

Re-Add Selected Tracks as Podcast

v1.2

AppleScript for iTunes

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This script will re-add the files of the selected tracks as if they were a Podcast subscription. The files will then appear in the Podcasts playlist and "behave" as though they are a group of Podcast episodes.

Requires "Personal Web Sharing" be activated.

This script is Donationware. If you use it and like it *please* consider making a donation to support my AppleScripting efforts. [Click here for more info.](#)

Installation:

If you installed the files from the downloaded disk image by dragging them to the "Installer", then the AppleScript and this Read Me document have already been installed in your *[user name] > Library > iTunes > Scripts* folder. The script will appear in iTunes' Script menu, where you can activate it by clicking on its name.

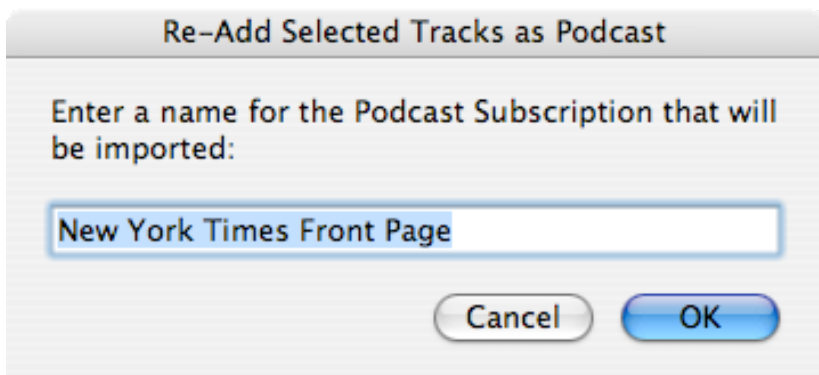
To manually install, if necessary: Put AppleScripts in your iTunes Scripts folder. This is located in *[user name] > Library > iTunes*. If there is no folder named "Scripts" there, create one and put the script(s) in it. AppleScripts will then appear in iTunes' Script menu, and can be activated by selecting by name and clicking. Be sure to also save this Read Me document in a safe and convenient place.

How to use:

Web Sharing Preferences - This script tricks iTunes into thinking that files are being downloaded as Podcasts from the internet. In actuality they will be "downloaded" from your computer's built-in Apache web server (yes, Mac's have a built-in web server). In order for this to work correctly you must turn "Web Sharing" on in the "Sharing" pane of System Preferences.

Select some tracks in iTunes you wish to re-add as a Podcast and run the script. Since the tracks will be downloaded as episodes in the order of selection, make sure the tracks you select are in the desired order. If necessary, create a new playlist and sort the tracks first, then select all those tracks.

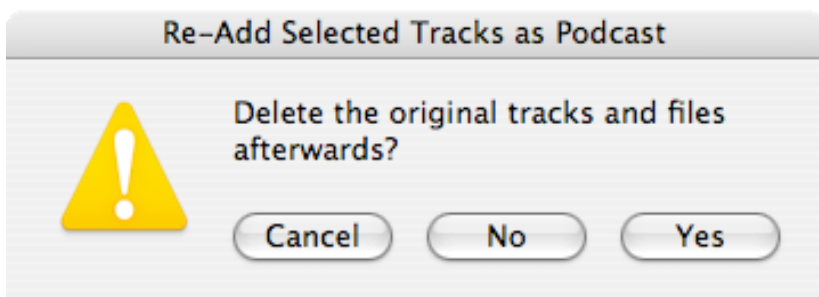
A dialog box will ask you to enter a name for the Podcast Subscription "feed" that will be created. The default name will be the album of the first track selected. It is strongly advised to change this to a more generic name:



Please note:

- This name will be used as the Subscription name in the Podcasts playlist and also as the Album name for the re-imported files.
- iTunes will create a new folder in the "Podcasts" folder of your iTunes Music folder using this name.
- iTunes will "subscribe" to this feed even if another subscription has the same name, so try to avoid using the name of a current Podcast subscription.

After the files are re-added to iTunes as Podcast episodes, you **will** have duplicates of the original selected tracks and files--the original tracks and their original file locations *and* the newly added Podcast episode tracks and their files in the "Podcasts" folder. You can choose to delete the *original tracks and files* completely from iTunes:



In a few moments, the files of the tracks you have selected will be *copied* to a new temporary folder in your ~/Sites folder called "My iTunes RSS". The script will also create a correctly formatted RSS file in this folder. This is the RSS file that iTunes will subscribe to. It contains the <enclosure> tags that point to the copied files.

The script will have iTunes subscribe to the RSS file and "download" the enclosure'd files as

Podcast episodes.

- Genre is automatically "Podcast".
- Description and Category tags from the original tracks, if they exist, will be copied over.

Clean-up:

After the files have been imported as Podcast episodes, the "My iTunes RSS" folder and its contents will remain intact in the ~/Sites folder. By this time, iTunes will have copied the files to the "Podcasts" folder in the iTunes Music folder. The *next time* you run the script the "My iTunes RSS" will be deleted and re-created.

Once the temporary "My iTunes RSS" folder has been deleted you will notice the infamous (!) next to the name of the Podcast; you will not be able to update the Podcast after the source RSS has been deleted. However, iPod can still detect this as a legitimate Podcast and will update it as such.

Notes:

- There is a known **Apache bug** in Leopard that may prevent Web Sharing from working even if it has been turned on in the Sharing System Preferences. Users facing this difficulty have found solutions at this [Apple discussions post](#) and #5 at this [macosxhints forums post](#).
- **IMPORTANT! Podcast Preferences** - *As soon as possible* set your new Podcast to "Do Not Auto Delete". This can be done by Control-clicking the Podcast name and selecting "Do Not Auto Delete" from the popup menu. If you do not set this setting, it is possible that your files will be deleted whenever your Podcasts are updated--depending on how many episodes you "Keep" according to Podcast Settings.
- For more information about Personal Web Sharing on your computer, go to your home folder's "Sites" folder and double-click on the HTML document named "index.html".
- To users who "know" Apache: this script merely creates a directory at the top level of the Sites directory. No permissions are set. If you have altered your Apache configuration to recognize some directory other than Sites then you will have to edit the script.
- URL-encoded ampersand (%26) will not be recognized. As a result, any "&" in a track's filename will be converted to "_" when copied to the temporary folder so that the enclosure tag URL works effectively. This does not effect track tag data.
- A unique name for the RSS feed file is created each session using the AppleScript (time of current date), which is seconds since midnight. I discovered that iTunes would eventually ignore the feed when using the same feed name over and over during a short period of time. How do you like that?

Helpful Links:

Click on the underlined URL text:

- Doug's AppleScripts for iTunes
- Assign Shortcut Keys to AppleScripts
- Download FAQ - **Info on downloading and installing AppleScripts**
- Doug's RSS Feed - **Recent site news, script additions and updates** (add link to your news reader)
- 30 Most Recent RSS Feed - **Most recent new and updated scripts** (add link to your news reader)

Information and download link for this script is located at:

<http://dougscripts.com/itunes/scripts/ss.php?sp=readdaspodcast>

Version History:

v2.0 february 22 2008

- runs as universal binary
- compatible with iTunes 7.7.1

v1.1 february 22 2008

- removed routine to turn Web Sharing on; now up to user to manually turn it on
- changed routine to get username

v1.0 jun 17 2006

- initial release

this doc last updated February 22 08

If you have any trouble with this script, please email me.

My name is Doug Adams

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