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Auntie Live StreamBox Overview
What is Auntie Live StreamBox?

Auntie Live StreamBox is a programme to enable simple live streamed BBC TV viewing on your Mac. It only works in the UK because of the limitations of the BBC streaming services.

Overview

Auntie Live StreamBox is a program which allows you watch live BBC TV on your Mac with nothing more than a UK broadband connection. Whilst you can watch the BBC live TV streams via the BBC iPlayer web site, sometimes it is more convenient to have a small window open rather than a whole web browser.

For best results you should also install the Growl Software through which Auntie Live StreamBox messages can be displayed. (See also the chapter entitled Growl and Auntie Live StreamBox)
Watch a Quick Video introduction

Watch the video to get an overview of the application. Click the image to open the video and watch it. It may open in your browser if you are viewing this as a PDF. (You will need Quicktime or something which can play Quicktime files.)
How does it work?

Auntie Live StreamBox uses several command line programs to enable the display of live BBC TV...

Open Auntie Live StreamBox

![Image](image.png)

For the technically minded only, most will want to skip this step and review the next section about 'Automatic Updating'.
(Except the bit about downloading the Growl Software!)

Auntie Live StreamBox is simply a graphical interface wrapper around several command line programs. The `get_iplayer` perl script is the main controller software used and gets the BBC side stuff to get the correct stream. It then invokes `flvstreamer` software to get the live TV stream in a usable format. Finally the `mplayer` software is sent this stream and displays the live BBC TV.

*No need to go hunting for these or compiling these programs from source, get_iplayer, flvstreamer and mplayer are all included within this package.*

We also use the Sparkle Framework, which enables, automatic updating of this software and also Auntie Live StreamBox can use the Growl application for it's messages.

*You should install and configure the Growl Software it is not included.*
Automatic Updating

The second time Auntie Live StreamBox runs, it will ask if you want to enable automatic updating, the answer should be 'Check Automatically'.

Channel Selection Toolbar

You can select a TV channel to live stream from from this toolbar, then wait for it to stream and an TV (mplayer) window to open. It can take some time to find the stream, then cache it and then display it.

Channel Selection Menu

You can select a TV channel to live stream from this menu, then wait for it to stream and an TV (mplayer) window to open. It can take some time to find the stream, then cache it and then display it.
If you have Growl installed and it is set to use the 'Music Video' style, this is what you see when you select a channel to stream from the channel selection toolbar.

**TV (mplayer) Window**

The Aunie Live StreamBox application will be minimised and the TV (mplayer) window will open. Even when the TV (mplayer) window appears, it may appear to be frozen for a few seconds. It all depends on the speed of your Mac, your internet connection and of course the BBC stream engines...

As you will have figured out by now, an included, but separate application, 'mplayer', is used for video playback of the live BBC Stream.

To change channels you first have to close the current TV (mplayer) window and the 'Esc' (Escape Key) is the easiest way to achieve this. The Aunie Live StreamBox application will then re-appear and you can select another channel.
Using Auntie Live StreamBox
Changing TV Channels

If a TV (mplayer) window is open, you will need to close the TV (mplayer) window before changing channels...

Changing TV Channels via the Toolbar

Select a TV channel to stream by clicking on it once and then wait... it can take some time to load!

If a TV stream is already playing in a TV (mplayer) window then you need to close that window before you can select another channel. To close the TV (mplayer) window use the 'Esc' (Escape Key).

Changing TV Channels using the Menu

Select a TV channel to stream by clicking on the 'Select Live TV Stream" menu and then a channel and then wait... it can take some time to load!

If a TV stream is already playing in a TV (mplayer) window then you need to close that window before you can select another channel. To close the TV (mplayer) window use the 'Esc' (Escape Key).
Changing TV Channels using the Keyboard Shortcuts

1. Press the 'cmd' or 'command' (Apple Key) and 1 at the same time for BBC One

2. Press the 'cmd' or 'command' (Apple Key) and 2 for BBC Two

3. Press the 'cmd' or 'command' (Apple Key) and 3 for BBC Three

4. Press the 'cmd' or 'command' (Apple Key) and 4 for BBC Four

5. Press the 'cmd' or 'command' (Apple Key) and 5 for BBC CBBC

6. Press the 'cmd' or 'command' (Apple Key) and 6 for BBC Cbeebies

7. Press the 'cmd' or 'command' (Apple Key) and 7 for BBC News 24

8. Press the 'cmd' or 'command' (Apple Key) and 8 for BBC Parliament

If a TV stream is already playing in a TV (mplayer) window then you need to close that window before you can select another channel. To close the TV (mplayer) window use the 'Esc' (Escape Key).
Controlling the Volume

Use the normal Apple keyboard volume keys or the menu icon to control the volume

Using the Keyboard volume keys

1. Mute
2. Volume down
3. Volume up
Using the Mac volume icon

Move the slider up to increase volume and down to reduce volume
Resize the TV (mplayer) window

You can quickly resize the TV (mplayer) window playback window from the mplayer menu or by using the shortcut keys.

**Use the mplayer menu to alter the TV (mplayer) playback window size**

![Mplayer menu showing size options](image)

As the quality of the video stream isn't that good, we'd stick with 'Half' or 'Normal' size.

**Use the Keyboard shortcuts to alter the TV (mplayer) playback window size**

1. Press the 'cmd' or 'command' (Apple Key) and 0 at the same time for a Half size screen

   cmd (Apple Key) and 1 for Normal size
cmd (Apple Key) and 2 for Double size

cmd (Apple Key) and the 'F' Key for Full Screen size
Manually Checking for Updates

Select 'Check for updates..' from the 'Auntie Live StreamBox' menu...

How to manually check for Updates

Check for live updates will ensure you have the latest version of the software
Reset the Channel Selection Toolbar position

This menu returns the Channel Selection Toolbar window to its default position at the top center of the screen.

Re-setting the Channel Selection Toolbar position

![Image](image.png)

Auntie Live StreamBox remembers where you move the ToolBar window too, however if you want to return it to its default position at the top center of the screen, then select this menu.
Growl and Auntie Live StreamBox
Configuring Growl

First download the Growl Software and install it. You configure it in System Preferences...

Open System Preferences

Select the Growl Preferences
Select the Default Style to 'Music Video'

1. Select the 'Display Options' tab

2. Change the 'Default Style' to 'Music Video'. (We like Growl's 'Music Video' display style.)

   This will affect all Growl messages for all applications. You can of course set application specific styles or choose another default style.

3. Close the System Preferences app.
Keyboard Shortcuts
Main Keyboard Shortcuts

Quit the application
1. Press the 'cmd' or 'command' (Apple Key) and Q at the same time to quit this app

Select Live TV Stream
4. Press the 'cmd' or 'command' (Apple Key) and 1 at the same time for BBC One
   cmd' (Apple Key) and 2 for BBC Two
   cmd' (Apple Key) and 3 for BBC Three
   cmd' (Apple Key) and 4 for BBC Four
   cmd' (Apple Key) and 5 for BBC CBBC
   cmd' (Apple Key) and 6 for BBC Cbeebies
   cmd' (Apple Key) and 7 for BBC News 24
   cmd' (Apple Key) and 8 for BBC Parliament

If a TV stream is already playing in a TV (mplayer) window then you need to close that window before you can close this application or change to another channel.
To close the TV (mplayer) window use the 'Esc' (Escape Key).
**Main Keyboard Shortcuts**

**Quit the application**
1. Press the 'cmd' or 'command' (Apple Key) and Q at the same time to quit this app
   
   *You can also use the 'Esc' (Escape) key, on its own, to quit this application*

**Controlling the TV (mlayer) playback window size**
1. Press the 'cmd' or 'command' (Apple Key) and 0 at the same time for a Half size screen

   - cmd (Apple Key) and 1 for Normal size
   - cmd (Apple Key) and 2 for Double size
   - cmd (Apple Key) and the 'F' Key for Full Screen size