



CDMM Tutorial

JDownloader 2 Installation and Basic Use

Tutorial by
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CDMM, 2025

CDMM

Centre for Digital Methods and Media
<https://cc.au.dk/cdmm/>

This tutorial will show you

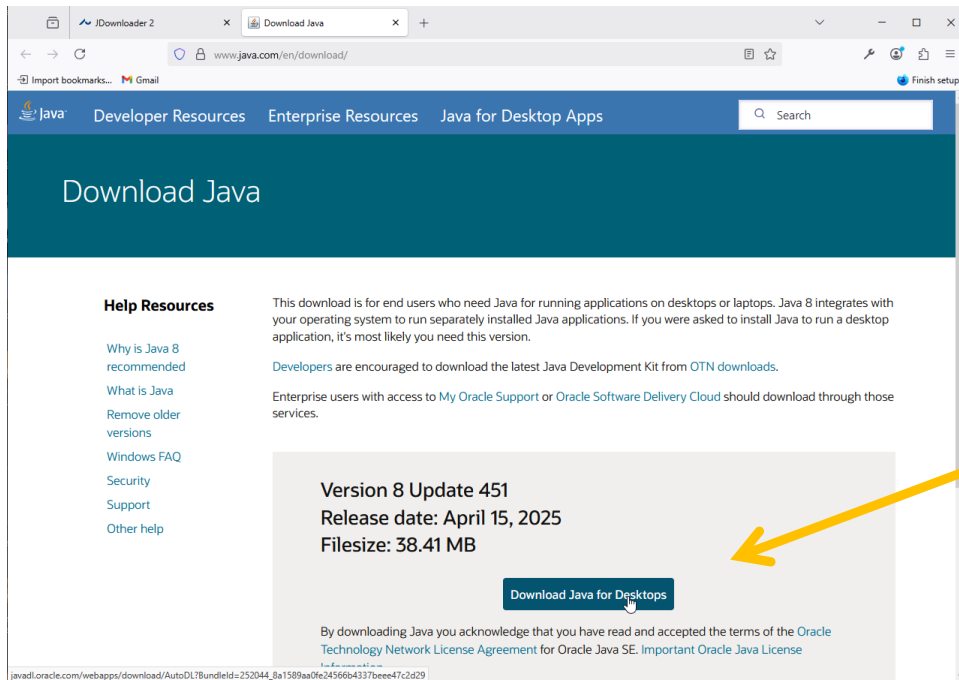
- how to install Java and JDownloader 2,
- a basic introduction to the interface,
- how to use JDownloader 2 for downloading videos from YouTube

The tutorial can also be downloaded as PDF.

JDownloader 2 is based on Java programming and needs the Java runtime environment. Unless you know that you already have the latest version of Java on your computer, start by going to:

<https://www.java.com/en/download/>

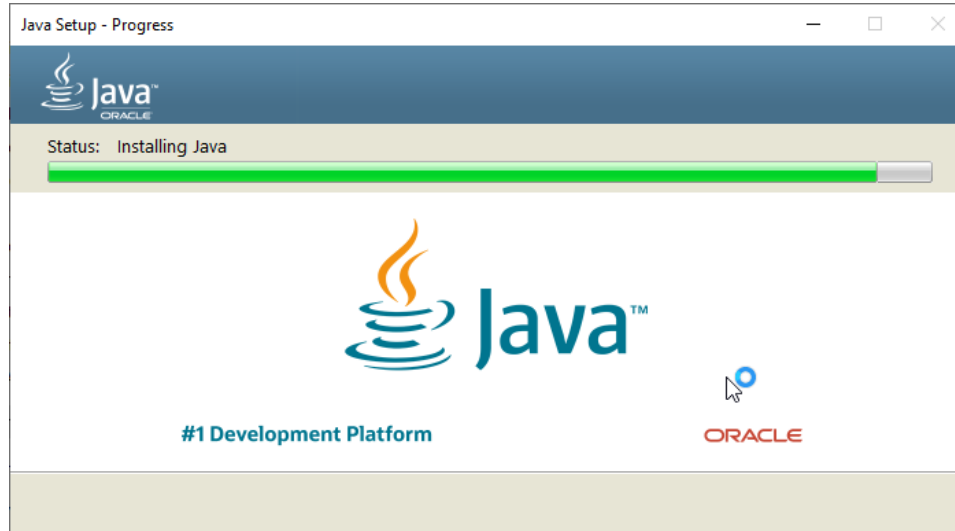
Installing Java



Download and run the Java installation file.

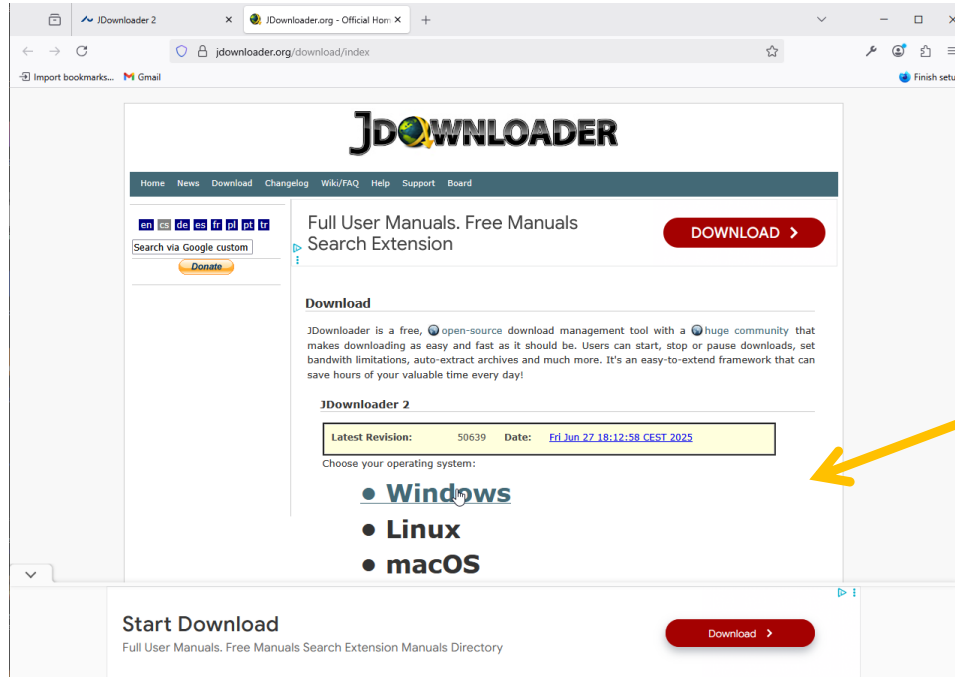
Installing Java

When the installation finishes you have a fully updated version of Java ready on you computer.



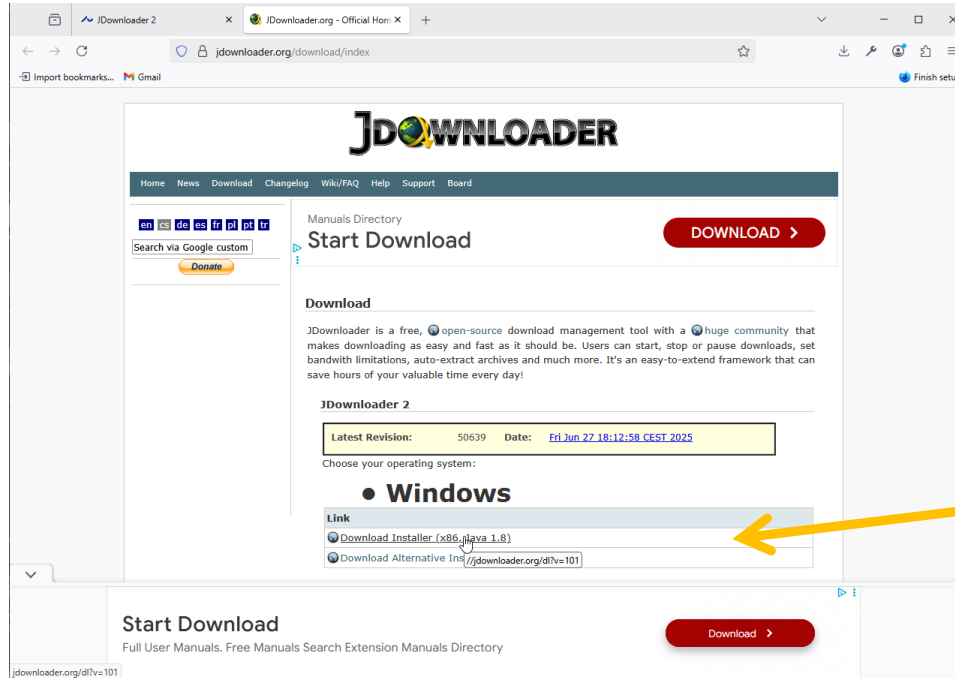
Installing JDownloader 2

Go to: <https://jdownloader.org/download/index>



**Select the OS
that you need to
install to.**

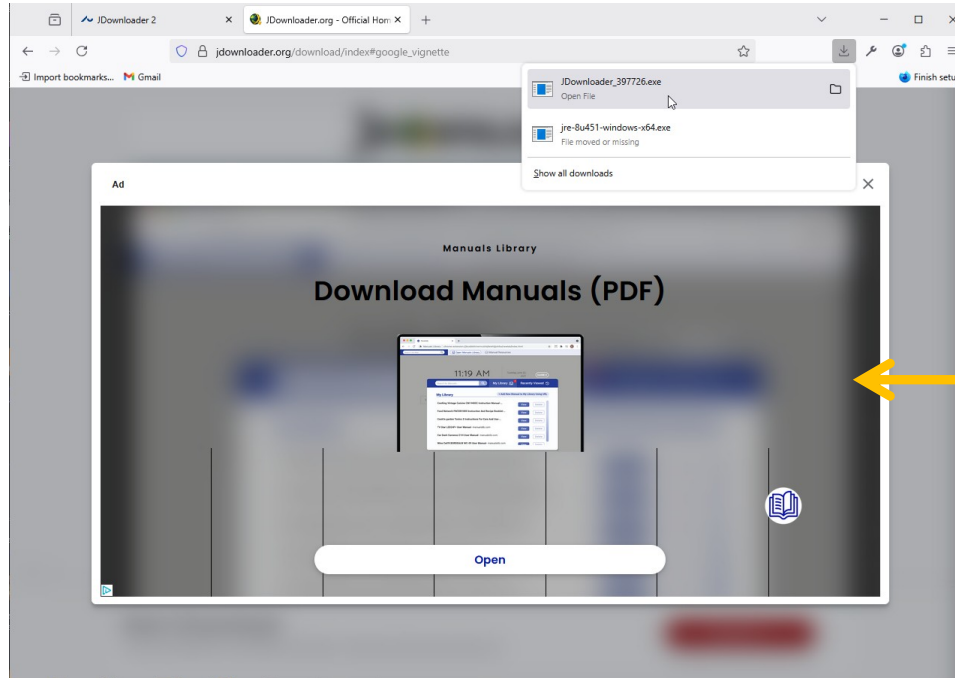
Installing JDownloader 2



This tutorial shows a Windows installation. The process may differ slightly on other systems

Klik on the link for the installer and the download will start

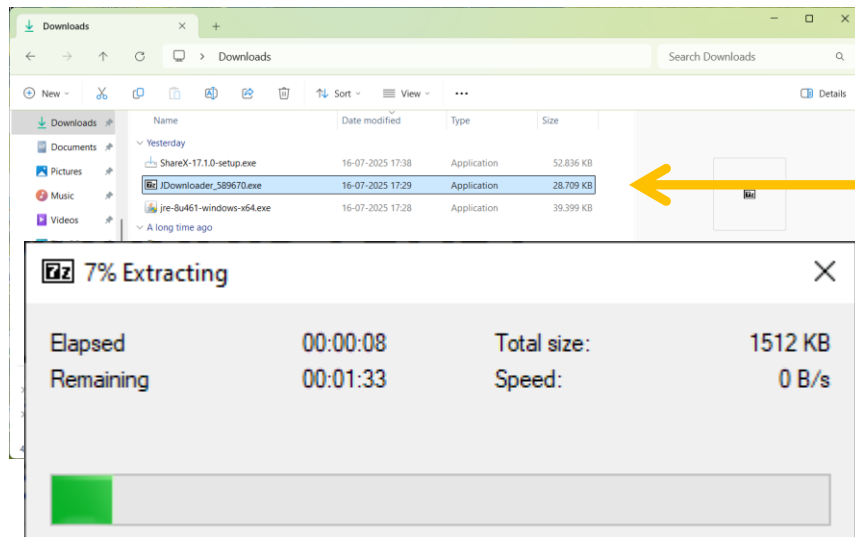
Installing JDownloader 2



Depending on your browser and setup you may get ad pop-ups at this point. They have nothing to do with your installation and it is recommended to ignore them.

Installing JDownloader 2

Open the download location and run the installer. The file for Windows is a compressed file which will now extract.

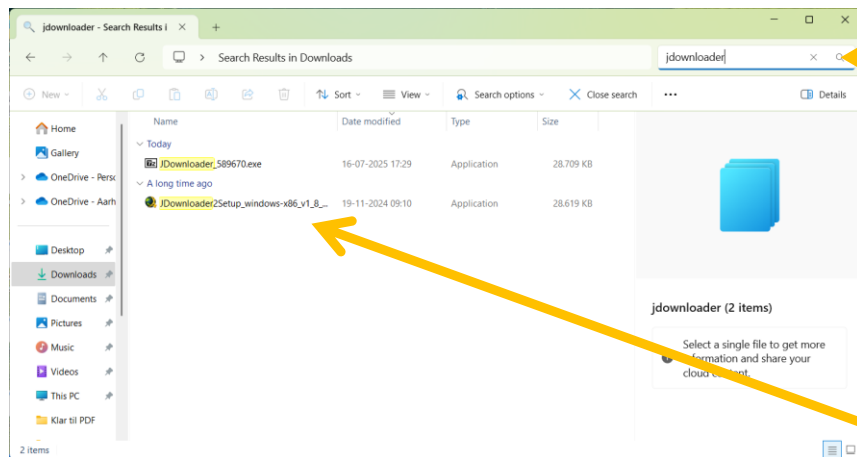


**This is the
downloaded file
for Windows**

**Running it starts
an extraction**

Installing JDownloader 2

The extracted file is the actual installer that you now need to run, recognisable by name and icon.

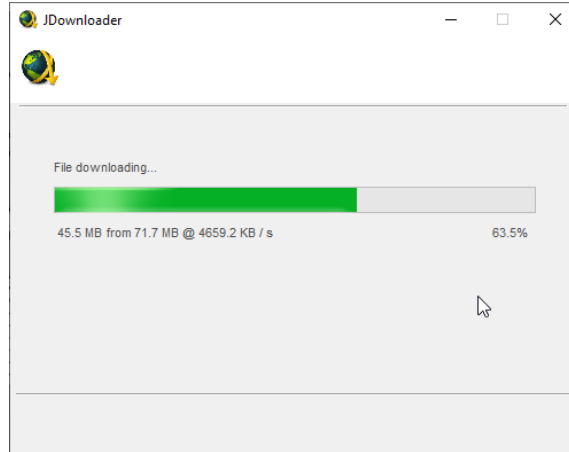


The timestamp for the installer may place it as an older file. If not immediately visible, search for Jdownloader

Run this extracted file

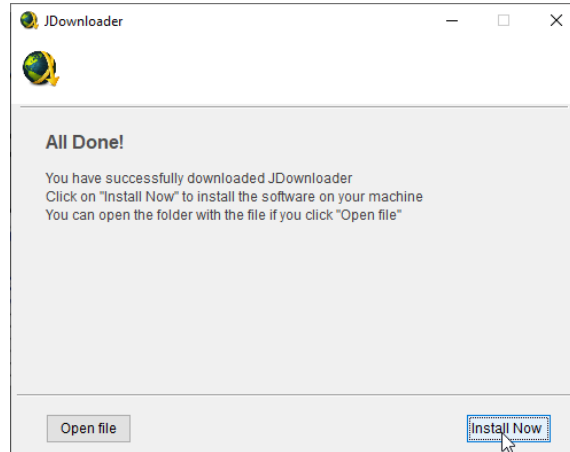
Installing JDownloader 2

When running, the installer fetches the program files

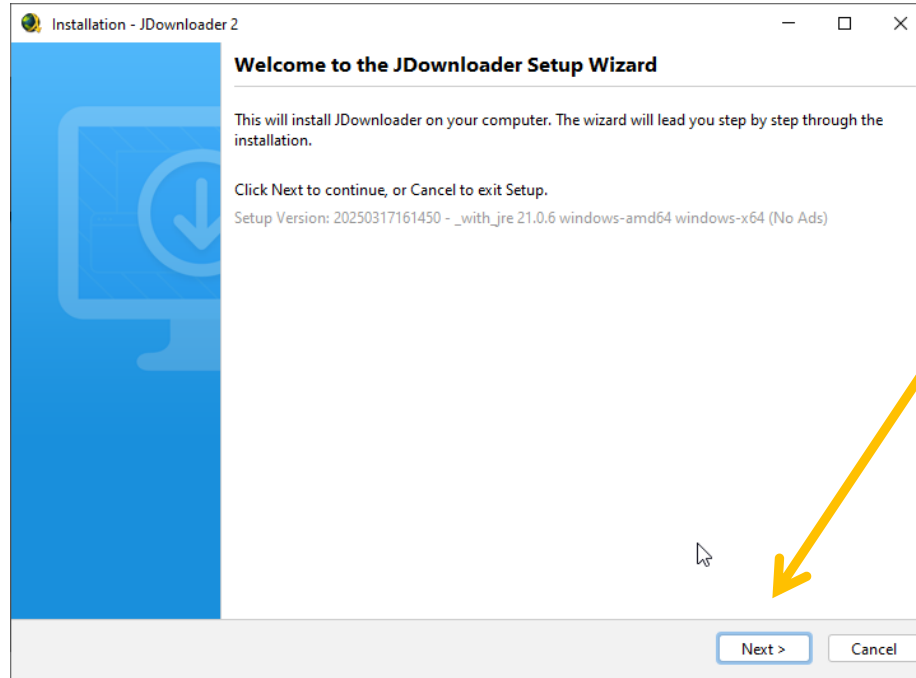


Installing JDownloader 2

When all is ready the installation can be started



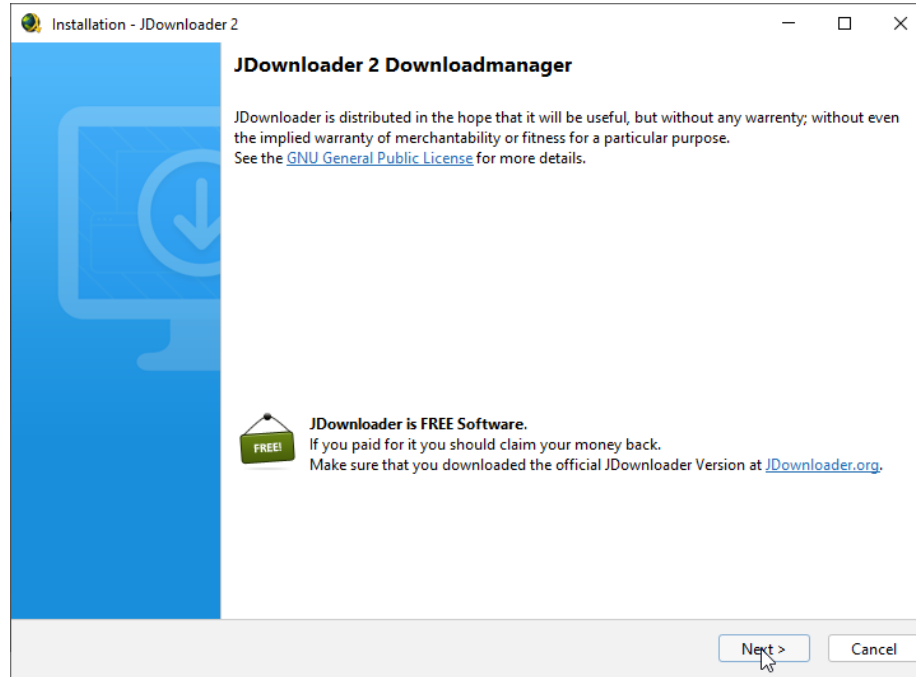
Installing JDownloader 2



The installation wizard starts

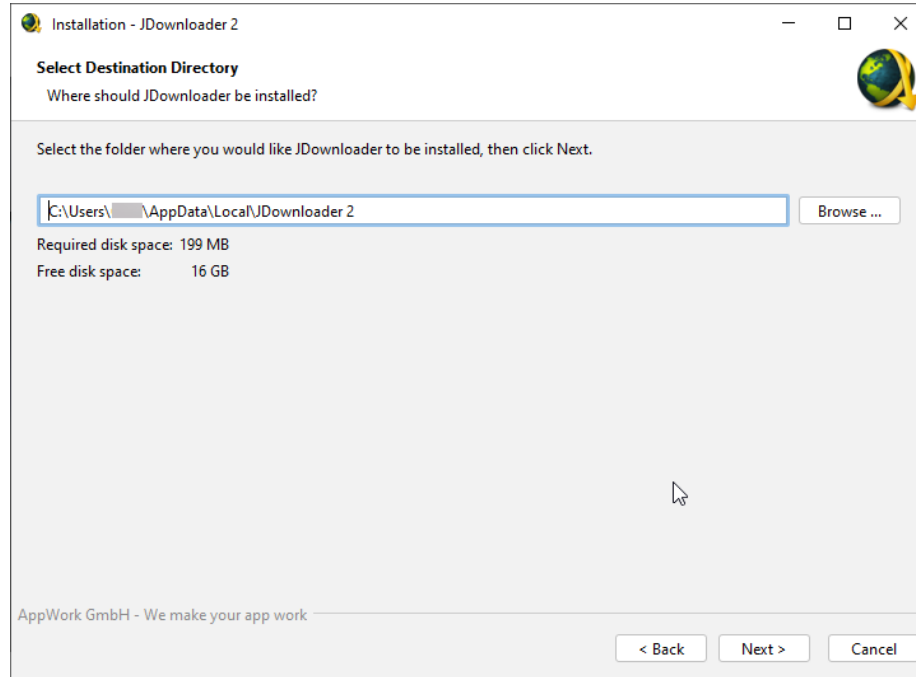
Click on "Next"

Installing JDownloader 2



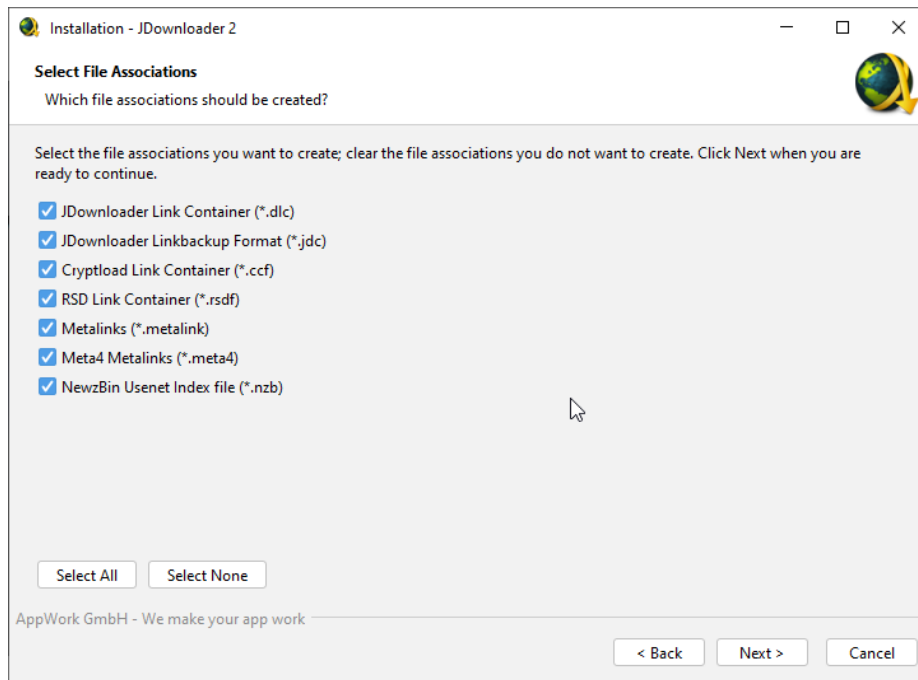
**You will get this
information
window**

Installing JDownloader 2



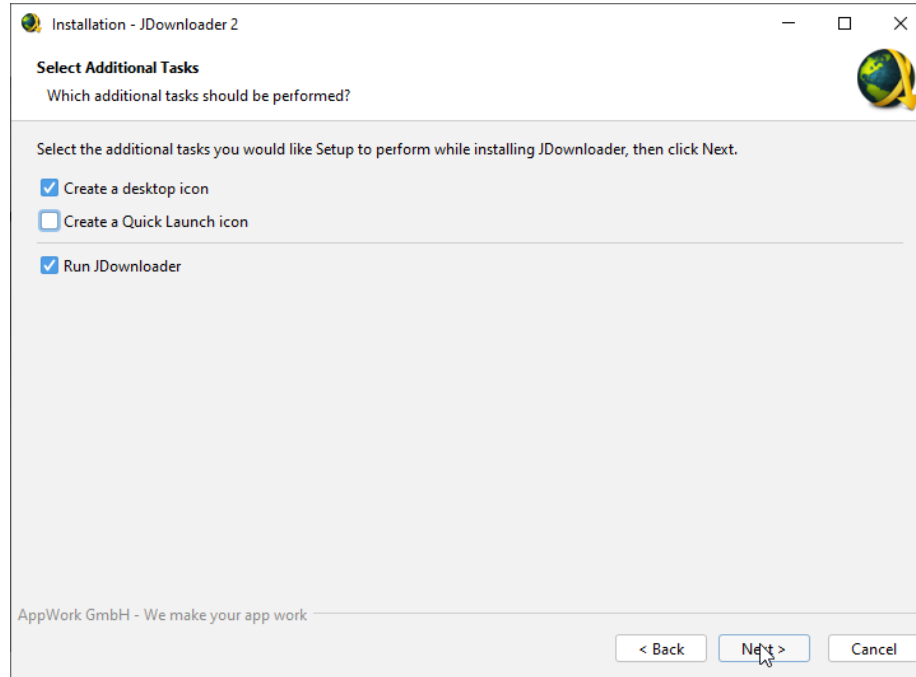
The installation directory is a default which can be changed

Installing JDownloader 2



File associations are for various download technologies. No change is needed unless you are specifically using a file type in another program.

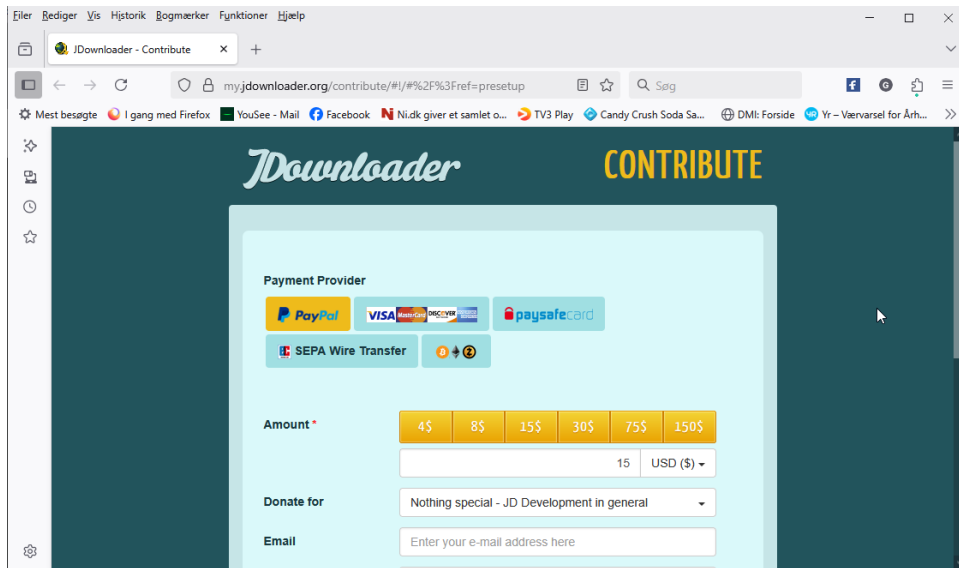
Installing JDownloader 2



**Select or deselect
ways of starting
the application**

**Press "Next"
when ready**

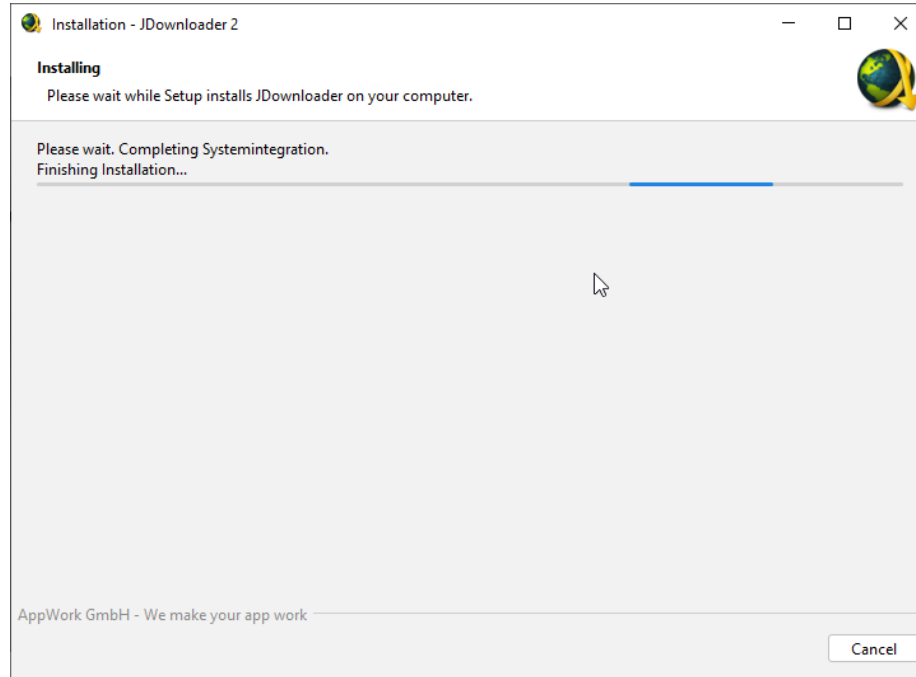
Installing JDownloader 2



When the installation starts, a browser window for donations will open

Do as you feel and close the window

Installing JDownloader 2



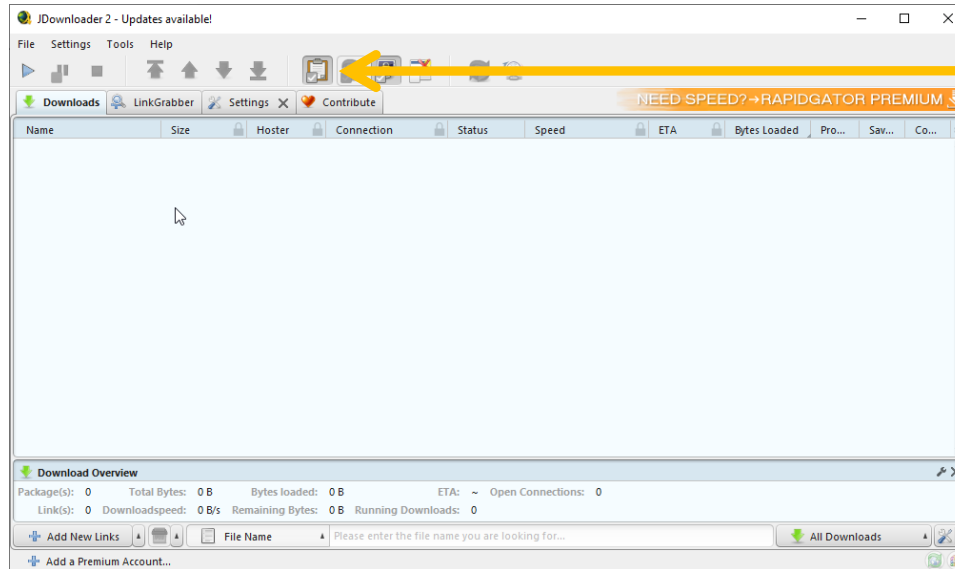
The installer will finish

The program will start if this was made in "Additional tasks", if not it may be started manually later

In the following, basic use of JDownloader 2 will be shown with YouTube videos as an example.

A few tips for general use, and comments on advanced use are also included.

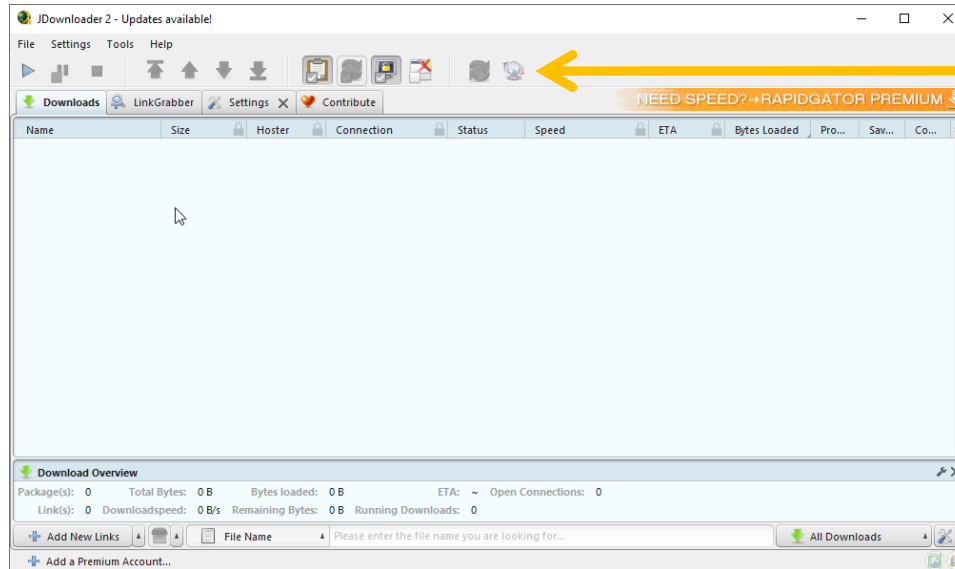
JDownloader 2 Basic Use



The Clipboard Observer is active by default

When a URL with downloadable content is copied, e.g. file URLs, video URLs, Clipboard Observer adds it to the download list ("Linkgrabber")

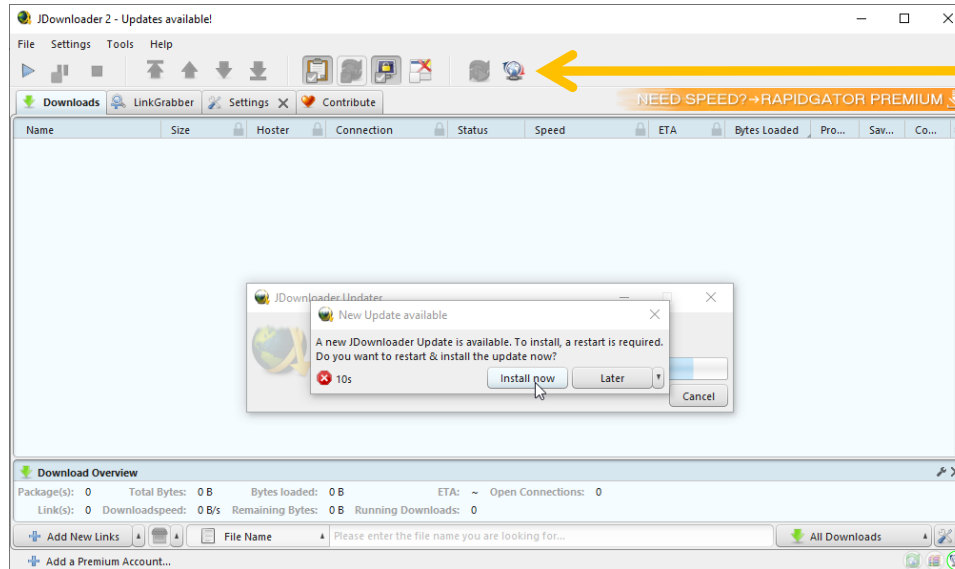
JDownloader 2 Basic Use



The update monitor blinks when new updates are available

JDownloader 2 frequently gets updates to keep functionality up to par

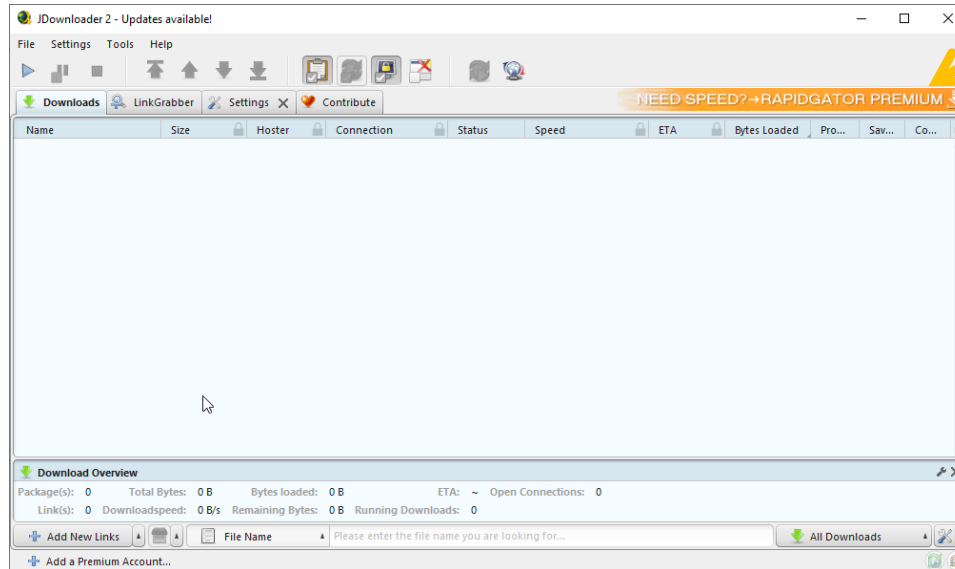
JDownloader 2 Basic Use



**Click to update
(when not
actively
downloading)**

**Clicking "Install
now" will start
the update and
then restart the
application**

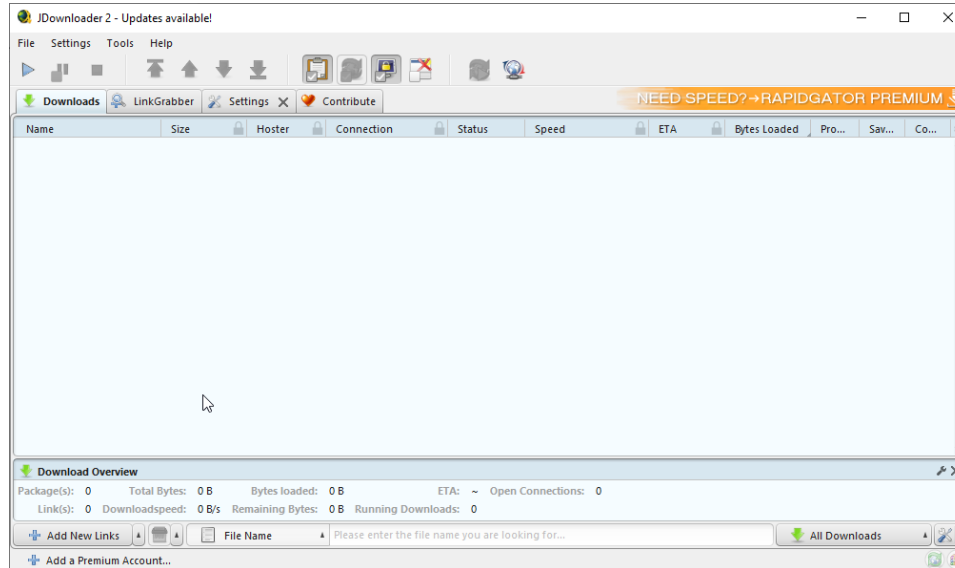
JDownloader 2 Basic Use



This is an ad for a specific filehosting service. It has nothing to do with program functionality

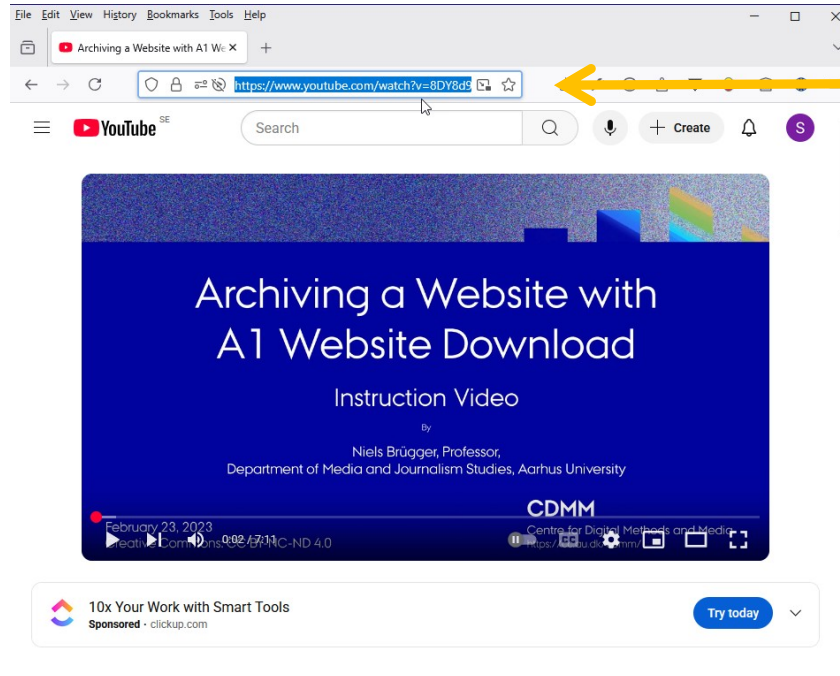
After updating the program is ready (almost)

JDownloader 2 Basic Use



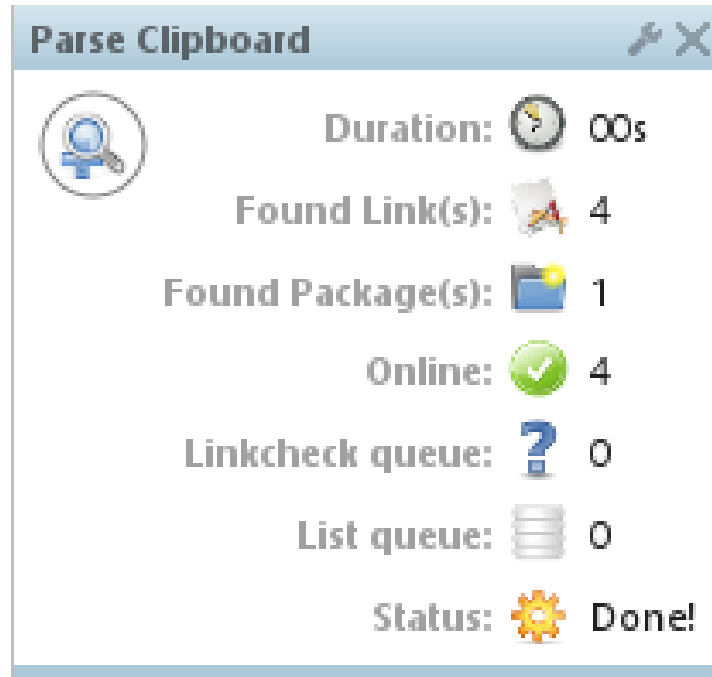
With the program ready it is time to try to download a YouTube video

JDownloader 2 Basic Use



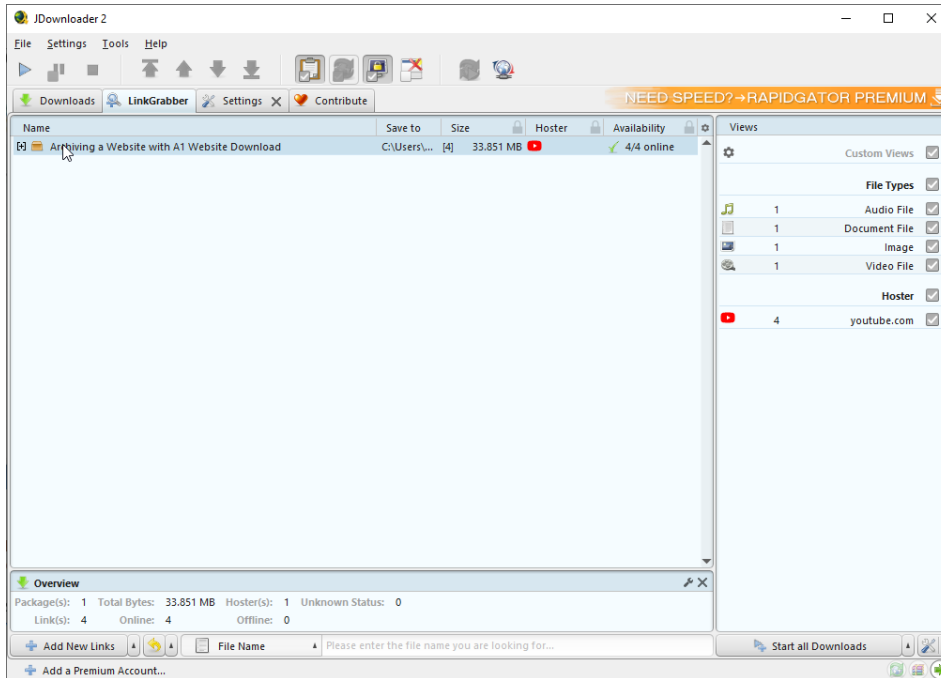
**Copy the URL for
a YouTube video
while
JDownloader 2 is
running**

JDownloader 2 Basic Use



When the URL is copied, a notification like this will normally pop up at the bottom right corner of the monitor

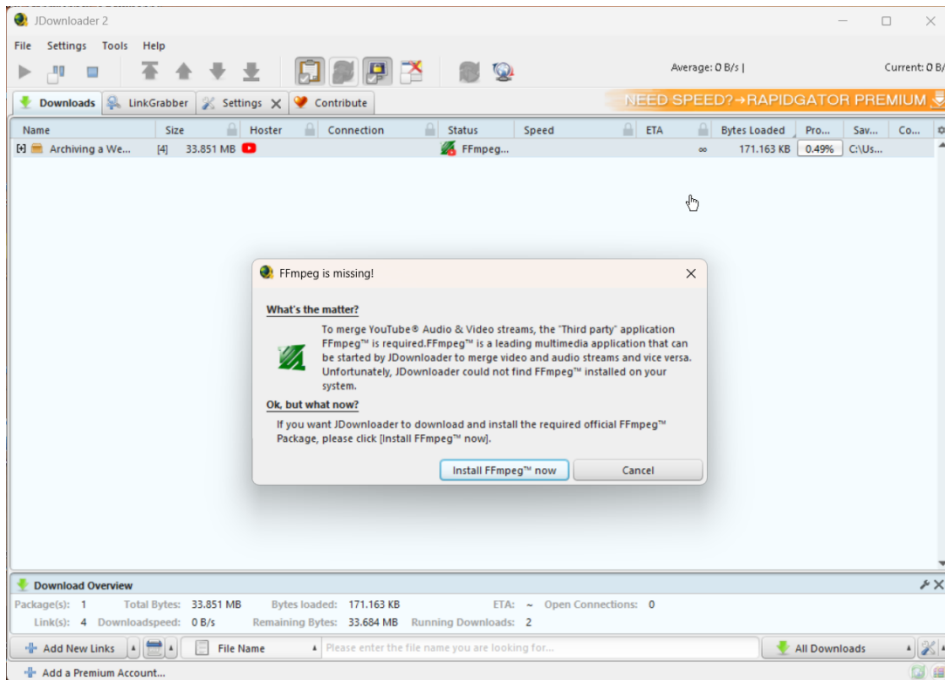
JDownloader 2 Basic Use



Normally the download is now listed and can be started

However, the first time a video download is attempted a pop-up will notify you that a plugin is needed

JDownloader 2 Basic Use

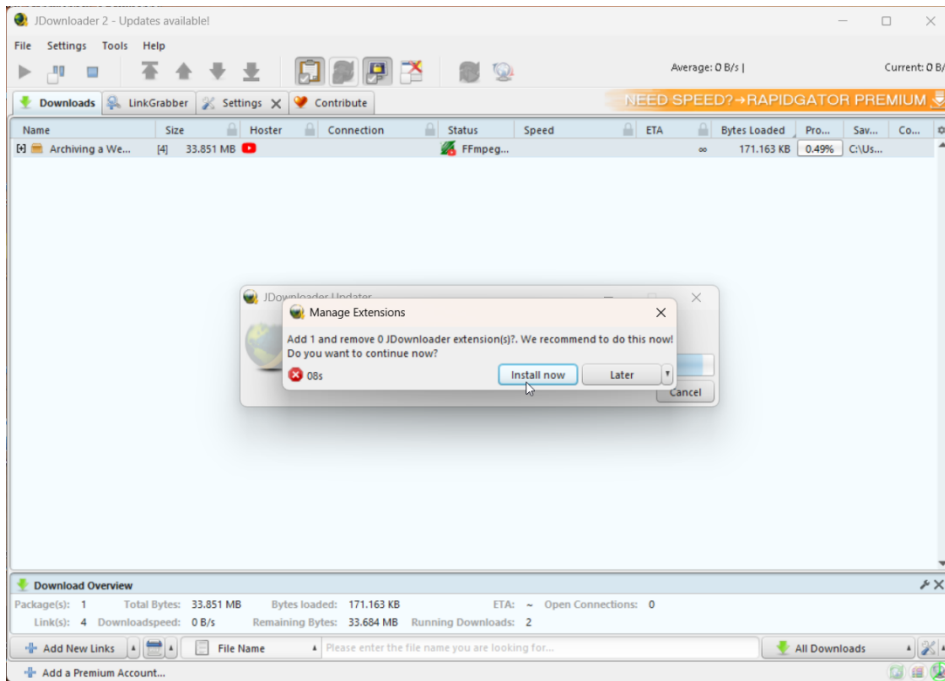


FFmpeg is a known video encoder

Click "Install" to add the plugin to the program

This action is only needed once

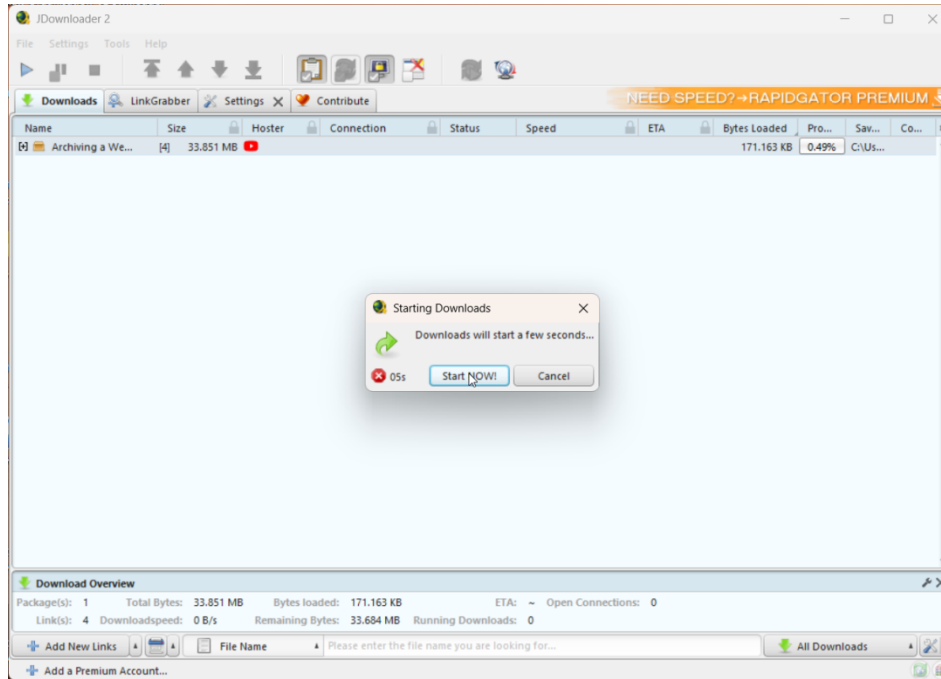
JDownloader 2 Basic Use



Confirm "Install now"

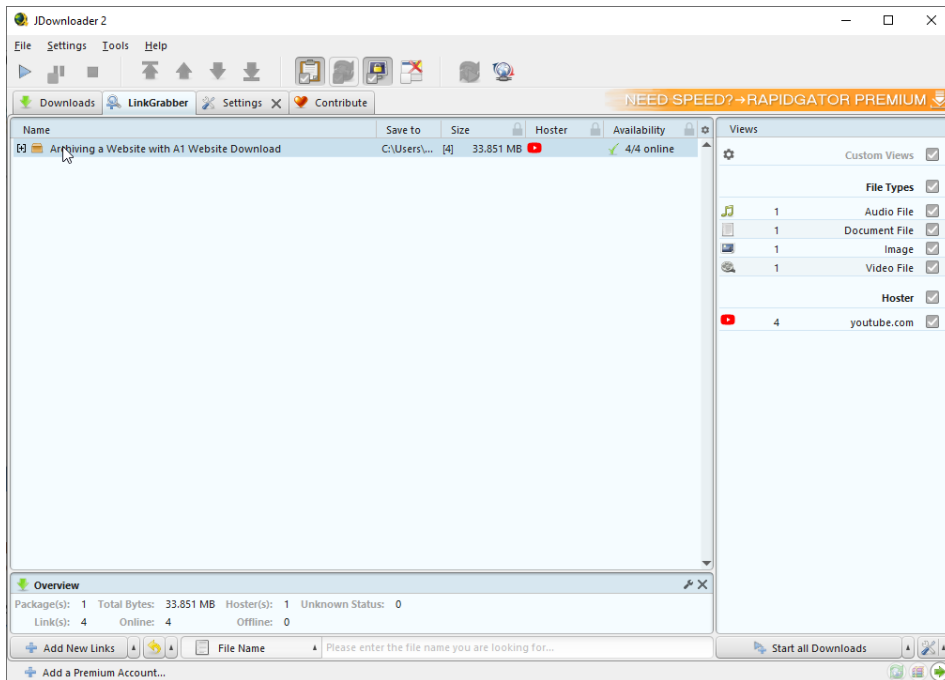
The add-on is downloaded, and JDownloader 2 restarts

JDownloader 2 Basic Use



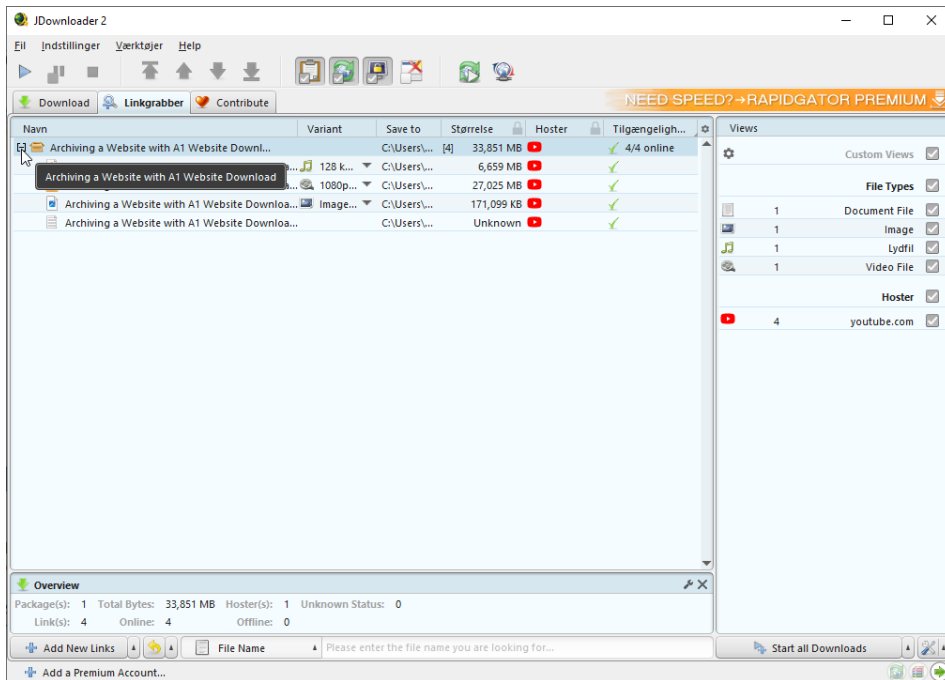
In this case, after adding FFmpeg, the application restarts with a download added to the "Downloads" list, and will automatically start it

JDownloader 2 Basic Use



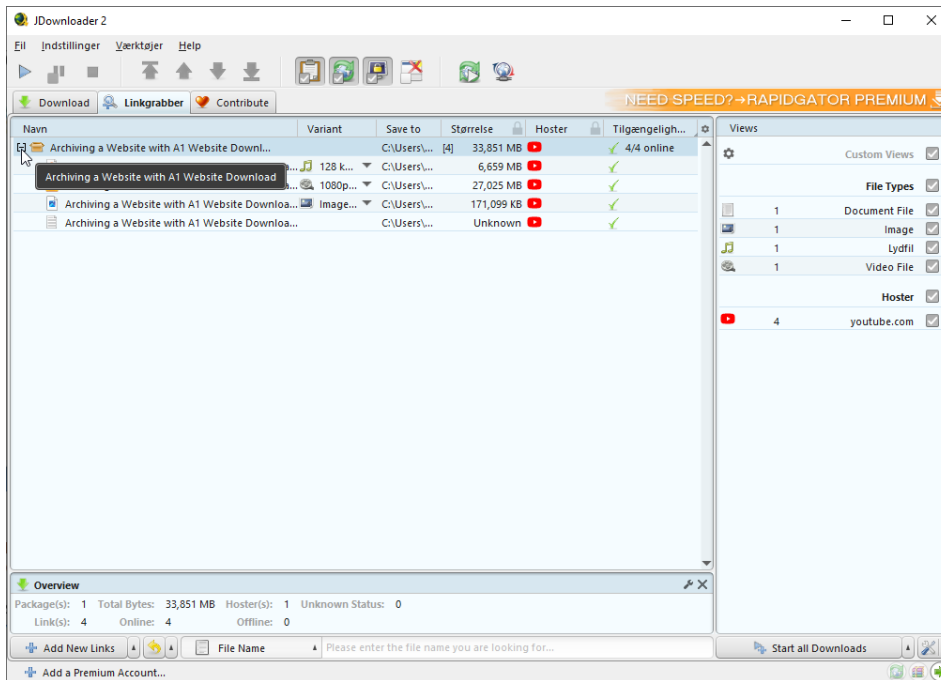
In daily use, after downloads are added to the "Linkgrabber" tab, one can select and start downloads, and also deselect some of the files that were added from a URL

JDownloader 2 Basic Use



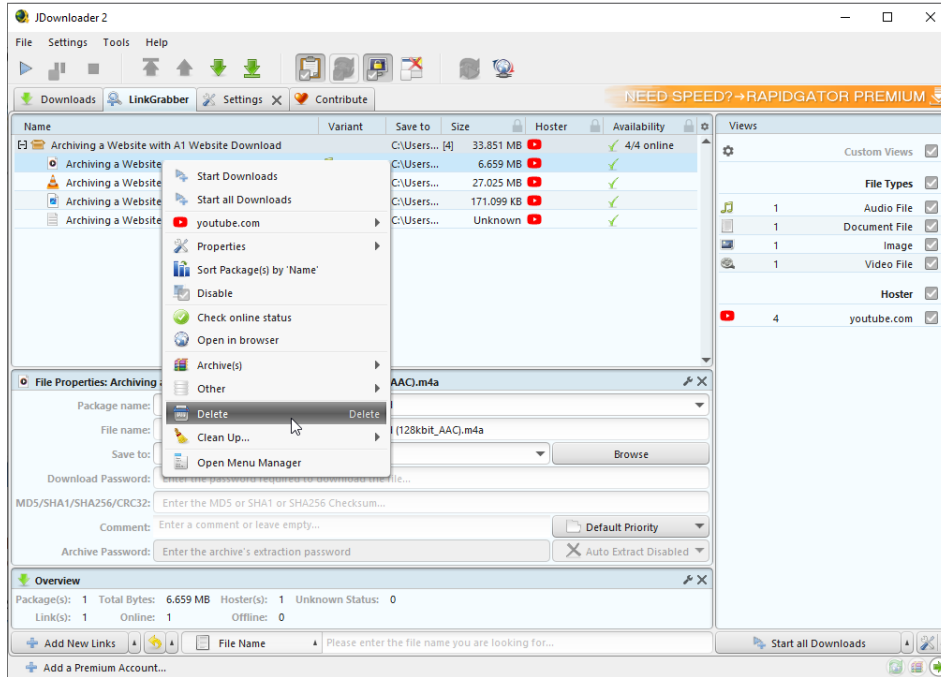
Open the folder that was added from as URL by clicking the "+" in order to inspect what will be downloaded

JDownloader 2 Basic Use



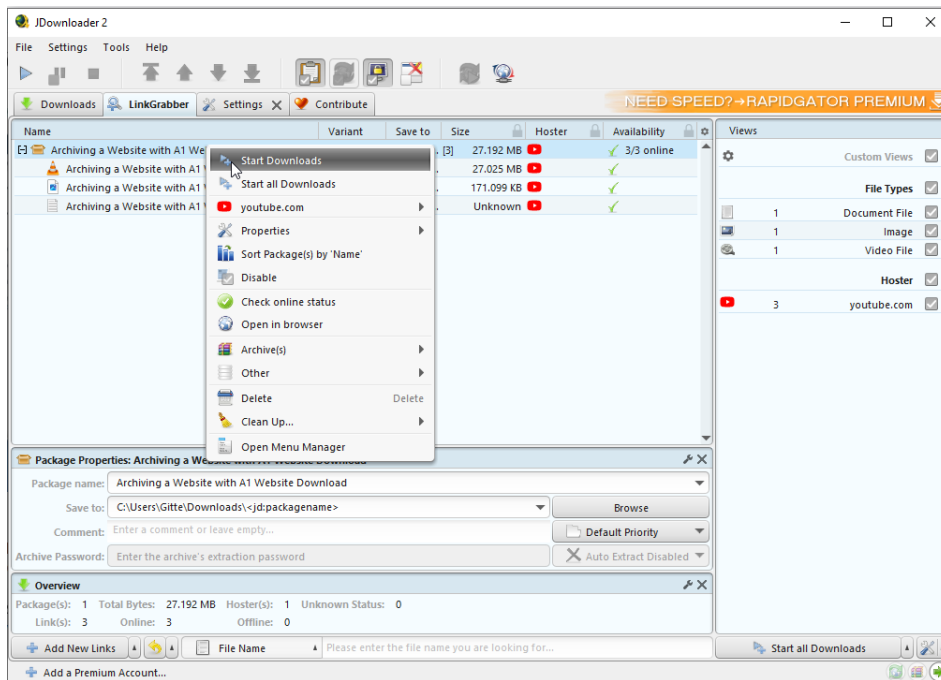
Jdownloader 2 adds all files available from from the URL, including informational text, subtitles, stills, video versions in varying qualities, and the audio track

JDownloader 2 Basic Use



**One can deselect
unnneeded files,
e.g. audio, or
video versions in
unnneeded
resolutions. Here,
the audio file is
deleted from the
list (right-click in
Windows or
ctrl+click in Mac
OS to open the
context menu)**

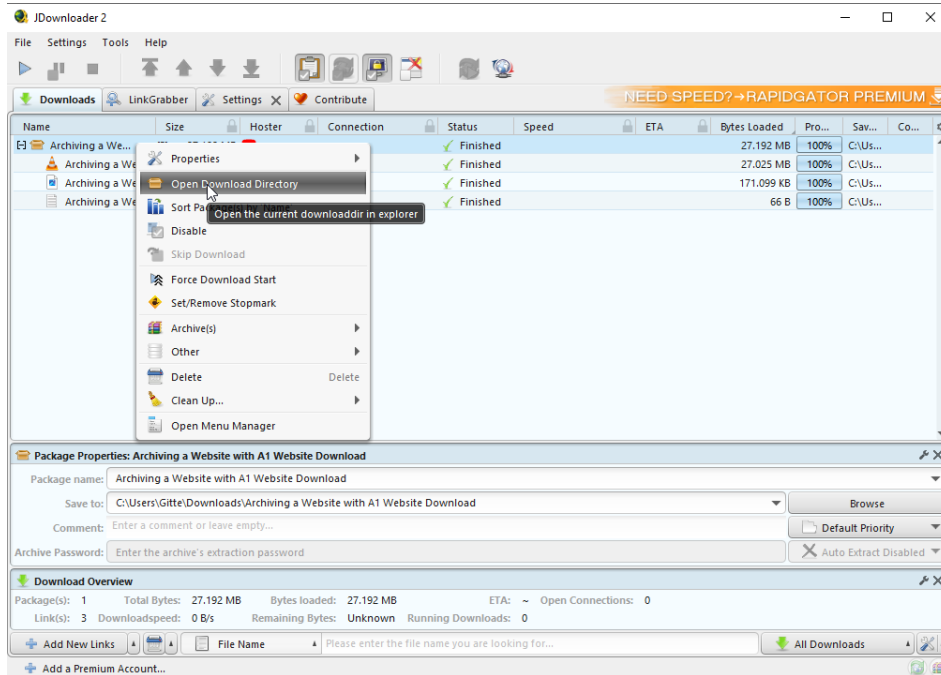
JDownloader 2 Basic Use



**Each added URL
will get its own
download folder**

**To start a
download right-
click and select
"Start
Downloads"**

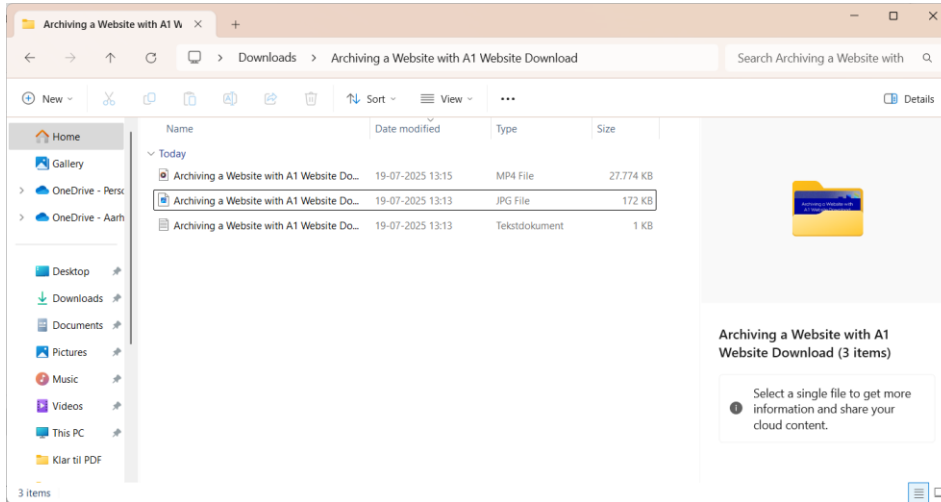
JDownloader 2 Basic Use



**Activated
downloads will
move to the
"Download" tab**

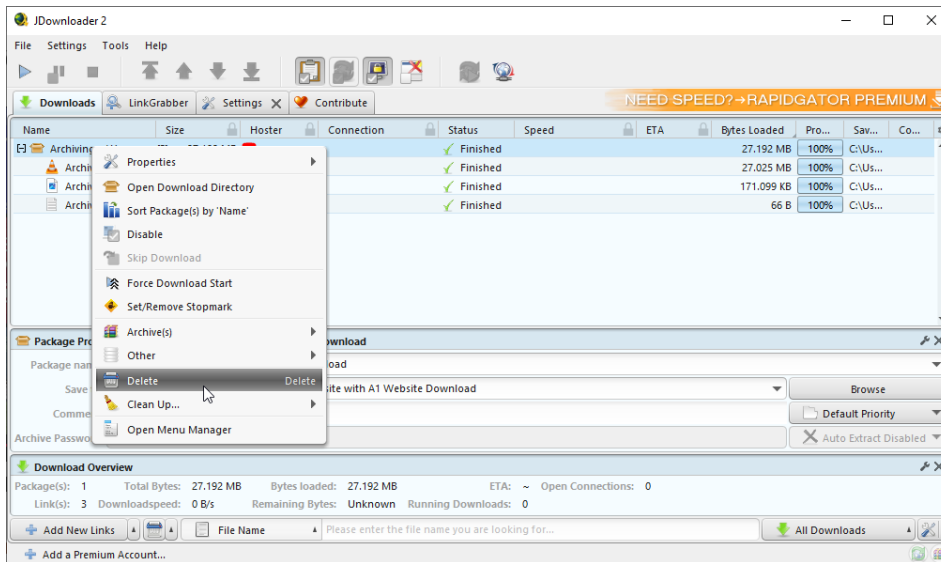
**When finished
the result can be
accessed by
right-clicking and
opening the
download folder**

JDownloader 2 Basic Use



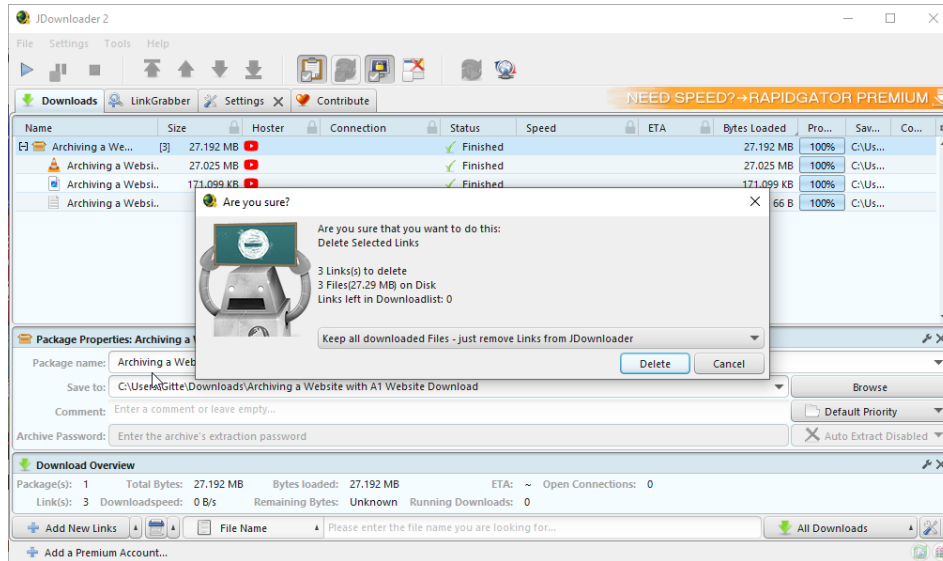
The downloaded files are located in a subfolder in the Downloads folder

JDownloader 2 Basic Use



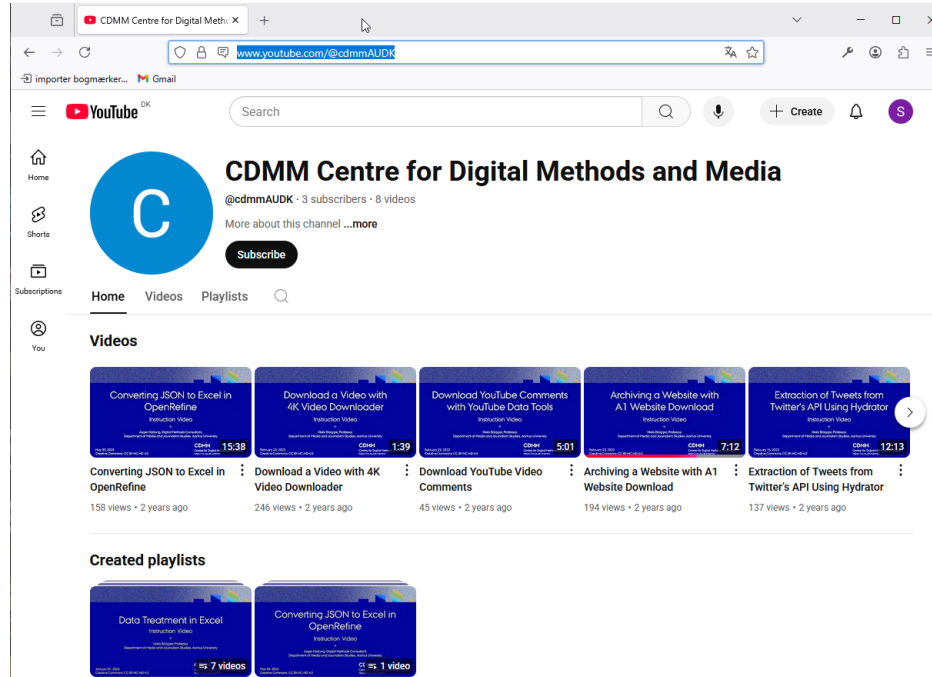
After a download has completed the links may be deleted from the "Downloads" list

JDownloader 2 Basic Use



**By default only
the links are
removed, thus
cleaning the list**

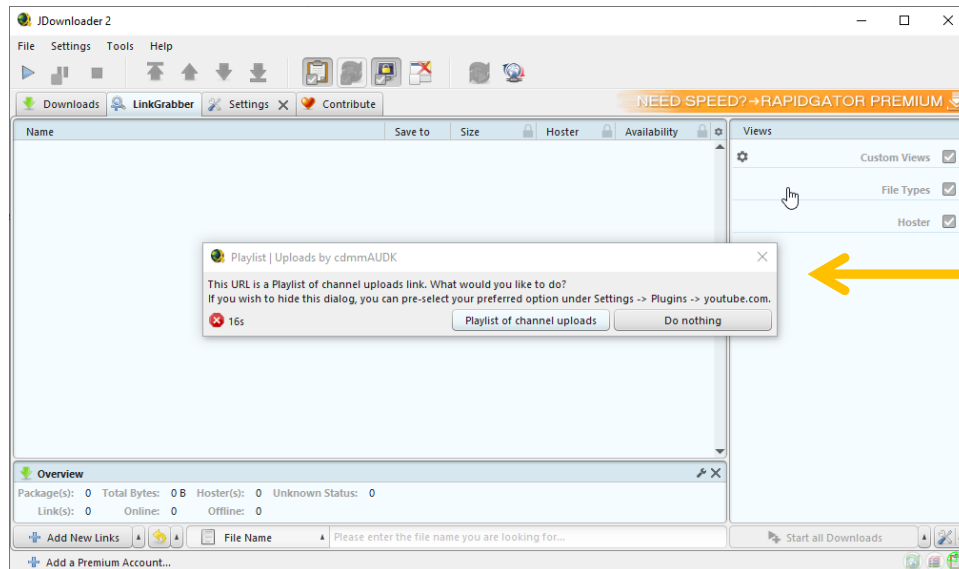
JDownloader 2 Basic Use



**JDownloader 2
can also
download entire
channels or
playlists**

**Here the URL for
an entire channel
is being copied**

JDownloader 2 Basic Use

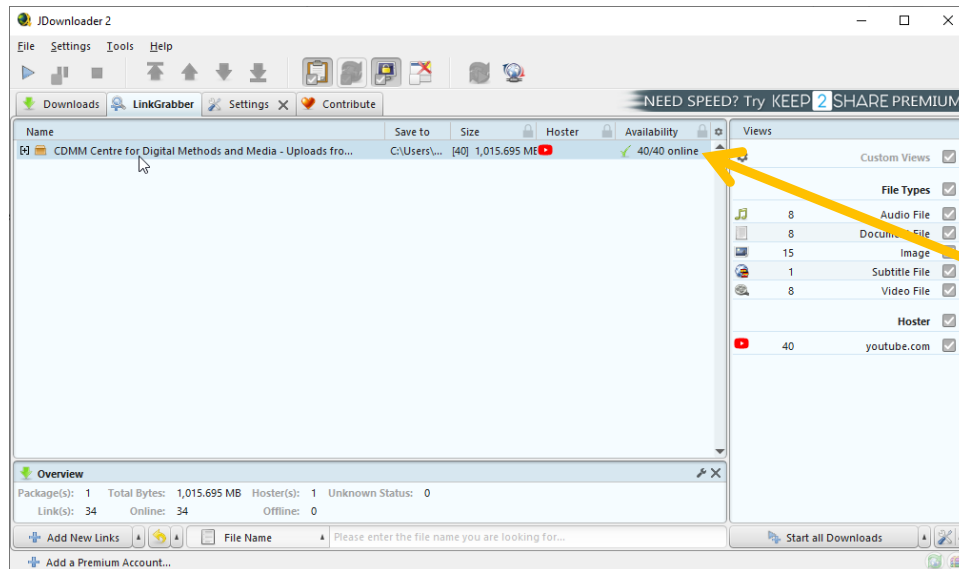


A pop-up will ask if you want to add all playlists from a whole channel

Specific playlists can also be added in this manner

Confirm in order to proceed

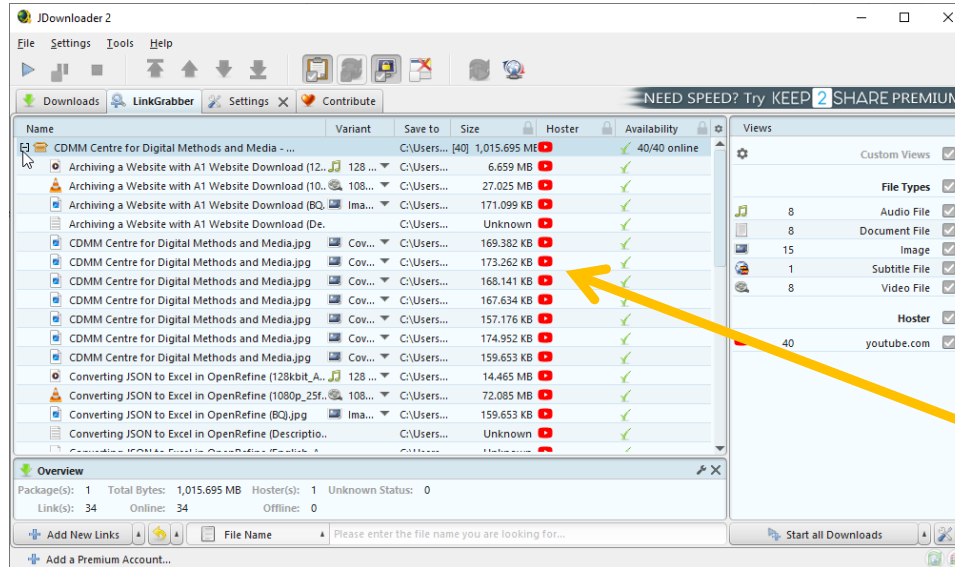
JDownloader 2 Basic Use



**Adding all files
can take a while**

**Wait until number
of files online
stops counting
up**

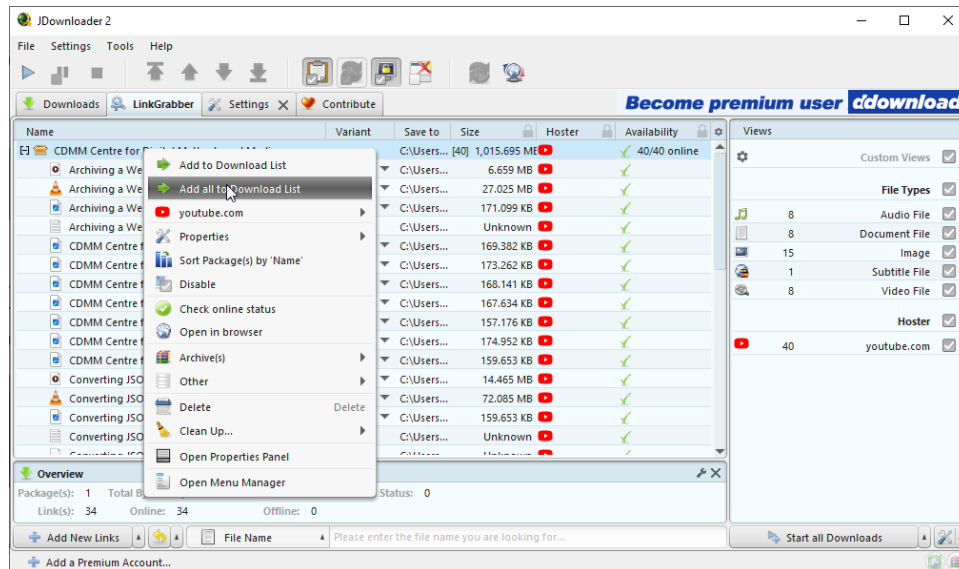
JDownloader 2 Basic Use



Once again you can inspect the download list and deselect unnecessary files

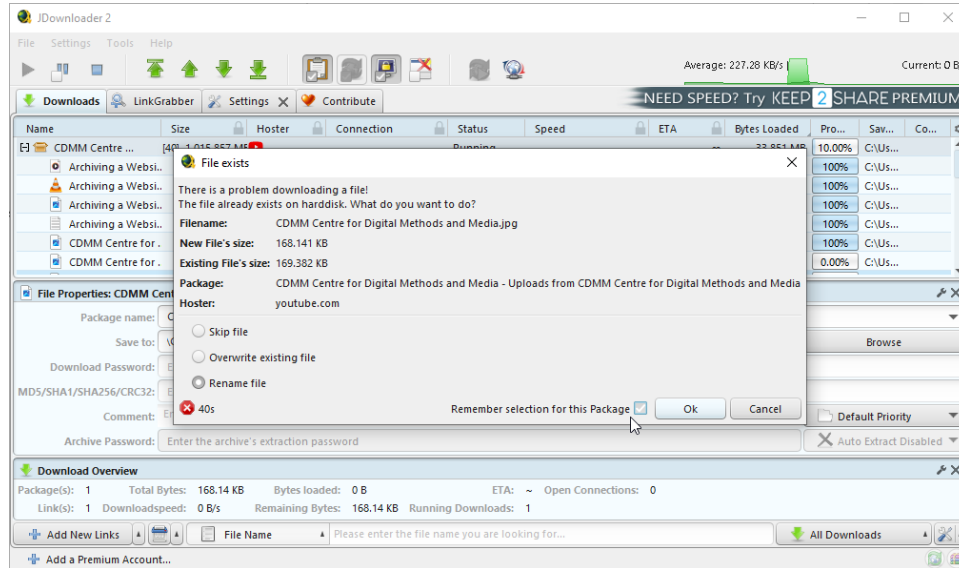
Notice several identically named image files listed here – but with different sizes

JDownloader 2 Basic Use



Select "Add all to Download list" to start channel download

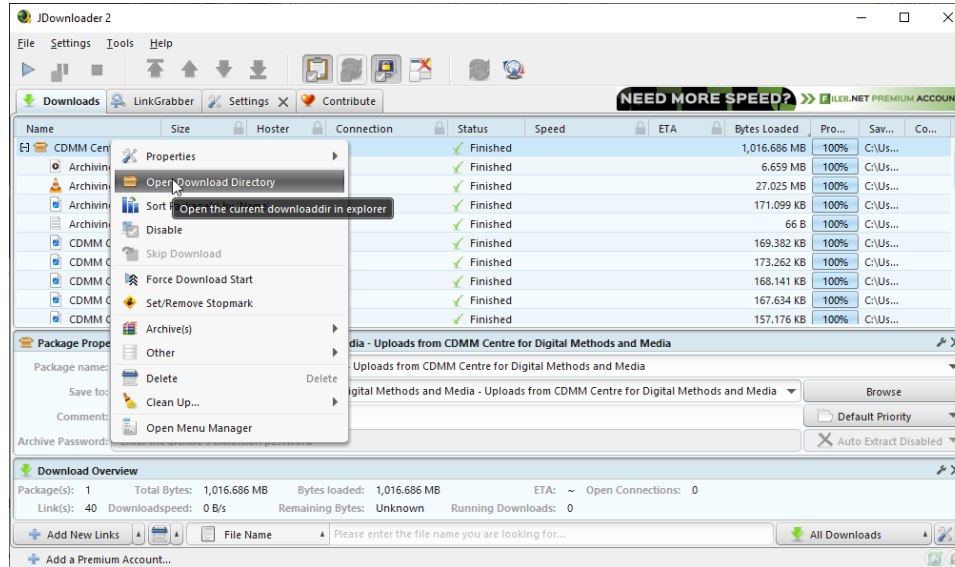
JDownloader 2 Basic Use



Several files have identical names but not the same size, and they are not identical

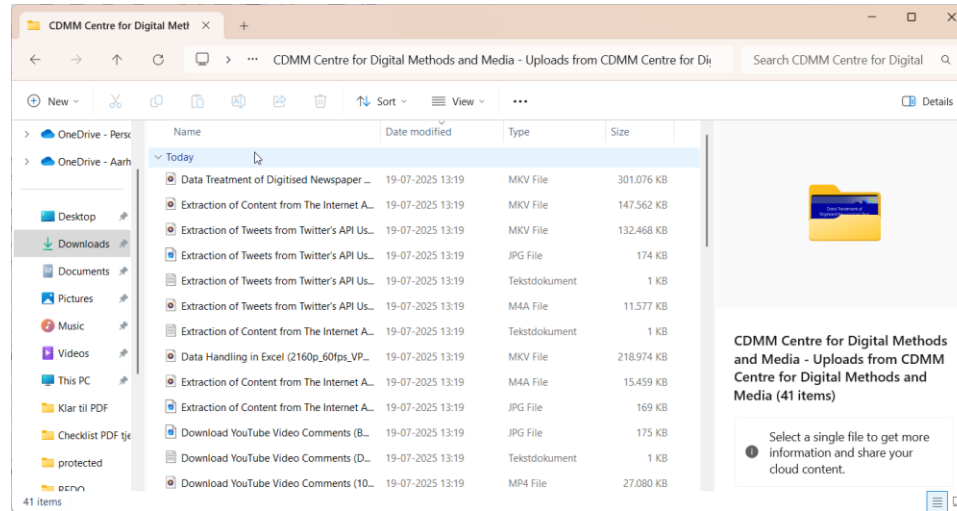
In order to get everything, mark "Rename file" and "Remember selection ..."

JDownloader 2 Basic Use



Once again, when the downloads are finished you can open the directory file

JDownloader 2 Basic Use

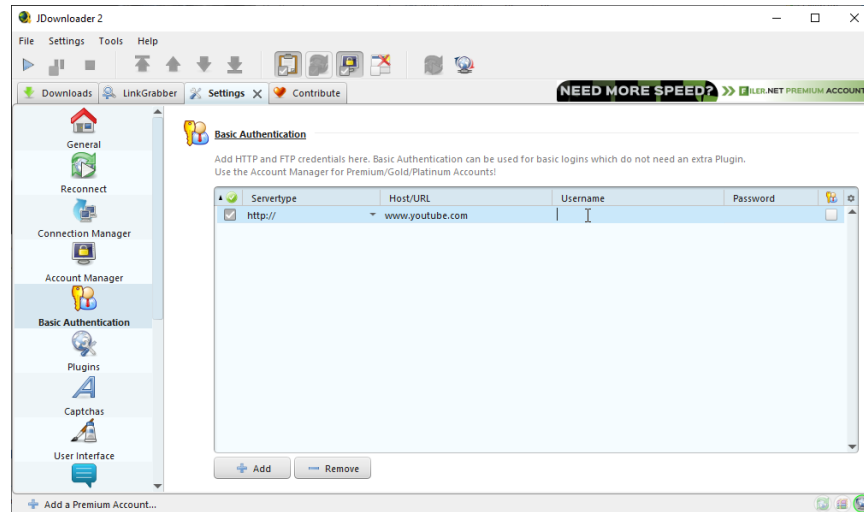


**And once again
the downloaded
files are located
in a subdirectory
in your
Downloads folder
where you may
inspect and sort
them**

JDownloader 2 allows authentication for services, and registration for paid and privileged services.

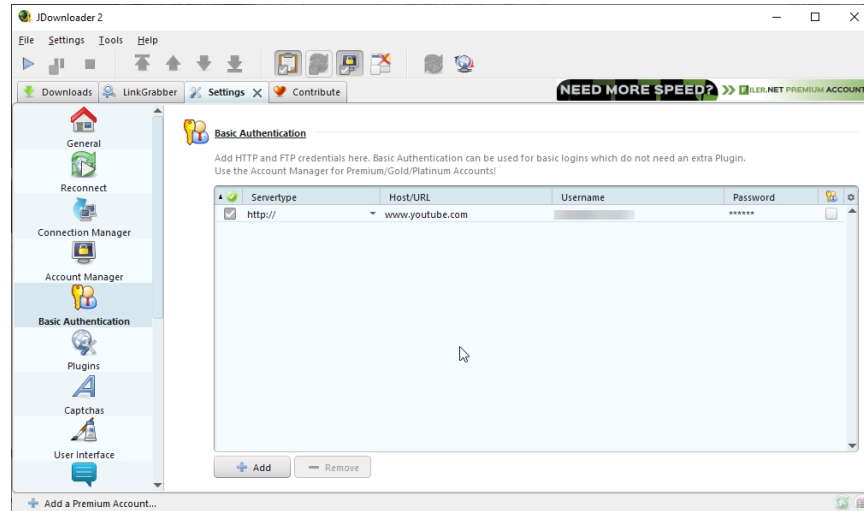
- The former is rarely necessary, but will be shown since it may sometimes help
- The latter is only relevant with privileged access and will only be touched upon

JDownloader 2 Advanced Use



In the "Settings" tab one can add normal user identification in the form of service URL, user email, and password. Place the cursor in the relevant field to enter account credentials

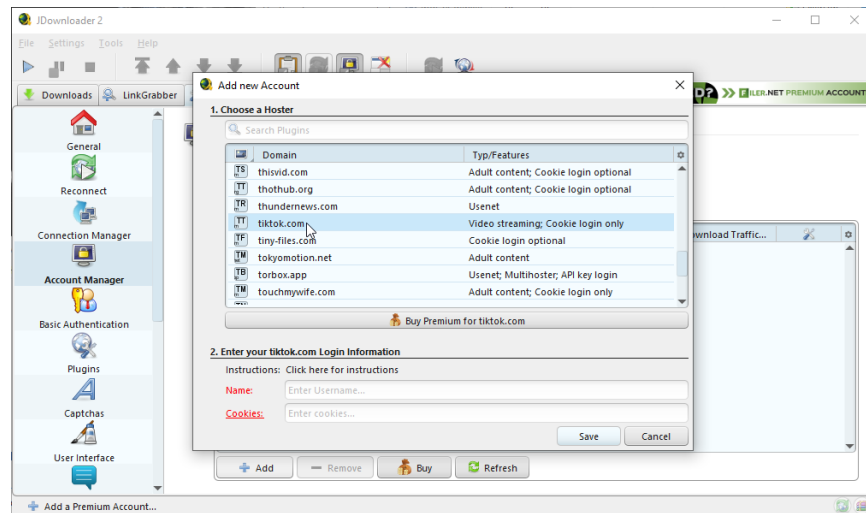
JDownloader 2 Advanced Use



Here a YouTube account has been entered

It may help in some rare cases, but the previous use cases worked fine without this

JDownloader 2 Advanced Use



The "Account Manager" tap is dedicated to paid and privileged accounts

TikTok may look interesting, but it needs a cookie authentication

For a detailed guide to cookie authentication, go to this URL:

<https://support.jdownloader.org/en/knowledgebase/article/account-cookie-login-instructions>

“Account manager” is for paid and privileged accounts. One can find services such as Facebook and Vimeo listed. But functionality is dedicated to file downloads, and may not work to full satisfaction

However tempting, attempts to download accounts from TikTok resulted in this pop-up



But links for TikTok posts will work for fetching videos in JDownloader 2 without authentication

JDownloader 2 is a powerful download manager, and can easily replace paid programs for many downloading purposes including YouTube. But it does not work for everything. Depending on your needs, other applications may be more appropriate for services where data extraction is at all possible

CDMM hopes that you will find this tutorial useful