

Questions & Answers Regarding Multimedia

1. What it means "home multimedia network"?

Originally the networking technology dealt with pure data information sources and therefore the home network infrastructure was based on technologies that have been design for this purpose only. Along the road PC improvements, PC games, newer applications as VOD/IPTV and Internet music and movies, has generate needs for "smarter" network that will be able to deal efficiently with all these applications. The "Home Multimedia network" is a collection of technologies that can support all kind of video, audio, telephony and data sources in a reliable and efficient manner. One of the leading technologies for these purposes is HomePNA3.0 or in short – HPNA3.

2. Why the wireless (802.11g/b) network is not suitable for multimedia network?

The current widespread wireless technology is IEEE 802.11g/b which has been developed many years ago without taking considerations toward multimedia systems. The key barriers beside the distance issue are:

- Lack of mechanism to maintain steady throughput over the network.
- Protocol that drop easily data rate due to any interference occasions.
- Delays that are not supporting sufficiently audio and telephony requirements.

A new wireless standard is under development (the 802.11n), which is tuned to deal with multimedia applications (with some limitations). Currently the technology is forecast to be in the market by mid/end 2008 at a very high price tag relatively to current technologies.

3. I would like to connect my PC to the TV set. What are the options?

The simplest way to connect a PC to a TV set is by using a VGA or DMI cable (or even S-Video connection), between a PC graphic card and TV interfaces. Usually the PC is not located close to the TV set, which means to install (a limited length cable) between two rooms. More than that, the VGA and S-video interfaces are not supporting quality video standards which will degrades the movie appearance class.

Alternatively, PowerNet is offering a digital network solution for several TV sets simultaneously. The user can switched easily between all network sources (Internet, video-servers, other computers, etc.) by adding a bridge unit between the network and anyone of his the TV set.

4. Can I surf directly from the TV over the Internet?

Yes, by using the same PowerNet's solution as described in last answer.

5. Can I watch directly movies from the Internet or I have to store than or to pass true my computer?

TBD