

Kickstarting the Music-Streaming Router

Written by Marco Attard
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Crowd-sourced wifi network operator Fon what it describes as an the modern jukebox-- the Gramofon, a device bringing together wifi connectivity, smartphones and online music streaming services.



Essentially the Gramofon is a small router with built-in online music service support. It connects to audio systems via 3.5mm jack (it carries no speaker) and to home networks via either wifi or ethernet, and uses wifi to pair with mobile devices.

Once initial setup is complete, users log into the Gramofon's own wifi network (not Bluetooth) via Facebook account to act as streaming service playlist DJ. In addition connected devices get regular internet access.

Inside the box is the technology powering Fon wifi routers and a Qualcomm Atheros AR9341 chipset.

On launch the Fon only streams music from Spotify and WahWah online radio, although an open API should allow for future compatibility with just about every service under the sun.

Fon is currently taking preorders on Kickstarter (where else?), and hopes to start shipping Gramofon units from July 2014 once the fundraising campaign is complete.

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