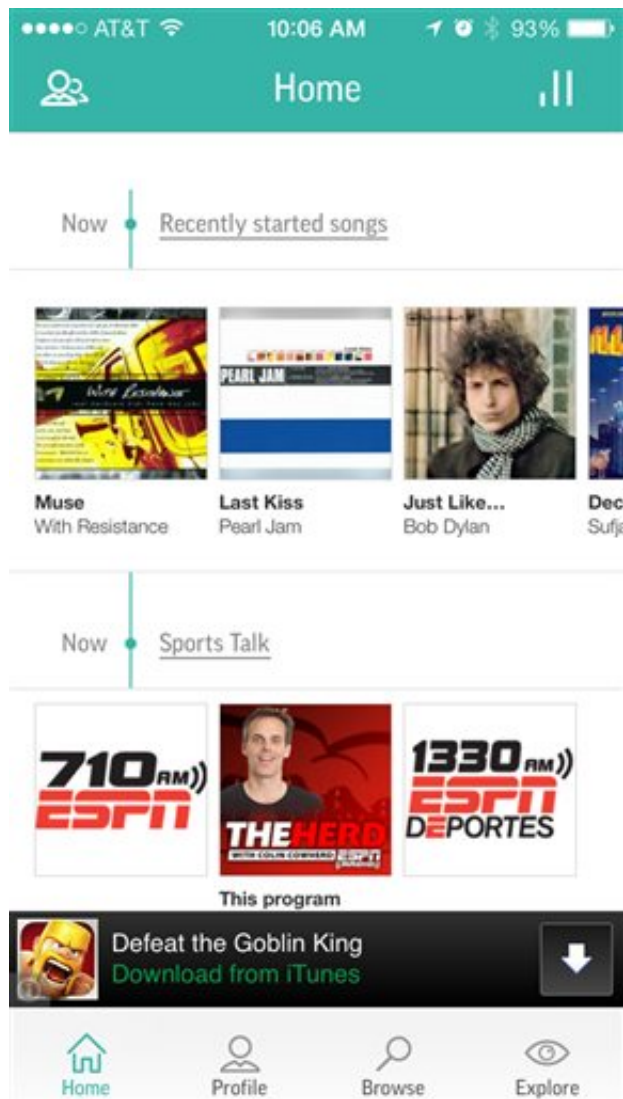


TuneIn adds way to hear 'recently started' songs

May 7 2014, by Ryan Nakashima



The app for the Internet radio service TuneIn is seen on an iPhone, Tuesday, May 6, 2014. In a new feature update that went live Wednesday, Internet radio service TuneIn is offering a way to see which songs have just started on 100,000

radio stations around the world, allowing a listener to tune in soon after the song starts. (AP Photo/Ryan Nakashima)

Tired of flipping through the radio dial? Internet radio service TuneIn is offering a way to see which songs have just started on 100,000 radio stations around the world, allowing you to listen in soon after the tune starts.

That's one of the [new features](#) of an update to TuneIn's app that went live Wednesday.

The service from Palo Alto, California-based TuneIn is not quite as good as on-demand listening, where you can hear just about any song in its entirety if you pay for a subscription to services like Spotify or Rhapsody.

But it's free—with ads—and gives you a way to find stations with real disc jockeys that are playing music you like.

You can even sometimes catch a song before it starts.

CEO John Donham says that's because TuneIn gets the song data from traditional [radio stations](#), while the digital streams are fed to TuneIn a few seconds later.

After spending an hour or so testing a pre-release version of the updated app on an iPhone, I got a mix of songs starting anywhere from 20 seconds to more than a minute late. A couple times, I began listening to the [radio station](#) well before the song began, so I could catch the whole thing. Sometimes a 30-second digital audio ad—in most cases for GEICO car insurance—made me miss more of the [song](#) than I would

have otherwise.

Picking songs like Mumford & Sons' "I Will Wait" and David Bowie's "Let's Dance," I found myself tuning into stations based all over the place, such as Q-99 in Roanoke, Virginia, or Mix 105.3 in the Tri-Cities area of Washington state.

TuneIn, with 50 million active users a month, is similar to a raft of free radio services like Pandora and iHeart Radio, although it feels more like traditional radio because you get a heavy ad load by tuning directly into the on-air broadcast.

Still, with a host of new social sharing features and the ability to follow stations, programs and podcasts, the revamped service is a nifty take on modern radio.

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