



TagTrak

User Guide

Version 1.2

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Software by Daughtry

Complexity Made Simple

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Version History

Version	Description
1.2	Fixed bug that caused TagTrak to improperly add filenames to its queue which possessed high ASCII characters Examples of data that tripped up earlier versions: 04 - Communiqué.mp3 Mötley Crüe
1.1	Added option to move folder(s) elsewhere should an artist not have an entry within the genre.csv file
1.0	Initial release

Introduction

Tagtrak is a lightweight Windows utility designed to apply consistent MP3 metadata (ID3 tags) using:

- Folder and file naming conventions
- A user-maintained Artist → Genre mapping file (CSV)

Unlike other MP3 tags (e.g. Artist; Album; Year), the “Genre” MP3 tag value is subjective and online databases often don’t agree. For example, what genre would you assign to Black Sabbath – are they Doom Metal? Heavy Metal? The author has long preferred to maintain a list of genres for artists/bands that appeal to his personal preferences – but it becomes burdensome maintaining a massive list of artist/genre preferences. This is where TagTrak was conceived – how could I leverage my list of nearly 8,000 artists and their genres to automatically tag my MP3 files?

Based upon the folder and filename convention strategy the author decided upon several decades ago, the MP3 tags most important for music collection manager applications (e.g. MusicBee) are already defined:

1. Artist
2. Album
3. Year
4. Song Title
5. Track Number

TagTrak extracts these pieces of information, combines them with the CSV list, and then updates each MP3 file’s tags with minimal effort. Realistically, once the TagTrak.Ini file is properly configured, the CSV list is populated, and the same parent folder is used to “stage” MP3 folders awaiting tag manipulation, zero interaction is required for TagTrak to work properly.

ID3mtag Application

TagTrak leverages an “as is” MP3 tagging utility “ID3mtag”, copyrighted by its author Marc R. Schoolderman via his Github page (<https://squell.github.io/id3/#getting-it>). This MP3 tagging utility was chosen due to (a) its small size; (b) operates as a command line interface application -vs- a Windows GUI; (c) is distributed by its author as free software. All rights for ID3mtag are reserved by Marc R. Schoolderman. The entity of this application is distributed as a .Zip file (id3-081w.zip) that is included with the TagTrak application to ensure compliance with the author’s redistribution policy.

System Requirements

- Windows 8 (or higher)
- All Windows applications “like” computer memory – a starting point for any Windows machine should really be 16GB of memory. If this application starts running slower, check your Windows Task Manager for applications that are leeching memory (and then start closing them)
- This application runs comfortably within 10MB of disc space
- A decent color monitor capable of displaying 1024x768 (or higher resolution)

Naming Conventions

TagTrak relies upon specific naming conventions of both the folder name AND the MP3 filenames. These decisions were born of 20+ years of music collecting while being mindful of not overly complicating conventions.

1. Folder convention
<Artist Name> - <Album Name> (Year)

Example:

Gotthard - More Stereo Crush (2026)

If the (Year) portion is missing from the folder name, Tagtrak will assign:

Year = 0000

2. Filename convention
<Track Number> - <Song Title>.mp3

Examples:

01 - Right Now.mp3

03 - Liverpool (Feat. Marc Storage).mp3

Track numbers are preserved exactly as written (no normalization or zero padding is performed).

CSV File Format

Tagtrak uses a simple CSV file (creatable with any spreadsheet program or text editor application) to assign a genre for an artist. The format for the .CSV file is simple:

Artist,Genre

Examples:

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38 Special,Southern Rock
Alice Cooper,Classic Rock
10,000 Maniacs,Rock

Notes:

- The delimiter character is configurable from within the TagTrak.Ini file (the default value is a comma character)
- Quoted artist names are supported
- Name matching is case-insensitive
- Leading/trailing spaces are ignored (sometimes a spreadsheet will add them)
- If an artist is not found in the CSV file, the **MissingGenre** value defined in the TagTrak.Ini file will be used.

Configuration File

TagTrak uses a standard .Ini file to configure default settings; this file can be modified via Windows Notepad or any text editor. The contents of the .Ini file are these nine lines:

[Settings]

Delimiter=,

MissingGenre=Unassigned

ShowProgress=1

ProgressUpdateInterval=50

[Paths]

GenreCsv=D:\Winbatch Misc\Source\Tagtrak\genre.csv

Id3Exe=D:\Winbatch Misc\Source\Tagtrak\id3.exe

ParentFolder=D:\download_FILE_MP3 Store_4) Platinum Notes Output

[Migrate]

MoveUnknownGenreFolders=YES

ManualReviewFolder=D:\Download_FILE_MP3 Store_5) Review To Keep or Delete

An explanation of the settings:

1. Delimiter
Defines the CSV delimiter
Default: ,
Change if using semicolon-delimited files
2. MissingGenre
Value assigned when an artist is not found in the CSV
Default: Unassigned

3. ShowProgress
Displays a progress box during processing
Values:
1 = enabled
0 = disabled
 4. ProgressUpdateInterval
Number of files processed before updating the progress display
Default: 50
Lower value = more frequent updates
Higher value = better performance
-
5. GenreCsv
Full path to your Artist → Genre CSV file
 6. Id3Exe
Full path to the ID3 command-line tool (id3.exe)
 7. ParentFolder
Root folder containing MP3 album folders to process

Items 5-7 (underneath the [PATHS] section) are self-populated after TagTrak has completed processing a folder. If these values are missing from the TagTrak.Ini file, popup windows will be displayed to then navigate/select the files (items 5 & 6) and the root folder that contains the individual MP3 folders.

-
8. MoveUnknownGenreFolders
If YES, move folder(s) to the folder stored in [9]; if NO, don't move folder(s)
 9. ManualReviewFolder
Enter the full path where folder(s) are moved to if [8] is configured to YES

Quick Start

After installing TagTrak onto your computer, perform the following tasks:

1. Create (or update) the CSV list which stores your Artist/Genre preferences, then export the data to a CSV file that ideally is located in the TagTrak folder
2. Modify the TagTrak.Ini file for your personal preferences
3. Start using TagTrak!

Note: After TagTrak has finished processing the .MP3 files an output .Log file is generated in the TagTrak folder (e.g. Tagtrak_20260321161148.Log). Here is a sample of the .Log file contents:

```

=====
Tagtrak Run
Sun 3/22/2026 7:48:08 PM
CSV File       : D:\Winbatch Misc\Source\Tagtrak\genre.csv
ID3 EXE       : D:\Winbatch Misc\Source\Tagtrak\id3.exe
Parent Folder  : D:\download\_FILE\_MP3 Store\_4) Platinum Notes Output
Delimiter      : ,
Missing Genre  : Unassigned
Show Progress  : 1
Progress Interval : 50
Move Unknown Genre Flds : YES
Manual Review Folder : D:\Download\_FILE\_MP3 Store\_5) Review To Keep or Delete
=====
Processed      : 9
Successes      : 9
Failures       : 0
Unassigned Genre Files : 0
Move Candidates : 0
Move Successes : 0
Move Failures  : 0
Move Skipped   : 0
=====
[MISSING GENRE ARTISTS]
(none)

```

Of particular interest is the last segment of the .Log file [MISSING GENRE ARTISTS]; any artist name(s) that appear here are lacking an entry in the .CSV file (which require your attention).

How It Works

TagTrak possesses a significant amount of error checking subroutines to ensure it is a simple application to run. Essentially, its (simplified) steps are:

1. TagTrak starts
2. The TagTrak.Ini file is read and default values assigned
3. The CSV file is read into memory in a manner which permits its contents to be searchable (i.e. searching for “Skid Row” would return its associated genre “Hard Rock”)
4. Present popup file selection dialogue windows if the Genre CSV file is missing and/or the ID3 command line interface (CLI) file is undefined and/or select a parent folder to process its subfolders (or ask the user if the previously selected parent folder is OK to use again)
5. Create an empty log file with a unique filename
6. Scan the parent folder’s “tree” to populate a queue of MP3 files
7. Begin working through the MP3 file queue – extract the key tags (e.g. Artist, Album, Year) from the standardized file name/folder name convention
8. Build the parameter string that will be passed to the ID3 CLI, then execute the CLI against the MP3 file

9. Write the footer section of the log file with statistical information
10. Display popup message to signify the completion of folder/file processing

Technical Information

This application requires less than 5MB of disc space for its files:

- TagTrak.exe – application file
- TagTrak.Ini – configuration file (editable with Notepad or a text editor)
- WBDWC64I.Dll – runtime file

However, whenever processing large volumes of data, three factors come into play:

1. CPU processor speed
2. Hard drive type/speed (5400RPM / 7200RPM / SSD)
3. Available memory (ideally 16GB or more RAM installed)

It is recommended to close all Windows applications (especially web browsers) before processing large amounts of data to free up memory. A faster hard drive can shave minutes (or even hours) of time required to process data.

Data Backup

Whenever processing raw data, it is ALWAYS a prudent decision to first back up the original data and work against a copy of the data. For example, the machine could automatically reboot due to an operating system update or a software driver update requires the reboot the machine to replace open files. A co-worker could accidentally bump the machine's reboot button, or toggle the surge protector's power switch with a broom. There are dozens of ways to interfere with data processor – and it will ALWAYS occur at the worst possible time.

Support and Registration/Donation

1. Send us an email (scott@sdaughtry.com) that fully describes the problem(s) you're experiencing and we will get back to you as soon as possible. It is prudent for you to fully back up this application's folder (in full) as a precautionary pre-troubleshooting step.
2. This application is distributed as DONORWARE – no features have been removed or crippled from this application. This application's dedicated web page located on our company web site (<http://www.sdaughtry.com>) has a link to donate to continued updates of this application and/or fund the creation of other utility applications.