

**Internet Radio**  
**The Winner**  
**By Don Lewis**

This is the sixth and last article in my review of Internet radio services. If you missed previous articles, they are available in the Product Review section of our website at <http://ppcuginc.com/prodrev.htm>.

I began this project to find an Internet Radio service that best suited my interests. I tried five services one at a time, taking advantage of the premium service free trial offers to see which I liked best. I chose Yahoo Music. I have subscribed to the premium Launch Cast Radio and Y! Unlimited. I have had the subscription for three months. It is not perfect, but I am enjoying the music very much.

First, I will list the things I do not like about the service. Launch Cast Radio will run in the Internet Explorer browser, but Y! Unlimited requires the Yahoo Music Jukebox media player. This player is another example of bloated software. It takes forever to load and puts itself in the System Tray to start every time the system starts. It wants to call home every time I start the system whether I am running the player or not. I have blocked it from launching on start up.

Y! Unlimited provides the ability to search the Yahoo data base by song title, album title or artist. The search engine will list every song that has any of the words in the search argument, providing many irrelevant hits.

The data base is quite extensive; they claim over 2 million songs, but not all of the music is available to play. Some of the albums only have 30 second clips of the songs or the songs are not available to play at all. However, most of the albums are for sale at a discounted price and the songs may be downloaded in MP3 format for 79 cents per song. In spite of the missing music, I am able to find most of the music I want to play.

Launch Cast Radio has only one Blues station, one Classical station and one Opera station. The workaround is to choose albums of the artists you want to hear and create a playlist.

The best part of the service is the ability to create playlists with just the music I like. I like to create a long list with many of my favorite artists and play it in shuffle mode.

Y! Unlimited also allows songs to be down loaded to your hard drive free of charge. The songs can be played offline in up to three different computers. They will only play in Yahoo Jukebox and expire if your subscription expires.

The Launch Cast Plus Radio stations are good too. I like the feature for creating my own station by selecting genres. Rating the artists and songs causes them to be played more frequently. If you don't like a selection, dump it with one click. Try that with your regular radio. I also like the feature of playing selections from artists similar to the ones I

have rated. I have discovered many artists that I had never heard of and a lot of music that I had forgotten about.

You can set up moods in your personal station so that you can play all Blues or Vocal Jazz or whatever your current mood is. It still plays your rated favorites more frequently.

There are still many stations that I have not explored yet, such as the Indian, Middle Eastern, Classic or Modern Broadway and Standup or Naughty Comedy. Then there are the Themes that I have not tried like the 41 Hits/Decade themes or the 24 At Work themes.

My plate runs over with music.

One bummer is that they have raised the price on both the Launch Cast Radio Plus and Y! Unlimited. The monthly cost went from \$6.99 to \$8.99 and yearly went from \$4.99 per month to \$5.99 per month billed annually for Y! Unlimited. Launch Cast Radio Plus is now \$3.99 per month or yearly \$2.99 per month billed annually.

This may not be the ultimate in Internet Radio, but for now I am very pleased with it.