



# 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

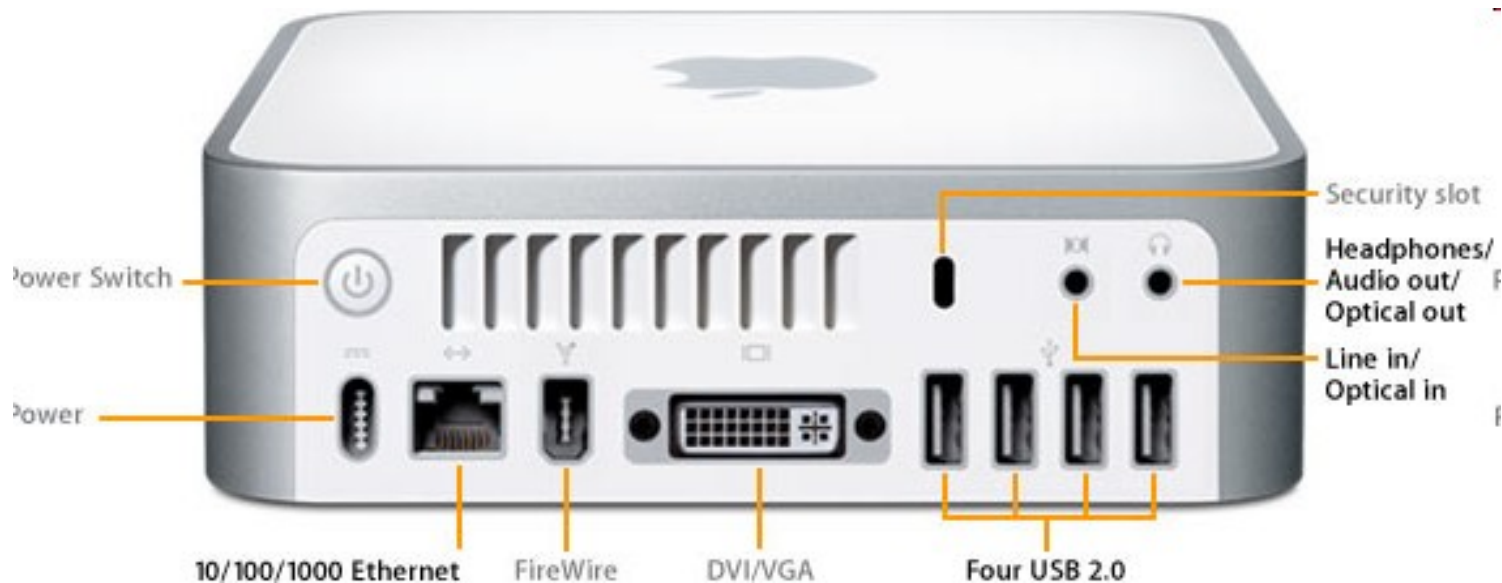
- Google search
  - Define: IPTV
  - <http://www.google.com/search?q=define%3A+>
    - <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IPTV>

# 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](http://www.verizon.net/starzplay) (\$6/mo & WinPC)
    - *ESPN360 beta site*
  - **SureWest:** IPTV service