

Taking the Web on Vacation

General Information:

Issue: Provide a fast Internet connection for holiday makers.

Solution: Utilise a 3G wireless device.

Benefits:

- Provides an effective personal connection that can be shared between family members
- Simple to set up
- Portable from site to site

Hardware: NetComm t1 or MyZone

Application Opportunity

While it used to be that holiday makers would want to get away from their computers, the increasing penetration of the Internet for all aspects of our lives now means that people are much more reluctant to put themselves out of touch with the World Wide Web. Traditionally this has meant relying on Internet cafes or on accommodation that can provide a fixed line Internet connection.

However, hotel Internet connections are often unreasonably expensive or quite limited in their speed. And for those who prefer their holidays to include isolation, camping or boats, a fixed line solution is not an option. In recent years the possibility of using a 3G network has become more viable for travelers, usually through a USB-based 'dongle' receiver. This allows a measure of connectivity, but at the edge of the 3G footprint, reception will be limited by the small size and arrangement of the dongle's antennas. Additionally, the dongle is a single-user arrangement, with only one computer capable of connecting at a time.

For those consumers who do have a dongle, they can still make it perform at its best by using a non-embedded wireless 3G router like the NetComm t1 Travel Router. Connecting the dongle to this device enables the sharing of the 3G account between multiple machines and family members. The t1 fits in a shirt pocket and its built-in battery frees users from the need to rig up cables or place it adjacent to their computer.

The t1's Ethernet port can also be used to access an ADSL connection. One scenario that is bound to be of assistance to frequent travelers is in helping to avoid smartphone bill shock from overseas roaming and data downloads. The t1 can allow phone owners to access the Net from (for example) their hotel room's Ethernet connection. They can then use the t1 as a Wi-Fi access point to get their phone online instead of depending on the foreign 3G network. Similarly, small groups of people travelling together could access the Internet via the one connection instead of all of them paying for 3G dongles or phone roaming.

If you don't want to rely on dongles, another on-the-road solution is to make use of an embedded gateway router, such as the NetComm MyZone. With an embedded SIM the router can create an instant hotspot for multiple users, either wirelessly or via Ethernet. The integrated battery gives about 5 hours of life and 40 on standby. Recharging is through a USB cable.

With the power of 3G and the right NetComm gateway, nobody travelling for leisure need cut themselves off from their online life while they sit back and recharge their mental batteries.