

Getting started with the Raspberry Pi TV HAT

The TV HAT allows you to receive and decode digital television streams on your Raspberry Pi through its on-board DVB-T2 tuner. Then you can watch these streams on any computer connected to the same network as the Pi.

The software we recommend to decode the streams (known as multiplexes, or muxes for short) and view content is called TVHeadend, and instructions for setting it up are below. The TV HAT can decode one mux at a time, and each mux can contain several channels to choose from.

Content can either be viewed on the Raspberry Pi to which the TV-HAT is connected, or sent to another device on the same network.

You will need:

- A TV aerial
- A Raspberry Pi TV HAT with its stand-offs, screws, and aerial adaptor
- A Raspberry Pi that is connected to the internet (plus a mouse, keyboard, and display, if you are not accessing it remotely)
- Another computer connected to the same network

Setup instructions

On your Raspberry Pi:

- Connect the aerial adaptor to the TV HAT. With the adaptor pointing away from the USB ports, press the HAT gently down over the Raspberry Pi's GPIO pins. Place the spacers at two or three of the corners of the HAT, and tighten the screws through the mounting holes to hold them in place.
- Connect the TV HAT's aerial adaptor to the cable from your TV aerial.
- Set up the Raspberry Pi with the newest version of the Raspbian operating system, which you can download from rpf.io/raspbian
 - If you don't know how to do this, follow our guide at rpf.io/startwithpi
- Start up your Pi, open a terminal window, and run the following two commands to install the TVHeadend software:

```
sudo apt-get update
sudo apt-get install tvheadend
```

 - If you don't know how to do this, follow our guide at rpf.io/usingterminal
- During the TVHeadend installation, you will be asked to choose an administrator account name and password. You'll need these later, so make sure to pick something you can remember.

In a web browser on a different computer:

- Type the following into the address bar: `http://raspberrypi.local:9981/extjs.html`
- This should connect to TVHeadend running on the Raspberry Pi.
 - If the address above doesn't work, you'll need to find out the IP address of the Pi. Open a terminal window on your Pi, and run the command `hostname -I`
 - You'll see the IP address in two formats: a string of four numbers separated by dots, then a space, then a long string of numbers and letters separated by colons.
 - Copy everything before the space (the four numbers and dots), and paste this into the address bar instead of the `raspberrypi.local` part of the address.
- Once you have connected to TVHeadend via the browser, you will be prompted to sign in. Use the account name and password you chose when you installed TVHeadend on the Pi. A setup wizard should appear.
- First, set the language you want TVHeadend to use (**English (GB)** worked for us; we have not yet tested other languages).
- Next, set up network, user, and administrator access. If you don't have specific preferences, leave **Allowed network** blank, and enter an asterisk (*) in the **username** and **password** fields. This will let anyone connected to your local network access TVHeadend.
- You should see a window titled **Network settings**. Under **Network 2**, you should see **Tuner: Sony CDX2880 #0 : DVB-T #0**. For **Network type**, choose **DVB-T Network**.
- The next window is **Assign predefined muxes to networks**; here, you select the TV stream to receive and decode. Under **Network 1**, for **Pre-defined muxes**, select your local TV transmitter.
 - A list of UK transmitters can be found at www.digitaluk.co.uk/coveragechecker. Enter your postcode to see which transmitter should give you a good signal.
- When you click **Save & Next**, the software will start scanning for the selected mux, and will show a progress bar. After about two minutes, you should see something like:

```
Found muxes: 8  
Found services: 172
```
- In the next window, titled **Service mapping**, tick all three boxes: **Map all services**, **Create provider tags**, and **Create network tags**.
- Next you should see a list of TV channels you can watch, along with the programmes they're currently showing.
- To watch a TV channel in the browser, click the little TV icon to the left of the channel listing, just to the right of the **i** icon. This brings up an in-browser media player.
- To watch a TV channel in a local media player, e.g. VLC (www.videolan.org/vlc), you'll need to download it: click the **i** icon to the left of a channel listing to bring up the information panel for that channel. Here you can see a stream file that you can download.

TVHeadend is supported by numerous apps, such as [TvhClient](#) for iOS, which will play TV from the Pi. [Kodi](#) and [OMXPlayer](#) are also supported for viewing TV streams.

To discuss other features or uses, please visit rpf.io/forums.