

Stick Radio

Version 1.10

User Guide

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Getting Started With StickRadio

Introduction

Want to keep in touch with the world? Always tune in to the music of your own taste or listen to the latest news? Then here is what you need: StickRadio brings the universe of global internet radio to your Windows PC!

With StickRadio, you have access to more than 11,000 streaming radio stations from more than 100 countries worldwide. You can browse the database by country, language and genre, search for station names and even descriptions. And you can play any station directly with StickRadio, no separate media player software is required.

StickRadio makes internet radio as easy as using a car or kitchen radio. Tuning in to a station and playing it is a matter of seconds. Your most favourite stations can be stored in ten presets and thus are available at a single mouse click. And you can store as many stations as you like in your personal list of favourites.

StickRadio was designed to be portable. You can put it on a hard disk, flash drive or memory card and it will work on any Windows PC which meets the system requirements. You can use it at home and in the office, on your notebook or netbook and thus always listen to your favourite stations, anytime.

But the best is yet to come: StickRadio can send its output over the local network to almost any streaming box or software player. It will therefore enable your streaming box to play stations using audio formats which are not supported by the manufacturer of your hardware player.

Requirements

Intel Pentium III or equivalent
Microsoft Windows XP SP3, Vista or 7
.NET 2.0 or higher
1024 MB of RAM
8 MB of free space on a hard disk,
USB stick or memory card
Broadband internet connection



Installation

StickRadio does not need to be installed. Simply extract it from the ZIP file it comes in and copy the files to a folder of your choice. This can be any folder on any hard disk of your system. You can even put StickRadio's files on a USB stick or memory card to use it on different computers (for example at home and at work).

Note: Although StickRadio can be run from any folder (directory) on a hard disk, USB Stick or memory card, it is not recommended to copy the programme files to special folders (for example the Windows Desktop), system folders (for example "C:\Windows") or root directories (for example "C:\").

Important: StickRadio will not function properly if you try to run it from "C:\Program Files" or a network folder.

The License File

After having purchased a license you will have received a personal license file named "license.license" which is required to run StickRadio. Before starting StickRadio for the first time please copy this file to the folder where you have copied StickRadio's application files. It will be processed when StickRadio is started for the first time. You will have to restart StickRadio after the license file has been processed.

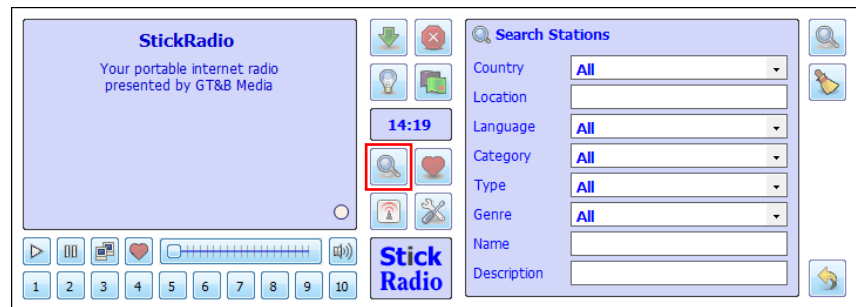
Note: To turn an already installed trial version of StickRadio into the full version and retain your Presets and Favourites simply copy the file "license.license" to the folder where your trial version resides. Please do not copy the files you have received after purchasing StickRadio to the folder of the existing trial version as this will overwrite your Presets and Favourites.

Starting StickRadio

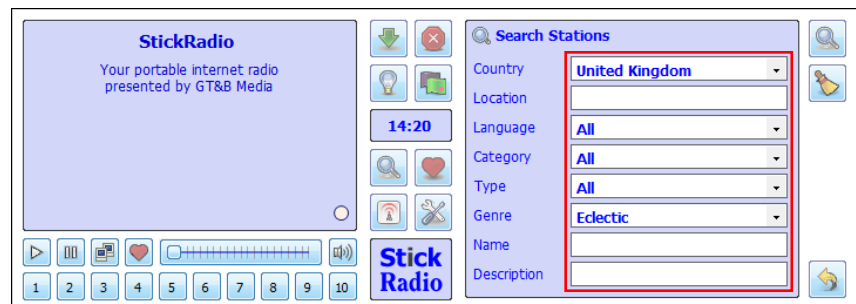
Double-click StickRadio.exe or the programme's icon to start the programme.

Tuning In To A Station And Playing It

Click the search button to slide out the search panel.



Enter a Country, Language, Category, Type and/or Genre by clicking the corresponding drop-down box and choosing from the list that opens up. To search for station locations, names or descriptions, simply type the search phrase into the corresponding field.



When you have finished entering your search criteria, click the search button again or push the enter key on your keyboard. StickRadio will display a list of stations which match your criteria. Choose a station by clicking its name with the left mouse button.



To play the station click the play button or double-click the station's name in the list.



To slide in the search panel click the back button.



Controlling The Playback

To pause playback click the pause button.

To resume playback click the pause button again or click the play button.



To change the volume slide the volume knob.

To mute the speakers click the mute button. To unmute the speakers click the mute button again.



Adding A Station To The Presets

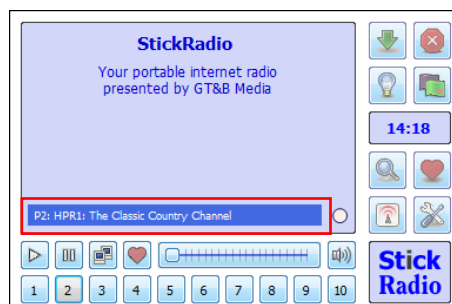
While the station you want to add to your presets is actively playing right-click the preset button you wish to assign it to.



Playing A Preset

If you hover the mouse over a preset button the stations name will be shown in the bottom line of the display panel-assigned to it.

To play a preset simply left-click the corresponding button or type one of the number keys (1-0) on your keyboard (keyboard selection will only work if none of the slide-out panels is visible).



Adding A Station To “My Favourites”

While the station you want to add to your presets is actively playing click the favourites button (the heart symbol).



Playing A Station From “My Favourites”

Slide out the the “My Favourites” panel by clicking the favourites button (the big heart symbol right to the search button).

Choose a station from the list by left-clicking it and click the play button (alternatively you can double-click the station’s name in the list).



Deleting Stations From “My Favourites”

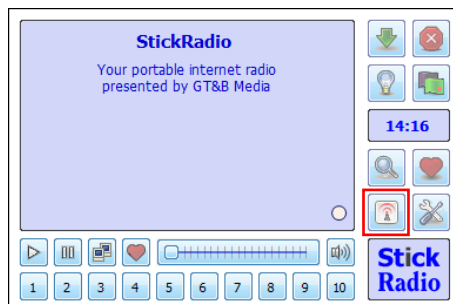
Slide out the the “My Favourites” panel by clicking the favourites button (the big heart symbol right to the search button).

Choose a station from the list by left-clicking it and click the delete button (the dustbin). To clear the entire list click the clear button (the broom).



Adding A Station To “My Stations”

Slide out the the “My Stations” panel by clicking the radio tower button.



Click the “Add station” button (the paper symbol) to open the station’s details.



Fill in the fields (description is optional).

Click the save button to save the station. Your added station will appear in the list.

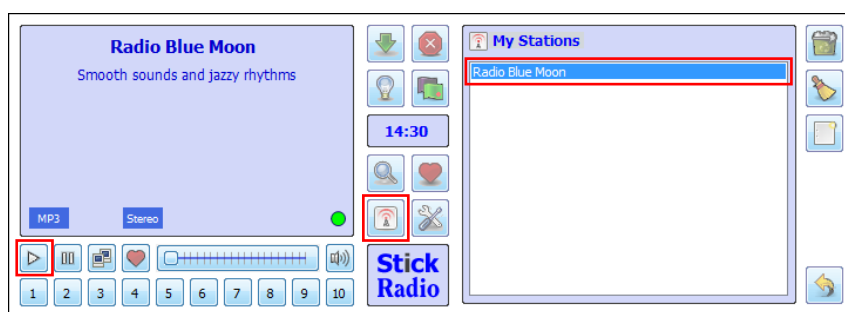
Click the clear button (the broom) to discard your edits and close the details.



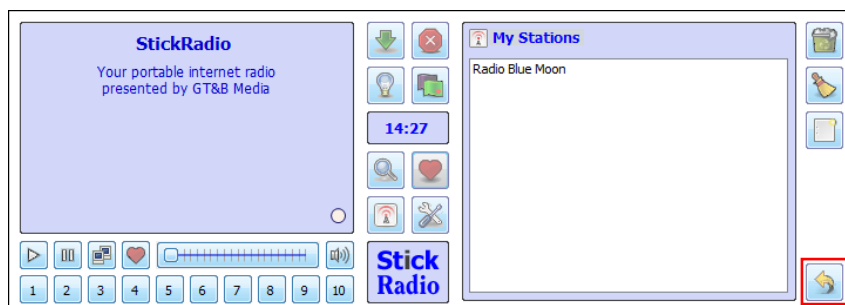
Playing A Station From “My Stations”

Slide out the the “My Stations” panel by clicking the radio tower button.

Choose a station from the list by left-clicking it and click the play button (alternatively you can double-click the station’s name in the list).

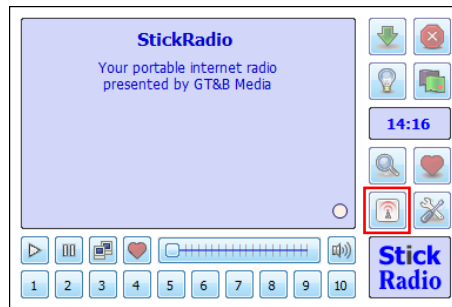


To slide in the “My Stations” panel click the back button.



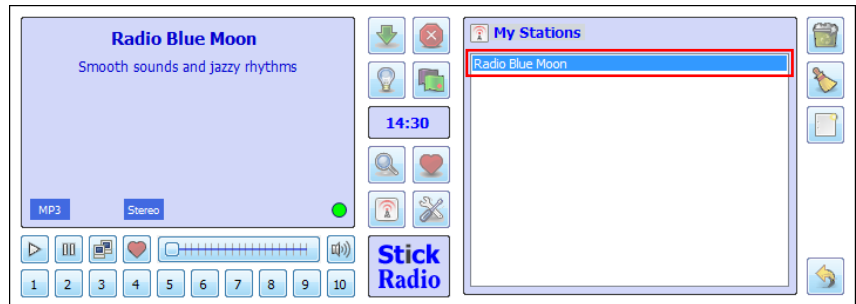
Editing An Existing Station In “My Stations”

Slide out the the “My Stations” panel by clicking the radio tower button.



Choose the station you wish to edit by left-clicking its name in the list.

Right-click the station's name to open the station details.



Fill in the fields (description is optional).

Click the save button to save the station. Your added station will appear in the list.

Click the clear button (the broom) to discard your edits and close the details.



To slide in the “My Stations” panel click the back button.



Sending StickRadio's Audio Output To The Local network

To start sending StickRadio's audio output to the local network ("streaming", simply click the "Streaming" button while a station is actively playing. The stream will then become available on your local network.



Once streaming has successfully been established StickRadio will display a corresponding symbol in the status line. The number on the right side of the symbol tells you how many media players are actually connected and playing StickRadio's audio output.

To stop streaming simply click the "Streaming" button again.



Listening To StickRadio's Audio Output With A Media Player

To listen to StickRadio's audio output with a media player ("client") which can either be a streaming box (for example a Roku SoundBridge or a Reciva Radio) or a player software (for example Windows Media Player or Winamp) you will have instruct your player to play a so-called "audio URL". The URL for StickRadio's audio output is

`mms://IP.of.your.PC:3679`

where IP.of.your.PC is the IP address of the computer StickRadio is running on, for example 192.168.0.120.

Example:

Assuming that the IP address of your computer is 192.168.0.120 and you want play StickRadio's audio in Windows Media Player on a second computer, simply do the following:

- 1) Start Windows Media Player on the computer.
- 2) Type Ctrl-U on the keyboard.
- 3) Windows Media Player will open a popup window and ask you to enter a URL.
- 4) Type `mms://192.168.0.120:3679` and click Ok.
- 5) Windows Media Player will connect to StickRadio and start playing within a few seconds.

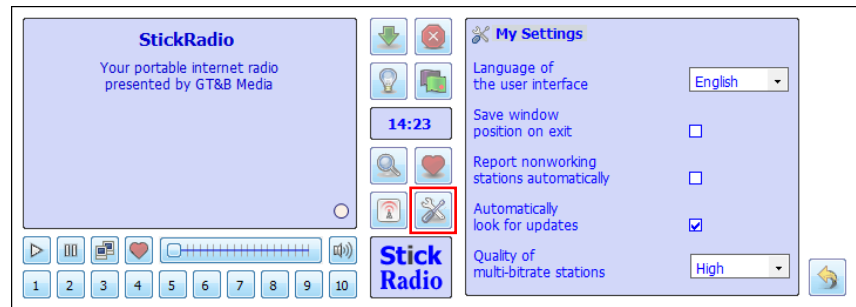
Technical Notes On Streaming With StickRadio

- 1) If the URL `mms://IP.of.your.PC:3679` does not work in your hardware or software player, please replace "mms" by "http".
- 2) When using the streaming function it is recommended to set StickRadio's volume to 100 percent as for technical reasons the volume of the stream is depending on StickRadio's volume. It is possible, however, to mute your PC's speakers using the volume controls of Windows.
- 3) When you activate the streaming function for the first time, the Windows Firewall might ask you to allow StickRadio to use port 3679. You will have to authorise it to do so to be able to use the streaming feature. On some versions of Windows it might be necessary to manually add a firewall rule.
- 4) For technical reasons title and artist information which are issued by the originating station can't be streamed by StickRadio and thus will not be displayed by your player.
- 5) It is possible to change the playing station while streaming is activated.
- 6) StickRadio outputs a stream in WMA format at a bitrate of 128 kbps. Therefore your media player will even play stations which stream formats that are not supported by your device.
- 7) Streaming is limited to a maximum of 10 clients (players) at a time.
- 8) Please see the documentation of your hardware or software player for more information about playing streams.

Configuring StickRadio's Settings

Slide out the the “Settings” panel by clicking the corresponding button (the tools symbol).

Configure the five options to suit your preferences (see below for details).



Language of the user interface

Choose your preferred language from the options in the list box.

Save window position on exit

If this option is activated StickRadio will open at the same position on your screen that it was located when it was closed.

Report nonworking stations automatically

If this option is activated StickRadio will send information about nonworking stations to GT&B's server. This information is then used to improve the radio station database. Please see the privacy statement at the end of this userguide to learn which information is sent.

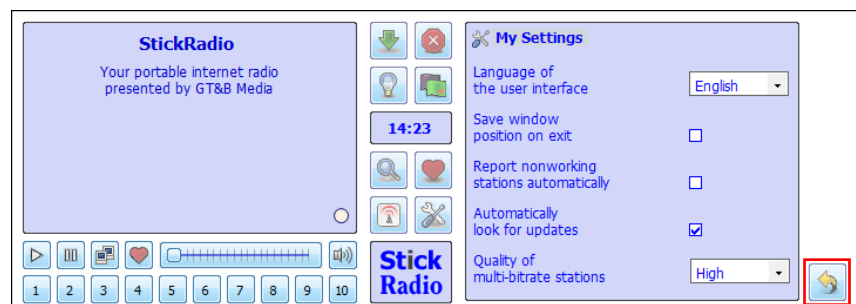
Automatically look for updates

If this option is activated StickRadio will inform you if there are updates available for both the radio station database and the programme itself.

Quality of multi-bitrate stations

Choose the preferred playback quality of stations offering more than one stream format and/or bitrate. “High” is recommended for high-bandwidth internet connections (DSL or Cable). Select “Low” if you have a slow internet connection (ISDN, GSM or 3G).

To slide in the “Settings” panel click the back button.



Making StickRadio Always Visible

To have StickRadio always displayed on top of all other windows of your screen click the “Always on top” button. A small red dot will indicate that this option is activated.

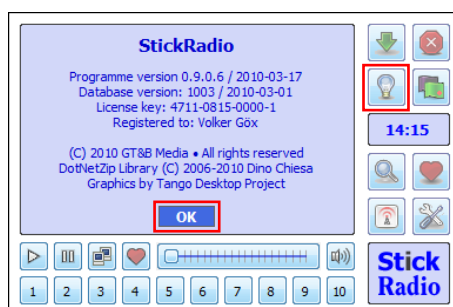
To inactivate this option simply click the “Always on top” button again. The small red dot will disappear.



Displaying Information About StickRadio

Click the “About StickRadio” button.

To return to normal operation click the OK button.



Minimise StickRadio

To minimise StickRadio's programme window click the “Minimise” button.

Playback will continue in the background.



Exit StickRadio

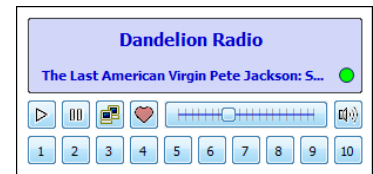
To close StickRadio simply click the “Exit” button.



Changing to the mini-player

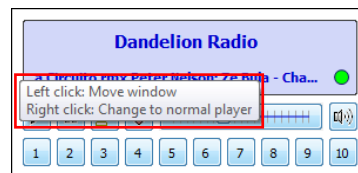
StickRadio offers a mini-player mode in which only the basic information about the actually playing station, the play-back controls and the preset buttons are visible. To change to mini-player mode, simply right-click anywhere in StickRadio's background (the white parts of the window).

Note: The mini-player doesn't have an „Exit“ button; to close StickRadio from mini-player mode you have to use Alt-F4 on your keyboard.



Changing to the normal player

To bring back StickRadio's normal player window simply right-click anywhere in the mini-player's background (the white parts of the window).



Appendix A: Advanced Settings

There are a few so-called command line arguments which you can use to start StickRadio with special behaviour.

`-forceupdate`

Forces StickRadio to look for updates of both the radio station database and the software itself at startup.

`-p:port`

Instructs StickRadio to use a specific port to send its output to the local network. This argument can be used if StickRadio's standard port (3679) is not available or if you want to run multiple instances of StickRadio to simultaneously stream different radio stations to your local network. Prior to using this command please make sure that the port you intend to use is available on your system.

`-r:bitrate`

Sets the bitrate StickRadio uses for sending its output to the local network. Valid arguments are 32000, 48000, 64000, 80000, 96000, 128000, 160000, 192000, 256000 and 320000. Note: Bitrates higher than 128000 (StickRadio's default setting) might not work on certain devices.

Appendix B: Privacy Statement

To perform automatic updates and/or report failed stations StickRadio contacts GT&B's server and uploads certain information to help improving the database. The following privacy policy applies for all communication between StickRadio and GT&B's server.

StickRadio never uploads any personal information. When reporting a failing station only an internal station ID and a timestamp are sent to GT&B Media's server.

GT&B Media will never become aware of any personal data. GT&B Media's ISP, however, might log the IP used by StickRadio and further technical data at the time an upload takes place. GT&B does not evaluate such log files nor would it be possible to derive any information related to you from its content.

If you send us an email we shall store your email address and (if applicable) name, postal address and telephone number as well as any other information you have provided in your message. This information will only be stored as long as we need it to communicate with you on the matter you raised in your email.

If you have questions concerning data protection please feel free to contact us at info@stickradio.net.

Appendix C: Frequently Asked Questions

Why do some stations not play?

Internet radio is quite new and highly dynamic, so there can be different reasons if a station doesn't play. First of all it might simply have stopped streaming or changed its audio URL. It is also possible that the station uses an audio format which is not supported by StickRadio or that the content of its playlist file is invalid. Furthermore some stations are "geo-locked" which means that they will only play in certain countries or regions.

Note: Due to technical reasons StickRadio will not play stations owned by American broadcasting company Clear Channel.

My favourite radio station is not available in StickRadio, what can I do?

If you know the station's streaming address, the "audio URL", you can add it to "My stations" (see the corresponding section of the user guide for details). You can also send a request to include the station in StickRadio's database by emailing the station's name and web address to support@stickradio.net. If the station's audio stream is compatible with StickRadio it will then be included with one of the next automatic updates.

Which audio formats does StickRadio support?

StickRadio can handle almost all audio formats that streaming radio stations from all over the world actually use, for example MP3, WMA and OGG Vorbis, with the exception of Real Audio and Flash. Supported playlist types are PLS, M3U, ASX and some more.

Is there a user forum for internet radio in general and StickRadio in particular?

Yes. If you visit www.stickradio.net you will find a lot of information.