

Streaming FAQ

What is streaming media?

Streaming media is multimedia that is continuously received by, and normally displayed to, the end-user (you) whilst it is being delivered by the provider (BITV). The name refers to the delivery method of the medium rather than to the medium itself. The distinction is usually applied to media that are distributed over telecommunications networks, as most other delivery systems are either inherently streaming (e.g. radio, television) or inherently non-streaming (e.g. books, video cassettes, audio CDs). The verb 'to stream' is also derived from this term, meaning to deliver media in this manner.

What is "Live" streaming?

Live Streaming is often referred to as media that is delivered to a large audience at a specified time. The end user does not have a choice in what or when a program is streamed. It is similar to watching television programs. In fact, BITV's live stream is the actual channel 12 program that airs on Comcast with about a seven second delay.

What is Video-on-Demand (VOD)?

Video on demand (VOD) systems allow users to select and watch video content over a network as part of an interactive television system. VOD systems either "stream" content, allowing viewing in real time, or "download" it in which the program is brought in its entirety to a set-top box before viewing starts. For instance, you could download a program anytime and watch it, pause it at your convenience. BITV does not provide this service at this time.

Will BITV have VOD?

Hopefully yes. Both Live Streaming and VOD are costly. Many \$1,000 per year in utility costs. We will need assistance to bring VOD to Bainbridge Island. If you would like to help, give us a call at (206) 780-2980.

How do I watch "live" streaming of channel 12

Go to the streaming page and click on the "watch channel 12" link. You will be taken to the BITV public page. From here you can watch streaming by clicking on the "Watch Live" tab. You can also learn about programs, the length, producer and schedule. However, you can not make a program play.

Why doesn't it play on my computer?

Could be a variety of reasons, but here's a few thoughts.

Make sure you have a video player installed. Check the preferences of the player. You'll need a fast internet connection. More to follow.

Why doesn't it work on my Macintosh?

Sorry folks. We love Macs, but this is a bit more of a challenge. First you'll need to get Flip for Mac so you can use your QuickTime player. <http://www.flip4mac.com/>. Install WMV. If you have Windows Media player, you'll need to drag it to your trash. More detailed instruction to follow.