ITunes

iTunes is an online digital media player application that is used for playing and organizing music and video files. iTunes was launched by the Apple Computer company in 2001 and it's been going strong ever since. You may be familiar with iPods. iTunes is the interface that manages the iPod audio player.

To get music from iTunes, you can connect to the iTunes Music Store web site where you can purchase music and movie files. You can then play these files with either iTunes or with an iPod. As you probably noticed, I did say you can "purchase" these files. As with everything else these days, it comes with a cost. In the U.S., the set price for a song is $.99 and if you wanted to create a whole CD of songs, it costs approximately $9.99. You can get a 30 second stream of a song before you decide to purchase it, which gives you a little listening time to be sure you want to buy that song.

Once you buy a song, you can use the simple media applications from the iTunes music store to transfer them to your iPod. iTunes works with a few other digital music players (besides the iPod). If you were interested in seeing if yours would work, you would have to look into the information you received with your player or contact the company to see if it's compatible with iTunes.

Once you get the songs, you can organize them into playlists, you can edit the file information and you can even back them up on a CD or DVD. The newest version of iTunes is iTunes 6 and there is a free download and some additional information on this Web site.

iTunes works with Windows 2000, XP, Windows Server 2003, Mac OS X and it also works on a few cellular phones.

Creating your own audio CDs

If your computer has a CD-RW drive, you can make your own audio CDs containing the songs you add to a playlist. You can listen to the audio CDs you create in iTunes in most consumer CD players and on your computer.

iTunes converts the songs to standard audio files before writing them to the CD. You can fit about 74 minutes of music, or about 20 songs, on a 650 MB CD-R disc. Some discs allow 80 minutes (700 MB) of music.

1. Choose Edit > Preferences, then click the Advanced tab at the top of the window and click Burning.
2. Choose Audio CD as the Disc Format.
3. To have all the songs on the CD play at the same volume level, select the Sound Check checkbox.
4. Click OK.
5. Select the playlist containing the songs you want to burn to the CD, and make sure all the songs you want to include on the CD have a checkmark beside them.

   You can only burn a CD from the songs in an iTunes playlist (you cannot use a playlist on your iPod), and only checked songs are included. For instructions on creating a playlist, search help for "creating lists of songs."

6. Click the Burn Disc button in the upper-right corner of the iTunes window.
7. Insert a blank CD-R disc and click Burn Disc again.

   If you plan to play the CD on a consumer CD player, you need to use a blank CD-R disc. If you plan to play the CD only on your computer, you can also use a CD-RW disc.

   If the playlist contains more songs than will fit on the CD, iTunes will burn as many songs as will fit on one disc, then ask you to insert another disc to continue burning the remaining songs. (You can see the size of the selected playlist at the bottom of the iTunes window.)

   If the playlist contains any songs purchased from the iTunes Music Store, you can only burn the playlist seven times.

   If the playlist contains songs purchased from the iTunes Music Store and includes a very long song (longer than a CD), you may see a dialog telling you that you need to put the long song in its own playlist, and then burn that single-song playlist separately.

   If the playlist includes Audible spoken word content with chapter markers, the chapters are burned as separate tracks.

It takes several minutes to burn an audio CD. You can cancel the burn by clicking the X next to the progress bar, but if you're burning to a CD-R disc you won't be able to use the CD after canceling.

Creating your own MP3 CDs

You can use iTunes to create a data CD with the music stored in MP3 format. MP3 is a high-quality, Internet-standard encoding method. You can listen to the MP3 CDs you create on special consumer CD players or on your computer.

You can store over 12 hours of music, or about 150 songs, on a 650 MB CD-R disc.

1. Choose Edit > Preferences, then click the Advanced tab at the top of the window and click Burning.
2. Choose MP3 CD as the Disc Format, then click OK.
3. Select the playlist containing the songs you want to burn to the CD, and make sure all the songs you want to include on the CD have a checkmark beside them.

   You can only burn a CD from the songs in a playlist, and only checked songs are included.

   If the playlist contains more songs than will fit on one CD, iTunes will burn as many songs as fit on the CD. You may want to move some of the songs to a new playlist, and then burn each playlist to a separate CD. (You can see the size of the selected playlist at the bottom of the iTunes window.)

4. Click the Burn Disc button in the upper-right corner of the iTunes window.

5. Insert a blank CD-R disc and click Burn Disc again.

   If you plan to only play the CD using your computer, you can also use a CD-RW disc.

   If your playlist includes songs in formats other than MP3, such as songs purchased from the iTunes Music Store, they will not be burned on the CD.

The songs sound as good on the CD as they do in iTunes. Songs you download from the Internet may be encoded differently, so their quality may be different.
****

• Some CD-RW drives may not work with iTunes. To see if iTunes works with a drive, choose Edit > Preferences, then click the Advanced tab and click Burning. If your drive is listed, it will work with iTunes. If you don't see your device listed in the Advanced pane of iTunes Preferences (in the Burning section), it may not be a supported drive or the correct drivers may not be installed. To install the appropriate drivers, reinstall iTunes.
• Make sure you've chosen the correct disc format for the files you're trying to burn to your CD or DVD. To create an audio CD, you need to choose Audio CD in the Advanced pane of iTunes Preferences (in the Burning section). To create a CD with any type of audio file that iTunes supports (MP3, AAC, AIFF, and so on), you need to choose "Data CD or DVD" in the Advanced pane of iTunes Preferences (in the Burning section).
• If your playlist includes songs that were purchased from the iTunes Music Store, you can only burn seven copies of the playlist to an audio CD. You may have exceeded the number of times you can burn this playlist.
• **If your playlist includes songs that were purchased from the iTunes Music Store that have not been authorized to play on this computer, CD burning stops. To authorize this computer to play the music purchases, double-click the purchased song (where CD burning stopped) and enter the ID and password for the account with which the song was purchased. If you've already authorized five other computers to play the song, you won't be able to play it on this computer until you deauthorize one of the five already authorized computers. For more information, search help for "authorization and deauthorization."**
• If your blank CD or DVD doesn't appear in the Source list or if your burning preferences aren't being saved, contact your administrator to make sure you have the appropriate privileges to burn CDs on your computer.
• If your computer or monitor goes to sleep while you're burning a CD, you might encounter problems with the disc or with iTunes. To keep your system from going to sleep when burning CDs, increase the sleep timing settings in the Power Option control panel.
• If your CD burn is unsuccessful and your external drive becomes unresponsive, turn its power off and on to reset the drive.
• If you've made a CD and it seems to stutter when played back in your external CD-RW drive, try playing it in your internal CD drive or in a stereo system. Some external drives may not play CDs properly.
• If the playlist you're trying to burn to a CD or DVD includes AAC files, make sure you don't have MP3 CD selected in the Advanced pane of iTunes Preferences (in the Burning section). You can only burn a playlist that contains AAC files using the Audio CD or Data CD format.

- Use Windows Update to make sure you have the latest Service Pack for your computer installed.
- Check your computer or drive manufacturer's site for firmware updates and install any that are appropriate for your computer and CD or DVD drive.
- Even if your computer is new, make sure you have the latest drivers for your video and sound cards, and other peripherals. Check the manufacturers' sites for updates.
- Try using a different brand of media or a different type of disc (for example, CD-RW instead of CD-R).
- Choose a lower burn speed in the Advanced pane of iTunes Preferences (in the Burning section).

About authorization and deauthorization

You can listen to music you purchase from the iTunes Music Store on multiple computers. When you play a song you've purchased, your computer becomes "authorized" to play music purchased using your Apple or AOL account. (Authorization is a way to help protect the copyrights on the music.)

Once you authorize five computers to play your music purchases, you can't listen to music you've purchased on a sixth computer until you deauthorize one of the already authorized computers. When you deauthorize a computer, you can't listen to any music that was purchased using your account on that computer. To authorize or deauthorize a computer, your computer needs to be connected to the Internet.

If you're selling a computer or plan to no longer use it, make sure you've deauthorized it before you no longer have access to it.

Each computer can be authorized to play music purchased with multiple Apple or AOL accounts. For example, if each member of your household has an Apple account and you share one computer, each person can choose whether to authorize the computer to play music purchased with their account. Similarly, multiple users can share the same computer and account and thereby use only one of the authorizations for the songs purchased with that account.

Authorizing or deauthorizing a computer

You can authorize multiple computers (Macintosh, Windows, or both) to play your iTunes Music Store purchases. You can also deauthorize a computer to prevent your music or spoken word purchases from being played on that computer, or to change which computers are authorized to play your purchases (you should do this if you sell your computer and want to listen to your purchases on a new computer). You can also deauthorize a computer to prevent playing Audible spoken word content downloaded from the Audible website.

To authorize or deauthorize a computer, your computer needs to be connected to the Internet.

- To authorize a computer to play songs or spoken word content purchased from the iTunes Music Store, select the item (in your library or the Purchases playlist), and click the Play button.

  If the computer is already authorized to play songs purchased using your account, the song plays.

  If the computer has not yet been authorized to play songs purchased using your account, you're asked to enter your ID and password. Enter the ID and password for the account with which the song was purchased.

  If you've already authorized five other computers to play your music purchases, you won't be able to play the songs on this computer until you deauthorize one of the already authorized computers.

- To deauthorize a computer to play songs or spoken word content purchased from the iTunes Music Store, choose Advanced > Deauthorize Account. Then choose "Deauthorize Computer for Music Store Account" and enter your Apple or AOL ID and password.

  If you have trouble deauthorizing the computer, visit the Music Store billing support webpage at www.apple.com/support/itunes/authorization.html.

- To deauthorize a computer to play spoken word content purchased from the Audible website, choose Advanced > Deauthorize Computer. Then choose "Deauthorize Computer for Audible Account" and click OK.

If you have authorized five computers, you can also sign into your account and deauthorize all of them at once. Sign in as you normally would, and click Deauthorize All in the Account Information window. You can only deauthorize all your computers this way once per year.

Revised 6/17/2009 JMM