

Internet radio

There are tens of thousands of radio stations streaming their digital audio over the Internet. These stations are broadcast by a variety of entities, from large companies to independent broadcasters. These are music/speech stations similar to radio broadcasts but broadcast instead over the internet as IP packets. A few different protocols exist as well as different coding types (MP3, WMA etc.) for the audio itself. These coding types are often known as CODECs for CODer/DECoder.

Internet radio (or iRadio) stations basically emulate traditional radio stations in that the listener has no direct control over the content that is broadcast.

Many thousands of such stations are available with many being genre or interest specific, broadcasting perhaps Rock or Alt.Country, Christian radio, College Football etc.

The quality of iRadio varies according to the broadcast bit-rate (in kbps) and the CODEC used (MP3, Ogg Vorbis etc.) It has to be said that the audio quality is currently lagging behind FM or DAB radio but the sheer quantity and variety of stations more than makes up for this.

Via a computer it is possible to navigate to these stations by searching perhaps for the 'BBC' or 'Rock radio' in a browser etc. Also it is possible to use 'Aggregator' services that pull together all these disparate stations and give you a simple single place to search for stations manage your connection to them.

Our own Stream Magic service is such a service designed specifically for our own products and makes it possible to search thousands of stations by Genre, Language or Location directly from the Stream Magic product easily without a PC. The service also then connects the Stream Magic product to the selected service for you without you needing to think about where it comes from, what its actual internet address might be etc.

If your Stream Magic product can connect to the network successfully, but is unable to play particular internet radio stations, it may be due to one of the following causes:

- The station is not broadcasting at this time of the day (remember it may be located in a different time zone).
- The station has reached the maximum allowed number of simultaneous listeners.
- The station is not broadcasting anymore.
- The link in our database is simply out of date.
- The Internet connection between the server (often located in a different country) and you is slow.
- Try using a PC to play back the stream via the broadcaster's web site.

If you can play back the station with a PC, you can use the form at www.stream-magic.com to notify us so that we can investigate.