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Sony to launch "PlayTV" for PlayStation 3 - TV tuner and recorder

PS3 becomes PVR via add-on

by Amy-Mae Elliott published on 22 August 2007

We'd previously reported this as a rumour story, but it has now been confirmed that Sony is to launch a product that will turn the PlayStation 3 into a fully-fledged digital (or personal) video recorder.

The functionality will come thanks to an add-on, rather than a redesigned console, it will be called "PlayTV" and will launch early next year in Europe.

The PlayTV gadget will boast dual TV tuners, so all current Freeview channels will be available, and offer a 7-day EPG.

Programmes will be recorded to on the PS3's hard drive to be watched back when suits you but could also be watched on your PSP.

PSP connectivity will let owners set recordings, watch live TV and recorded TV programmes remotely on the PSP via a Wi-Fi connection - or you could transfer video files to your PSP via a USB cable.

Buying the PlayTV will be a one-off purchase cost, with no monthly subscription fees - the price for the device has yet to be confirmed.

Taken from the official Sony information, here is the feature list for the new device.

-Two High Definition-ready TV tuners: both able to view, record and play TV in High Definition as well as standard definition.

-Electronic Programme Guide: an incredibly user-friendly, seven-day interface, that provides the navigation for programming the PVR features of PlayTV - it's fast and simple to use with either PS3's SIXAXIS controller or the Blu-ray Remote



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Control.

-Compatibility: PlayTV operates on the widely available Digital Video Broadcasting - Terrestrial (DVB-T) format.

-Easy to use: Intuitive controls, single button help features, tutorial videos and simple navigation make PlayTV a joy to use compared with the complex navigation of other PVR models.

-Optional on-screen graphical display provides a wealth of information about the status of PlayTV and provides quick access to programme information, stored TV programmes and the controls to pause or record live TV.

-PlayTV will also set the correct interface for either Standard Definition or High Definition displays automatically for a hassle-free viewing experience.

-Portable viewing with PSP: Seamless PSP connectivity allows you to set recordings, watch Live TV and recorded TV programmes remotely on the PSP via a wi-fi connection (using Remote Play feature) - or you can transfer video files to your PSP via USB cable.

It's future-proof: PlayTV will evolve with time - with new features added and updated via the PLAYSTATION Network.