



# Lyra

## Frequently Asked Questions

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### Frequently Asked Questions

#### Are all of the Music Player Daemon features implemented into Lyra?

The **Music Player Daemon (MPD)** protocol has evolved over time and as has lead to a certain amount of fragmentation in its implementation. Fortunately, **Lyra** does a series of checks in order to avoid situations where certain features are not yet supported, become deprecated or have been disabled by the administrator.

In addition, certain protocol options such as **mixrampdb {decibels}** and **mixrampdelay {SECONDS}** require the use of third party applications in order to function. The inclusion of such a features into **Lyra** would complicate the interface and potentially lead to confusion.

#### Why do songs start at three (3) seconds?

This seems to be related to the cross fading option. Hence when a user selects a cross fade option of five seconds (5) the start time will actually start at five (5) seconds instead of three (3).

#### What are the planned features?

Currently, the following features are planned:

<b>Drag and Drop</b>	Enabling the Drag and Drop interface between songs and the <b>Current Playlist</b> . This will also allow a user to modify the <b>Current Playlist</b> to be modified in order an ability that is currently unavailable.
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<b>Searching</b>	While you can currently do basic searches by typing in the starting characters to an <b>Artist</b> , <b>Album</b> and <b>Genre</b> , there is no dedicated interface.
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#### What features can I expect from the latest release?

<b>Last.fm (1.0.1)</b>	Integration with the <b>Last.fm</b> service into <b>Lyra</b> will permit the extraction of additional information for songs and display album cover art if available.
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<b>Ratings (1.0.1)</b>	Implementation of ratings for songs, will allow a user to select favourites and affect the smart playlists accordingly.
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#### Where did features like consume come from and why have random and shuffle?

The names and how the features work stem from the **Music Player Daemon (MPD)** and can result in confusing features. While perhaps unfortunate and confusing to the end-users, compatibility between **Lyra** and the protocol was considered important.

## Under what license is Lyra released?

**Lyra** has been released under the **Berkeley Software Distribution (BSD)** license. Details on the three-clause **BSD** license can be accessed here:

<http://www.opensource.org/licenses/bsd-license.php>

## Are there searching capabilities?

There is no advanced interface included with the interface that will enable a user to find songs. Note however that when selecting one from the **Album**, **Artist**, **Genre** filters, you can also type in the starting characters and you will be moved to the selections matching your criteria. At any given time, pressing on the escape key will revert to non-selection for that filter widening your search criteria as applicable.

## Why is there a lag between actions and results?

**Lyra** does not attempt to pre-emptively determine what the host will do when a new command is sent. Any button which would require the host to respond will have to send a signal to the host and that in turn may be lagged when network congestion is a factor.

Visual changes may also take a while to be initiated as the host has to process the command and send updates to its clients. Only once those updates are received will **Lyra** be updated to match the user changes, which are again dependent on the latency and response of the host.

## Why do accents and other characters from European language not showing correctly?

This seems to be related to the **Music Player Daemon (MPD)** and how it functions. For example here are four outputs taken during various stages:

Source ID3 Tag	
<b>Artist</b>	Andrée Watters
<b>Album</b>	À travers
<b>Title</b>	Laisse la pluie
<b>Genre</b>	General Pop
<b>Time</b>	195
<b>Track</b>	1
<b>Date</b>	2005
<b>File</b>	Ãfâ,- travers/Laisse la pluie.mp3

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Music Player Daemon 'listallinfo' Output

Artist	André Watters
Album	À travers
Title	Laisse la pluie
Genre	General Pop
Time	195
Track	1
Date	2005
File	À travers/Laisse la pluie.mp3

### SQLite Query Output

Artist	André Watters
Album	À travers
Title	Laisse la pluie
Genre	General Pop
Time	195
Track	1
Date	2005
File	À travers/Laisse la pluie.mp3

### Lyra Output

Artist	André Watters
Album	À travers
Title	Laisse la pluie
Genre	General Pop
Time	195
Track	1
Date	2005
File	À travers/Laisse la pluie.mp3

If you note the **Lyra** output and the **SQLite** query output match. However, the interface between the insertion and the queries is **Java** itself which may indicate why both of these elements. Most perplexing is the lack of matching between the **Music Player Daemon (MPD)** protocol and the last two entries.

The above in theory, should result in failed matches every database update and a failure to insert songs into the queue. This is in fact not the case and all operations such as addition to the queue, playing of the song and removal from the queue are completed without error. So while unsightly there are no other side effects.

### Why Integration with Last.fm?

The **Last.fm** service did not charge for developers to integrate into their application; provides the user with a myriad of information; and a user driven community. Add in an information rich API, the integration seemed to be more of a symbiotic relationship permitting the user more functionality within **Lyra** and tracking that could provide the user with a more positive music experience.

## When I click on the Artist and Album profiles it can take a while to load why?

**Lyra** is dependent on your internet connection to query from **Last.fm**. As a result most requests made to that service are done within their own thread and will appear once the process has completed. This provides a user with the ability to load multiple profiles at a time and not block your interface.

## Are there global options that exist outside the user interface?

In short yes, there are options that exist outside of the application interface and can be accessed making use of a **SQLite** client. These features have either not been integrated into the main interface due to the fact that they would complicate the interface or have no requirement as of yet to exist as an option. E.g. Multiple language selection when only **English (EN)** exists.

Some of the more important features that can be changed using this method are:

<b>Debugging Level</b>	Permits the user to change the default of FINE and reduce the amount of traffic being logged to the files.
<b>Last.fm Country</b>	When changed will permit the receive buy links that are appropriate to the country of origin. The default of <b>United States</b> was maintained in order to maintain availability of purchase links.

Additional options can be controlled through this database. Simply look up the comment field in order to determine functionality and adjust accordingly. Be aware that certain changes may have unintended consequences, so make a copy of your global settings database (**lyra.db3**) prior to experimenting.

## Is anyone out there? I have development questions, recommendations for changes or have found a bug and would like to pass it on.

**Lyra** is not a commercial project and does not have an official mean of communications for support, nor is the **Subversion** server available publicly. However for the time being, the creator/developer of the application can be reached at [martin@ethereal-realms.org](mailto:martin@ethereal-realms.org).

There is also a plan to further integrate the <http://www.ethereal-realms.org> website to support **Lyra** specifically. This would include a web-based contact forms, forums and discussion groups, all of which hinging on perceived interest and available time.