What is MythTV?

- Myth is a free, open source DVR
- Myth is a DVD Jukebox
- Myth is an mp3 player
- Myth is a photo slideshow
- Myth burns and rips DVDs
- Myth plays games
- Myth streams internet radio and video
- Myth forecasts the weather

Myth is the mythological home convergence device

What do I need to run Myth?

Myth is divided into two main components, the frontend and the backend.

The frontend is the display and needs to have enough power to watch video at a minimum.

The backend does all of the heavy lifting, has the TV Tuner cards, Storage, etc.

an excellent hardware database exists at http://pvrhw.goldfish.org/

Standard Definition Frontend Requirements

- 733 Mhz PIII or comparable CPU
- 128 - 256 M of RAM
- Either a small boot drive or netboot
- 100 Meg ethernet or 802.11g
- Supported video card (Nvidia is my preference)
- Supported sound card

High Definition Frontend Requirements

- 3.0ghz CPU
- 512 M of RAM
- Either a small boot drive or netboot
- 10/100 ethernet
- Supported, high end video card (GeForce 6800 +)
- Supported sound card

Backend Requirements

- A supported TV Tuner card.
  V4L compatible or Hauppauge PVR line
- Disk space.
  1.5GB per hour for SD
  9GB per hour for HD
  256M of RAM per tuner +512 Base
- Network Connection
  10/100 or 802.11g for SD
  10/100 for HD

Backend Requirements Continued

CPU
•Dependent on the type and number of capture cards.
•PVR cards do hardware capture and require very little CPU
    450Mhz per SD tuner
•V4L software cards (bttv, etc) do capture in software and require much more CPU
    1 Ghz per tuner
•HD cards need more CPU and fast drives.

Picking a Tuner

- The Hauppauge PVR series are the preferred cards
- Any V4L supported card will work except for the ATI All-In-Wonder cards (not fully V4L)
- Hauppauge HVR cards are supported for hidef on newer kernels, but driver support is very buggy at this time (Fast moving target)
- HDHomeRun looks like an interesting HD option and is supported.

Note that hauppauge provided the card for this giveaway. I have had great luck with them, but keep that in mind as full disclosure.

Combined system Requirements

- 1 gig of RAM
- 250G Harddrive
- Nvidia Geforce 6600+ Video card
- Alsa supported Sound card
- SD
  - 1.5 ghz CPU
  - PVR 150 MCE
- HD
  - 3.0 ghz CPU
  - HVR 1800

•Remote Controls

•Myth is entirely controlled by the remote control for most functions.
•Myth is 100% LIRC compatible
•Myth supports IR Blasters for controlling cable boxes
•Myth also supports firewire for controlling some cable boxes with varying degrees of success.
•Most Microsoft MCE remotes are supported and all Hauppauge PVR remotes.

•Getting the software

Lots of options exist for getting Myth installed.

•Live CDs are the best way to play around
•MythBuntu, MythDora, Knoppmyth, Xebian Myth, iMedia, etc all exist pre-canned.
•After lots of trials, I have been most pleased with MythBuntu 8.0.4 .
  •Supports live CD
  •Supports netbooting of frontends
  •Excellent control center
  •Just Works

MythBuntu install notes

- We are doing a combined frontend/backend system.
- We are not configuring frontends for netboot, but we are making additional frontends an option
- The install WIPES YOUR SYSTEM CLEAN
- use caution or use the tapes
- The CD can be used as a live CD or will run well in KVM.

Install tips

- You will need to be hooked up to a keyboard, mouse and internet connection for the install
- Use the advanced install option

Questions about hardware/capabilities etc?

Configuring Myth

- Adding a Tuner card
- Getting Guide data
- Setting inputs
- Configuring a remote control
- Various plugins

Adding a tuner card

- Run mythtv-setup
- Go to General, select New Capture Card
- Choose your card type
  - PVR series will be MPEG2-Encoder
  - HVR will be DVB-DTV
  - Default Input will be the...default input.

Getting Guide Data

- Select Video Sources
- Select new video source
- Go to www.schedulesdirect.org and register for an account ($20.00 a year, 7 day free trial)
- Enter your username and password into myth and click Retrieve Listings

Setting Inputs

- Select Input Connections
- Choose an input and select a scheduler to use with it
- Schedules Direct supports HD

Configuring a remote

- Open MythBuntu Control Center
- Select Infrared Devices
- Select your Remote of choice and IR Blaster if you need to control a cable box

Various Plugins

Enabled via Myth Control Center

•Myth Archive   Burn DVDs
•Myth Browser   Surf the web
•Myth Control   Telnet control
•Myth Flix   Netflix queue
•Myth Game   Emulator Frontend
•Myth Gallery   Photo show
•Myth Movies   Movie Times
•Myth Music   Listen to MP3s
•Myth News   View RSS
•Myth Phone   SIP video phone
•Myth Stream   Stream internet content
•Myth Video   Watch Movies, avi, etc
•Myth Weather   Get the weather
•Myth Web   Control and stream Myth via browser

Scheduling a recording

- Schedule Recordings
- Program Guide
- Select a recording and choose how/when to record it
- Choose "Any Time on Any Channel" to catch up with a series
- Choose This time on This channel to get the most recent in a series

•What's Next?

- Mess with the plugins
- Additional frontends
- Burn TV to DVDs
- DVD jukebox
- Listen to shoutcast radio
- Edit Recordings
- Transcode to iPod
- Have Fun!