

dorianTV: The Internet TV Discovery Engine

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DorianTV is an application that allows users to experience television through their internet browser. Unlike other video websites, such as Google Video or YouTube, DorianTV supports only video content that is considered professional television. This means the videos must be produced at a high quality level and have a regular release schedule.

DorianTV provides a “soft convergence” between television and the Internet. The system exploits the networked environment of the web, while replicating the ease of use and familiarity of traditional television. The strength of DorianTV lies in the discovery engine, which combining intelligent filtering, a tagging system, visualization tools, and a recommendation engine.

DorianTV features an embedded media player that allows for on-demand playback of content. All shows are stored on the DorianTV servers and can be accessed at any time. Users are not burdened with downloading shows to their local machine, nor do they have to subscribe to RSS feeds.

The episode guide gives you all the latest episodes along with show descriptions. It also keeps track of which shows the user has already watched.

Recommendations are made based on two relationships: similar viewership and shared tags. Because the system tracks the history of each user, the shows that are recommended are either watched by other viewers with similar viewing habits, or they share similar tags to shows that the viewer watches on a regular basis.

The screenshot displays the dorianTV website interface. At the top, the logo 'dorianTV' and the tagline 'The Internet TV Discovery Engine' are visible. The user 'alex@hotmail.com' is logged in, with links for 'Settings' and 'Sign Out'. The main content area features a video player for 'DIGGNATION Episode 43: April 27, 2006'. To the right of the video player is a tagging system with an 'Add Tags to this show' input box and an 'add' button. Below the video player is an 'Episode Guide' section listing episodes 41, 42, and 43 with their respective descriptions and dates. To the right of the episode guide is a 'Tags for this Show:' section with a list of tags such as 'apple', 'bbc', 'linux', and 'xbox360'. Below the tags is a search box for shows with a 'go' button. At the bottom of the page is a 'Recommended Shows (What's This?)' section featuring six show cards with their respective logos, titles, descriptions, and tags. The footer contains links for 'Sign Up', 'About dorianTV', 'Terms of Use', and 'Privacy Policy'.

Tagging systems only work with the help of the users. Input boxes like these allow viewers to tag shows in any way they'd like.

Instead of keyword-based metadata, DorianTV uses a tagging system that allows users to “tag” the content. Not only does this allow for a metadata system based on user preferences, but popular tags can act as genre labels, effectively creating an emergent categorization scheme not seen in traditional television. Allowing users to create the metadata will also improve search results, as well as aid in content discovery through the recommendation engine.