



CasaToolsTM
smart solutions for smart homes

CasaTunes Support for Apple iTunes and Apple iPod

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CasaTunes

Multi-Room Music Server

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Introduction

The popularity of Apple iTunes has made it the de facto music service for many homeowners. Integrating support for Apple iTunes is one of the many challenges facing multi-room audio vendors. The majorities of today's solutions indirectly support Apple iTunes by supporting iPod devices, and typically require the purchase of a proprietary iPod docking port. These solutions are limited to a single stream of music played from a docked iPod, and often provide a slow and rudimentary interface for selecting music from these devices.

CasaTunes offers a unique approach to this problem, providing first class support for both Apple iPod devices and Apple iTunes. CasaTunes allows you to listen to multiple streams of Apple iTunes and Apple iPod music.

The advanced capabilities of CasaTunesSync™ for iTunes enables you to consolidate all your iTunes Plus music residing on one or more Microsoft Windows networked PC's in the home with your CasaTunes music server. Since each family member typically manages their own iTunes music collection stored on their own laptop or desktop, CasaTunesSync for iTunes provides a solution for each family member to synchronize their music collection with the CasaTunes music server.

Once synchronized, these Apple iTunes Plus music collections can be played back throughout the home. CasaTunesSync for iTunes can be configured to either copy each iTunes music collection on to the CasaTunes music server, or to access the music collection using a Windows network share. There are, however, two significant benefits of copying music collections to the CasaTunes music server. First, it allows your Apple iTunes Plus music collection to be played regardless of whether the PC that contains the copied iTunes music is powered on and networked, and secondly, it provides a simple way to backup your Apple iTunes Plus music collection.

When selecting music to listen to from your Apple iTunes Plus music collections, you can configure CasaTunes to consolidate all your Apple iTunes music into a single iTunes library, or create multiple iTunes library, one for each user.

Rather than using CasaTunesSync for iTunes, you can choose to play back music directly from an Apple iPod or Apple iPod-like device, such as an iPod touch or iPhone device. With CasaTunes it is not necessary to purchase any additional proprietary docking stations or additional software. Simply plug the iPod or iPod like device into a USB port on the CasaTunes music server PC using the supplied USB to iPod cable that came with the device, and CasaTunes will automatically detect and allow music to be played from these devices.

Once docked, CasaTunes will display your iPod album cover art if available, and provide the capability to play multiple streams from a single iPod or iPod-like device, turning your iPod device into a powerful music server.

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The remainder of this document will describe the details behind CasaTunes' support for Apple iTunes and how best to setup your CasaTunes music server and client machines, so you can enjoy listening to your favorite Apple iTunes Plus music collections.

Playback of Apple iTunes Plus Music

CasaTunes includes native (software) decoders for playing back non-protected MP3 and M4A (Apple iTunes Plus) music files. This provides an out-of-the-box experience for playing your Apple iTunes Plus and Apple iPod music, without the need to install any additional software.

Apple iPod and iPhone Support

In order for CasaTunes to recognize your Apple iPod or iPhone device you will need to install the Apple iTunes software on your CasaTunes music server PC. Apple iTunes is not required for regular Apple iPods. In addition, your iPod or iPod-like device does not have to be configured to be synchronized with this machine. So, if a friend comes over and wants to play music from their iPod, simply plug it in!

① CasaTunes currently plays back music from a single docked iPod or iPod-like device at a time.

CasaTunesSync

There are two parts to CasaTunesSync that must be configured. The first is the server or CasaTunes music server configuration (where the CasaTunes application runs), and the second is the client laptop or desktop where you are synchronizing the music from. This could also include the CasaTunes music server, if you want to play music from the Apple iTunes music collection that resides on the CasaTunes music server PC.

CasaTunes music server configuration (server configuration)

1. Run CasaTunes Setup.
2. Select the iTunes tab, as follows:

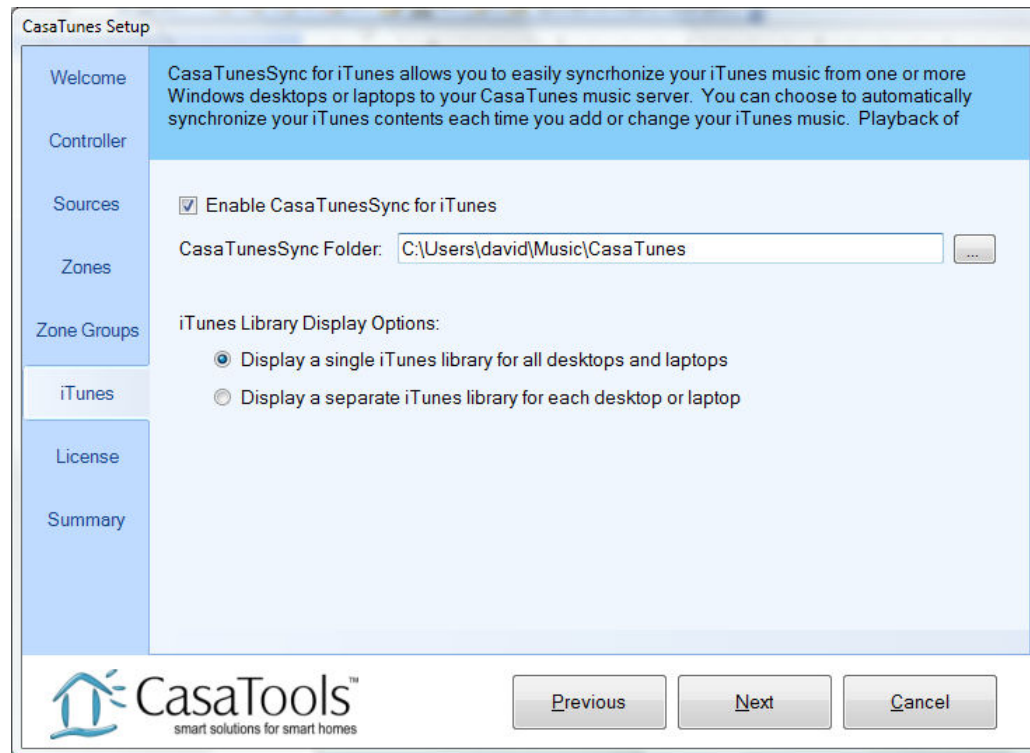


Figure 1 - CasaTunes Setup - iTunes Tab

3. Click on *Enable CasaTunesSync for iTunes* to enable CasaTunesSync
4. Select the directory or folder where you want CasaTunesSync to maintain its files on your CasaTunes music server. By default, this folder is located in the *CasaTunes* folder in the *Music* (My Music) folder. This folder is used to maintain the synchronization files, album cover art, and if you decide to copy music files during the client configuration, all the music files. If you are planning to configure clients to copy music, you must make sure this location has sufficient space for all the music files that will be copied.
5. In the *iTunes Library Display Options* select whether you want to display a single iTunes library in the CasaTunes User Interface, or whether you want to display a separate iTunes library for each client.

① CasaTunes will create a network share for the *CasaTunesSync Folder*. The name of the share it creates is *CasaMusic*. When this share is created it assigns permissions for the current user only. You may need to add other permissions for other users to access this share. If CasaTunesSync fails with an access denied failure, this is the most common cause.

① The CasaTunesSync folder must reside on the CasaTunes music server machine for it to be shared.

① When copying files, the synchronization software is smart about copying a single instance of the same music file that may exist in multiple iTunes music collections.

This completes the CasaTunesSync music server configuration. The next step is to configure each CasaTunesSync client. In order to install the client, you will need to know the name of your CasaTunes music server PC. To find the name of a PC, right-click on the *Computer* icon and select *Properties*. Click on the *Computer Name* tab. The computer name is the first part of the *Full Computer Name* (before the '.' if present).

Installing and Configuring the CasaTunesSync for iTunes client software

You install the CasaTunesSync client software from the web.

1. To install the client open your favorite browser and enter the following URL:

<http://www.CasaTunes.com/SyncInstall.aspx>

① This software is currently only available for Windows.

2. Click on *Install CasaTunesSync* to begin the installation. CasaTunesSync for Apple iTunes is a *published* application. This means that every time you start the CasaTunesSync application it automatically checks to see whether a new version of the application is available. If a new version is available you will be prompted whether you would like to update the application. If you select to update the application, the application is automatically updated before running it.
3. To uninstall CasaTunesSync open the control panel and select Add/Remove Programs. Locate the CasaTunesSync for iTunes application, click it, and select remove.
4. After installing the application, CasaTunesSync (for Apple iTunes) is automatically started. When CasaTunesSync runs, it will automatically start iTunes (if iTunes is not already running), and automatically minimize iTunes once it has started. When iTunes starts, it occasionally displays a dialog, for example asking whether you would like to update the iTunes software. When iTunes

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displays a dialog, all applications that interface with iTunes, like CasaTunesSync, will be temporarily suspended, so you must respond to these dialogs before CasaTunesSync can start the synchronization process.

5. If this is the first time you have run CasaTunesSync, it should display the *Settings* tab as follows (if not, click on the *Settings* tab):

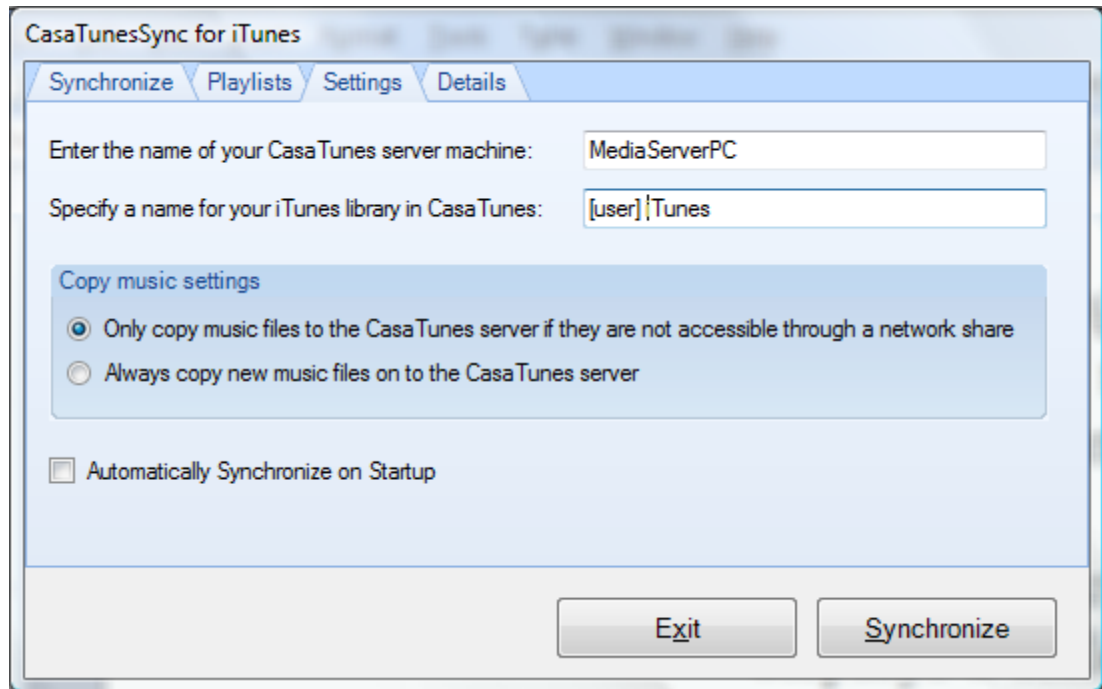


Figure 2 - CasaTunesSync Settings Tab

6. Enter the following information in the *Settings* tab.
 - a. Enter the name of the CasaTunes music server PC (where CasaTunes is installed). Do **not** include "\\" in the name.
 - b. Specify the name you want displayed in the CasaTunes User Interface when selecting from this iTunes library.
 - c. Select whether you want to copy your iTunes music files or access the music files using a share. If your iTunes music files are located on the CasaTunes music server PC, the files will not be copied again (regardless of your selection here). In order to access music files using a network share, the music files must have been added to your iTunes library using this network share. We recommend either you copy your iTunes music collection, or your iTunes music files reside on the CasaTunes music server. This ensures your iTunes music is always available, as well as providing a backup copy of your music files.

① When copying music files, the first time you run the Synchronization process, it will take a long time. After the first synchronization has completed, subsequent synchronizations should be quick, depending on the amount of new music that has been added to the library since the last synchronization. If you are synchronizing multiple iTunes music collections, and the music collections contain many of the same music files, the same music file will be copied once only.

Synchronizing your Apple iTunes music collection

To synchronize your iTunes music collection:

1. Click on the *Synchronize* tab and click on the *Synchronize* button. The synchronization begins a three step process:
 1. Synchronizes the current Apple iTunes music collection against the previous synchronized library (if available). This is usually a quick process.
 2. If configured to copy music files, CasaTunesSync will copy any new music files to the CasaTunes music server. The amount of time this step takes is directly proportional to the number of music files to be synchronized.
 3. Synchronizes all album cover art. This is usually a quick process.

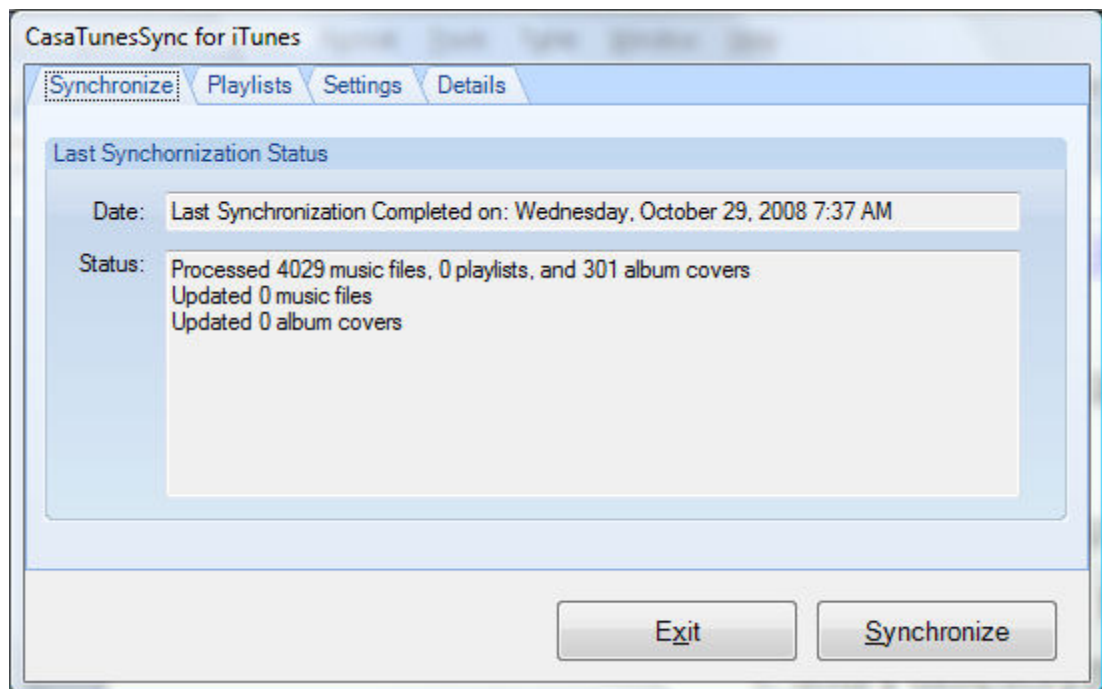


Figure 3 - Synchronize Apple iTunes music