

Mashpodder documentation

by l_sch (Lee)

This document is broken down to these topics

Overview

Setting up Mashpodder default directory

Configuring Mashpodder (basics)

Setting up Cron (task scheduler for linux)

Configuring Mashpodder (Advanced)

Running Mashpodder

Notes to think about

Overview

Mashpodder was created by Chess Griffen, based on Bashpodder by Linc Fessenden. Both are CLI podcatchers, this document is an explanation on how to setup, configure & run Mashpodder.

sites to download:

bashpodder- <http://lincgeek.org/bashpodder/>

mashpodder - <http://code.google.com/p/mashpodder/>

Setting up Mashpodder default directory

If you go to site <http://code.google.com/p/mashpodder/> click on download and download the file. I would recommend uncompressing the files into a folder you create in your home directory called podcasts (all lower case). Mashpodder by default downloads everything into this folder & looks for all the configuration files/scripts it needs.

When you have created the podcasts folder and uncompressed files, you will have in your /home/(userlogin)/podcasts 4 files. mashpodder.sh, mp.conf, parse_enclosure.xml, & sample-wrapper-for-cron.sh. I have only used 3 of the files, the last one was new with the last updated version in April 2010. One thing to note is to make sure that either in GUI or commandline is to make sure that mashpodder.sh is executable.

If running Ubuntu or a derivative of Ubuntu you will need to get curl. so the CLI is sudo apt-get install curl or go into software manager or synaptic and look for curl.

Configuring Mashpodder (basics)

For mashpodder to know which rss feeds it needs to check, how to save the podcasts are configured under the mp.conf file.

its configuration is:

rss feed (space) how to save it (space) # of items to check in feed

So the first is put in the rss feed. a space to divide, then choose how you want mashpodder to save it so either date for mashpodder to save into a date of when it was downloaded it is in the default format %y%m%d (example 20100723 for July 23, 2010, you can change format discussed in the advanced configuration) it was downloaded. Or you can choose the name of a podcast like LinuxBasix or by categories if you wanted related podcasts to be downloaded like Linux, Tech, Music, etc.

Another space and then the last one is how many items (episodes) you want it to look into the feed. If you have it do a daily basis 1 would be satisfactory most of the time, however there are feeds that sometimes will put out multiple shows at once, then you would want it to check more than 1 episode to see if it needs to download. An example would be the podnutz all show feed I have it set to 5 since it sometimes has 2 to 3 shows loaded at one time. You can also put all and it would check all of them in the entire feed. or if you wanted to download the entire feed for example the linux reality podcast you could choose all. If there was a podcast you knew that you were current on listening to you could put in update so mashpodder updates itself on the feed and doesn't download any on that one rss feed, it is IMPORTANT to remember to change it off of update after it runs once or it will never download anything on the feed and will have itself updated as to thinking you are still current.

Example would be to say downloading the LinuxBasix ogg podcast in todays date would look like:

```
http://linuxbasix.com/podcast/feed/ogg date 1
```

Also to remember any line starting with # is a comment and mashpodder will ignore that line, so if you temporarily don't want mashpodder to check a feed just put a # in at the beginning and it will be ignored until you remove the #.

Setting up Cron (task scheduler for linux)

(Make sure when following these instructions that you have a default mashpodder.sh or make sure verbose is off and wget is quiet to have cron successfully run mashpodder)

Open up a terminal. cd to your new folder so:

```
cd podcasts (since most terminals open in your home folder).
```

Now to have cron (task scheduler) run mashpodder it is easier to move the mashpodder.sh over to /usr/bin so the command would be:

```
sudo cp mashpodder.sh /usr/bin/mashpodder
```

the above command is doing a root privilege command with sudo, cp is coping mashpodder.sh over into /usr/bin directory but now only calling it mashpodder not mashpodder.sh. (making it only be mashpodder and not mashpodder.sh that cron has to use)

now to setup cron it would be command

```
crontab -e
```

It will open up a text editor with

```
# m h dom month dow command
```

go to the line under it and this is where you will put your line to schedule mashpodder. the syntax of cron is

```

* * * * *      command to be executed
- - - - -
| | | |
| | | | +----- day of week (0 - 6) (Sunday=0)
| | | +----- month (1 - 12)
| | +----- day of month (1 - 31)
| +----- hour (0 - 23)
+----- min (0 - 59)

```

the first number is the min in the time you want from 0-59, the second is the hour based on the 24 hour clock 0-23 (12am is 0), the third is day(s) of month, the fourth is which month(s) you want it to run. the Fifth is the day(s) of the week broken down by number 0-6 with 0 being Sunday, you can have commas or dashes to run multiple situations.

My line states:

```
0 17 * * * mashpodder
```

what this says is at 5pm of everyday to run mashpodder

if you would like it be 1:30 am every day it would be

```
30 1 * * * mashpodder
```

If you only wanted it to download Mon-Fri at 2am it would be

```
0 2 * * 1-5 mashpodder
```

Configuring Mashpodder (Advanced)

Opening up the mashpodder.sh in the text editor of your choice there are a few options that you can change to more each persons tastes.

DATESTRING- if you choose date to download to date it was downloaded here you can change the format of the date default is year month day (%y%m%d)

M3U- if you would like mashpodder to create a M3U playlist put a 1 inbetween ' ' it is defaulted into not creating a playlist

VERBOSE- to have it show the rss feeds one by one that it is checking (only choose this if running manually, it will cause cron running mashpodder to crash if you place the '1')

WGET_QUIET-to show the wget downloading or not (only choose to remove the -q if running manually, it will cause cron running mashpodder to crash if you remove the -q)

WGET_TIMEOUT-how long it waits on with downloading a file if it pauses or hangs default is 30 seconds and I have had some ends of the podcasts cutoff not there, so I changed mine to 40 and not having a problem now.

If you want to override the 'mp.conf' file

FIRSTONLY-can override the 'mp.conf' and download the newest episode on every feed

UPDATE-can override the 'mp.conf' and update all feeds (meaning all episodes marked as downloaded but they are not actually downloaded)

Other things you can modify is the location of mashpodder files or to have it save the podcasts (I leave these to default)

BASEDIR - Base directory you can change it to where you want the default is the podcasts folder I have discussed before.

RSSFILE- can change the location &/or file name for the 'mp.conf' file

PARSE_ENCLOSURE-can change the location of the parse_enclosure.xsl file is located

Running Mashpodder

To run mashpodder manually go to your podcasts folder in GUI right click mashpodder.sh and choose to run in terminal.

CLI:

open terminal and type `~/podcasts/mashpodder.sh` to run the script in your podcast folder or if you have put the mashpodder in `/usr/bin` just type `mashpodder` to have it run.

Mashpodder will create a folder called incoming that when wget is downloading a file it will be in that folder till download is complete, after that it will move it to the appropriate folder you have configured in the mp.conf file, if the folder is not currently there, it will create it. Mashpodder after it completes will create a file called podcast.log and after each time mashpodder completes will append all downloaded podcasts to that file. So if a file doesn't download correctly delete the downloaded file and then go into this log & delete the podcast episode name, it will then re-download the file upon the next time mashpodder is executed.

Temporary files that are created during the time Mashpodder is running but removed upon Mashpodder completes are:

mp.conf.tmp - this only has the actually rss feeds in it no commented lines or additional information

temp.log - is the temporary log of all the podcast episode names it compares to the podcast.log file to know if it needs to download or not.

Notes to think about:

I personally have the mashpodder.sh in my podcasts folder with the `wget -q` removed and verbose '1' that I manually run it with `~/podcasts/mashpodder.sh` and can watch it go through working on all the rss feeds and showing me the download progress and see if it "hangs" on a particular feed or if anything else is going haywire.

The mashpodder file in `/usr/bin` that cron uses can't have these options it will crash you need to make sure the `-q` and `' '` are the chosen for `wget_quiet` and `verbose` for it to work.

For distros other than Ubuntu derivatives you will need to make sure that you have curl, wget & xsltproc, most have them loaded by default but if something isn't working correctly it might be due to not having these installed. Ubuntu derivatives need to install curl only.