

Watching TV from the Internet

a little CRC...

What do you do if you want to watch TV but you live in a location where there is no reception? Or if you hate ads? Well if you have access to the internet then you can watch TV series and movies in a process called "streaming". I have been trialling 4 sites successfully for a few months now with a laptop connected to an ordinary TV. You do not need a smart TV. It's a great way to watch TV and movies in the comfort of your own home without having to deal with advertising.

For Free



Here are 2 good free sites that I use. SBS On Demand and ABC Iview. Both of these offer the content of nearly everything that they show on their TV service so you can catch up on shows you missed out on. One thing you should be aware of is that some of the episodes are not up there permanently. Some are only up for a few weeks.

Unlike subscription services that require registration and banking details both of these can be accessed simply by visiting their websites and choosing what you want to watch. There are no advertisements on ABC IView. SBS On Demand only have a limited amount apparently but I haven't noticed any yet. Stan and Netflix are also free of advertising.

There are many other free sites that stream movies as well that claim they have legal content with reasonable quality and some do; but there are others that aren't. Some are pirated and some have been illegally recorded in a movie theatre with a hand-held video camera placed on a seat which makes for a low quality reproduction and an unsatisfactory viewing experience. Especially when a late-comer to the movie shuffles in and sits down or someone stands up to go to leave.



For a Monthly Fee



Both of these sites offer a wide range of movies and TV series for a monthly fee. Stan is an Australian company while Netflix is from the United States. Both also offer the first month free as a trial. You must give your credit card details to register but if you unsubscribe before the month ends you won't be charged. Both have a starter package of \$10 per month which gives you unlimited access to all the TV shows and movies that they have.

For Keeps

With all of the streaming sites the content is downloaded to be viewed but *not stored* on your device. If you want to watch it again you have to stream it again and, as always, this takes up some of your monthly download allowance from your ISP. At standard definition it's roughly a gigabyte per hour. For most people these days it's not a problem as they tend to only watch things once.

I have purchased a program called PlayOn Desktop but I haven't used it yet. "PlayOn Desktop lets you record streaming movies and shows from Netflix, Hulu, Amazon, HBO and many other popular streaming sites so you can watch anytime, anywhere, and even skip the ads." - so the ad claims.

It should allow me to not only store my Netflix content to be played anytime but even better it will allow me to schedule the download to happen in the wee hours of the morning when my off-peak allowance is much greater and I never normally get to use it. I'll let you know how that goes.

Last year was a great one for the CRC with it's simulcasts, photo competition and exhibitions, movie nights, new whiz-bang printer and the comings and goings of the lovely locals et al. Thank you for coming to us to solve your riddles and problems. Thank you for your support in 2017; And thank you in advance for your continued support through 2018. Expect more productivity and fabulousness from the staff here at your local CRC.

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 10 am to 5 pm • Thursday 10 am to 6 pm • Friday 9 am to 6 pm



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