

Family and Friends with Broadband ^{1/2}

Communications with Family and Friends

Families and friends can stay closely connected even if they are geographically separated due to Broadband's high-speed connections. With "always on" access, you save the time and inconvenience by not having to dial-up each time. You can be online whenever and for however long you want at a fixed low-cost rate. This makes instant messaging more accessible and with the incorporation of a webcam, you can even see the person you are chatting to. Remember there are no international call charges and your own phone line isn't tied up at the same time.

Shopping

Shopping on the Internet can be time consuming. Broadband provides a fast, low-cost opportunity to shop at leisure, enabling you to look at the variety of goods on offer and obtain the bargains. You only have to worry about the cost of your purchases and not the time spent online to order them. An increasingly popular way to shop online is via t-commerce (television based e-commerce).

T-commerce is offering an alternative to homes without computers. It works by utilising televisions equipped with advanced set-tops with high-speed connections to offer the ability of shopping from the living room.

Security

The cost of broadband along with the videoconferencing facility brings home security into the 21st Century. It enables householders, to have security system that is comparable to commercial enterprises on a twenty-four hour basis and with a web cam they can monitor their property at anytime from any location.

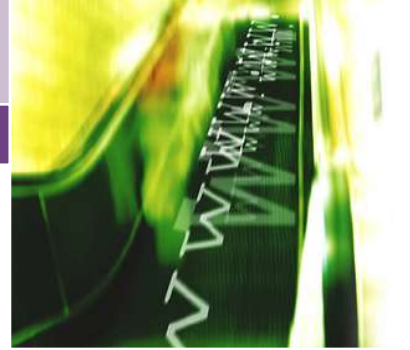
Providing a Community Service

Having a Broadband Internet service for the Community provides a tailored infrastructure that allows a unique authenticated way of finding out and interacting with local and non-local sources. People in the community will have access to a rich variety of information and tools to engage, participate and support the activities and resources of their community for personal or business reasons. For example information about facilities such as interactive maps for the local leisure centre or library.

Supports Independence and Improves the Delivery of Healthcare Services

Broadband is vital in the role of allowing people to remain independent. Elderly or disabled people who need supervision no longer need to move into an institution but can live independent lives. This is made possible via a broadband videoconferencing facility, enabling the relative authorities to remotely monitor and provide help and services to them as soon as it is needed.

Broadband can also deliver fast remote medical diagnosis and can conveniently monitor health situations when required, although it is not a definitive substitute for visiting the doctor in person.



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Chat rooms

Meet old friends or make new ones by using chat room facilities. Broadband allows you to use chat room facilities for any length of time and at any time knowing that the call costs will not increase and the connection will be strong. As well as offering normal chat room facilities it allows for interactive sessions. For example www.there.com offers an exciting environment whereby you as the viewer can actually navigate around an online world while having your conversation.

Although chat rooms can help to build online communities, the dangers have all too often come to light. There are strict guidelines to help tackle such problems. CHILDNET International www.chatdanger.com is a non-profit protective organisation set up to help police the online environment for children. They advise extreme caution before chatting and recommend the following tips:

- ✦ Be always on your guard.
- ✦ Let friends or family know with whom you talk to.
- ✦ Always remember you can say no.
- ✦ Never assume anything bad or rude that is said to you is your fault.
- ✦ Always report suspicious behaviour to the chat room host or Internet provider.

