

About Video Montgomery
www.VideoMontgomery.org

Video streaming on the web makes “video on demand” available to anyone, anywhere, who has a broadband connection. Video streaming is an opportunity for MCT producers to reach a larger audience in a more flexible way that can be permitted by “appointment viewing” on cable alone. Anyone who expresses curiosity about a show can be directed to the streaming version. The producer can say “Are you at your computer? Go to ...” in addition to saying “To watch my show, tune in Channel 21 at 3:30 on Monday.” A talent in Bolivia was able watch “his” episode on the Web. A man in China was able to watch his daughter’s Community Close-up. Another application is in recruiting talent. “Would you be willing to come on my show? Here, I’ll show you what it’s like.”

Since the start of 2005, volunteers have been experimenting with video streaming programs produced by MCT volunteers. The experiment consists of two pieces, (1) a table of contents web page, and (2) a set of videos on streaming servers. The table of contents web page (<http://videomontgomery.org>) is basically a set of arrows (hyperlinks) that point at the videos. It’s like a speed-dialer on a cell phone - the buttons are in one place, but the calls can go anywhere. The table of contents is a rather small file, roughly 200 kb, and it’s on an ordinary server of the type that comes “free” with Comcast or Verizon email.

The video files must be on streaming servers, especially set up to stream video, and they tend to be large, at least 60 MB for a half-hour show. Ideally, every producer would post his/her videos on his/her own streaming server, and the only “central” function would be the table of contents. Video Google (video.google.com) is an example of a free streaming server that anyone can use.