

## Re: Convert wma to mp3?

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*Source:* <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/comp.os.linux.misc/2007-04/msg01492.html>

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- *From:* unique user <[unikuser@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:unikuser@xxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* 27 Apr 2007 01:34:09 -0700
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On a similar note, is AAC(HE-AAC,mp4) patented in a similar manner, restricting people from encoding/decoding without paying for patent? I found 3 paragraphs about this in wikipedia([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Advanced\\_Audio\\_Coding#Licensing\\_and\\_patents](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Advanced_Audio_Coding#Licensing_and_patents)) and I find all the 3 paragraphs disagree each other. I want to encode my music to AAC, anyone know of these patent issues?

On Apr 26, 6:51 am, Unruh <[unruh-s...@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:unruh-s...@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote:

A Watcher <[stocks...@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:stocks...@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)> writes:

Is there a linux app that will convert wma files to mp3?

a) MP3 is a proprietary patented format at least in the USA and the holders do NOT allow people to use the patent for encoding via mp3. That was one of the key reasons why OggVobis encoding was developed. Thus if you are in one of the countries where mp3 is patented, you would be violating their patent and in particular the distributions would be violating the patent by distributing code which did that without paying the requested patent fee.

b) That being said, people living in countries where mp3 is not patented have developed mp3 encoding software— the one I know of is called lame. (Lame Ain't MP3 Encoder)  
No distribution can distribute it— see above. But people have placed it onto databases in countries where the patent does not apply. Your using that software in a country where the patent does apply may make you liable to a patent infringement suit or even criminal prosecution in places where patent infringement is a criminal act. Of course they have to first discover that you did it first. Now that you have published your desire to do so on the internet where all 8 billion people in the world can see that you have that desire, that discovery may not be hard, or it may be.

Thanks

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