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Turning Your iPhone into a Radio

No matter how much storage space is available on your iPhone, it's probably not enough to store every possible song you might ever want to hear. Rather than switch to another iPhone with more storage capacity, you can download and install free apps on your iPhone that let the iPhone act like a radio, which means you can listen to a lot more music and other audio.

Although these apps won't let you access all your local radio stations on your iPhone, as a real radio would, they will let your iPhone access *streaming audio* broadcasts over the Internet, essentially giving you free music or information from around the world. The only costs you incur are any Wi-Fi Internet and cellular telephone network connection fees. (Unfortunately, if you cannot connect to your cellular telephone company's network or a Wi-Fi connection, you can't listen to streaming audio.)

Project goal: Learn how to listen to radio stations through your iPhone.

What You'll Be Using

To turn your iPhone into a radio, you need to use the following:



The App Store application



The AOL Radio application



The Pandora Radio application



The Stitcher Radio application

Finding Radio Applications in the App Store

Your iPhone can't play streaming audio from radio stations until you download and install special radio apps from the App Store. Some of these apps cost money, but many are free, and these free programs are the focus of this chapter.

Three popular and interesting free radio applications are:

- > **AOL Radio** Offers more than 200 radio stations, covering a wide variety of categories including comedy, classical, blues, rock, jazz, sports, pop, and talk radio
 - > **Pandora Radio** Allows you to enter a song or artist, then automatically plays music similar in style to your selection
 - > **Stitcher Radio** Lets you put together (*stitch*) your own radio channel from different stations offering news and talk radio content
- **NOTE:** AOL, Pandora, and Stitcher are not the only free radio apps you can load on your iPhone; more free (and fee-based) radio apps are becoming available all the time.

To download and install a radio app on your iPhone, do this:

1. From the Home screen, tap **App Store**.
2. Tap **Search** at the bottom of the screen.
3. Tap in the search text box at the top of the screen. The virtual keyboard appears at the bottom of the screen.
4. Type **radio** in the search text box and tap **Search** at the bottom of the screen.

- The Info screen showing the radio apps appears, as shown in Figure 22-1, along with price information to the right of each app name. Tap the radio app you want to download and install. The Price button turns green and displays **INSTALL**.
- Tap **INSTALL**. Your chosen app is installed on your iPhone.

Listening to AOL Radio

AOL Radio organizes its available stations into categories such as Blues, Country, and Oldies. Not only does AOL Radio offer access to established stations all over the world, but it offers access to many popular Internet-only stations. After installing AOL Radio on your iPhone, you can listen to a radio station by doing this:

- From the Home screen, tap **AOL Radio**. The AOL Radio Stations screen appears, displaying various options, as shown in Figure 22-2.
- Tap a genre category, such as **Rock** or **Metal**. A list of available stations appears, as shown in Figure 22-3.
- (Optional) Tap **Favorites** at the bottom of the screen to view all stations you've identified as favorites. Tap **Recents** to see the last stations you listened to. Tap **Locals** to listen to local radio stations that are broadcasting over the Internet.
- Tap the name of a station you want to hear. The station screen appears, displaying an image from the currently playing artist's album, a volume slider, and a row of icons at the bottom of the screen, as shown in Figure 22-4.



FIGURE 22-1: The Info screen displays Price buttons for each app; in this case, all apps are free.

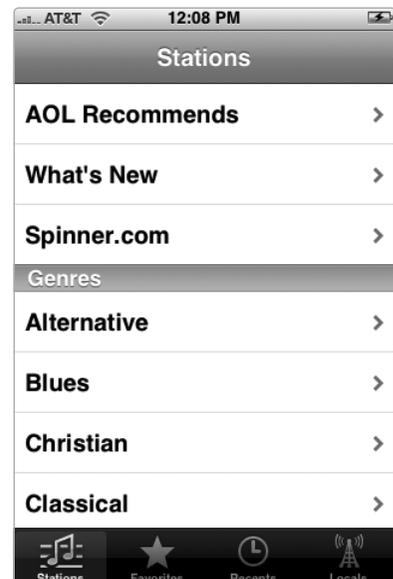


FIGURE 22-2: AOL Radio offers several options for finding a radio station.

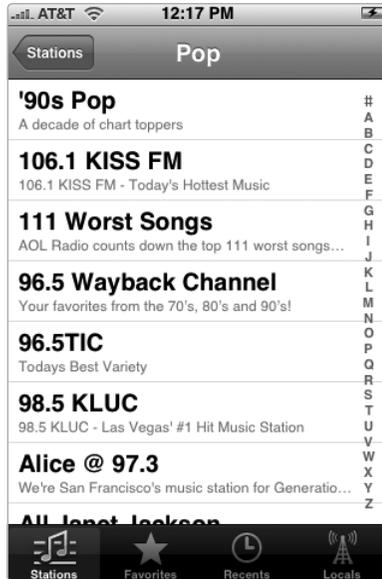


FIGURE 22-3: Each AOL Radio category contains multiple stations.

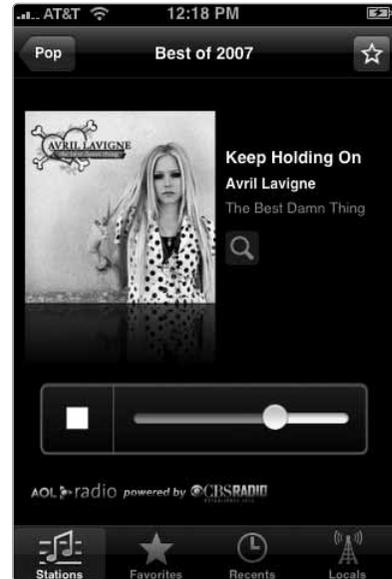


FIGURE 22-4: The station screen shows information about the music currently playing.

5. (Optional) Slide your fingertip left or right on the volume slider to increase or decrease the volume.
 6. (Optional) Tap **Favorites** to store the station in your list of favorites.
 7. Press the Home button when you want to stop listening to AOL Radio, or tap the back button in the upper-left corner of the screen to view other stations.
- **NOTE:** AOL Radio continues playing even when your iPhone drifts into sleep mode.

Listening to Pandora Radio

Pandora Radio creates a custom radio station that plays music just for you, based on songs or artists that you choose. You simply type the name of an artist, band, or song that you like into a Create a New Station field, and Pandora Radio plays music that is similar in style and sound. Type **Beatles**, and Pandora Radio will not only play various Beatles songs, but music from other artists that are similar to the Beatles.

Before you can use Pandora Radio, you need to set up a free account either through the Pandora Radio website (<http://www.pandora.com/>) or through your iPhone. After you've created an account and installed the application on your iPhone, you can listen to Pandora Radio by doing this:

1. From the Home screen, tap **Pandora Radio**. The Welcome to Pandora screen asks if you already have a Pandora account, as shown in Figure 22-5.

2. (Optional) If you haven't created a Pandora account, you'll need to tap the **I am new to Pandora** button and then activate your account with the code that appears on the screen.
3. Tap **I have a Pandora account**. A Sign In screen appears, as shown in Figure 22-6.



FIGURE 22-5: The Welcome to Pandora screen asks if you already have a Pandora account.



FIGURE 22-6: Access to Pandora Radio requires a valid email account and password.

4. Type your email address in the Email text box.
5. Type your password in the Password text box, and then tap the blue **Go** button.
6. Pandora displays the Stations screen. If you haven't created any stations yet, this screen will be blank. If you have created stations already, this screen shows all your Pandora stations, as shown in Figure 22-7.
7. (Optional) Tap the **New Station** icon at the bottom of the screen to create a new station. You'll need to choose a recording artist or song name to define the type of music this station will play for you.
8. Tap a station that you want to hear. Pandora displays a screen that shows the currently playing song along with a volume control slider. Pandora also displays thumbs up and thumbs down icons so you can approve or disapprove of the currently playing song, as shown in Figure 22-8. Tap the thumbs up icon to approve a song and keep it in your playlist; tap the thumbs down icon to disapprove a song and prevent that song from playing again. Each time you approve or disapprove of a song, Pandora remembers your preferences and gradually only plays those songs that you like best.

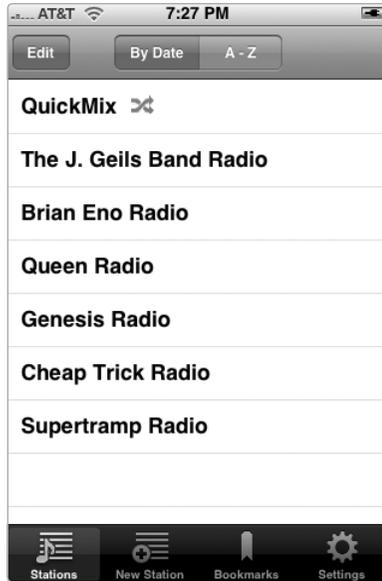


FIGURE 22-7: The Stations screen lists all the Pandora stations you've created.



FIGURE 22-8: Pandora displays the currently playing song along with thumbs up and down icons that let you approve or disapprove the song.

9. Press the Home button when you want to stop listening to Pandora Radio, or tap the back button in the upper-left corner of the screen to go back and view other stations.

○ **NOTE:** Pandora Radio continues playing even when your iPhone drifts into sleep mode.

Listening to Stitcher Radio

While Pandora Radio tries to play music that is similar to tunes or artists you like, Stitcher Radio tries to find news and talk radio show content that you might like.

Stitcher Radio divides its stations into Topics and Sources. Topics list different types of information such as Health & Fitness, Sports, and Business & Finance. Sources lists specific content providers such as Associated Press, CNN, Fox, and Reuters.

After installing Stitcher Radio on your iPhone, you can listen to it by doing this:

1. From the Home screen, tap **Stitcher Radio**. The Stitcher Radio screen appears.

2. Tap **Topics** or **Sources** at the bottom of the screen to view a list of available topics or sources, as shown in Figure 22-9.

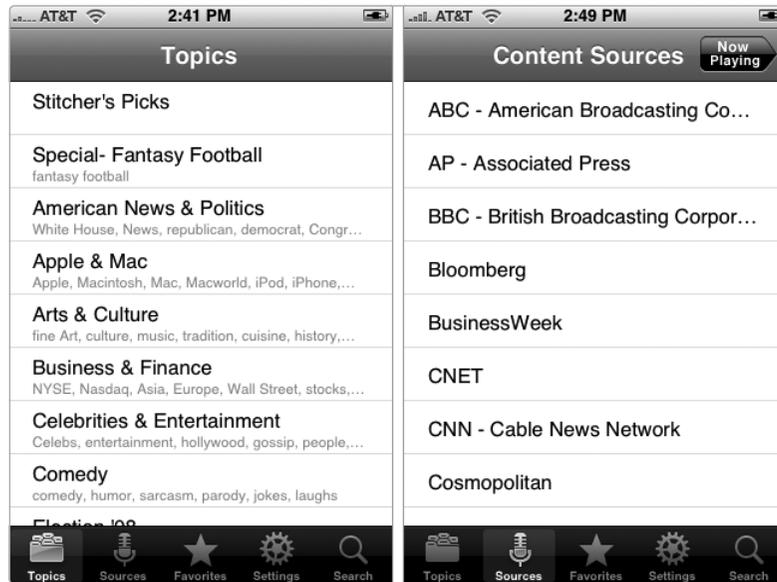


FIGURE 22-9: Tap **Topics** to see the **Topics** screen on the left; tap **Sources** to see the list of sources on the right.

3. Tap a topic (such as **American News & Politics**) or a content source (such as **Bloomberg**). Your chosen station appears, displaying thumbs up and thumbs down icons, as shown in Figure 22-10. By tapping the thumbs up or down icons, you can customize Stitcher to play the talk stations you like best.
4. Press the Home button when you want to stop listening to Stitcher Radio, or tap the **Back** button in the upper-left corner of the screen to go back and view other stations.

○ **NOTE:** **Stitcher Radio** continues playing even when your iPhone drifts into sleep mode.



FIGURE 22-10: When listening to a station, you can give it a thumbs up or down to accept or reject it.

Additional Ideas for Listening to the Radio on Your iPhone

AOL Radio is most useful when you want to browse different stations and listen to both music and news. One unique feature of AOL Radio is that it offers access to international music, so if you ever want to listen to your favorite Brazilian, African, or Japanese pop songs, turn on AOL Radio and satisfy your audio cravings.

If you live in a major city that Stitcher Radio supports, such as Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, Philadelphia, or San Francisco, Stitcher Radio can give you access to radio stations in those cities so that you can catch the latest traffic news.

By letting you listen to radio stations all over the world, your iPhone can be your constant companion at work and at home. Plug your iPhone into a power source, put on headphones or ear buds, and listen to the radio at your convenience. With a good pair of noise-canceling headphones, you can listen to the radio on your iPhone at work and never hear your boss screaming at you for not getting anything done.

Find Your Favorite NPR Station

If you're a fan of National Public Radio (NPR), grab a copy of the NPR Mobile app, and you'll be able to find your local NPR station no matter what part of the country you may be in. Besides helping you track down a local NPR station, this app also lets you retrieve podcasts of past shows so you can hear your favorite NPR show at your convenience.

NPR Mobile <http://www.passtimesoftware.com/>



NPR Mobile lets you stay tuned to your local National Public Radio station.