Mr. Digital Media

How to consume the things you wanna consume without paying the worst people on the planet

Why choose digital media (over steaming and physical media)?

Physical media takes up physical space, but it also a good option

Streaming is fickle and ongoing subscriptions are so dumb. One time Netflix took Twilight off for halloween so that you would have to rent it for $3. Bullshit. Having ownership of a digital file means you can watch it whenever you want, and corporations don't have the power to extort you for more cash on a whim.

But beware - buying is not always owning. Make sure when you purchase a digital file, it is in a format that you can use. Notably, Audible uses .aax file types (a file type that can only be read by Amazon software) for the audiobooks you purchase from them.

Options

- Your local Library
  - Kanopy.com - ticket based rental process that awards free monthly tickets, lots of old shit and documentaries
  - Libby/overdrive got the books - audio and e (to be transparent there have been some labor practice claims against libby that I hate, but I love libraries, so. No ethical consumption under capitalism I guess)
  - Plan ahead and get a physical item
    - If the work is copyrighted, don't rip the movies you like to save for later. That would be bad.
    - Place holds for the good shit.
    - See Ripping DVDs on Slide 5
  - Get more than one library card at different addresses in different systems. I have Chicago, Seattle, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Quatrefoil, and Madison cards.
- Streaming
  - Borrow logins from friends and family, obviously
  - Find a streaming sites with the stuff you like. Pay for them and only use legal sites of course. See Streaming Media on Slide 7
- Direct Downloads
  - Don't do this. You will get a virus.
- Torrenting
  - You'll have to just go ahead to the slide so we can talk about this. Slides 9-14
  - It is the most complicated option, but it is also the most communalist and coolest.

Storing your shit

- ## What you should store
  - Anything that was hard to get or is for a niche audience. The odds of finding it again are lower.
  - Anything you use all the time.
- Online communities recommend compression of files to save space, but I have no recommendation on this, since I still have enough space
- Storage
  - I store all MKV (video) files on external USB hard drives I bought
  - Tom uses Mega, I use Mega for pictures. 20 GB free!
  - Proton Drive - I store all my books there, easy to share and they gave me 500GB with the email I pay for

Ripping DVDs

- .mkv is the best video format (in my subtitle-loving opinion)
- Go to https://www.makemkv.com and download a free trial. When your free trial is up, start a new free trial by re-downloading it.
- Rip (most) DVDs.
  - Obviously you should only rip DVDs you have a legal right to rip. Never copyrighted works from a friend's collection, or DVDs from the library
  - Some DVDs just won't let you rip them. It is dumb, and it is random. Movies I could not rip include Step Up 2: The Streets and Twilight: New Moon

Reliable Criminals

- Finding reliable criminals is hard, because you want someone who is only ok with the right kind of crime. Bad criminals are also always trying to copy the good criminals to trick you.
- Megathreads written by the good guys
  - https://www.reddit.com/r/Piracy/wiki/megathread/
  - https://rentry.co/megathread
- Google the file extensions of everything before you download and don't download anything executable. Stick to .mkv, .mp3, .epub, and .pdf if you're in doubt.
- Obviously, only download legal things from these reliable criminals. They're criminals, but you don't want to do crime. Obviously.

Streaming

- Streaming is best for live sports events, or for a quick fix
- Pros: Instant gratification, less crime, less barrier to entry
- Cons: frequent location changes and buffering
- This is most likely to be something you've done (googling "[media name] watch free online")
- Visit the megathreads from the Reliable Criminals slide for good places… or just search "watch free online [name of media]"

Direct Downloads

- A little risky, but all the upsides of torrenting, without having to learn to do that. Best for stuff you read, and small mp3 files.
- Pros: You have the media on your machine now, so no buffering, no lag, and you can keep it as long as you want.
- Cons: Links can be mislabeled, and you're opening yourself up to risk of virus.
- Check out the reputable sources on the megathreads shared on the Reliable Criminals slide (6)
- Def don't use (because illegal)
  - Libgen.is
  - 17TB Mega Movie Library that is sometimes online

What crimes cops care about (AKA torrenting, what is it?)

- No one cares about you receiving stolen media, too many people are doing that to police.
- Companies and cops are looking for those HOSTING the media so that other people can watch.
- You are not going to get in trouble for streaming or downloading (but it is illegal so don't do it)
- Torrenting is creating a copy of the media you want (from a bunch of other people who torrent it from someone else), then hosting it so other people can get it from you (pay if forward) Its super cool but obviously only do it with non copyrighted works
- You could get in trouble for Torrenting copyrighted works, but not like real trouble. Like scary letter in the mail trouble, not courtroom trouble but still don't do it, it's illegal

Torrenting: Pros and Cons

Best for: rare media, complex or multi-file media

Pros: Safe, shares with others, can find more niche stuff, the file is yours now

Cons: Downloading random shit off the internet is never 100% safe, you have to pay for a good VPN to avoid getting caught and keep your speeds up

Torrenting: Set-up: Picking a VPN

- Paying for a VPN is a commitment, but $4 a month is better than all those streaming services you'd have to buy
- A VPN prevents your ISP (internet service provider) from seeing what you're up to…. If your ISP sees you're doing crime, sometimes you get a cease and desist, and that's kinda it. But also, your ISP sells your data and that is kinda fucked, even though you are not doing crime, you would never.
- There are free versions of almost all of these, but they will stop you from doing much. Maybe a good starting place, but not a long-term solution
- I use Proton VPN, but the rest of my life (email, drive, etc) is also tied to them.
- IDK, do some research on what is best for you, or just use whatever service your favorite YouTuber is sponsored by. For torrenting, it does not matter that much.

Torrenting: Setup: Getting your vibes right

- Get VPN (see previous slide)
- Use Firefox
- Use uBlock Origin adblocker for Firefox
    - https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/ublock-origin/
    - Use these settings: https://a.imagem.app/on42hV.png
- Change your DNS settings
    - I use NextDNS - https://nextdns.io/privacy
- Download a torrent client
    - I use qBittorrent - https://www.qbittorrent.org/
- Bind your torrent client to the VPN (Only allows torrenting when VPN is active)
    - Tools -> Options -> Advanced ->Network interface -> select your VPN -> apply
- Make up a garbage email - these sites sometimes require you to log in. Just get a garbage gmail. It's fine.
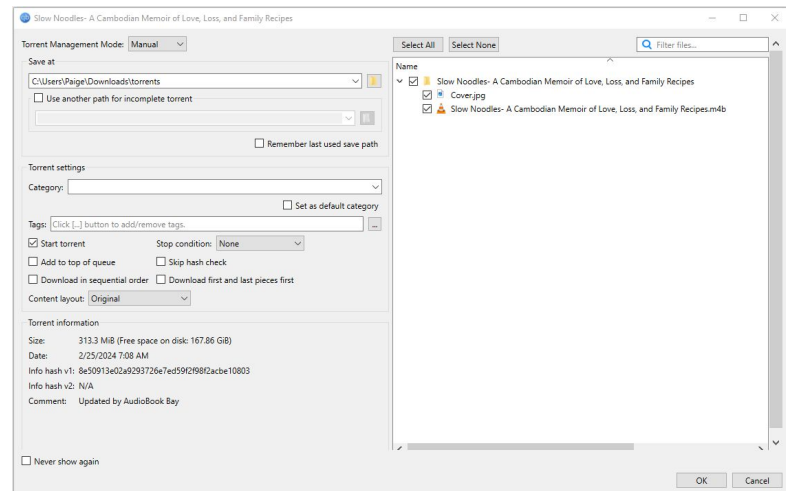
Torrenting: Baby's first Torrent

- Again - hit that mega thread - I'll use https://audiobookbay.is/ as an example
  - (this site does require you to make an account and log in, it will not model that because you are an adult)
- Find something you want
  - I found this https://audiobookbay.is/abss/slow-noodles-a-cambodian-memoir-of-love-loss-and-family-recipes-chantha-nguon/
- Click the "Download Torrent" link
- A .torrent file will start downloading, click it when it's done to open it
  - You have not downloaded the media you want yet (in this case an audiobook) you have just downloaded the instructions on how to download it.
- You'll probably have to tell your computer what app to open the file with. Select qBittorrent.

Torrenting: Baby's first Torrent, Part 2

- This little box will pop up.
  - Select a folder to "Save at" (remember where you picked)
  - Check to make sure there are file extensions you expect to see. If there's something you don't recognize, google it and make sure it is not a executable file. In this case .m4b is a known file type to me, and common for Audiobooks
- Click "OK"
- That shit will pop up in your qBittorrent
  - "Stalled" means no one with the file is seeding it
  - "Downloading" means you are getting the file from someone seeding it
  - "Seeding" means you have the file, and you are sending it out to others
- Go get the file from wherever you saved it. Enjoy.

Questions?

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