



WHAT'S ON THE BOXEE?

*Web TV finally reaches a big-screen audience, thanks to the launch of the super-smart **BOXEE BOX***

YOU KNOW THE DRILL – YOU'RE ON YOUR way home and realise you've missed the last two episodes of *Mad Men*. Quick – to iPlayer! The only problem is, halfway through episode two you're squinting at your 14ins laptop like Hans Moleman, your battery is about to die and you're having an epiphany: God did not intend Joan Harris to be viewed this way.

The solution comes in the form of this curiously cornered device: the Boxee Box, which hooks up to your TV and lets you watch, well, anything. It's the anti-Apple TV essentially – while Steve Jobs' dinky box will only let you watch iTunes content, the Boxee prides itself on being open-source, and able to deal with any video files you throw at it.

It may not be as sexy as the Apple, but from streaming iPlayer in glorious HD on your TV to playing all of your downloaded files (via USB stick, or by hooking up your laptop or an external hard drive), the Boxee has plenty under the bonnet (and powered by Intel's Atom CE4100, it's more powerful than most laptops). But what's most impressive is how it rivals Apple in

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usability, too. The Boxee sports an intuitive user interface that won't leave you chewing the manual. It comprises three main windows – Feeds (the latest from your friends' social networks), Featured (recommended content based on what you've previously watched) and Queue (a list of movies, videos and TV shows you're yet to watch). It even organises web content – just type in what you're looking for and up it pops.

Even the latter is made simple. While one side of the remote is elegance itself (a four-way navigation key and three function buttons), the other is a full-size qwerty keyboard, so no more pecking away at a remote for half an hour typing in "*Battlestar Galactica* series four".

The future is here – and it's a really weird shape. **SM** BOXEE BOX, £199.99. BOXEE.TV

Square eyes: TV networks, archive content and video files all make the jump from PC to TV with a little help from the Boxee Box's remote control

