

# **Overview**

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Washington Area Computer User Group

# **Defining Internet Radio**

- Internet radio (aka e-Radio) is a broadcasting service transmitted via the Internet.
- Broadcasting on the Internet is usually referred to as webcasting.
- e-Radio suggests a streaming media that presents listeners with a continuous stream of audio to which they have no control much like traditional broadcast media.
- Not synonymous with podcasting, which involves downloading and copyright issues. Nor does e-Radio suggest "on-demand" file serving.

Source: Wikipedia

# Why Should I Be Interested?

- World wide reception over the Internet
- Wider variety of formats than local broadcast radio
  - Talk
  - Comedy
  - Music: Bluegrass; Ska; Electronica; World
- Typically few or no commercials
- Mostly free (some by subscription)
- Less regulation

# What Do I Need?

- Internet access
  - High-speed (96-192 kbps) = higher quality audio
- Computer or Internet Radio device
- Streaming Media Player software and codecs
  - MS Windows: Winamp
  - GNU/Linux: Amarok (KDE); Rhythmbox (GNOME); Xine; XMMS
  - Web Browser + Flash Player
- Service subscription (optional)

# Where Do I Look?

#### Internet Radio Directories:

- www.Shoutcast.com
- www.lcecast.org
- www.Live365.com
- www.Radio-Locator.com
- www.RadioJump.com

Service Providers:

- RealNetworks Rhapsody (included with Comcast Internet)
- Yahoo! LAUNCHcast (Windows only)
- AOL Radio (Windows only)

# **Business Model**

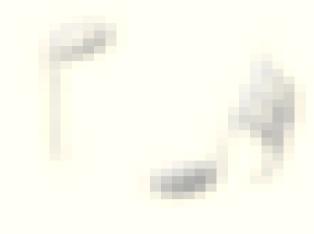
- Webcasters income is from advertising, subscription fees and donations
- New determination by the US Copyright Royalty Board raises music licensing fees paid by webcasters:
  - Minimum \$500 per channel per year plus
  - Per performance fee retroactive to 2006
    2006 \$0.0008
    2007 \$0.0011
    2008 \$0.0014
    2009 \$0.0018
    2010 \$0.0019
- Fees will exceed revenues for most US webcasters!

Source : Radio and Internet Newsletter, March 2, 2007



#### **Alternatives**

- Satellite Radio (XM and Sirius)
  - Digital channels
  - Requires special receiver
  - Subscription required
- www.Slacker.com
  - Custom playlists
  - Portable device for satellite and Internet download soon
- www.Magnatune.com
  - Listen to entire albums online



# Conclusions

- Internet Radio has something for all tastes
- High-speed Internet preferred for high quality music
- Subscription services may have special requirements
- New US fee structure threatens Internet Radio
  - Support your favorite station!

