

DVB-MHP Website Comes To Life To Provide The Definitive Guide

information on DVB working groups, the MHP Implementation Group, the German TV Platform, as well as education and training details.

“The DVB-MHP specification has been a monumental achievement by the DVB Project. The website is an essential modern business tool that will assist all those who want to get involved with creating MHP products and services for the implementation of interactive television that is set to impact so much on all of our lives.” commented Anthony Smith, Head of Marketing Communications for the DVB Project Office.

“The DVB-MHP website will provide a wealth of information amassed from the leaders of the MHP initiative including such groups as the German TV Platform, which has been proactive in moving forward the implementation of DVB-MHP,” he concluded.

Background

The DVB Project

The Digital Video Broadcasting Project (DVB) is an industry-led consortium of over 290 broadcasters, manufacturers, network operators, software developers, regulatory bodies and others in over 35 countries committed to designing global standards for the delivery of digital television and data services. The DVB standards cover all aspects of digital television from transmission through interfacing, conditional access and interactivity for digital video, audio and data. The consortium came together in 1993 to create unity in the march towards global standardisation, interoperability and future proofing.

To date, there are numerous broadcast services using DVB standards. There are hundreds of manufacturers offering DVB compliant equipment, which is already in use around the world. DVB dominates the digital broadcasting world. A host of other services is also on-air with DVB-T, including data on the move and high-bandwidth Internet over the air. DVB-T also makes possible the introduction of terrestrial pay-TV services.

DVB-MHP

In 1998, DVB embarked on an ambitious project to standardise the home platform for the converging multimedia services of now and the future. This involved capturing the requirements and generating technical specifications for such things as APIs applications lifecycles based on Sun's Java technology.

The DVB-MHP specification proved to be a Herculean task involving experts from a wide range of DVB Consortium members, which resulted in a specification document. The DVB-MHP was ratified last year by the DVB Steering Board and was formally adopted by the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) (ETSI TS 101 812 (MHP)). This action paved the way for the deployment of the open standard API (Application Program Interface), which now facilitates seamless services across broadcast, telecommunications and computer platforms.

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