

Raspberry Pi as a DVR

Jon Flanders
@jonflanders



This module is about...



XBMC

- Free and open-source media player
 - XBMC Foundation
- Cross-platform
 - But a popular choice for Linux and especially Raspberry Pi
- Used by various commercial vendors
 - Boxee for one

Getting XBMC

- Buy a distribution with XBMC on a SD card
- Download a pre-compiled version for Raspbian
 - <http://michael.gorven.za.net/raspberrypi/xbmc>
- Build from source
 - <http://www.raspbian.org/RaspbianXBMC> (NOTE - takes over 12 hours!!!)
- Use a USB hard drive to hold the content

My XBMC



Extending XBMC with Add-ons

- XBMC is a open source media center
 - You can of course download the C++ source and modify core functionality
- It also includes a rich add-on functionality
 - Add-ons are built using Python

Anatomy of an Add-on

- XBMC requires a particular folder structure for an add-on
 - addon.xml - contains metadata to tell XBMC what kind of add-on it is, and links to the Python code file
 - <name>.py - the Python code that implements the add-on
 - logo.png (optional) - image for add-on page
 - changelog.txt (optional)- change log is displayed to the user for version information
 - license.txt (optional) - license for the add-on source

Python libraries

- xbmc
 - The base XBMC library
- xbmcaddon
 - XBMC library for add-on extras
- xbmcgui
 - XBMC GUI library
- xbmcplugin
 - Access to XBMC plugins (e.g. DVD player)

Building an Add-on

- Create the necessary files
- Deploy to XBMC's repository
- You can also deploy as a zip file locally for testing
- I also recommend not developing and testing on the Raspberry Pi
 - Much easier to install XBMC on Linux, OSX, or Windows and building/deploy/testing from a desktop/laptop
 - Run XBMC in windowed mode to further ease development

Summary

- Using XBMC your Raspberry Pi can become a powerful DVR