



News Bytes

Welcome to the first edition of NewsBytes, the bi-monthly Adam Internet newsletter. We hope this will keep you updated on what's happening at Adam Internet, give you hints and tips for getting the most out of your connection and let you know of any specials or new services.

Throughout the next couple of issues, we will try to entertain you with interesting web sites, handy shortcuts, great gadgets and "newsy" articles that involve the Internet, upcoming events for Adam Internet and other important issues affecting your service.

If there is anything you would like to see in the newsletter, either as a regular column or a featured topic, please e-mail newsletter@adam.com.au and we'll try to add it in.

AdamDirect on a Roll...

Adam Internet is proud to announce that the initial rollout of its Next Generation (ADSL2+) network is complete, with 24 active exchanges providing lightning-fast Internet to customers all over Adelaide.

This high-tech internet technology, called AdamDirect, enables speeds of up to 24 Megabits per second - up to 90 times faster than traditional 256k ADSL services.

We look forward to enabling additional areas in Adelaide with Exchanges in Elizabeth, Gawler, North Adelaide, Port Adelaide and Semaphore already on schedule to receive this service. Planning for a number of other Exchanges are in progress but at time of writing were not available for release. For a complete schedule check out "AdamDirect Exchanges" on the Adam Web site.

Adam Internet even more "Newsier"

For many years, Adam Internet has been running a News Server (at news.adam.com.au). Newsgroups have been described in many ways but simply they are discussion groups on the Internet organised by subject.

MP3, hobbies, sports, etc are some of the subjects of many newsgroups. Users in a newsgroup participate in discussions by posting messages and responding to messages posted by others.

Although not the original intention of Usenet, posts can also consist of software, music, and pictures freely available for downloading. Currently there are over 100,000 newsgroups available and new groups are added every day.

Adam Internet has commenced a Public Beta Trial of a full binary Newsfeed provided by Giganews. Giganews serves the largest Internet and telecommunications providers around

the world and acts as the top Usenet aggregator with more articles passing through it on a daily basis than any other Usenet system. In addition, Giganews is the number one source of original articles on Usenet.

The Giganews brand is recognised worldwide by customers as a symbol of quality and reliability.

Adam Internet's Beta news server is located at:
betanews.adam.com.au

You will need a Newsreader and "login" using your Adam Internet username and password. Some Newsreaders are: Newspro & Grabit

A great guide to Usenet Newsgroups can be found at:
<http://www.benziesthorelibrary.org/fiug/usenet.html>

Please note that the use of News Services is beyond the scope of normal Help Desk support. But I hear Google is a good resource...

In this edition...

- AdamDirect on a Roll..
- Adam Internet in to News
- Google Earth - a view from above
- Skype me! - Talk is cheap
- Video on Demand

Have a long, hard look at yourself

If you need a reason to upgrade to broadband, keep reading.

Google Earth is satellite imaging of the whole world. I'm not kidding. I found my house.

The program is a download from Google that opens up with a view of Earth from Space. You can move the

Earth around and centre anywhere you like, then zoom down so far that you can pick out cars parked on the street.

This program will only work with broadband due to the large amount of data it has to transfer so that you can look around the world. There are versions available for Windows and, more recently, Mac.

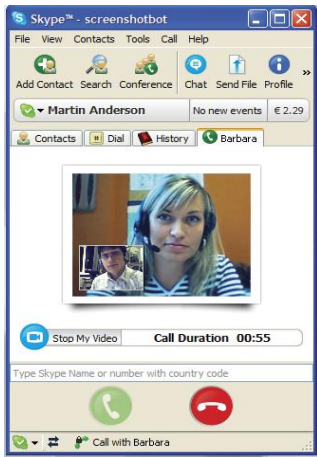
For more info:
<http://earth.google.com>





Talk is Cheap - Free even!

Chat has evolved! Gone are the days when we were limited to text-based chat and could only talk as fast as we could type. With the advent of Skype, you can now use your computer for telephone and video calls. Skype has raised the bar for



consumer-level Voice-over-IP, a techy name for telephone over the internet. If you don't already have a microphone you can pick one up very cheaply to use with Skype, or you can purchase a "Skype phone" (available from many local retailers) which looks and functions like a normal cordless phone but also plugs into your router so that not only can you accept standard telephone calls, but Internet phone calls as well. The good news is that calling Skype-to-Skype is free, so if you can convince those family and friends overseas to connect as well, you can eliminate phone call charges. If you want, you can

even sign up for an account that allows you to call ANY number, very cheaply. Don't worry about having to key in long calling card authorisation numbers; by using Skype to call you can just dial the number and automatically get cheap rates. Where do you find more information? www.skype.com has all the answers, and you can download the program there as well. Guess what, it's free as well! Chat for free with a program thats free, you can't get better than that. You can get versions for Windows (2000 and XP), Mac, Linux and even Pocket PC.

Video Stores now in your living room

Remember the days of going to hire a video down at the corner shop? You would select from a limited range and always end up with your second choice because the person before you took the last copy of "Return of the Jedi". Armed with "Teen Wolf Too", you would get rained on going back to the car and find a parking ticket for stopping in a loading zone. When you got home the videotape quality would be so bad that even adjusting the tracking as far as it would go still didn't help. Three days and 10 bucks in late fees later, you'd remember to take back the video.

The advent of DVD meant that instead of worn tapes, you had to deal with scratched discs. You'd think to yourself, "there has to be a better way!"

In a couple of months, Adam

Internet will be launching a first for Adelaide... Video On Demand (VOD). That's right, we're only a hair's breadth away from the pills that become a three-course meal at the touch of a button. The space age is well and truly upon us and soon you won't even have to move from the couch to get a movie of your choice.

How does it work? You need to have an Adam Internet set-top box for your TV that can connect to your modem either by Ethernet cable or wirelessly. If you're lucky enough to have AdamDirect you can select any movie you want and it will stream to you in real time, but if you have normal broadband you can still get the movie you want, just in a different way. When a movie is ready for pre-release it starts to download to your Adam Internet set-top box.

This is called a "trickle feed", because it is done in such small amounts that you won't even notice any difference in your internet speed. By the time the movie is available for release, all you have to do is make yourself a cup of coffee, press a few buttons on your remote control and the movie will begin to play. Adam Internet VOD means never missing out on the movie you want.

But what happens when the baby wakes up, the neighbours drop in or the power goes out? Does that mean you miss out on seeing the movie you've ordered? No! You can pause it just like a DVD to deal with minor distractions but if all else fails, when you order a movie through Adam Internet VOD, you have 24 hours to watch it. Just like getting a new release from the store, except

you don't have to remember to take it back (No more late fees!) Oh and, by the way. For those of you who miss getting the stale popcorn from the video store... don't forget that pizza shops still deliver with just one phone call, and if you really don't want to move, one of the major chains is even introducing internet-ordering.

More about the TV Set-Top Boxes...

There are a number of models available ranging from purely streaming versions to a model that supports "tricklefeed" and has PVR and HDTV capability. Originally in Mpeg2 format - the retail version will be released in Mpeg4 format

Windows XP Shortcut

Want to open the File Manager (Explorer) quickly?

Just press
Windows Key + E



What is the Windows Key?

It's a key with a Windows icon on it. It generally hangs out at the bottom of the keyboard between the ALT and CTRL keys. This is a "shortcut" key that has specific functions when used with other keys.



Mac Shortcut

Want to close all your open windows?

Try this

