

DVBmultimedia

home platform

**BBC R&D
application:
Digital Text**



General applications

MediaHighway

Open TV

d-Box Network

HTML

MHEG

BBC

Research &
Development

WHAT IS A HOME PLATFORM?

The term home platform can encompass a number of devices;

- set-top boxes
- PC-based receivers
- integrated receiver/decoders
- distributed resources connected by a home network.

Initially it was assumed that digital TV receivers would contain a simple resident navigator relying on basic Service Information (SI) provided in the broadcast stream. However, Interactive TV applications and the Internet have emerged as important opportunities for broadcasters for which provision must be made.

The DVB Multimedia Home Platform (MHP) is an open initiative to develop a standard for interactive TV and multimedia services. The key requirement is an open specification and interoperability of platforms and applications. The platform will support the migration of existing services, be hardware independent and allow future evolution of services.

MHP DECISIONS

The DVB MHP will use the JAVA programming language, providing hardware independence, wide support and an open development process backed by standardisation through ISO. Support for existing applications will be provided by optional "plug-ins" and three profiles will be defined initially;

- Enhanced Broadcast
- Interactive access profile
- Internet access profile.

STATUS

The working draft of the enhanced broadcast profile is due by the end of May 1999 and it will be launched, together with prototype demonstrations, at IFA 1999.

