

## Re: DTV antennas?

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- *From:* Jeff Liebermann <jeffl@xxxxxxxxxxx>
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On Tue, 15 Jul 2008 11:21:29 -0700, "Joel Koltner" <zapwireDASHgroups@xxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

"Jeff Liebermann" <jeffl@xxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message [news:hukp74tk3rn20thlo0vm84r5sb94nn09gs@xxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:hukp74tk3rn20thlo0vm84r5sb94nn09gs@xxxxxxxxxxx)

Yep. Security is a real problem. I'm sure some manner of security arrangement can be contrived, like having the customer go online and authorize a firmware update.

Agreed, but realistically most people would probably never actually authorize the upgrades... look at how many access points out there have "linksys" or "dlink" or "airlink101" as their SSIDs!

That's one of my pet peeves about commodity routers. Search alt.internet.wireless for one of my numerous rants about "secure by default". At least 2-wire does it right and ships their products with security enabled by default instead of wide open. They've also demonstrated that even if you attach a bright yellow label to the router, with the password and security keys inscribed in plain text, the typical customer will not notice.

Probably the best thing you could do would be to have the box alert the user that new firmware was available, and would they like to install it? -- With the big warning about, "blah, blah, only do this if you trust the TV station channel 6 that it came from, etc." And then give them the option to "rollback" to the last installed version if there's a problem... which then does require some extra memory to keep an old image around.

Memory is cheap. Bricked routers and comatose ATSC converters are not. Your method is as good as any I could contrive. The point is that it OTA firmware updates can be done. I don't see adding an ethernet or USB port to the ATSC converter, so OTA is probably the

Re: DTV antennas?

only way to do it effectively. Something simpler like:

An update is available for your converter box. Please tune to channel 99 to download and install the update. The update takes between 10 and 30 minutes to complete. Please do not play with the controls during the update. You will be informed when you may safely resume watching whatever mind numbing drivel that we are interrupting.

The GNUradio guys have a \*demodulator\* for it; someone over there is probably working on a modulator as well. It's certainly not a trivial undertaking!

Yep. I was thinking in terms of setting up a bootleg (illegal) DTV station. Pirate FM and TV stations are so commonplace, that methinks to attract the necessary audience, pirate HDTV transmissions will be necessary. Finding IBOQ (HD-Radio) or European DRM decoders are easy. Finding encoders are not. I wanted to do a streaming MP3 FM bootleg radio station but couldn't find an economical encoder. Same problem with 8VSB/ATSC encoder/modulators.

My guess(tm) is that some test equipment manufactory (e.g. Sencore), will arrive with an 8VSB/ATSC test generator. Add power amplifier and antenna, and I'm on the air.

...and that people are willing to pay for that expertise. That's the part that amazed me -- realizing that someone actually would pay, e.g., \$50 just to have someone else install a virus scanner or some more memory or something else very "mundane." They clearly didn't grow up in the Joerg school of "do it yourself." :-)

I prefer the "Learn By Destroying" skool of computing. I consider myself somewhat of a computer witch doctor or priest. The GUM (great unwashed masses) observe various phenomenon on their computers. However, they are unable to adequately interpret the meaning or predict the future (i.e. is my HD going to blow up?). My purpose is to act as a middle man between the GUM and the computer gods and attempt to supply meaning and logic in an industry that lacks both.

Incidentally, I charge good money to clean up the mess left over when Norton or MacAfee blow up. Also, plugging marginal memory into a working machine is a great way to scramble the drive contents. Expertise and experience have their place. I don't install programs I don't trust and I always test the hell out of RAM before I install it in a live system.

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