

PC Tutor Times



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The TiVo® Revolution

With the holiday shopping season upon us I thought it would be a good time to take a closer look at a relatively new consumer product called *TiVo*. Maybe you have heard of it. It has revolutionized TV watching for some 800,000 families so far. Some would call it a cult, but lets just say that it will completely change your relationship with your TV.



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TiVo! What is it and how does it work?

TiVo is two things:

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1. It is a special type of computer called a Digital Video Recorder (DVR). It has a hard drive, it runs [Linux](#) software and it performs specialized tasks just like a computer. It uses a screen (your TV) and a remote control. The *TiVo* unit connects between your cable or satellite box (or even your TV antenna) and records the show on the hard drive and then sends it to your TV.

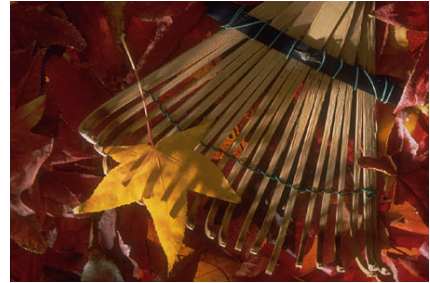


1. It is a subscription service that tracks the shows that will be on TV for the next 14 days. Once per day it makes a short phone call (or uses your broadband Internet connection if you have one) to get information on the programs to be aired in the next 14 days. This allows you to setup recordings in advance and *TiVo* will scan all the channels you get and automatically find the shows you want to record.

To see *TiVo* in action, click Next below.

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Tivo In Action



Pause Live TV

Lets say the phone rings right in the middle on the nightly news. In the past you either missed part of the news or you let your answering machine take a message. With *TiVo* you can pause live TV, answer the phone and talk for up to 30 minutes, and return to the news without missing a word.

Or maybe you missed what someone said in your favorite movie. Press the replay button and *TiVo* will jump back just enough to hear it again. Since everything you watch is first stored on the hard drive in the *TiVo* unit you instantly have the ability to backup any time you want.

Season Pass™

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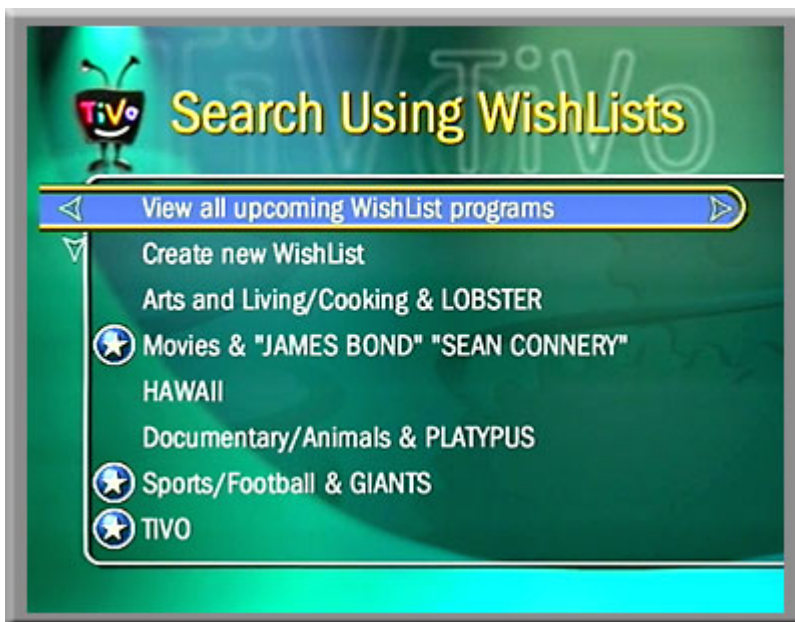
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Do you have a favorite program that you watch every night or every week? Setup a Season Pass in *TiVo* and it will automatically record every episode for you. No more fumbling around in the VCR menu to setup a recording. Set it once and forget it. *TiVo* will automatically follow any network time changes for you and record the show anyway. *TiVo* has to be smart. You need a computer and software to accomplish this.

WishList™



Do you love Spencer Tracy movies? How about Steven Spielberg thrillers? Setup a WishList to find and record all the movies that meet your criteria. *TiVo* can look forward up to 2 weeks to find the movies or shows you want to record. You can either specify which shows to record or tell *TiVo* to automatically record them whenever they come up.

Fast Forward Through Commercials

My wife and I are sometimes asked if we have seen a particular commercial. We almost always have to say no, we haven't seen commercials in years. We

record all our TV and then fast forward right through them. *TiVo* makes it extremely easy to fast forward and when you see your program start to play again, press the play button on the *TiVo* remote and *TiVo* will automatically backup a few seconds so the program starts right in after the commercial. With a VCR I used to have to backup some after fast forwarding so as not to miss any of the show.

Now Playing on TiVo



Now for the good part. When it comes time to watch some TV you can sit down and start watching what you want when you want. You are no longer tied to watching TV on someone else's schedule. Start, pause and end TV when you want.

Bring up the *Now Playing on TiVo* menu and all your recorded programs are listed for easy retrieval. Use the remote control to scroll through your list, read a short summary, and start playing the show. If the phone rings or someone comes to the door, just press pause and *TiVo* will pickup where you left off when you return. What could be simpler. No more fumbling around with video tapes.

Not convinced? Click Next to read some reviews.

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TiVo Reviews

- [Forbes.com](#)
- [CBSNews.com](#)

How much does TiVo Cost?

As with all services, there are different levels of service and recording capacity, but *TiVo* starts at:

- \$199 after \$50 mail-in rebate for the 40 hour *TiVo Series 2* unit
(\$299 after \$50 mail-in rebate for the 80 hour unit)
- \$12.95 per month for *TiVo* service
- Digitally record up to 40 or 80 hours of your favorite shows (see chart below)
- Works with antenna, cable, digital cable, satellite and combinations
- Broadband-ready or use your phone line to get program data

I should mention here that a 40 hour *TiVo* unit will record 40 hours of TV in the lowest video quality. There are four levels of video quality that you can record at and I have found that I record all my shows on the "High" setting. Therefore, a 40 hour *TiVo* will record 18 hours of programs and an 80 hour unit 38 hours on the High setting. Keep in mind that if you are like most people, you will quickly become addicted to *TiVo* and you will want the most recording capacity possible.

DVR Model	Basic	Medium	High	Best

TiVo Series2 DVR (40 hours)	40 hours	24 hours	18 hours	11 hours
TiVo Series2 DVR (80 hours)	80 hours	51 hours	38 hours	24 hours



I hope this newsletter has given you a better understanding of what *TiVo* is. It's a craze that some have called "...the greatest thing since wheat." (Wheat came before sliced bread.) For most, it is simply the next generation VCR, which by-the-way, does let you save any recorded program to a VCR tape if you wish.

For more information visit the *TiVo* web site at www.tivo.com.

Happy Holiday Shopping!

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