



KEEPING UP WITH TECHNOLOGY

Digital TV is here: (Sourced from: www.digitalready.gov.au)

To keep receiving free-to-air TV after the digital switchover in your area you will need a television that is capable of receiving digital signals. There are two options for you:

Get a **set-top box**, or **Upgrade** to a television with an in-built digital tuner (*if you don't have one already*). What this means is you do not have to get a new TV if you do not want to. But, if you have an analog TV, you will need to get a set top box.

For all people that haven't yet updated their TV to digital or purchased a set-top box – be aware the deadlines are looming. The whole country will be completely digital TV compliant by **December 2013**. Legislation will limit the ability of the Minister to extend the switchover to a maximum of six months. This means the final date can not exceed 30 June, 2014. Below is a list of the switch off dates for the different areas.

GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

If you receive the **full rate** of Age Pension, Disability Support Pension, Carer Payment, DVA Pension or DVA Income Support Supplement, you may be eligible to receive a high definition set-top box through the Australian Government **Household Assistance Scheme**.

Centrelink will send out letters approximately six months before each area is due to switchover (refer to dates listed below). The letter will invite you to contact Centrelink to check your eligibility. If you are eligible, a contractor service will then call you to make an appointment for a qualified installer to come to your home and provide the installation. There is no charge for this service, but there may be a waiting list. If you live in regional areas that cannot receive terrestrial TV, you may be eligible for extra services and equipment. For more information contact: Digital Ready Information Line - **1800 20 10 13**

<http://www.digitalready.gov.au/government-assistance/household-assistance-scheme.aspx>

Year	Dates	Region	State
2012	July 1 st – Dec 31 st	Northern NSW / Hunter	NSW
2013	Jan 1 st – June 30 th	All areas – including King Island	TASMANIA
2013	Jan 1 st – June 30 th	Brisbane Metro – incl. Gold Coast and Noosa	QUEENSLAND
2013	Jan 1 st – June 30 th	Perth Metro	WESTERN AUST.
2013	July 1 st – Dec 31 st	Melbourne Metro	VICTORIA
2013	July 1 st – Dec 31 st	Adelaide Metro	SOUTH AUST.
2013	July 1 st – Dec 31 st	Sydney Metro – including Gosford	NSW
2013	July 1 st – Dec 31 st	Regional and remote areas	WESTERN AUST.
2013	July 1 st – Dec 31 st	All areas – including remote and Mt. Isa	NORTHERN TERRITORY

What is High Definition TV? (HD or HDTV)

A lot of people get the impression that HDTV and Digital Television are the same thing. This is not the case. Digital Television offers many things and High Definition is one of them.

HDTV gives very clear, crisp pictures with vivid colours and up to five times more detail than ordinary standard definition TV. Some programmes are made with cinema-style 'surround sound'. HD broadcasts are particularly suited to flat TV screens (LCD and Plasma).

WHAT DO ALL THOSE ADS ON TV MEAN?

Do you find yourself asking “What on earth is a blue-ray, blue-tooth and blue-berry?”
“Is this something I should know about?” Hopefully these simple descriptions will help you.

What is BLUE RAY:

Blue Ray is a high definition version of DVDs. Blue-Ray gets its name from the blue-laser that is needed to write and read data from the disc. A 50Gb Blue-Ray disc can hold up to 9 hours of high-definition video footage. Blue-Ray equipment is becoming more and more popular but it's still very expensive and only for those who simply have to have the latest equipment. There are some manufacturers that are making players that will be able to use both disc types. Obviously these are more expensive than the single player types. (Sourced from: www.technologybasics.co.uk)

What is BLUETOOTH?

Bluetooth is a technology that allows you to remotely access and use devices on a computer or phone without the use of wires. Originally it was used for connecting headsets to a mobile telephone. Wireless signals transmitted with Bluetooth cover short distances, from 5 to 10 meters (32 feet in old language). Like the wireless technology found in your average home wireless network (see Wi-Fi), Bluetooth devices communicate using radio waves in order to remove the need for a physical wired connection. Bluetooth signals travel through walls, windows, doors and can get great reach depending on what is in your way. For instance: A person could leave their telephone upstairs and still talk on their headset all around the house thanks to our porous walls. (Sourced from: www.makeuseof.com)

What is Wi-Fi?

WiFi stands for Wireless Fidelity. It is a wireless networking technology used across the globe, and is a play on the older term Hi-Fi. WiFi uses low power microwave radio to link one or more groups of users together, or to provide a link between two buildings. It can span several kilometres point to point but cannot be used where trees are in the way (water in the leaves absorb the radio signal). WiFi hotspots cover an area of a hundred metres radius using multiple channels to provide multi-user access to a central Internet access point. (www.africonnect.com)

What is Wii?

Wii is a home video game console released by Nintendo. A distinguishing feature of the console is its wireless controller, the Wii Remote, which can be used as a handheld pointing device and detect movement in three dimensions. (Sourced from: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wii)

What is BLACKBERRY? (Sourced from: www.mobilephonesecrets.com.au)

Blackberry is a high end of market 'SMART PHONE' designed for business purposes.

“No Need to Haul Around Your Laptop Everywhere You Go; Because with Your All-In-One Blackberry, Your Computer Now Fits in the Palm of Your Hand!”

A Blackberry can browse the Web, access email, and text-messaging as well as viewing attachments sent in a variety of formats. Plus store contacts in your address book, and keep up with your to do lists and tasks.



***LAST BUT NOT LEAST = A BLUEBERRY IS A TASTY FRUIT!**



Please Note: Australian Senior Computer Clubs Association advise that there are security risks associated with wireless access (especially in public access points like libraries and internet cafes). As radio signals are used to connect the computers, theoretically, anyone within radio range can listen in or transmit data on the network. This means hackers can get into a network via wireless and can obtain personal and financial information, and/or access your internet connection for free – leaving you to pay the bill. It is ESSENTIAL to protect your computer and internet access by ensuring you have the most up-to-date security available.

Always, always password protect your log-in user's authority. www.ascca.org.au