

## Is the concept of TV series changing?

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Everybody who lives in a part of the world that benefits from the miracle of electricity owns a TV set and knows what a series is.

There are different types of series for every kind of 'consumer'; there can be. And everybody knows the rules; the unwritten methods of producing something able to make you come back again and again for the next episode and want more, turning you in an addict looking for the next dose the same time next week or tomorrow or... whatever time they see fit to schedule it.

But 'the consumer' (you know, the guy with the remote) seems to have found a loop hole. No more waiting for the next episode to air.

Wait some time (two or three months, usually) and download episode after episode from the internet and watch as much as you physically can on your PC possibly hold, maybe one entire season in a day and night, if you please.

Well, if you want it bad enough... you can. Or, of course, you can wait a little bit more and buy the DVDs from the store and do the same, legally this time, but that's not the point.

The whole idea of a series was to offer to someone who hasn't got enough time to watch a movie something shorter, like an episode and make him/her come back again for a much longer story for weeks, or years even.

Lately, the TV has become so good that you can no longer wait for the next episode so you get the whole series and watch it all at once. Is that a reason for the rules to change?

95% of the people I know who watched Prison Break did it on their computers, not on TV. They became instantly addicted (well done to the makers of this series), and watched a whole season in a week(end) or something like that depending on the time they had on their hands.

What if they had to watch it on TV? One episode a week? Is it captivating enough to make you leave aside everything else and watch it again for so many episodes? It's not like you can miss a few episodes and still watch it randomly later. You missed it, you lost it.

This is neither CSI that allows you to watch independent cases solved by several teams, with no connection to each other nor a predictable day time drama that you can watch once every two years and still get the story.

So? Is this a series for the net surfers and all the friends they share it with? Is this a fluke? We are no longer talking about collectable items like the Star Trek series were for avid fans.

Or is TV going to change from what we know? Is our voyeuristic pleasure to immerse ourselves in others' possible lives going to transform television in a way that will change its very definition, depriving it of the very idea of actually watching something on TV and turning it into a product of 20-30 hours long stories per season to watch on your computer or DVD players?

Is this what INTERACTIVE TV gets to be?

(Photo: Aaron Escobar)