

Changing from Analogue to Digital Television

Digital Television or DTV is the transmission of digital and audio by digital signals. The signal arrives at your TV set through a satellite dish, cable or aerial or broadband internet connection. After that it converts back into pictures and sound by a receiver, which might be a set up top box connected to the TV or built into a digital TV.

Analogue TV are signals which are transmitted to your TV by continuously varying radio waves, it is the traditional way of viewing TV, through an aerial. It usually gives a few channels.

Recently the Government has decided that by 2012 all TV services will be switched to digital. Digital TV has a wide range of features and channels because of this an on-screen electronic programme guide (EPG) has been designed to allow you to control what you view, record and see what's on. This is a big benefit, as this helps keep track of what you want to watch and it saves you a lot of time so you don't have to scroll through the 500+ channels.

Analogue TV has always had problems with the screen picture, as analogue TV was restricted because of the bandwidth assigned to any analogue TV channel. With digital TV the sound and images are much better quality. Their isn't 'ghosting' like there was with analogue TV.

With DTV the signal is subject to less interference, and the digital signal is almost certainly going to transmit the signal. DTV offers a great selection of widescreen programming, with high definition (which also improves the quality of picture and Dolby 5.1 surround sound)

However DTV doesn't come without the down side, the cost of DTV switch over isn't so amazing, especially after the credit crunch. Consumers are being forced to buy the digital convert box or satellite dish etc if they want to watch TV (which aren't the cheapest of things). Even with DTV they might still need to subscribe to watch certain channels.

The switch to DTV wasn't an informed choice open to the public, it was a government decision, even though we live within a democracy. Therefore this was an unfair decision as it was forced upon the population who watch TV.

Even though the quality of the broadcast might have improved, that doesn't mean by getting DTV the programmes will be any better. Some channels on DTV only air re-runs, but it might be a clearer version.

Digital TV has got a new interactive feature where you can listen to news, try offers, enter competitions, play games, try features and pay services of their interactive offering. Although this service sounds fantastic many people still don't know how to use it, therefore aren't taking full advantage of the feature.

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Digital Television had 500+ channels this is because one analogue channel takes up an entire frequency, however DTV can share one frequency. More channels can use the same frequency at the same time, thus making room for more channels. Although there is a great amount of channels for all sorts of entertainment, there isn't very good regulation. So children can view inappropriate channels and their parents won't know about it, as it's too difficult to keep track of all the channels.

Overall many people may think that digital TV should be compulsory to all homes with a TV, as it offers more choice and more information 'there's something for everyone' in the same sense there's a 'channel for everyone'. Digital TV will open doors to more advanced technology for television, like Broadband on the interactive button, or live call in on programmes through the interactive call, this could be done as there would be free frequencies. With the recent increase of 3D films why not 3D TV, one step better than HDTV.

The switch to digital will be like the switch of black and white to colour everyone will eventually have it, soon it will be a normal thing and it will be the doorway to the next step towards the evolution of broadcasting.