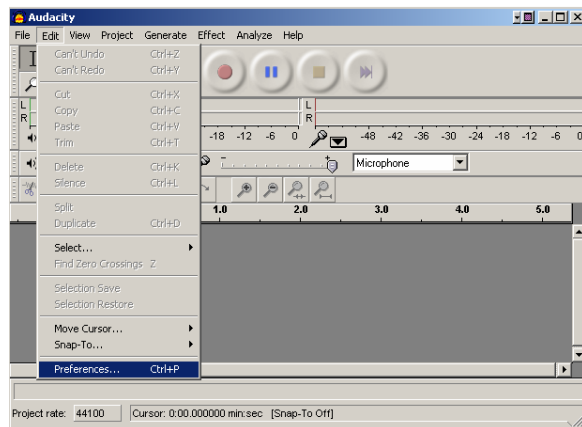
Configuring the Software

While you have LAME on your computer, Audacity does not yet know how to find it. So you'll need to tell Audacity where the LAME library is located. Fortunately, you'll only need to do this once. There are a couple of other configuration settings you should also check before you begin using Audacity. This section will explain how to handle these tasks.

Start Audacity if it isn't already running. You can click on its icon on the desktop if you created it. If you didn't, go to the Start menu, select Programs, and then select Audacity.

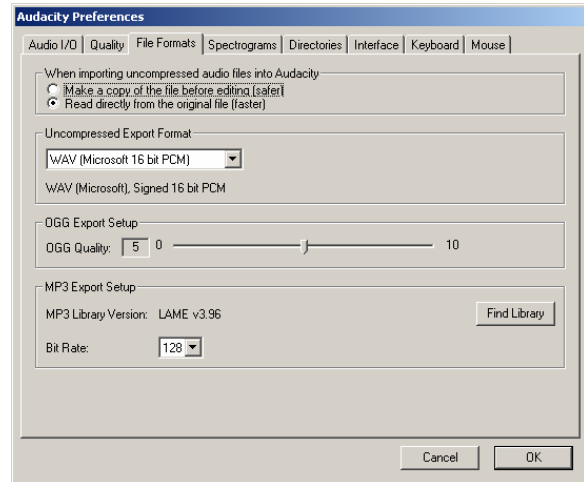


Once Audacity is running, on the Edit menu, select Preferences to take you to the configuration page.

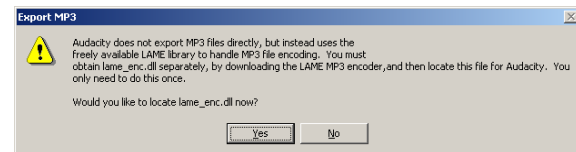


You can wander through the various sections of Preferences, but most of the defaults are pretty reasonable. We'll begin by setting the location of LAME.

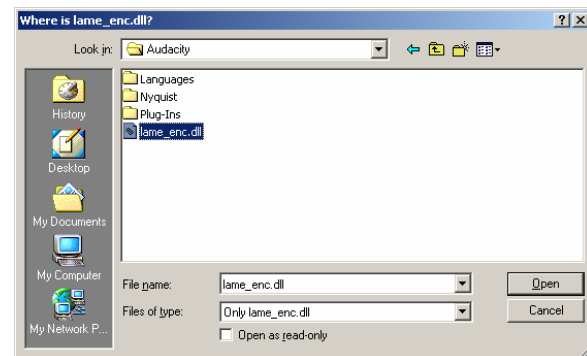
To set the location for LAME, begin by clicking on the *File Formats* tab (if it is not already selected) and then click on the *Find Library* button on the right in the MP3 Export Setup section.



You get a brief message about what you are doing. Click on Yes to proceed.



On the next screen, you identify the location where you saved the LAME library. Navigate to the appropriate directory, the one in which you saved the LAME library, select the file name by clicking on it, and then click on Open.



You should return to the Preferences screen. Check under the MP3 Setup section to ensure that there weren't any problems. If you don't set up LAME at this point, you can still use Audacity. However, the first time you attempt to export an MP3 file, you'll be required to go through this setup.

Also on the File Formats tab, you might want to select *Make a copy of the file before editing (safer)*. This will protect you against accidents. At some future point, you may also want to change the Uncompressed Export Format so make a mental note that you set this here.

Under the Audio I/O, you can specify the Playback and Recording devices should you have problems.

Under Directories, you can specify the default storage location for files.