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How to cast photos from windows 10 to chromecast

If you own a Google Chromecast streaming device, you can easily share a browser tab in Chrome browser or even your entire desktop. This can be very useful when presenting from your laptop or if you just want to watch something on a big screen that is only on your PC. The only requirement is you must be on the same network as your Chromecast device and using a recent version of the Chrome browser. To get started, you no longer need to download the Google Cast browser extension for Chrome. Starting with Chrome version 51 (released in May of 2016) Google built "casting" directly into the browser. You can download the latest version of Chrome by clicking here. Once installed, bring up the browser menu by clicking on the three dots on far right of the address bar. Select Cast on the menu. This will bring up the casting menu where you select what you want to cast and to where. First, we need to configure it to cast the entire desktop. Click the down arrow next to "Cast to" to configure the source. Next, select Cast desktop. Click the name of the Chromecast device you want to stream to. Finally, click Share. If you have multiple monitors, you can pick which desktop to share on this screen. When you want to stop streaming your desktop, just click the cast icon next to the address bar and click Stop. Want to stream videos, movies, photos and music from PC to HDTV with Windows 10? If you have stored a lot of media files on your desktop or laptop and you own a HDTV, you may want to play the media files using your TV with much bigger screen. Windows 10 has built-in apps to help you easily stream videos from PC to TV, play music saved on PC through TV, cast photos from PC to TV. Before you proceed to stream or cast media files from computer to TV, make sure to connect both your PC and TV to the same wi-fi network. Cast photo, video, music from a Windows 10 PC to TV via File Explorer Run the File Explorer which you use to browse and manage files and documents on your computer, find the video, music or picture file you like to play to TV, right click on the media file, you will get its context menu, select Play To from the context menu, your PC will then search for the compatible devices nearby, then choose your TV from the compatible devices list. Now go to watch the photo or video from your TV or listen to the music playing on your TV. Stream music, video, photos from a Windows 10 PC to TV via Windows Media Player Click the Start button in Windows 10, choose All programs, scroll down to find and click to launch Windows Media Player on your PC. Your media library opens by default and you can find the categories of music, videos, photos from the left panel of windows Media Player. Find the media file in your media library, right click on it and choose Cast To, then choose the networked device you want to play it on. In this case select your TV to cast the selected media from PC to TV big screen. If you can't find the photos, videos or songs in Windows Media Player, go to open the folder where your media files reside in File Explorer, select the files, drag and drop them from Windows File Explorer to Windows Media Player. Stream videos, movies from PC to TV via Movies & TV Movies and TV is another built-in app in Windows 10 which can also help you stream videos from PC to TV over Wi-Fi. Launch the Movies and TV software on PC, you can view added videos by thumbnails, click to play a movie or video in Movies and TV. click "Show more options menu" (three horizontal dots) from the bottom right corner of the video playing window, you will see a pop-up dialogue with three options: 1) Cast to device; 2) Zoom to fill; 3) Repeat. Choose Cast to device and choose your TV in the connection dialogue, your selected movie will be played from the computer to TV. Cast media files from mobile phones to TV big screen You can also cast or stream photos, videos and music from a smartphone to TV. For example, iPhone iPad Pod touch users can make use of AirPlay to cast media files from iOS devices to TV. Samsung Galaxy mobile phone users, Samsung Note and tablets users can enable the Screen Mirroring feature to cast. Samsung mobile on TV screen which will mirror your mobile device's content to your TV screen. Thanks to Miracast technology, it is possible to project your Windows 10 desktop onto your TV, so that you and others can view your desktop on your TV screen instead of crowding around a laptop screen. This process is called casting to a device, and it's helpful to use during presentations, get-togethers, or movie nights. Here's how to cast your Windows desktop to your TV. What you'll need to do before casting a Windows desktop to a TVBefore you begin casting, a few requirements must be met for the process to work.1. Your television must be a smart TV and have its Wi-Fi capabilities turned on in order to successfully cast your computer screen to your TV. Your smart TV must also be connected to the same Wi-Fi network as your computer. (The only exception is if you're using an HDMI cable to project your desktop - more on that later.)2. Both your smart TV and your computer should have Bluetooth enabled.3. Make sure that your smart TV and your computer both support Miracast. You can check this using the Connect app, which can be found under the Start menu on your Windows 10 computer.4. Update your TV's and computer's drivers to make sure they are the most recent version.5. Make sure your TV isn't an Apple TV - the method to cast on an Apple TV is different from that of other smart TVs, and this guide won't be completely applicable to an Apple TV.Once you've met all of these prerequisites, you can start casting. How to cast a Windows 10 desktop to a smart TV1. Depending on the type of TV remote you have, press the "Home" or "Input" button.2. Using the remote, select "Screen mirroring" or "Project" depending on which kind of casting you wish to do. You may need to select "Apps" first, depending on your TV model.3. On your computer, go to the settings menu, and select "Devices." Select "Devices" from your Windows Settings menu. Chrissy Montelli/Business Insider 4. Underneath "Bluetooth & other devices," click on "Add Bluetooth or other device." Click to "Add Bluetooth or other device." Chrissy Montelli/Business Insider 4. Click "Wireless display or dock." Select "Wireless display or dock." Chrissy Montelli/Business Insider 5. In the menu that appears, click on your smart TV to begin casting. Another method to cast to a smart TV1. On your computer, make sure both "Network discovery" and "File and printer sharing" are enabled. Make sure "Network discovery" and "File and printer sharing" are turned on. Chrissy Montelli/Business Insider 2. Right-click on the media you wish to cast, such as a video file.3. Click on "Cast to Device" and then click on the device you wish to cast to. Keep in mind that this method doesn't work with every smart TV, though. Click "Cast to Device" and choose your device from the pop-up menu. Chrissy Montelli/Business Insider Other ways to cast your desktop to your TVIf all else fails, you can still cast your Windows desktop to your TV using an HDMI cable, a third-party Miracast adapter, or a Google Chromecast device. The HDMI cable and Chromecast plug-in options also don't require that your television is a smart TV, unlike other methods. Related coverage from Tech Reference: Google Chromecast turns any TV into an internet-connected smart TV. And with it, the TV can also talk to your PC. Some simple apps can cast movies, music, and photos from your hard drive to the TV, bypassing the internet. Note: The Chromecast requires an active internet connection to run. While these programs use your local Wi-Fi network, the Chromecast itself won't work if you don't have internet. What You Will Need Google Chromecast: The original Chromecast, Chromecast 2.0, and Chromecast Ultra with a normal setup will all work with this guide. Windows computer: The guide works with both desktops and laptops, or any other type of Windows-running PC. Active Wi-Fi connection: Make sure both the Chromecast and the PC are connected to the same home network, and that neither is running a VPN. Google Chrome: While it's not needed for everything, get Google Chrome for Windows. How to Stream Movies From Windows to Chromecast These are the best Windows video players for Chromecast: Airflow Soda Player VideoStream for Chromecast Several Windows programs claim to let you cast movies stored on your hard drive. Only these few do it well. And while you can stream videos from VLC to Chromecast, it's not something I recommend yet. Airflow Smoothest playback Hardware-accelerated transcoding Supports 4K video Automatic subtitles from OpenSubtitles 5.1 channel surround sound The best Windows software to cast videos is, unfortunately, a paid program. But Airflow is worth every penny. What makes it superior to the free apps? Try the free trial and you'll find out. The performance is the main aspect, as Airflow supports hardware-accelerated transcoding. It also has 5.1 channel audio support for surround sound. Airflow includes intricate control over subtitles and remembers playlists and last positions too. And it doesn't hurt that Airflow is a gorgeous app. It's the only one from the entire list that I would give the "it just works" tag too. If you have a Chromecast Ultra for 4K videos, you can see the performance difference on unsupported native Chromecast file formats like MKV. In fact, on Intel Skylake or later processors, Airflow has faster hardware transcoding. The free trial is a good way to figure out if you want to pay for this. With it, you can watch up to 20 minutes of video at a time. Once you've realized this is the best, pay the \$19 and use it. Download: Airflow for Windows 32-bit | Windows 64-bit (\$18.99) Soda Player Hardware-accelerated transcoding Supports 4K video Automatic subtitles from OpenSubtitles 5.1 and 7.1 channel surround sound No playlists No thumbnails while scrubbing If you don't want to pay for a program, get Soda Player. For anyone who wants to quickly play any video on Chromecast, it works flawlessly. Open the file in Soda Player, click the Chromecast icon, and it starts. Soda Player has several of the features I like about Airflow. This includes hardware-accelerated transcoding for any file format, automatic subtitles, multiple audio tracks, and so on. But it lacks two major features: Scrubbing has no thumbnail previews. So when you are fast-forwarding or rewinding to a different point, you have no idea where you'll end up! And Soda Player doesn't let you make playlists, for some reason. How weird is that? So if you downloaded a great TV series, there is no binge-watching experience for you. You'll have to open a new video every single time the previous one ends. What is this. 2013? Download: Soda Player (Free) VideoStream for Chromecast Free remote control app on Android and iOS No playlists or "autoplay next video" in free version VideoStream has been the longest-running app to successfully and easily cast videos. It's still pretty good, and the only one with a free remote control for mobiles. The app can even sync with a folder of videos on your PC, controlling everything from the phone. That said, Google Assistant acts as a remote already for basic playback: play/pause, rewind, and fast forward. VideoStream started off as a Chrome app, but Google is now killing those for Windows. So you'll need to download the native program. While it works as advertised, it's good for a single video you want to watch. Many important features are in the paid version, including playlists, extra subtitle settings, night mode, and auto-playing the next video. VideoStream premium costs \$1.49 a month, \$14.99 a year, or \$34.99 for a lifetime license. Download: VideoStream (Free, Premium optional) Download: VideoStream Remote Control for Android | iOS (Free) Don't Use VLC 3.0 Ye! Best all-around media player for Windows Only player to also support music casting Jittery playback Still has lots of bugs Might lack video transcoding on-the-fly It has been a long time coming, but the best video player on Windows finally has Chromecast support. It's not perfect though. In fact, it's far from it. I actually couldn't get VLC to play any video that isn't in Chromecast's native support. Remember, even if the file format is MP4, that doesn't mean the video codec is supported. MKV videos had a similar problem. Could it be a lack of transcoding support? And it's not just me, PC World had the same issue. As for the videos that did play, it was still an unpleasant experience. The playback was jittery often, and it lost audio sync on an AVI file with 5-channel audio. If the file format and codecs are the right ones, then you can still use VLC. First, start your video in the program. Then click Menu > Playback > Renderer and choose your Chromecast device. Hopefully, VLC fixes all these issues soon. But for now, forget about it. Download: VLC (Free) How to Stream Music From Windows to Chromecast While a Chromecast is best for videos, you can also cast music or podcasts to it. And then there's the Chromecast audio for speakers as well. No matter which device you use, these are the programs you should use. VLC 3.0 Supports all audio file formats, including FLAC Audio normalization Limited features as a music player It might be riddled with problems for video, but VLC 3.0 works perfectly as an audio player for Chromecast. You'll want to download and set up the media library plugin. The program is decent enough to make playlists as well. That's about all you will get to do with VLC. And if you have the ID3 tags for it, you get the album art bobbing around on the TV too. Apart from that, VLC has a few hidden tricks up its sleeve, including scrobbling tracks to Last.FM. You'll probably want to normalize the audio as well. You've experienced the discomfort of changing a channel to come to one that's blaring away; why do that with changing music tracks? Download: VLC (Free) Chromecast Audio Stream VLC isn't a great music player, even though it gets the job done. If you want to use one of the best music players for Windows, get Chromecast Audio Stream. It sends the audio from your PC to the Chromecast. It's like using Bluetooth speakers, but over Wi-Fi instead. Here's what you need to do: Download Chromecast Audio Stream. Extract the ZIP file into a folder. Double-click the audio-cast.exe file to run it. You will now see the Chromecast Audio Stream icon in the system tray. Click the icon in the system tray, and choose the Chromecast. Now, any audio from your PC will be played through your TV's speakers. Warning: It duplicates the audio, playing it on both the computer and the Chromecast. In fact, the Chromecast has a tiny lag. For best results, I recommend muting the computer. How to Stream Photos From Windows to Chromecast Currently, no native program lets you show off photos from your hard drive on the TV with Chromecast. That's ridiculous, isn't it? Actually, it isn't. Chromecast downscales high-resolution images to 1280x720 pixels, so it's not the best medium for a slideshow. But if you still want to do it, there's one app. PictaCast [No Longer Available] Automatic slideshow Background music with MP3 files from your hard drive Control via mobile phone with Google Home app Right now, PictaCast is the only software to create a slideshow to cast photos. It's a Chrome app, so it might be removed sometime soon. Keep an eye out on the official website above. For now, here's how to make it work: Download the Chrome app. Click Add Folder and navigate to your album of photos. (Optional) Click Add Music and choose MP3 files from your hard drive. Go to Chrome's Menu > Cast and choose the right Chromecast. Among the many options, you can choose fit-to-screen or full-screen mode, automated photo collages, shuffle, speed of slideshow, and rotate images. The free version of PictaCast restricts users to 30 minutes of usage per day. You'll need to pay \$3 for PictaCast Premium for unlimited usage. Download: Pictacast (Free for 30 min/day, Premium) Best All-In-One App: Plex Supports all video formats Supports all audio formats Free remote control apps for smartphones Rich media library If you want an all-in-one media player instead of different programs for video, audio, and image files, then there's one obvious option: Plex. Download: Plex Media Server (Free) The installation takes some time, but it's worth it. Just follow our guide to set up a Plex media server. Then tap that Chromecast icon whenever you want to stream anything. For another option, we've also shown how to stream Kodi on your Chromecast. 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