

Watch your Netflix Favorites Offline:

November 30th, Netflix announced it is enabling offline video viewing -

- free to subscribers,
- but with limitations -
 - for mobile devices only, not p.c.'s (e.g. you can't call up Netflix in your laptop browser and download a video for viewing offline).
 - newer & more popular shows probably not available
 - requires iOS 8.0 or higher, or Android 4.4.2 or higher
 - (You also need to upgrade to the latest Netflix app.)

With the right settings you can pack hours of entertainment on a mobile device.

For starters, refer to this link about the basics of Netflix:

<http://techhelpboston.com/2016/02/02/how-or-where-do-i-connect-to-netflix-or-how-do-i-stream-content-to-my-big-screen-tv/>

Settings for controlling downloads:

- default uses WiFi
- turning WiFi mode off allows downloading over cellular connection.

Why mobile devices only? Most likely because mobile operating systems such as iOS don't have a true user-friendly file-management system.

Makes it easier for Netflix and other media apps to control access to the downloaded video files.

There's also a Cellular Data Usage setting for streaming videos.

Six options control the amount of data used for streaming.

You can, for example, limit streaming to Wi-Fi connections only or use the Unlimited option if you're one of the lucky few who still has an unlimited cellular-data plan.

The default setting is Automatic.

Technical Details:

- takes about 3 minutes to download a 45 minute show
- default Video Quality setting is “Standard”
 - medium resolution occupies about 170 MB
 - high resolution occupies about 384 MB

The Video Quality option in the app. is Standard by default
You may want high resolution if your intent is to cast
the show to a large screen TV.

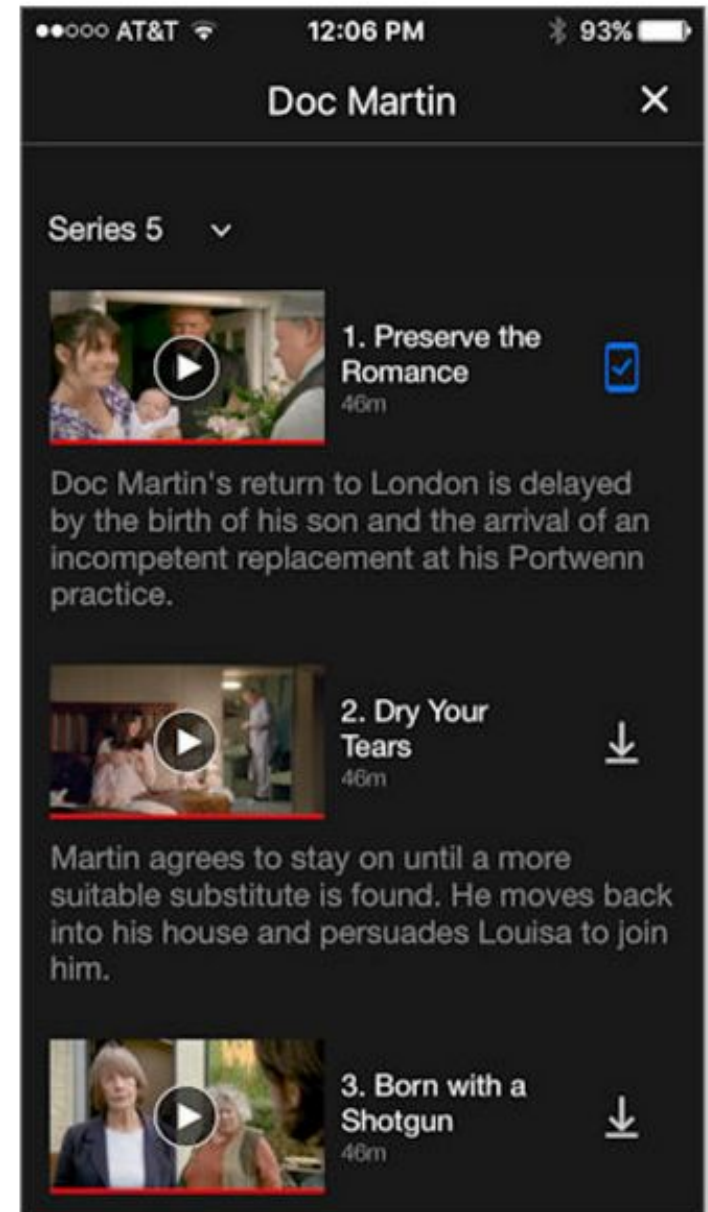
Download time doesn't seem to be affected by choice of
medium vs. high resolution.

The Netflix Offline Viewing Tool:

If the download feature is available for a particular video, you'll see a down-arrow next to the title and description

Another window lists your downloaded media

- displays length and file size
- makes it easy to delete
- shows you're done with.



Alternative Services:

Amazon Prime allows some downloading

(check your subscription for details)

Playon: <https://www.playon.tv/>

- lets you download streaming video
- works on a desktop pc as well as mobile
- the desktop edition costs U.S. \$2.50 per month,
- the iOS version is priced at \$.99 per recording.
- desktop recording requires playing the video at standard speed.
(You can't just do a quick download of a video file).
- for mobile devices, a two-step process -
 - PlayOn Cloud records a chosen show on a cloud-based virtual machine;
 - then the full recording is downloaded as an .mp4 file to an iOS device, for example.

Reference: "Prepare your Digital Devices for Travel," by Tracey Capen, in [Windows Secrets Newsletter](#) (online), Dec. 6, 2016.