What is streaming?

Streaming is the display of a form of multimedia – text, images, audio, video or animation – to a viewer via the internet. The process is different to downloading and podcasts in that what is being streamed can be watched or listened to as it arrives on a computer or other device and is not saved there. Watching television or listening to a radio programme on the internet are common examples of 'streamed media'.

'Live streaming' means broadcasting the media in real time over the internet. Live streaming would, for example, enable a person who wasn't able to attend a friend's wedding in Australia to watch it live on their computer screen. These days everything from fashion shows to political events are streamed.

Next steps

What is downloading?
What is YouTube?
How to create a playlist in YouTube
What is Spotify?

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