



Click! focuses on World Wide Websites, PC software, and hardware that can be used to listen to international broadcasters and other English language public broadcasters via Internet-based technology. Broadcaster websites and other web resources are covered. Feedback and suggestions are always encouraged – please include Click! in the subject line of any e-mail.

When it's quiet on the radio...browse the websites...

Things are somewhat quiet on the shortwave front these days, as schedules are still a month away from the seasonal changes, and the sunspot cycle has kept propagation generally iffy. However, broadcasters haven't necessarily standing still – many continue to tweak their Internet websites as they adapt to an increasingly online audience. One of the recent trends has been the adoption of software systems that help to automate this updating process, as the tools used to create programming – scripts, synopses, and schedules – are also becoming the tools to publish this content. One of the apparent consequences of this is that broadcaster websites are becoming a bit more Spartan – background collateral and reference information seems shallower than it used to be for broadcasters like the BBC World Service, yet the online availability of past programming is increasing. Aided by the Internet Wayback Machine, the definitive archive of old web content, you can review changes in broadcaster websites over the years. Sometimes newer isn't better when it comes to broadcaster websites.

Channel Africa follow-up



Last month I mentioned that Channel Africa's "Listen Live" and the on-demand links that are organized by time of day didn't not work, due to the [mms://](#) links; my problem was that I was using an updated version of Windows Media Player; Channel Africa advised me that using a non-current version would take care of the problem. I also found that using the multi-platform open-source *mplayer* media player also worked fine, and that using command-line options enabled me to capture the audio for later listening. If you're interested in that, search Google using text like "mplayer dumpstream" – that should help you out. I can help further if you'd like – just drop me a line.

Radio Prague

Radio Prague has been the most proactive adopter of Internet technologies to extend its platform reach; the latest edition of each of Radio Prague's daily, weekly, and monthly programs is generally available for on-demand listening or download at its website, <http://www.radio.cz>, , and you can listen to each day's English language broadcast as a single program as well. A week's worth of programs is available in that form as well.



If you'd like to try your luck at some of Radio Prague's other languages – Russian, German, Czech, French, or Spanish – those programs are also archived for one week.

One of the interesting tools that Radio Prague uses to organize its content is RSS – Really Simple Syndication – you might know its less formal synonym of *news feed*. Radio Prague offers 12 different thematic topics for which news feeds are provided: Business, Culture, Current affairs, Czechs abroad, European Union, Foreign policy, History, Nature, Science, Society, Sport, and Travel. Most of these feeds are updated several times per week; some (specifically Current Affairs) are updated more than once per day most days. Each update consists of a short summary, with a transcript and audio file available as well.

RSS feeds are maintained for current and former Radio Prague programs (such as Insight Central Europe); some of the audio in those feeds dates back several years.

One of the interesting areas is *From The Archives*, part of each Thursday's (Friday UTC for most evening listening in the USA) program. Radio Prague has an English language audio archive that dates back to the early 1930s – even before regular English language broadcasts were scheduled. These weekly segments are themselves archived; you can listen back to segments of *From The Archives* that have been produced since November 2007. The segment that aired on September 24th, *Radio Prague Goes Back On Air*, dates from 1990, when Radio Prague went back on the air following the Velvet Revolution after a few weeks of silence as the Communist regime and its Radio Prague staff were cut.

Another popular Radio Prague segment is *Letter From Prague*; audio from this weekly program is available dating back to 2002, which is pretty impressive considering the work that was required to develop the web site code and catalogue the audio for online listening. *Letter From Prague* continues to air in the Sunday programming block.

Hope you are able to enjoy good online radio; see you next month!