

# B4RN's guide to TV and Film over the Internet

The online TV and film landscape is changing rapidly, but we've done our best to sum up some of the main devices and service providers to help you get to grips with what's available. We can't keep a permanent eye on developments so if you notice groundbreaking new devices or services please email [j.hamlett@b4rn.org.uk](mailto:j.hamlett@b4rn.org.uk) with any further suggestions which we can consider adding to this guide.

## TV Licences

TV licensing state: "You need to be covered by a TV Licence if you watch or record programmes as they're being shown on TV or live on an online TV service. This is the case whether you use a TV, computer, tablet, mobile phone, games console, digital box, DVD/VHS recorder or any other device."

## Live TV

Many major channels can be watched live on a computer or tablet by going to their websites or using an app like TVcatchup <http://tvcatchup.com/> or website like <http://www.tvguide.co.uk/>. Because of licensing issues there are no straightforward ways of playing live broadcasts from the Internet directly on your TV.

## Smart TVs & Blu-ray players and games consoles

If you have a new 'Smart TV', Blu-ray player, Playstation 3/4 or Xbox360/One then these have similar functionality already built into them. They can be connected directly to your Internet allowing apps to be downloaded for many 'on demand' or 'catchup' channels and 'pay per view' film services such as BBC iPlayer, Netflix, Amazon Instant Video, All 4 (i.e. channel 4), ITV player, Demand 5 (i.e. channel 5) etc.

## Streaming TV devices (connected by HDMI)

If you don't have a Smart TV then there is a wide range of devices which can plug into your existing TV (requires an HDMI socket on your TV) to give you Smart TV functionality. They start from as little as £20 and vary in the exact channels, services and features they support so choose carefully. The leading devices in the UK include;

[www.youview.com/](http://www.youview.com/)

[www.amazon.co.uk/firetvstick](http://www.amazon.co.uk/firetvstick)

[www.nowtv.com/box](http://www.nowtv.com/box)

[www.roku.com/uk/how-it-works](http://www.roku.com/uk/how-it-works)

## Sky TV Channels

Many SkyTV channels can be watched by subscribing to NowTV from Sky. These options include sky's entertainment channels, film channels and sport channels. 7 Channels of Sky Sports are available through NowTV (which can be run over B4RN and other ISPs) at a cost of £10.99 per week.

<http://www.nowtv.com/>

## **BT TV / BT Sport**

Unfortunately you can't get BT Sport over the internet unless you have BT Broadband, so no it's not currently possible under B4RN or other ISPs. However, if you have a Sky Digital Satellite system you can get BT Sport for £15 a month in high definition (HD) or £13.50 a month in standard definition, without a BT Broadband subscription.

<http://www.productsandservices.bt.com/products/tv-packages/?sport-on-tv>

## **Tooby's of Ingleton**

Tooby's have been kind enough to visit some of our open days and demonstrate Smart TVs YouView and Roku devices. They're very knowledgeable and can offer good face to face advice if you feel you need it.

## **So-called 'Free' Football on Internet TV**

Here's an extract from an article <http://www.moneysavingexpert.com/phones/football-on-tv>

*"You can watch live football online for free, but legally it's highly questionable. It's possible to watch matches live on the internet for free. But the picture quality's often suspect and there are big question marks about the legality of doing this. Some websites stream games via overseas TV channels, including matches not available on UK TV (such as Saturday 3pm kick-offs, which are never live here).*

*• Are these websites breaking the law by showing games?*

*We spoke to Ted Shapiro, a partner at top media law firm Wiggin. He says these websites which stream TV channels without authorisation, are breaking the law as they don't have the rights to show these games.*

*• Am I breaking the law if I watch a game on one of these websites?*

*There's no definitive answer. It's highly unlikely that the Premier League will come after individuals for streaming games using these sites, as its time is better spent chasing the sites which show the games illegally. The Premier League won a case against FirstRow Sport, which streamed matches to fans. It's now being blocked by six big UK broadband providers. More in the MSE News story Premier League free streaming sites.*

*• Should I watch a game on one of these sites?*

*This is totally up to you. Make your own judgement based on the info above."*