

What is a Smart TV?

Well, we're glad you asked. Smart TV is also known as Connected TV and simply it's any telly that can be hooked up to the internet, giving you many of the features found on your computer or mobile phone.

Smart TVs come in all shapes and sizes, from Plasma to LCD and LED. Most will also have built-in Freeview HD capabilities and some at the top end of the range will also include 3D.

SMART TV is an easily accessible GATEWAY to a multitude of entertainment platforms ranging from Movies, Video, Music, Social Networking, News and Games all through your TV.

It will transform the way you experience and view everyday TV allowing you to become more informed, more connected and most importantly MORE ENTERTAINED... ALL in the comfort of your own living room!

Why do I need the internet on my TV?

Another good question! Well, we've all done it, haven't we? While glued to our favourite TV Shows and Movies, we've had our mobile phones or laptops out and sat there posting comments to Facebook or Twitter about what's happening on screen. Smart TVs allow you to download apps to them, just like on a smartphone such as an iPhone or Android device.

They range from social networking, to gambling, to downloadable videos and movies alongside catch-up TV streaming services. So instead of having to use two screens, you can do it all on one big one, with your social network updates appearing down the side of the programme you are watching.

This occurs on selected models only so check with each manufacturer for further information on what their TVs are capable of.

What are the key benefits of SMART TV?

Smart TVs offer a variety of benefits such as Movies on demand, Music, Youtube, Skype, Social Networking.

More and more apps are becoming available and the choice will grow hugely over the time. Below are the features a Smart TV has...

WATCH: What YOU want whenever YOU want to!

Smart Hub provides access to an incredible world of entertainment – catch up services, movies on demand, sport, music, social networking, news and games allowing you the freedom to enjoy your favourite types of entertainment when you want to.... you'll never need a TV schedule again.

CHAT:

Stay in touch with your friends whilst watching TV through Social TV feature. Social TV allows you to Tweet, Facebook or Instant Message whilst watching TV, enabling you to create your own online commentary with friends whilst watching the big game, or your favourite soap or the latest celebrity mishap. Social TV can be overlaid onto your TV screen, so you can keep track of what is going on, alternatively you can switch to a IP providing a larger typing area, or simply hide the chat interface so that only new messages pop up at the bottom of the screen.

Additionally if you're a regular Skype user you're aware of the benefits of FREE video calls to friends and family anywhere in the world. Add in the comfort factor of making these calls not huddled around your laptop but sitting on your sofa in glorious high definition by purchasing the optional HD Skype camera accessory – and share those precious moments comfortably.

SHARE:

It allows you to connect compatible devices like mobiles, tabs, digital cameras ora PC wirelessly to your TV. Streaming movies, music or photos to the big screen couldn't be easier and with the additional benefits of cloud-based storage you can access and share this content on the go anywhere in the world.

SURF:

Web Browser allows you to download rich web content due to it being supported by a similar foundation to that of Google Chrome, and is Flash-supported, allowing you to easily browse media-rich websites, save favourites, and view multiple pages at any one time. The Smart TV Web Browser also has a child locking facility, ensuring that it is safe for all the family.

The Search All or Web Browser function will allow you search any connected devices laptop, Tab or Mobile wirelessly, or infact the world wide web for specific content or subject material and will open an easy to use results screen linked directly to the content you want to see – just sit back and enjoy!

How do I connect to the internet?

Smart TV is designed to be easy-to-use. All of the televisions will have an Ethernet port allowing you to plug in a cable that connects to your broadband modem or router. But this means your TV needs to be situated near to that box.

So, most Smart TVs come Wi-Fi Ready, giving the choice to buy a wireless dongle that plugs into the telly and connects to your current Wi-Fi home network. Some sets will include the dongle in the package, while others offer it as an optional extra.

It is important to know that you must buy one from the same manufacturer as your TV for it to work. More expensive Smart TVs do away with the need for a dongle and simply have Wi-Fi built-in.

How fast should my broadband be?

In order to get the most from any Smart TV and be able to download movies from LoveFilm, stream videos via YouTube or have Skype video calls without any jumps and jerks, it's recommended that a minimum 2Mb internet connection is needed.

Do I need a special remote control?

Every Smart TV will come with a remote suitable for its use. To download apps you simply follow the instructions on screen and you can use pop-up on-screen keyboards to type. But LG offers a remote control that works more like a computer mouse on its top-end models while Samsung's top-range sets come with a touch remote that has a small LCD screen, meaning you can watch another channel to the one that's showing on the main set.

Many Smart TVs also allow you to use your smartphone or Android handset as a remote control too!

What else can I do with a Smart TV?

Smart TVs are an evolution of the DLNA standard. This stands for Digital Living Network Alliance, which is a piece of technology included in a range of gadgets and devices so they can 'talk' to each other. This means they will easily connect and allow you to wirelessly send photos or music to your TV for example from some mobile phones.

Do I have to buy a Smart TV to get apps?

Actually, no! Some newer Blu-ray players now come with apps built-in that will work on a normal TV.

Like the TVs, you simply plug the player into an Ethernet connection, attach a wireless dongle or others will have Wi-Fi built-in. They may have apps already pre-loaded but the choice may be more limited than on a fully-fledged Smart TV. For instance, many cannot download new apps as and when they become available, whereas Smart TVs are fully future-proof.

Can I access the whole World Wide Web from my TV?

On cheaper models, an internet browser won't be included meaning you will not be able to view cyberspace like you do via a computer. You will only have access to apps. More expensive models will feature a browser though that is compatible with most websites, so you can sit on the sofa and both surf and search the web as well as TV channels.