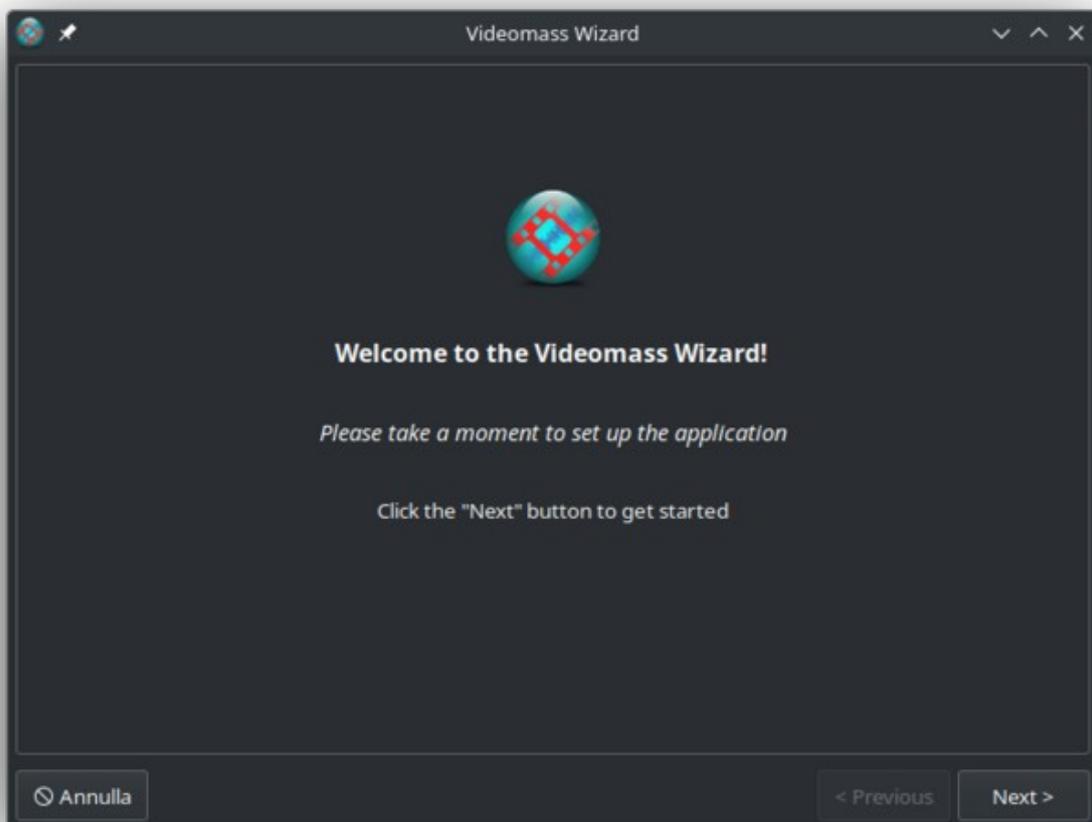


Videomass

Startup

Starting Videomass for the first time, you will be asked to choose some settings through the wizard. All settings can be changed later, if you want, using the [Preferences](#) dialog.



Preferences

Shortcut **Ctrl+P** or **Menu bar** → **Edit** → **Preferences**

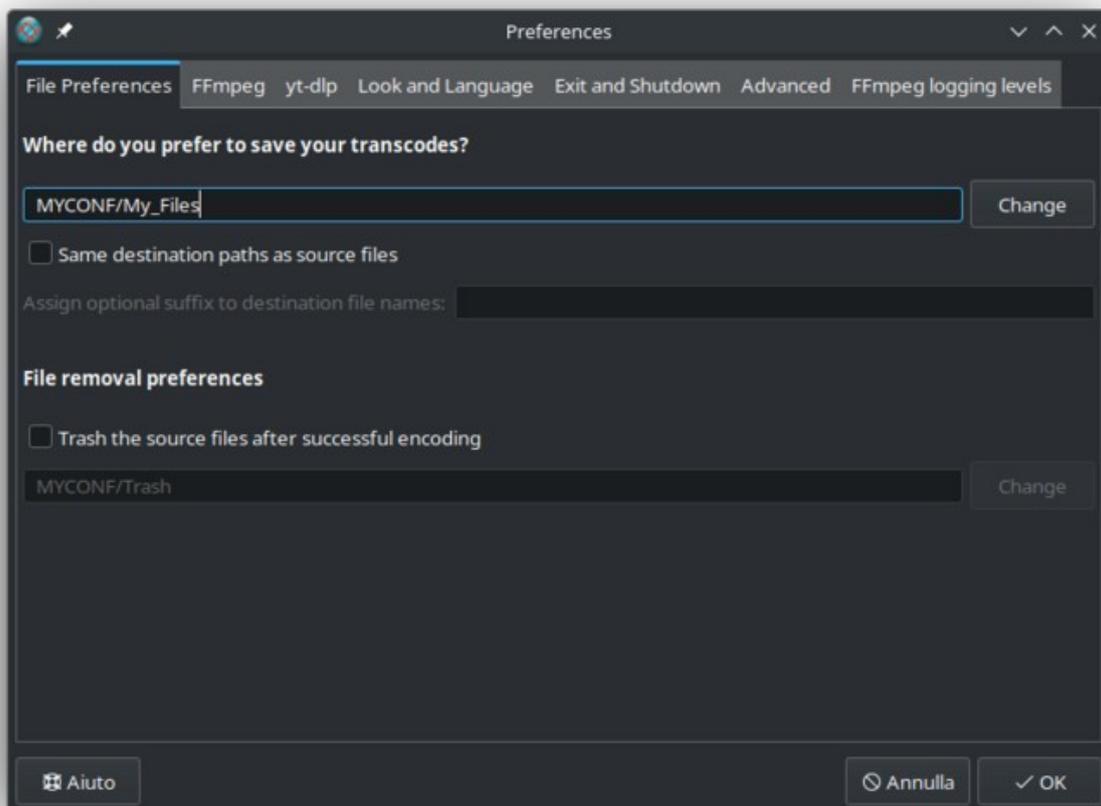
The preferences dialog represents the main Videomass settings, most of which will be saved in the configuration file.

File Preferences

The file preferences tab makes it possible to set the file destination for conversions and transcodes (by default, files and downloads are saved to the user's folder). Furthermore, you can customize some useful behaviors, such as saving each file to the same source folder and optionally assigning an additional suffix to the file name to reduce possible overwriting of files.

Another feature requested by some users, is the ability to remove source files after successful encoding or conversion. It should be noted that the source files are not exactly deleted but are moved to a specific folder called Videomass Trash folder located in the program's configuration directory (by default) or optionally to another destination chosen by the user. Following this operation the files in the trash folder can be permanently deleted after confirmation.

All trashed files will have their source name followed by the exact date and time of deletion.



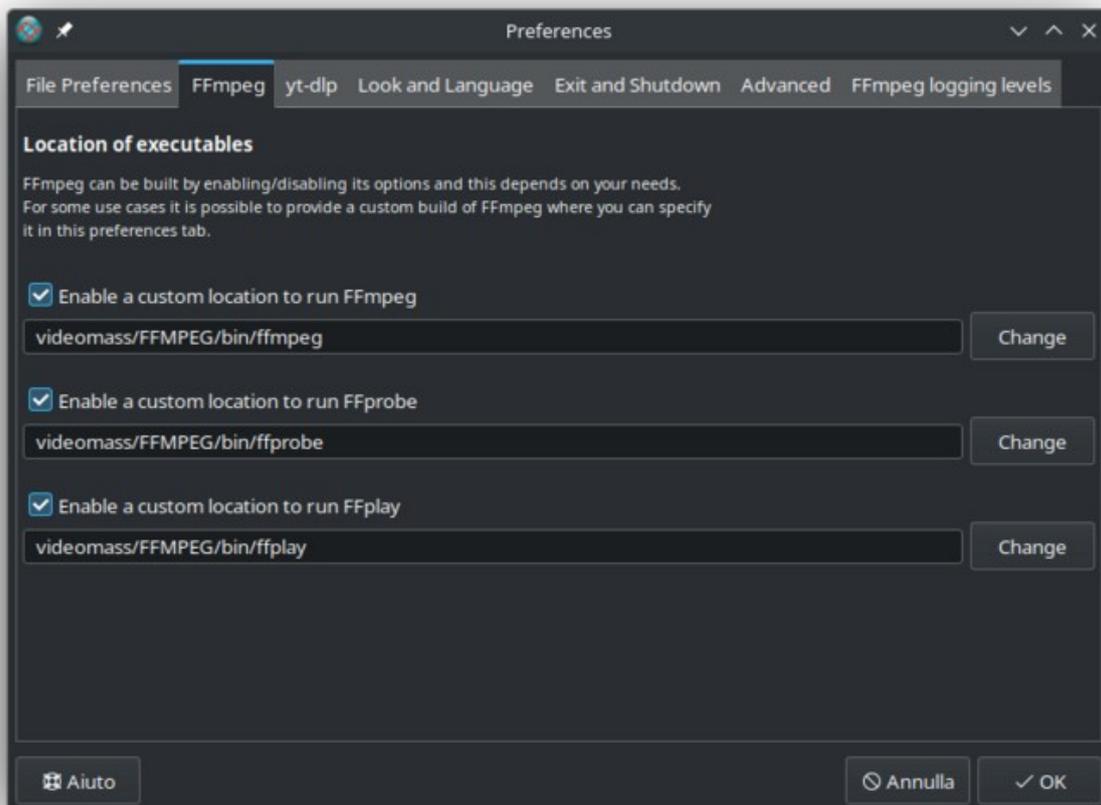
FFmpeg

The FFmpeg tab, mainly allows you to customize the paths of FFmpeg executables (binaries).

It is well known among more experienced users to compile FFmpeg in order to enable particular features or to optimize their performance; other users prefer to have regularly distributed copies of FFmpeg and use them locally rather than installing them on the operating system. For this purpose, this setting table can be very useful.

By default Videomass will always prioritize your operating system's environment variables to set FFmpeg executables. Later users will be free to set other locations with their custom FFmpeg builds.

There is also another place where Videomass will look for executables but it will only do so after it has not found FFmpeg on your system: This place is a folder called FFMPEG in the application sources inside which can be placed the "bin" folder containing the FFmpeg binaries that will be executed by Videomass.



Yt-dlp

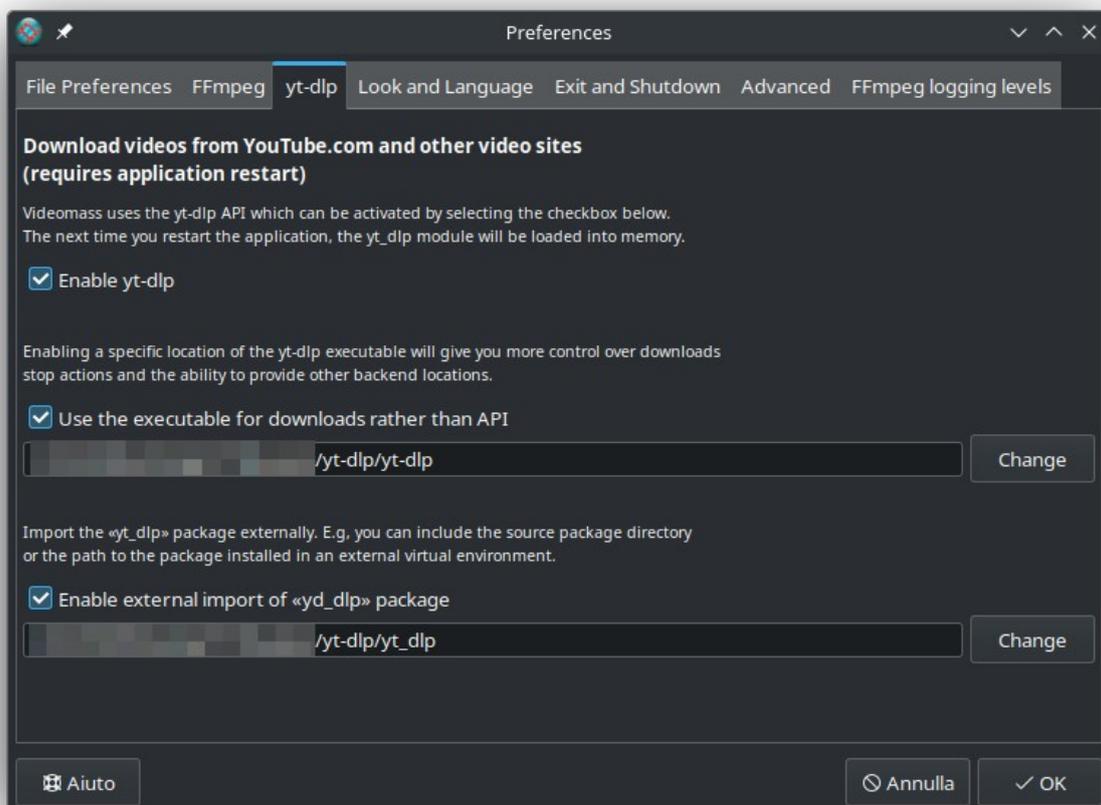
yt-dlp is the backend used to download audio and video from websites such as YouTube.com and others sites (over 200 are currently supported).

However, if you don't want to enable it at all, no problem, the application will launch without this feature and will start up even faster.

It is essential to understand that, unlike many other graphical interfaces, yt-dlp is used internally as a Python module (API). From Videomass v5.0.12 the possibility of also using the yt-dlp executable has been implemented only for download operations, allowing for some capabilities such as instantaneous interruption of downloads and the possibility of linking to a more updated executable of yt-dlp. In any case the module still needs to be loaded into memory for other required operations.

Since Videomass version 5.0.15, it is possible to import the **yt_dlp** Python package externally which will completely replace the one used by default. You can specifically include the **yt_dlp** package from the unzipped source tarball downloadable from [here](#), or specify the **yt_dlp** package from an external virtual environment. **Note that this feature is not enabled in the standalone application, such as the portable version of Videomass for Windows.**

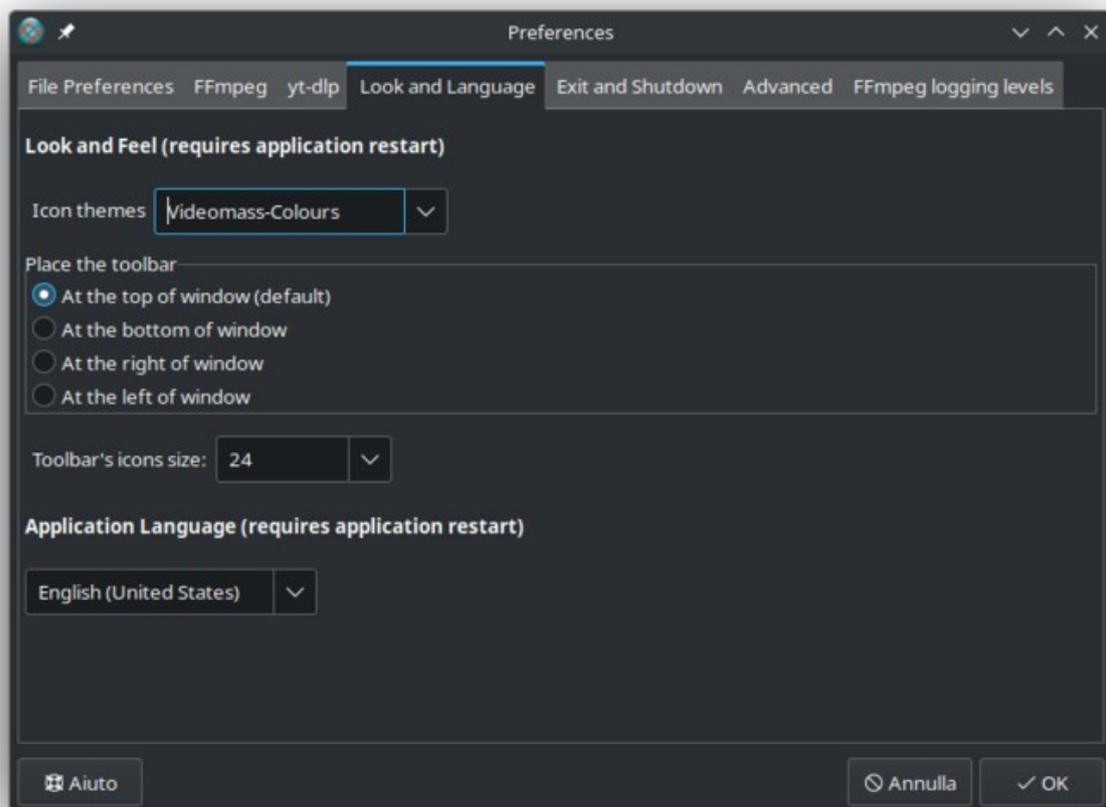
It is assumed that yt-dlp is completely managed by the user, through a package manager, not by Videomass. Videomass is not responsible for the installation of yt-dlp, nor for any related updates.



Look and Language

Here you can manage icon theme settings and toolbar customization. Videomass has icons for light, dark and colored themes, for an appropriate integration with your desktop.

Videomass has also been partially translated into other languages, currently languages such as Italian, Russian, Dutch, French, Spanish, Portuguese and Chinese are available. Most translations are human, others machine translated. If you are interested in correcting current translations, or if you want to translate Videomass into other languages, feel free to contact the author on GitHub or send him an email.



Exit and Shutdown

This tab implements functionalities upon exiting application. Also the auto-exit and auto-shutdown functionalities after operations completion are provided.

Upon exiting the application

- **Always ask me to confirm**

While useful, the application exit confirmation dialog can sometimes be annoying. Here you can disable and re-enable it.

- **Clean log files**

If for reasons of privacy or space occupied in your drive you want to delete the contents of the log files, here you can set the complete deletion of all Videomass log files every time you close the application.

- **Remove cached files**

Cached files have the advantage of speeding up some operations but may increase in size over time, so you can plan their deletion when Videomass exits by activating this check box.

On operation completion

Note that shutdown and exit are provided for both download and transcoding operations, e.g. using multitasking, if a download operation finishes but the transcoding operation is running, the shutdown or exit functionalities will be postponed until the transcoding is finished and vice versa.

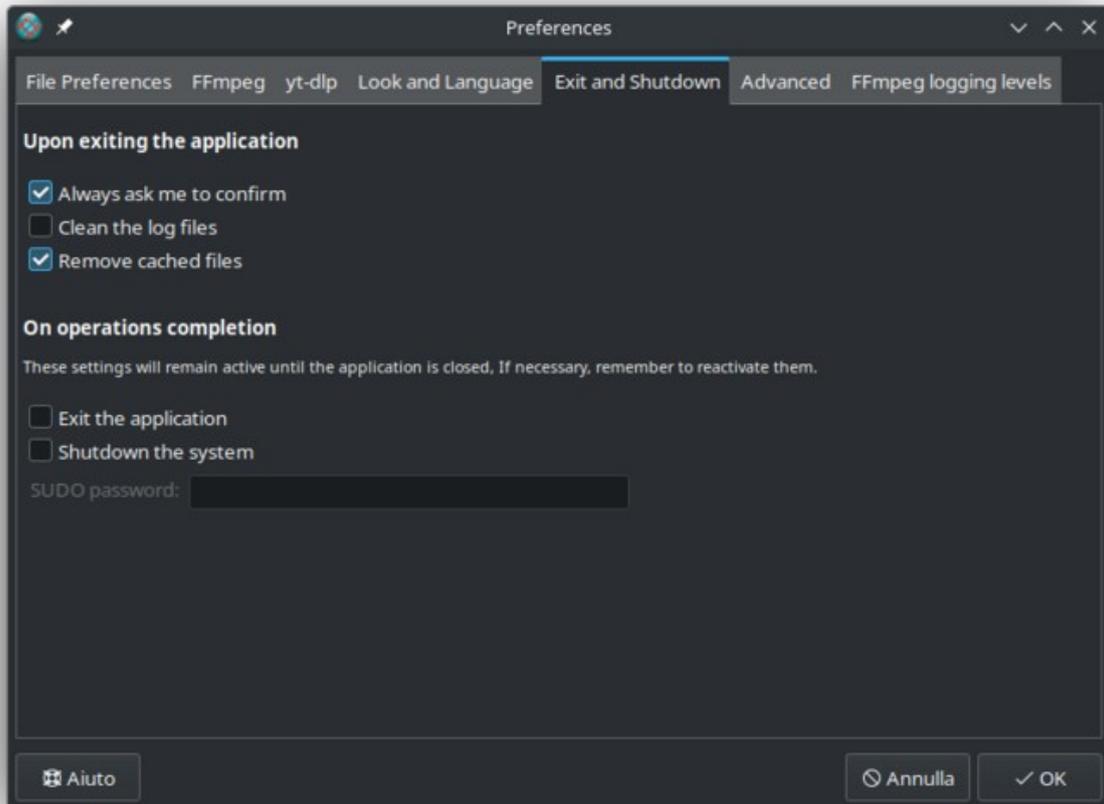
One thing to remember is that these options are intentionally not stored in the configuration file, so if you set them they will be active until the application is closed.

- **Exit the application**

Using this action the application will exit within 10 seconds after the operations are finished.

- **Shutdown the system**

Using this action the system will turn-off within 60 seconds after the operations are finished. Shutdown includes writing the log file for analysis of any errors due to the failure, which can be located in the Videomass log directory.



Advanced

Specify the characters encoding format

Sometimes when importing or dragging some files you may come across the character encoding error. As a workaround you can try setting another encoding code and importing those files again.

'utf-8' codec can't decode byte 0xd0 in position 804: invalid continuation byte

This error occurs when the metadata originally written in those files is not encoded with the UTF-8 standard. To address the output given by the stderr of the sub-processes and make it visible to the user through the graphical interface, Videomass must first encode it using the most used encoding standard which by default is UTF-8.

Default application directories

You can open all default directory paths of the application. These directories (and the files within them) are essential for Videomass to work properly.

- Configuration directory

Normally the configuration directory is placed in the user space intended for application configuration files and hosts the default and user presets subdirectory, a configuration file in JSON format, trash folder and any files such as work notes, queue file, etc.

- A. On MS-Windows it is located in the hidden folder “c:\users\username\AppData\Roaming\videomass\”
- B. On MacOS it is located in the hidden folder “/home/user/Library/Application Support/videomass”
- C. On Linux it is located in the hidden folder “/home/user/.config/videomass”

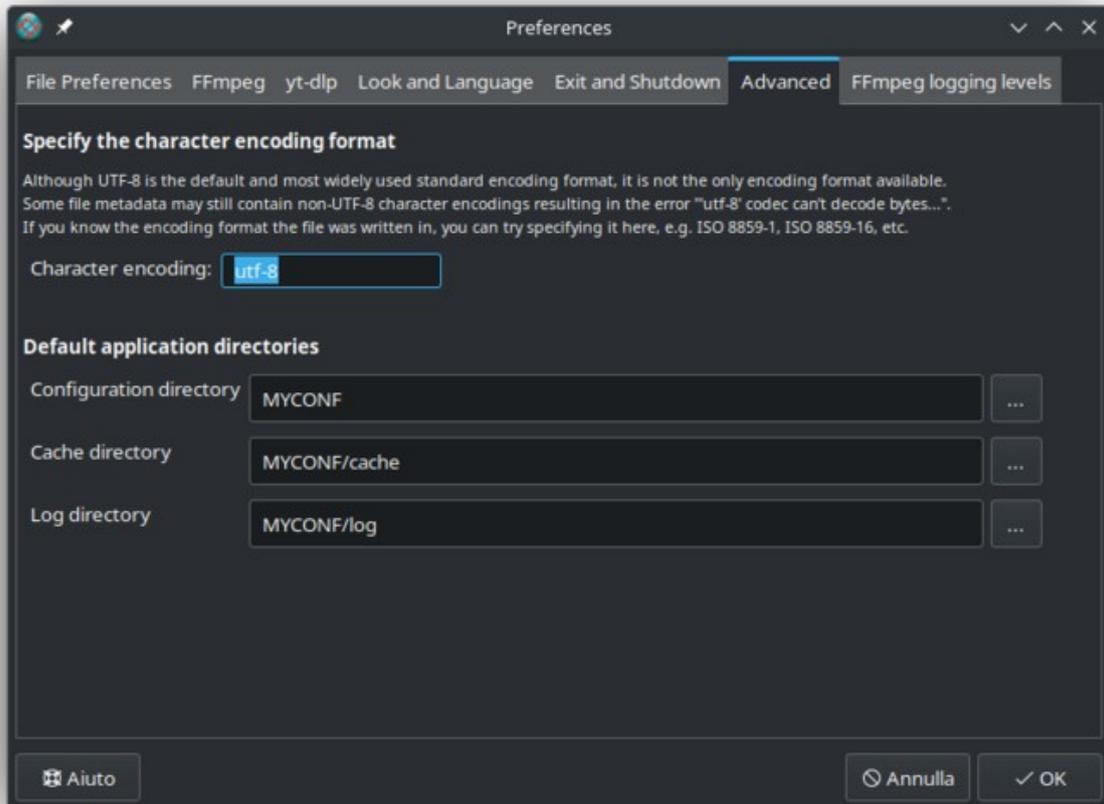
- Cache directory

All those files that are used by the program as temporary files are created and stored in the videomass cache directory.

- Log directory

The log directory contains all the log files written during the sub-processes and are useful for reading to find errors, warnings and all other useful information.

Note that videomass logs are not incremental, they are not subject to huge log lines. Their contents are simply deleted and rewritten with each operation (not necessarily with each new sub-process)



FFmpeg logging levels

This tab is for advanced use of FFmpeg's log level management. By log we mean the text output generated during the sub-processes, which provides information on the output status of the background commands used by Videomass in the various tasks. The effect of changing these levels concerns different behaviors in the generation of the output itself.

It is not recommended to change these levels, as some program functions would not work correctly. The ffmpeg log level on Videomass must be set to "info" in order to obtain information relating to the analysis of sound volume, video stabilization data and EBU loudness data.

