

## NAME

m3s – generate ContentsDB.xml file for an MP3 CD to be recognized by iTunes

## SYNOPSIS

```
m3s [root-dir] [disc-title] [burner-model]
```

## DESCRIPTION

The m3s program is meant to generate a ContentsDB.xml file for a directory tree containing MP3 files meant to be burned to a CD or DVD that can, latter, be recognized by iTunes as a “big” CD, without the need to connect to the network to fetch metadata (this is usually the default action that iTunes takes when an Audio CD is inserted on the optical reader of the computer).

The `root-dir` parameter specifies the root directory of the tree where the MP3 files are located. If it is not specified, then, it is assumed to be the current working directory. The MP3 files are, then, parsed and the ContentsDB.xml file is written at the `root-dir` directory. This makes it convenient to create a CD/DVD image.

A command like the following may be used:

```
genisoimage -J -ucs-level 1 -o disc-title.iso -V "disc-title" root-dir
```

The `disc-title` parameter specifies the name that iTunes will show to the user as being the name of the disc.

The `burner-model` parameter is purely cosmetic and is used to inform iTunes which drive model was used to burn the disc. It apparently serves no purpose other than this (please, let me know if I am mistaken).

Listed below are the fields that Apple’s iTunes version 8 writes in each song’s stanza, with the kind of value corresponding to that field:

- Name (string)
- Artist (string)
- Album (string)
- Genre (string)
- Persistent ID (string, hex number, 16 digits) \*
- Play Count (integer) \*
- Play Date (integer, -991494962) \*
- Disc Number (integer) \*
- Disc Count (integer) \*
- Track Number (integer)
- Track Count (integer)
- Year (integer)
- Total Time (integer)
- Bit Rate (integer)
- Has Variable Bit Rate (boolean) \*
- Sample Rate (integer)
- Date (string, hex number, 8 digits)
- Date Modified (date, ISO format)
- Size (integer)
- Supports ID3 Tags (boolean)
- Numeric Path (string)

- File Extension (string)

In the header of the contentsdb.xml file:

- Disc ID (string, hex number, 16 digits)
- Disc Name (string)

Fields marked with \* are not present in iTunes v4.6)

### **LICENCE**

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### **AUTHOR**

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