

MLCUG - PLEX FOR YOUR HTPC

- What is a HTPC (Home Theatre PC) ?
- What is Plex ?
 - Fork of XBMC (X-Box Media Center)
 - In software engineering, a project fork happens when developers take a copy of source code from one software package and start independent development on it, creating a distinct piece of software. The term often implies not merely a development branch, but a split in the developer community, a form of schism.
 - **NOTE:** Boxee was another fork of XBMC
 - Unique compared to XBMC & Boxee
 - Software in 2 parts
 - Plex Media Server - Media Manager & Scraper
 - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Media_server
 - Scrapers (also outside the XBMC community more commonly referred to as "web scrapers" or "importers") are used by XBMC Media Center to go online to automatically retrieve metadata information and artwork (thumbnails - poster/cover/fanart) from websites for Games, Music, Music, Videos, Movies, and TV Shows. This meta data information and artwork is then used for the XBMC program, music, and video libraries.
 - Plex Client - Player & App / Channel Manager
 - Plex Server can interface with other UPnP / DLNA players
 - Boxee & XBMC
 - Probably most set-top devices
 - Smart TV's & BR players (Samsung & others)
 - Google TV
 - Remote play
 - Requires account setup & registration
 - to remote mobile devices
 - to remote computers
 - quality of results depends on Internet bandwidth
 - Demos
 - the Plex Client interface
 - accessing "local" content from remote server
 - app (Channel) content requires local server
 - using generic UPnP / DLNA client to access local Plex server
 - Boxee as client
 - XBMC as client

- Installing Plex on Windows
 - Requirements
 - <http://plexapp.com/> <<< Plex home page
 - <http://www.plexapp.com/download/win-download-new.php>
 - Note links to Flash, Silverlight, & Google Chrome Frame
 - Google Chrome Frame only required if you use IE to setup & configure Plex Server; not required with other browsers
 - <http://wiki.plexapp.com/index.php/Guides>
 - Plex Server configuration walk thru presentation
 - Preferences
 - to use or not use iTunes
 - to use or not use MyPlex
 - <https://my.plexapp.com/>
 - MyPlex Queue additions
 - Bookmarklet
 - Chrome extension
 - Adding local media
 - 5 basic media types - pics, music, movies, TV shows, generic vids
 - File types - almost any media filename extension & type works
 - File organization & naming for Scraper & Player
 - http://wiki.plexapp.com/index.php/Media_Naming_and_Organization_Guide
 - Plex Client configuration walk thru presentation
 - Preferences
 - Adding Channel Directory apps
 - Adding other "channels" from LAN content
 - **NOTE:** in current version of Plex, WFS / SMB network support is broken
- Plex Client - Navigation & Control
 - Keyboard
 - Curser keys - move curser selection left, right, up or down
 - Enter / Return key - open selected menu item
 - ESC key - go back to previous level menu item
 - Shift key + alpha-numeric key - go to next item in a menu list that begins with that apha-numeric character
 - C key - display context menu for currently selected media menu item
 - X key - terminate currently playing media
 - I key - display codec information for currently playing video
 - M key - display menu options for currently playing video
 - P key - consecutively play all videos in selected folder OR present slideshow of pics in current list of pics
 - / key - toggle between full screen mode & window mode