

Hands on with DIRECTV Everywhere (DIRECTV.com and Android)

blog.solidsignal.com/reviews/hands-directv-everywhere-directv-com-android

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For our review of *DIRECTV Everywhere* on the iPad, [click here](#).

If you've been jonesing for the ability to watch DIRECTV programming without a TV handy, your time has finally come. DIRECTV Everywhere is now available to the general public via web browser, iPad, and Android phones.

Web Browser



DIRECTV is coming around to the idea that people want their programming everywhere, on every device. While DIRECTV is generally the high-tech leader, they have lagged behind Xfinity, FiOS and other providers in this area for some time. Whether this was for legal or technical reasons we'll never know. What's important is that they are now fully committed to bringing the TV watching experience to DIRECTV subscribers no matter where they happen to be at the moment.

When you log into directv.com, you will see a banner announcing DIRECTV Everywhere. That's your key to knowing that the service is available to you. It's been available to some people for about two weeks and has slowly been rolling out across the country. There hasn't been any special reason why some people have gotten it and some people haven't, it's just the luck of the draw. This message is easy to dismiss.

HI

(not you?)

Sign In

Search:

Entertainment

movies, tv, sports, actors

Cart

What is DIRECTV?

TV Packages

Premiums

Sports

International

Technology

New

DIRECTV Everywhere

My Account

Help

Home

DIRECTV Everywhere

Watch Online

Share this page

New! Watch Online

Watch the same movies and shows anywhere, on your TVs at home, plus on your laptop, tablet, and cell phone.

The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo

Watch Now

All

My Shows

DIRECTV Everywhere

Watch Online

Movies & TV Shows

view all

Action/Adventure

Comedy

Drama

Fantasy

Horror

Mystery/Crime

Romance

Watch on TV

Movies

TV Shows

Live Events

Adult

On Demand

The Guide

Featured This Month

Game of Thrones

With turmoil brewing in all Seven Kingdoms, can Joffrey hold on to his power as the king of Westeros?

Watch now >

X-Men: First Class

See the beginning when Magneto and Professor X were allies and the first mutant class was formed.

Watch now >

Jack and Jill

She's loud and destroys everything. She's Jack's sister, Jill, and she's coming to town for the holidays.

Watch now >

Hot New Releases to Watch Online

View all >

War Horse

Extremely L...

A Dangerous ...

In the Land o...

The Muppets

The Girl Wit...

Premium Networks

HBO

starz

encore

CINEMAX

AUDIENCE

Award-Winning Movies

The Blind Side

WALL-E

The Hangover

The Departed

Syriana

Toy Story 2

Premium Favorites

Spartacus: V...

Game of Thr...

Boardwalk E...

The Sopranos

Entourage

Strike Back

Premium Blockbusters

3/8

The Tourist Tangled **Live!@5pm** Bridesmaids Hanna How Do You ... Friends With...

Exclusive Shows on the AUDIENCE Network™



All-Time Favorites From the Sony Movie Library



Staff Picks



Watch Online on These Networks

Click any network below to go to its website. Sign in with your directv.com username and password to watch shows online at no extra charge.

CNN
24-hour coverage of breaking news.
[More Info >](#)

TNT
Enjoy the best original series.
[More Info >](#)

TruTV
Your home for the best reality shows.
[More Info >](#)

Cartoon Network
The best in kids and family entertainment.
[More Info >](#)

Adult Swim
Animated shows for young adults.
[More Info >](#)

TBS
Hilarious sitcoms and movies for your family.
[More Info >](#)

Big Ten Network
Catch games from the Big Ten conference.
[More Info >](#)

Sony
Popular and critically acclaimed films.
[More Info >](#)

Universal Sports Network
Year-round coverage of Olympic sports.
[More Info >](#)

Limited programming available. Additional charges may apply. Functionality varies by compatible device. Only select networks corresponding to your package selection are available to stream on demand. Additional charges may apply. All functions and programming subject to change at any time. Visit directv.com/anywhere for complete details.

HBO GO® and MAX GO® included with your HBO® and/or Cinemax® subscriptions at no additional cost. HBO®, Cinemax® and related channels and service marks are the property of Home Box Office, Inc. HBO GO® and MAX GO® are only available in the US where a high speed broadband connection is available. Minimum 3G connection is required for viewing on mobile devices. Some restrictions may apply. Minimum connection of 3 Mbps required for HD viewing. Select titles not available in HD. iFruit® and iPhone® are trademarks of Apple Inc. Android™ is a trademark of Google Inc. Use of this trademark is subject to Google Permissions.

[Additional Details](#)



DIRECTV has compiled an impressive amount of content available to watch online. A lot of their on-demand library is there, as well as content from HBO, Starz, Encore, Cinemax and the Audience Network. Of course, you must have these channels in your package or you can't view them. Free content is limited to shows from The Audience Network.

The browsing experience is consistent with DIRECTV.com's web site. It's not as flashy as other sites but it is cleanly presented and easy to navigate. The content is separated by category and clicking on a thumbnail brings up an informational screen showing you more about this program. If it is on-demand content, you have the option of starting the program on an internet-connected TV right away; if it's not, you have the option of recording it. But, of course, you're reading this from your computer or mobile device, and you want to watch from there. Let's take a look at the experience of watching a program from a PC.

Rock Gala: Phil Collins

♥ Add to Favorites

TVG | Genre: Music, Series

Watch online.

Available online to watch instantly. **AUDIENCE**

Watch Now

Other ways to watch: **On Demand (on TV)**

Details | **Ways to Watch**

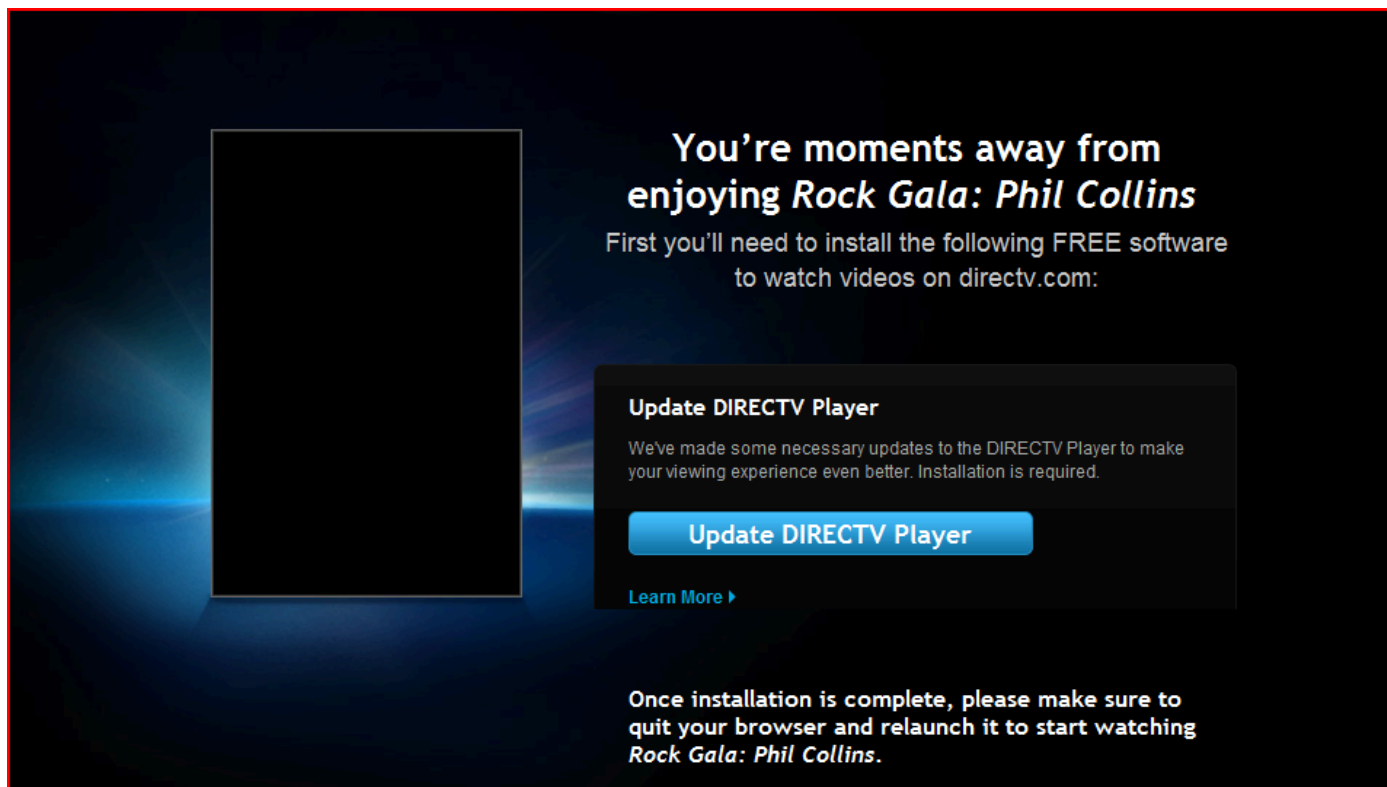
Summary

Prince's Trust Rock Gala 2010. Music from Phil Collins, Queen and more. Hosted by Rob Brydon and Dame Edna Everage. Recorded in London, England. Only on DIRECTV.

Additional Details

Program Type: Series

This is a typical info screen. There are the obligatory links to social networking sites, as well as a short description of the program. Click WATCH NOW to continue.



This screenshot shows a dark-themed interface with a blue light effect on the left. A large black rectangle on the left side represents a missing video thumbnail. The main text is centered and reads: "You're moments away from enjoying *Rock Gala: Phil Collins*". Below this, it says: "First you'll need to install the following FREE software to watch videos on directv.com:". A dark grey box on the right contains the heading "Update DIRECTV Player", followed by the text: "We've made some necessary updates to the DIRECTV Player to make your viewing experience even better. Installation is required." Below this text is a blue button with the text "Update DIRECTV Player". At the bottom of the box is a link that says "Learn More" with a right-pointing arrow. Below the update box, centered text reads: "Once installation is complete, please make sure to quit your browser and relaunch it to start watching *Rock Gala: Phil Collins*."

You're moments away from
enjoying *Rock Gala: Phil Collins*

First you'll need to install the following FREE software
to watch videos on directv.com:

Update DIRECTV Player

We've made some necessary updates to the DIRECTV Player to make
your viewing experience even better. Installation is required.

Update DIRECTV Player

[Learn More](#)

Once installation is complete, please make sure to
quit your browser and relaunch it to start watching
Rock Gala: Phil Collins.

If you haven't used DIRECTV Everywhere before you'll be prompted to install the DIRECTV player. If, like me, you've tried it once about a week ago, you'll get a message to update. This is a one-time thing and won't pop up every time. The DIRECTV player is necessary, because DIRECTV content is protected rather than being raw video. This makes the lawyers sleep better at night. I tested the player in Internet Explorer and Firefox for PC and it worked fine.



Video quality is excellent. It's comparable to Netflix, Hulu, and other IPTV sources. The above is a full-size capture and it was completely satisfying. Of course you may be limited by your computer's sound system or your internet speed. The player will compensate for slow internet speeds but not for poor quality PC speakers. A full screen mode is available, but since DIRECTV did such a good job of protecting the content, it was relatively difficult to capture.



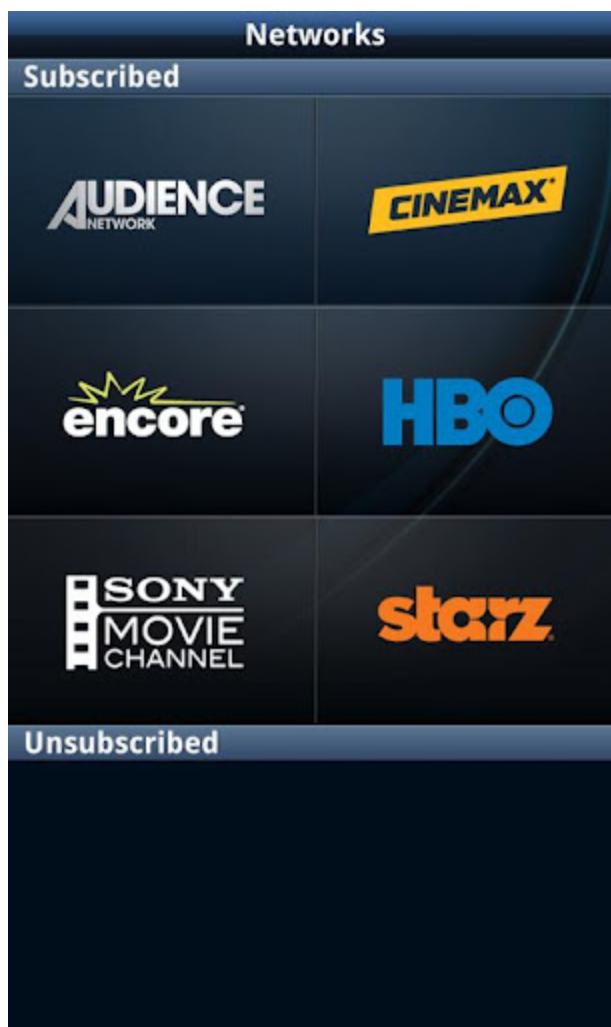
[The DIRECTV app for Android smartphones](#) has been available for some time but it has just been updated for DIRECTV Everywhere. While DIRECTV Everywhere is available for iPad, it is not yet available for iPhone. This marks the first time DIRECTV has released an Android app before its iPhone counterpart, but I have a feeling the iPhone version isn't that far off.

If you've used the DIRECTV app for Android before you're familiar with its ability to schedule programs remotely. It's a relatively full-featured app considering it's free and it's designed to be used on smaller screens.

DIRECTV has added a new item to the menu, "Watch on Phone." It just couldn't be easier than that. Tap on "Watch on Phone" and you'll be presented with a list of channels available for viewing.

As on the desktop, choices are limited, HBO, Starz, Cinemax, Encore, and Audience Network show up, although Sony Movie Channel content does as well. If you are subscribed to all of these, they will show up for you on the screen, but if you are not, you will only see Audience Network,

which is the only source of free content available through the app.



Browsing through programs is easy and quick and once you have chosen a program to watch, sit back and enjoy. Just like other IPTV sources, picture quality is going to be highly dependent on internet speed and some phones may not be able to play the highest-quality stream. But of course, even a Galaxy Nexus isn't that large and so lower picture quality isn't really a big deal.

One nice feature of DIRECTV Everywhere is that if you have purchased an On Demand (DIRECTV Cinema) title over the internet, it is available on your receivers as well as through the web site and apps. This is great if you get a title with an extended checkout period (like 72 hours.) Well done!