

Using nfo files

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Overview

Using nfo files for fast scraping of movie data, to backup and restore your database, or display video info and images in **Shares** view

Introduction

As of v 1.3.0, MediaPortal supports "nfo" XML files, both in configuration or in the Videos plugin in MediaPortal.

The XML structure follows [XBMC Movies](#) style with additional tags specific only for MediaPortal (they will not break compatibility with XML style).

As of v 1.6.0 also exports all data related to *usergroups* (also called *movie sets*) to *.nfo* file format (see below).

Nfo files can be used:

1. For fast import/export of movie data or as default "scraper" without an Internet connection when "**Use only nfo scraper**" is selected in [Videos Configuration > Using internal nfo scraper](#).
2. To **backup and restore** your database (see [Videos Configuration > Tools > Import/Export Nfo Files](#))
3. In **Shares** (folder) view to display video info and images even if video is not "scanned" (although database views and features are not supported) see [Videos > Shares View and Shares Context menu options](#).

Note: The XML file must be encoded in UTF-8 format. Special characters like "&" must be properly encoded following XML document special characters rules (as **&**) otherwise XML file will be discarded.

Character Name	Entity Reference	Character Reference	Numeric Reference
Ampersand	&	&	&
Left angle bracket	<	<	<
Right angle bracket	>	>	>
Straight quotation mark	"	"	'
Apostrophe	'	'	"

Usergroups (Movie Sets)

As of v 1.6.0, MyVideos exports all data related to *usergroups* (also called *movie sets*) to *.nfo* file format. Usergroup images will not be exported because they are already scaled with low image quality created by MediaPortal when the usergroup image was added. A new tag is created with *.nfo* export:

```
<set>
  <setname>[string]</setname>
  <setrule>[string]</setrule>
  <setdescription>[string]</setdescription>
</set>
```

Import *.nfo* usergroup (set) tag can also contain an image link for the usergroup. The image should be located in the same folder as the *.nfo* file and should be in *.jpg* format. The image filename is up to the user but should not be named as the video file. The image will be rescaled and copied to

```
...\MediaPortal\Thumbs\Videos\UserGroups
```

folder.

```
<set>
  <setname>[string]</setname>
  <setrule>[string]</setrule>
  <setdescription>[string]</setdescription>
  <setimage>[string]</setimage>
</set>
```

Note: Single usergroup (set) tag is still supported for .nfo import, so subtags are not mandatory.

```
<set>[string]</set>
```

See attached nfoMovieSetFileSample.xml for full example.

Nfo and images (posters, fanart) file naming rules

How nfo files (and related images) are named is very important! MediaPortal will NOT look for video or image file locations inside the nfo XML file.

File naming rules depend how you organize your movies, nfo files and images, and if the videos are Blu-Ray/DVD or 'normal' video files

Single files (not stacked/grouped)

Every movie is in it's own folder

For 'Normal' video files or ISO files, nfo file names can use either **folder name** OR **file name** without stack extension.

DVD or Blu-Ray files **must use folder name** for nfo file without stack extensions (CDn, Partn, [n-n]). Image files (posters, fanart) can use either folder name or you can name them as folder.jpg and fanart.jpg for any file type.

Examples:

File	movie file (e.g. .avi, .iso) on HDD	DVD/Blu-Ray
movie	D:\Movies\MovieFolder\VideoFilename.avi	D:\Movies\DVDFolder\VIDEO_TS\.. D:\Movies\Blu-RayFolder\BDMV\..
nfo	D:\Movies\MovieFolder\MovieFolder.nfo OR D:\Movies\MovieFolder\VideoFilename.nfo	D:\Movies\DVDFolder\DVDFolder.nfo D:\Movies\Blu-RayFolder\Blu-RayFolder.nfo
poster	D:\Movies\MovieFolder\MovieFolder.jpg OR D:\Movies\MovieFolder\folder.jpg	D:\Movies\DVDFolder\DVDFolder.jpg D:\Movies\Blu-RayFolder\Blu-RayFolder.jpg OR D:\Movies\DVDFolder\folder.jpg D:\Movies\Blu-RayFolder\folder.jpg
fanart	D:\Movies\MovieFolder\MovieFolder-fanart.jpg OR D:\Movies\MovieFolder\fanart.jpg	D:\Movies\DVDFolder\DVDFolder-fanart.jpg D:\Movies\Blu-RayFolder\Blu-RayFolder-fanart.jpg OR D:\Movies\DVD Folder\fanart.jpg D:\Movies\Blu-RayFolder\fanart.jpg

Folder is not dedicated to one video (many video files in one folder)

'Normal' video files or ISO files, nfo and images (posters, fanart) **must use file name** without stack extensions (CDn, Partn, [n-n]).

DVD or Blu-Ray files **must use folder name** for nfo file without stack extensions (CDn, Partn, [n-n]). Image files (poster/fanart) can use either folder name or folder.jpg and fanart.jpg for any file type.

Examples:

File	Movie file (e.g. .avi) on HDD	DVD/Blu-Ray
movie	D:\Movies\VideoFilename.avi	D:\Movies\DVDFolder\VIDEO_TS\.. D:\Movies\Blu-RayFolder\BDMV\..
nfo	D:\Movies\VideoFileName.nfo D:\Movies\DVDFolder\DVDFolder.nfo D:\Movies\Blu-RayFolder\Blu-RayFolder.nfo poster D:\Movies\VideoFileName.jpg	D:\Movies\DVDFolder\DVDFolder.jpg D:\Movies\Blu-RayFolder\Blu-RayFolder.jpg

fanart	D:\Movies\VideoFileName-fanart.jpg D:\Movies\DVDFolderDVDFolder-fanart.jpg D:\Movies\Blu-RayFolderBlu-RayFolder-fanart.jpg h2. Stacked (Grouped) files 'Normal' video files can be grouped or stacked, but media info icons will be visible only for the first item in the group Note: You cannot stack or 'mix' different file types in a group - you must group 'normal' files together, ISO with other ISO, DVD with other DVD, Blu-Ray with other Blu-Ray. h3. Stacked DVDs/Blu-rays
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Every main folder should have nfo file - only the first nfo file will be processed, the rest will be used to locate and add video files from stack set)

Examples:

File	DVD	Blu-Ray
movie	D:\Movies\DVDFolder [1-2]\VIDEO_TS\.. D:\Movies\DVDFolder [2-2]\VIDEO_TS\..	D:\Movies\Blu-RayFolder [1-2]\BDMV\.. D:\Movies\Blu-RayFolder [2-2]\BDMV\..
nfo	D:\Movies\DVDFolder [1-2]DVDFolder.nfo D:\Movies\DVDFolder [2-2]DVDFolder.nfo	D:\Movies\Blu-RayFolder [1-2]Blu-RayFolder.nfo D:\Movies\Blu-RayFolder [2-2]Blu-RayFolder.nfo
poster	D:\Movies\DVDFolder [1-2]DVDFolder.jpg D:\Movies\DVDFolder [2-2]DVDFolder.jpg OR D:\Movies\DVDFolder [1-2]folder.jpg D:\Movies\DVDFolder [2-2]folder.jpg	D:\Movies\Blu-RayFolder [1-2]Blu-RayFolder.jpg D:\Movies\Blu-RayFolder [2-2]Blu-RayFolder.jpg OR D:\Movies\Blu-RayFolder [1-2]folder.jpg D:\Movies\Blu-RayFolder [2-2]folder.jpg
fanart	D:\Movies\DVDFolder [1-2]DVDFolder-fanart.jpg D:\Movies\DVDFolder [2-2]DVDFolder-fanart.jpg OR D:\Movies\DVDFolder [1-2]fanart.jpg D:\Movies\DVDFolder [2-2]fanart.jpg	D:\Movies\Blu-RayFolder [1-2]Blu-RayFolder-fanart.jpg D:\Movies\Blu-RayFolder [2-2]Blu-RayFolder-fanart.jpg OR D:\Movies\Blu-RayFolder [1-2]fanart.jpg D:\Movies\Blu-RayFolder [2-2]fanart.jpg

Hint: image files (posters/fanart) do not need to exist in all folders, it's enough to have them in first folder in stack group.

Note:

- When the option "Use internal nfo scrapper only" is active, Internet source will not be used. Only data from nfo file and local images related to the video file will be imported
- if URL sources for images exists in nfo file, they will be skipped
- if a link to local images does not exist in nfo file, MP will try to find them according to above mention file naming rules

Nfo file example for stacked DVD/Blu-ray

File names

- E:\DummyMovies\Jack & Jill (2011) [1-3]Jack & Jill (2011).nfo
- E:\DummyMovies\Jack & Jill (2011) [2-3]Jack & Jill (2011).nfo
- E:\DummyMovies\Jack & Jill (2011) [3-3]Jack & Jill (2011).nfo

View Sample

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<movie>
  <filenameandpath>E:\DummyMovies\Jack & Jill (2011) [1-3]\VIDEO_TS\VIDEO_TS.IFO</filenameandpath>
  <filenameandpath>E:\DummyMovies\Jack & Jill (2011) [2-3]\VIDEO_TS\VIDEO_TS.IFO</filenameandpath>
  <filenameandpath>E:\DummyMovies\Jack & Jill (2011) [3-3]\VIDEO_TS\VIDEO_TS.IFO</filenameandpath>
  <title>Jack and Jill</title>
  <sorttitle>Jack and Jill</sorttitle>
  <imdb>tt0810913</imdb>
  <language>English</language>
  <country>USA</country>
  <year>2011</year>
  <rating>3.4</rating>
  <runtime>91</runtime>
  <mpaa>PG</mpaa>
  <votes>27664</votes>
  <top250>0</top250>
  <studio>Happy Madison Productions / Columbia Pictures / Broken Road Productions</studio>
  <director>Dennis Dugan</director>
  <directorimdb>nm0240797</directorimdb>
</movie>
```

<credits>Adam Sandler / Steve Koren</credits>
<tagline>His twin sister is coming for the holidays... ..and it ain't pretty.</tagline>
<outline>Family guy Jack Sadelstein prepares for the annual event he dreads: the Thanksgiving visit of his twin sister, the needy and passive-aggressive Jill, who then refuses to leave.</outline>
<plot>Jack Sadelstein is a successful advertising executive in Los Angeles with a beautiful wife and kids, who dreads one event each year: the Thanksgiving visit of his identical twin sister Jill. Jill's neediness and passive-aggressiveness is maddening to Jack, turning his normally tranquil life upside down.</plot>
<review>I will start by saying that I have enjoyed many Adam Sandler movies and have found him to be a generally funny guy when I've seen him interviewed and when he was on Saturday Night Live.I laughed gleefully through Anger Management, Mr. Deeds, Billy Madison, 50 First Dates, and Happy Gilmore. Funny People and Just Go With It were awesome movies! I was brought to tears in Sandler's emotional portrayal in Reign Over Me.I have great respect for the man as a comedian and actor. But Jack and Jill is abysmal. The "jokes" are not only bizarrely misplaced - THEY ARE NOT FUNNY. I did not hear a single laugh, not even a slight giggle from any audience member in the theater. In fact, almost 1/3 of them walked out before it was over. Those who stayed, openly derided the flick as we all exited the theater in utter disgust and sadness.I don't know why Al Pacino was in this movie, his acting made it seem like he was forced at gun point to do this movie. Nick Swardson and Tim Meadows are way too funny to be in such a disaster. Especially given Swardson's stellar performance in Just Go With It.This movie is not a flop, its not an "oops", its not a mistake - it's a career ending pile of trash. A career ender that started with Sandler's god awful "Grown Ups" and climaxes with this revolting hunk of garbage.Sorry Adam, it's over.</review>
<watched>>false</watched>
<playcount>0</playcount>
<thumb>Jack & Jill (2011).jpg</thumb>
<fanart>
<thumb>Jack & Jill (2011)-fanart.jpg</thumb>
<thumb>Jack & Jill (2011)-fanart1.jpg</thumb>
<thumb>Jack & Jill (2011)-fanart2.jpg</thumb>
</fanart>
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<name>Dennis Dugan</name>
<role>Director, Al Pacino's Standby</role>
<imdb>nm0240797</imdb>
</actor>
<actor>
<name>Adam Sandler</name>
<role>Writer: screenplay, Jack Sadelstein / Jill Sadelstein</role>
<imdb>nm0001191</imdb>
</actor>
<actor>
<name>Steve Koren</name>
<role>Writer: screenplay</role>
<imdb>nm0466175</imdb>
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<role>Himself</role>
<imdb>nm0000199</imdb>
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  <role>Scrapply Puppeteer</role>
  <imdb>nm0001022</imdb>
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```

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  <role>Tracy</role>
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```
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NFO Importer Logic

Prior to version 1.6 *.nfo* import logic could be confusing as it was unclear if a *.nfo* file or movie grabber script would be triggered when fetching movie details. In version 1.6 this logic has been reworked as follows:

- When the option **Use internal nfo scrapper only** is disabled, *.nfo* files will still be used but only on the first movie scan. In case of refreshing existing movies, *.nfo* files will not be used (Configuration options: **Skip files already in the database** is disabled or **Refresh existing files** is enabled). This is also valid inside the MediaPortal GUI environment when using the Scan option. MediaPortal will first try to find any *.nfo* files related to new movies and will use it to import movie metadata. The rest of the movies will be imported with the default movie grabber script.
- When the option **Use internal nfo scrapper only** is active, movie grabber scripts will not be used. Only data from *.nfo* files and local images related to the video file will be imported.
- If URL sources for images exists in the *.nfo_file*, they will be skipped. If a link to local images does not exist in the *.nfo_file*, MediaPortal will try to find them according to the file naming rules.