Scrobbler FAQ
Why does iScrobbler use so much memory?

First off, the only memory number that can even get close to the actual memory used by iScrobbler is "Private Memory Size" (RPRVT), any other stat includes virtual memory (not actually backed by allocated physical memory) and/or shared library memory (not directly used by iScrobbler). See the Memory FAQ in the next post for more info.

Having said that...

For version 2.0 and later, large memory use will likely be do to the Local Charts data. It's the price paid for all the fancy stats the data can give you. As an upper limit, iScrobbler will use half the private memory used by iTunes. That should be a rare case though. The only way to reduce memory use is to disable the data collection using a hidden pref.

In addition, iScrobbler 2 comes in a 64bit Intel flavor for Leopard and Core 2 users. This is the default binary for those systems and should run faster than the 32bit binary. However, it will also use 20%–30% more memory than the 32bit binary of iScrobbler.

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64–bit Note: It is completely normal for a 64bit app to have a 3+GB VM size. Again, the VM stat means next to nothing.
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For version 1.5.x and earlier large memory use is usually because of the Album artwork cache. You can override the default cache limit using a hidden pref, or turn off the cache in the preferences.

All versions of iScrobbler have been tested with a memory leak detector and there are no known memory leaks.

Why does iScrobbler use so much CPU time?

Again, this is the 2.0 and later Local Charts data gathering. The initial iTunes library import can use 80–90% of one CPU (or core) for many hours. After that, there will be spikes in CPU usage as songs are played or when chart maintenance is performed (every night at midnight, and every Sunday at noon GMT).

Note: Leopard is about twice as fast as Tiger when operating on the chart data and the 64bit iScrobbler is even faster.

What do the various menu colors represent?

Orange = OS X thinks your local network connection is not available. All tracks will be queued and no submission will be attempted until OS X recognizes a valid network connection.
Green = iScrobbler is attempting to submit one or more tracks.
Red = The submission attempt failed. All tracks will be queued. Further attempts will be made until the submission is successful.
Black = No submission has been made, or the last submission attempt succeeded.

For Orange and Red colors, you can hover your mouse over the menu and a tool tip will appear with a more detailed explanation of the problem. Alternatively, you can open the Statistics window for the same information.

Menu Note glyphs:

Barred eighth notes: Tracks will be submitted.

Sharp note (or number symbol): Tracks will **not** be submitted.

Why doesn't the menu work?
If the menu won't open when you click on the notes, the problem is you have Hide checked for the iScrobbler Login Item.

If the menu opens when you click on the notes, but none of the items in the menu work when you select them, then the problem is Cocoa Gestures. You must uninstall Cocoa Gestures for the menu to work.

Incompatibilities
In addition to Cocoa Gestures, the Logitech Control Center 2.4 driver software causes problems with Growl and may also cause iPod handling problems in iScrobbler.

Apple's Ink service has a bug in 10.5.x that causes 64bit apps to crash. Either disable Ink or use the 32bit version of iScrobbler.

iScrobbler Hidden Preferences (as of 2.0)
This list may not be comprehensive.

Warning

These preferences are "hidden" for a reason and if you decide to change them you may get unexpected results or get iScrobbler into a state where it just stops working. If this occurs, the best thing to do is quit iScrobbler, and delete the preferences file located at:

~/Library/Preferences/org.bergstrand.iscrobbler.plist

(**Note**: In versions older than 1.5b5, the preferences are accessed using `org.flexistentialist.iscrobbler` instead.

To set:

1) Quit iScrobbler

2) Using Terminal:

defaults write org.bergstrand.iscrobbler "Key" "value"

For boolean values (true or false), add -bool before "value"

To delete a key:

defaults delete org.bergstrand.iscrobbler "Key"

Keys

Artist Detail Show Artist Detail drawer for the selected artist/track in the Top Lists window.
Default: true

Artwork Cache Size (Removed in 2.0+) Set the maximum number of cache slots. Must be 8 or greater. If set, iScrobbler will not try to auto-calculate the max based on installed RAM.
Default: empty (auto-calculate)

AutoLoveTracksRatedHigherThan Automatically love tracks with a rating higher than the given value. Warning: If this is enabled, a track will be loved every time it is played as iScrobbler does not check for existing loved tracks. This won't cause any problems with last.fm, but it will generate extra network traffic. An auto-love will not be submitted until the track itself has been submitted, so that a skipped track is not loved accidently. The default of 1000000 prevents any track from being auto-loved as valid iTunes ratings (scaled to the number of stars) are currently between 0 and 5.
Default: 1000000
Note: When setting, prefix the value with -int

AutoTagLovedBanned Automatically tag Loved tracks as "loved" and Banned tracks as "banned".
Default: false

CheckForFileMBIDs Check MP3 files for MBIDs (Musicbrainz IDs).
Default: true

Disable Local Lists Disable all data tracking for local top lists.

Default: false

Display Control Menu Display the note menu in the menu bar. The note menu is the **only** UI entry point iScrobbler offers.
Default: true

GrowlLastFMCommunications (2.0+) Growl last.fm handshakes and submissions.
Default: false

GrowlPlays Show Growl message when a track begins playing
Default: true

GrowlOnResume Show Growl message when track play is resumed from a pause.
Default: false

GrowlPlayTitle Customize the title of the Growl play notification.
Default:"%t" See GrowlPlayFormat below for format info.

GrowlPlayFormat Customize the format of Growl messages.
Default: "%a%n%A%n%d%n%r"

Where:
%A = album
%a = artist
%t = title
%r = rating
%d = elapsed time and duration (2.0+)
%n = new line

All other characters are passed through unmodified.

IgnoreNetworkMonitor Don't monitor the network connection for availability.
Default: false

IgnorePodcasts Don't submit Podcasts downloaded from the iTunes Store (other Podcasts are not marked as such by iTunes).
Default: false

MenuNPInfoDelay (2.0+) The time required to hover the mouse over the control menu before the Growl track notification appears. In milliseconds (1000 = 1 second).
Default: 1000

Now Playing Detail Show Artist Detail drawer for the currently playing song

in the Stats window. If 'Artist Detail' is false, this setting has no effect either way.
Default: true

PrimaryMenuColor (1.5.1+) Set the menu color for the "default" state of the iScrobbler menu. Valid values are limited to: "blackColor", "darkGrayColor", "lightGrayColor", "whiteColor", "grayColor", "blueColor", "cyanColor", "yellowColor", "magentaColor", "purpleColor", "brownColor"
Default: "blackColor"

QueueSubmissionsIfiPodIsMounted Queue tracks played in iTunes if an iPod is mounted. This allows you to play tracks in iTunes while an iPod is syncing and still have the iPod plays be submitted along with those played in iTunes. If you have Disk Mode set on your iPod you may want to change this to false, but beware that if you play something in iTunes before your iPod is done syncing the iPod plays will be lost.
Default: true

Radio Station History Limit (2.0+) If this is set, it overrides the 'Number of Songs to Save' pref in determining the number of stations in the radio history.
Default: not set

Track Filters Don't submit tracks matching these filters.
Default: empty

You can filter on artist name, genre and path. Paths can be as specific or general as you want (down to a specific file, or any parent folder) .

Please note that these are keywords that are applied equally to Artist, Genre and path. So if you have an Artist and Genre with the same name, but only want to filter the Genre the Artist will be filtered too. Paths should generally not conflict with Artist/Genre. Also note, that path filters will likely not apply to tracks synced from an iPod in manual mode.

Example:
defaults write org.bergstrand.iscrobbler "Track Filters" '("Artist name", "Genre name", "/Absolute Path/To/Folder", ...)'

The format of the argument list is important, make sure the list begins with '(, ends with)' and that each item is quoted. Remember that each filter applies equally to Artist, Genre and Path. One wrong word and you could filter out a bunch of tracks you didn't mean too. (This is why the preference is hidden -- it's too dangerous to be a supported option.)

Use Batch Submission Submit tracks in batch mode. If false, submit tracks one at a time (not recommend for both submission rate performance and

bandwidth reasons).
Default: true