

Technology Corner

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New Internet Free Video Location

TV is slowly moving to the web, just as telephone and radio are. There is a new web site that provides free video clips, full programs from TV, and movies. It is discretely supported by ads. See <http://www.hulu.com>.

Restarting a Wireless Connection

Many people are now using a wireless connection to be able to connect to the Internet from where ever they are. Sometimes these wireless connections stop working. Here is the first fix that should be used.

1. Turn off or remove power from both the modem and the router and wait 20 seconds.
2. Turn on the power to the modem and wait 30 seconds.
3. Turn on the power to the router and wait 30 seconds

In a couple of minutes the wireless connection will usually start working again.

Hudson Library web location

The Hudson Library has a very good web site, which gives you access to not only their card catalog but to the card catalogs of most central Massachusetts libraries. With a Hudson library card you can request items from any of these libraries and renew the loan of items. It also provides free access to a wide variety of data bases such as Ancestry.com. See <http://www.hudsonpubliclibrary.com>.

High Definition DVD Players

In a previous issue we talked about High Definition television receivers. Here is the rest of the story. Once you have an HDTV set, you may want a high definition DVD player that can support the higher quality picture available on the HDTV set, although your present DVD play will still work. A new generation of high definition DVD players is coming on the market this fall using a new high capacity media. Unfortunately there are two competing standards. One is called blue-ray and the other is called HD DVD, which uses two layers. Players for these new media presently cost about \$500, but this will come down substantially in the next year or two. At this point it looks like blue-ray will win the standards war. You will need to buy all new high definition DVD disks to obtain picture quality improvement. A much less expensive compromise approach is to continue to use your current DVD disks but get a new DVD player which has "up conversion", which can improve the quality of the picture from standard DVD disks.

There are two kinds of new interfaces for the high definition DVD players: DVI and HDMI. DVI, which is for video only, is the older interface standard which is now being phased out. I recommend the newer HDMI which carries both audio and video. There are adapters that will interface DVI into TV sets that require HDMI.

By the way, do not pay extra for "monster" or high quality DVI or HDMI cables. These are digital cables and all perform the same.

The high definition DVD players also support superior sound. You can of course play the DVD through the TV and get the usual stereo sound. Or you can play the sound through a "home theater" sound system and get 5.1 sound with two speakers in front, two speakers in back, and one speaker in front of the TV set. These are available for about \$250 and up.