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Hands-on

ABC.com makes watching TV at work better

By [David Carnoy](#) – April 2, 2007, 1:35 PM PDT*Lost*: looking good online.

(Credit: 2007 American Broadcasting Companies, Inc.)

Among the networks, [ABC.com](#) has been one of the most aggressive in terms of streaming full versions of its shows online after they've aired on TV. During those quieter moments at work--some call them smoking breaks without the smoking--you can watch episodes of *Lost*, *Grey's Anatomy*, *Ugly Betty*, and more, right on your computer screen. Until a few days ago, however, the picture was rather small. Now ABC.com has launched a [new full-screen "HD-quality"](#) video player, and the "broadcast" looks shockingly good.

Meanwhile, NBC also has spruced up its online video player, and it, too, has added a full-screen option. The big difference is that NBC's video player uses Adobe's Flash Video, while ABC's is built on technology from upstart Move Networks.

During a "break," CNET editors John Falcone and Matthew Moskovciak huddled around my 19-inch Sony monitor in my office for a quick look at a recent *Lost* episode and were duly impressed. The picture may not quite measure up to true hi-def, but step a few feet back, and you're looking at a very detailed, sharp image. It's the kind of moment that makes you think that someday you'll be able to ditch your cable or satellite provider and get your content from cheaper sources that also happen to be legal. What a concept.

For a more in-depth story on ABC.com and its video player, go to [broadcastingcable.com](#).

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