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Shoutcast or Icecast: which to choose for a client's radio

Radio Streaming

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Shoutcast or Icecast: which to choose for a client's radio

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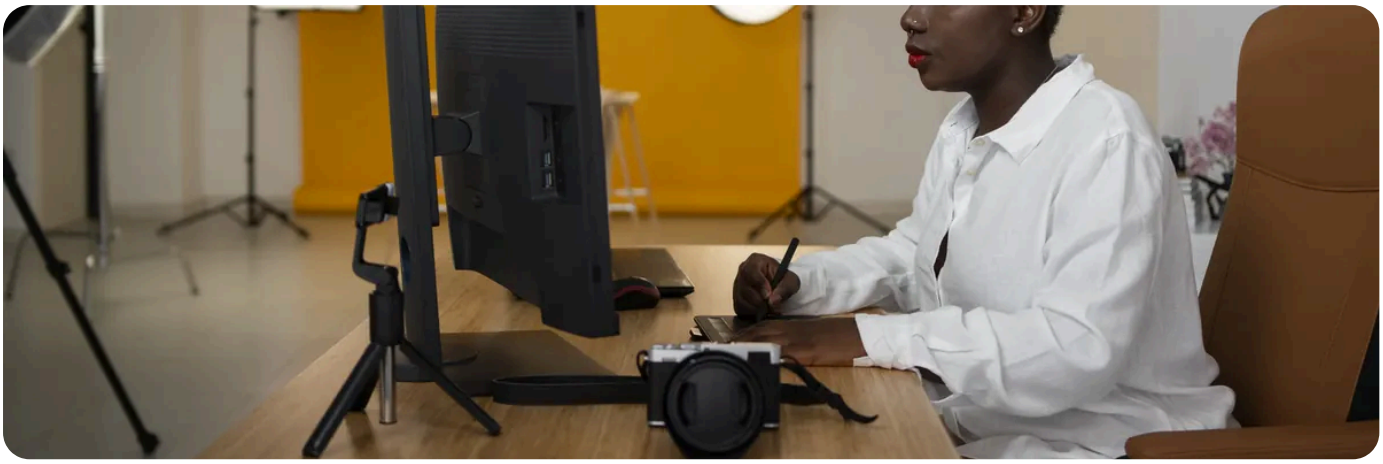

The short answer: on all three radio plans the stream can run on a **Shoutcast** or an **Icecast** server, with free SSL on both. Listeners almost never notice which one it is. The difference is in the studio: the details the broadcasting software asks for, and the audio formats. Rule of thumb: if your client already has software set up for one of them, stay with it. If they want to broadcast in OGG or FLAC, pick Icecast. The plans are on the **online radio reseller** page.

The differences that matter

	Shoutcast	Icecast
What the broadcasting software asks for	Server address, port and broadcast password.	Server address, port, mount point (for example `/live`), the `source` username and the broadcast password.
Audio formats, as a rule	MP3 and AAC+.	MP3, AAC+, OGG and FLAC.
Broadcasting software	BUTT, Mixxx, SAM Broadcaster and RadioBOSS all work with it.	The same programs.
What stays the same	AutoDJ space, the plan's maximum quality and unlimited listeners.	The same.

Four questions for your client before you choose

1. **What software runs in the studio, and which server is it set up for?** If it already works with one of the two, pick that one. Nothing changes in the studio and the station goes on air sooner.

2. **Will they broadcast in OGG or FLAC?** Then Icecast. Before promising FLAC, read **audio formats and quality**: FLAC is lossless and needs far more bitrate than MP3, and each plan has a maximum quality.

3 **Just MP3 or AAC+, no fuss?** Either will do. Shoutcast asks for fewer details in the broadcasting software; with Icecast the mount point has to be exactly right.

4 **Is there already a player on their site or in an app?** If that player expects one of the two types, choose it and avoid rebuilding the site.

Once you have chosen

The type is picked in SonicPanel. The right details (server address, port, broadcast password and, for Icecast, the mount point) come in the radio e-mail. Pass them to your client, or set up the broadcasting software together, as in **going live with BUTT, Mixxx or SAM**. Test before announcing anything: broadcast for a few minutes and listen on a phone, on another network.

Switching later changes the studio setup.
Icecast adds the mount point and the `source` username, and the listening address may change too. Warn your client's DJs and update the player on the site, or the station goes silent for listeners. Never switch in the middle of a show.

The most common Icecast mistake is the mount point.
Some programs treat `/live` and `live` differently, and a wrong mount point gives "access denied" even with the right password. Copy it exactly as it appears in the e-mail. The full comparison is in **Shoutcast or Icecast on SonicPanel**.

RECOMMENDED

Setting up a station for a client? The plans and your Agence discount are on the radio reseller page.

See radio reselling →

SEE ALSO

- **Shoutcast or Icecast on SonicPanel: the differences and which to pick** →
- **Going live on SonicPanel and VoxStream: BUTT, Mixxx or SAM with server, port and password** →
- **AAC+, MP3, FLAC or OGG: audio formats and quality on each streaming panel** →
- **Streaming Server: first steps with SonicPanel** →

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