Digital Video Broadcasting

Digital Video Broadcasting (DVB) is a set of international <u>open standards</u> for <u>digital television</u>. DVB standards are maintained by the **DVB Project**, an international industry consortium, and are published by a Joint Technical Committee (JTC) of the <u>European Telecommunications Standards Institute</u> (ETSI), <u>European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization</u> (CENELEC) and <u>European Broadcasting Union (EBU)</u>.



Official DVB logo, found on compliant devices

Contents

Transmission

Content

Encryption and metadata

Software platform

Return channel

Adoption

<u>Africa</u>

Asia

Europe

North America

Oceania

South America

DVB compliant products

Related standards

See also

References

External links

Transmission

DVB systems distribute data using a variety of approaches, including:

- Satellite: DVB-S, DVB-S2, DVB-S3^[2] and DVB-SH
 - DVB-SMATV for distribution via SMATV
- Cable: DVB-C, DVB-C2
- Terrestrial television: DVB-T, DVB-T2
 - Digital terrestrial television for handhelds: DVB-H, DVB-SH

Microwave: using DTT (DVB-MT), the MMDS (DVB-MC), and/or MVDS standards (DVB-MS)

These standards define the <u>physical layer</u> and <u>data link layer</u> of the distribution system. Devices interact with the physical layer via a synchronous parallel interface (SPI), synchronous serial interface (SSI) or <u>asynchronous serial interface</u> (ASI). All data is transmitted in <u>MPEG transport streams</u> with some additional constraints (DVB-MPEG). A standard for temporally-compressed distribution to mobile devices (DVB-H) was published in November 2004.

These distribution systems differ mainly in the <u>modulation</u> schemes used and error correcting codes used, due to the different technical constraints. DVB-S (SHF) uses QPSK, 8-PSK or 16-QAM. DVB-S2 uses QPSK, 8-PSK, 16-APSK or 32-APSK, at the broadcasters decision. QPSK and 8-PSK are the only versions regularly used. DVB-C (VHF/UHF) uses QAM: 16-QAM, 32-QAM, 64-QAM, 128-QAM or 256-QAM. Lastly, DVB-T (VHF/UHF) uses 16-QAM or 64-QAM (or QPSK) in combination with (C)OFDM and can support hierarchical modulation.

The DVB-T2 specification was approved by the DVB Steering Board in June 2008 and sent to ETSI for adoption as a formal standard. ETSI adopted the standard on 9 September 2009. The DVB-T2 standard gives more robust TV reception and increases the possible bit rate by over 30% for single transmitters (as in the UK) and will increase the maximum bit rate by over 50% in large single-frequency networks (as in Germany and Sweden).

DVB has established a 3D TV group (CM-3DTV) to identify "what kind of 3D-TV solution does the market want and need, and how can DVB play an active part in the creation of that solution?" The CM-3DTV group held a DVB 3D-TV Kick-off Workshop in Geneva on 25 January 2010, followed by the first CM-3DTV meeting the next day. [4] DVB now defines a new standard for 3D video broadcast: DVB 3D-TV.

Modes and features of latest DVB-x2 system standards in comparison:

	DVB-S2	DVB-T2	DVB-C2
Input interface	Multiple transport stream and generic stream encapsulation (GSE)	Multiple transport stream and generic stream encapsulation (GSE)	Multiple transport stream and generic stream encapsulation (GSE)
Modes	Variable coding & modulation and adaptive coding & modulation	Variable coding & modulation ^[5]	Variable coding & modulation and adaptive coding & modulation
FEC	LDPC + BCH 1/4, 1/3, 2/5, 1/2, 3/5, 2/3, 3/4, 4/5, 5/6, 8/9, 9/10	LDPC + BCH 1/2, 3/5, 2/3, 3/4, 4/5, 5/6	LDPC + BCH 1/2, 2/3, 3/4, 4/5, 5/6, 8/9, 9/10 ^[6]
Modulation	Single carrier, <u>PSK</u> or <u>APSK</u> , multiple streams	OFDM	absolute OFDM ^[7]
Modulation schemes	QPSK, 8-PSK, 16-APSK, 32- APSK	QPSK, 16- <u>QAM,</u> 64-QAM, 256- QAM	16- to 4096-QAM
Guard interval	Not applicable	1/4, 19/256, 1/8, 19/128, 1/16, 1/32, 1/128	1/64 or 1/128
Fourier transform size	Not applicable	1k, 2k, 4k, 8k, 16k, 32k <u>DFT</u>	4k <u>Inverse FFT^[8]</u>
Interleaving	Bit-Interleaving	Bit- time- and frequency- interleaving	Bit- time- and frequency- interleaving
Pilots	Pilot symbols	Scattered and continual pilots	Scattered and continual pilots

Content

<u>Digital video</u> content is encoded using <u>discrete cosine transform</u> (DCT) based <u>video coding standards</u>, such as the <u>H.26x</u> and <u>MPEG</u> formats. <u>Digital audio</u> content is encoded using <u>modified discrete cosine transform</u> (MDCT) based <u>audio coding standards</u>, such as <u>Advanced Audio Coding</u> (AAC), <u>Dolby Digital</u> (AC-3) and MP3.

Besides <u>digital audio</u> and <u>digital video</u> transmission, DVB also defines data connections (DVB-DATA - <u>EN</u> 301 192) with <u>return channels</u> (DVB-RC) for several media (<u>DECT</u>, <u>GSM</u>, <u>PSTN/ISDN</u>, <u>satellite</u> etc.) and protocols (DVB-IPTV: Internet Protocol; DVB-NPI: network protocol independent).

Older technologies such as <u>teletext</u> (DVB-TXT) and <u>vertical blanking interval</u> data (DVB-VBI) are also supported by the standards to ease conversion. However, for many applications more advanced alternatives like DVB-SUB for subtitling are available.

Encryption and metadata

The <u>conditional access</u> system (DVB-CA) defines a <u>Common Scrambling Algorithm</u> (DVB-CSA) and a physical <u>Common Interface</u> (<u>DVB-CI</u>) for accessing <u>scrambled</u> content. DVB-CA providers develop their wholly proprietary conditional access systems with reference to these specifications. Multiple simultaneous CA systems can be assigned to a scrambled DVB program stream providing operational and commercial flexibility for the service provider.

DVB is also developing a Content Protection and Copy Management system for protecting content after it has been received (DVB-CPCM), which is intended to allow flexible use of recorded content on a home network or beyond, while preventing unconstrained sharing on the Internet. DVB-CPCM has been the source of much controversy in the popular press and it is said that CPCM is the DVB's answer to the failed American Broadcast Flag. [9]

DVB transports include <u>metadata</u> called Service Information (DVB-SI, ETSI EN 300 468, ETSI TR 101 211) that links the various elementary streams into coherent programs and provides <u>human-readable</u> descriptions for <u>electronic program guides</u> as well as for automatic searching and filtering. The dating system used with this metadata suffers from a <u>year 2038 problem</u> in which due to the limited 16 bits and <u>modified Julian day</u> offset used will cause an overflow issue similar to the <u>year 2000 problem</u>. By comparison, the rival <u>DigiCipher 2</u> based ATSC system will not have this issue until 2048 due in part to 32 bits being used.

Recently, DVB has adopted a profile of the metadata defined by the <u>TV-Anytime</u> Forum (DVB-TVA, ETSI TS 102323). This is an XML Schema based technology and the DVB profile is tailored for enhanced <u>Personal Digital Recorders</u>. DVB lately also started an activity to develop a service for <u>IPTV</u> (DVB-IPI, ETSI TR 102033, ETSI TS 102034, ETSI TS 102814) which also includes metadata definitions for a broadband content guide (DVB-BCG, ETSI TS 102 539).

Software platform

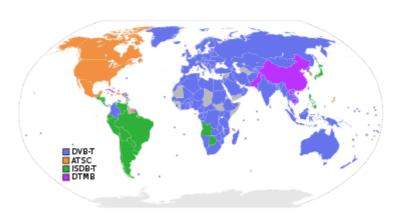
The <u>DVB Multimedia Home Platform</u> (DVB-MHP) defines a <u>Java</u>-based platform for the development of consumer video system applications. In addition to providing abstractions for many DVB and <u>MPEG-2</u> concepts, it provides interfaces for other features like network card control, application download, and layered graphics.

Return channel

DVB has standardized a number of return channels that work together with DVB(-S/T/C) to create bidirectional communication. RCS is short for Return Channel Satellite, and specifies return channels in \underline{C} , \underline{K}_u and \underline{K}_a frequency bands with return bandwidth of up to 2 Mbit/s. DVB-RCT is short for Return Channel Terrestrial, specified by ETSI EN 301958.

Adoption

DVB-S and DVB-C were ratified in 1994. DVB-T was ratified in early 1997. The first commercial DVB-T broadcasts were performed by the <u>United Kingdom's Digital TV Group</u> in late 1998. In 2003 <u>Berlin, Germany</u> was the first area to completely stop broadcasting analog TV signals. Most European countries are fully covered by digital television and many have switched off PAL/SECAM services.



DTT broadcasting systems.

In <u>Europe</u>, as well as in <u>Australia</u>, <u>South</u> Africa and India, DVB is used

throughout. This also holds true for cable and satellite in most <u>Asian</u>, <u>African</u> and many <u>South American</u> countries. Many of these have not yet selected a format for digital terrestrial broadcasts (DTTV) and a few (Canada, <u>El Salvador</u>, <u>Honduras</u>, <u>Mexico</u>, <u>South Korea</u> and the <u>United States</u>) have chosen ATSC instead of DVB-T.

Africa

Kenya

DVB-T broadcasts were launched by the <u>President of Kenya</u>, <u>Mwai Kibaki</u> on 9 December 2009. Broadcasts are using <u>H.264</u>, with the <u>University of Nairobi</u> supplying the decoders. <u>Kenya</u> has also been broadcasting DVB-H since July 2009, available on selected <u>Nokia</u> and <u>ZTE</u> handsets on the <u>Safaricom</u> and other GSM networks. [10]

Madagascar

Since 2011, the pay TV operator Blueline $\underline{^{[11]}}$ launched a DVB-T service branded Blueline TV. $\underline{^{[12]}}$ It supplies both smart cards and set-top-boxes.

South Africa

Since 1995, the pay TV operator <u>DStv</u> used the DVB-S standard to broadcast its services. In 2010 it started a DVB over IP service, and in 2011 it started DStv mobile using the DVB-H standard. [13]

In late 2010, the South African cabinet endorsed a decision by a Southern African Development Community (SADC) task team to adopt the DVB-T2 standard. [14]

Asia

In Asia several Standards are under implementation

China

Hong Kong

In <u>Hong Kong</u>, several cable TV operators such as <u>TVB Pay Vision</u> and <u>Cable TV</u> have already started using DVB-S or DVB-C. The government however has adopted the <u>DMB-T/H</u> standard, developed in <u>mainland</u> China, for its digital terrestrial broadcasting services which has started since 31 December 2007. [15]

Iran

On 17 March 2009, DVB-H and DVB-T H.264/AAC broadcasting started in <u>Tehran</u>. DVB-T broadcasting now available in other cities like: Isfahan, Mashhad, Shiraz, Qom, Tabriz and Rasht.

Israel

DVB-T broadcasts using <u>H.264</u> commenced in <u>Israel</u> on 1 June 2009 with the broadcast trial and the full broadcast began on 2 August 2009. Analog broadcasts were originally planned to end in 18 months after the launch, but analog broadcasts were switched off on 31 March 2011 instead.

During 2010, DVB-T broadcasts have become widely available in most of Israel and an EPG was added to the broadcasts. [16]

Japan

With the exception of <u>SKY PerfecTV!</u>, <u>Japan</u> uses different formats in all areas (<u>ISDB</u>), which are however quite similar to their <u>DVB</u> counterparts. SkyPerfect is a satellite provider using <u>DVB</u> on its 124 and 128 degrees east satellites. Its satellite at 110 degrees east does not use <u>DVB</u>, however.

Malaysia

In <u>Malaysia</u>, a new pay television station <u>MiTV</u> began service in September 2005 using <u>DVB-IPTV</u> technology while lone satellite programming provider <u>ASTRO</u> has been transmitting in DVB-S since its inception in 1996. Free-to-air DVB-T trials began in late 2006 with a simulcast of both TV1 and TV2 plus a new channel called RTM3/RTMi. In April 2007, RTM announced that the outcome of the test was favourable and that it expected DVB-T to go public by the end of 2007. However, the system did not go public as planned. As of 2008, the trial digital line-up has expanded to include a music television channel called <u>Muzik Aktif</u>, and a sports channel called Arena, with a news channel called Berita Aktif planned for inclusion in the extended trials soon. Also, high definition trials were performed during the Beijing Olympics and the outcome was also favourable. It was announced that the system would go public in 2009.

In 2009, MiTV closed down, changed its name to U-Television and announced that it was changing to scrambled DVB-T upon relaunch instead of the <u>DVB-IPTV</u> system used prior to shutting down. However, RTM's digital network again did not go public, although around this time TVs that are first-generation DVB-T capable went on sale. The government has since announced that they will be deploying DVB-T2 instead in stages starting in mid-2015 and analog shutoff has been delayed to April 2019.

Philippines

In the <u>Philippines</u>, DVB-S and DVB-S2 are the two broadcast standards currently used by satellite companies, while DVB-C is also used by some cable companies. The government adopted DVB-T in November 2006 for digital terrestrial broadcasting but a year later, it considered other standards to replace DVB-T. The country has chosen the ISDB-T system instead of DVB-T.

Taiwan

In <u>Taiwan</u>, some digital cable television systems use DVB-C, though most customers still use analog NTSC cable television. The government planned adopting ATSC or the Japanese ISDB-T standard as NTSC's replacement. However, the country has chosen the European DVB-T system instead. Public Television Service (PTS) and Formosan TV now provided high definition television. The former has a channel called HiHD; the latter uses its HD channel for broadcasting MLB baseball.

Europe

Cyprus

<u>Cyprus</u> uses DVB-T with MPEG-4 encoding. Analog transmission stopped on 1 July 2011 for all channels except CyBC 1.

Denmark

In <u>Denmark</u>, DVB-T replaced the analog transmission system for TV on 1 November 2009. Danish national digital TV transmission has been outsourced to the company Boxer TV A/S, [17] acting as gatekeeper organization for terrestrial TV transmission in Denmark. However, there are still several free channels from DR.

Finland

DVB-T transmissions were launched on 21 August 2001. The analogue networks continued alongside the digital ones until 1 September 2007, when they were shut down nationwide. Before the analogue switchoff, the terrestrial network had three multiplexes: MUX A, MUX B and MUX C. MUX A contained the channels of the public broadcaster <u>Yleisradio</u> and MUX B was shared between the two commercial broadcasters: <u>MTV3</u> and <u>Nelonen</u>. MUX C contained channels of various other broadcasters. After the analogue closedown, a fourth multiplex named MUX E was launched. All of the <u>Yleisradio</u> (YLE) channels are broadcast free-to-air, likewise a handful of commercial ones including <u>MTV3</u>, <u>Nelonen</u>, <u>Subtv</u>, <u>Jim</u>, <u>Nelonen</u> Sport, Liv, FOX, TV5 Finland, AVA and Kutonen. There are also several pay channels sold by PlusTV.

Italy

In Italy, DVB-S started in 1996 and the final analogue broadcasts were terminated in 2005. The switch-off from analogue terrestrial network to DVB-T started on 15 October 2008. Analogue broadcast was ended on 4 July 2012 after nearly four years of transition in phases.

Netherlands

In the Netherlands, DVB-S broadcasting started on 1 July 1996, satellite provider MultiChoice (now CanalDigitaal) switched off the analogue service shortly after on 18 August 1996. DVB-T broadcasting started April 2003, and terrestrial analog broadcasting was switched off December 2006. It was initially marketed by Digitenne but later by KPN. Multiplex 1 contains the NPO 1, NPO 2 and NPO 3 national TV channels, and a regional channel. Multiplexes 2~5 have the other encrypted commercial and international channels. Multiplex 1 also broadcasts the radio channels Radio 1, Radio 2, 3 FM, Radio 4, Radio 5, Radio 6, Concertzender, FunX and also a regional channel. As of June 2011, the Dutch DVB-T service had 29 TV channels and 20 radio channels (including free to air channels). DVB-T2 will be introduced during 2019/2020.

Norway

In Norway, DVB-T broadcasting is marketed under RiksTV (encrypted pay channels) and NRK (unencrypted public channels). DVB-T broadcasting via the terrestrial network began in November 2007, and has subsequently been rolled out one part of the country at a time. The Norwegian implementation of DVB-T is different from most others, as it uses H.264 with HE-AAC audio encoding, while most other countries have adapted the less recent MPEG-2 standard. Notably most DVB software for PC has problems with this, though in late 2007 compatible software was released, like DVBViewer using the libfaad2 library. Sony has released several HDTVs (Bravia W3000, X3000, X3500, E4000, V4500, W4000, W4500, X4500) that support Norway's DVB-T implementation without use of a separate set-top box, and Sagem ITD91 HD, Grundig DTR 8720 STBs are others.

Poland

Currently, <u>Poland</u> uses the DVB-T standard with MPEG-4 encoding. Analogue broadcast switch-off started on 7 November 2012 and was completed on 23 July 2013. [20]

Portugal

<u>Portugal</u> follows the DVB-T implementation, using H.264 with AAC audio encoding. It has been live since 29 April 2009 and the switch-off date for all analog signals was on 26 April 2012.

Romania

Romania started digital terrestrial broadcasting in 2005 but it was virtually unknown by many people in Romania due to the lack of content, cable TV and satellite TV being far more popular, however it was the first platform to deliver HD content. Today, Romania is using DVB-T2 as terrestrial standard, but also DVB-S/S2, and DVB-C which is extremely popular. The only analogue broadcast remains on cable. Romania adopted the DVB-T2 standard in 2016 after a series of tests with mpeg2, mpeg4 on DVB-T, and has today fully implemented DVB-T2. DVB-C, which was introduced in late 2005, still remains with mpeg2 on SD content and mpeg4 on HD content. DVB-S (introduced in 2004 focus sat being the first such platform) is used in basic packages with standard definition content, while DVB-S2 set top boxes are provided for both SD and HD content.

Russia

Fully switched to digital in 2019, <u>Russia</u> uses the DVB-T2 standard for broadcasting 2 channel packs with about ten main national radio and TV channels (<u>Channel One</u>, <u>Rossiya 1/2/K/24</u>, <u>NTV</u>, <u>Radio Mayak</u>, <u>Radio Rossii</u> etc.

United Kingdom

In the UK DVB-T has been adopted for broadcast of standard definition terrestrial programming, as well as a single DVB-T2 multiplex for high-definition programming. The UK terminated all analogue terrestrial broadcasts by the end of 2012. The vast majority of channels are available <u>free-to-air</u> through the <u>Freeview</u> service. DVB-T was also used for the now-defunct ONDigital/ITV Digital and Top Up TV service.

All satellite programming (some of which is available free-to-air via <u>Freesat</u> or <u>free-to-view</u> via <u>Freesat</u> from Sky; the remainder requires a subscription to Sky), is broadcast using either DVB-S or DVB-S2.

Subscription-based cable television from Virgin Media uses DVB-C.

North America

In <u>North America</u>, <u>DVB-S</u> is often used in encoding and <u>video compression</u> of digital satellite communications alongside <u>Hughes DSS</u>. Unlike <u>Motorola</u>'s <u>DigiCipher 2</u> standard, DVB has a wider adoption in terms of the number of manufacturers of receivers. Terrestrial digital television broadcasts in Canada, Mexico, El Salvador, Honduras, and the United States use ATSC encoding with <u>8VSB</u> modulation instead of DVB-T with <u>COFDM</u>. Television newsgathering links from mobile vans to central receive points (often on mountaintops or tall buildings) use DVB-T with COFDM in the 2 GHz frequency band.

Oceania

Australia

In <u>Australia</u>, DVB broadcasting is marketed under the <u>Freeview</u> brand name, and more recently 'Freeview Plus', denoting the integration of online <u>HbbTV</u> and EPG in certain DVB devices. Regular broadcasts began in January 2001 using MPEG 2 video and MPEG 1 audio in SD and HD.

Changes to broadcasting rules have enabled broadcasters to offer multi-channeling, prompting broadcasters to use H.264 video with MPEG 1 or AAC audio encoding for some secondary channels.

Specifications for HD channels now differ depending on the broadcaster. ABC, Nine and Ten use 1920x1080i MPEG 4 video with Dolby Digital audio. Seven and SBS use 1440x1080i MPEG 2 video with Dolby Digital and MPEG 1 audio respectively. [21]

New Zealand

In <u>New Zealand</u>, DVB broadcasting is marketed under the <u>Freeview</u> brand name. SD <u>MPEG-2</u> DVB-S broadcasts via satellite began on 2 May 2007 and DVB-T (terrestrial) broadcasts began April 2008 broadcasting in HD H.264 video with HE-AAC audio.

South America

Colombia

Since 2008, <u>Colombia</u> has adopted as a public policy the decision to migrate from the analog television implemented in 1954 to <u>Digital Terrestrial Television</u> (<u>DVB-T2</u>). This measure allows the viewers access to the open television (<u>OTA</u>) of public and private channels, with video quality in <u>HD</u>. As planned, analogue

DVB compliant products

Companies that manufacture a product which is compliant to one or more DVB standards have the option of registering a declaration of conformity for that product. Wherever the DVB trademark is used in relation to a product – be it a broadcast, a service, an application or equipment – the product must be registered with the DVB project office. [22]

Related standards

Although DVB is the universal standard for digital television signal transmission and reception, there are more international standards available: <u>ATSC</u> originally from USA and <u>ISDB</u> originally from Japan, <u>digital</u> terrestrial television format.

See also

- CI+ Common Interface Plus
- Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB)
- Digital Radio Mondiale (DRM, digital broadcasting over short and medium waves)
- Digital Multimedia Broadcasting (DMB)
- ETSI Satellite Digital Radio (SDR)
- FTA Receiver
- ISDB Integrated Services Digital Broadcasting
- <u>DTMB</u> Digital Terrestrial Multimedia Broadcast, developed in China, also adopted by a few countries beyond
- List of digital television deployments by country
- WiB (Digital Terrestrial Television)

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External links

- Official website (http://www.dvb.org/)
- "MultiScope Lite" (http://www.rumblehouse.com/products/multiscopelite/). Rumble House Media Group (RHMG). Broadcast software video tools.

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