

DTV Transition Key Words to Know

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There is a lot of information available about the transition to digital TV (DTV). Below is a list of definitions to help you navigate this information and make sense of what you hear, read and see.

Analog Television

The way most people receive their TV signals today. Analog has been the standard broadcast technology since the inception of television.

Digital Television (DTV)

A higher quality, more efficient way to transmit TV signals than the traditional analog TV system. DTV provides better picture and sound quality and takes up less broadcast space. DTV makes it possible for stations to provide more free programming and improves communications for public and safety service providers.

High-Definition Television (HDTV)

A form of digital television (DTV) with image resolution that is superior to traditional formats. Not all DTV is high definition. To enjoy the benefits of high definition television, viewers need an HD television set.

Converter Box

A set-top device that connects to a traditional analog television and enables it to receive digital broadcast signals via an antenna.

Digital Cable

A higher-tier pay TV service provided by many cable companies to people who wish to receive more channels and enhanced viewing options.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

A United States government agency created, directed and empowered by congressional statute. The FCC is charged with regulating all non-federal government use of the radio spectrum (which includes radio and television broadcasting); and all interstate telecommunications (cable, satellite and wire) as well as all international communications that originate or terminate in the United States.

February 17, 2009

The date on which the nation will complete its transition to an all-digital broadcast television system. At midnight on February 17, 2009, all TV broadcasters will cease their analog transmissions and transmit exclusively in digital.

Multicasting

Multiple channels of programming delivered simultaneously by a single TV station.

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PBS.

