FLOSS
MANUALS

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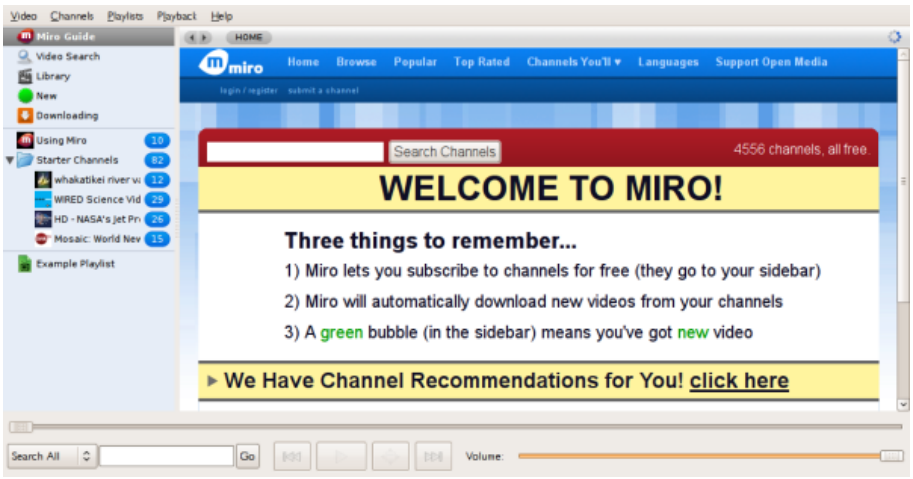
Miro

Miro is a media player which enables you to :

- Subscribe and manage podcasts
- Play video files (Quicktime, WMV, MPEG, AVI, XVID, OGG and more)
- Play audio files
- Choose to download content from a variety of free channels
- Save YouTube videos
- Manage bittorent downloads



Miro works on **MacOSX**, **Linux**, and **Windows**.

Windows Installation

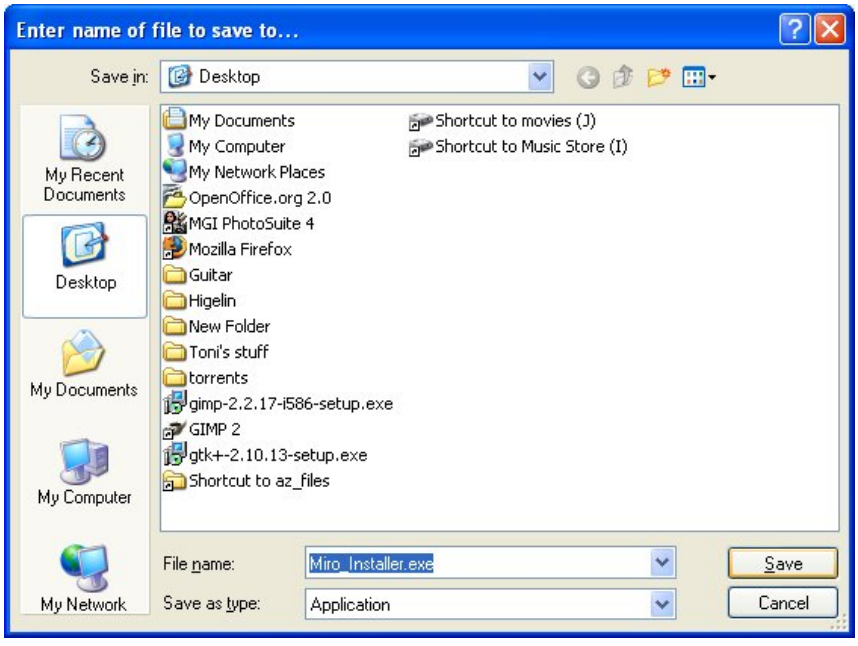
Software name : Miro
Homepage : http://www.getmiro.com/
Software version used for this installation : 0.9.8.1
Operating System use for this installation : Microsoft Windows (XP)
Recommended Hardware : 200 MHz processor (CPU) minimum

Go to the home page for **Miro** (http://www.getmiro.com) and the page should recognise your operating system and offer you to the relevant download option in the green download box.

If this is not the correct version - i.e. if you are using a **Windows** and it suggests a download for **Mac**, you can select the download tab in the top menu.

Otherwise, if it is the right version click on the green box and you will be asked to download Miro :

You will be offered to save the file on your computer (or your browser may be set up to download it automatically to your Desktop or a folder you have chosen). If you are presented with the above window then clicking "Save File" will lead you to a file browser.



Choose a location to download your Miro install file to and press "Save". When the file has been downloaded you must browse to where the file has been downloaded and double-click on it. This will cause an installer window to appear :

As displayed in the above screen you must first choose the language from a list of 15 or so that you want to use for the application menus and messages. Choose your language and press "OK"

The following steps are quite easy, try this :

1. Click "Next" when you see "Welcome to the Miro" Set up page
2. Click "I agree" on the license page if you are happy with the licence. It is a GNU GPL licence.
3. Then you will see a window asking you to Select Components. If you are unsure about this box leave it as it is and click "Next".
4. The next screen is where you choose the install location. Leave this as it is if you have no strong preference and click "Next"
5. Again for Start Menu options - leave this as it is if you have no strong preference and click "Next"

Subscribe to Video Podcasts

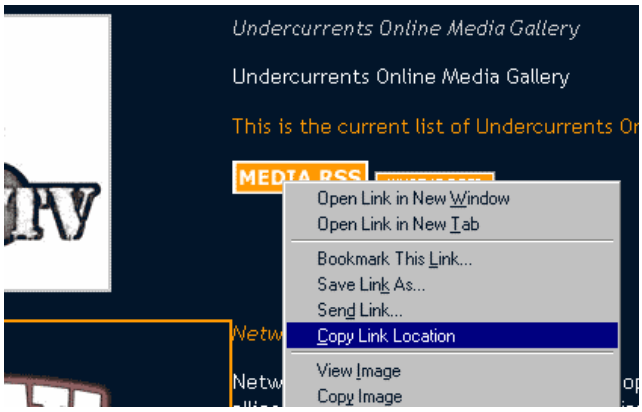
This details how to subscribe to a **Video Channel** from an RSS feed you've got from a video sharing site or video blog.

To do this we first need to use a browser and open a site that has a video podcast available. We then need to find out the web address ('URL') of the video podcast / channel. Technically, this is channel called an **RSS feed**. You find RSS feeds on **Video Blogs** or news sites. They are normally identified by a graphic which links to a text file. Some sites might refer to it as a 'vodcast'.

The image associated with the channel could be anything. There has been an attempt to standardise the icons related to 'RSS feeds' and it has been somewhat succesful. For example if you see an image like this it indicates an RSS Feed:

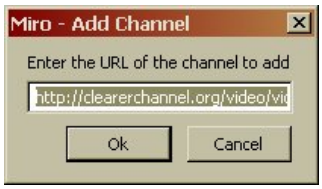
However there are no rules and any link or image might be used.

Once you have found the link we need to **Right Click** (**Ctrl + Click** on Mac) on it and choose 'Copy Link Location' or 'Copy Shortcut'. This will copy the URL into the computer's memory or 'clipboard'.



Now we have the URL of the Channel 'in memory' we can return to Miro and copy this information to Miro. To do this Select **Channels > Add Channel** from the Miro menu as shown below :

When the **Add Channe**l box appears, you may see the URL of the channel already in it.



This is because Miro knows that if there is something in the memory of your computer. When you open this box Miro guesses that what is in memory is probably the URL of a channel. If it doesn't appear then try pressing (**Alt + v**) or (**Apple + v** on a Mac) to 'paste' the address of the channel into the box.

Click ***Ok*** when you have done this.

Miro will then add the channel to the menu on the left :

Miro then will automatically start updating the list of videos available through this channel. This may take some time depending on how much content is available on the new channel and how fast/slow your internet connection is.

Viewing Video from a Channel

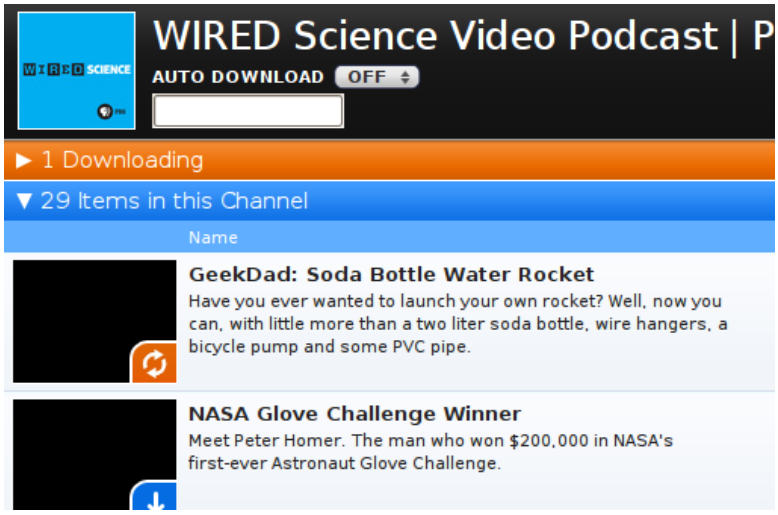
You can watch video from **Miro's** channels directly from within Miro. Lets look at how to view a video from the 'Wired Science Channel' (it is one of the default channels in Miro when you first install it).

If you open Miro you will notice on the left is a list of channels :

You can click on a channel on the left of the screen and the information about that channel will open in the main window. We will choose 'Wired Science' :

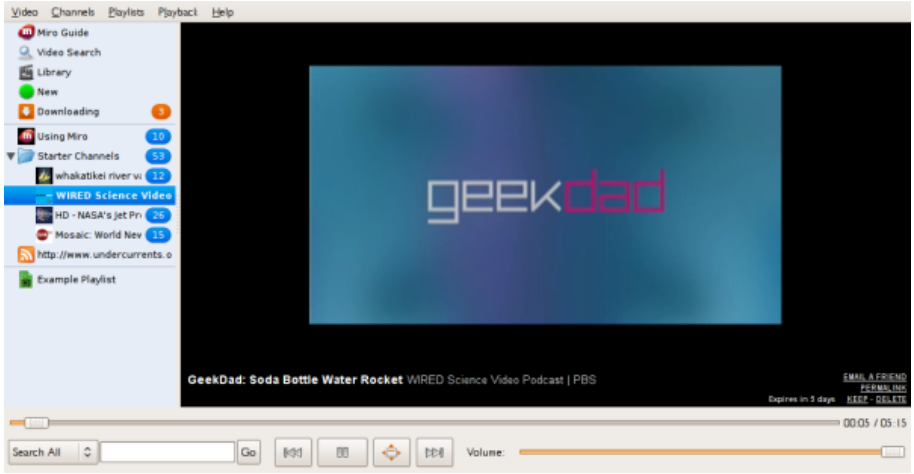
Miro will automatically update the videos available on the channel and display this information on the right. The videos displayed with blue arrows haven't been downloaded yet.

You can click on the image or the film or the screenshot to start downloading and the icons will change :



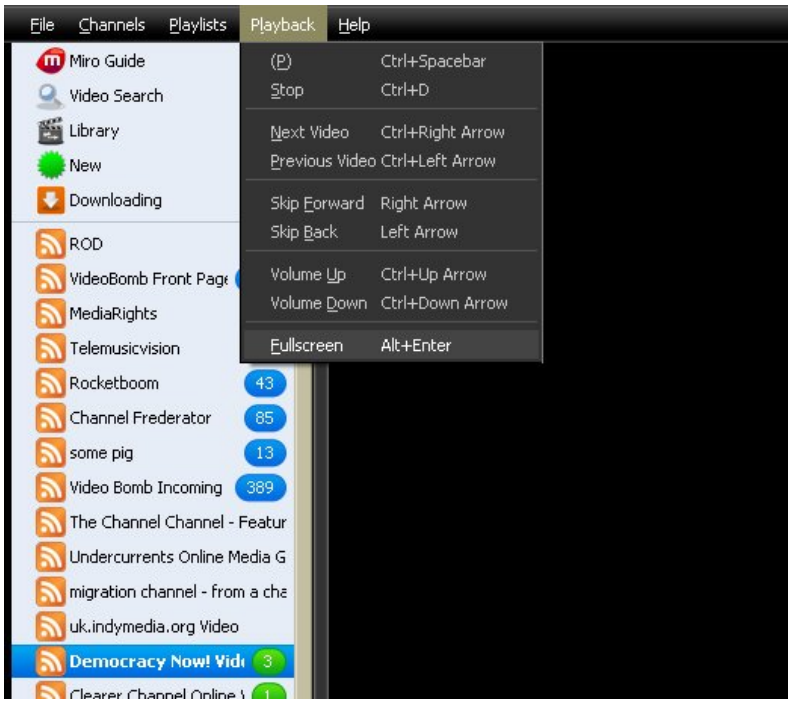
When the film has been downloaded the icon will become green :

You can click on the green icon and it will start to play in the window :

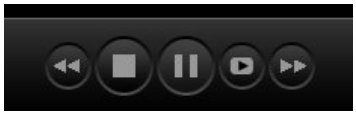


Playing video full screen

You may wish to view a video full screen. If so you can either select **Playback > Fullscreen** from the main menu. Or you can press **Alt + Enter** on the keyboard.



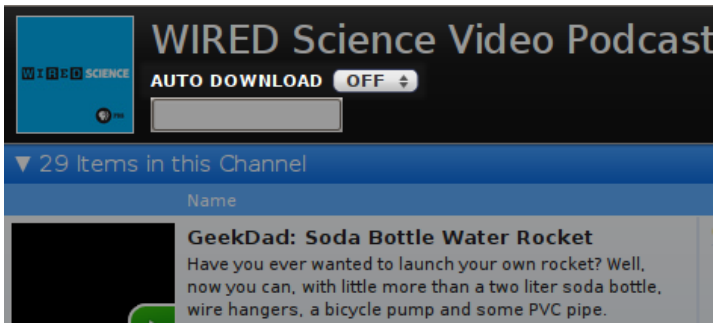
Or you can click on the Button to the right of the Play / Pause button.



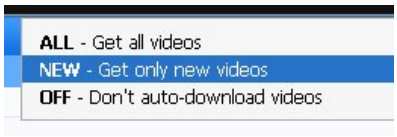
To exit Fullscreen you can press **Alt + Enter** or the **escape** key on your keyboard.

Automatic Downloads

If you decide you like a channel in **Miro** you can set up Miro to automatically download any new videos that gets published on that channel.In the below image you can see tha the **AUTO DOWNLOAD** is turned off :



If you click on the button ('OFF') you get three choices :



Choosing '**ALL**' will download all the videos in a channel.

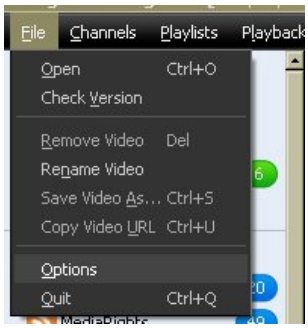
Choosing '**New**' will get new videos published when ever you start Miro or when you ask Miro to check for new videos.

Choosing '**OFF** lets you decide which videos you want to do download.

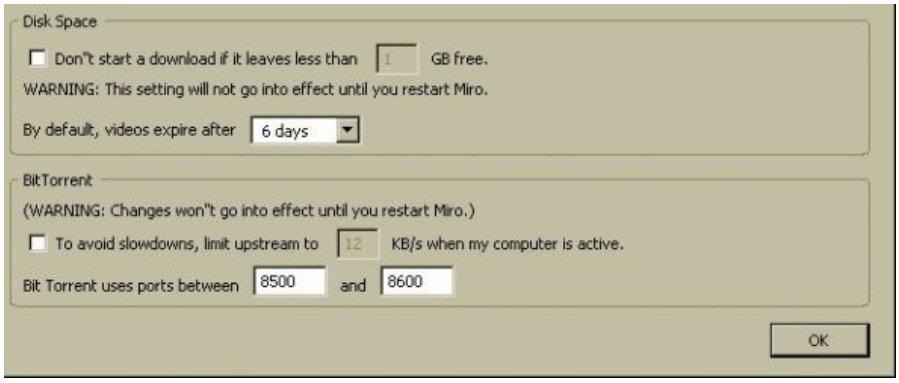
Keeping Files

Miro will delete downloaded video files automatically. To keep your video(s) you must specifically tell Miro not to delete them by clicking on the 'KEEP' button after you have watched the video.

To set how long you want to leave videos before they get deleted, select **File > Options**.



You will see the options about this listed in the window under 'Disk Space'.

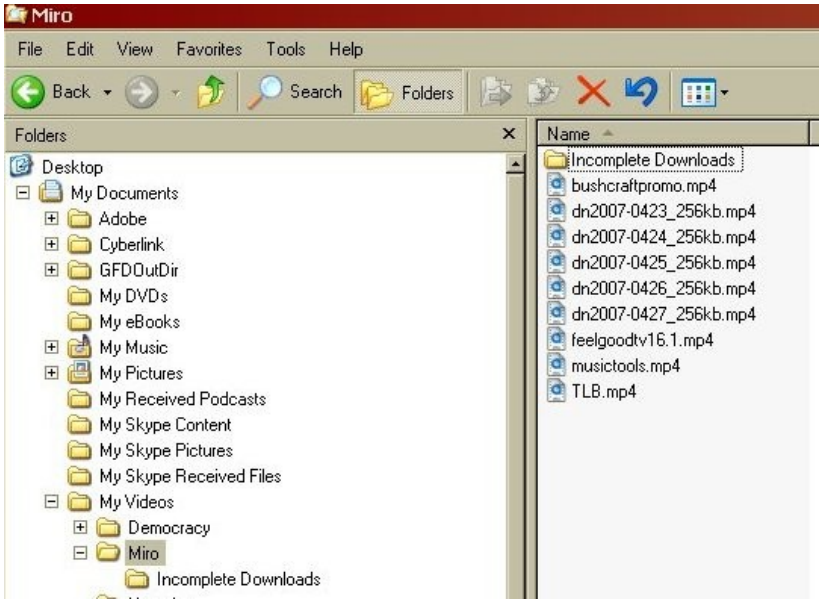


Finding Files

If you want to use one of the files you downloaded to put onto **CD**, **iPod** or turn into a **DVD**, you need to know where **Miro** stores the files it downloads.

Windows

On **Microsoft Windows** Miro stores videos inside the 'My Videos' folder. To access them open **Windows Explorer** and browse to 'C:\My Documents\My Videos\Miro'

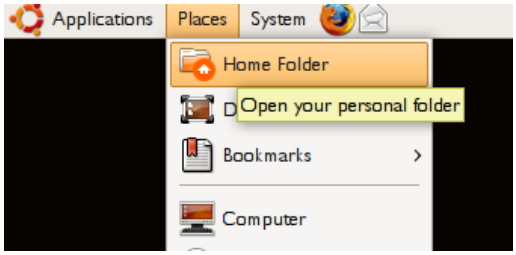


Ubuntu

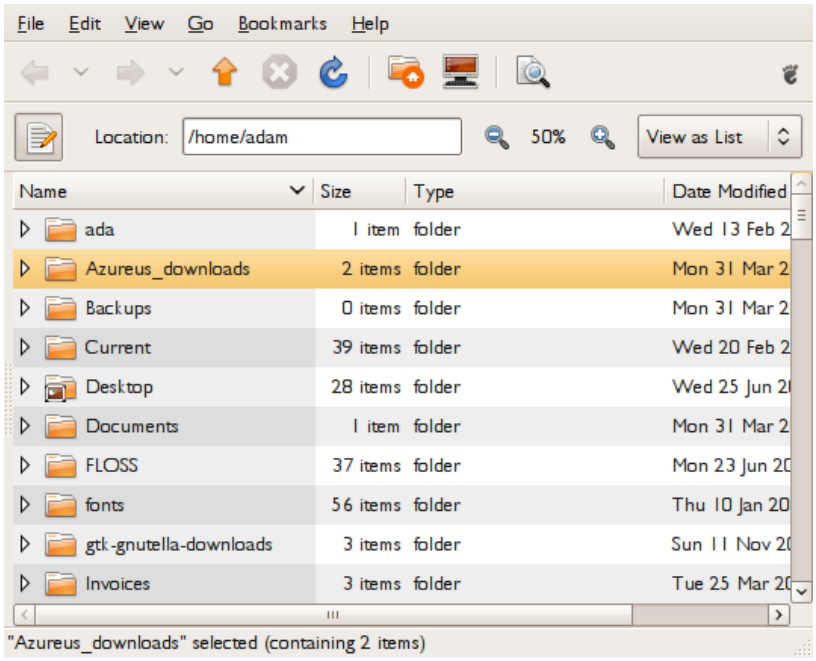
It is a little tricker to find the files under **Ubuntu**. The files are stored in your 'home folder' in a directory called '.miro'

Sound easy? Well...maybe except that Ubuntu does not you see directories that start with a point ('.') unless you first enable this. Ubuntu works like this because it stores a lot of configuration files for softwares in this kind of directory and it thinks you probably don't want to see hundreds and hundreds of folders like this everytime you look at your home directory.

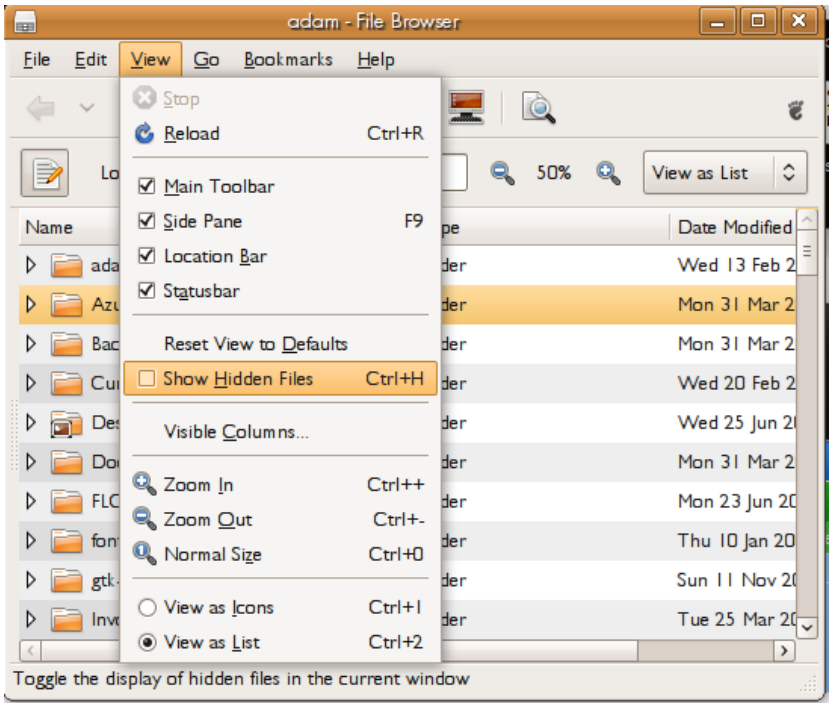
So how do you then find the Miro files. Ok...first click on 'Places' from the top menu bar of your Desktop and choose 'Home Folder' :



This will pop open a file browser :

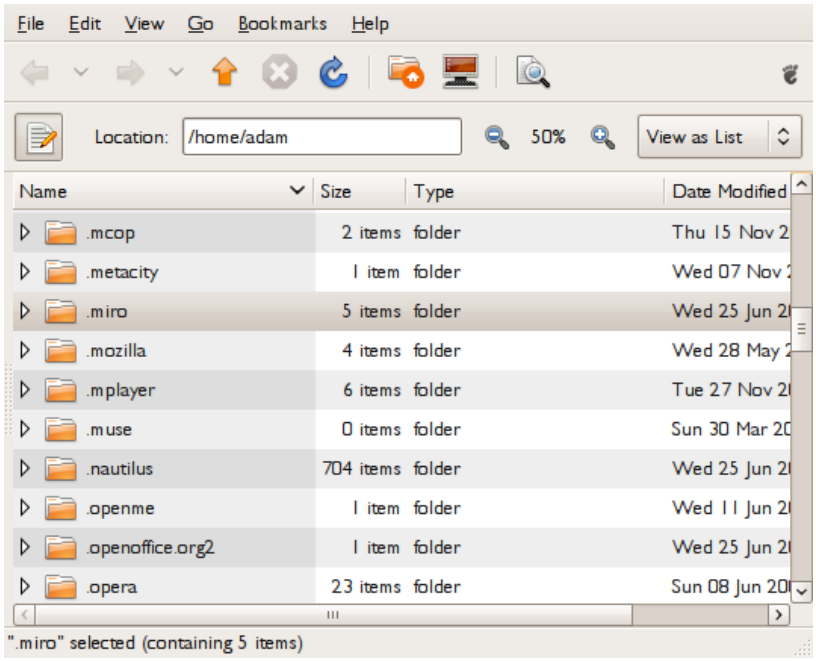


Now click on 'View' and choose 'Show Hidden Files' :

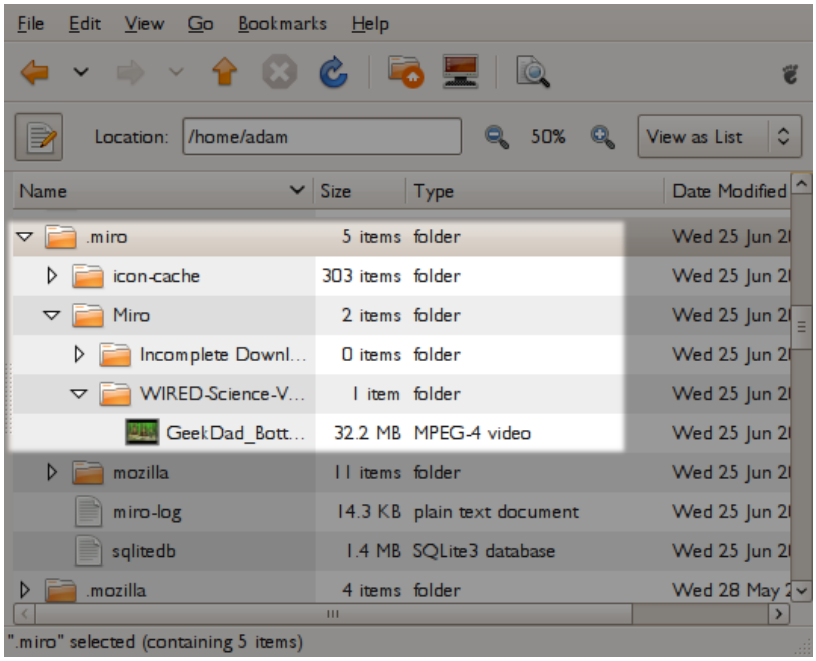


When this is selected you will then see all these files and folders starting with a '.'

There will be a lot of them. So scroll down until you find the '.miro' folder :



You can then click on the arrow next to the folder and see the contents :



All video files are stored under the name of the respective channels.

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