Pasted Graphic.tiff ¨ # Kung-Tunes

Introduction

Kung-Tunes is a donation-ware AppleScript utility to retrieve the currently played iTunes track and upload it to a webserver. Any script on that webserver can then access the uploaded file to dynamically display iTunes tracks on a webpage.

Using Kung-Tunes

System Requirements:

Any MacOS version from 10.2 and upwards (should come with the shell command *curl*)

Instructions:

Below is a rather concise manual, but an extended tutorial is available on my weblog:

http://www.kung-foo.tv/blog/archives/000324.php

For help on using the HTTP POST option, see:

http://www.kung-foo.tv/blog/archives/000484.php

When first starting up, select Preferences from the Kung-Tunes menu and enter the necessary info:

1) Choose the method with which you want Kung-Tunes to upload the track info from iTunes. Choose from FTP, HTTP POST, or none. When choosing none, Kung-Tunes just saves the info to file on your local drive. This is useful if you run your server off your Mac.

2) Enter the URL of the server you wish to upload to. If you do not choose to upload, leave this blank. For the HTTP method, the URL must point to an online script that handles an HTTP POST request. This option is really for advanced users with scripting experience. The URL must be entered without
an "ftp:/" or "http:/" prefix. If you are behind a firewall, you may have to enter a proxy address.

3) The information about the currently played track is always saved to disk. Choose the local directory into which Kung-Tunes should store the track info and enter the desired filename. This name will apply to the locally stored file as well as the file that will be FTP-ed to your server. Make sure the filename does not contain spaces and odd characters. Also add the correct extension according to the formatting you want the iTunes track information to be displayed (see below for more information). Optionally, you can choose to have the list of recently played tracks saved to a separate file (this option does not apply to the HTTP POST upload method).

4) If you choose to FTP iTunes info, put the directory information of your server in the "FTP directory" field. The file to be uploaded will be stored in the specified directory. If your FTP server does not handle the PASV option, just uncheck the PASV checkbox. The application will then use curl's -P flag with your mac's IP address to upload in Port mode. A secure FTP method is also supported and uses the SCP command. Read the "Using scp.rtf" file for more information.

5) Optionally, you can have Kung-Tunes upload an inactivity message when iTunes is not running or if Kung-Tunes is terminated.

6) Set a timer value, which specifies in seconds the interval between uploads. If you select "Produce info file at every track change" and start the timer, the status window will display "auto" and each time the track changes, information on the track is saved to file and - optionally - uploaded to the server. If you have a good internet connection, this is the best option. Note that the application polls iTunes every couple of seconds, so a change in tracks may take a few seconds before being updated.

7) The format of the information on the currently played track is completely customizable using the Formats dialog. This dialog provides a series of text boxes, in which formats can be specified for the iTunes tracks. Also available are header and footer text boxes, in case you plan to assemble a full file for upload. The default template shows one example using HTML code.

Regarding the formats for the currently playing track and the recent track list, Kung-Tunes reads in your customized format and replaces any of the following placeholders:

^t   title
^p   artist
^w   composer
^a   album
^y   year
^l   time
^g   genre
^u   url of the audio stream
^d   current date and time
^f   location of the mp3 file being played
^r   rating of the current track
^c   number of times current track was played (not available for CD tracks)
^k   comment for the current track

Because sometimes ID3 tags may be absent for some fields, such as album info, Kung-Tunes allows for optional fields. An optional field starts with a # marker followed by a tag indicator and ends with the same tag sequence. For example, if album title may be missing, put the album information field   between "#a" and "#a". All fields are optional, except for the "title" field which is always present (in other words, #t is not recognized).

The following is an example format for use in the "Current track format" text view:
iTunes is playing: #p^p's #p"^t" [^l] #afrom ^a #a#y(^y)#y. #g^g

If all fields are present, this produces:
iTunes is playing: **Jawbreaker**'s "**Busy**" [4:24] from *Unfun* (1990). Punk perhaps? (last updated by **Kung-Tunes** on May 22, 2002 11:58:48)
Without an album:
iTunes is playing: **Jawbreaker**'s "**Busy**" [4:24]. Punk perhaps? (last updated by **Kung-Tunes** on May 22, 2002 11:58:48)
Without genre:
iTunes is playing: **Jawbreaker**'s "**Busy**" [4:24] from *Unfun* (1990).   (last updated by **Kung-Tunes** on May 22, 2002 11:58:48)
And so on...

The format for previously played tracks can be differently specified, which is useful if you would like to provide more information only for the most recent track. The number of recent tracks that is uploaded can be set in the Miscellaneous tab of the Preferences dialog. The maximum is set to 50. These tracks are accessible via the "Recently Played Tracks" window. Songs can be deleted using your invaluable delete key. If you plan to use a recently played tracks list, then make sure the format for songs contains paragraph <p> or break tags <br> to separate each track.

Caveat: you CANNOT mix tags in the format string. Kung-Tunes does NOT do any syntax checking.
It is not possible to have
        "#a the album ^a #y(^y)#y #a".
Instead, format like this:
        "#a the album ^a #a#y(^y)#y".

8) In the main Kung-Tunes window, you can start/stop timer and/or upload immediately. The progress bar will indicate if an upload is in progress. Results from the upload process are displayed in the status view. If an upload failed, this will indicate what may have gone wrong. If you see an error message during the upload, the number of the error is the error returned by curl, the command line tool Kung-Tunes uses to send data via FTP and HTTP. To find out what it indicates, do a "man curl" in the Terminal and browse to the end for a list of error codes and their meaning. Also try to open the console (cmd-D) and try to upload again. With the console open, Kung-Tunes will produce a detailed response from the curl program.

9) Either you can use the uploaded file as is (by using the header and footer templates as well) or you only use the formats for current and recent tracks, and create on your website, an auto-refreshing php file, such as for example:

```
<html>
<head>
<title>iTunes track</title>
<meta http-equiv="Refresh" content="120">
</head>
<body>
<p>
<?php
```

```
//open the file handler
$fp=fopen("trackinfo.txt","r");
//Read the track
$track=fgets($fp,1024);
//close the file.
echo "$track";
fclose($fp);
?>
</p>
</body>
</html>
```

If you prefer to use JavaScript, put the following line in your html file:

```
<script src="trackinfo.js"></script>
```

Make sure you upload the file with extension '.js' (you can do that in the Preferences window).

The possibilities are infinite...

Visit my weblog at http://www.kung-foo.tv/ and do a search for "Kung-Tunes" to find more information. An extended tutorial is at: http://www.kung-foo.tv/blog/archives/000324.php.

8) The dock item will pop up a menu when control-clicked. From this menu you can do an "upload now" , toggle the timer, or save the current track info to clipboard.

9) That's really all there is...

Optional payment:
This app is still free and will always be, but if you feel like donating something, you're always welcome, of course.... Please visit the Kung-Tunes website at http://www.kung-foo.tv/itti.php for the donation link.

More Information:
This script initially started out as a combination of shellscript, AppleScript and php scripts, as documented on my weblog @ http://www.kung-foo.tv.
Please email ado@kung-foo.tv if you notice any bugs occurring during the use of this application or if you have any suggestions for future version.

Known problems:
1. iTunes 4 does not return track info if the music is played off a shared playlist or if the music is a preview from the online music store.
2. Problems during upload may not always be passed to the status view, but instead pop up an AppleScript error message.

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