

DTT FAQ

Qn1. What is DTT

Answer

DTT stands for **D**igital **T**errestrial **T**elevision (or digital terrestrial transmission). It refers to the terrestrial broadcasting of television in a digital format. Currently, terrestrial broadcasting in most African countries is in an analogue format. But more and more countries (Including Tanzania) are in the process of planning and implementing migration from analogue to digital broadcasting.

Qn2. What is the difference between terrestrial television and satellite television?

Answer

Terrestrial television uses a network of transmission towers to relay the signal across the country. Each transmission tower has a specific area of coverage, and it is the network of coverage that provides television signals across the country.

The broadcast signal is sent to the various towers and if you are within the area covered by a tower, then you will be able to receive the broadcast services via a terrestrial aerial which is usually placed on your roof or on your television set (depending on how strong the signal that you are receiving is).

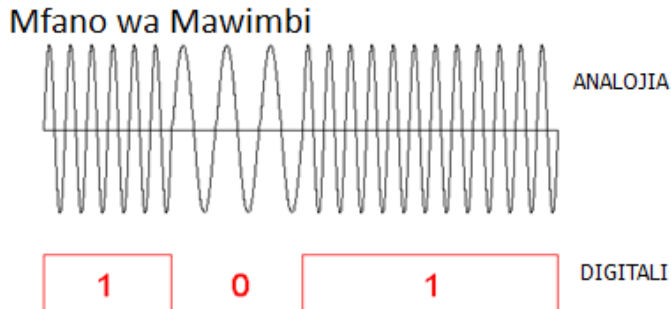
Satellite television broadcasts uses a satellite in the sky. The broadcast signal is sent to the satellite and the signal is received via a satellite dish. A single satellite usually covers a large area (for example the Eutelsat W7, Intelsat satellite covers most of Africa).

Qn3. What is the difference between analogue TV and digital TV?

Answer

In analogue, the signal is transmitted in the form of electromagnetic waves. This is not the most efficient way of transmitting TV signals. In digital, the signal is encoded and can be compressed – this will therefore allow for more channels to be broadcast. Up to 21 channels to be broadcast in the same bandwidth as one current analogue channel uses. The diagram below illustrates the difference.

Mchoro wa mawimbi ya Analojia na Digitali



Qn4. Why are we migrating from analogue to digital?

Answer

The main reason for the migration is to release valuable spectrum which can be used for other services. Spectrum is scarce, and hence making more efficient use of the spectrum available is necessary if more telecommunications and broadcasting services are to be made available on a terrestrial basis.

Qn5. Has this been done elsewhere around the world?

Answer

Yes - all countries around the world will do the migration to ensure ongoing coordination and protection from interference. Examples of countries that are advanced in their migration process include Tanzania, Republic of South Africa, Rwanda, Kenya, United Kingdom, New Zealand, Sweden, United States, Ghana, France, Mauritius etc.

Qn6. Will I need a satellite dish to receive DTT?

Answer

No, you will not need a satellite dish to receive DTT. The satellite signal is not the same as the terrestrial signal which is received using a terrestrial TV aerial.

Qn7. Will I need a new aerial to receive DTT?

Answer

Yes-Existing aerials may be used, some viewers may need new aerials, or may need to upgrade existing aerials. In some instances aerials may have to be adjusted. At this stage it is unclear who will be affected by such adjustments, but the majority of viewers will not require any changes to their aerial installations.

Qn8. Will I need any other additional equipment to receive DTT?

Answer

You will need to have a DTT Set-Top Box (also referred to as a decoder). This DTT Set-Top Box is not the same as the DSTV or any other satellite decoder.

Q9. What is a Set-Top Box (STB)?

Answer

The Set-Top Box is a receiver that will decode the digital signal to enable the channels to be displayed on your analogue television set. This Set-Top Box will plug into your TV set.



Qn10. Why do I need a Set-Top Box?

Answer

You need a device that decodes the digital signal received via a standard aerial antenna and supplies the TV set with a video signal. Without the Set-Top Box you will be unable to view the digital television services on your television set.

Qn11. Will I need to pay a subscription fee every month like DStv?

Answer

Yes –However, selected local free-to-air channels (Like TBC1) will also be offered on the DTT network.

Qn12. What will the Set-Top Box cost?

Answer

With the level of functionality proposed by the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA), it is estimated that the retail cost of the free-to-air Set-Top Box is in the region of Tsh 50,000 to Tsh.100,000. The cost will fall to lower margins as the digital take up advances. Another driver for cost is liberalization of the STB market and mass production hence economies of scale. The trend will be similar to evolution of mobile phones and sharp drop in retail prices.

Q13. Do you need a Set-Top Box to receive the DTT services if you have DStv or any other Satellite decoder?

DStv is a satellite service. The satellite signal is different from the DTT signal and the two systems are not compatible. The customer using satellite dish will continue to receive the existing and some future free-to-air channels. However, if you wish to receive all the DTT free-to-air services you will have to purchase a DTT Set-Top Box.

Qn14. Where can the Set-Top Box be bought?

Answer

The Free to Air DTT set top boxes will be available to most of retail shops. But for those who would wish to watch subscription service they will have to purchase the DTT set top box to service providers.

Qn15. How is the Set-Top Box installed?

Answer

The Set-Top Box can be installed by a professional installer or one can connect the cable from the TV aerial to the Set-Top Box (normally RF IN at the back) and then follow the Set-Top Box installation menu using the supplied manual.

Qn16. If I have five TV sets in the house, will I need five Set-Top Boxes?

Answer

YES, if you want each individual TV set to view a different channel. Other models of Set-Top Boxes with functionality that allows you to connect more than one TV to a single Set-Top Box may be developed and made available at a later stage. This STB will however be more expensive.

Qn17. Will I need to buy a new television set to receive DTT?

Answer

NO, most current analogue television sets will be able to receive DTT. The main consideration is that your TV must have an A/V input to ensure your Set-Top-Box can be plugged into your TV. If you have this, you should be able to use your current TV set. You do not need a high definition (HF) TV, LCD TV or Plasma TV to receive DTT.

There are also TVs with an integrated Set-Top Box (that means a Set-Top Box already built in with the TV). These are usually called idTVs. However, these are not likely to be available in Tanzania for some time.

Qn18. How do I establish if my TV will be compatible to the Set-Top Box?

Answer

The TV set must have audio and video inputs or alternatively must have RF input.

Qn19. When will my current analogue TV stop working?

Answer

The analogue switch for Tanzania is 31st December, 2012. After that date all analogue transmissions will not be allowed in Tanzania.