

Raketu

Basic service, free; rates vary for premium IPTV and calls to standard phones.

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PROS Offers IM and aggregates all major IM clients. IPTV tech really works. Includes VoIP. CONS Documentation needs work. No Mac support, yet. Limited IPTV content. Offers a whole lot more than IM aggregation

RAKETU

P2P KITCHEN SINK

UST AS THE SPACE SHUTTLE CAN LOFT MULTIPLE experiments, the intuitive Raketu (Czech for "rocket") interface can launch multiple features: IPTV, VoD (video on demand), VoIP, IM/SMS service, podcasting, a media player, and RSS feeds. It runs over dialup as well as broadband, and even the video works decently over dial-up. Although far from perfect right now, the product offers

plenty and shows a lot of promise. Raketu subscribers can call each other at no cost, and Rak-Out lets users who prepay make calls to regular phones. Voice quality, while good, doesn't match that available from Skype. Raketu also has its own chat client, but my favorite feature, Multi-Messenger, lets you add your existing AIM, Google Talk, ICQ, Jabber, MSN or Live Messenger, Skype, and Yahoo! accounts. I'm rather dubious about one recently added feature, however—the Global Chat capability that lets you engage in a chat with other subscribers while you all watch the same video. I can't see many people being all that interested in this tool.

Raketu has a limited selection of video offerings right now, so I can't really recommend it for its content. And though the service does most things fairly well, it still has some rough edges. Raketu would be best for early adopters who like fiddling and tweaking with exciting new tools.—DDJ >>For more: go.pcmag.com/raketu

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