

The European High Definition Forum

Progress report (September 2006)



A sound move for HDTV...

- HDTV uses surround sound (5.1)
- The first HDTV broadcasters (BSkyB, BBC, SVT, TF1) have found that standards are needed about where the 5.1 audio is placed on tape or other storage media when programmes are exchanged, and how it is identified.
- The EDHF has set up an ad-hoc group to solve these problems in the next six months.
- Participation from the Italian HDTV platform is most welcome.
- Contact: wood@ebu.ch



Copy Protection

- ‘HD TV’ labelled set top boxes (STBs) and ‘HD-ready’ labelled displays need to work with the HDCP (High Definition Copy Protection) system.
- The EHDF is satisfied that there are no operability problems with STBs and displays, but there is still work to be done in two areas.



The HDCP 'default condition'

- When the HDCP copy protection system is switched on, the signal between the set top box and the display is 'scrambled' so that only an HDCP compatible display can watch the programme.
- Industry has not been able to agree whether the 'normal' or default condition should be for the HDCP to be switched on.
- Some broadcasters believe it should be on (unless deliberately switched off) and others believe it should be off (unless deliberately switched on).
- The EDHF has been unable to reach agreement on this.

The 'Revocation data'

- The HDCP system works by scrambling the signal from the STB to the display.
- The display un-scrambles the signal.
- A mechanism is needed to signal 'rogue' devices which should not be allowed to unscramble the picture. A list of 'rogue' devices needs to be sent periodically to STBs. This is called the 'revocation list'.
- The EDHF has set up an Ad hoc group to analyse the options for delivering the 'revocation list' to the STB. This is led by TF1.
- If you would like to join this work contact wood@ebu.ch



Web site on advice planned

- The EDHF is planning a web site which will help those starting HDTV broadcasting.
- It should give hints and advice, based on the experiences of those who have already started about questions such as what 'bit rate' to use for HDTV.
- Watch this space....



Next meeting...

- The next meeting of the EHDF will be on 15 December 2007, in Amsterdam.
- National HDTV Platforms are welcomed and encouraged to send a (strong) delegation.
- Help make HDTV happen in Europe!

