



## Ripstation Micro Operating Manual

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## Overview

Ripstation Micro DS is a CD ripping application to allow batch encoding of CD material to digital music files utilising IDE, USB 2.0 or FireWire CD/DVD drives, and has been specifically designed for optimised CD ripping for the Linn range of audio servers such as the Klimax DS.

As such, out of the box operation will default to the format and standard recommended by Linn Products (FLAC) and ensure that all metadata and cover art is returned and the CD encoded in an error free manner whilst providing complete flexibility for other formats and ripping profiles.

The product is designed for use by individuals in a non commercial capacity with ease of use, throughput and high quality metadata from GD3 ([www.getdigitaldata.com](http://www.getdigitaldata.com)) and open database FreeDB ([www.freedb.org](http://www.freedb.org)) being the core of its operation.

Ripstation Micro DS is available for download completely free of charge at [www.ripstation.com/rsmicrods.html](http://www.ripstation.com/rsmicrods.html)

This document provides a user manual to allow basic and advanced operation and customisation of all parameters.

This document details all steps of operation within Ripstation Micro DS.

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## **1.0 Software Installation**

### **1.1 Pre-install Checks**

The PC requirements for Ripstation Micro DS operation are listed below. Please ensure your PC meets these requirements before proceeding to 1.2.

- P4 2.4 GHz or equivalent, 512MB Ram, 80GB HD
- Windows XP with SP2, Vista or Windows 7
- Microsoft .NET 2.0, download from <http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyID=0856eacb-4362-4b0d-8edd-aab15c5e04f5&displaylang=en>
- Always on internet connection
- Windows Media Player 11 or above

### **1.2 Running the Installer**

- Ensure your target PC is connected to the Internet.
- Either run the downloaded file or insert the enclosed CD into a CD/DVD drive on the target PC and it will auto run and install all required software.
- Follow the prompts and key in any required data.

A folder called 'Local Audio' will be created in C:\ and will be the default audio file storage location. Shortcuts are also set up on the Quick Launch toolbar, the desktop and in the start menu under all programs > Ripstation > Ripstation Micro DS.

## **2.0 Notes on Drives**

You may use SATA, IDE, FireWire or USB 2.0 drives with your software.

To prepare, simply install all drives and ensure they can be viewed in 'My Computer'.

### 3.0 Ripstation Micro DS Quick Start Guide

Before using the Ripstation Micro DS software, please use the following steps as a 'quick start' guide to set the initial parameters and perform a CD to MP3 rip.

1. Open the Ripstation Micro DS software and on the main screen click the Preferences icon.



2. Choose your metadata provider from the options.

3. In the main screen, click the New Batch icon and the Batch Properties dialog box opens.



4. Enter your name, 'testrip' or 'myfirstrip' into the Batch Name box. A folder of the same name will be created. This is where the audio files will be saved.

5. Select the source drive from the combo box.

6. In the output formats section, all settings have been preloaded for Linn Products, defaulting to FLAC and providing JPG and PNG cover artwork support.

Should you wish to change the bitrate, folder locations and filename mask, click the Edit button beside it. Select your default bit rate, folder path and filename mask. Click OK to save and close this screen.

7. Click 'Start Batch' to commence your first batch rip.

8. When the drive opens, insert a CD and close it, repeating for every CD.

**NOTE: Ripping will continue until all CDs are ripped. Clicking the 'Cancel Batch' button will terminate the batch.**



**Click the 'Open Batch Folder' button to view the digitally encoded audio files.**



## **4.0 Ripstation Micro DS Main User Guide**

### **4.1 Key Features**

- Batch encoding
- USB2.0, FireWire, SATA and IDE drive support
- Batch setup wizard
- Multiple CODEC encoding
- Auto default to Linn settings
- Batch Name entry
- Support for GD3 and FreeDB data sources
- Full metadata preview
- Metadata cover art lookup and embedding
- Amazon cover art lookup and embedding
- Manual metadata and cover art entry
- Full Unicode support
- ID3> 2.4 inc. 1.1
- FLAC Vorbis comments
- Batch preview window – discs ripped/to go/no cover art/CODECs/batch name
- Single touch start and drive control
- Drive stop control
- Full C2 error checking
- Error output on the fly and post rip via Ripsure error checking
- Post encode facility
- Fully scalable output masks
- Operator status message window
- Fully automatically updated
- Detailed batch logging

### **4.2 Supported CODECs and Bit Rates**

Installed as standard are the following CODECs

<i>CODEC</i>	<i>Supported options</i>
FLAC 1.2.1	Lossless
MP3	VBR/CBR 64/128/192/224/256/320 kbps
WMA	VBR/CBR 64/96/128/160/192/256/320 kbps Lossless
WAV	Embedded ID3 wav RIFF WAV
OGG	45/64/80/96/112/128/160/192/224/256/320/499 kbps

### 4.3 Ripstation Micro DS Main Screen

The Ripstation Micro DS main user interface is shown in figure 4.1 below. Operations are carried out using the button controls at the top of the screen and information is displayed throughout the rest of the screen. An additional 'Open batch folder button' is located in the bottom right of the screen.



Figure 4.1 – Ripstation Micro DS Main User Interface

*Section 4.3.1 details below the operation of each of the button controls.*

### 4.3.1 Ripstation Micro DS Button Controls

The Ripstation Micro DS Main button controls are shown in figure 4.2. The operations of the buttons are detailed in the key below.

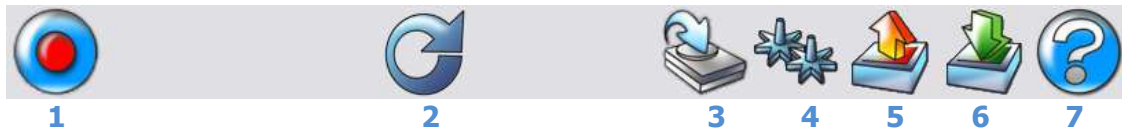


Figure 4.2 – Ripstation Micro DS Main Screen Button Controls

#### 1. New Batch / Cancel Batch

Opens the New Batch dialog. If a batch is currently running, this button will cancel the batch.

#### 2. Reset Settings

This will load the default settings into the application \*

#### 3. Send to Disk

This will copy the last batch to a specified disk location either local, USB or NAS

#### 4. Preferences

Opens the preferences dialog.

#### 5. Load

Opens a browser dialog to load previously saved batch settings into an RSF file. RSF file contains Batch Name, folder masks and configurations of all CODECs, CODEC selection, output path and force default filenames selection.

#### 6. Save

Opens a browser dialog to save the current batch settings into an RSF file.

#### 5. Help

Opens Ripstation Micro DS HTML Help.

The **Open Batch Folder button** shown in the bottom right hand corner of the main user screen can be clicked at any time during the ripping process to open the current batch audio folder. You may want to do this to check that file and folder naming and locations of audio files are being created as expected.

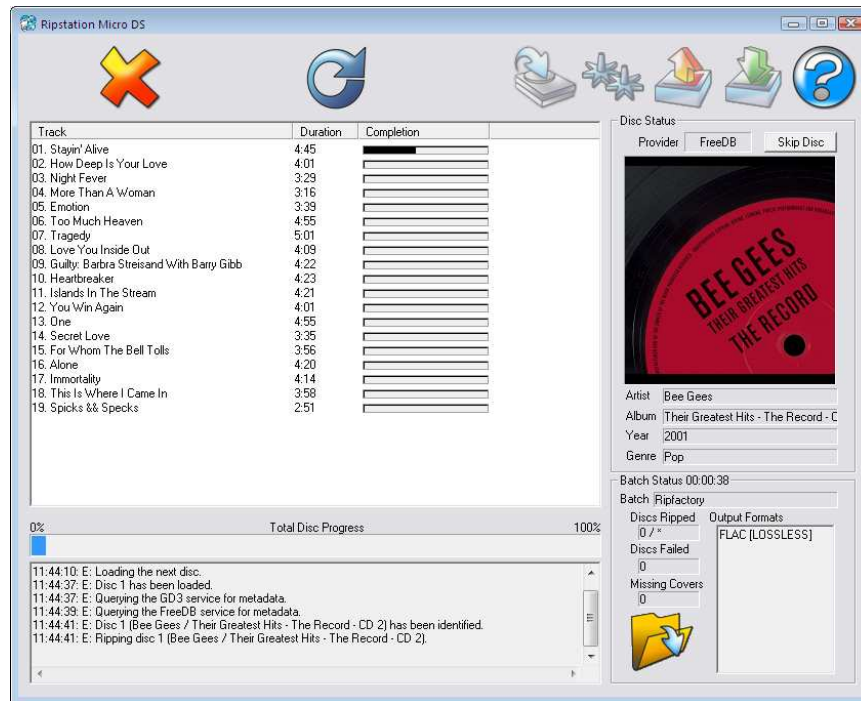


\* Default settings restored are:

- FLAC
- GD3 and FreeDB metadata
- Amazon Cover art
- Ripsure
- C:\Local Audio
- Artist\Album\NN – TrackName.flac
- JPG and PNG files plus embedded cover art

## 4.4 Ripstation Micro DS Display During Ripping

Figure 4.3 shows the Ripstation Micro DS main screen view during the ripping process.



**Figure 4.3 – Main screen view during ripping**

The following information is displayed when ripping a disc:

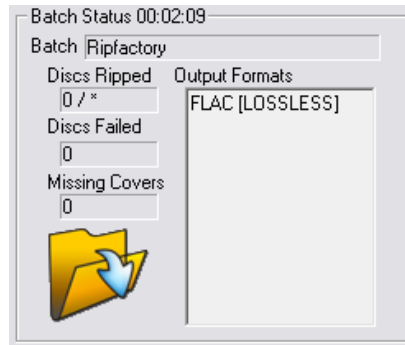
### 4.4.1 Metadata preview

The metadata preview section at the top right of the screen indicates the source of the metadata information and displays all information known at album level for a CD including Cover Artwork.

### 4.4.2 Log Window

The log window at the bottom left of the screen logs all drive operations, metadata lookups, ripping & encoding procedures and failed CDs in real time.

### 4.4.3 Batch Status



**Figure 4.4 – Batch Status Window**

The batch status window, shown in figure 4.4, is located at the bottom right of the screen and is designed to give an 'at a glance preview' of the current job in progress. It displays the following dynamic information:

- Elapsed Time – Time from the start of the batch, taken from when the GO button is pressed.
- Batch Name
- Discs Ripped in the form N/NN, where N is the total ripped to date and NN is the total size of the batch. A wildcard \* is used to denote when no maximum number of discs has been entered.
- Discs Failed – Number of discs failing error correction
- Missing Covers – Number of discs in current batch for which album art was not obtained.
- Open Batch Folder – Opens the current batch folder in explorer
- Output Formats – Displays the type of CODEC(s) along with the corresponding bit rate(s) being used during the encoding process.

## 4.5 Preference Settings

Clicking on the preferences button opens the dialog box as shown in figure 4.5

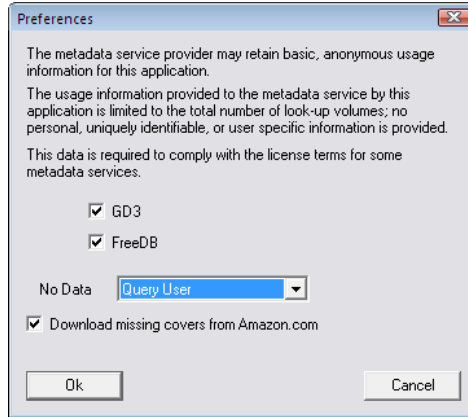


Figure 4.5 – Preferences Dialog Box

This dialog sets the metadata services you will use with Ripstation Micro DS. You must include one or both of the services. Ripstation Micro DS works sequentially through the list from top to bottom when sourcing data.

### 4.5.1 No Data Setting

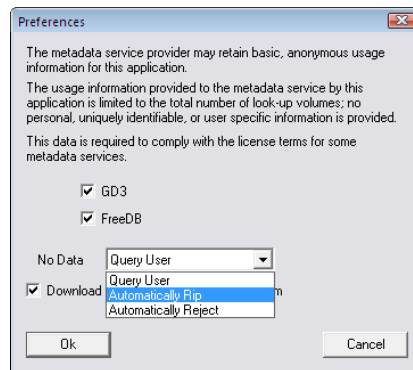


Figure 4.6 – Preferences/No Data Drop Down Box

Three options exist for processing unidentified CDs and CDs with no available metadata:

- **Automatically Rip** - Discs will be ripped using "Unknown Artist" for artist tag and artist folder name. The album name will be generated using a unique ID. All albums ripped in this way will be placed into an artist folder called 'Unknown Artist' for later tagging and naming.
- **Automatically Reject** - Discs will be rejected and placed in the reject pile (**NOTE: This is Ripstation's recommended setting because a trace can therefore be kept of the CDs with no available metadata**).

- Query User - User will immediately be prompted to enter album information manually. The dialog box in figure 4.7 appears:
  - You can enter the data manually or you can query Amazon by entering the case barcode, selecting country and submitting to Amazon, this will automatically populate the fields returned by Amazon.
    - Select the genre from the dropdown list
    - Key in the year of release
    - Key in the artist name
    - Key in the album name
    - Click on each track to rename it
    - Key in the label name
    - Key in the composer name
    - Key in the conductor name
    - Add cover art, click box then browse to image
    - Click the OK button to save and continue
- or**
- Click Skip to reject this CD and continue

E: PHILIPS DVD8801 NW02

The disc you have placed in this drive could not be identified. Please enter the disc information or <Skip> this disc.

Query Amazon by UPC

Submit

Country USA

Genre Unknown Year 0000 Label

Artist Unknown Composer

Album Album C411280E Conductor

Tracks

01. Track 01  
02. Track 02  
03. Track 03  
04. Track 04  
05. Track 05  
06. Track 06  
07. Track 07  
08. Track 08  
09. Track 09  
10. Track 10  
11. Track 11  
12. Track 12  
13. Track 13  
14. Track 14

Cover Art (click to browse)

OK Skip

Figure 4.7 – Metadata Manual Entry

## 4.6 Starting a New Batch

In the main Ripstation Micro DS screen, click the 'New Batch' button and the dialog box in figure 4.8 appears.



Use	Format
<input type="checkbox"/>	WAV [WAV]
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FLAC [FLAC]
<input type="checkbox"/>	OGG [OGG]

**Figure 4.8 – Start a New Batch Dialog Box**

An explanation of the dialog box is given below:

- Date – Automatically generated
- Number of CDs – Key in the number of CDs in the batch, or 0 to rip indefinitely.
- Batch Name - Key in the batch name (required) and a folder will be created of the same name inside the default output path folder where all encoded audio files will be placed.
- Source device – Used to select the drive.
- Output Formats – Displays the CODECs that may be used for ripping. To enable a CODEC to be used, highlight (by the blue bar) the CODEC in the display and check the 'Enabled' tick box on the left.
- [ADD] - Adds a CODEC to the output format list (see section 4.6.1 for further details).
- [EDIT] – Edits the selected CODEC's settings (see section 4.6.1 for further details).

- [DELETE] - Deletes the selected CODEC from the output format list (see section 4.6.1 for further details).

**NOTE: Only CODECs that are ticked (and therefore enabled) in the output format list will be used during the ripping process.**

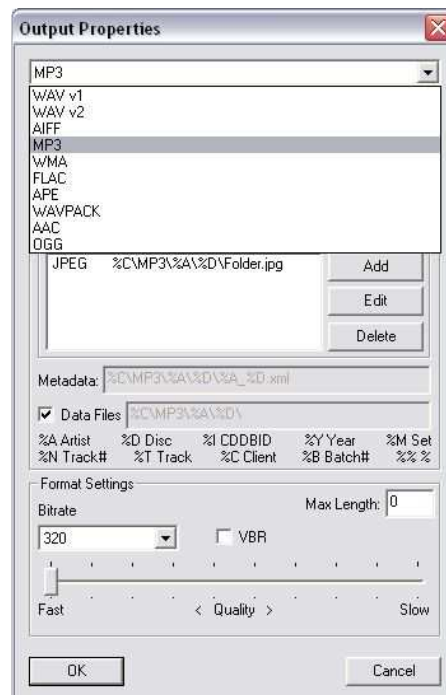
- Force default file names – When checked, this will prefix the CODEC name above the album name e.g. C:\Root\clientname\MP3\. It should only be used when multiple CODECs are being encoded to.
- Use this output path – When checked, this will force the program to use the path beneath as the root location for all folders and audio files and will override the setting within each CODEC.
- [Cancel] – Closes the dialog.
- [Start Batch] – Starts the batch ripping process

**NOTE: CODEC and path settings will be stored from session to session. For a quick batch simply key in the batch name, number of CDs and enable the CODEC(s) to be used.**

#### 4.6.1 CODEC Settings

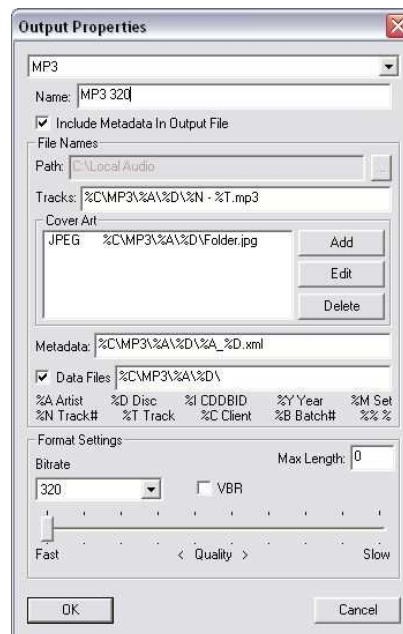
Ripstation Micro DS ships with a number of standard CODEC options pre-configured. However CODECs may be added or deleted and the settings for the MP3, WMA and OGG CODECs may be modified.

- To add a new CODEC, click the [Add] button in the Start a New Batch dialog box. The New Output dialog will appear as in figure 4.9.



**Figure 4.9 – New Output Dialog Box**

- Choose the CODEC you wish to add to the display from the drop down box at the top and press [OK]
- If you would like to delete a CODEC from the display, select the CODEC to be removed in the output formats section of the Start a New Batch dialog box (highlighted by the blue bar) and press [Delete].
- To modify a CODEC's settings, select the CODEC you wish to modify in the Start a New Batch dialog box and click the [Edit] button. This will open a new dialog in order to configure the CODEC settings including bit rates and VBR/CBR options. For the MP3 CODEC, the box in figure 4.10 appears.



**Figure 4.10 – CODEC setup screen**

Paths and filenames default to a set mask, which may be altered by the user. The variables available for this mask are as follows:

- %A – Artist
- %D – Disc
- %I – a unique CDDDB ID number which may be appended or prefixed to the album folder name e.g. for CD box sets.
- %Y – Year
- %N – track number
- %T – track title
- %C – batch name
- %B – batch unique ID

**NOTE: Standard text may also be used in the path.  
In the track example in figure 4.10, the path would thus be:**

**Batchname\codec\artistname\albumtitle\01 – Trackname.mp3**

**The file extension must be included.**

- Path - This represents the path the CODEC's output will use as a root folder. This may be overridden in the 'Start a new batch' screen (figure 4.8) by checking the 'Use this output path' box.
- Cover Art - The location and name used for the cover art. This is normally set to the same location as the album folder and is named folder.jpg for maximum compatibility. You can add, edit or delete files in the form of JPEG or PNG.
- Tracks – This is the full track path and name under the root folder.

**NOTE: Ripstation recommends using the default path and filenames and that the same convention is used for all.**

- Quality slider (L.A.M.E MP3 & Windows Media VBR CODECs only) - The quality slider determines how rigorous the CODEC will be during the audio encoding phase. Higher quality settings will slow the encoding process very slightly. Challenging audio, for example classical music or heavy metal, generally requires that the slider be moved toward the slow setting.

The resulting increase in quality is somewhat subjective; a slower speed, higher quality setting of the quality slider is generally only recommended for challenging and very dynamic audio, with playback on high end audio equipment. For the vast majority of MP3 encoding with playback on low to mid-range audio equipment and portable music players, the default setting (shown above) is recommended.

- Once the settings have been chosen, click OK to save and close the dialog.

**NOTE: Previous settings are saved from the last batch**

#### *4.6.2 Drive Operation During Rip*

After clicking the Start Batch button, the CD/DVD drive will open automatically.



- Insert a CD into the drive and close.

The ripping process will then begin. As each CD is completed, the drive will open automatically.

- Remove the CD from the drive and replace with another.
- Close the drive to start the ripping process again.

- Repeat the process until the number of CDs entered at the start is complete or the user terminates the process by pressing the Cancel Batch button. Although the amount of CDs that can be ripped before sending them to a NAS, is limited to the amount of available free space on the PC's drive.



In either case the message shown in figure 4.11 will then appear.

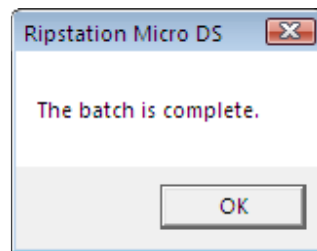


Figure 4.11 – Batch Complete Message

- Click OK to complete the batch ripping process.

#### **4.6.3 Manual Metadata Entry**

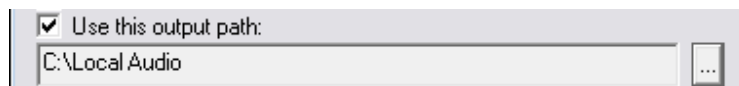
The manual metadata entry dialog will pop up when an unidentifiable CD or CD with no metadata is encountered (as long as the 'No Data' setting is set to 'Query User' in the Preferences dialog box (see section 4.5.1 and figure 4.7).

- You can enter the data manually or you can query Amazon by entering the case barcode, selecting country and submitting to Amazon, this will automatically populate the fields returned by Amazon.
- Select the genre from the dropdown list
- Key in the year of release
- Key in the artist name
- Key in the album name
- Click on each track to rename it
- Key in the label name
- Key in the composer name
- Key in the conductor name
- Add cover art, click box then browse to image
- Click the OK button to save and continue
- or**
- Click Skip to reject this CD and continue

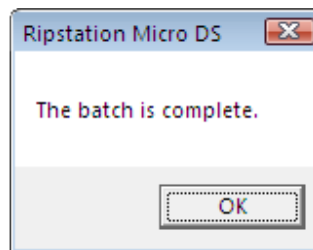
#### 4.6.4 Loading a NAS Device

At the end of the batch you may choose to load your ripped files directly to an attached NAS device. To do this:

1. Firstly, you will need to enable 'Use this output path' from the new batch dialog



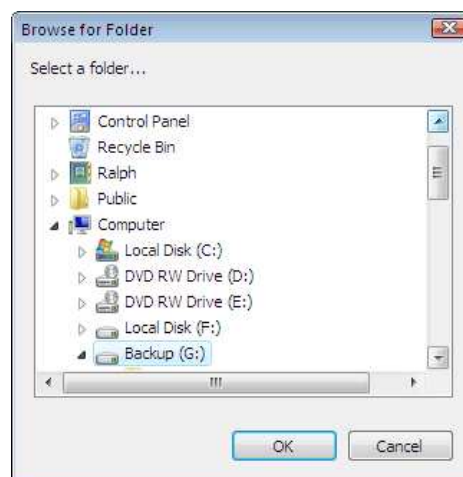
2. When ripping has completed and you have clicked ok on the batch completed dialog



Then click the send to disk button



3. You will then be presented with a dialog box asking you to choose where you want to send the batch to.



Choose your destination location and click ok for the files to be copied to the destination folder.

## 4.7 Error Detection & Correction

Ripstation Micro DS's error handling consists of:

- Auto C2 Check by using the error correction available from C2 enabled drives  
Ripstation Micro DS modifies the speed of the encode cycle to trap any read errors prior to encoding
- Burst mode check
- Jitter check – using a zero threshold limit, Ripstation Micro DS ensures that audio files are extracted and encoded without errors
- Ripstation Ripsure – a non proprietary system of error read checking which uses a system of multiple compare of disc sectors until it finds a match on more than two consecutive checks. Thus, this ensures an accurate and secure rip. Further technical information can be found here: [www.ripstation.com/ripsure](http://www.ripstation.com/ripsure)

## 4.8 Output Reports

In addition to the live logging window, Ripstation Micro DS generates a key report automatically at the end of a batch as follows:

A flat text file detailing the following, saved into the batch folder.

(Batchname\_log).txt

```
Batch:  UID: 09/25/2006 11:01
MP3: 224 kbps CBR

Started: 09/25/2006 11:01

A total of:
3 albums were ripped
1 albums were not ripped
0 albums had no cover
0 albums had no data

Albums Not Ripped
-----
Red Hot Chili Peppers - By The Way
```

The clientname\_log.txt file will be appended to for batches with the same client name, so they will not be overwritten.

## 4.9 Log Window

The log window shows a running transaction trail of all functions of each part of the process detailing and time stamping each error for trapping and monitoring purposes.

## 5.0 Additional applications and supporting documents

Ripstation is the professional's choice for CD encoding products which can be reviewed on [www.ripstation.com](http://www.ripstation.com) and offers many advanced applications as add on modules.

## **6.0 Updates**

Ripstation Micro DS includes an autoupdate push client. This client will sit in your system tray and poll our servers for the latest updates. When an update is found, it will notify you with a pop up message and allow you to ignore or download the upgrade.

## **7.0 Help and Support**

Contact details:

Ripstation  
A Division of Formats Unlimited, Inc  
155 Sherwood Avenue  
Farmingdale, NY 11735

T: +1 631 249 9393

F: +1 631 249 9273

Email: [support@ripstation.com](mailto:support@ripstation.com)

Support Helpdesk: [www.ripstation.com/support](http://www.ripstation.com/support)

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