

TechTalk96

Streaming Digital-ATV Internet Video from BATC to an iPad

by Ken Konechy W6HHC

Many hams know that they can not receive Adobe Flash video to their iPad or iPhone. This restriction is because Apple Computer decided that Adobe Flash created too large of a security risk to be allowed to be installed on Apple Products. I know that my small security engineering company came to the same security conclusion and does not install Flash on our corporate computers. But, in TechTalk95 I complained that the lack of Flash-video on my iPad prevented me from using the iPad as a spare monitor to watch DATV streaming over the internet from BATC (www.BATC.tv) or the VK3RTV DATV repeater (www.VK3RTV.com). Now there is a solution for watching streaming internet Flash-video on an Apple product.

The November 2011 issue of MacLife magazine reported that two companies now sell an APP on the iTunes Application Store that allows an iPad or iPhone to receive internet Adobe Flash-video. The technology to allow this is "cloud computing"! Both companies sell a specialized web-browser product to install on your iPad. This web browser redirects your URL for a Flash video through their server in the "cloud". The cloud-server converts Flash-video into a video stream compatible with the iPad and then delivers the new stream to the iPad browser.

Photon Flash Web Browser

This APP is a specialized web browser for an iPad or iPhone and sells for US\$4.99 on the Apple iTunes Application Store. This APP can handle Flash streaming video, as well as interactive Flash games, as well as pre-recorded Flash video like often used on Facebook,

YouTube, etc. It worked the first time I pointed the iPad browser to the BATC web site for streaming DATV repeaters.



Figure 1 – Screen Shot off iPad of BATC Server video stream using Photon Flash Web Browser

Skyfire Web Browser

This APP is a second specialized web browser for an iPad or iPhone and sells for only US\$1.99 on the Apple iTunes Application Store. This APP turned out to be a disappointment for me because it handles only pre-recorded Flash video files common on Facebook. The Skyfire APP could **NOT** handle the more sophisticated streaming Flash video found on the BATC site or online interactive Flash games.

Conclusion

The Photon web browser for iPad works well with Adobe Flash-video! I now can use my iPad as a monitor to display BATC streaming ham television repeaters for my DATV activities.

Interesting DATV Links

- British ATV Club – select from about 25 streaming repeaters – see www.BATC.TV/
- British ATV Club - Digital Forum – see www.BATC.org.UK/forum/
- VK3RTV Digital Repeater WEB site – see www.VK3RTV.com
- Orange County ARC newsletter entire series of DATV articles – see www.W6ZE.org/DATV/
- Yahoo Group for Digital ATV - see groups.yahoo.com/group/DigitalATV/