



## Watch TV or Listen To Radio On-Line

### Getting Started

By using your Laptop and connecting it to your TV with suitable Cable(s) you can watch/catch-up on TV Programmes you have missed over the last 7 days or so by accessing some of the Web Sites in this article BUT you won't be able to watch Live TV - this would cost you extra and need a special Adapter.

To listen to Radio on your Laptop is VERY simple as you just need to Login to the particular Web Site and choose what you want to listen to (i.e. No need for any extra Cables etc)

### Change What Happens When You Close The Lid

If you are going to regularly use your Laptop to watch programmes on your TV Screen, then it is a good idea to set it so that you can close the lid without the Laptop going to Sleep or Switching off - it is distracting to have the Laptop on view at the side of the TV!

In Windows Vista=Left Click the Start Button (Bottom Left Hand of Screen) and type "Power Options" into the "Start Search" Field - then Click on "Power Options" at the top of screen..

While you are in the Power Options, Click on "Choose what closing the lid does" and then on "Nothing" - this way, you will be able to set a Programme/Film playing on the TV Screen, then close the Laptop's lid so that it doesn't distract you! .... If you are using your laptop Speakers, you MAY want to leave the lid "Ajar" a little so you can hear the sound but not be distracted by the picture!

**Note: Always have the Power Lead plugged in if you are watching TV or listening to Radio On-Line**

### What Connections Do Your Laptop/TV Have?

If you are lucky, your nice new "Flat Screen" Digital TV and your nice new Laptop will both have an HDMI Slot which you can connect a Cable between ... an HDMI Cable may cost you £10-£20 (1.5m length) and it will transfer Vision AND Sound from your Laptop to the TV Screen.

You will need to use your TV Control to select Source=HDMI and, to get the sound to come through the TV instead of Laptop, Click Start-Control Panel-Sound and set Default to HDMI (You may need to set it back when just using the Laptop)

BUT most likely your Laptop, if it is an entry level one, will only have a VGA Connector to transfer Vision and an Ear-Phone (3.5mm Jack Plug) for the Sound ... Hopefully matching connections on the back of the TV as well!

(You will need a VGA Lead and a separate Sound Lead with 3.5mm Jack Plugs at one end and 2xRCA Plugs for the TV end.

### Screen Resolution

Once you manage to connect your Cables and get a picture on the TV Screen, you may find it does not fit the whole screen, there is a black margin around the picture OR the Wide-Screen looks a bit weird! .... At this stage, you need to experiment by changing the "Screen Resolution" on the Laptop.

Vista=Right Click a blank area of the Desktop; select Personalize - Display Settings .... Try another one and then Click on Apply to see how it looks.



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### Adjusting The Volume

If you are watching TV or Listening to Radio On-Line, it will be displayed in its' own Window and will have a Sliding Volume Control for you to set a comfortable Volume for yourself BUT be aware that there will also be Windows own Volume Icon located Bottom Right of your Taskbar - this too has its' own Sliding Volume Control and you need to juggle the two of them to suit your ear.

### Watching TV On-Line

Make a start by checking out the BBC iPlayer Web Site. There is no need to Register or give up your eMail Address etc and you can catch-Up on programmes you have missed over the last 7 days.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer>

There are more TV Sites for you to try out on the PC Senior Web Site - have a look in the "Fun Section" at: [www.pcsenior.org.uk](http://www.pcsenior.org.uk)

### Buffering Problems

Depending on the Speed of your Computer and Broadband, you most likely will suffer from a "Stuttering" in the display of your TV Programme (i.e. Buffering of it into you Computer's Memory before it can play).

To overcome this, the BBC have provided a Desktop Programme which you can freely Download from [www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/install](http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/install)

Using this Software from the new Icon on your Desktop, you can enjoy your favourite BBC Programmes without being connected to the Internet. (i.e. You allow the whole TV Programme to be Downloaded onto your Computer for play at your convenience! (or at least until it expires)

### Listening to Radio On-Line

To listen to Radio on your Laptop is VERY simple as you just need to Login to the particular Web Site and choose what you want to listen to (i.e. No need for any extra Cables etc)

When you have the program you like, Minimise the Window onto your Taskbar, adjust the Volume and carry on doing other things with it playing away in the background.

To make a start, check out the BBC iPlayer Web Site again - this time for Radio!

Here you can listen to Live Radio OR catch-Up on programmes you have missed over the last 7 days.

There are more Radio Sites for you to try out on the PC Senior Web Site - have a look in the "Fun Section" at: [www.pcsenior.org.uk](http://www.pcsenior.org.uk)

I like these as you can search for Sites by Genre (i.e. Pop; Folk; Jazz; Classical; Christian etc)

**Note:** For some TV/Radio Sites to work, you may have to Download & Install a small program which it needs - maybe "Apple Quicktime" or another called "Realplayer" (The Site will probably give you a Link to do so on-line)

#### *For YOU to do ....*

Checkout your Broadband Deal - do you have "Unlimited Downloads" or a "Fixed Download Allowance"?

If it is a "Fixed Download Allowance" then you will have to go easy with your watching TV On-Line!