

Welcome to the CSU Long Beach Tech Tips podcast. This is episode seven: Converting an Audio File from the Windows Media Format to the MP3 Format.

MP3 audio files are used for podcasting and MP3 is the most common audio file format used with portable audio players.

If you are interested in converting a .WMA file to MP3, there are scores of little applications that will convert a Windows Media audio file to an MP3. Probably the most convenient of these is iTunes.

If you don't have iTunes, download it for free from <http://www.apple.com/itunes/download/>

Once you have installed and launched iTunes, you can open the folder containing your Windows Media files. Drag and drop one of those audio files into the open iTunes application and it will immediately give you the message that it will convert this file to a new format.

However, by default, iTunes converts files to the AAC format, not the popular MP3 format. Here's how to change that default setting.

Launch iTunes. Go to the top menu and select Edit, Preferences. . . In the Preferences dialog box, select the ADVANCED tab. This will reveal two additional tabs. Click on the IMPORTING tab.

Where it says Import Using, select MP3 Encoder from the drop down menu.

There is an additional drop down menu that offers choices for MP3 quality settings. My suggestion would be to select "Higher Quality (192 kbps)"

Then click on OK.

Now you can drag and drop any audio file with the WMA extension into the open iTunes application and you will get this pop-up message:

One or more of the songs you are adding to iTunes, including something.wma are in the WMA format. iTunes will automatically convert them to the MP3 format so that they can be added to your iTunes library.

That conversion dialog box will have a CONVERT and a SKIP button. Click the CONVERT button and the conversion takes place.

To find the newly converted file, look in the music section of your iTunes library. Find the title of your newly converted song and select it. You can right-click on the selected song and then, from the pop-up menu, click on SHOW in WINDOWS EXPLORER. This will open the folder that contains the MP3 version of your audio file.

As always, thanks for listening to CSU Long Beach Tech Tips. I'm Walter Gajewski.