



IPTV with a Mac Mini

Personal Setup & Experience



Key features of the wireless Mighty Mouse



Perceptions

- My personal assessment of IPTV
 - Not yet prime time ready, requires effort
 - Good alternative to cable, satellite, & OTA TV for someone willing to expend time & effort
 - Price is right after initial investment
 - A way to get domestic TV while abroad
 - A way to access international TV & get an international perspective on world news

IPTV Defined

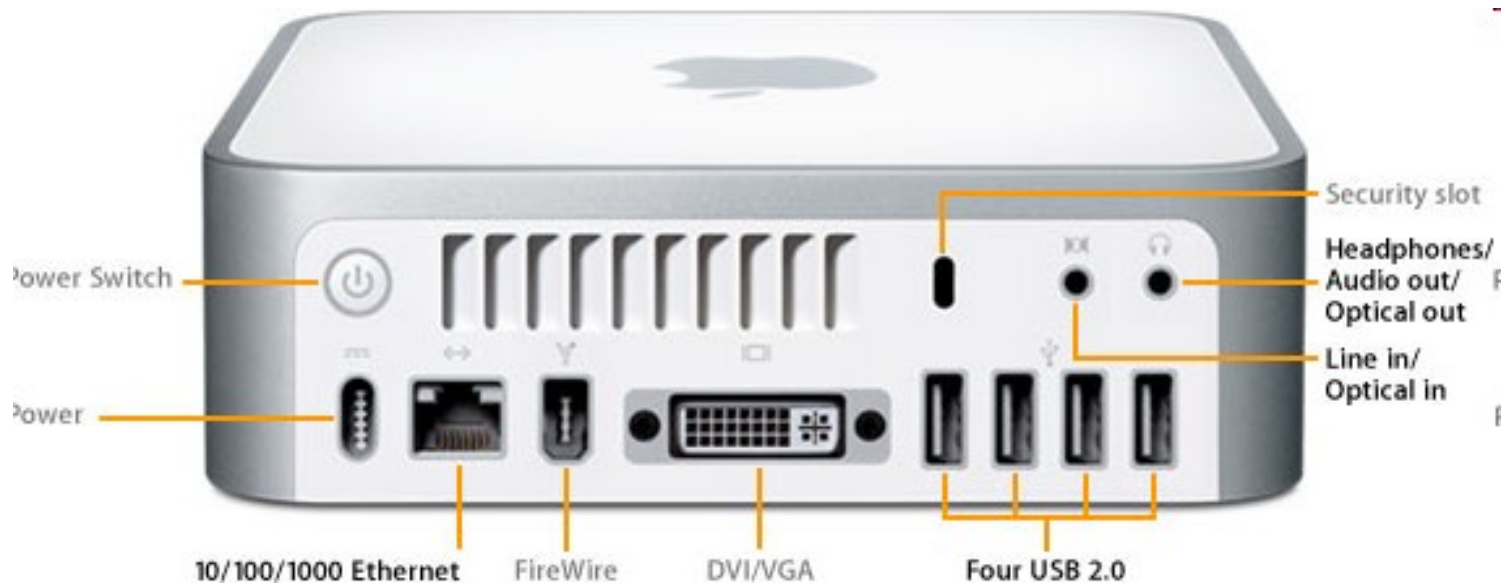
- Google search
 - Define: IPTV
 - <http://www.google.com/search?q=define%3A+>
 - <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IPTV>

Why?

- Cost, on-going vs up-front
- Antenna reception
- Because it's coming of age
 - On demand (anytime)
 - Trend

The Computer

- Mac Mini (\$599 list base unit)
 - <http://store.apple.com/us>
 - small, quiet, flexible, mini remote, HDMI over-scan



Computer Control Inputs

- Bluetooth keyboard & mouse (\$129 pkg)
- Infrared remote



Key features of the wireless Mighty Mouse



The TV / Monitor

- 32" Toshiba HDTV
 - <http://www.tacp.toshiba.com/=32av502u>
 - readable text, PC port, real estate, price, reputation
 - \$453 total cost thru Amazon



The Speakers

- Creative i-Trigue 40w PC 2.1 speaker system
 - better sound, already owned, easy install
 - no longer available



Added Media Software

- Third party software by usefulness
 - Perian - <http://perian.org/#detail>
 - WM Components - <http://www.microsoft.com/windows/windowsmedia/play>
 - VLC - <http://www.videolan.org/vlc/>
 - RealPlayer - <http://www.real.com/>
 - SofaControl (\$15) - <http://gravityapps.com/>
 - MediaCentral (\$38) - <http://equinux.com/us/start/index.html>
 - Veoh - <http://www.veoh.com/downloadFlow.html?ver=mac>
 - PandoraBoy - <http://code.google.com/p/pandoraboy/>

Other Media Center Software

- Alternatives to Apple's Front Row
 - iTheater - <http://www.itheaterproject.com/>
 - MediaCentral (\$38) - <http://equinux.com/us/start/index.html>
 - Plex - <http://www.plexapp.com/>
 - XHub (\$25) - <http://www.snarb.co.uk/xhub.html>

Improving Front Row

- Create alias (shortcut) so Front Row finds media on other drives
 - Works with other media front ends
 - <http://shinmaryuu.vox.com/library/post/fun-with>
 - <http://5thirtyone.com/archives/663>

General Comments on Media Quality

- IPTV picture & sound quality dependencies
 - Video resolution
 - Audio frequency range
 - Bandwidth & streaming
 - Computer performance
 - Media compression
 - Media sampling / frame rate

IPTV Source Search

- Google search
 - “Find: IPTV” or “IPTV channels”
 - <http://www.dailyiptv.com/news/100-best-internet-tv->
 - <http://www.iptv-guide.com/cbc/cbchome.htm>
 - <http://internet-tv-channels.blogspot.com/>
- Free iTunes video podcasts
 - MSNBC nightly news
 - Discovery channel

Shared Source List

- Some of Peter's M3U playlist – can use VLC to play MMS (Microsoft Media Server) links
 - ARTS Cal Poly Pomona TV, USA 320 x 240
 - CNN
 - Fox 11 Los Angeles
 - Major League Baseball
 - NASA
 - National Hockey League
 - Russia Today

Dot TV Web Sites

- Some .TV's
 - <http://blip.tv>
 - <http://fuel.tv>
 - <http://men7.tv>
 - <http://www.pandora.tv>
 - WinPC required to stream HDTV video via p2p

Other Web References & Sources

- <http://www.surfthechannel.com>
- Some of my favorite video sites
 - <http://www.crunchyroll.com/>
 - <http://sports.espn.go.com/broadband/espn360/beta/index>
 - Requires Mac or PC & Verizon FiOS or other supported ISP
 - <http://www.fancast.com/>
 - <http://www.hulu.com/>
 - <http://www.imeem.com/>
 - <http://www.joost.com/>
 - <http://megavideo.com/>
 - <http://www.mogulus.com/>
 - <http://tv.msn.com/>
 - <http://beta.tidaltv.com/>
 - <http://www.veoh.com/>
 - Requires Mac or PC to download HQ video file formats

Current IPTV Status Assessment

- <http://www.dailyiptv.com/features/no-1-in-ip>

Top USA IPTV Providers

- <http://www.dailyiptv.com/news/top-iptv-prov>
 - **AT&T:** U-Verse TV
 - **Verizon:** FiOS TV
 - www.verizon.net/starzplay (\$6/mo & WinPC)
 - *ESPN360 beta site*
 - **SureWest:** IPTV service