



Software Emporium

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Connecting your PC to your TV

Connecting your PC to your TV use to leave people frustrated but with today's digital technologies in both TVs and PCs it has become rather easy to accomplish. However, working with the older Analog technology can be rather tricky.

Here is list of possible connections:

1. **HDMI** (High-Definition Multimedia Interface) **to HDMI** - If both devices use HDMI inputs and outputs, this is the best solution giving you the best picture and sound quality. Only one cable is needed (HDMI M/M Cable) to bring your computer screen to your TV. HDMI is primarily found on Flat Panel HD TVs and most new PCs.

2. **DVI** (Digital Visual Interface) **to HDMI** - Connecting these 2 ports is still easily done, as both of these connections are considered digital. DVI is primarily found on desktop PCs and only produces a video signal. A simple DVI to HDMI adapter can be purchased, or a special cable that is both DVI on one end to HDMI on the other. As previously mentioned this will only

transfer video so another cable will be needed to bring sound to the picture. It is best to look at the TV's back panel to determine which cable will be needed (see fig.1).



This cable is going to be a 3.5mm male to male audio cable in some case may use a 3.5mm to RCA cable if going to a home theatre system instead of the TV.

3. **VGA** (Video Graphics Array) **to VGA** - VGA has been the standard for video output on PCs for years. TVs have also had this port since projection televisions. VGA is an Analog Signal and has been super-ceded by DVI and HDMI digital signals, but is still found in many PCs and still put in TVs today. Just like the DVI connection VGA does not transport sound, and usually requires the 3.5mm M/M cable to complete the job.

4. **S-Video to S-Video** - S-Video was introduced back in the VHS days and was used on many Laptops and PCs for this particular function, the only problem was the limitation of the S-Video cable so it produced a low quality picture. If both devices have a S-Video port simply use a S-Video M/M Cable to connect the two devices, of course sound will have to come with its own cable.

The audio cable typically used with S-Video connections is 3.5mm to RCA. The quality is definitely not there if you are trying to Web surf but watching a movie is alright.

After selecting your connection type there are a couple things to remember to make your PC to TV connection a success. Most people will connect the cables and change the input on the TV and start up the computer and presto computer screen on the TV.

Now this doesn't always work so smooth so here are some tips.

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The number one issue on PCs; Spyware

Spyware has become such a problem on today's information superhighway that it is no longer possible to surf the Internet for more than 20 minutes before encountering your first piece of spyware.

This, coupled with the fact that spyware is now the number one issue on PCs, causing more problems than even the mighty virus, means it is more likely than ever that your PC will succumb to the performance-reducing, popup-sending, horror that is today's spyware.

Here are some tips to help keep you safe from this PC-mangling phenomenon. The bread and butter of the spyware distributor is free software, so if you download something from

the Internet and it's free, chances are your going to be getting some spyware along with it.



ing programs rely on other people to act as servers, this means that anyone could infect a file with a virus, and if you download that file, you get that virus. Safe alternatives would be the pay sites, such as iTunes, MSN music and Napster.

Unsavory websites (adult content, warez, file sharing) are almost always loaded with spyware. Avoid these sites like the plague.

Try to avoid sites that you notice have a lot of popups, and stay away from third-party popup stoppers, they often block legitimate popups.

Spyware is often bundled with Trojan viruses in order to bypass Windows security features and take your data, and install additional spyware programs. If this happens, attempt to run an online housecall antivirus scan at www.housecall.antivirus.com. If possible, run this scan in safemode with networking (tap F8 while your computer is starting up).

Many spyware and malware programs can easily re-infect a just-cleaned machine. By nature of their design, they are not stopped by antivirus or antispyware programs, even if virus definitions and Windows updates are completely up to date. Best practice is to avoid revisiting the site that infected your computer in the first place.

Malware, Spyware's ugly, criminal cousin, is another beast altogether. This is the stuff that modifies Windows system files, changes your homepage and generally beats up Windows like the proverbial red-headed stepchild.

Unfortunately, there's no quick fix for malware, hopefully the above tips will help you avoid it. If it does infect your machine, we recommend you take it down to the professionals at Software Emporium.

*Ryan Moran
Software Emporium Inc.*

Spyware distributors aren't above a little trickery, if you see a window pop-up that warns you have spyware on your system, do not click it. Windows will NEVER tell you your system has spyware.

Many webpages will have banners advertising a certain product, or advising you to click here to speed up your computer, get rid of viruses, spyware, etc. Often clicking on these banners is all that is needed for spyware to find a new home in your computer.

Microsoft is constantly releasing security updates for Windows to combat threats like spyware and viruses. Be sure to run your Windows updates regularly, they can be accessed via Start-All Programs. Be sure to close any running programs before you begin running the updates, this includes any antivirus software. That will ensure the update goes through properly.

We recommend Malware Bytes and Spyware Doctor. Other spyware removal utilities can cause more problems than they solve or actually contain spyware themselves, ironic, but true.

File sharing programs like Kazaa, Edonkey, Morpheus, Limeware, while attractive, are often loaded with spyware, also file sharing programs are a security risk by nature. Fileshar-

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Acer's new tablet timely competition for iPad

Since Apple released its wildly popular iPad last year other PC makers in the world have been playing catch up. With an estimated 80% worldwide share Apple's market dominance is certainly a challenge for them. In recent months competitors like HP, Samsung, Motorola, ASUS, and RIM have finally hit the market. I spent my weekend getting acquainted with the Acer Iconia Tab A500.

Specs

Specs include nVidia Dual Core 1Ghz Processor, 32GB Storage, 1GB RAM, Wireless and Bluetooth, 1280x800 10.1" Multi-Touch Display, HDMI, USB 2.0, Front and Rear Camera's, a MicroSD Card Slot, and the Google Android 3.0 Operating System. Compared to the hardware in the iPad 2 the feature set is very close. The same is true of its Android competitors. The Acer Iconia has a few goodies the iPad does not; USB and HDMI. Popular options include a Bluetooth Keyboard and custom fit case.

The first thing I noticed was the quality feel to the unit. Housed in a metal body, the tapered edges feel comfortable in the hands. I was pleasantly surprised by the crisp, bright look of the screen. The Android Operating System for Tablets is relatively new, but appears quite evolved. The user interface is pretty easy to get a handle on, and I was feeling comfortable within an hour.

Apps

There are numerous preloaded applications such as Email, GPS, Web Browser, Games, Book Reader, Video Player, Audio, Photo, and Media Apps, etc. One of the first things I did was fire up the Web Browser and went to

a site my son frequents called Club Penguin. A 100% Adobe Flash site, I was itching to see how the unit fared.



Remember the iPad does NOT support Flash content. As soon as the page loaded sure enough I was prompted to install Adobe Flash. I successfully download and installed Flash on the fly and was enjoying the full features of the site in about 4 minutes. This is a huge advantage over the iPad! Soon after, I logged on to YouTube and checked out some HD Music Videos. Fast streaming content displayed full screen without any jitters. I decided to add a Video file to an SD Card and was able to play that without problem.

Similar to Apple's App Store for IOS, Android users have the Android Market to get all sorts of Apps. From Games, to Video Converters, Voice, Data and everything in between, there are

thousands of Apps to download, albeit nowhere near the number found at the Apple App Store (yet?). I'm told the Netflix App is only a few weeks away, and there are an amazing amount of Free Apps also available.

Performance

I was very impressed. Most tasks and actions are done with fluidity and speed. From navigation, to opening, running and closing apps the system kept up well. The multitasking capability of Android 3.0 is easily one of the best features. I was running Angry Birds, playing a video on YouTube, and had Google maps all running simultaneously with almost no speed hit. This is a key selling point in my opinion.

Battery

Over 2 days of intermittent use I was able to pull almost 8 hours out of a full battery charge mixing surfing, movies, Apps and Games. Looping Video over and over I pulled a respectable 6.5 hours. Not quite what the competition offers, but still very respectable considering the cost and features.

I can say with certainty I would consider the Acer Iconia Tab A500 for an Android Tablet. It's right up there in power and features with the likes of the Samsung Galaxy Tab and the Motorola Xoom, and comes in less costly. It's a quality product and solid buy for the money. Future Android updates promise even more Apps, functionality, and Features. Acer has also announced a future version with a 3G Modem.

It looks like the iPad is finally getting some serious and timely competition!

*Paul Davey
Software Emporium Inc.*



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Service plans for your business

Did you know that Software Emporium offers packages for its business clients?

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Scheduled Preventative Maintenance
Software Emporium will create a scheduled recurring appointment to maintain your network and keep it running at its highest level of efficiency.

Our team will take a running inventory of your equipment, recommending changes to keep your productivity level at its maximum. We take a proactive approach to your network's maintenance

by repairing minor issues before they become major problems.

You'll be amazed at how efficient your network really is!



Remote Monitoring & Assistance
Software Emporium will deploy a sophisticated Remote Monitoring & Assistance program allowing us to keep in direct contact with your network. The software reports any troubles on the

network directly back to us, allowing us to identify and repair issues before they can interrupt your work.

The software also allows a variety of reports including network health, asset status and uptime. This service is offered in two flavours, a proactive model where we alert you to issues on your network and repair them with your permission, and a managed services model, where you pay a monthly fee for complete remote support.

Service Plus

The Service Plus program offers reduced rates and priority service in conjunction with package deals, team this up with our Preventative Maintenance program or Remote Monitoring for great value. The best part of Service Plus? We come to you.

For more information contact Service Manager, Ryan Moran at 250-782-1025 or email ryan@softwareemporium.ca.



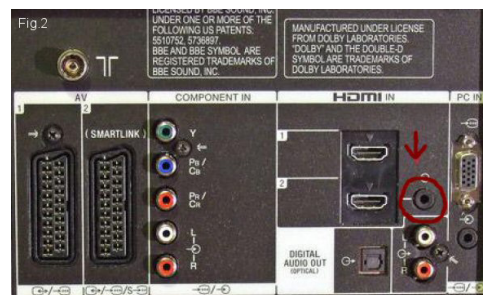
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PC TV connections made easy

(continued from front page)

Some televisions can only handle a certain level resolution and will give you a black screen until you adjust the PC output resolution.

Laptops have a Fn key on the lower left of the keyboard and in the F keys one will have what looks like 2 monitors. Press them together and it cycles the video in three ways , both screens, TV screen only and laptop screen only.



These are your 4 most common ways of connecting your PC to your TV. If none of these connections can be made then you are probably out of luck and are going to have to purchase a new piece of hardware to make it happen.

Dan Brisbin,
Software Emporium Inc.

