A non-expert, step by step guide to install and use Slinger on Windows

Version log:

V.03 - Edited ip config address info, port forward info, Slinger running on 'startup' for clarity.
        Added a suggested solution for VLC issues.

V.02 – New, improved, with longer lasting bubbles, also.
        Important part about port blocking updated and moved forward.

This was written as a step by step guide to install slinger on Windows and get it running for those who know something about computers – but aren't experts. People like me.

If you know very little about computers this guide may still be too technical, but it might help a friend who is helping you.

If you know pretty much about computers this guide will be boringly simplistic.

Specifically it is written as a guide to install multiple Slingbox 500s, on a PC using windows, and using VLC as your media player. It can, however, also be useful for those installing a single slingbox.

It's all thanks to the great work that can be found at the github Slinger site.
That's where real expertise, detailed answers and help can be found.

https://github.com/GerryDazoo/Slinger

Speaking for Slingbox users everywhere there is no way to thank GerryDazoo too much, too often or too effusively.

So, here we go….

Contents

1. Critical: Block your slingbox from accessing original sling servers and getting "bricked"

This is bad news to deliver in a 'step-by-step' guide, but every router is different so it's impossible for me to tell you how to block a port for your specific router.

I'll take you as far as I can in the steps below. Then, all I can suggest is that you google your specific make and model router with 'port blocking' and follow their 'step by step'.

A. Everyone: Port Block on 5678

Experts far more knowledgeable than me have suggested **YOU MUST BLOCK PORT 5678 BOTH OUTBOUND AND INBOUND. THERE IS NOTHING ELSE YOU NEED TO DO EXCEPT THAT TO PROTECT YOUR SLINGBOX AND PREVENT BRICKING**

What is 'bricking'. It's Sling's final way of adding insult to injury. When a Slingbox operates it can automatically be loaded with new software/firmware that prevents it from working – your Slingbox can become 'a brick'.

B. Everyone: Find the *internal* ip address of the box that will be running server - write it down.

Method 1: Find your IP address using the command prompt (CMD)

You can quickly get your local IP address on your computer with the Windows Command Prompt tool. It'll show you both your IPv4 address as well as IPv6 address. Here's how to find your IP address using CMD:

1. Open the Start menu and type **cmd** to open the Command Prompt.
2. Type **ipconfig** into the Command Prompt and press **Enter**. The tool will return a set of data that includes your IP address. (probably called IPv4 address)

Method 2: Windows 10

Right-click the **Windows** logo in the lower-left corner of your screen and select **Settings**.

Click **Network & Internet**.

Select **Wi-Fi** or **Ethernet** in the left menu, depending on whether you're connected wirelessly or via an ethernet cable.

Click **Network** (or **Network and Sharing Center**) in the center column. Your IP address will appear in the next window, in the entry *IPv4 address*.

If you're on a Wi-Fi connection, click the **Properties** button below your Wi-Fi network name and scroll down to find out what your IP address is.

Method 2: Windows 11
    For Wi-Fi connection

1. Select **Start** > **Settings** > **Network & internet** > **Wi-Fi** and then select the Wi-Fi network you're connected to.
2. Under **Properties**, look for your IP address listed next to **IPv4 address**.

    For Ethernet connection

1. Select **Start** > **Settings** > **Network & internet** > **Ethernet**.
2. Under **Properties**, look for your IP address listed next to **IPv4 address**.

C. Linksys: How to Port Block 5678

Pretty good step by step here
https://www.expressvpn.com/support/troubleshooting/linksys-block-ip-address/

Note: I have been advised that trying to use "parental controls" on a Linksys router to block all internet traffic to 'sling.com' and 'slingbox.com' does not work.
That was my approach I shared in V.01 of this guide. I got educated.

D. Other Routers, Other Solutions

As I suggested earlier I would advise at this point you just google the brand and/or model of your router along with the term "how do I block port" or "port blocking".

The github discussions also offers other approaches for specific configurations and general advice.
I won't try to reproduce them here. Here's just one example:

e.g. Blocking unwanted Slingbox traffic - instructions for AT&T Arris BGW210 (router-specific) #268
https://github.com/GerryDazoo/Slinger/discussions/268

2. What if my Slingbox is already 'bricked'?

A problem beyond the scope of this guide.

My boxes were not so I have little advice or insight how to handle.

All I can do is suggest you look at the github site discussions. There you will find much advice and many suggestions from experts suggesting ways that you can 'unbrick' and others saying one cannot 'unbrick'.

As an example (for pro-HD) boxes
> Slingbox ProHD PC Unbricking-Setup-Network-Guide #357
> https://github.com/GerryDazoo/Slinger/discussions/357

3. Passwords for your Slingboxes – find them – write them down

YOU MUST HAVE PASSWORDS FOR YOUR SLINGBOX(ES). IF YOU DON'T HAVE THESE THERE'S NO POINT CONTINUING.

E. How to get passwords if in the past you used Slingplayer Desktop

This is what I did. I found the old 'console.log' file from when I ran slingbox desktop on my computer.

1. Go into your directory C:\Users\(enterwhateveryourusernameisonpc)\AppData\Roaming\Sling Media\Slingplayer Desktop\Logs.
2. go to the console file, right click and choose 'edit'
3. buried in all that stuff you will find passwords for your slingboxes. They will look like "E1:followedbyawholebunchofcharacters"
4. Write each of them down (including the E1:)

F. How to get passwords without Slingplayer Desktop

This is where you get disappointed in me…

Others far more talented than me have posted methods to get passwords.

I won't try to reproduce them all here, but if you go to discussions and look you will find items like these:

socelillyhammer has some great directions and a pdf on this discussion thread
Slingbox Pro 500 - Plesae Help - Did not log into to get PW
#366https://github.com/GerryDazoo/Slinger/discussions/366

How to retrieve memberslingbox details via Postman #400
https://github.com/GerryDazoo/Slinger/discussions/400

How to retrieve memberslingbox details via Postman #389
https://github.com/GerryDazoo/Slinger/discussions/389

HOW TO FIND THE PW TO 500/350/M1/M2 #374
https://github.com/GerryDazoo/Slinger/discussions/374

4. Download all files and documents for Slinger from github

1. Create a directory folder on your computer (or where ever you will run the slinger server that gives you access to your slingboxes for viewing). For this tutorial we will assume that folder is called 'slinger'

2. Download the zipped file from here
   https://github.com/GerryDazoo/Slinger
   Click the down arrow on the green "code" button, select "download zip", and download to a folder on the computer where you will be running the 'slinger' folder you created.
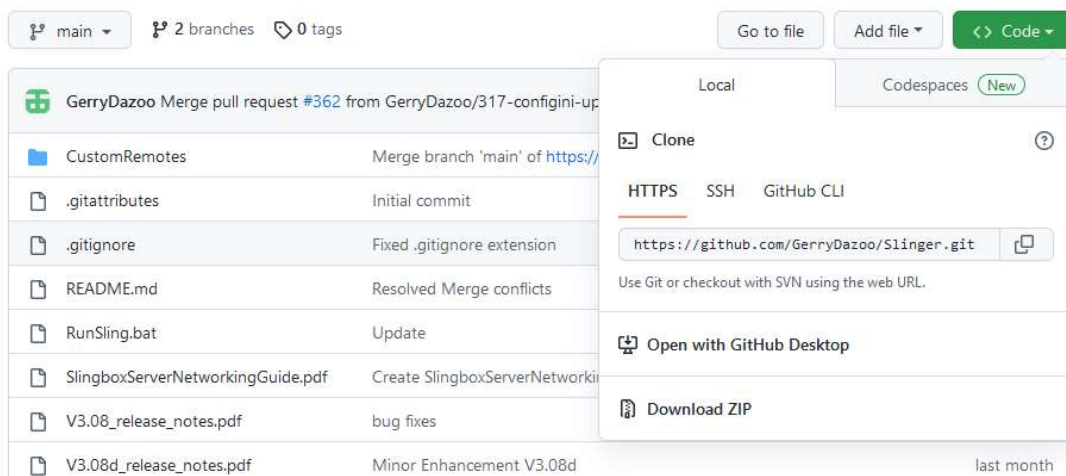
3. Unzip the file. That will create a directory under your 'slinger' folder called 'Slinger-main' and put there all the files you will be using.

5. Find the _external_ ip address of your internet connection – write it down.

Many ways to do this, I just typed "my ip" in google search bar (yes, there is a space between my and ip). Write it down.

6. Find the IP addresses, finder IDs, and ports of your slingboxes – write them down

There may be other ways to do this. What I found easiest is do what GerryDazoo suggests: run the server with 'ip address' commented out in the config.ini file.
Since the starting config.ini file you downloaded already is already like this here's all you have to do:

1. Using file explorer, open your folder "slinger/Slinger-main"
2. Run the server by double clicking on "slingbox_server"
3. It will attempt to run and it will open a window that shows you, for all the slingboxes found on your network, their IP addresses, finder IDs, and ports.
    The IP addresses are typically 192.168.something (but depending on how your router is configured they might be 172.16.0.0-172.16.31.255 or 10.x.x.x)
    the Finder IDs are evident
    the port number are probably 4 digit numbers.
4. Write them _ALL_ down.
5. Close the server window

7. Now make certain the ports you blocked in Step 1 are the ports you really need to block

In Step 1 you blocked port 5678. That's because it's the port slingboxes typically use.
However, now that you know the ports your slingbox(es) actually use you should make certain those ports are blocked.

Go back to step 1 and block the ports you just found in step 6.

When you're done, continue with step 8.

8. Create your config.ini - this example is for 3 Slingbox 500s

This example is for a configuration where you DO want to access the slingbox video when you are away from your house (LAN) – AND the computer where you're running the 'slinger' server is on the same home network (LAN) as your slingboxes

First I would recommend you open the 'config.ini' file in your 'Slinger/Slinger-main' folder and save it as 'configoriginal.ini'. I find it's always helpful to retain an original version of a file.
Open the folder, right click on 'config.sys', choose 'edit'. It opens. Choose 'file', 'save as' and save it as 'configoriginal.ini'

The 'unified_config-original.ini' file is the starting template I used as it has examples of all types of slingboxes AND is an example of how to setup multiple slingboxes.

If you've made it this far and have a single slingbox you can continue by using the sample config.ini file below:
> *a) Delete the lines sb2= and sb3=*
> *b) Delete all the lines starting with [NameOfYourSecondSlingbox] all the way down to the line [Server] (but do not delete the line [Server].*

In blue below is my version of a config.ini file, after editing, to use 3 slingbox 500s.
ITEMS IN RED ARE WHAT YOU WOULD REPLACE WITH YOUR INFO

After you edit it with your specific info, you must choose 'file', 'Save As' and save it in the 'Slinger/Slinger-main' folder as 'config.ini'.

; This a sample of a unified config.ini for three slingbox 500s

[SLINGBOXES]
sb1=NameOfYourFirstSlingboxforexampleMySling1
sb2=NameOfYourSecondSlingboxforexampleMySling2
sb3=NameOfYourThirdSlingbox forexampleMySling3

[NameOfYourFirstSlingboxforexampleMySling1]
sbtype="350/500/M1"
password=PasswordOfYourFirstSlingbox
;finderid=FinderIDofYourFirstSlingboxYouProbablyDontNeedThisAndCANIGNORE
ipaddress=IPAddressOfYourFirstSlingbox
port=PortNumberOfYourFirstSlingbox
Resolution=12
FrameRate=30

VideoBandwidth=2000

VideoSmoothness=63

; Video Source 0, 1, 2, 3 depending on your hardware corresponds to one of

; Composite, Component, S-Video, HDMI or Tuner.

;   ProHD: 0=Tuner   1=Composite 2=S-Video   3=Component

;   Solo/M1: 0=Composite 1=S-Video   2=Component

;   500: 0=Composite 1=Component 2=HDMI

;   M2: 0=Composite 1=Component

; If you don't set this, the code will use the last configured input

; I recommend setting this value. If not set correctly, you'll often only see a black screen.

; Note: Setting invalid options may cause unexpected hardware behavior. For example, setting

; 2 or 3 for M2 hardware causes it to reboot.

VideoSource=SeeCommentLinesAboveandEnterTheNumberCorrespondingtoHowYourFirstSlingboxIsConnecte
dtoYourTVformySling500sOnCompositeTVConnectionsthisHappendToBe1

maxstreams=3

;StartChannel=155

;RemoteLock=yes

Code=InputHereTheSameNumberasYouEnteredforVideoSourceAbove

Remote=500_remote.txt

[NameOfYourSecondSlingboxforexampleMySling2]

sbtype="350/500/M1"

password=PasswordNumberOfYourSecondSlingbox

;finderid=FinderIDofYourSecondSlingboxYouProbablyDontNeedThisAndCANIGNORE

ipaddress=IPAddressOfYourSecondSlingbox

port=PortNumberOfYourSecondSlingbox

Resolution=12

FrameRate=30

VideoBandwidth=2000

VideoSmoothness=63

; Video Source 0, 1, 2, 3 depending on your hardware corresponds to one of

; Composite, Component, S-Video, HDMI or Tuner.

;   ProHD: 0=Tuner   1=Composite 2=S-Video   3=Component

;   Solo/M1: 0=Composite 1=S-Video   2=Component

;   500: 0=Composite 1=Component 2=HDMI

;   M2: 0=Composite 1=Component

; If you don't set this, the code will use the last configured input

; I recommend setting this value. If not set correctly, you'll often only see a black screen.

; Note: Setting invalid options may cause unexpected hardware behavior. For example, setting

; 2 or 3 for M2 hardware causes it to reboot.

VideoSource=SeeCommentLinesAboveandEnterTheNumberCorrespondingtoHowYourSecondSlingboxIsConnec
tedtoYourTVformySling500sOnCompositeTVConnectionsthisHappendToBe1

maxstreams=3

;StartChannel=155

;RemoteLock=yes

Code=InputHereTheSameNumberasYouEnteredforVideoSourceAbove

Remote=500_remote.txt

[NameOfYourThirdSlingboxforexampleMySling3]
sbtype="350/500/M1"
password=PasswordOfYourThirdSlingbox
;finderid= FinderIDofYourSecondSlingboxYouProbablyDontNeedThisAndCANIGNORE
ipaddress=IPAddressOfYourThirdSlingbox
port= PortNumberYourThirdSlingbox
Resolution=12
FrameRate=30
VideoBandwidth=2000
VideoSmoothness=63
; Video Source 0, 1, 2, 3 depending on your hardware corresponds to one of
; Composite, Component, S-Video, HDMI or Tuner.
;   ProHD: 0=Tuner   1=Composite 2=S-Video   3=Component
;   Solo/M1: 0=Composite 1=S-Video   2=Component
;   500: 0=Composite 1=Component 2=HDMI
;   M2: 0=Composite 1=Component
; If you don't set this, the code will use the last configured input
; I recommend setting this value. If not set correctly, you'll often only see a black screen.
; Note: Setting invalid options may cause unexpected hardware behavior. For example, setting
; 2 or 3 for M2 hardware causes it to reboot.
VideoSource=SeeCommentLinesAboveandEnterTheNumberCorrespondingtoHowYourThridSlingboxIsConnecte
dtoYourTVformySling500sOnCompositeTVConnectionsthisHappendToBe1
maxstreams=3
;StartChannel=155
;RemoteLock=yes
Code=InputHereTheSameNumberasYouEnteredforVideoSourceAbove
Remote=500_remote.txt

[SERVER]
; local port number for the server to listen on for connections
; Send all streaming and Remote request to this port number.
port=thedefaultis8080butIsuggestyouenteranumberbetween63000to64000justWritedownWhatYouUse
maxremotestreams=5
URLbase=EnterWhateverYouWantYourSlingerServicetoBeCalled(anexampleismytv)justWritedownWhatYouUs
ed
enableremote=yes

9. Router Port Forward - To be able to access your Slingbox video from outside your LAN - forward your Router Port

Too many different routers for me to tell you how to do this. Google it for your router.

What I did:

Open a browser, type in 192.181.1 as the URL and that opened my router software.
That should work for you.

For my particular Linksys router I had to go to 'Security', 'Apps & Gaming', 'Single Port Forwarding'.
That gave me a screen where I could 'label the app' (I called it Slinger) and then enter the port to forward.

THE INTERNAL PORT NUMBER TO FORWARD IS WHATEVER YOU CHOSE TO USE ABOVE FOR THE SERVER PORT WHEN CREATING YOUR CONFIG.INI FILE!

I entered that port number under both 'internal' and 'external' port.
I have been advised to say that port number must be used for the 'internal' port number, but the 'external' port number can be anything you want. I kept it the same number because it's simple.

For protocol choose 'TCP'. That's the one that's important.
I had chosen 'both' (TCP and UDP) and was advised UDP does no good.

Enter the internal IP address of the computer where you are running the server that you got in Step 4.

10.   Create and write down all the URLs you will be needing to Slinger Video and use a remote control

A. General Explanation about address that you will use

First it's important to understand that you will be using two 'addresses'.
         An address to stream video (on a media player)
         An address to use a remote control to change channels etc. (on an internet browser)

Second, you will also use a different pair of addresses depending on whether you are watching at home on a LAN (where your slinger server is running),- vs - if you are watching remotely.

Here is a general EXAMPLE of what a pair of addresses will look like for using Slinger if you're NOT home on your LAN (where your slinger server is running).

         For video: http://62.00.444.555:63010/mytv/mysling1
         For remote control: http://62.00.444.555:63010/remote/mysling1

Here is a general EXAMPLE of what a pair of addresses will look like for using Slinger if you're home on a LAN (where your slinger server is running).

         For video: http://192.168.1.20:63010/mytv/mysling1
         For remote control: http://192.168.1.20:63010/remote/mysling1

You can create YOUR addresses in any text editor you're familiar with, in notepad, in Word etc.
Just save them in a file (e.g. "my slinger addresses") because it's easier later to copy/paste them from the file into where you will eventually use them.

H. Create *your* addresses using *your* information

    a. Addresses for watching if you are NOT watching from 'home'

Replace this with YOUR EXTERNAL IP
address of internet connection

Replace this with YOUR port
number of YOUR first slingbox

For video: http://62.00.444.555:63010/mytv/mysling1

Replace this with name of YOUR
URLbase you used in config.ini

Replace this with name of YOUR
slingbox you used in config.ini

For your remote control address:

    Copy the address you just created above for video and replace the 'URLbase' name with the word "remote", e.g.
        http://62.00.444.555:63010/remote/mysling1

    b. Create Addresses for watching from 'home'

    Copy the two addresses you made above.
    Replace the EXTERNAL IP address with INTERNAL IP address of your computer (where you will be running the server

    c. For multiple slingbox 500s

    You should now have a four 'pairs' of addresses customized to your settings.
    Copy those four addresses and change the name of your slingbox to your other slingbox e.g. replace "mysling1" with "mysling2".

    Repeat for as many slingboxes as you have.

11.   Download your media player onto device you will be watching video

In my case I chose VLC. It's free, I'm used to it.
Some posts on github say there are better players. Some posts on github troubleshoot issues with VLC.
For me VLC worked well enough and life was complicated enough already.

In my case I downloaded VLC to appleTV. You can download it to your phone, to your tablets, to your PC – wherever you may want to watch.

NOTE: you will not only be running VLC to watch, but also be using your browser to get to your 'remote control'.
Both the video and the remote control can be done from a single device like a phone, tablet and maybe I'll do that someday.
For now I found it MUCH easier to watch video using slinger on one device and use my phone as the 'remote control'. The exception is if I'm 'Slinger-ing" on my desktop PC. Then it's easy for me to run VLC in one browser tab, and in another browser tab be 'running' the remote.

## 12. Time now to start Slinging – or, really "Slinger-ing"

<u>The steps here assume you are home on your LAN and that's where your server is.</u>

First, Start your media server for slinging video (in my case VLC)

1. Start your server. This MUST be running to use slingboxes.
   Go to the folder and run server by double clicking "slingbox_server.exe"
2. Go to your windows pc, or appleTV, or tablet and start your media player (VLC)
3. Choose Media, Open network stream'. On a PC this is what it looks like
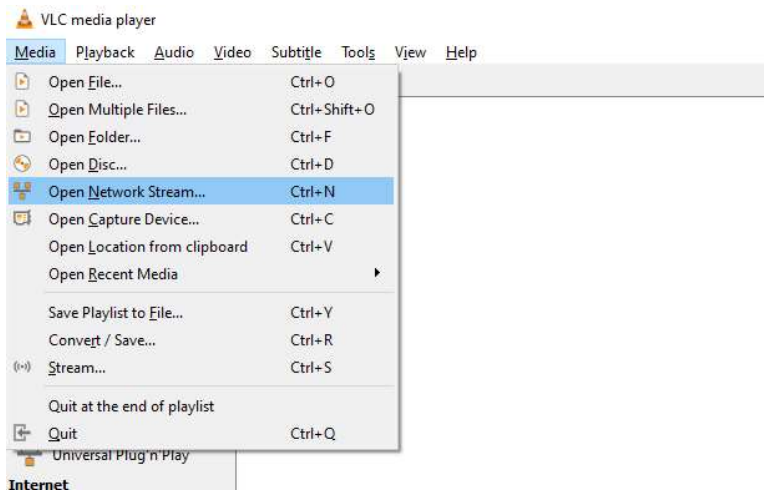
Type in (or copy/paste from your sling addresses file) YOUR address for video, watching from home, then click on "Play":
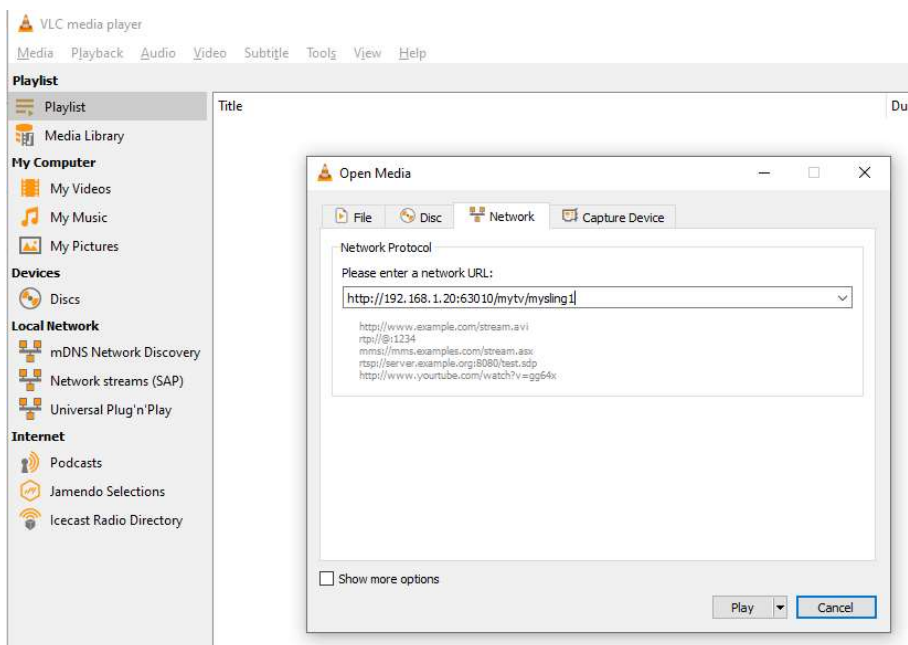
If your video starts to play, great. In my case VLC shows a black screen because my slingbox and cable/sat box isn't powered on yet.

4. Go to your wireless phone, open a browser window, and run the remote control by typing in (or copy/paste from your sling addresses file) YOUR address for your remote, watching from home, reminder it will look something like this:
e.g. http://192.168.1.20:63010/remote/mysling1

5. That should open what looks like a remote on your browser. In my case it looks like this. Yours may be different.

6. Tap the 'power' button (to power on your slingbox and cable/satellite box)

In my case this often closes the network stream on VLC.
In my case all I have to do is go back to VLC, double click on the network stream and VLC starts slinging video.
There may be more elegant ways to avoid this. I haven't figured it out. It's good enough for me.

① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦ ⑧ ⑨ ⓪
OK | Up | Down | Left | Right
Guide | Last | Exit | DVR
FF | Rew | Play | Pause
Ch+ | Ch- | Pg- | Pg+
Day- | Day+
Rec | OnDemand | Menu
Power | Restart
Channel
Status: Waiting for first update...

What to use if you want to Sling remotely (not home) or from a second slingbox

The steps would be the same as above EXCEPT you would use your 'remote' addresses and the addresses for the particular slingbox you are using

13.   How to solve a few VLC problems I have had

These are apparently issues with the VLC player (not Slinger).
As I mentioned earlier, there are other players recommended in github Slinger discussions.
VLC is what I'm used to and I've so far been willing to live with it's quirks.

a. I click 'power' on my remote and my VLC player stops the network stream

As mentioned previously, in my case this does happen.
In my case all I have to do is go back to VLC, double click on the network stream and VLC starts slinging video.

GerryDazoo has advised the proper way to correct this is:
"On VLC turn on "loop 1". It will auto reconnect when the stream drops. This is an issue with VLC not being able to dynamically resync the video stream when the SB input changes."

On a PC this is what VLC looks like and this is the icon to click to 'turn on loop 1".
- If it's grey = no loop
- Click it and it turns blue = loop
- Click it again and it turns blue with a little "1"

b. I change channels using VLC and the audio changes but the video freezes

I have found that by selecting 'Guide' on the remote, waiting until the channel guide appears, then choosing ANY other channel on the guide, the video unfreezes and things work fine after that.

Another way that's worked for me is I go to VLC, stop the network stream (or, just close VLC), restart the VLC network stream and things work OK.

There may be more elegant ways to avoid this. I haven't figured it out. It's good enough for me.
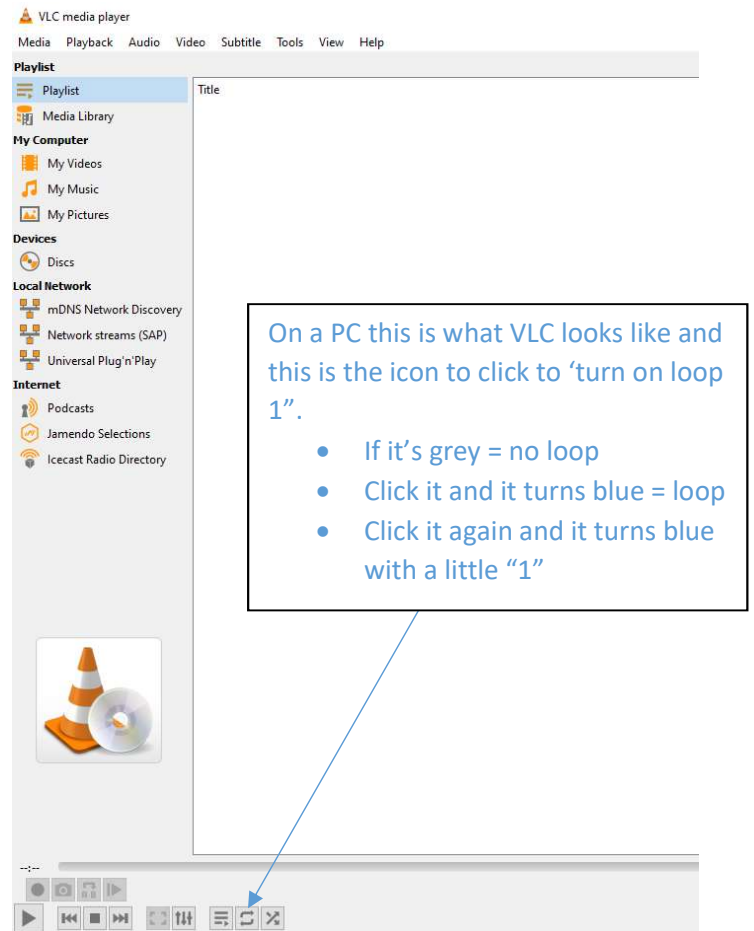
14.   If you want the Slinger server to run whenever you start PC

If you want to have the server start automatically when you start and logon to your PC make a shortcut to RunSling.bat in the Windows Startup folder.

In the 'Slinger-main' folder you will see the file 'RunSling.bat'. You have to edit that file for YOUR specific configuration (items in red).
Go the that folder, select that file, right click and choose 'edit'.
Make your modifications.
I have modified the example below to align with the example I've been using in this document where all the 'slinger' files are in the directory "Slinger\Slinger-Main"

```
:loop
(
REM if code is not on your C drive switch to the correct drive letter
c:
REM use the full pathname to where your code is located
cd Slinger\Slinger-Main
slingbox_server.exe
REM or if your using python use the full path to whatever python interpreter you're using.
REM "c:\Program Files\Python39\python.exe" slingbox_server.py
)
goto :loop
```

Save the modified file.
Copy that file

With the file location open, press the **Windows logo key** **+ R**, type **shell:startup**, then select **OK**. This opens the **Startup** folder.

Paste the shortcut to the app from the file location to the **Startup** folder.

Note: GerryDazoo has properly pointed out that this will start Slinger server when you start and logon to your PC. If you actually want it to run on boot up, you need to run it as a windows service. You may need that, I don't, and I haven't the expertise to provide detailed instructions how do that.

15.   If your PC windows defender thinks slinger is a virus

This is a straight copy/paste from GerryDazoo. I didn't have this problem, but you might so I included it here.

Windows Defender may think there are two viruses in the slingbox_server.exe file. This is not the case. Add an exception on your system for slingbox_server.exe

```
PC Settings/Update & Security/Windows Security/Virus & Threat Protection/Virus &
Thread protection Settings/Add or Remove Exclusions/Add an exclusion:
```

```
Enter the path to slingbox_server.exe
```