Me TV User Manual

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1. Introduction

Me TV is a digital television (DVB) viewer for GNOME. Me TV was developed for the modern digital lounge room with a PC for a media centre that is capable of normal PC tasks (web surfing, word processing and watching TV). It is not designed to be a full-blown media centre, such as MythTV, but will integrate well with an existing GNOME desktop.

2. Why Me TV?

The name Me TV comes from Australian slang for "My TV". Hence, "it's TV for me computer" is Australian slang for "it's TV for my computer". The pattern can be followed for all instances of "My", such as "Me dog", "Me ute" and of course "Me beer".

3. Features

The following list contains the significant features of Me TV:

- GTK/GNOME interface
- Completely mouse driven
- Runs in system tray (see Notification Icon)
- Current and future program information (see EPG Window)
- Instant Record
- Once off, daily or weekly scheduled recordings (see Scheduled Recordings)
- Program search
- Auto channel scan (see Channel Scan window)
- Auto PID selection
- Audio select
- Network broadcast
- Subtitles
- Dual language

- DVB-T, DVB-C, DVB-S and ATSC support

- Double-click fullscreen

- Auto surf

- Keyboard shortcuts

- Very simple installation and set up

4. Channel Scan Window

To use Me TV you need to have a channels file that lists the channels that you want Me TV to use. Me TV has a built-in scanner that allows you to automatically tune the stations available to you.

When Me TV starts it will detect if you have a channels file (`~/.me-tv/channels.conf`). If a channel file does not exist then Me TV will ask if you would like to have one created. If you choose to create a channels file then Me TV will open the Channel Scan window asking you to select a region. If there is no region in the list that matches your region then you might have some luck with a region that is close to you. Double click a region (or select the region and click the Next button) to tell Me TV to begin the scan. During the scan, Me TV will show its progress in the text window, this process can take several minutes. When the scan completes the Channel Scan window will close automatically and Me TV will start.

Digital television (DVB) allows television networks to supply many channels with the same (or similar) content so it's unlikely that you want Me TV to display all of them. To remove channels from Me TV, edit the `~/.me-tv/channels.conf` file and remove the channels that you don't want. If you would like Me TV to rescan channels then simply delete the `~/.me-tv/channels.conf` file and restart Me TV.

5. Main Window

Me TV's main window contains the main menu, the controls to drive Me TV (toolbar), video window, the EPG window, the program search bar and the status bar.

5.1. Main Menu

Many of the features of Me TV can be accessed through the main menu.

5.1.1. File

- Quit exits Me TV. If you are recording or you have a scheduled recording then Me TV will confirm that you want to exit. If you exit Me TV then it will not be able to record a scheduled program.

5.1.2. View

- Fullscreen toggles fullscreen mode
- Preferences shows the Preferences window.
- Electronic Program Guide toggles the display of the EPG window.
- Program Search enables the Program search bar below the EPG window allowing the user to search for programs in the EPG.
- Subtitles displays a list of detected subtitle streams for the channel.

5.1.3. Audio

- Streams displays a list of detected audio streams for the channel.
- Mute toggles the audio. This will not affect the audio in a recording or broadcast stream.
- Dual Language the sub menu of this item allows the user to select only the left or right audio channel to come out both speakers. This is useful for people whose television networks send the streams in two languages, one down the left and the other down the right. (see Dual language)

5.1.4. Help

- Contents displays this user guide.
- About shows the About window.

5.2. Toolbar

- Record toggles recording.
- Mute toggles audio output. This will not affect the audio in a recording or broadcast stream.
- Broadcast toggles Network broadcast.

- Auto Surf toggles Auto surf.
- Schedule opens the Scheduled recordings window.
- Hide Controls hides all controls on the giving the Video window the maximum amount screen real estate available in the Main window. Simply right click the Video Window to leave this mode.

5.3. Video Window

You can double click on video window to toggle fullscreen mode. Upon entering fullscreen mode, all controls will be hidden. Right click on the video window to toggle the display of the controls in Me TV.

5.4. EPG Window

The EPG (Electronic Program Guide) displays current and future program information sent from the television network. The EPG window is also used to change channels. It can be quickly accessed by right clicking on the video window.

Click on a program to see the Program details window for that program or to schedule a recording for that program.

5.5. Program Search Bar

The search bar is used to search for programs in the EPG. By default, the bar is not visible, use Ctrl+F to activate the program search bar.

For more information see the Program search feature.

5.6. Status Bar

The status bar is used to let you know the status of Me TV. When viewing a channel it will display the channel name and current program title, if known. When recording, the status bar will display the filename of the file being recorded to.

6. The Notification Icon

The Me TV notification icon is displayed in any notification area applet in the GNOME panel while Me TV is running. Left clicking on the icon will cause Me TV to mute and hide but it remains running.

Recordings and scheduled recordings will continue to record when Me TV is in this state.

7. Program Details Window

This window is displayed when a user clicks on a program in the EPG window. It displays a few details about the program and gives the user the option of scheduling the program for recording via the Record button. Clicking the Record button will open the Scheduled recording window.

8. Scheduled Recordings Window

The scheduled recordings window can be used to add and remove scheduled recordings from Me TV. Click the Add button to add an scheduled recording or select a scheduled recording from the list and click the Remove button.

When a program is scheduled, Me TV will run in the system tray and wait for the program to start.

9. Scheduled Recording Window

Not to be confused with the Scheduled Recording*s* window, this window allows you to set the values for a scheduled recording.

- Title is the title of the program, if available.
- Description is the description of the program, if available.
- Start Time is the time that the program is scheduled to start.
- Duration is the duration of the program.

Clicking the OK button will open the Scheduled recordings window with the newly scheduled recording in the list of scheduled recordings.

When a program is scheduled, Me TV will run in the system tray and wait for the program to start.

10. Preferences Window

The Preferences window can be used to configure Me TV.

- Recording directory is the directory where Me TV will save its recorded files.
- Record extra before is the default number of minutes that will be added to the start of the recording.
- Record extra after is the default number of minutes that will be added to the end of the recording.
- EPG span hours is the number of hours that the EPG window will span on one page.
- Broadcast port is the network port used when broadcasting over the network.
- EPG encoding is used to specify how to process text elements from the DVB stream. The DVB stream will, in most cases, tell Me TV which encoding it is using however some countries, like the Czech Republic, use a different encoding for the EPG information. If you are having difficulties displaying non-English characters then changing this setting may help.
- Video driver specifies the xine video output driver to use. Sometimes the xine engine is unable to display video output properly because of the users video setup. Changing this setting may help with this issue.
- Deinterlace type is used to specify type of deinterlacing. You may find that changing this setting improves the video depending on your setup.
- Start minimised in tray tells Me TV to startup in the notification area when it starts. This setting can be useful if you get Me TV to start automatically when you log in.
- Always on top tells Me TV to stay on top of other windows on the desktop.
- Fullscreen workaround addresses an issue on some Compiz setups that won't let you show a popup window on top of another window that is in fullscreen mode. This setting will temporarily take you out of fullscreen while viewing a popup window and then return you to fullscreen mode after closing the popup window.
- PID workaround has been implemented because there has been a report of the PID auto-detection not selecting the right PID. This is a temporary workaround in-case the issue arises again on someone's computer after release. This feature may be removed in the next release of Me TV (currently 0.5.10).

11. About Window

The About window shows legal information, contributors and further information about Me TV.

12. Features Explained

This is a brief explanation of some of the features of Me TV.

12.1. Keyboard Shortcuts

Many of the features of Me TV can be accessed using the keyboard. The following list of keys (uppercase or lowercase) can be used on the Main window.

• A toggles Auto surf.

• B toggles Network broadcast

• E toggles the visibility of the EPG window

• F toggles fullscreen

• Ctrl+F shows the Program search bar under the EPG window

• H hides all the controls

• M toggles mute

• R toggles recording

12.2. Scheduled Recording

Me TV is able to schedule future programs to be recorded. When a program is due to be recorded, Me TV will change to the channel and start recording. If a future program is scheduled then when you close the Main Window, Me TV will continue to run in the notification area of the GNOME panel.

There are several types of scheduled recordings:

• Once Off

• Every Day (not including weekends)

• Every Day (including weekends)

• Every Week

If a "Once Off" recording is scheduled then once the recording is complete, Me TV will delete the scheduled recording program.

12.3. Program Search

Me TV allows you to search the EPG for programs. You can do this using the Program search bar.

The Program search bar is displayed below the EPG window but, by default it is hidden. You can activate the Program search bar using Ctrl+F.

You only need to enter part of the program title to search. For example, if you enter "Thomas", Me TV will search the entire EPG for any program with "Thomas" in the title. If a program is found it will be displayed in the EPG highlighted in yellow.

12.4. Audio Select

Some stations transmit television in multiple audio languages. Me TV allows you to select different audio languages from the Audio/Streams menu item. Me TV will remember (until you log out) which audio stream you selected the next time you select the channel.

12.5. Auto Surf

Auto surf tells Me TV to traverse through every channel in the EPG window. This gives Me TV the chance to update EPG information for all channels. This feature can be useful because some stations only supply EPG programs a few shows in advance so if you haven't used that channel in a few hours then there will be no EPG information for that channel.

12.6. Dual Language

Some television networks transmit television programs in multiple languages by sending different languages down the left and right channels of the audio stream. Dual language allows you to play either the left or right audio channel through both speakers. Dual language is available through the Audio/Dual Language menu item.

12.7. Network Broadcast

The network broadcast feature allows users to broadcast their television stream over a network making it possible for other computers to receive television. Digital television uses a lot of data so this feature is not recommended for networks that are slower than 100 Mbit/s. There are many players that can be used for a client including:

- xine **xine udp://224.0.1.2:2005**
- mplayer **mplayer udp://224.0.1.2:2005**
- VLC **vlc udp://@224.0.1.2:2005**

13. Feedback

If you have comments about this manual or Me TV then please email me at
<`michael.lamothe@gmail.com`>. Bugs and new features are welcome at the project website
(https://launchpad.net/me-tv).