

Is Watching HDTV For Free A Crime?

By Michael O'Day, June 20, 2007



Now its finally possible to kick back and watch HDTV for free in your dorm room, apartment, office, RV, campsite, or by the pool.

Is it legal to Watch HDTV On Your Computer Without Paying for it?

For as long as the electromagnetic broadcasting wave has existed it has been the dream of many to grab it from the air and watch it for free. Of course we all know that it's illegal to watch HBO or download movies without paying. Local TV channels broadcast in HD over-the-air and offer superior picture quality to the often-compressed signals sent by cable and satellite TV companies. And the best part is that over-the-air HD is free.

"When you're using an antenna to get an HD signal you will be able to receive

true broadcast-quality HD," said Julie Taing, a spokesperson for [Caracom](#). "Some of the cable and satellite companies choose to compress the HD signal."

Before cable and satellite existed, people relied on antennas to receive analog signals from local TV stations' broadcasting towers. Stations still send out analog signals, but most transmit HD digital signals as well. However, Congress has ordered broadcasters to shut off old-style analog TV broadcasts by Feb. 17, 2009 requiring an estimated 15 million households in the United States that rely on these analog signals to buy new equipment.

The [OnAir GT](#) is a mobile HDTV tuner & DVR for your computer. Allowing people to watch and record television in High Definition anywhere a usable 'over-the-air' or cable signal exists! The GT's compact design allows it to easily fit into a laptop case, is USB-powered and comes with its own antenna; good for customers within 25 miles of a station's broadcast tower.

An outdoor antenna will grab a signal from up to 70 miles away. The Consumer Electronic Association has a web site (www.antennaweb.org) that tells how far an address is from towers and recommends what type of antenna to use.

Since the first commercial broadcast in the United States on May 28th, 1928, Americans have been in love with television. So kick back and watch HDTV for free in your dorm room, apartment, office, RV, campsite, or by the pool. Armed with the [OnAir GT](#) and your laptop you can turn even the smallest space into a mobile High Definition home theater.

For more information on the OnAir GT and other HDTV products visit www.caracom.com.