

Plex - Getting Started

How to access

This assumes you've created a Plex.tv account, been invited to my personal Plex server and accepted the invite to it.

Make sure to log in to app.plex.tv with the same email/account as the one you received the invite on. Once logged in, you should automatically have access to my Plex servers. The primary server should be called `Cactflix [Main]`.

Costs

My Plex server isn't free for me to host. I also spend time making sure it's running optimally and that media is kept up-to-date.

- [PayPal](#)
- Revolut: `@decicus`
- [Ko-fi](#)
- [Liberapay](#) - For recurring payments
- [Twitch](#) - In case you wanna use your Twitch Prime subscription :)
- Vipps (Norwegian payment app): `47634677`

Cryptocurrencies:

- Bitcoin: `1PPYK5bJ9TZVfxYBmAPF4Xcb6rHF2sEzzK`
- Dogecoin: `DECicUS4MANNEnWNdjLvxf3who5DmohG5`
- Ethereum: `0xE66Ff6B10FC7a77a8e7c4dfEd5Ad122c47D6a777`

Transparency

When using my Plex server I will be able to see the following information about you:

- What media you're streaming from my server, including full playback history of the media you have previously streamed from my server.
- The web browser or device (TV, phone, game console etc.) you are using.
- Your IP address.
- Timestamp of where you are in media (movies / TV shows) you're currently watching.

Only time I check this information is when I'm going through shows and movies to delete, so that I don't accidentally delete something someone is in the middle of watching.

Location & Performance

The Plex server is located in Germany. Depending on your own location, the server may not perform optimal due to how the internet works.

I also expect you have a decent enough internet connection to handle the streaming. You can turn down the quality if you have issues with buffering.

The server runs on an i5-12500 using the integrated graphics for transcoding (Intel QuickSync). There's mostly 1080p content on there, with little-to-none 4K content. This is mainly for storage and bandwidth reasons.

Whenever possible, I highly recommend using [one of the official Plex client apps](#) as it supports "direct streaming" (which helps with performance, speed and quality).

Mobile

Mobile streaming & sync with Plex (at least on Android / iOS) has an additional cost to the *company behind the Plex software*.

“ **Quote from Plex:**

Until the mobile app is unlocked (through an in-app purchase or a Plex Pass subscription), video and music streamed from a Plex Media Server has a 1 minute limit, and photos will be watermarked.

The in-app purchase is *one-time* cost of 5 USD, which you have to pay through the Android / iOS app. Plex has guides on how to do this for both Android and iOS:

- [Unlocking or Activating Plex for Android](#)
- [Unlocking or Activating Plex for iOS](#)

Alternatively, you pay 5 USD per month for [Plex Pass](#), but that's unnecessary if you only need access on mobile.

If you only plan to watch Plex via the [browser](#), [desktop app](#) or a TV, then there should be no additional cost.

If you want to read more about this particular topic, I suggest you read this support article: [Plex Support | Plex: Free vs. Paid](#)

Suggestions / Requests

If you want to request something (TV show / movie):

1. Go to overseerr.decicus.com
2. Log in with your Plex account
3. Request gets added to the queue and will be manually processed when I have time, if it's daytime EU, usually within a few hours.

For any other questions / inquiries:

- Email: alex@thomassen.xyz
- Discord: @Decicus

No guarantees that I can get what you want, but I'll try (as long as it's a reasonable request). :)

Tips when getting started with Plex

For all of these tips, make sure you have already logged in on app.plex.tv.

Disabling junk

I recommend disabling all the extra "Online media sources", since I just find them cluttering the Plex interface:

<https://app.plex.tv/desktop#!/settings/online-media-sources>



Default quality

For *every device* you log into (your phone, different web browsers, the official Plex client etc.) you should set the default quality to "Maximum" as long as your connection to the Plex server is good enough.

For some reason Plex has decided that the default quality is 720p @ 2 mbps (in other words, not as good as it can be) and that this setting doesn't sync between devices.

Web browser / Desktop app

This setting is available on this page: <https://app.plex.tv/desktop/#!/settings/web/quality>

how-to setup plex

you **must do this** every time you login to a **new app** or **browser** for the **first time**

visit **app.plex.tv** or open the **plex desktop app**

A

1. go to **Settings**

2. go to **Quality settings**

Plex Web — General

Version 4.55.0

Language **English**

Help us translate this app into your language [here](#).

Automatically Sign In

Account

Online Media Sources

Authorized Devices

Webhooks

Users & Sharing

PLEX WEB

• General

Quality

Player

SHOW ADVANCED

B

3. uncheck **Automatically adjust quality**

4. set Internet Streaming **Video quality** to **Maximum**

Plex Web — Quality

Automatically adjust quality (Beta)

Quality will increase or decrease based on connection speed. Requires latest Plex Media Server.

Internet Streaming

Video quality **Maximum**

Set the default video quality for streaming over the internet. If quality is set too high, videos will start slowly and pause frequently.

Play smaller videos

When a video is played at a quality above, try playing the original video without converting. This preserves full quality, but playback may be slower. "Automatically adjust quality" will be disabled for these videos.

Account

Online Media Sources

Authorized Devices

Webhooks

Users & Sharing

PLEX WEB

General

• **Quality**

Player

Sync

SHOW ADVANCED

- ✓ Maximum
- 20 Mbps, 1080p
- 12 Mbps, 1080p
- 10 Mbps, 1080p
- 8 Mbps, 1080p
- 4 Mbps, 720p
- 3 Mbps, 720p
- 2 Mbps, 720p
- 1.5 Mbps, 480p
- 0.7 Mbps
- 0.3 Mbps
- 0.2 Mbps

congratulations you're **ready** to **watch!**

Amazon Fire / Android TV, Consoles, Roku

how-to setup plex

you **must do this** every time you login to a **new app** for the **first time**

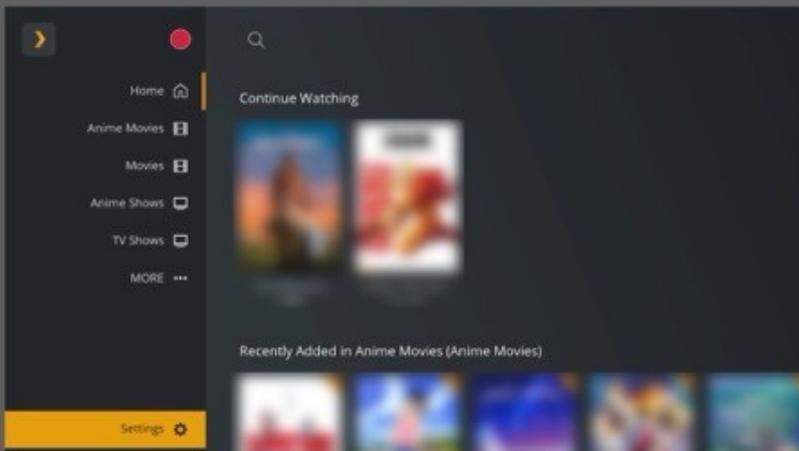


remote legend

-  **directional controls**
(up, down, left, right)
-  **confirm button**
(aka: select button, OK button, Cross, X button, A button)
-  **back button**
(aka: ↵, Circle, O button, B button)

open the **Amazon Fire TV, Android TV, PlayStation 4/5, Roku, Smart TV (LG, Samsung, VIZIO), Xbox** **plex app**

A. Home



1. press **left** to reveal **Side Bar**
2. press **down repeatedly** to hover over **Settings**
3. press **confirm button** to enter Settings Page



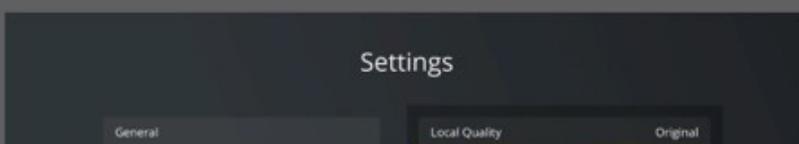
B. Settings



4. press **down 3 times** to hover over **Video**
5. press **confirm button** to enter Video Settings



C. Video



6. press **down once** to hover over **Remote Quality**

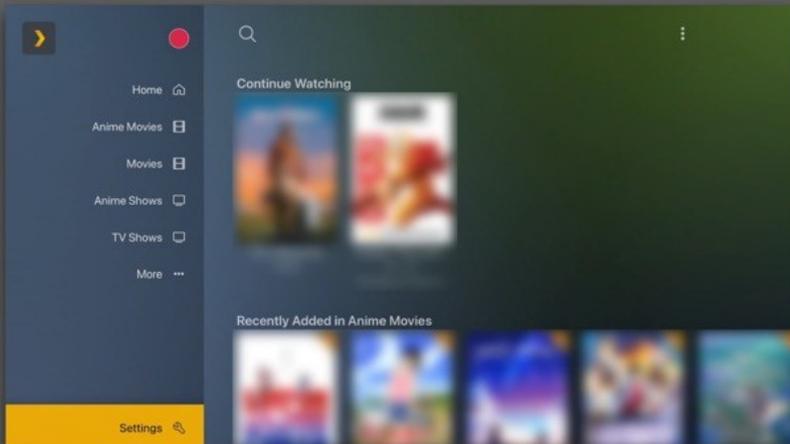
Apple TV / tvOS

how-to setup plex

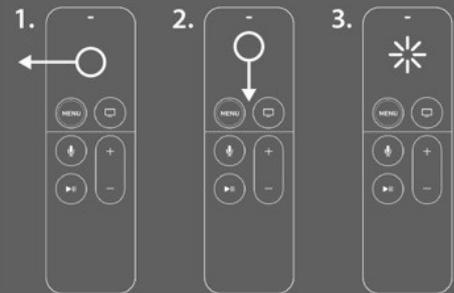
you **must do this** every time you login to a **new app** for the **first time**

open the tvOS **plex app**

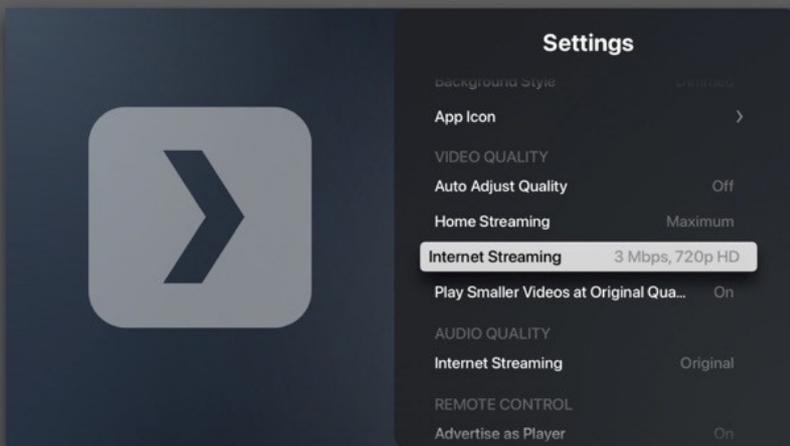
A. Home



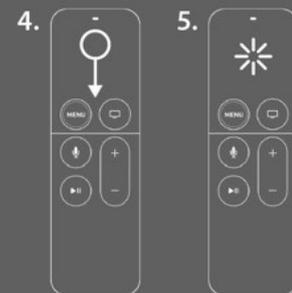
1. swipe **left** to access **Side Bar**
2. scroll **down** to **Settings**
3. **press** to open **Settings**



B. Settings



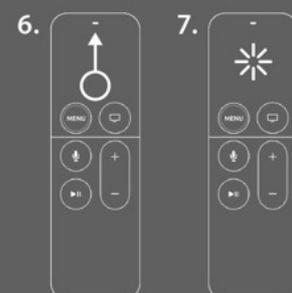
4. scroll **down** to Video Quality > **Internet Streaming**
5. **press** to open **Internet Streaming**



C. Internet Streaming



6. scroll **up** to **Maximum**
7. **press** to select **Maximum**



D. go back Home



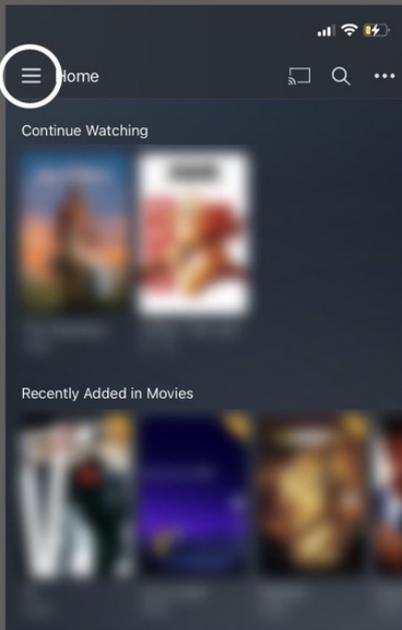
8. **press MENU** button 2 times

Android & iOS (iPhone / iPad)

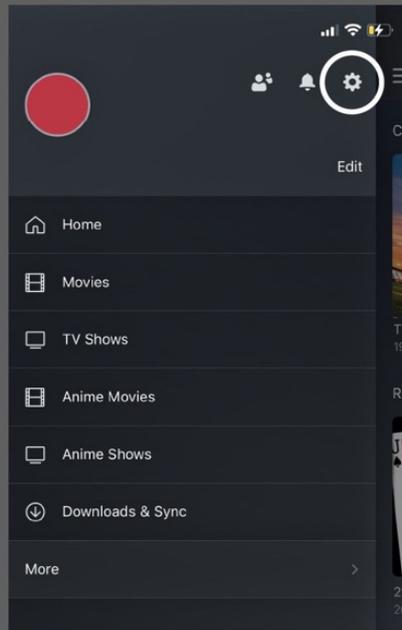
how-to setup plex

you **must do this** every time you login to a **new app** for the **first time**
open the iOS/Android **plex app**

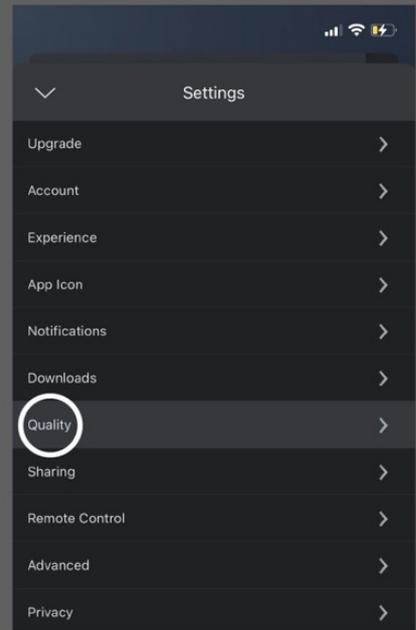
1. tap 3 lines menu



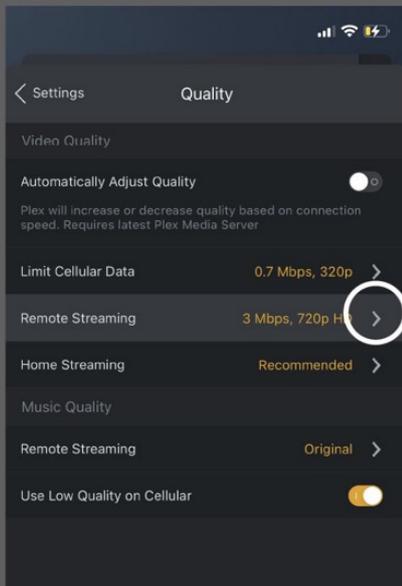
2. tap the Gear (Settings)



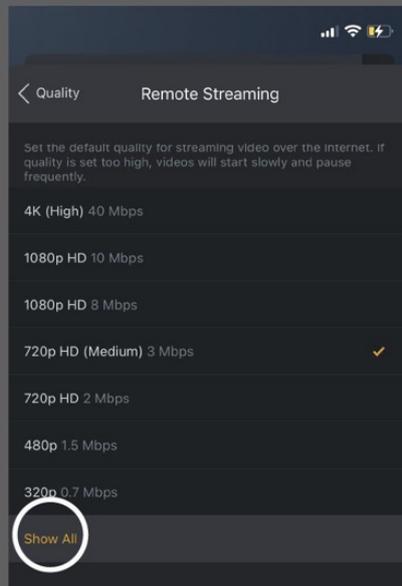
3. tap Quality



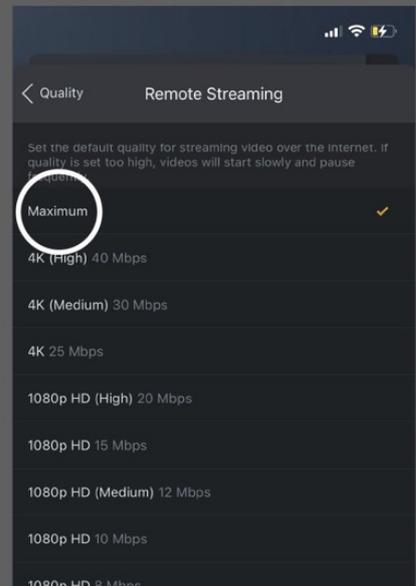
4. tap Remote Streaming



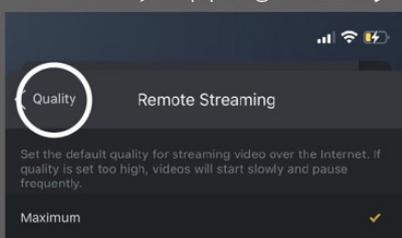
5. tap Show All



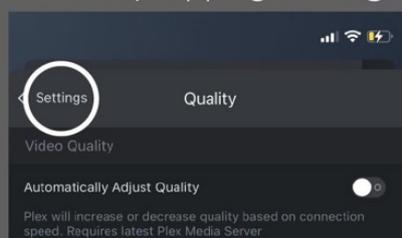
6. tap Maximum



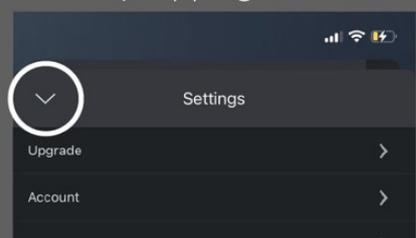
7. exit by tapping Quality



8. exit by tapping Settings



9. exit by tapping this button



congratulations you're ready to watch!

Revision #45

Created 30 April 2019 14:34:50 by Alex Thomassen

Updated 23 December 2024 21:43:34 by Alex Thomassen