Releasenotes for *ml_ipod 1.40*

Very important to read for people **upgrading from a previous version**!

Buggy timestamps

Older versions (v1.1…v1.32) of ml_ipod had a bug that caused wrong timestamps in the iPod database as well as in the media library. Sometimes timestamps in the far future (e.g. year 2016) were produced. Unfortunately, the "Smart sync ratings" feature depends on correct timestamps.

Therefore, if you have used another version of ml_ipod, your first step after upgrading should be to **fix these corrupt timestamps**. To do that, attach your iPod, then right-click on the iPod entry in the media library and choose

> *iPod Tools -> Fix corrupt timestamps in ML*

This will simply reset any invalid timestamps, in the ML as well as on the iPod. From now on, the SmartSync should work as expected.

New: Video support

This version makes it possible to transfer iPod compatible videos (*.mp4) to the iPod video (5th gen iPod). As I have no 5G iPod, I can not test this, so please report any bugs via the tracker (URL at end).
You must have the Winamp MP4 audio plugin installed for this to work. This plugin is part of the full Winamp installation, no separate download necessary. Simply make sure that "MP4 support" under "Audio file support" (!) is checked during Winamp installation. It is checked by default if you choose the "Full" installation.
Converting other video files into iPod compatible format is **not** supported (and probably will never be). You have to use an external tool for this, e.g. the free http://www.ipod-video-converter.org/ (haven't tried it myself)

New: Podcast support

This version introduces a new kind of podcast support. It works differently than the one in iTunes[®], so be sure you read this if you want to use podcasts with Winamp.
There are some limitations in this approach. It is a first try, nothing more. The obvious limitation is that podcasts do not show up in the "Podcasts" menu on the iPod, sorry.
You have to create a smart playlist to gather all podcasts in one place. The advantage of this approach is the possibility to use the full features of live smart playlists.
I'm using these two smart playlist queries:

1. All podcasts
```
genre = Podcast
```

2. New podcasts (makes sense with LIVE updating only)
```
genre = Podcast AND ! playcount >= 1 AND ! rating >= 1
```

How is it supposed to work, now?

- Download your podcasts to a specific directory hierarchy on your computer. I'm not using the Winamp ShoutcastWire for this, because it is too much focused on streaming. You need a podcatcher that downloads all new episodes to your hard disc. I'm using Juice (http://juicereceiver.sourceforge.net/) for this.
- Set up this download folder as a watch folder in the media library preferences, to make sure that downloaded episodes show up in Winamp automatically.
- Tell ml_ipod about this directory on the config page (*Preferences->iPod support->Speech tab->Top folder for podcasts*)
- Connect your iPod and switch to the iPod page in media library
- Click on *"Sync podcasts"* button.
    - All files in the top folder for podcasts and in any folder below that are automatically tagged with genre "Podcast" now
    - All new podcast episodes are transferred to the iPod then
- After you have listened to an episode on the iPod, the playcount is automatically increased by iPod firmware. (Only if you listen right to the end! That is different to Winamp's behaviour).
- During the next *"Sync podcasts"*, this episode is automatically removed from iPod.
- This removal can be prevented on the options page, uncheck "Remove played podcasts from iPod during podcast sync"

One common problem is solved with a trick: I often have podcasts that I want to skip after some seconds, because the episode is simply not interesting enough. That is not recorded as "played" on the iPod, therefore the file stays on the iPod during sync. Not what I want. I need something to mark this episode as "unwanted". There is only one thing that you can change on the iPod: The rating. So we abuse this setting. Initially all episodes have no rating. Whenever I want to skip one, I set the rating to anything higher than 0. At the next sync, this serves as an "unwanted" marker and the file is removed. If you want to do the same, you **have to enable this** on the options page, check the "Remove podcasts with rating >= 1 from iPod during podcast sync" box.
Why do we not use a specific rating? Setting the rating with the clickwheel is sometimes a bit wobbly, especially on the road. I just wanted to make sure that my "skip marker" is easy to set, so I can use any rating now. That is no problem because I don't use ratings for podcasts in any other way.

Enjoy your podcasts, without the need for iTunes…

New: Sync of Smart Views
If you have checked the "Synchronize all Media Library Playlists" in the "Sync Settings", your ML smart views are tarnsfered into iPod smart playlists now. To simply do this step without a full Sync, there is a new menu entry in the iPod context menu:
"iPod Tools -> Sync all ML smart views to smart playlists"

Bugreports please in the SourceForge Tracker:
http://sourceforge.net/tracker/?group_id=106528&atid=644704

Feature requests please in the SourceForge Tracker:
http://sourceforge.net/tracker/?group_id=106528&atid=644707

Discussion and Support is in the Forum:
http://forums.winamp.com/forumdisplay.php?s=&forumid=69

 - Achim