

Vibe Coding: Creating an IPTV Platform



Jeff Dubois

<https://jeffdubois.ca>

A history of cutting the cord



I have long been a proponent of cutting the cord and, for many years, have relied on VoIP and IPTV alternatives for all my telecommunication and media content needs.

Share

Do you remember these?



<https://www.parrot.tv>



<https://channelsurfer.tv>

Do you remember radio.garden?



In February 2021 there was a Q&A share on radio.garden: a platform which allows you to explore live radio stations by rotating the globe.

TV.garden is a similar platform which presents a wide array of publicly available live TV channels which are freely available on GitHub's iptv-org.

<https://radio.garden/>

Not surprisingly, radio.garden has a sister



GitHub's iptv-org is a popular open-source community project hosted on GitHub that curates a massive collection of publicly available, free, and legal Internet Protocol television (IPTV) channels from all over the world.

<https://tv.garden/>

Platform shortcomings

1. Channel may not be available either because the curated iptv-org list is not current, the channel may be outside of its broadcast hours or there may be geographic restrictions on the content.
2. Video stream buffering could be caused by a slow internet connection, ISP throttling or video source server congestion.

Some of those issues I may be able to control while others I may have no control over.

How relevant are the channels to me?



Is there an accurate reliable EPG?



The First Incarnation: Molly TV



<https://jeffdubois.ca/a-mollytv.html>

I need your help Claude

Using AI, am I able to develop a web-based streaming platform that accesses the public channels curated by iptv-org?

Will I be able to address some of the issues over which I may have some control?

Using text-based prompts I asked Claude to develop an HTML interface which, more or less, resembled what one might see on a standard cable or satellite subscription and click-to-access the publicly available content.

Claude generated an output

 Molly TV ACCESS PUBLIC IPTV CHANNELS Search channels... COUNTRY: CA CA (129) EPG: CA - 109 ch - 55338 prog  09:58:09 129 channels									
ALL BUSINESS COOKING CULTURE DOCUMENTARY EDUCATION ENTERTAINMENT GENERAL KIDS									
CHANNEL	9:30 AM	10:00 AM	10:30 AM	11:00 AM	11:30 AM	12:00 PM	12:30 PM	1:00 PM	 
3A 3ABN Canada CA									
5A 5AAB TV CA									
AF Afghan Nobel Mo... CA			8:30 AM	Never Been Kissed				11:00 AM	50 First Da
AF Afghan Nobel TV CA			8:30 AM	Never Been Kissed				11:00 AM	50 First Da
AM Amazing Discover... CA			8:30 AM	Never Been Kissed				11:00 AM	50 First Da
AP Apna Punjab TV CA	h U...	Red Earth U...	Indians and ...	Lands Ench...	Ghost Hunt...	Ghost Hunt...	Ghost Hunt...	Ghost Hunt...	The Other ...
AZ Az Star TV CA									
AZ Azan TV CA	Pop up: aquí no hay quien viva				9:30 AM	El síndrome de Ulises		11:53 AM	Flor del Caribe

Marginal Success

Claude generated an HTML file which, when uploaded, provided an impressive visual display.

I provided additional instructions to change the colour scheme, default to Canadian channels and add a logo.

Several channels streamed but several didn't.

The EPG was, in most cases, missing or inaccurate.

There were buffering issues.

Many of the channels were cultural non-English.

I opted to step back and re-examine my approach.

Streaming Platform Revisited : NEVER 51



<https://jeffdubois.ca/NEVER51>

Streaming Platform Revisited : NEVER 51

- Relevant channels with Canadian content
- English language content
- Publicly available streams
- Accurate EPG (guide)



<https://jeffdubois.ca/NEVER51>

	◀ Earlier	Now	Later ▶	Showing: Now		
Channel	3:30 PM	4:00 PM	4:30 PM	5:00 PM	5:30 PM	6:00 PM
+ LIVE CBC CBCT 13 (Charlottetown) + LIVE	LIVE The Great Cookbook Cha... 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM	The Great British Baking Show 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM		Dragons' Den 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM		Heartland 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
+ LIVE CBC CBHT 3 (Halifax) + LIVE	LIVE The Great Cookbook Cha... 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM	The Great British Baking Show 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM		Dragons' Den 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM		Heartland 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
+ LIVE CBC CBAT 4 (Fredericton) + LIVE	LIVE The Great Cookbook Cha... 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM	The Great British Baking Show 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM		Dragons' Den 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM		Heartland 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
+ LIVE CBC CBMT 6 (Montreal) + LIVE	LIVE Movie 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM	The Great Cookbook Challenge with Jamie Oliver 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM		The Great British Baking Show 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM		Dragons' Den 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
+ LIVE CBC CBOT 4 (Ottawa) + LIVE	LIVE Movie 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM	The Great Cookbook Challenge with Jamie Oliver 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM		The Great British Baking Show 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM		Dragons' Den 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
+ LIVE CBC CBLT 5 (Toronto) + LIVE	LIVE Movie 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM	The Great Cookbook Challenge with Jamie Oliver 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM		The Great British Baking Show 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM		Dragons' Den 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
+ LIVE CBC CBET 9 (Windsor) + LIVE	LIVE Movie 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM	The Great Cookbook Challenge with Jamie Oliver 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM		The Great British Baking Show 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM		Dragons' Den 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Use red and white cable/satellite service design.

All of CBC HLS regional channel live streams publicly links available through akamaihd.net direct links.

But what about an electronic program guide?

The Electronic Program Guide (EPG)



- The EPG on iptv-org is unreliable.
- Where can I find a free EPG provider?
- And how do I get the data from an online EPG into NEVER51?

<https://www.tvpassport.com/tv-listings>

JavaScript JSON file provides EPG data



Claude tells me that I can scrape the TVPassport site by running a routine on my hosting service to generate the .json file that NEVER51 will need to display the EPG.

How can I get a .JSON file to InfinityFree?



InfinityFree

The hosting service for jeffdubois.ca is InfinityFree, as the name implies, a free service. The free tier does not allow access to the “fetching” tools.

Back to Claude



I explained to Claude that my hosting service was a free service, and inquired if it could offer any solutions as to how I might get the necessary data from TVPassport onto the NEVER51 project page.

Run the routine on GitHub



Claude provided a solution. Create a GitHub account, run the fetch action on GitHub, save the .json file on the GitHub account, run an FTP session from GitHub and send the file via FTP directly to the NEVER51 page on the InfinityFree site. It was fairly complicated to set up 'secrets' and 'actions' on GitHub, but it provided clear step-by-step instructions.

18 CBC Channels Successfully Streamed

Several tweaks to properly size the EPG menu fonts were necessary.



The TVPassport data had to be adjusted to reflect the time zone based on the viewer's regional settings.

Mouse rollover reverse colour was added to make it easier to use the mouse when selecting channels.

Much more content was added



About 50 additional channels were added including curated content from YouTube from such sources as the National Film Board of Canada and Canadian Legacy.

Tip: Generate Vibe Coding Output



Requests One Step At A Time

Tip: Test Each Output Thoroughly



To Ensure Bug-Free Functionality

Tip: Backup All Outputs With A



Structured Version Directory

Tip: Create A Comprehensive



Text File Summary After Each Output

Example: Create Summary

"Now please create a comprehensive text file summary with the file name `summary.txt` which describes exactly what the NEVER51 `index.html` and the `scheduler.js` file you created do, and how the `schedule.json` gets created and sent to the website from GitHub to `jeffdubois.ca`.

All three of these files (`index.html`, `summary.txt` and `scheduler.js`) will be uploaded to Claude in a new chat session so that additional changes or additions can be made.

That will be your starting point in a new chat session."

SUCCESS FOR THE NEVER51 PROJECT!

The NEVER51 streaming platform was incredibly successful. After about 150 hours work, and about 80 version updates, everything worked flawlessly.

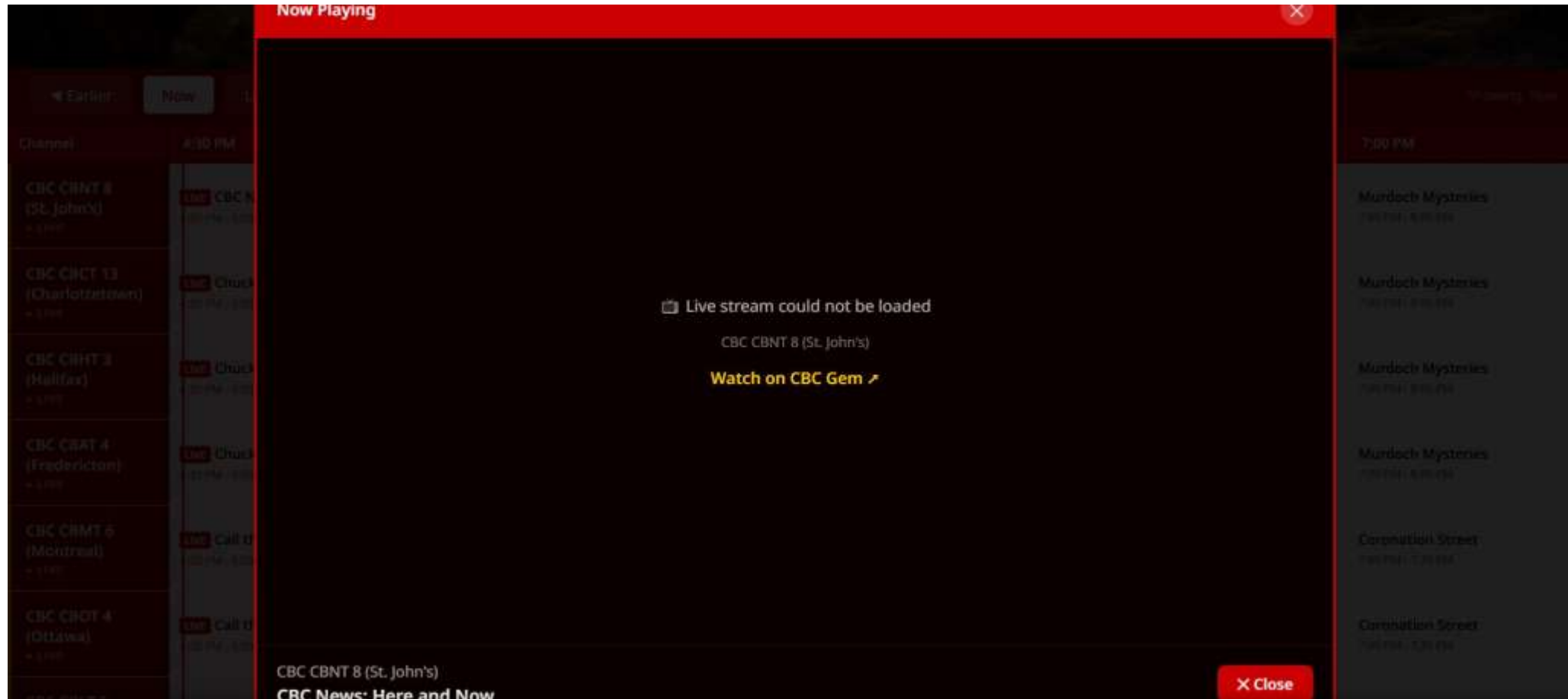
Claude had time usage restrictions which I found cumbersome to navigate so I did buy a one-month subscription so individual outputs were uninterrupted.

At the onset I asked “What things do I



have control over and what things don't I?"

CBC has moved live stream content



Problems/glitches arise when things over which we have no control change. This summer, CBC altered access to its live stream content so the project currently needs a fix.



Goodnight from NEVER51

