

AIRPLAY

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Overview

What is AirPlay?

This manual describes how to use AirPlay on a Mac or iPad to mirror your screen to an Apple TV or IWB running AirServer.

Overview

AirPlay allows a Mac or iPad user to project or mirror their screen to any projector, TV, or other display that is connected to any Apple TV or Mac Mini running AirServer. Think of it as connecting to a projector without all of the cables or hassles. The [Apple website](#) has some information describing AirPlay in general, but this article shows specifically how to use AirPlay at the College.

Firstly, there are a few prerequisites for using AirPlay to project to the IWBs and TVs at the College that need to be met, including:

1. **You are using an iPad 2 or later or an early-2011 or later Mac laptop.**
2. **Your Mac or iPad is connected to the "Staff WiFi" network.**

The Mac or iPad that is AirPlaying to an Apple TV or IWB must be on the same network (subnet or VLAN), so this means that **students** on the student WiFi networks and **visitors/guests** on the Guest WiFi network **cannot** AirPlay to the TVs or IWBs.

The AirPlay Icon



The icon or graphic used to represent the AirPlay service is nearly identical on the iPad and the MacBook (see above). Whenever you see this icon, it is indicating that AirPlay compatible devices are available to stream video and sound or mirror your entire iPad or Mac screen.

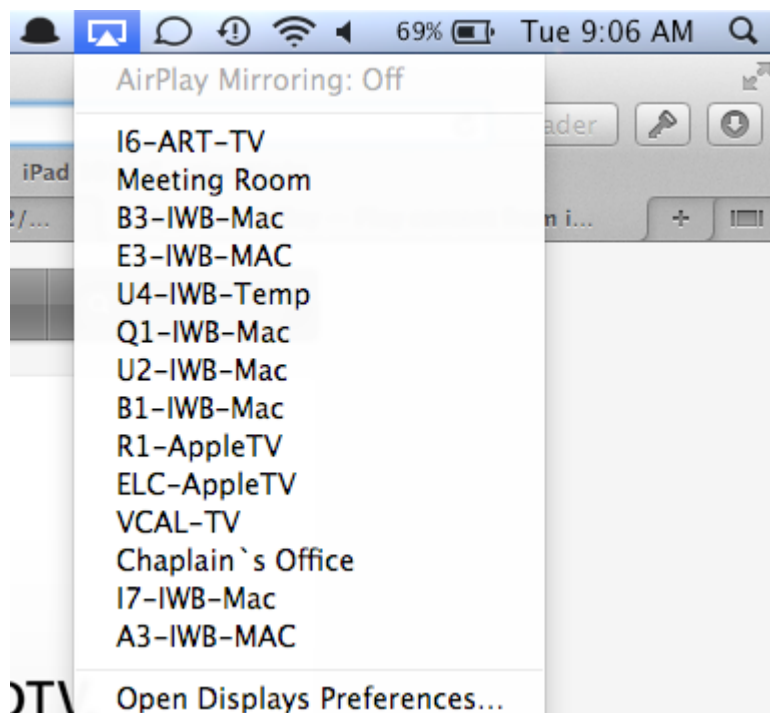
AirPlay on the Mac

AirPlay from a MacBook (Air or Pro)

This lesson describes how to use AirPlay on a MacBook Air or Pro to mirror the screen to an IWB or Apple TV at the College.

*NOTE: AirPlay can be used to display **ALL** of the contents of the screen on the MacBook **EXCEPT** for content from DVDs. This is due to DRM (Digital Rights Management) restrictions placed on Apple by the Movie and Film industries. However, DVDs can be played back over AirPlay by using a 3rd-party DVD player on the Mac such as VLC Media Player (covered in the next lesson).*

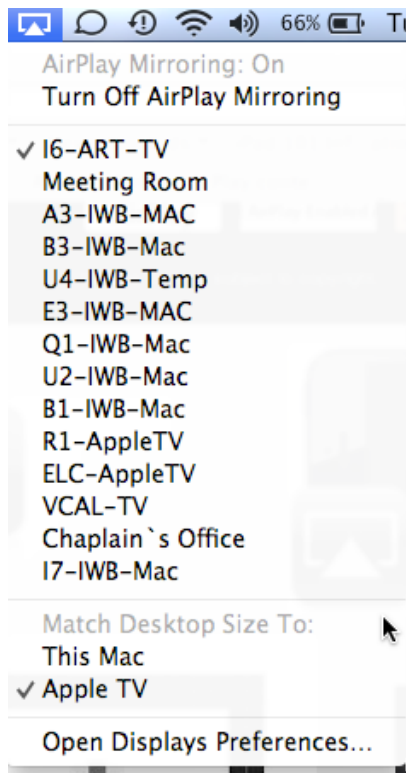
Using AirPlay on a MacBook (Air or Pro)



To use AirPlay on a compatible MacBook Air or Pro (early 2011 model or later), you simply go to the menu bar on the upper right-hand side of the screen and click on the AirPlay icon. This will reveal all of the available devices that you can mirror your laptop screen to. In this case, I can see several AirPlay devices, including Mac Minis on IWBs as well as Apple TVs (Meeting Room, I6-ART-TV, etc.).

At the moment, you can see at the top of the menu that it says "**AirPlay Mirroring: Off**". This means that I have not currently selected any AirPlay devices to mirror to.

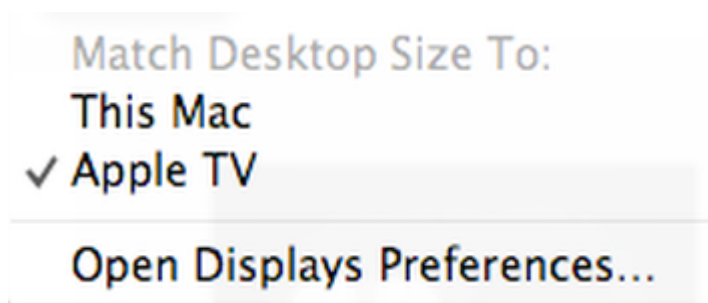
Mirror your MacBook Screen



In the screenshot above, you can see that I have selected an AirPlay device to mirror my laptop to (I6-ART-TV) and that the menu states "**AirPlay Mirroring: On**". My laptop screen has now been mirrored to the Apple TV in the I6 classroom.

Also notice the new menu options that have shown up under the title of "**Match Desktop Size To:**" We will discuss these options next.

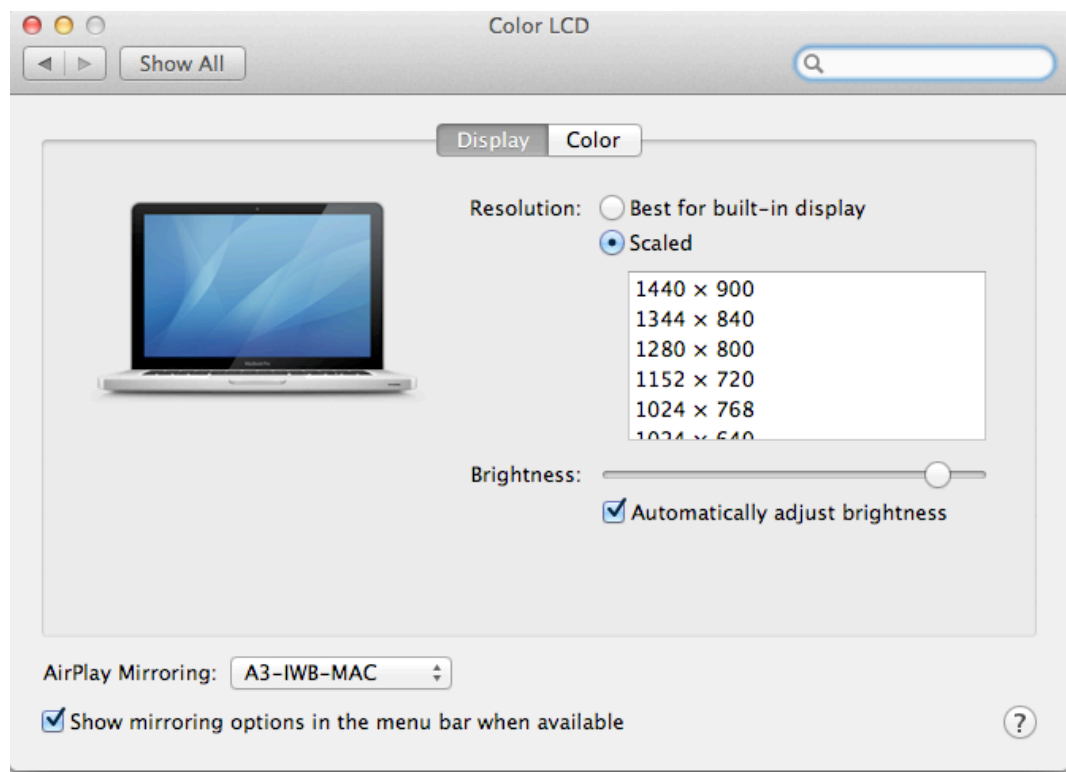
Setting Screen Resolution for AirPlay



When you AirPlay to an Apple TV or IWB from your laptop, you will notice that the screen resolution on your laptop changes to match the AirPlay device. This is the default setting and usually the best option. However, you can also choose "**This Mac**" under the **Match Desktop Size To:** options, which may work better for some applications to maintain their perspective

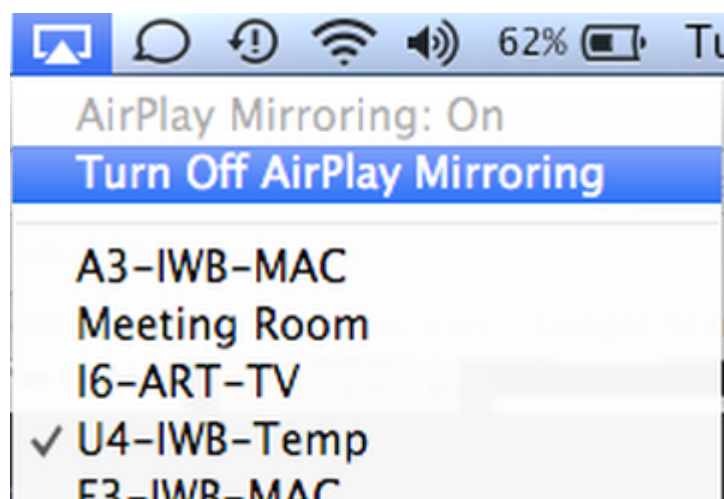
and prevent the image from being stretched or squashed. It is easy to switch between these options, so if you're not sure just try the other one and see how it looks on the screen.

Display Preferences



You will notice in the previous screenshot that there is also an "**Open Displays Preferences...**" menu option. This will take you to the Displays menu in System Preferences where you could customise resolution and mirroring settings further. These options are rarely needed however, so only go there if you really know what you are doing with display resolutions, etc.

Turn off AirPlay Mirroring



So, you've finished with the class or session and want to turn off the AirPlay mirroring. How to do this? It's a simple two-step process:

1. First, go to the AirPlay icon in the menu bar and click on it.
2. Next, click "**Turn Off AirPlay Mirroring**"

You're done.

AirPlay a DVD Video

AirPlay can be used to display any content from your Mac laptop with one exception - video from DVDs. If you attempt to AirPlay a DVD using the built-in DVD player on a Mac you will see a checkerboard effect on the video output and the video will not be displayed on the screen.

This inability to AirPlay DVDs is not a technical limitation of AirPlay, but due to copyright protections (DRM) that the Movie Industry places on Apple disallowing DVDs to be displayed or "streamed" using AirPlay.

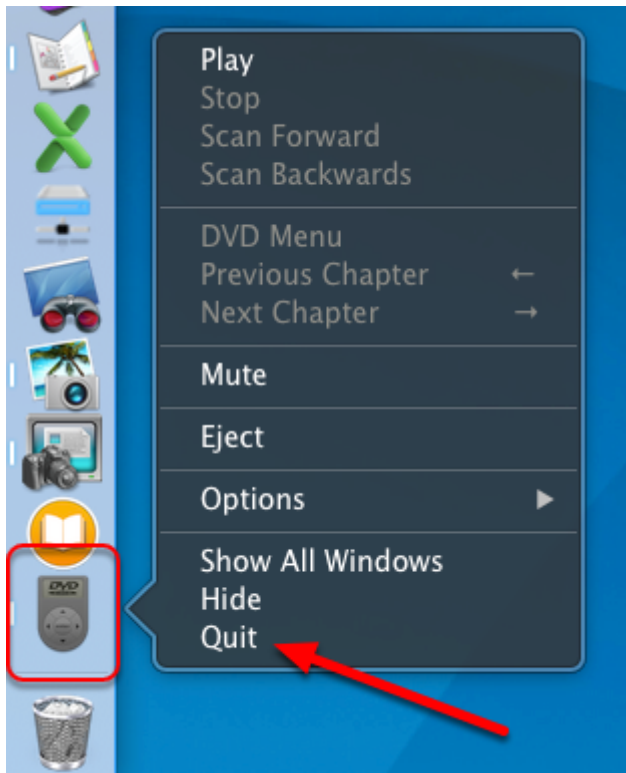
However, there is a workaround available to **show DVDs over AirPlay using the VLC Media Player**, which is installed on all College Macs (staff and student). This lesson will explain how to use VLC to display DVDs using AirPlay from a Mac.

Insert DVD into the Mac



When a DVD has been inserted into a Mac, an image of a DVD with the title will be displayed on the desktop (see above)

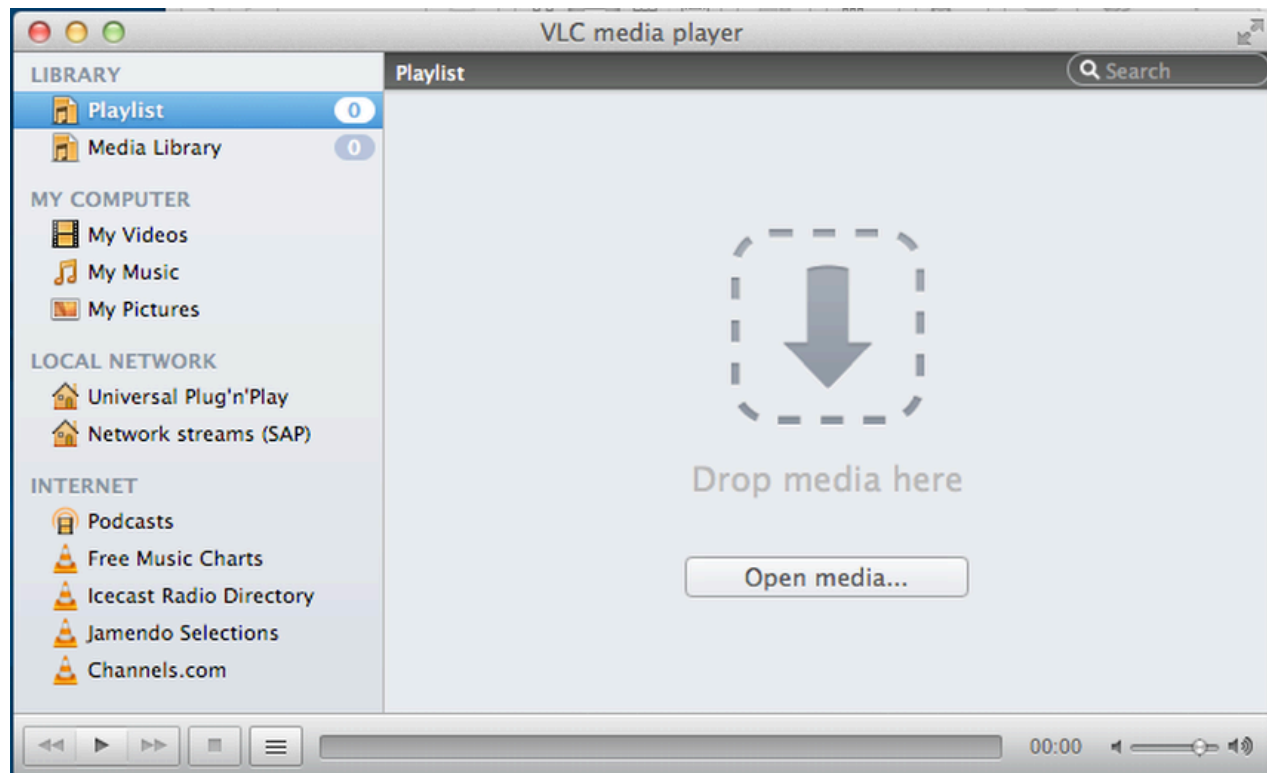
Close the DVD Player



Next, close the DVD player app by right clicking on the icon in the Dock and clicking "**Quit**".

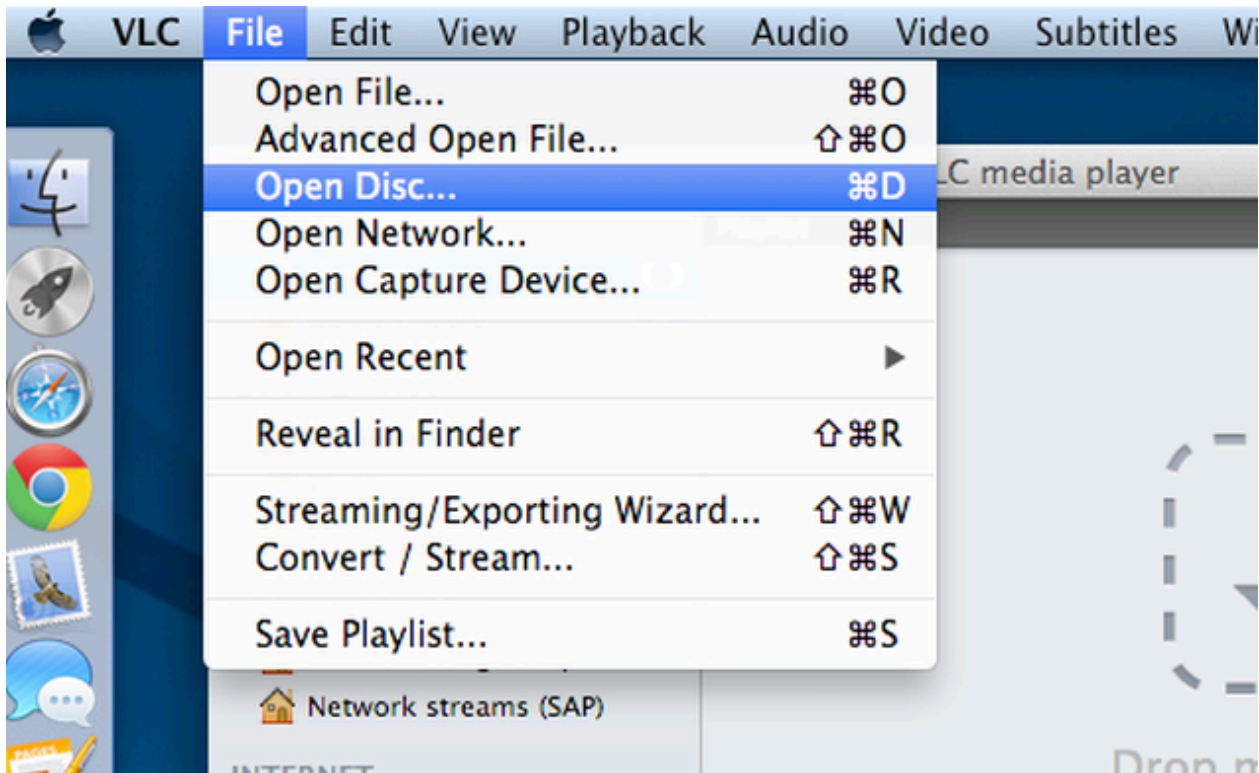
NOTE: If the DVD starts playing automatically using the DVD player, you may need to hit escape (**esc** key) to minimise the DVD playback window before quitting the DVD app.

Playing DVDs using VLC Media Player



To playback a DVD using VLC Player, open the VLC app (above) on the Mac.

Open DVD in VLC



Next, go to the VLC menu in the menu bar at the top of the desktop (see above) and click **File > Open Disk**.

Select DVD



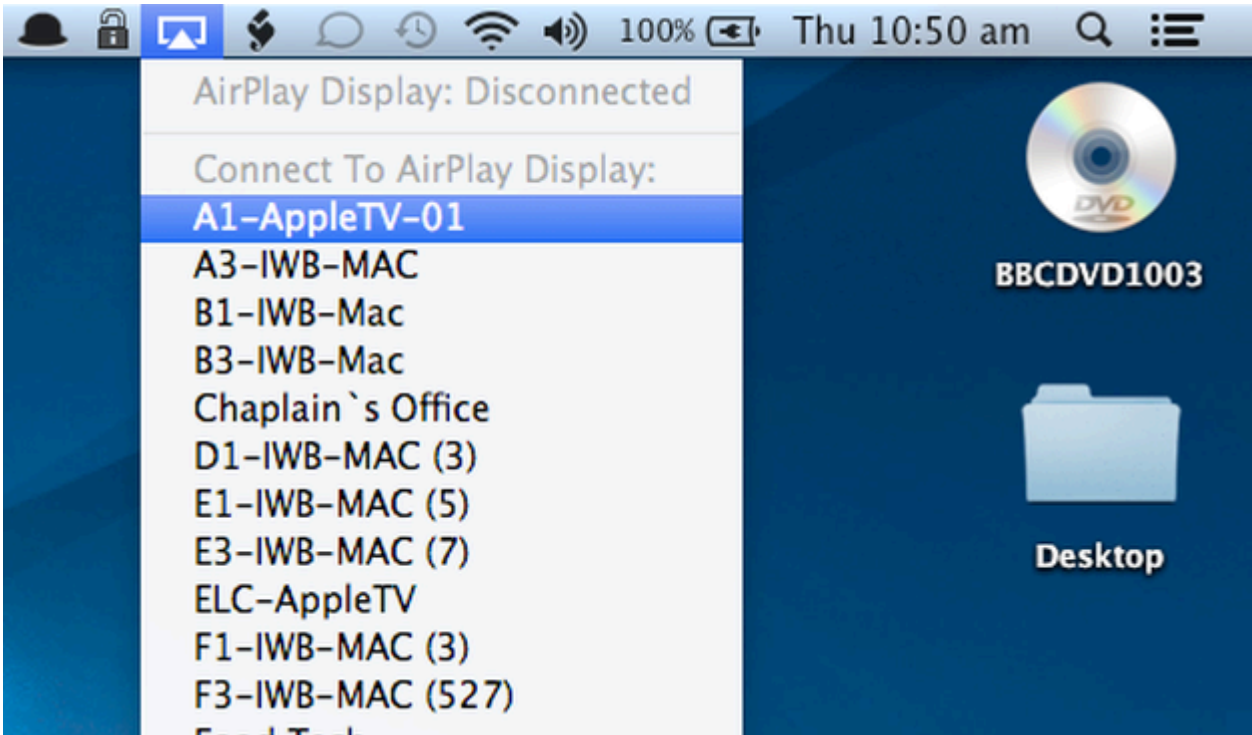
The window shown above will appear next. Click "**Open**" to begin playing the DVD.

VLC DVD Playback Window



Once you've chosen the DVD to be played in VLC, the playback window shown above will appear. Select the item you would like to playback and click play.

AirPlay the DVD

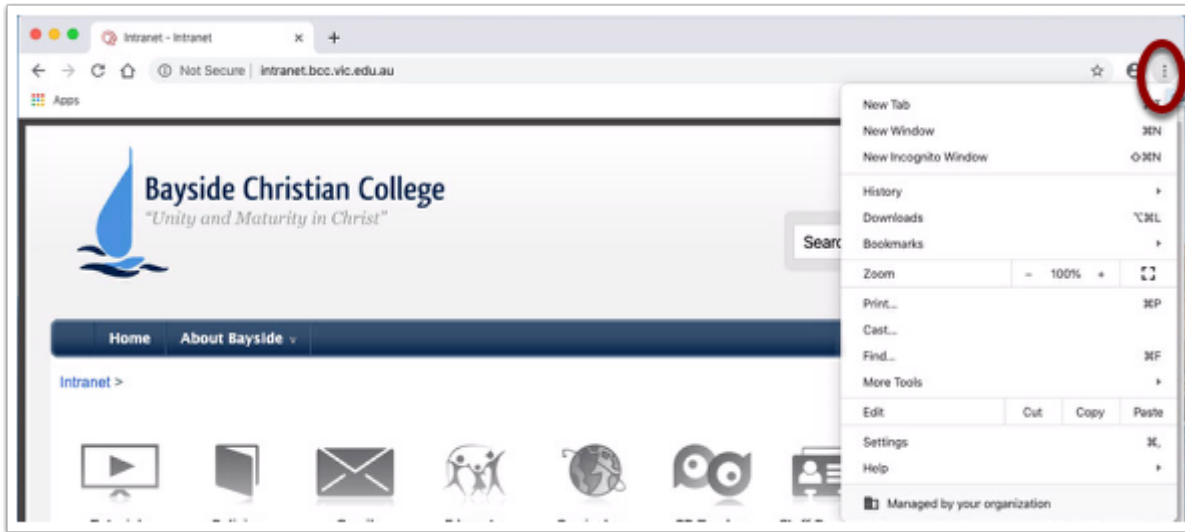


You can now AirPlay the DVD to any AirPlay enabled display in the College.

ChromeCast Settings

Settings to enable Chromecast

With Chrome open click on the triple dots in the top right hand corner.

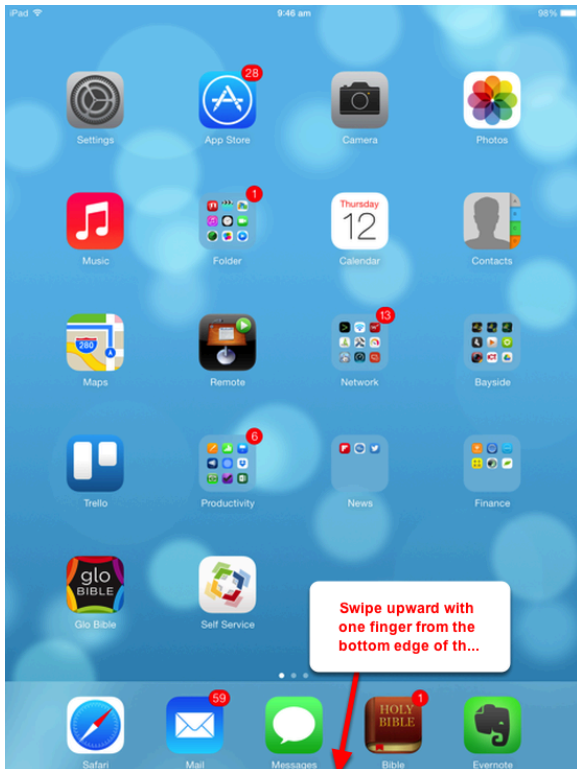


AirPlay on the iPad

AirPlay from the iPad

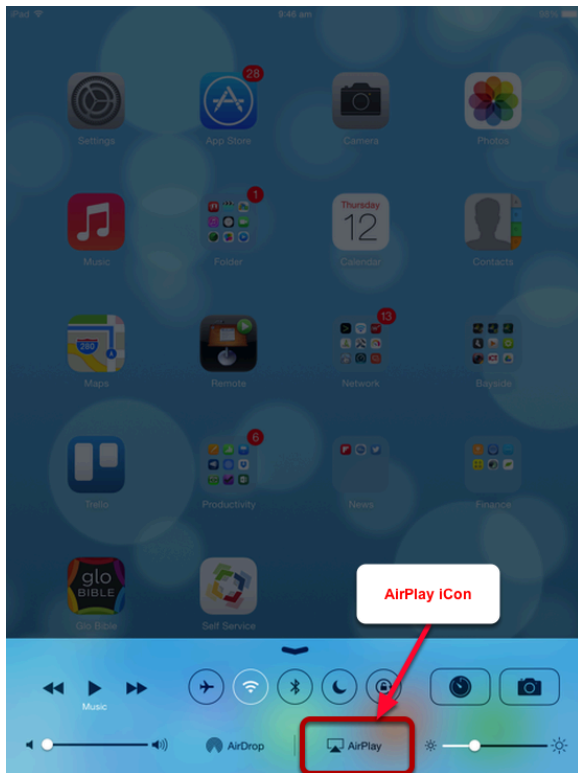
This lesson describes how to use AirPlay on an iPad to mirror the screen to an IWB or Apple TV at the College.

Using AirPlay on an iPad



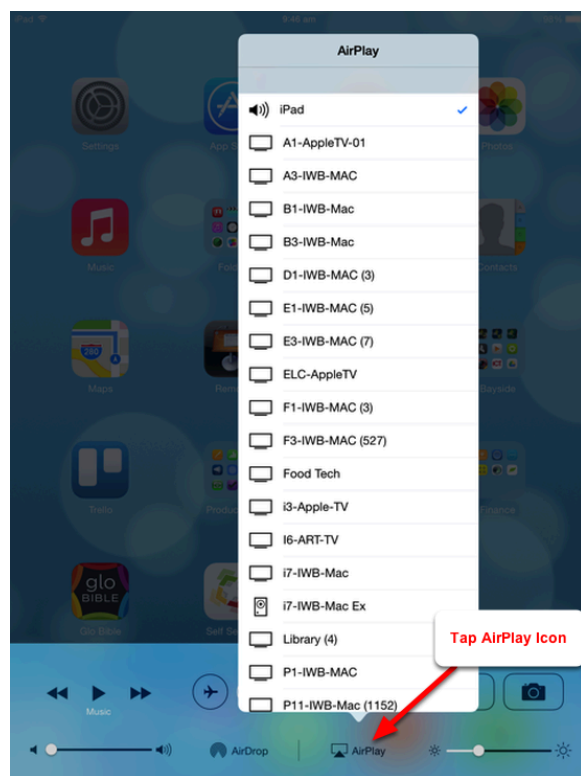
To use AirPlay on an iPad, go to the home screen (shown above) and swipe up from the bottom edge of the screen below the "dock" to bring up the **Control Center** panel.

Control Center



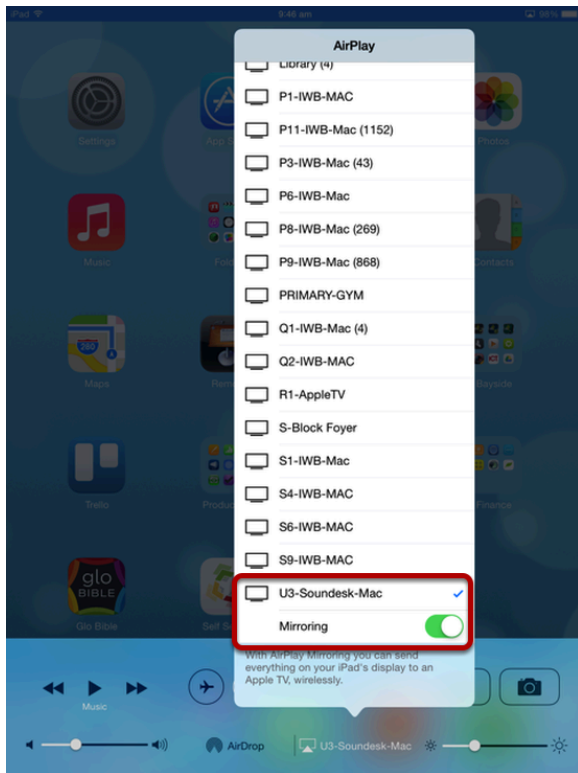
When you have activated the Control Center panel, you will see the screen above. If there are any AirPlay devices available, you will see the AirPlay icon shown above.

AirPlay Menu



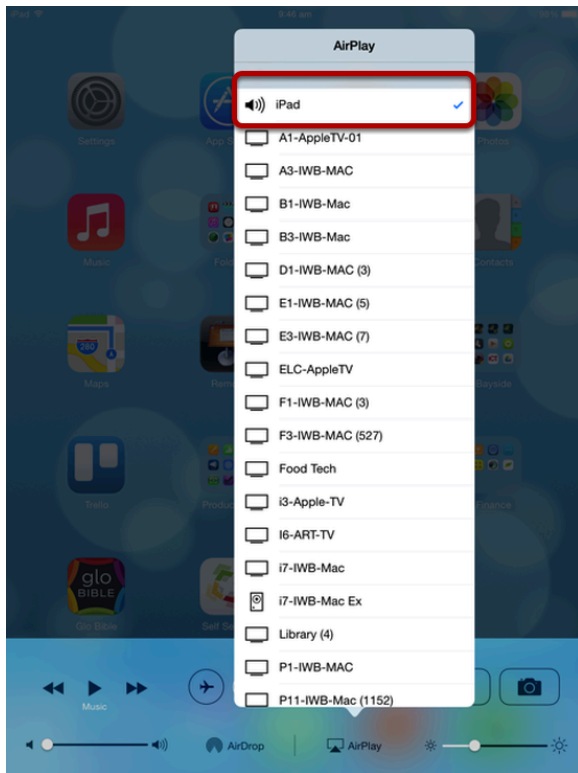
Tapping the AirPlay icon in the Control Center panel on the iPad will reveal all of the AirPlay devices available on the network (see above).

Select an AirPlay Target



Next, select the AirPlay target (device) that you want to mirror your iPad to and slide the **"Mirror"** button to the **On** position (slide to the right). When you are mirroring to an AirPlay device the mirroring button will turn green as shown above. In the example above, the IWB in the U3 classroom (soundesk) has been selected as the AirPlay target and everything on the iPad screen is now being displayed onscreen in that room.

Turn off AirPlay



Once you are finished with the class or lesson, **turn off AirPlay** by clicking the "**iPad**" option at the top of the AirPlay menu and the iPad will drop the connection to the AirPlay target you had selected. Be very careful about typing in passwords, etc. onto your iPad while it is mirrored to the screen for students to see.