

Milkman's Guide to THE ULTIMATE **MEDIA** SYSTEM



INTRODUCTION

Hi there,

I am the milkman, and this is my guide.

I have written this guide for all you “regular people” out there who want to join the crowd of people building home theater Pc’s. HTPC for short.

I’ve made it simple so that anyone can build their very own custom HTPC, that will be 100 times better than any “pre-built” HTPC solution out there.

“Better you say?”

Yes.

This HTPC will be capable of storing around 10 to 15 TB (terabytes) of media inside the device itself, up to 30 TB if you use external hard drives as well. That’s a lot of media.

It’s small, too - roughly the size of only 15 stacked DVD cases, and runs very quietly. It has a gorgeous user interface, and is easy enough for even the wife and kids to use. Above all, it’s very affordable, and all the software it runs on is 100% free, too.

Your media will also be transformed into a Cable TV experience, where you can make up your very own channels.

Do you like Sci-Fi? Why not have 5 different Sci-Fi channels?

The possibilities are endless, and the channels you have will be completely up to you.

You can even control the HTPC with your iPhone or Android as the remote!

If you fear you might not be capable of building an HTPC though, read the guide and see how easy it is. You will be taken step by step along with pictures to help you.

Sincerely,
The Milkman

PS:

If you are happy with this guide, all I ask of you is to send me over some milk.

Actually, keep the milk - it’s good for you.

DISCLAIMER

DISCLAIMER



I will not be held responsible for any bad advice, injury caused by assembling an HTPC or headaches caused by OpenELEC, XBMC or PseudoTV. I am also not responsible for copyrighted media and material that you acquire. Only use series, movies and other media that you legally own. I do not condone piracy in any way.

HOW TO VIEW THIS GUIDE



You can press Ctrl + L to view this guide in Full Screen (Adobe Reader)

This document and font sizes have been designed primarily for reading on an average sized computer screen, although printing is also an option if you prefer.

ICON LEGEND



Information



Warning!



Good Idea/Tip

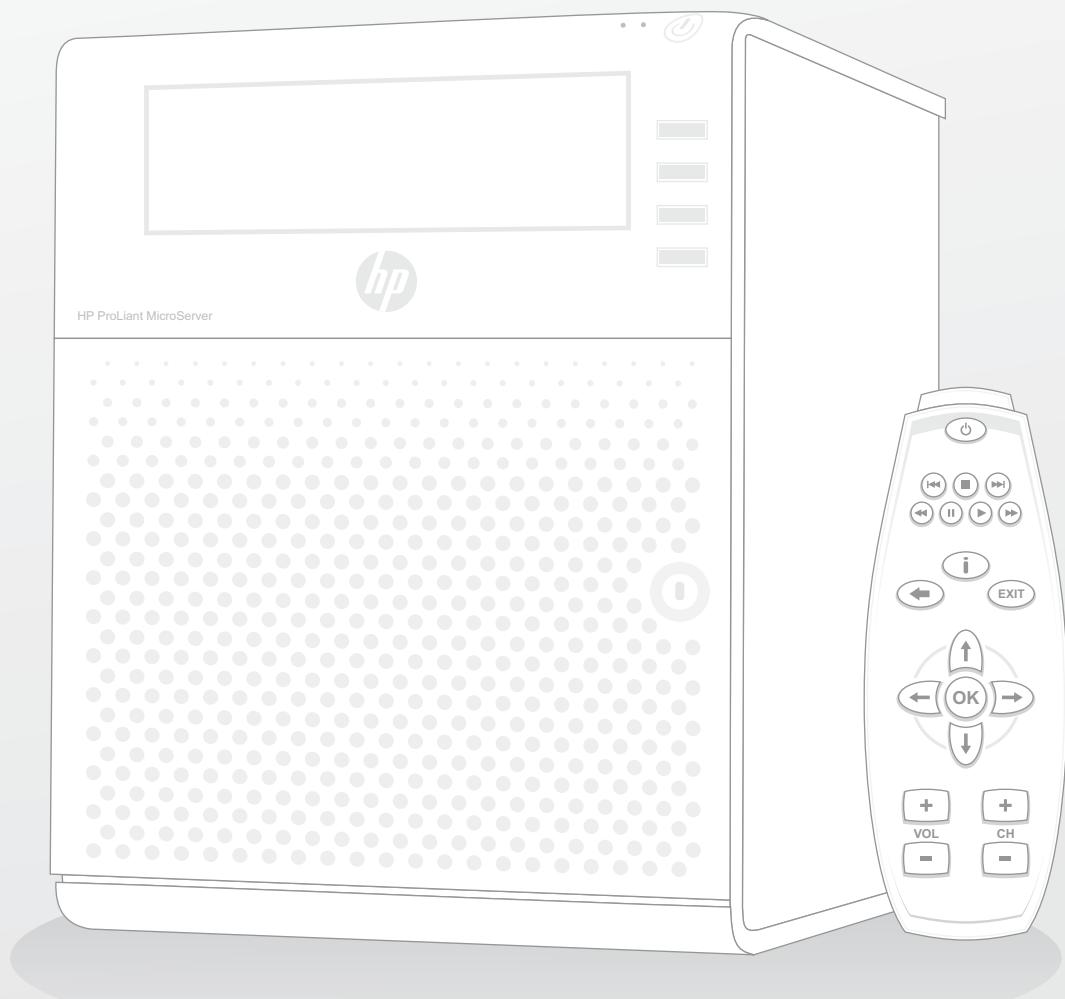


INDEX

Technical Specs.....	1
Quick Overview.....	2
Hardware Checklist.....	3
Creating a USB Key.....	5
Installing OpenELEC.....	8
Configuring Samba.....	11
Organizing your media.....	15
Scraping your media.....	16
Installing PseudoTV.....	19
Running PseudoTV.....	20
Smart Playlists.....	21
Adding Channels.....	23
Planning a Channel Setup.....	26
Planning Network Channels.....	27
Planning Playlist Channels.....	31
Planning Directory Channels.....	32
Organizing Channels.....	34
The Final Result.....	35
Putting it all Together.....	36
PseudoTV Settings.....	37
Final Touches.....	39
Advanced Channel Rules.....	40
Interleaving, Bumpers & Adverts.....	42
Tips.....	44
FAQ.....	45
Get Sound Working.....	46
Useful Links.....	47
Final Words.....	48
Notes.....	49

TECHNICAL SPECS

Product name	: HP ProLiant N40L
Form factor	: Ultra Micro Tower
Processor family	: AMD Turion™ II Neo N40L (1.5GHz)
Number of processors	: 1
CPU Cores	: 2
Maximum memory	: 8 GB (1 x 2 GB included)
Memory slots	: 2 x DIMM slots
Memory type	: PC3 DDR3
Expansion slots	: 1 x half-height, half-length PCIe x16 (Gen 2) 1 x half-height, half-length PCIe x1 (Gen 2)
USB Ports	: 7x USB 2.0 ports. (4 front, 2 rear, 1 internal)
Network controller	: 1GbE NC107i 1 Port (Gigabit Ethernet)
Drive description	: (4) LFF SATA
Drive bays	: 4 x 3.5 inch Drives 1 x 5.25 inch DVD / Bluray Drive
Storage controller	: Integrated 4 port SATA RAID
Power supply	: 150 Watts
Processor cache	: 2 MB L2



* Remote not included with HP ProLiant MicroServer

QUICK OVERVIEW

HTPC

An HTPC and other convergence devices integrate components of a home theater into a unit co-located with a home entertainment system. An HTPC system typically has a remote control and the software interface normally has a 10-foot user interface design so that it can be comfortably viewed at typical television viewing distances. An HTPC can be purchased pre-configured with the required hardware and software needed to add video programming or music to the PC. Enthusiasts can also piece together a system out of discrete components as part of a software-based HTPC

XBMC

XBMC is an award-winning free and open source (GPL) software media player and entertainment hub for digital media. XBMC is available for Linux, OSX, and Windows. Created in 2003 by a group of like minded programmers, XBMC is a non-profit project run and developed by volunteers located around the world. More than 50 software developers have contributed to XBMC, and 100-plus translators have worked to expand its reach, making it available in more than 30 languages.

While XBMC functions very well as a standard media player application for your computer, it has been designed to be the perfect companion for your HTPC. Supporting an almost endless range of remote controls, and combined with its beautiful interface and powerful skinning engine, XBMC feels very natural to use from the couch and is the ideal solution for your home theater.

OpenELEC

Open Embedded Linux Entertainment Center, or OpenELEC for short, is a small Linux distribution built from scratch as a platform to turn your computer into a complete XBMC media center. OpenELEC is designed to make your system boot as fast as possible and the install is so easy that anyone can turn a blank PC into a media machine in less than 15 minutes.

Pseudo TV

This script for XBMC gives you the ability to define your own TV channels and watch all of your media just as you would watch normal cable. Use the electronic program guide to see what's on, or to start watching anything you see.

Setup your own list of channels by configuring the addon and opening the channel configuration utility. You will be able to select from a variety of built-in channel types, or you can select a smart playlist that you've made to be a channel.

HARDWARE CHECKLIST

DISCLAIMER



First of all, you may buy any hardware you prefer. If you are experienced in any one of these fields, or have done research on the subject, feel free to use any HTPC, Graphics card or Remote as you please. Just be sure to blame yourself if money is wasted by experimenting with other components that aren't compatible.

HTPC

There are many HTPC's to choose from, but I personally recommend using the HP ProLiant MicroServer. It really is a keeper.

Not only is it very silent, but it can house up to 5 Internal Hard Drives. There are also 7 USB Slots (which can be used for external hard drives) and 2 PCI-Slots.

This guide is specifically written for HP ProLiant MicroServer owners in mind.

Graphics Card

You will need a low budget graphics card to enable the HP ProLiant Microserver to output sound and HD Video. The HP ProLiant Microserver only supports low profile cards with low profile brackets. (the steel end containing the DVI-out)

I recommend the Msi N520GT-MD1GD3/LP. It has a fan but I assure you it is quite silent. The card comes with 3 brackets and handles 1080p video flawlessly.

You might need to switch the bracket to the low profile one that is included in the box.

ATI cards might have driver problems with OpenELEC.

Memory

The HP ProLiant Microserver has 2GB of RAM included, and more can be added.

OpenELEC is extremely lightweight though and additional Memory will not be needed.

Hard Drives

5300 rpm hard drives are completely fine for use in a HTPC.

You may get some faster transfer speeds when moving around data through the network if your drives are formatted to EXT3 Partitions, however, I prefer to use NTFS myself as they can be used in a Windows System, while EXT3 cannot.

If you will be watching most of your media from your HTPC, it's a good idea to copy all the media to it so you do not have to switch the PC on to be able to watch something.



QUICK TIP

You can also just plug some of your hard drives into the HTPC after the OpenELEC installation has been completed, and skip the copying process altogether. Copying files can take a long time, so this is definitely recommended.

HARDWARE CHECKLIST

Remote & Receiver

There are many remotes and receivers to choose from, and this is one part that is up to you, your style, preferred button layout, quality, features and your budget.

Prices range from cheap to very expensive.

Hauppauge receivers and Logitech remotes make a good combo and are recommended.

Try to get a Receiver that is RC6 compatible / certified.

IR: Infra Red – Requires line of sight to the receiver.

RF: Radio Frequency – Requires no line of sight.

WARNING!



Your remote may also be able to switch on your HTPC with the on/off button, but it may require you to connect the receiver to the HTPC's Power supply cables directly. Please check your manual if you are prepared to go this far – Working with Power cables is not recommended for people who don't know what they are doing.

If you install a WiFi card into your HTPC, or connect it to a WiFi enabled router, you may be able to use certain mobile phones to control XBMC (iPhones / Android based phones). Check your phone's App Store to download an XBMC compatible remote App.

HDMI Cable

You will need this to pass digital video and sound signals to your TV.

Whether it's a pure HDMI cable or a DVI-to-HDMI cable, will be up to your graphics card.

The Msi N520GT has a DVI and an HDMI Port on the Low Profile bracket.

Note: Make sure your Plasma/LCD has an HDMI port !

Keyboard

You need a keyboard to install OpenELEC on your HTPC.

You may even use the keyboard from this computer temporarily.

Please note that Gaming keyboards with advanced features might not be compatible with the initial OpenELEC Setup.

Flash Drive(s)

You need one flash drive to install OpenELEC on the HTPC. You will need a second if you intend installing and running OpenELEC from a flashdrive as well.

Network Cable

CAT5e should work nicely. make sure it's long enough to go from the HTPC to your PC.

Once you have ordered, received and assembled your brand new HTPC, it's time to Install OpenELEC which comes with XBMC pre-installed. Isn't that nice of them?

CREATING A USB KEY

Preparing the USB flash drive

We will need a “USB Key” - a flash drive / thumbstick / USB Drive to get OpenELEC on to the HTPC. Any type will do, as long as it is around 256MB or larger.

Please back up all files on the flash drive before continuing.

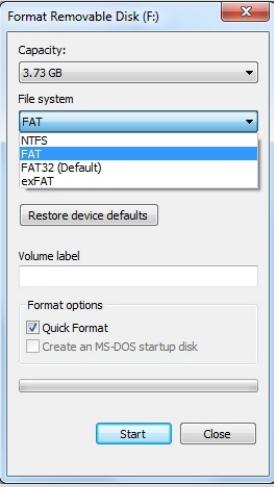
FORMATTING THE FLASH DRIVE

Format an empty flash drive with the FAT file system (FAT16).

You should be able to do this right in Windows by right-clicking on the drive and selecting “Format...”

If you are having trouble getting the OpenELEC setup to boot up from your flash drive, try formatting with “EASEUS Partition Master”, it has many options for formatting. Some USB flash drives have been known to give problems.

a FAT32 file system might also work with newer OpenELEC releases.



WARNING!

This will wipe all data on that drive – Please make sure you have the correct path of the flashdrive, and make sure there aren’t any files on it that are important to you.

Download OpenELEC

Go to www.openelec.tv/get-openelec and download the latest release of OpenELEC.



WHICH BUILD?

For the HP ProLiant MicroServer + Msi N520GT setup, the latest “Generic Build” of OpenELEC should be the one to go for.

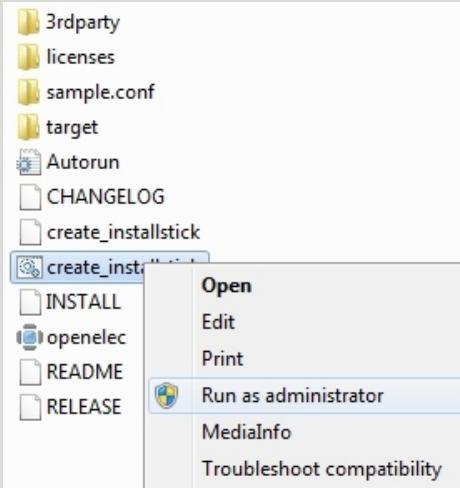
If you are using other HTPC hardware setups, please read the website or forum to determine which build to use. The “Generic Build” is always the safest option though.

Extract the setup files

Extract the OpenELEC release you have just downloaded to a folder on your hard drive. The file will be called something like “OpenELEC-Generic.i386-1.0.2.tar.bz2” You can Use WinRAR to extract this zipfile.

CREATING A USB KEY

Create the OpenELEC USB Key



STARTING THE PROCESS

Go to the path where you have just extracted your OpenELEC USB Installer files.

Right click on the .BAT file called “create_installstick.bat” and select “Run as administrator”.

The OpenELEC USB Installer should start



Specify your USB Drive by typing it's drive letter followed by a colon, for example F: or G: (F: is MY flash drive location, please make sure what the path is on your own computer!)



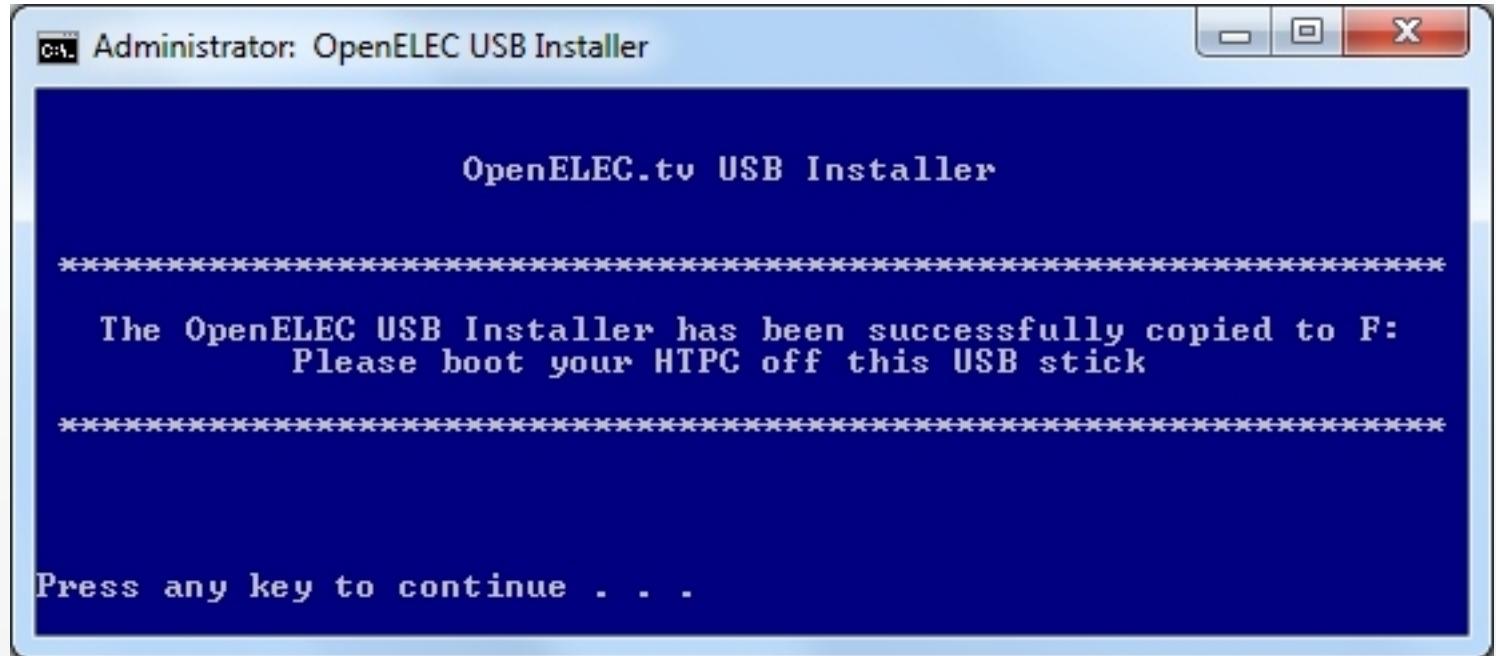
WARNING!

This will wipe all data on the specified drive – Please make sure you have the correct path of the flashdrive!

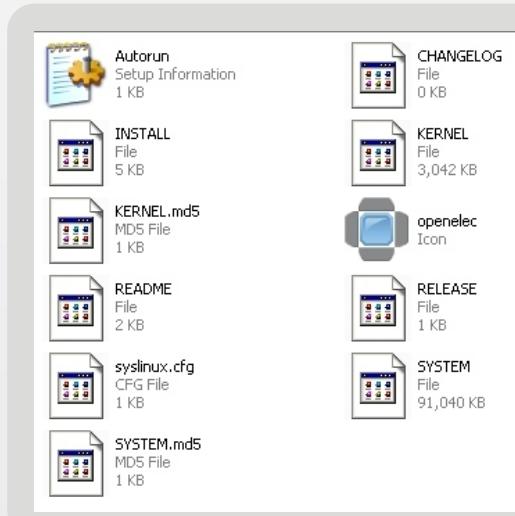
CREATING A USB KEY

Create the OpenELEC USB Key

After pressing ENTER it will start creating the OpenELEC USB Key for you, which will be used to install OpenELEC and XBMC on to your HTPC.



Wow, that was quick!



CHECK THE USB

Let's just have a quick look on the flash drive to see if all the files have been created for us.

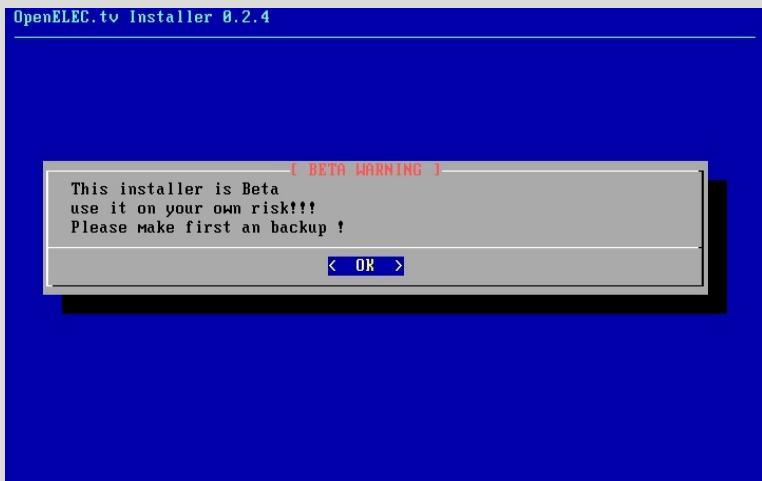
It should be fine though...

You should have the following files:
Autorun.ini, CHANGELOG, INSTALL, KERNEL, KERNEL.md5, openelec, README, RELEASE, syslinux.cfg, SYSTEM and SYSTEM.md5

Now everything should be ready, and we can move on to the HTPC itself. Yay!

INSTALLING OPENELEC

Installing OpenELEC on your HTPC

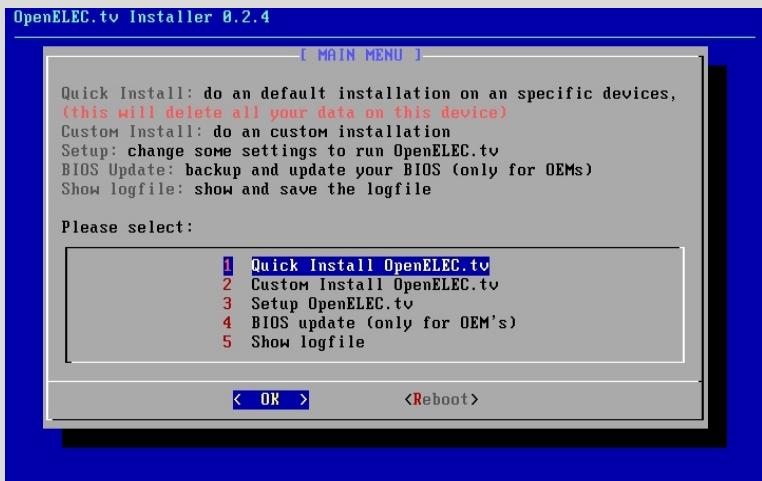


LET'S DO THIS!

- Insert the flash drive drive into your HTPC
- Turn on your HTPC
- it should boot into the OpenELEC Setup

Press OK if you receive a “Beta Warning” message.

Future versions of OpenELEC might not have this warning.



QUICK INSTALL

After the Beta Warning, you should see a Menu with 5 options.

Press Enter on the first option titled “Quick install of OpenELEC“ to begin.

At this moment in time, none of the other options work yet, as this is the Beta. XBMC will function perfectly once installed though, don't worry.

KEYBOARD NOT WORKING?



If the keyboard doesn't work, you will have to get your hands on another model. Try the most “basic” keyboard you can find, without all the advanced Gamer Keyboard features and buttons that they come with these days.

INSTALLING OPENELEC

Installing OpenELEC on your HTPC



SELECTING THE OS DRIVE

Select the Drive you would like to install to by pressing up/down.

You can install OpenELEC to flash drives, hard drives, or even SSD.

Note: You cannot install to the same flash drive that is plugged in.



INSTALLING TO A USB DRIVE YOU SAY?

There is a hidden USB Port located inside the HP ProLiant MicroServer, on the motherboard itself.

Not only is this connected directly to the motherboard, but it will be out of sight as well.



So what should I do?

I prefer installing to Hard Drive. I would suggest installing on the included 250GB Drive HP has provided you with. Hard drives are just faster than USB drives.

Also remember that your whole OpenELEC/XBMC installation will be on this drive, and although that only takes around 80-120MB, all your media's high quality covers and fanart will be stored in the XBMC database, which can take up a lot of space.

Installing to USB though, gives you the ability to format and re-install at will, while a 250GB hard drive might need some backing up first (If you intend to use that 250GB of freespace for some media) before formatting.

It's all up to you really - this is your system at the end of the day.

WARNING! GOTCHA AHEAD

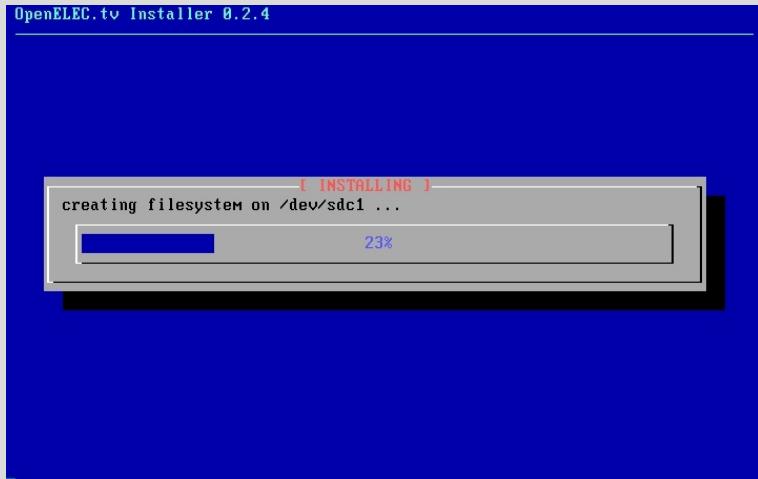


Please note that even if your Hard drive was formatted to NTFS, OpenELEC will format the drive to a Linux file system on installation, and the drive will not be readable if you plug it into a Windows Computer. Files will be accessible through the Network though.

Also make sure you select the correct drive. I personally disconnect all other drives (that contain Media) temporarily when installing OpenELEC.

INSTALLING OPENELEC

Installing OpenELEC on your HTPC



TIME TO RELAX

After selecting your Installation drive, it should start to install.

Come on progress bar, almost there!

Go ahead, get yourself some coffee - we will soon start to configure Samba and other interesting things soon.

After Installing has completed, it's a good idea to reboot your HTPC. Note that excellent boot-time!



CONGRATULATIONS!

You have just completed your very first Installation of OpenELEC!

XBMC should now be ready to go!

You can have a bit of a break and play around the menu's if you want, but if you are new to XBMC, try not to fiddle around too much until you get the hang of things.

BUT THERE ISN'T MUCH GOING ON HERE?



We don't have any media on there yet, so XBMC is gonna be a tad boring....

Once you add your media, scrape covers and fan art, install cool skins and other add-ons, you will be watching your movies and series in style!

The default XBMC skin you can see pictured above is called Confluence.

CONFIGURING SAMBA

What is Samba?

Your HTPC needs a protocol to connect to a Windows based computer, since it's running in a Linux environment (OpenELEC). Samba is that protocol that takes care of this.

Samba is already pre-installed for you on both OpenELEC and your Windows PC. You don't even have to install it, it's actually already running....right now. Isn't that great?



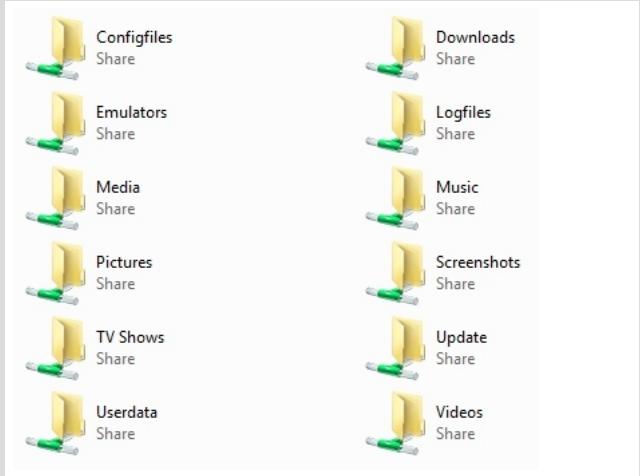
STEP 1: CONNECT LAN CABLE

Connect your HTPC to your computer via network cable.

You could also connect the HTPC to a Switch/Hub.

Usually you will see the Link Lights flashing on your network card once it makes a connection.

You might also see a network being established on the network icon on your Windows System Tray.



IS THAT ALL I HAVE TO DO?

Yep. It's all automatic.

Just give it a minute or so to do its thing after connecting your HTPC to your computer.

Type \\OPENELEC into Windows Explorer. Once it's connected you should see the default shares.

If an error message pops up, wait another minute and try again... it could take around 3 minutes for it to do its thing.

Once connected, you will see your "default shares"



IT WON'T CONNECT TO MY HTPC!

You can view the IP of the HTPC by highlighting the "System" Tab in XBMC, pressing RIGHT, and then selecting "System Info".

Go to the network section for detailed network information, and type the IP into Windows Explorer and see if that works.



CONFIGURING SAMBA

Configuring Samba Shares

The first thing to do is to navigate to \\OPENELEC\Configfiles\ and open the file called "samba.conf.sample". You should open it with WordPad (Not Notepad).

Most people prefer to delete the default shares and only have ConfigFiles, the Root File system and all their hard drives visible.

I agree - we don't need to see Screenshot, Logfile and Emulator folders, etc....

You also need to share additional hard drives as it is not automatically done for you.

Around the middle of the document you will find a section with the following text:

```
# Using the following configurations as a template allows you to add  
# writable shares of disks and paths under /storage
```

All the default shares seen previously can be edited or removed below this section.
I have removed all of those useless default shares, and replaced them with the following:

```
[Configfiles]  
path = /storage/.config  
available = yes  
browsable = yes  
public = yes  
writable = yes  
root preexec = mkdir -p /storage/.config
```



```
[Root File System]  
path = /  
available = yes  
browsable = yes  
public = yes  
writable = yes
```



Optional. This enables you to see the root file system of openELEC.

```
[Disk 1]  
path = /storage  
available = yes  
browsable = yes  
public = yes  
writable = yes
```



Hard Drive 1

```
[Disk 2]  
path = /media/Local Disk  
available = yes  
browsable = yes  
public = yes  
writable = yes
```



Hard Drive 2

```
[Disk 3]  
path = /media/Local Disk_  
available = yes  
browsable = yes  
public = yes  
writable = yes
```



Hard Drive 3

```
[Disk 4]  
path = /media/Local Disk_  
available = yes  
browsable = yes  
public = yes  
writable = yes
```



Hard Drive 4



CAN I COPY THIS CONFIG?

Copying and Pasting the text from Adobe Reader will not work properly.

I have included my Samba.conf file along with this PDF if you want to Copy and Paste from my config file.

CONFIGURING SAMBA

What's going on here?

As you can see my HTPC has 4 Drives in it right now. Note the paths of each hard drive.

I would recommend you replace the default shares, but If you are happy with them and prefer not to remove them at this moment, that's ok.

Just be sure to **add** the [Disk] sections for all your hard drives, or you will not be able to access them.

If you decide to use my Samba configuration, just remove the [Disk] sections of drives you do not have installed in your HTPC yet.

WARNING!

Do not remove the [ConfigFiles] share! If you remove it you will probably not have access to this Configuration file again, and might need to re-install OpenELEC to have access to it.

Saving your changes

Once you are done editing your shares, save the file as “samba.conf” in the same folder.
(\OPENELEC\Configfiles\)

Restart your HTPC.

Your network icon on the windows system tray should flash again, and soon \\OPENELEC will be available like before.



DID IT WORK?

Your shares should now look more manageable like the image on the left.

Note: The pre-created folders named Music, Videos, TV-Shows, Emulators, Downloads, Logfiles, etc are still available on Disk 1.

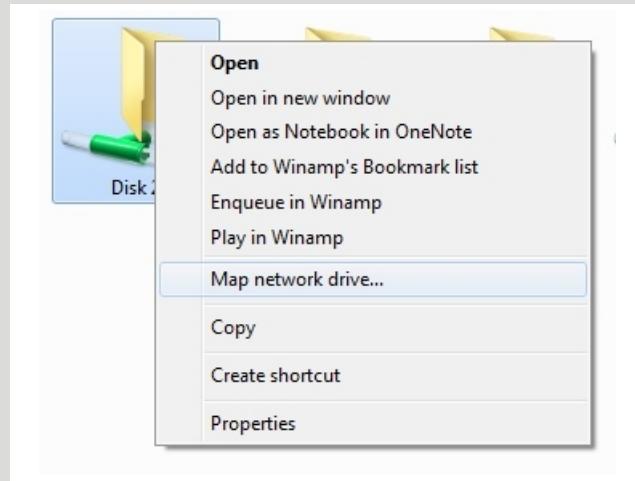
You may also delete them entirely now, if you want.

Congratulations!

Your Samba configuration is complete and your hard drives are now ready to receive files!

CONFIGURING SAMBA

Final Notes



MOUNTING SHARES

You can also have your HTPC's hard drives seem like regular hard drives in Windows, by right-clicking on the Folder and selecting "Map network drive".

You can choose a drive letter, and the drive will appear under My Computer just like your other hard drives.

This is completely optional though, you can always just type \\openelec into Windows Explorer to access your shares.



I JUST PURCHASED A NEW HARD DRIVE!

After installing a new hard drive into your HTPC, make sure to add it as a share. It will not be done automatically.



WARNING!

if you delete files from your hard drive located as a share, it will be gone forever. There is no recycle bin for shared network drives. Please remember this.

This stuff is complicated, difficult and scary!

Don't worry - You have now completed the most difficult parts of this guide! It really gets a lot easier from here on out, I promise you.

The next topic is about scraping, but should not give you too many issues if your media is well organized and named properly.

If you have a few terabytes of random folders inside folders inside folders inside other folders in a folder called "stuff"... well... may God be with you.

Keep your media organized and reap the rewards.



SHOULD I REALLY SORT OUT MY MESSY FOLDERS?

Renaming a folder takes 3 seconds.

Badly named folders where XBMC has downloaded the wrong covers & info, discovering it, editing it and re-downloading the correct covers, takes much longer.

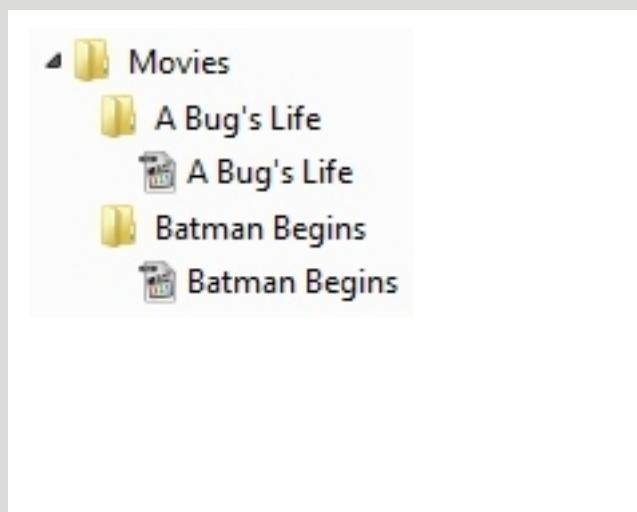
ORGANIZING YOUR MEDIA

Why is organizing my media so important?

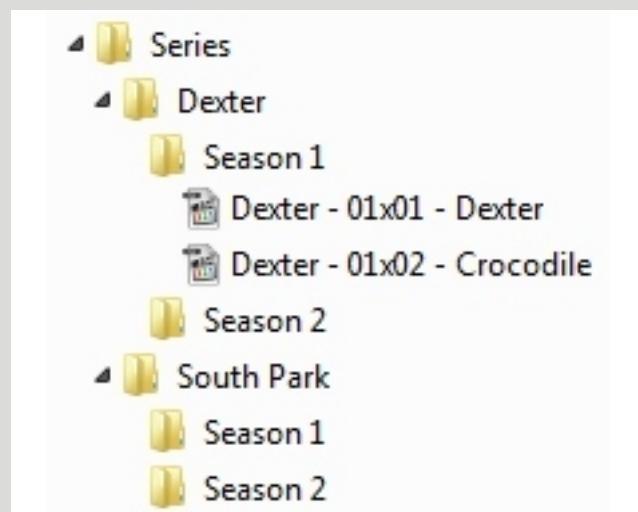
It's easier to manage and update. It's easier to find things, and it's easier for XBMC to identify what it is looking at, and therefore easier for it to download covers and information.

Always separate your movies from your series.

Media should be sorted into this way for best scraping results:



MOVIES



SERIES

You should rename each movie's folder to its actual title if you want them to be scraped properly later on. (It doesn't matter what the actual AVI file is named as though) Series folders should have the correct title as well.

I personally rename all my series episodes using a program called “theRenamer” which automates most of the process for you. (theRenamer is included with this PDF)

The only important thing that each episode must have in the filename though, is the season and episode number, for example 01x01, 01x02, 01x03 and so forth. You may decide to use the S1E01, S1E02, S1E03 format - that's okay too.

Once your media is sorted into a decent folder structure, either copy the media to your HTPC, or simply move your hard drives into the HP ProLiant MicroServer. Your media is now ready for scraping.

EXTERNAL USB HARD DRIVES



Put HD movies on internal hard drives that are connected via SATA, as they are faster than external hard drives that connect via USB. SATA has higher transfer speeds than USB.

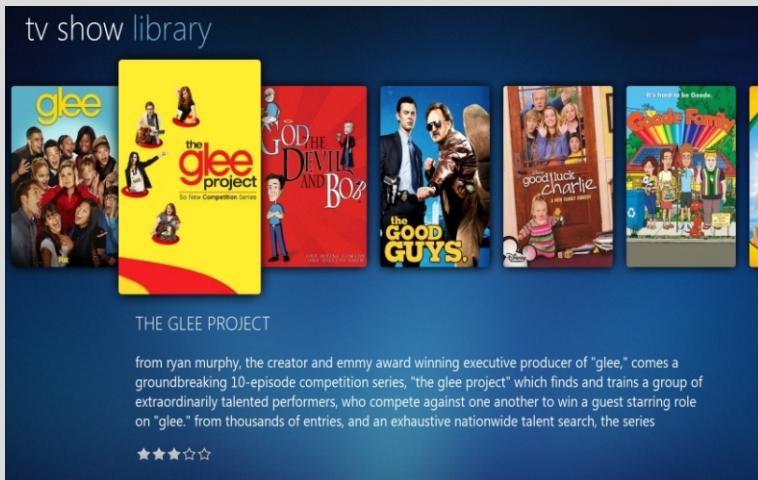
SD content will play perfectly fine on external USB hard drives.

SCRAPING YOUR MEDIA

What is Scraping?

Scraping typically means that XBMC will connect to the internet when adding media, and download all the Movies & Series Covers, Fanart and Information.

Scraping happens automatically when you add your media paths to XBMC.



THE SCRAPED LIBRARY

Here you can see what a typical XBMC library looks like after all the covers have been scraped.

Scraped libraries are better to look at, and also help when finding something.

This skin used in the example on the left is called ReFocus, which is amazing to use.

Each XBMC Skin will display covers and fanart differently.

Note: if your media is not copied to your HTPC yet, now would be a good time to do it.
(Unless you will be streaming your media through a network)

MY HTPC HAS NO INTERNET ACCESS



If your HTPC doesn't have access to the internet, you can scrape the covers on a computer with a Windows based XBMC installation, and then simply export all the covers, fanart and information to the folders.

When you add the media to XBMC on the HTPC, covers inside the folders will be used instead of it trying to download them from the internet.

WWE AND UFC SPECIAL EVENTS



Some things like WWE, UFC and other sporting events cannot be scraped. The reason is because thetvdb.com does not have any sport in its database. You may find some people online who have created zip packages though, that contains all the needed files and cover artwork. Google is your friend.

WARNING! GOTCHA AHEAD



Before we begin scraping though, please go to System > Add-ons > Enabled Add-ons > TV information > The TVDB. Click "Configure" and enable the option titled "Prefer Posters". If you do not tick this option, banners will be downloaded, which will look very stretched if the skin uses Posters.

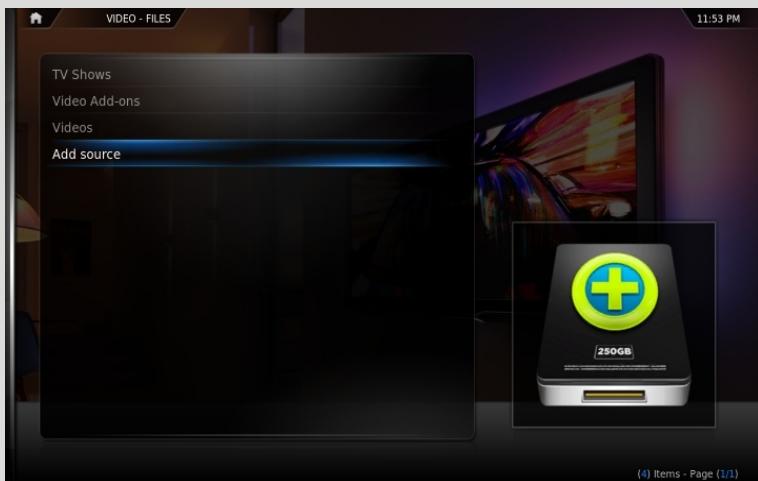
Do this on any XBMC installation that will be scraping covers & fanart of your media.

SCRAPING YOUR MEDIA



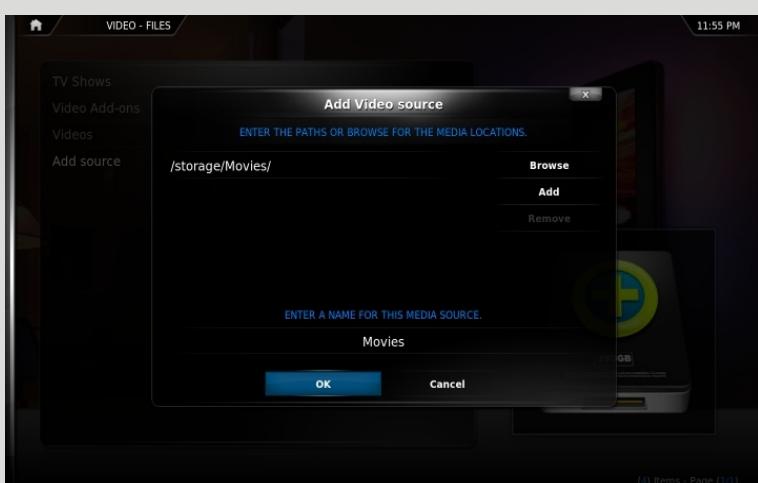
STEP 1

To begin adding your media and scraping for covers on XBMC, go to Videos, press Right, and select “Files”.



STEP 2

Select “Add source”.



STEP 3

Add your Movies ROOT path. This is the main folder that contains all your Movies.

SCRAPING YOUR MEDIA



STEP 4

Select “Movies” as content type, and tick:

- “Run automated Scan”
- “Use folder names for lookups”

You can also tick “scan recursively” if some of your movies are contained in further subfolders, eg:

```
Movies\  
  A Bug's Life\  
    CD1\  
      A Bug's Life-CD1.avi  
    Cd2\  
      A Bug's Life-CD2.avi
```

After pressing OK your media will be added and scraped to your XBMC Library.

WHAT ABOUT MY TV-SHOWS?



For TV-Shows it's the same process, except you select “TV Shows” as content type, and only tick “Run automated Scan” before starting the scraping process.

After XBMC is done scraping all your media, it's a good idea to export those covers, fanart and information to their appropriate items folder.

Whenever you need to add these movies/series to XBMC ever again, it should not need an internet connection.

HOW DO I EXPORT THE COVERS?



To do this, simply go to System > Video > Library and select “Export video Library”. Choose “Separate files” and select yes to “Exporting thumbnails and fanart”.

If you have successfully scraped and exported your covers on XBMC using your computer, you can simply now just re-add the media paths on the HTPC’s XBMC since all covers have now been pre-downloaded. This time your media will import much faster.

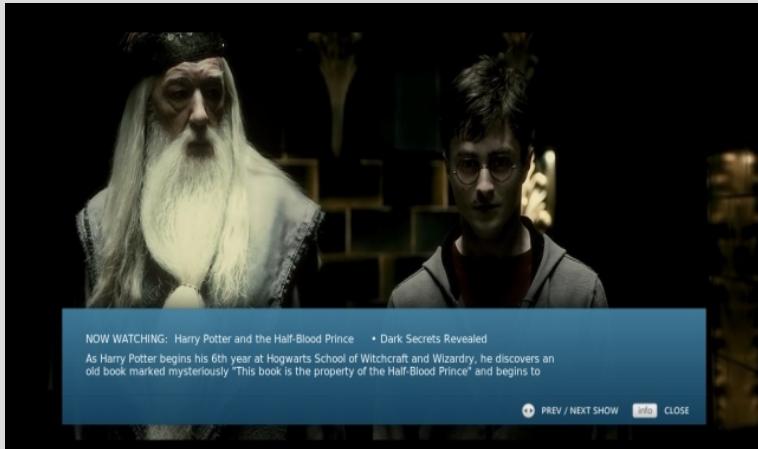
Congratulations!
Your Library should now have covers, fanart and Information.

INSTALLING PSEUDO TV

What is PseudoTV?

As said before, PseudoTV gives you the ability to watch all of your media just as you would with normal cable.

After the initial installation of this script, it will create a few default channels for you and you can see what it does in its basic form. (provided your media has been scraped properly)



PSEUDO TV IN ACTION

PseudoTV also enables you to define and create your own channels, which is exactly what we will be doing soon.

Later on, we will add network logos, channel idents/bumpers and adverts to complete the full experience.

It will not be difficult as such, but may take a few iterations before getting the perfect channel setup.

Downloading PseudoTV

You can download the PseudoTV script through the Add-on repository in XBMC itself, but I would recommend getting the latest version from github instead.

To do that, go to <https://github.com/Jasonra/XBMC-PseudoTV/zipball/stable-pre> and save the file to your computer.

The file will be called “Jasonra-XBMC-PseudoTV-v1.0.0-201-g7051003” or similar. (It will be version 2 though, I have no idea why the file has a v1.0.0 in it)

You may move the file to your HTPC before installing, if you prefer.



QUICK TIP

A very stable build of PseudoTV is also included with this PDF for your convenience. If the latest build from Github gives you problems, use mine - it has been tested and works.

Installing PseudoTV

In XBMC, go to System > Add-ons > Install from zip file.
(After selecting Add-ons, you might need to hit backspace to get to the root of “Add-ons”)

Browse and select the PseudoTV file you have just downloaded, and it should install automatically from there.

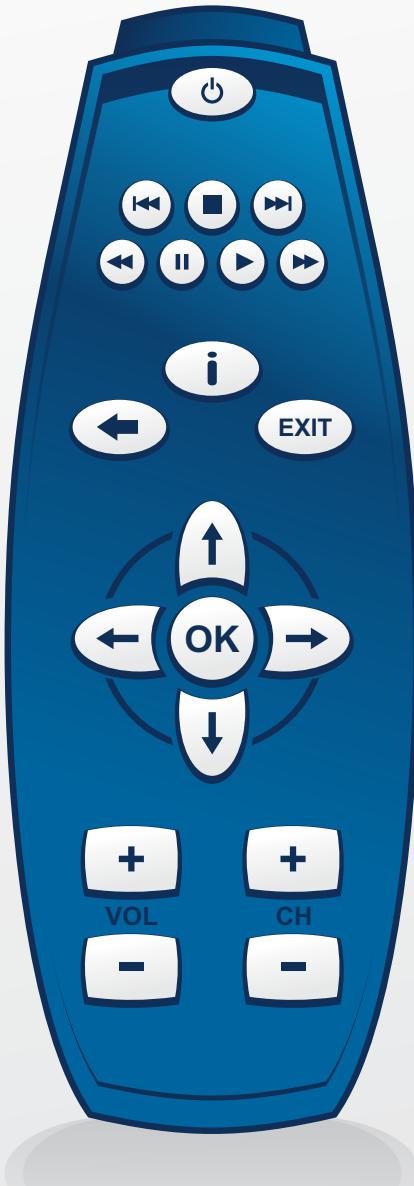
RUNNING PSEUDO TV

Running PseudoTV

On the main XBMC menu, select “Programs” and then select PseudoTV.

With your first run, PseudoTV might take a while to generate the default channels. If you have an extremely large media library, it could really take some time.... Have a break, get some coffee, and let it do it's thing.

Note: PseudoTV will open almost instantly in future, after playlists have been generated.



Button	Key	Function
	<	Restart Show / Previous Show
	>	Next Show
	X	Stop and Exit PseudoTV
	Space	Pause / Play
	R/F	Rewind / Fast Forward
	I	Information
	Enter	Enter EPG
	Esc	Exit EPG
	+/-	Increase Volume / Decrease Volume
	Pg Up Pg Down	Next Channel / Previous Channel
	Normal Operation: Up/Down: Next/Previous Channel Left/Right: Back/Forward 30 seconds	
	EPG Operation: Up/Down: Next/Previous Channel Left/Right: Prev/Next Show	

Press M to access audio and video settings.

SMART PLAYLISTS

What are Smart Playlists?

Smart playlists are generated by setting up specific rules/conditions to define your playlist. For example, you can define that you want your playlist to contain all movies containing the “Action” genre, but not “Horror”. This will cause your playlist to be populated by action movies, but not Action-Horror movies. You can then narrow down your playlist further by specifying that you only want movies that were released after 2010. You can go as far as you want, narrowing down your playlist even more by specifying that only movies with 720p or higher resolution should be added.

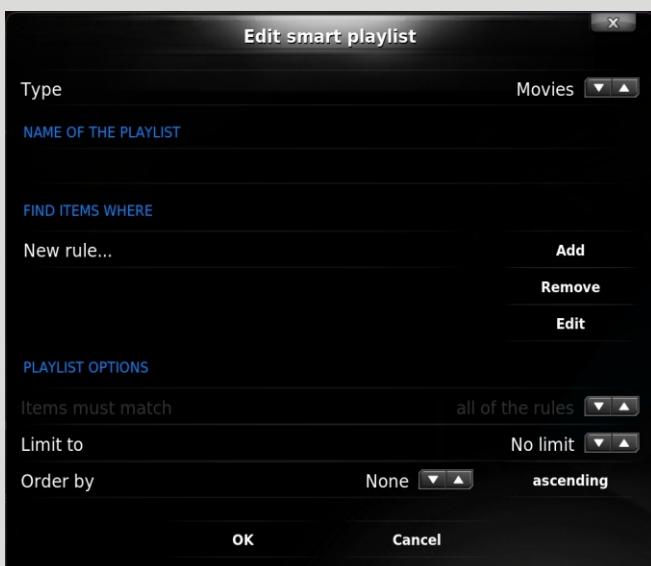
Why are smart playlists so important?

PseudoTV can use them to create channels, and is exactly what we will be doing. Smart playlists give us the ability to create precise channels in PseudoTV that plays exactly what we want. There is a huge selection of fields which you can use to define your rules, and it’s really easy to set up.



WHAT FIELDS CAN I USE TO CREATE THESE RULES?

Genres, year, studio, rating, plot keywords, MPAA rating, director, actor, path, playcount and video resolution are just a few examples.



HOW TO CREATE A NEW PLAYLIST:

- 1) go to the “Videos” tab in XBMC and press RIGHT.
- 2) Select “Library”.
- 3) Select “Playlists”
(No “Playlists” option? Press backspace to go up a level or two)
- 4) Select “New smart playlist...”

Play around with the Playlist editor for a moment, and you will quickly see what i’m talking about here. Try to create a playlist with Comedy Movies that are newer than 2010.



THERE ARE PLAYLISTS INCLUDED WITH THIS PDF

For XBMC on Windows, copy them to:
C:\Users\<Your Username>\AppData\Roaming\XBMC\userdata\playlists\video\

For XBMC on OpenELEC, copy them to:
\OPENELEC\Disk 1\xbmc\userdata\playlists\video\

SMART PLAYLISTS

Type:

With PseudoTV, we generally use either “Movies” or “Episodes” as the Playlist Type.

Name of Playlist

Here you can define the name of your playlist.
(which will also be used as the channel name in PseudoTV)

Find items where

Below this section, is where you add all your playlist rules. (Add/Remove/Edit buttons)

Items to match:

Should the video match ALL of the rules, or can it only be one or more of the rules?

Limit to:

For PseudoTV you would generally limit each playlist to around 50 – 100 items.

Order by:

The order in which items should play, and generally set to random.

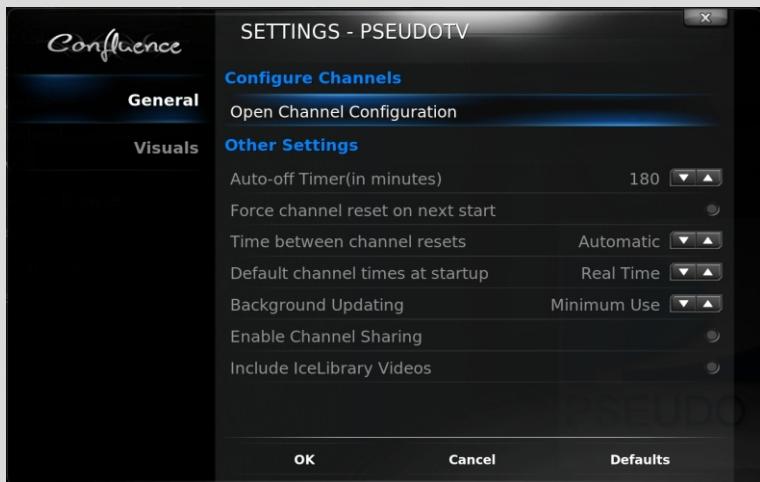
Tutorial:

- 1) Create a new Smart Playlist (Instructions on Previous page).
- 2) Select “Movies” as the Type.
- 3) Set the “Name of the playlist” to “Tutorial”.
- 4) Click on “New rule...”
- 5) Set the Field to “(Genre)” and the Operator to “(IS)”.
- 6) Type in “Comedy” or click the “Browse” button and select “Comedy”.
- 7) Click “OK” to save this rule.
- 8) Click on “Add” to add a second rule.
- 9) Set the Field to “(Year)” and the Operator to “(GREATER THAN)”.
- 10) Type in “2005” and press “OK” to save this rule.
- 11) Click on “Add” to add a third rule.
- 12) Set the Field to “(Genre)” and the Operator to “(IS NOT)”.
- 13) Type in “Animation” or click the “Browse” button and select “Animation”.
- 14) Click “OK” to save the rule.
- 15) Keep “Items o match” set to “all of the rules”.
- 16) Set the “Limit to” value to “50 items”.
- 17) Set the “Order by” value to “Random”.
- 18) Click “OK” at the bottom to save our Playlist.
- 19) It should ask you for a filename. “Tutorial” is fine, Press the Enter.
- 20) View your new smart playlist by simply opening “Tutorial” in the list

You should now see a list of comedy movies newer than 2005, but not animation-comedies.

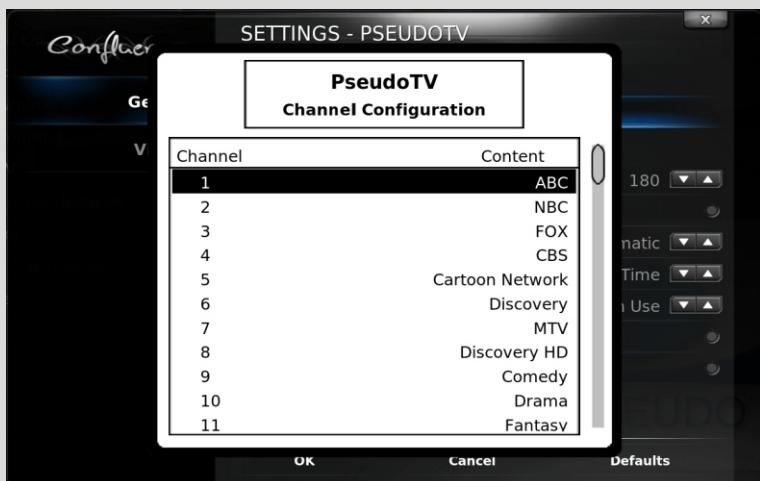
I see a few action and even horror movies in there... hmm.... that's not what I want.
Let's add a few extra rules and tell it to NOT add Action or Horror genres!

ADDING CHANNELS



THE PSEUDOTV SETTINGS

- 1) On the XBMC Menu, select “Programs”.
- 2) Highlight “PseudoTV”.
- 3) Press the “Options” or “Menu” button on your remote (“C” on your keyboard).
- 4) Select “Add-on settings”.
- 5) The PseudoTV Settings will appear.
- 6) Select “Open Channel Configuration”



THE DEFAULT CHANNELS

When you first installed PseudoTV, it should have created a set of default channels.

The channels created depends on what media you have, and what media you have most of.

You can see here that I have a lot of ABC, NBC, FOX and CBS Shows.

HOW MANY CHANNELS CAN I CREATE?

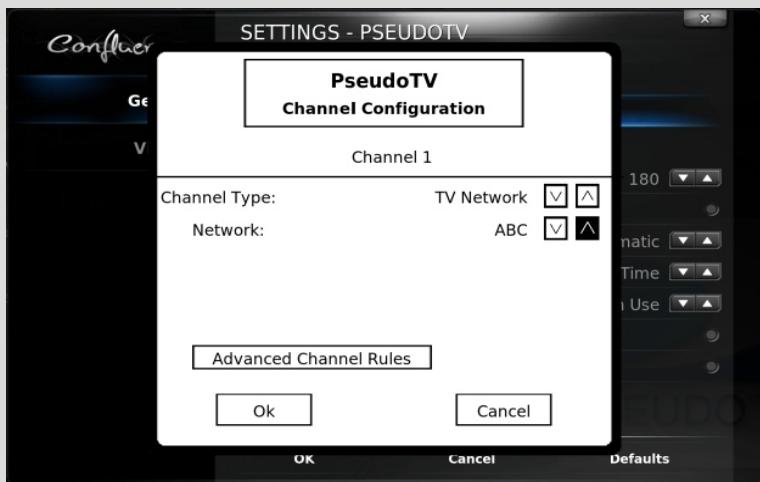


In older versions of PseudoTV could create up to 1000 channels, however the newer versions are limited to only 200 - it should still be enough for most people though.

Creating or editing a channel:

When on the PseudoTV Channel Configuration window, select a used channel you want to edit, or an open channel slot where you would like to create a new channel, and press “Enter” or “Ok” on your Remote.

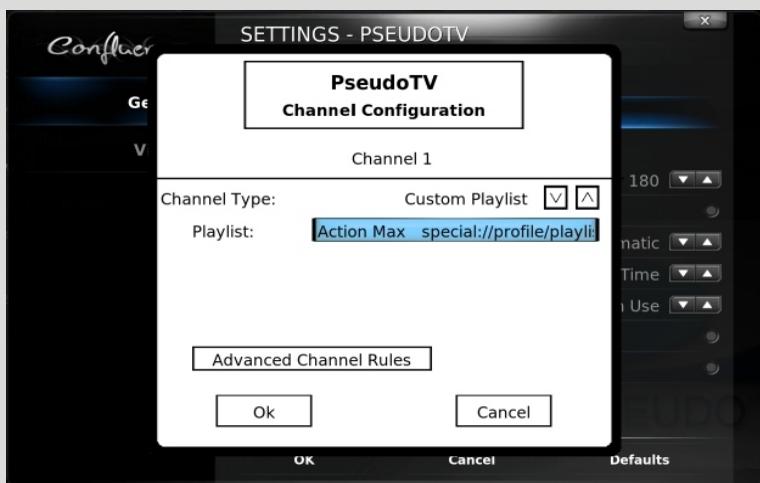
ADDING CHANNELS



NETWORK CHANNELS

These channels use your TV-show's studio tags to define what content should be played.

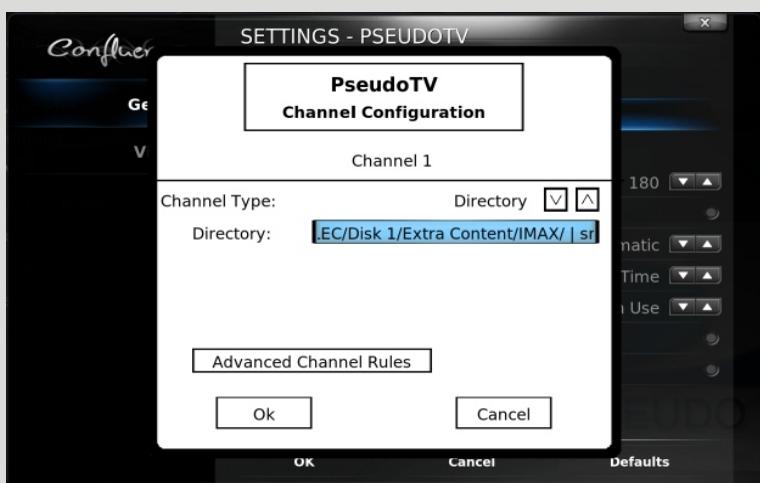
This is the preferred way to add all your network channels such as ABC, NBC, FOX, CBS to PseudoTV



PLAYLIST CHANNELS

These channels use "Smart Playlists" to define what content should be played.

This is the preferred way to add movie channels to PseudoTV because you have a lot more control over the content.
(Ratings, HD/SD, Genres, Year, etc)



DIRECTORY CHANNELS

These channels use "Folders" on your HTPC to define what content should be played.

This is typically used for content which isn't easily scraped, such as music videos, IMAX movies, fitness videos and UFC Specials.

ADDING CHANNELS



PROBLEMS ADDING A DIRECTORY CHANNEL?

If you cannot browse to add a directory into PseudoTV, or the drive is simply just not available, you might need to allow access to that drive/directory in XBMC first.

To do this:

- 1) Highlight the System Menu in XBMC, and press Right.
- 2) Open the “File Manager”.
- 3) Select “Add source”.
- 4) Select “Browse” and add your Drive.
- 5) Enter the name of the Path/Drive.
- 6) Press “OK”.
- 7) Continue to add all your drives in a similar fashion.

Conclusion

As you can see, adding channels is pretty simple really.

All you need to know are the 3 main types of channels: Network, Playlist, and Directory channels.

You can go ahead and create some basic channels in PseudoTV if you'd like, or read on to create the perfect channel setup instead.

PLANNING A CHANNEL SETUP

Introduction

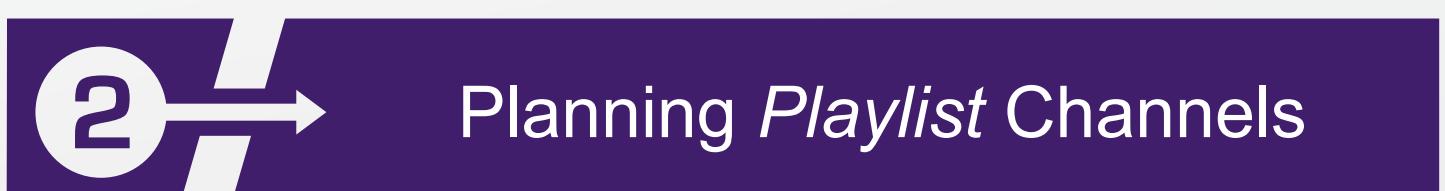
So now that you know the basics of PseudoTV, how to add channels, how to create Smart playlists and all the types of channels we can have, Let's step back for a moment and plan a proper channel setup.

Let's figure out exactly the selection of channels we want.

Planning your setup is really important – it enables you to get away from all the settings and buttons, and just think about channels itself.

The best way is to actually plan your setup in Wordpad, or if you can, Excel.

Steps to be followed:



IMPORTANT TIP



Try to emulate real channels out there, because real channels have:

- (a) PNG Logo's that PseudoTV can use.
- (b) Bumper Videos that can be played between shows. (Channel idents & logos)

Planning a movie channel? Call it "Cinemax". Want a horror channel? call it "Chiller".

PLANNING NETWORK CHANNELS

What are Network Channels?

These are TV-Networks – ABC, FOX, CBC, NBC, etc....

When scraping your media for covers and information, each series gets assigned a <Studio> tag, which can be found and edited in the series folder, in a file called “tvshow.nfo” (That is if you exported all your scraped covers, fanart and information. See page 18.)

When adding a Network channel in PseudoTV and you select “NBC” as the network, all TV-shows aired on NBC will appear on this channel.

The plan is to move some of your shows on networks with a lot of content, to other networks with less content. We need to balance it out. No use in having 1 network with 30+ shows and another network only having only 2 shows.



The idea is to have many channels that are in the “Good” range with +- 10 shows, instead of a few channels with too much content, or too many channels with almost no content. Only 5 strong channels or over 500 weak channels isn’t really going to be very entertaining.



WHY DOES THIS HAPPEN?

Some channels are naturally strong because you may have a lot of shows for them (ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX, BBC, etc) while other channels might be on the weak side.

The problem is, how do we do this? How do we move shows from our overcrowded CBS channel to other channels? Do we manually edit each shows <studio> tag? No way, that will take forever! There must be a better way!

The good news is there is.

Some guy on the XBMC forums wrote a little tool that enables you to move TV-Shows around quite easily, that edits the tvshow.nfo file and changes all the <studio> tags for you!

The tool is called “PseudoTV Network Manager” and is explained on the next page.

PLANNING NETWORK CHANNELS

The PseudoTV Network Manager

The PseudoTV Network Manager should be included with this PDF.

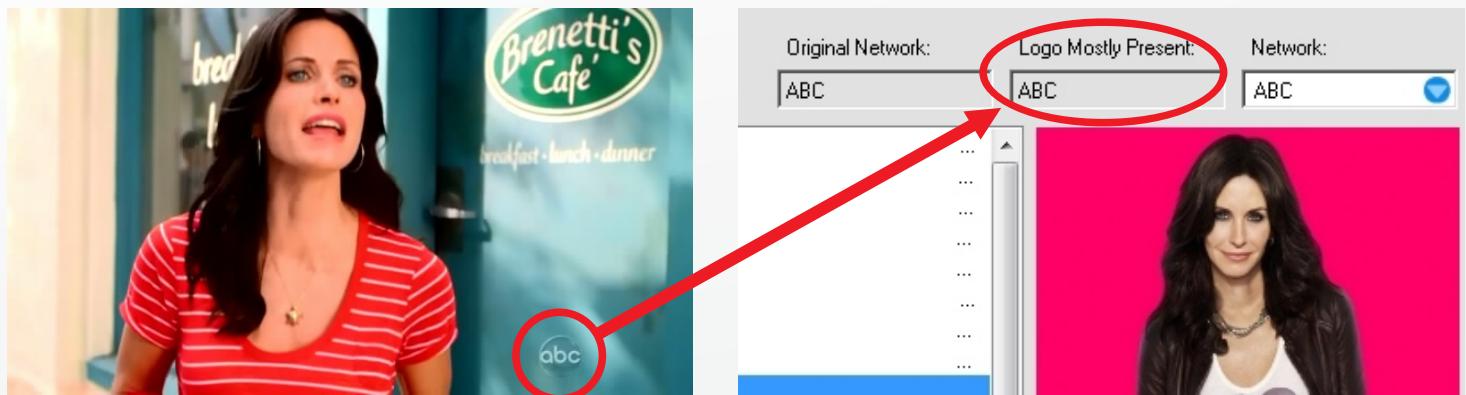
You need to extract the Zip file to a folder on your PC, and then run the program.

Make sure your Microsoft Visual C++ Libraries are installed (included in the folder)

If it's not installed you might get errors and have trouble starting the program.

Optional Step before we begin:

The PseudoTV Network Manager has a small “Info box” that shows you what Network logo is encoded into the series (if any).



This is important because some TV-Shows might have a <studio> tag of “CBS” because it was originally aired on it, yet have a logo of “City TV” in the AVI files because that is where the actual videos were recorded from.

If you want to make it easier for yourself when deciding which channel what series should go to, it's a good idea to create a few small NFO files that will enable the PseudoTV Network Manager to display this info to you.

(Unfortunately it cannot “see” which logos are encoded into the videos by itself)

How to create these files:

- 1) Open a few avi's of a particular show and check for a logo encoded into the videos.
- 2) Write the name of the logo into notepad, for example “CBS”
 - You may write out “None” if you don't see any logo's.
 - You may also write multiple names down, if multiple logo's are present, eg: “CBS/FOX”
- 3) Save this file as “logo.nfo” in the same folder as the “tvshow.nfo” file.

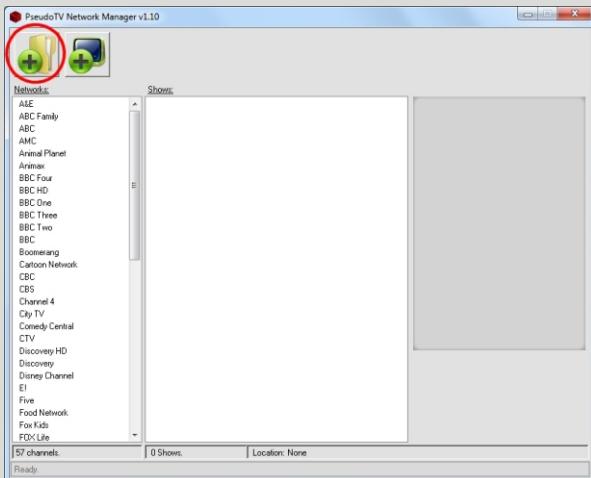
Tip: Copy that file and paste it into the next folder, and simply edit it for the next series.

This is tedious...

It is, but you only need to do it once.

However, If you think a “CityTV” logo displaying on your CBS channel isn't a big deal, feel free to skip this optional step and move to the next page.

PLANNING NETWORK CHANNELS



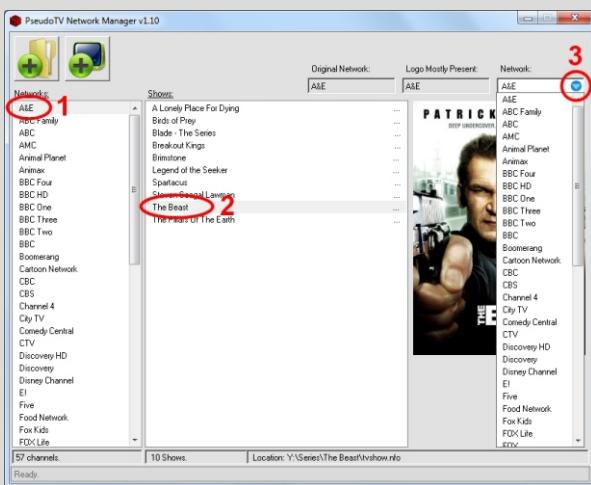
STEP 1 - ADD SERIES PATHS

Click the large “add source” icon on the top-left, and add all your series ROOT path(s).

Some TV-shows might not have <studio> tags, and you may receive an error. Make a note of these shows, exit the PseudoTV Network Manager, and fix the tvshow.nfo file of these shows before starting it again.

To do this, open the “tvshow.nfo” file with notepad, and add a <studio>None</studio> tag after the <aired></aired> tags. Save the file.

After fixing those shows, Restart the the PseudoTV Network Manager and re-add all your series paths.



STEP 2 - MOVING TV-SHOWS

After all paths are loaded, you should see multiple Networks on the left panel. Select a Network.

After selecting a Network, all shows on it will appear in a list in the middle of the screen. Select a show.

You can now send this show to another channel easily by clicking on the drop-down box on the top-right and selecting a different Channel to move it to.

You can also create a new channel by clicking the “New Channel” button on the top-left of the screen.



TIP

Try to get shows with the same logos into the same channel.
We will later tell pseudoTV to not use an additional logo overlay for that channel.
(This will only be possible if you did the optional steps on the previous page)

So what do I do?

As said before, try to move shows from heavily populated networks to other channels that do not have as much content.

This is your channel setup though, so move the shows around as you see fit.

Try to give each Channel at least 10 shows, and remove shows from channels which just don't have any content at all (eg: if you have 2 shows on BBC Two, maybe move them to BBC One which has 8 shows)

PLANNING NETWORK CHANNELS

Network Channel Planning is complete!

Once you are done and happy with your Network Channels, type out a list of these channels into your Wordpad/Excel document.

These channels will be sorted into specific channel numbers later on in the guide.

This is what my list looks like:

ABC	BBC One
CBS	BBC Two
NBC	BBC Three
FOX	BBC Four
CTV	BBC HD
AMC	Channel 4
Showtime	Five
HBO	ITV1
FX	Comedy Central
The CW	Discovery Channel
City TV	Discovery Channel HD
TNT	National Geographic
SciFi	National Geographic HD
SyFy	History
Global	History HD
A&E	Science Channel
Spike TV	Cartoon Network
USA Network	Animax
Showcase	Boomerang
CBC	Nickelodeon
Travel Channel	Disney Channel
E!	Fox Kids
Food Network	MTV
Lifetime	The Poker Channel
TLC	FOX Life (Classic Sitcoms)
ABC Family	Turner (Classic Action Series)



MY TV-SHOWS STILL USE THEIR ORIGINAL NETWORKS IN XBMC?

You will need to remove all your series paths from XBMC and re-add them again. This allows XBMC to import all the <studio> tag modifications you've made in this chapter.

PLANNING PLAYLIST CHANNELS

Playlist Channels

As we now know, we can use Smart Playlists to create some channels.

Playlist channels will mostly be used to handle your Movie channels.

So.. what movie channels are we going to have? Well – that's entirely up to you really.

The only thing we need to do here is write down what movie channels we want in our little Wordpad/Excel document. Order doesn't matter at this time.

Remember to write down all details of the channel, for example: genre, year, resolution, etc.

This is what my list looks like:

Cine First	(Movies, 2012 and Newer)
Premium Cinema Energy	(Movies, 2011 and Newer)
Cinemax	(Movies, 2010 and Newer)
Orange Cinemax	(Movies, 2006-2010)
Nova Cinema 1	(Movies, 2001-2005)
Star Plus	(Movies, 1993-2000)
Encore	(Movies, 1986-1992)
TCM	(Movies, 1985 and Older)
Cinemax HD	(Movies, 2011 and Newer, Resolution is 576p or better)
Star MoviesHD	(Movies, 2010 and Older, Resolution is 576p or better)
Romance TV	(Movies, Genre is "Romance")
Canal+ Drama	(Movies, Genre is "Drama")
Sky Movies HD Family	(Movies, Genre is "Family")
Paramount Comedy	(Movies, Genre is "Comedy", 2011 and Newer)
Mad	(Movies, Genre is "Comedy", 2000-2010)
The Comedy Channel	(Movies, Genre is "Comedy", 1999 and Older)
Frisbee	(Movies, Genre is "Animation", 2008 and Newer)
Qulli	(Movies, Genre is "Animation", 2007 and Older)
Cine Polar	(Movies, Genre is "Crime")
Chiller	(Movies, Genre is "Horror")
Action Max	(Movies, Genre is "Action")
Silver	(Movies, Genre is "Suspense" or "Thriller")
Sony Max	(Movies, Genre is "Action" or "Adventure")
Grenade	(Movies, Genre is "War")
Pixar	(Movies, Studio contains "Pixar")
Universal Channel	(Movies, Studio contains "Universal")
MGM HD	(Movies, Studio contains "Goldwyn")
Starz	(Movies, Genre contains "Music")
AXN Sci-Fi	(Movies, Genre contains "Sci", 2008 and Newer)
AXN Beyond	(Movies, Genre contains "Sci", 2007 and Older)
007 Channel	(Movies, Path contains "James Bond")
Cine FX	(Movies, Plot contains "Alien/Cyborg/Predator", etc)
Orange Cine Happy	(Random Movies)
Orange Cine Geants	(Random Movies)
Orange Cine Novo	(Random Movies)

PLANNING DIRECTORY CHANNELS

Directory Channels

So if you didn't know this yet, directory channels are simply folders on your HTPC that can be loaded as channels in PseudoTV. These folders usually contain the stuff that can't be scraped easily, or even at all. Channel bumpers and adverts also form part of this category.

Typical things that usually aren't scraped are:

- Documentary Specials (BBC, Discovery, National Geographic, History Channel)
- Documentary Movies / Indie Documentary Films
- Music Videos
- Fitness Videos
- Gaming Videos, Interviews & Trailers
- Standup Comedy
- IMAX
- UFC / WWE
- Various channel fillers, events and specials.

This is what my list looks like:

BBC Knowledge	BBC Documentaries
HBO Comedy	Stand-Up Comedy
TED	Evolution & Religious Documentaries
Quest	Documentaries
MTV Trax	Music Videos
MTV Dance	Dance Music Videos
DJs from Mars	DJFM Music Videos
Energy	Pure Dance Music Videos
BET	Hip-Hop Music Videos
Kerrang!	Rock Music Videos
Vh1	Old Music Videos & Easy Listening
Q Music	Music Videos
FitTV	Fitness Videos
Zumba Fitness	Zumba Workouts
LA Muscle	Body Building Videos
Versus	UFC & MMA Fights
GTtv	PC Gaming Shows, Reviews & Trailers
Mansers	Interleave with Spyke TV
E! Specials	Interleave with E!
Discovery Docu's	Interleave with Discovery
Discovery HD Docu's	Interleave with Discovery HD
NatGeo Docu's	Interleave with National Geographic
NatGeo HD Docu's	Interleave with National Geographic HD
History Docu's	Interleave with History
History HD Docu's	Interleave with History HD
Pixar Shorts	Interleave with Pixar channel
MTV Specials	Interleave with main MTV channel

PLANNING DIRECTORY CHANNELS

Music Channels

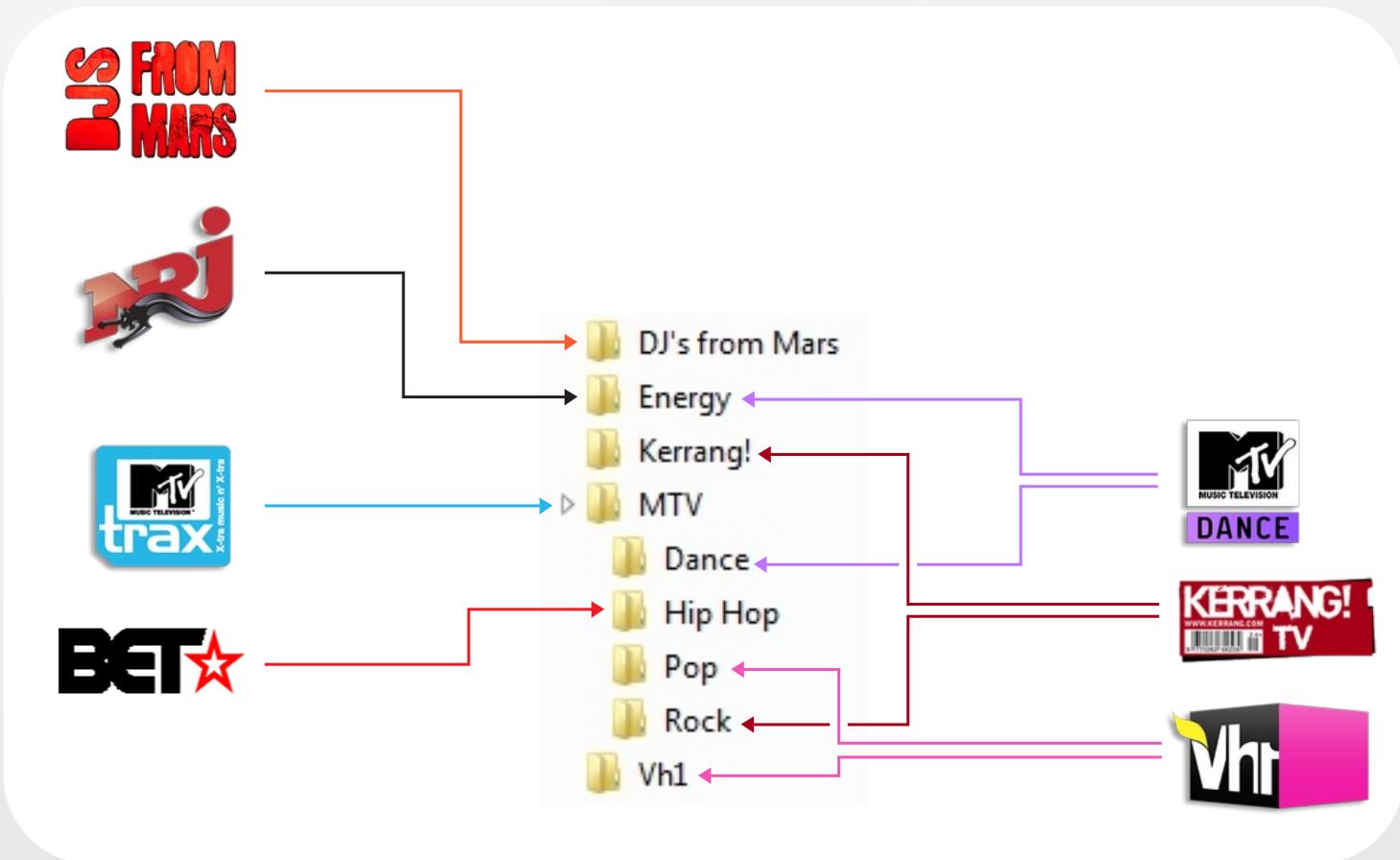
What is a good way to get a lot of Music channels without having THAT much music videos? The answer lies in your directory structure. A single folder's contents can be used by multiple channels if organized correctly.

In the example below, you will see that the music videos in the MTV folder have been sorted into 4 Sub-Directories: Dance, Hip Hop, Pop and Rock.

The “Dance”, “Hip Hop”, “Pop” and “Rock” folders are being used by MTV (because they are all subfolders of MTV) but are also interleaved with other channels as well.

This enables MTV to play multiple genre's, while not playing too “extreme” Dance or Metal music in it. The “extreme” Dance and Metal music is stored in “Energy” and “Kerrang!” folders.

- Basically, the music contained in the Energy folder are played on the “Energy Channel” as well as the “MTV Dance Channel”.
- The music contained in the MTV\ Dance subfolder are played on both the “MTV Dance Channel” as well as on the main MTV channel, called “MTV Trax”
- The “MTV Trax” channel plays many genres including Hip Hop, and BET plays Hip Hop exclusively.



ORGANIZING CHANNELS

Now that you have planned all your channel Networks, playlist and directory channels, it's time to organize which channel goes where.

Now, this is again completely up to you, but I would like to give a few tips here to help you.

Everybody is going to have some great channels, and some not so great channels. Don't put all your favorite channels in the first 20 slots – spread them out evenly across your whole channel selection.

Split your channels groups into chunks of 10, eg:

1-10	POPULAR NETWORKS	51-60	MUSIC
11-20	MOVIE CHANNELS	61-70	KIDS
21-30	ENTERTAINMENT	71-80	ACTION / SCI-FI
31-40	COMEDY	81-90	SPORT / FITNESS
41-50	KNOWLEDGE	91-100	BRITISH NETWORKS

Note: The illustration above is just an example and not a rule.

Mix your Movie & Network channels a little. Don't make the first 30 channels only Movie channels, and the rest Network channels... rather sort by Genre and Content.
Putting all your movie channels after one another makes for boring viewing.

If you have 2 comedy movie channels, 1 comedy Network and 1 comedy Directory channel, put either the Network or Directory channel between one of the movie channels. Do this for all genres by splitting up movie channels and adding other types of channels in between (of the same genre)

Also keep in mind the content that will be played on channels.

Do not put Comedy Central and your Standup comedy channel next to each other, as Comedy central has its own standup comedy specials.

So, to sum up – don't add all your favorite channels together, don't add all the movie channels together, keep them organized by content but remember not to put channels with too similar content next to each other.

Play around with your channel sorting until you are 100% happy with the order of all the channels.

THE FINAL RESULT

Once you have organized all your network, playlists and directory channels, you should end up with something like this: (The following Excel file should be included with this PDF)

	Ch.	Logo	Name	Type	Description	Notes
Premium Networks	1		ABC	Network		
	2		CBS	Network		
	3		NBC	Network		
	4		FOX	Network		
	5		CTV	Network		
	6		AMC	Network		
	7		Showtime	Network		
	8		HBO	Network		
	9		FX	Network		
	10		The CW	Network		
Popular Networks	11		CityTV	Network		
	12		TNT	Network		
	13		SciFi	Network	Old Sci-Fi Channel	Interleave Old Science Fiction Movie @ 10PM
	14		SyFy	Network	New Sci-Fi Channel	Interleave "B-Rated" Genre Movie @ 8PM
	15		Global	Network		
	16		A&E	Network		
	17		Spike TV	Network		Interleave Spike TV Folder
	18		USA Network	Network		
	19		Showcase	Network		
	20		CBC	Network		
Premium Movies	21		Premium Cinema Energy	Playlist	New Movies	2011 and Newer
	22		Cinemax	Playlist	Newish Movies	2010 and Newer
	23		Orange Cinema	Playlist	Movies	2006-2010
	24		Cinemax HD	Playlist	Newer HD Movies	2011 and Newer, HD
	25		Star Movies HD	Playlist	Older HD Movies	2010 and Older, HD
	26		Nova Cinema 1	Playlist	Movies	2001-2005
	27		Star Plus	Playlist	Old Movies	1993-2000
	28		Encore	Playlist	Golden Age Cinema	1986-1992
	29		TCM	Playlist	Classic Films	1985 and Older
	30		IMAX	Directory	IMAX Movies Channel	
Entertainment	31		Travel Channel	Network		
	32		E!	Network		Interleave E! Specials
	33		Food Network	Network		
	34		Starz	Playlist	"Starz" Genre Series & Musical Movies	Interleave with Musical Movies
	35		Romance TV	Playlist	Romance Movies	
	36		Canal+ Drama	Playlist	Drama Movies	
	37		Lifetime	Network		
	38		TLC	Network		
	39		Sky Movies HD Family	Playlist	Family Movies	2008 and Newer Movies Only
	40		G! Family	Network		
British	41		BBC One	Network		
	42		BBC Two	Network		
	43		BBC Three	Network		
	44		BBC Four	Network		
	45		BBC Knowledge	Directory	BBC Documentaries	
	46		BBC HD	Network		
	47		Channel 4	Network		
	48		Five	Network		
	49		ITV 1	Network		
	50					
Comedy	51		Comedy Central	Network		
	52		HBO Comedy	Directory	Stand-Up Comedy	
	53		Paramount Comedy	Playlist	New Comedy Movies	2011 and Newer
	54		FOX Life	Network	Classic Sitcoms	
	55		Mad	Playlist	Comedy Movies	2000-2010
	56		The Comedy Channel	Playlist	Classic Comedy Movies	1999 and Older
	57					
	58					
	59					
	60					

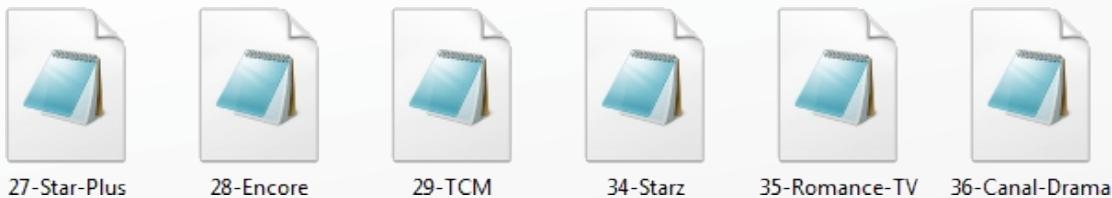
	Ch.	Logo	Name	Type	Description	Notes
Knowledge	61		Discovery Channel	Network		Interleave Discovery Documentaries
	62		Discovery Channel HD	Network		Interleave Discovery HD Folder
	63		National Geographic	Network		Interleave NatGeo Documentaries
	64		National Geographic HD	Network		Interleave NatGeo HD Folder & IMAX Channel
	65		History	Network		Interleave History Documentaries
	66		History HD	Network		Interleave History HD Folder
	67		Animal Planet	Playlist		All Shows with custom "Animal" Genre
	68		Science Channel	Network		
	69		TED	Directory	Evolution & Religious Documentaries	
	70		Quest	Directory	Documentaries	
Kids	71		Cartoon Network	Network		
	72		Animax	Network	Anime	
	73		Boomerang	Network		
	74		Nickelodeon	Network		
	75		Disney Channel	Network		Interleave with Disney Movies
	76		Frisbee	Playlist	Animation Movies / Kids ?	2008 and Newer
	77		Fox Kids	Network		
	78		Qulii	Playlist	Animation Movies / Kids ?	2007 and Older
	79		PIXAR	Playlist	Pixar Movies	Movies with "Pixar" Genre + Interleave Pixar Dir
	80		G4	Network	Mature Animated Shows	
Music	81		MTV	Network	MTV Shows, Specials & Music Videos	Interleave MTV Specials + MTV Music Folder
	82		MTV Trax	Directory	Music Videos Only	MTV Music Folder
	83		MTV Dance	Directory	Dance Music Videos	MTV/Dance Folder + Interleave Energy Folder
	84		DJs from Mars	Directory	DIJFM Music Videos	DJs from Mars Folder
	85		Energy	Directory	Pure Dance Music Videos	NRG Folder ONLY
	86		BET	Directory	Hip-Hop Music Videos	MTV/Hip Hop Folder
	87		Kerrang!	Directory	Rock Music Videos	MTV/Rock + Interleave Kerrang! Folder
	88		Vh1	Directory	Old Music Videos & Easy Listening	Vh1 Folder
	89		Q Music	Directory	Music Videos	MTV Music Folder
	90					
Fitness & Sport	91		FitTV	Directory	Fitness Videos	
	92		Zumba Fitness	Directory	Zumba Workouts	
	93		LA Muscle	Directory	Body Building Videos	
	94		Versus	Directory	UFC & MMA Fights	
	95		Poker The Poker Channel	Network	Poker Tournaments	
	96		GTv	Directory	PC Gaming Shows, Reviews & Trailers	
	97		Turbo	Playlist	Car Shows Channel	
	98					
	99					
	100					
Action & Sci-Fi	101		Cine First	Playlist	Latest Movies	2012 and Newer
	102		Cine FX	Playlist	FX Movies	Alien / Cyborg / Predator / Terminator / etc
	103		Cine Polar	Playlist	Crime Movies	
	104		Chiller	Playlist	Horror Series & Movies	"Chiller" Genre, Interleave with Horror Movies
	105		Action Max	Playlist	Action Movies	
	106		Silver	Playlist	Suspense / Thriller Movies	
	107		Sony Max	Playlist	Action/Adventure	
	108		AXN Sci-Fi	Playlist	Newer Science Fiction Movies	2008 and Newer
	109		AXN Beyond	Playlist	Older Science Fiction Movies	2007 and Older
	110		Marvel Channel	Playlist	Marvel Series & Movies	"Marvel" Genre Series + Interl. Marvel Movies
Niche	111		Turner	Network	Classic 80's Series	
	112		Universal Channel	Playlist	Universal Movies	
	113		MGM HD	Playlist	MGM Movies	
	114		Grenade	Playlist	War Movies	
	115		007 Channel	Playlist	James Bond Movie Channel	
	116		Orange Cine Happy	Playlist	Random Movies	
	117		Orange Cine Giants	Playlist	Random Movies	
	118		Orange Cine Novo	Playlist	Random Movies	
	119					
	120					

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

Create your Smart Playlists

After all your channels have been organized and numbered, you could probably go ahead and create the Smart Playlists for your Playlist channels.

Give the Playlists the same name as the channel name, eg: "TCM", but name the file itself "29-TCM" when saving it. ("29" is the channel number)



MY PLAYLISTS ARE INCLUDED WITH THIS PDF

If you would like to use some of them instead of your own, go ahead.



For XBMC on Windows, copy them to:

C:\Users\<Your Username>\AppData\Roaming\XBMC\userdata\playlists\video\

For XBMC on OpenELEC, copy them to:

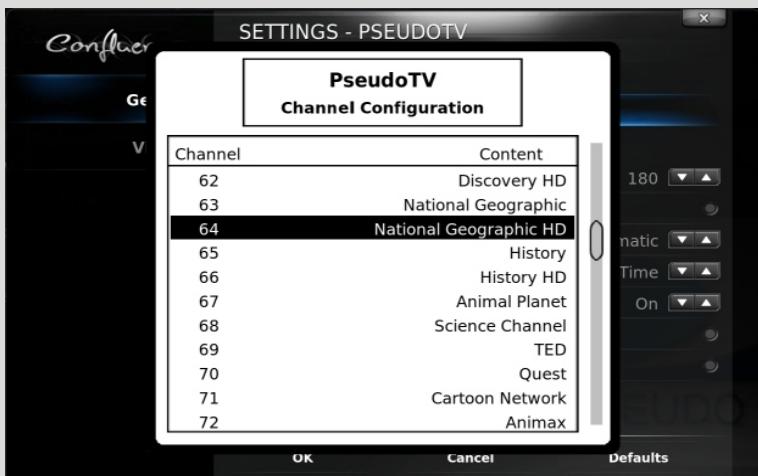
\OPENELEC\Disk 1\xbmc\userdata\playlists\video\

ADDING THE CHANNELS

Go through each channel in PseudoTV and specify the Network, Playlist or Directory for each channel.

Page 23-24 covers adding channels if you are a little rusty on the subject.

Make sure to tick "Force channel reset on next start" in PseudoTV's main settings to enable it to re-build your new channel setup.

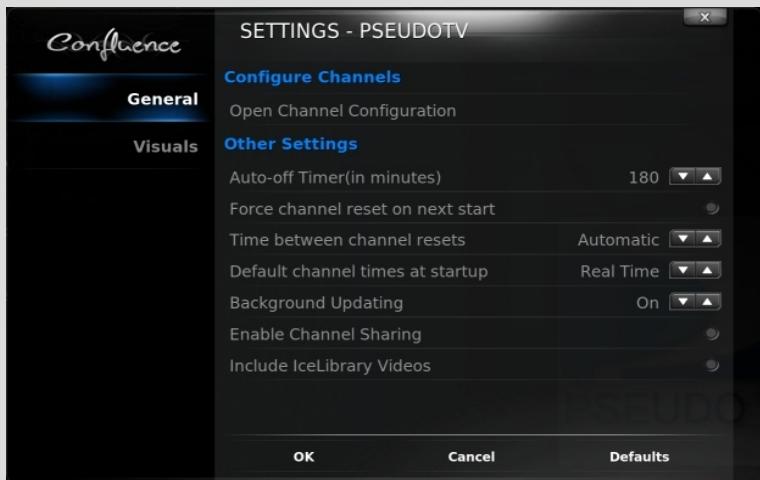


WARNING! GOTCHA AHEAD



Make sure to hit "OK" to save and exit the PseudoTV Settings. If you press the escape key you will lose all your new settings - it will not even ask you to save!

PSEUDO TV SETTINGS



GENERAL SETTINGS

Here you can see the General Settings.

These settings are focused mostly on how channels behave, their timing and how they are updated and synced.

Open Channel Configuration

Enables you to configure your channel setup.

Auto off timer (in minutes)

If no buttons are pressed, PseudoTV will power-off after X amount of minutes.

Force channel reset on next start

Causes PseudoTV to rebuild your channel setup on the next start of PseudoTV.

Time between channel resets

Causes PseudoTV to rebuild your channels periodically.

Default channel times at startup

Defines whether channels should resume from last position or function in Real Time.

Background Updating

Specifies if all channels are loaded on startup (slow), or in the background (fast).

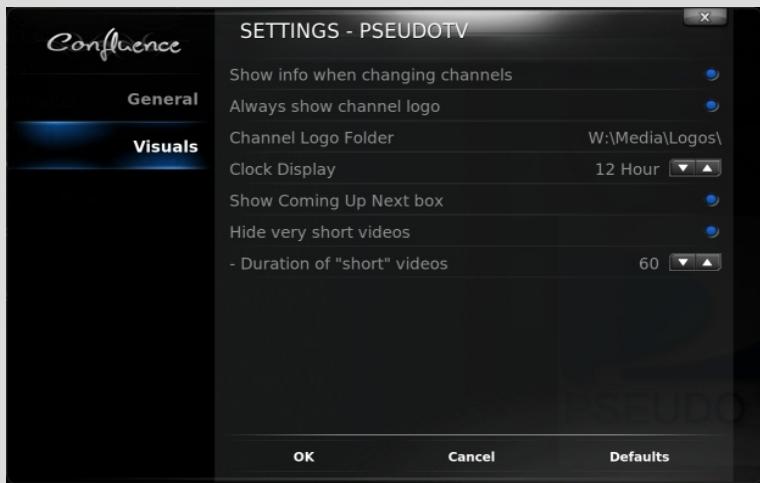
Enable Channel Sharing

Used if multiple systems run PseudoTV and should be synced.

Include IceLibrary Videos

Defines whether IceLibrary streaming should be enabled/disabled.

PSEUDO TV SETTINGS



VISUAL SETTINGS

Here you can see the Visual Settings.

These settings are focused mostly on how PseudoTV displays content such as logos, info, clock, pop-ups and the EPG.

Show info when changing channels

Displays the info box every time you change channels.

Always show channel logo

Adds a PNG logo on the bottom-right of each channel.

Channel logo Folder

Allows you to specify a folder containing all the PNG logos.

Clock Display

Choose between 12 Hour / 24 Hour

Show Coming Up Next box

Shows a small box with the name of the next show before the current one ends.

Hide very short videos

Enables you to hide adverts/bumpers from appearing in the the EPG and Info window.

Duration of “short” videos

Defines how short the videos are that should be hidden. (value in seconds)

FINAL TOUCHES

Make sure to tick “Always show channel logo” and then specify a “Channel Logo Folder”. This will help you identify what channel you are on when watching PseudoTV.

Make sure the PNG Logo is renamed to the name of the Channel. You may also add a channel rule to rename the channel itself, which is helpful when adding directory channels.



CHANNEL LOGOS

Over 100 of these PNG Logos should be included with this Guide!
There is also a Channel Logo pack available with over 5000 PNG Logo's!



ADVANCED CHANNEL RULES

Introduction

Advanced Channel Rules enable you to do various things such as changing the channel name, showing/hiding the channel logo, playing shows in order, scheduling or excluding shows and interleaving other channels, shows, adverts or bumpers.



The screenshot shows the 'SETTINGS - PSEUDOTV' window for the 'PseudoTV' channel. The 'Channel Rules' button is highlighted. A list of rules is displayed:

1. Hide the Channel Logo
2. Interleave Channel 55
3. Only Played Unwatched Items
- 4.

Below the list are 'OK' and 'Cancel' buttons. To the right of the window, the title 'CHANNEL RULES' is displayed, followed by text explaining how to access the menu and a note about the example on the left.

CHANNEL RULES

To access the Channel Rules menu, simply select the button called "Advanced Channel Rules" when editing a specific channel.

In the example on the left, you can see that this channel has 3 channel rules defined.

Channel Rules Menu Navigation

Navigation on the Channel Rules menu can be a little tricky, however once you get used to the way it works it becomes second nature.

- 1) Highlight an open rule slot (This will be rule 1 if you have no rules yet.)
- 2) Press Enter, and the "Rule 1 Configuration" window opens.
- 3) Press Down to go to the rule selection area.
- 4) Use Left and Right to select a rule.
- 5) Configure the rule parameters if required.
- 6) Press "Rule 1 Configuration" to exit the rule (Escape/Back button will also work)

ADVANCED CHANNEL RULES

Best-Effort Channel Scheduling

Want to watch The Daily Show every night at 7:00? Schedule your channel to play it.

Channel Logo

Does most of the videos on your CBS channel have the logo encoded into the video?
Disable the drawing of the logo on that channel. (It will still show on the EPG)

Don't include a show

Exclude a show from your channel.

Don't play this channel

Since some rules use other channels as modifiers (scheduling and interleaving), you may not want that channel to actually be visible.

Force Random / Real-Time / Resume

While most people use Real-Time mode (as recommended), you can now have a channel be different from the rest.

IceLibrary Streams

Enable or Disable IceLibrary streams on a per channel basis.

Interleave another channel

Are you one of those people that likes bumpers? Create a channel that only has the bumpers and use this rule on your main channel to interleave those bumpers in between your shows. This rule is also useful for Adverts. (More on Interleaving in the next chapter)

Only play unwatched Items

If the channel contents change a lot, there's no reason to watch the same shows over and over. Hide things you've watched from this channel with ease.

Only play watched Items

Don't want to spoil a movie by accidentally seeing part of the middle? Hide shows that haven't been watched yet.

Pause when Not watching

Don't want to miss an episode of The Big Bang Theory? Make sure that if you're not watching it, it stays paused. This rule goes great with the "Play shows in order" and "Force resume" rules.

Play shows in Order

Now you can make sure that when you're watching Top Chef, the next episode that comes on will actually be the next episode in the series.

Set Channel Name

Useful for setting the name to a channel that was created from a Directory.

Reset every x Days

Causes the channel to automatically be rebuilt every x amount days

INTERLEAVING, BUMPERS & ADVERTS

What is Interleaving?

Interleaving enables you to mix channels together. This means you could have a Syfy channel that plays all the regular programming, that also interleaves a Sci-Fi Genre Movie every 10 shows.

It can also be used to mix in some channel fillers, for example mixing “Manswers” clips into your Spike-TV Channel. How about mixing in some Concerts & Special Events into your MTV Channel?

Another good use is to interleave channel bumpers and/or adverts into your channels.

What are Bumpers?

Channel Bumpers are the videos that play between shows on some channels that contain the channel logo in some fancy way. Many channels have these, and it's recommended to download them and interleave them into your own channels to get another step closer to the full Cable experience.

You can go to YouTube and search for them there – great keywords are “bumper”, “ident” and “logo” which should be used along with the channel name.

YouTube Video downloaders or Browser plug-ins are needed to download these videos. I recommend the “Video DownloadHelper” plug-in if you use Firefox. Some people upload a wide variety of Bumpers zipped up into one file, too.



WHAT ABOUT ADVERTS?

These can be found easily on YouTube as well.

Download them in 720p or higher as 30 second or so adverts are small in filesize.

Interleave Procedure:

1) Create a new channel and set it to use your bumpers, adverts, channel fillers or specials.

2) Add a rule to hide this channel.

3) On your main channel, add a rule to interleave the hidden channel.

4) Set “Min & Max Interleave Count” options as needed.

- If Min & Max counts are set to 1, it will add the bumper after each show

- If Min & Max counts are set to 2, it will add the bumper after every second show

- If Min = 1 and Max = 3, it will add the bumper after every 1,2 or 3 shows (at random)

Note: If you have multiple interleave rules, they will be followed systematically from top to bottom. If you want it to be Episode > Advert > Bumper > Episode > Advert > Bumper, then you will need two rules:

Rule 1: (Advert) Min = 1, Max = 1, Starting = 1

Rule 2: (Bumper) Min = 2, Max = 2, Starting = 1

CONGRATULATIONS!

You made it to the end of the guide!

All steps have been completed and you should now be ready to rock!
Go ahead and give yourself a well deserved pat on the back.

I hope you enjoy your new system!

Don't forget to visit the XBMC, OpenELEC and PseudoTV forums!



TIPS

Read the Manual when upgrading your HP ProLiant MicroServer.

Make sure all your media is scraped properly.

Backup your PseudoTV Channel Setup regularly.

(C:\Users\Username\AppData\Roaming\XBMC\userdata\addon_data\script.pseudotv\)

The best setup comes from organizing your media and spending time to plan your channels properly.

You can use the included Excel file as a template for your own channel setup.

If a channel has too much content, try to split it up into 2 channels
(Discovery and Discovery HD, BBC 1 and BBC 2, MTV and MTV Dance, etc)

If you have many movies of a specific genre, split that channel it up into 2 or more channels that each play a different era of the genre.

Spend time on working on your Channel Setup (meaning the Wordpad/Excel file).

Don't just limit yourself to my Channel Setup, if you have a lot of DIY videos, make a DIY Channel! The sky is the limit and everybody's system will be different.

Add a rule to hide the PNG logo on channels that have them encoded into most shows.

Map your HTPC hard drives as "Network Drives" in Windows.

Convert all downloaded bumpers to MPG or AVI, FLV is not the best format for XBMC.

Buy 2TB or 3TB drives for your HP ProLiant Microserver to increase storage capacity.

Drink lots of milk to give you strong bones (if you move your HTPC around a lot).

Spend some time creating a few channels designed for your Wife/Girlfriend.

F.A.Q.

Q: How do I Fix items that were scraped wrong in XBMC?

A: Press the info button (“i”) on the item, and select “Refresh”.

Q: How did you make the Marvel channel?

A: I manually edited the .nfo files of all marvel movies and added my own custom <genre> tag called “marvel”. I then add these by using Smart Playlists.

Q: How did you make the Turbo and Animal Planet channels?

A: I manually edited all Car & Animal tv-show's .nfo files and added my own custom <genre> tag called “turbo” or “Animal”. I then add these by using Smart Playlists.

Q: I can't get the PseudoTV Network Manager to run, what now?

A: Try running it in XP-Compatibility mode, that worked for me.

Q: Why won't my OpenELEC USB Key not boot?

A: Try formatting it to different file systems, or try a different size/brand flash drive.

Q: Which XBMC Skin do you normally use?

A: ReFocus.

Q: Can I install Sickbeard or CouchPotato on my OpenELEC machine?

A: Yes.

Q: How do I actually use my iPhone to control XBMC as a remote?

A: See the App's website, documentation or help menu.

Q: What if my TV doesn't have an HDMI Input?

A: See if you can get your hands on a HDMI to RCA cable converter.

Q: I can't find the PNG logo I need for my channel in any “logo pack”, what now?

A: Find one on Google Images. try to resize the PNG to 161x109

Q: When is Eden coming out on OpenELEC?

A: I have no idea - check their website, it should happen soon.

GET SOUND WORKING

Try this first:

- 1) Open \\openelec in your explorer window and browse to the Configfiles folder.
- 2) Copy the asound.conf file into this folder (Supplied with PDF)
- 3) Copy the sound.conf file into the modprobe.d folder. (Supplied with PDF)

Reboot your HTPC and check if the sound works. if it doesn't, perform the next step.

Listing all sound devices:

- 1) Run the “Putty” tool. (Included with this PDF)
- 2) Under “hostname (or IP address)”, type “openelec”
- 3) Press the “Open” Button
- 4) Choose “Yes” when the security warning pops up. (You are connecting to your HTPC)
- 5) Login as “root”.
- 6) Use the password “openelec”.
- 7) You should now see: “root ~ #” in blue and green text. great.
- 8) Type “aplay -l“ (That's a lowercase letter “L”, not the number “1”)

It should now list all your available audio devices:

```
**** List of PLAYBACK Hardware Devices ****
card 0 • NVidia [HDA Nvidia], device 3 • HDMI 0 [HDMI 0] ←
  Subdevices: 1/1
  Subdevice #0: subdevice #0
card 0 • NVidia [HDA Nvidia], device 7 • HDMI 0 [HDMI 0] ←
  Subdevices: 0/1
  Subdevice #0: subdevice #0
card 0 • NVidia [HDA Nvidia], device 8 • HDMI 0 [HDMI 0] ←
  Subdevices: 1/1
  Subdevice #0: subdevice #0
card 0 • NVidia [HDA Nvidia], device 9 • HDMI 0 [HDMI 0] ←
  Subdevices: 1/1
  Subdevice #0: subdevice #0
```

Your list might give different results, but all you need to do is to look at the “card” and “device” numbers (This card has 4)

Our choices in this instance is:

card 0, device 3 -or- card 0, device 7 -or- card 0, device 8 -or- card 0, device 9

You should now edit the “asound.conf” file in your ConfigFiles share with notepad and edit the “card” and “device” values to one of the four sets you see here.
Save the file, restart the HTPC and test until you find one that works.

USEFUL LINKS

HP ProLiant MicroServer

Msi N520GT-MD1GD3/LP Graphics Card

Logitech Harmony Remotes

XBMC

XBMC Downloads

XBMC Forum

XBMC Skins

XBMC Add-ons

OpenELEC

OpenELEC Downloads

OpenELEC Forum

PseudoTV Thread

PseudoTV Blog

PseudoTV Download

EASEUS Partition Master

Video DownloadHelper for Firefox

FINAL WORDS

I hope you enjoyed the guide - It was great writing it all and even though it took some time, I'm sure it's all worth it in the end knowing there will be many people out there that benefit from it in some way.

Special thanks goes out to Jason102 from the XBMC Forums who single handedly wrote this fine XBMC script that is Pseudotv. I haven't donated to you (yet), but hopefully this guide brings you many new users who might actually have something they can send your way. Send this man a beer or two, he deserves it for all his hard work.

Not forgetting the XBMC Developers here, you guys truly are the people that are making this all happen. Congrats on the 11.0 Eden release!

Also special thanks to the guys working on OpenELEC for making it easy for us who know nothing about Lunix and whatnot.=)

Last but not least, I would like to thank Jeroen for his stunning ReFocus XBMC skin. If that skin doesn't score points with the wife, I'm not sure what will.



the Milkman

NOTES

Milkman's Guide to
THE ULTIMATE
MEDIA
SYSTEM