

InfraRecorder—A Review

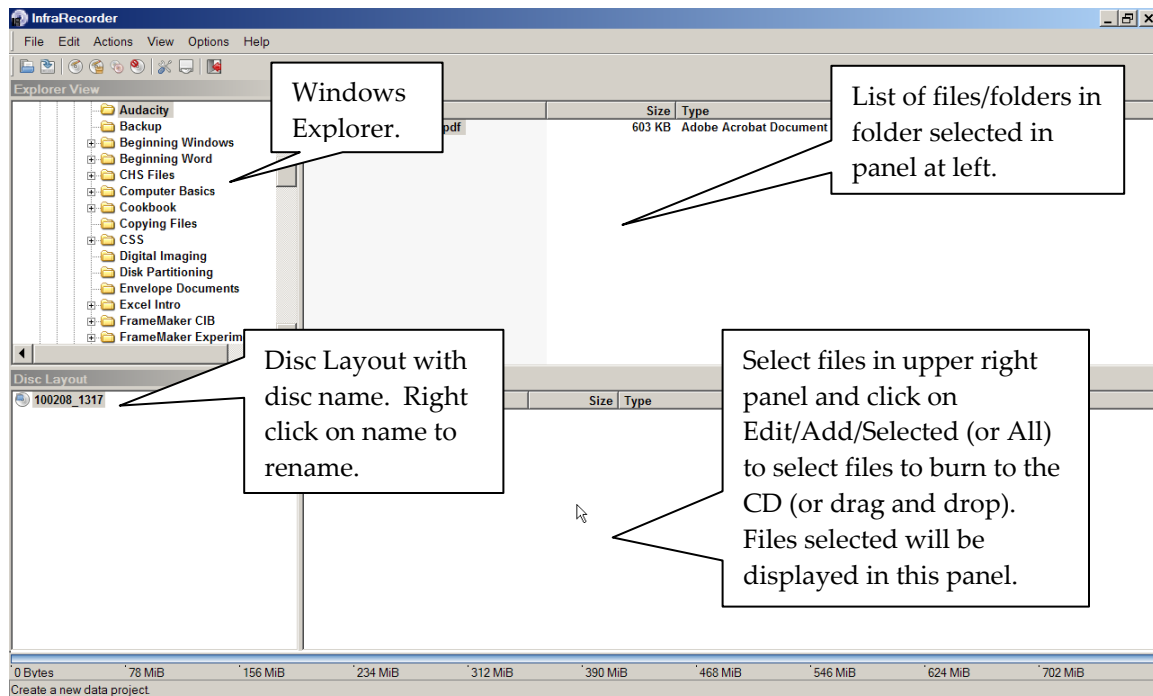
by Mike Morris, Front Range PC Users Group, <http://www.frpcug.org>

InfraRecorder is an open source (free) CD burning application. This application is easy to install and easy to use. When you open the program, you are provided with 6 choices:

1. Data Disc
2. Audio Disc
3. Video Disc
4. Write Image
5. Copy Disc
6. Read Disc

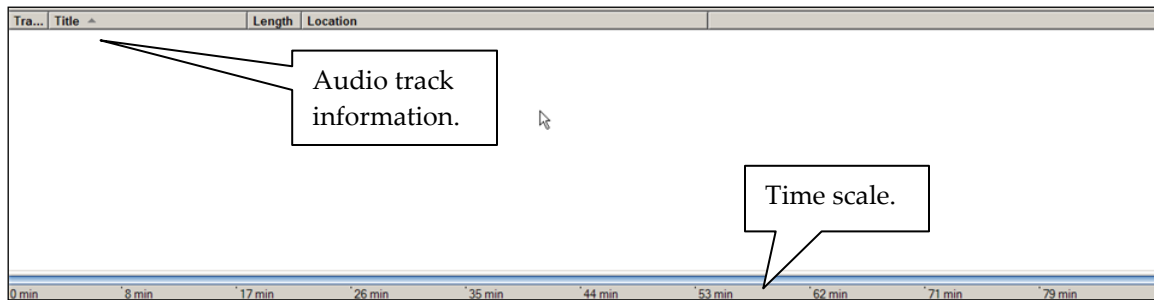
I tested the Data Disc and Audio Disc features on a Dell Inspiron 6000 with a 1.5 GHz Pentium M processor, 2 GB of RAM and Windows XP/Pro SP3. I also successfully tested the Data Disc feature on a Windows 7 computer.

This program is, indeed, very easy to use. When you select the type of operation (such as Data Disc), you see a window with up to 4 panels:



You select the files to burn to the CD in the upper right panel. You can use the menu bar or you can drag and drop the selected files to the lower right panel

When you select Audio Disc, the top 2 panels are identical. The lower panel looks like this:



You select audio tracks to burn to the CD using the same procedure used for a data CD.

On the InfraRecorder web site is this information:

“Note: The InfraRecorder installation package does not include the plug-in needed to encode MP3-files due to patent license restrictions.”

That does **not** mean that you cannot burn an **existing** MP3 file to a CD using InfraRecorder. You have two choices:

1. Burn an MP3 track to a CD using the Audio Disc feature. InfraRecorder decodes the MP3 format and burns the file in the Audio CD (.cda) format.
2. Burn an MP3 track to a CD using the Data Disc feature. The MP3 format is preserved.

So if your interest is in **creating** only MP3 files (from other formats), this is not the program for you.

Another nice feature of this program is that you can choose to burn multiple copies of a CD (a feature normally offered only by commercial software).

When you are ready, just click on the toolbar item called “Burn the current compilation . . . ” or click on Actions/Burn Compilation/to a Compact Disc. Choose your desired options in the window that is displayed and then click on OK.

That is all there is to it. The “burning” process is fast and complete.

I **do** have 2 minor criticisms:

1. If you click on the wrong choice (e.g., Data Disc instead of Audio Disk) when you open the program, there is no Cancel button. However, you can click on File/New project.

2. Under Options/Configuration/Advanced are two choices that are selected by default. The text of those 2 choices is duplicated exactly here:

- a. "Enable program log (not recommended for regular use)"
- b. "Enable smoke effect (requires Windows Vista Aero)"

If item 2a is "not recommended for regular use," then it shouldn't be a default selection. I not sure why item 2b is a default selection (I have no idea what the "smoke effect" is), and I disabled it before trying any operation, so I do not know what, if any, effect it has on Windows XP users. I think it should not be a default, and should be explained in the Help file.

The program is reasonably intuitive to use. There is a limited help file included with the program. Additional tech support is available from the forums (<http://forums.infrarecorder.org/>), but they are not very active.

Still, the positives far exceed the negatives of this program. I have described only a small selection of the features provided by this program.

I recommend this program, even if you already have CD burning software on your computer.

For more information on, and to download the program, connect to <http://infrarecorder.org/>.