Chromecast
January 2016

What is Chromecast?

- *Chromecast* is a line of digital media players developed by Google. [Wikipedia.org]

- Designed as small *dongles*, the devices play audio/video content on a high-definition television or home audio system by directly streaming it via Wi-Fi from the Internet or a local network.   [Wikipedia.org]

- 1st Generation Chromecast
    - Released: June 2013
    - Cost: $35 (refurbished is less)
    - Connections: power and HDMI

- 2nd Generation Chromecast
    - Released: September 2015
    - Cost: $35 (refurbished is less)
    - Colors: red, yellow, and black

- Chromecast Audio
    - Released: September 2015
    - Cost: $35
    - Audio only
    - Attaches to speakers or sound system via 1/8" (AUX), RCA, and optical connectors.

How does it work?

- Users select the media to play using *mobile apps* and *web apps* that support the *Google Cast* technology. [Wikipedia.org]

- Alternatively, content can be mirrored from the Google Chrome web browser running on a personal computer, as well as from the screen of some Android devices. [Wikipedia.org]

How does it work? (continued)

- It is interesting to note that Google Cast uses WiFi – not device-to-device connections – to stream video and audio from the Internet.
    - For example, if you are watching a YouTube video on your phone, and then tap the screencast icon, the video quits streaming to your phone and begins streaming directly from the Internet into your Chromecast.

- However, your device (the phone, in the previous example) controls the streaming by instructing the Chromecast – again via WiFi.
    - So, you can use the app on your phone to pause, resume, stop, rewind, and fast-forward.

Other platforms

- On your iOS device, if the Google Cast icon appears in the app, you can use it.
    - There also is a Chromecast app that navigates you to various video sources.

- On your computer, install the *Google Cast* extension to Chrome, and then click on the Google Cast icon in the corner.

Initial Setup

- Physical setup:
    - Plug Chromecast into an empty HDMI outlet on your TV. (For 1st generation Chromecast, use the extension if it does not fit well.)
    - Attach Chromecast to its power cable. If your TV has a powered USB outlet, you can plug the other end of the cable into that outlet. Otherwise, plug the cable into the supplied adapter, and plug the adapter into a power outlet.
    - Using the TV's buttons or menu, change the input source to the Chromecast HDMI outlet.

- Network setup:
  - Have your Wi-Fi network name and password handy.
  - You can set up using Chromecast app on Android or iOS (preferred), or using the your computer using the computer setup utility. (see http://www.google.com/chromecast/setup for links to this software.)
  - For Android and iOS setup, see this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TlR9Y8Gn1Ig

Desktop mirroring

- On your Android device, you also can do something known as *desktop mirroring*.
  - Install and open the *Google Screencast* app;
  - Select *Cast Screen* from the menu; and
  - Choose your Chromecast.

Chromecast apps

- Examples of apps that support the *Google Cast* technologies on iOS and/or Android:
  - Chrome, YouTube, Pixlr, and Live
  - Netflix, Hulu, HBO Now, and Sling
  - WatchESPN, NFL Sunday Ticket, and CBS Sports
  - Angry birds, and many other time wasting games
  - Spotify, Pandora, Pocket Casts
  - …and 1,000+ other apps

- Where can I learn more?
  - https://www.google.com/intl/en_us/chromecast/learn