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:**
  o Have your Wi-Fi network name and password handy.
  o 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.)
  o For Android and iOS setup, see this video:
    https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TlR9Y8Gn1lg

**Desktop mirroring**

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

**Chromecast apps**

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

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