

## *The IP-Home of the Future*

Soon your home is going to be connected to the world in ways that seemed impossible only a few years ago. Until now there has been gas, water, sewage, electricity, and television connections – soon there is going to be information connectivity. This is going to make huge differences to the way we live our lives.

In the newspapers at the moment there is the debate about ADSL (Asymmetrical Digital Subscribers Link). This is a technique pioneered by companies like BT that enables large amounts of information to be carried down the plain old telephone line – yes, just those simple pairs of copper wires. And the magical part is that you can talk on the telephone as well and at the same time! ADSL allows 2 Mega-Bytes to be delivered to your home every second! (That is the equivalent of a good quality television picture...). You are connected to this service all the time and only use it when necessary. Gone are the old days when the human needed to be involved – dialling those phone numbers, to enable the machines to talk down the telephone line. Now the machines will just get on and talk amongst themselves.... The one thing to remember is AORTA! (Always On Real Time Access – that is the one thing that will change everything in the near future.)

After ADSL there will be SDSL (Symmetrical) then VDSL (very Fast) and probably many more, each increasing the connectivity in our lives. Suddenly the thing that has been holding us back for so long – that tiny little information tube – has grown to the point where it is not only so big we can not fill it – but it is also so big we can not see both sides at the same time... Now we are motoring along the international Digital Super-highway!

Just imagine, the thing in the corner of your living room ceasing to be a Television Set and becoming an Information Portal! A device through which you can reach to a world of information in all its forms. This is going to be a very powerful machine, and maybe a number of machines networked together – but do not worry you will still call it a television set, and it will be easier to drive than the current remote controller. “What”, I hear you say, “I could never afford such a machine!” Well, try explaining that to the 10 year old unpacking (hopefully) the Sony PlayStation 3, or X-Box on Christmas day. That PlayStation has more computing power than the original Cray computer, at a millionth on the cost – and does not even require liquid cooling like the original machine.... Computing power is a given in our future lives.... At a commodity price...

Your dealings with this machine will be very interactive. On the Internet now there are “Call Me Buttons”. Many companies now have full electronic access over the Internet – for example as a BT customer, you can view your bill, pay your bill, change your Family and Friends numbers (and if you do not know who your family and friends are – we have a suggest button!) So there you are browsing products, and you need assistance. All you do is

## *Looking at the Future Slightly Differently*

click on the button, and it asks which number and when do you want to be called. The latter request is because at the moment people browse the Internet down their telephone line, and you cannot talk to them when they are surfing. So they close down their browser and computer, and stand by the phone – it rings and the Call Centre agent says, “Hello, you were looking at Caller Display 20, could I interest you in Caller Display 50?”

Just imagine, in the IP world, when Voice and Vision and Data are just one thing on one network, you press the button and the voice comes out of the screen, saying “hello.....”. In the old days you had to drive to town and stand by a wooden counter whilst a human assistant laid out products before you and helped you choose. Now we can do it electronically.

That is the aim of the electronic world. Seamless, Effortless, Ubiquitous access to any Information on any Topic, at any Time, in any Quantity, any Where that I want NOW! And it is the NOW that is important.