

## AMAZON'S ECHO DOT

Alexa can now be invited into any room in your house at your command thanks to Echo Dot.

By: Savannah Jung

Amazon re-released the Amazon Echo back in early November 2014. Echo is a voice-enabled wireless speaker that comes with the artificial intelligence called Alexa. The speakers take voice commands



**The Amazon Echo Dot is a smaller version of the Amazon Echo Tower.**

The Amazon Echo Dot does everything that the original Echo does for half the price.

-CNET review

and can play back songs, create to-do lists and complete other tasks through voice recognition. Now in middle June, Amazon announced Echo Dot, a smaller version of the original Echo tower.

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## What's new on Amazon Prime

New movies and TV shows are now available on Amazon Prime for members to watch and enjoy

By: Savannah Jung

As of July 1st, a list of new movie and T.V. shows will be available for anyone who has an Amazon Prime account. Classic movies and currently popular T.V. shows have made the

### MOVIES

Amazon Prime will now carry *Kill Bill: Volume 1* and *Kill Bill: Volume 2*. A wide selection of Star Trek Films will also be available. More modern films such as Mr. Holmes from 2014 has also been added.

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speaker

### T.V. SHOWS

Popular dramas like *Suits* from USA and The History Channel's *Vikings* will be added in July. *Hannibal* from

NBC will be the main grown-up title that Amazon Prime will be carrying in July. Prime is also including the Emmy nominated children's series *Gor-timer Gibbon's Life on Normal Street* for a second season.

# Amazon Monthly

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## MUSIC

Amazon Prime users will soon be able to listen to a wide range of original music for the whole family to enjoy. One album specifically is *Novelties* from Recess Monkey. Prime members will not be charged any additional fees for the album and will be able to listen to it on any compatible devices. Members will also have access to never before heard originals from artist like Amy Lee, lead vocalist for Evanesence and Bob Schneider lead singer of the Ugly Americans. The new list of kid and family friendly music will be available for download, physical purchase and streaming through Prime Music.

Amazon Prime is also including a list of 30 originally recorded songs in their recent release called *Songs of Summer*. A few songs included Beats Antique covering “Cruel Summer” by Bananarama and Brandi Carlile covering the Beach Boys classic “God Only Knows.” The original recordings will be available for exclusive streaming on Prime Music and will also be available for purchase through Amazon. Amazon will be debuting official and live performance all through out the summer with artist that are featured on *Songs of Summer*.

.....  
“We’re excited today to give our Prime members even more family-fun music...”

- Steve Boom, VP of Digital Music for Amazon

## BOOKS

Amazon Prime users also have access to a wide range of books in every category or genre. In the past year, a few have been named best sellers and have become popular among Prime users and Kindle owners alike. Paula Hawkins's *Girl on the Train* is one thriller that beat out all others in its category for popularity. *Go Set a Watchman* by well-known novel writer Harper Lee was one of the most anticipated releases all year. While the book itself received mixed reviews from those who purchased a physical copy or downloaded it to their Kindle, the novel did place 6th on Amazon's book bestsellers of 2015. The popularity of the Kindle e-reader has led to a growth in book purchases for Prime users.



Brandi Carlile on stage performing in Seattle 2010

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“You can plug the Echo Dot into your own speakers, or connect them over Bluetooth”

- CNET

The Echo Dot has all the similar features as the original but in a more compact size with an appearance similar to that of a hockey puck. This compact device mimics the top of the original speaker and gives users the option of having Alexa intelligence found in the original Echo tower without having to buy the speaker.



**Echo dot in comparison to the Echo Tower**

At this time, Echo Dot can only be ordered by asking Alexa through Echo or through Fire TV to place the order. It is a secondary device for those who already possess the original Echo Tower or for those who have Amazon Fire TV and want the ability to have Alexa speak to them through any speaker they wish. The original Amazon Echo tower costs around \$180 while the

miniature sized Echo Dot costs half the price for a fraction of the size. Users turn on the Dot and connect it to wifi. From there, they can use the dot for anything from playing music to dimming the lights in their home. Other companies such as Google and Apple are still working on creating their own version to rival this product. Today, the Echo Dot is the only voice-recognition smart device that allows users to interconnect their home with the sound of their voice.



## AMAZON USERS GET CREDIT

Amazon users who purchased ebooks will get credit on their accounts on Tuesday, June 21.

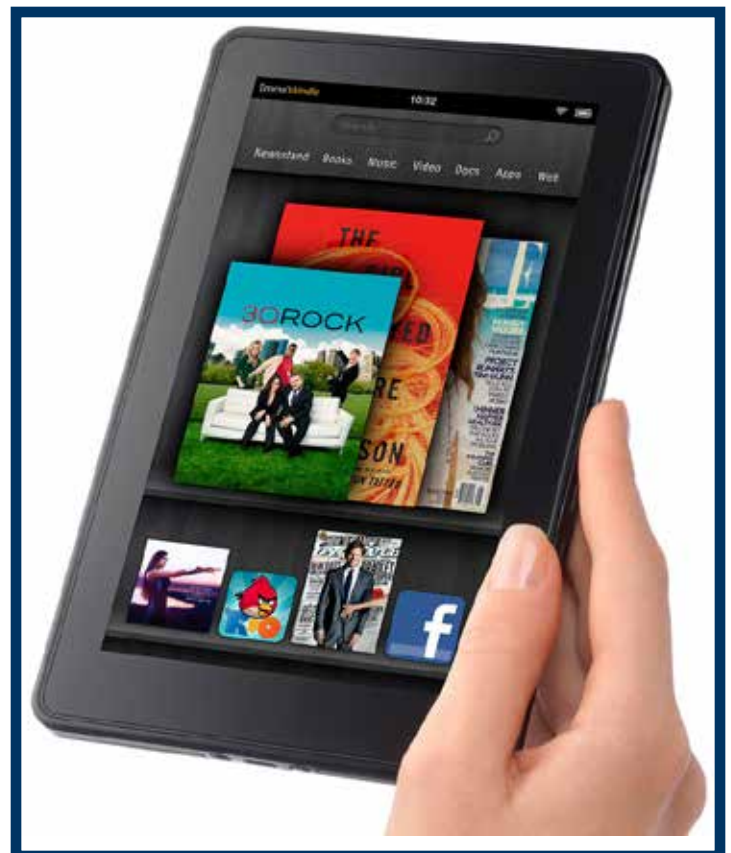
By: Savannah Jung

As of Tuesday, June 21, Amazon users will be getting credit awarded back to their accounts. This comes as part of Apple's price-fixing settlement and now Amazon is issuing refunds. Those who are eligible to receive credit must have purchased an ebook between April 1, 2010 and May 21, 2012. The book would have been published by Hachette, HarperCollins, Simon & Schuster, Penguin, or Macmillan, or by one of those companies' subsidiaries.

Apple will pay back over \$400 million to customers who purchased books from not only Amazon but also Barnes & Noble, Kobo and Apple themselves. For those who bought New York Times bestsellers during that window, they will be credited \$6.93 per book while those who bought regular books will be credited \$1.57 per book.

Eligible Amazon users will receive an email from Amazon and will find the credit applied to their account. The credit will be in the form of a gift card that can be used towards any purchase whether it is an ebook or any other item. Customers that are issued credit will have until 11:59pm PCT on June 24, 2016 to use the credit.

"Credits will be automatically sent directly into the accounts of consumers at major book retailers"  
- Hagens Berman



Amazon Kindle Fire e-reader