

The Internet of Things—IoT

Have you heard this term before? The ‘Things’ referred to are neither the humans nor computers which we expect to find on the internet. They are: household appliances, home automation products, gadgets, sensors, cars, weather stations, cameras and machines—all connected directly to the internet. This allows ‘Things’ to be operated by online services, computers and phone apps, and to report things back through the internet. Infamous examples include a button installed above your toilet roll dispenser which you can press to instantly order more toilet paper online. Rest assured not all IoT is as useless as that!

Popular domestic uses include remotely controlling your door locks, lights, watering systems, music players, thermostats, vacuums and even pet feeders, using your smartphone and an app. Now you won’t have to be inside your house to leave the lights on...

Another example would be a home security system. Once it detects an intrusion into your home it can sound an alarm and contact the police for you. It can also send a video stream via the internet to your phone. You can watch with dismay and anger from the comfort of your hotel swimming pool in Bali as your private home in Oz is burgled in full HD colour.

From Phone Photos to Family Photo Board...

Are you accumulating a large collection of digital photos on your pc or mobile phone? How many great photos are getting lost in the sheer volume random photos? What’s the good of them just sitting there in an electronic box that no one else can see?

Take some time to go through and sort your photos into categories. While you’re doing that choose a selection to print out. Stick them on your toilet wall, or create a pin-up board/family shrine. Spend some time appreciating treasured memories from times when you were more than just the hollow shell that you are now. (disclaimer—Damon wrote this !)

Printing on the Kodak Kiosk at Northcliffe CRC costs 50c per 10x15cm photo, or 40 photos for \$15. We are also able to scan and reproduce your old photos and retouch photos.

Windy Harbour Phone Tower

Some of you will already be aware that there is now a mobile phone tower at Windy. It supplies both 3G (850MHz) and 4G (700MHz). Typical download speeds are 2 – 50Mbps. It is now 2 years old and is functioning well. It is a Telstra tower so the networks Optus and Vodaphone DO NOT work at Windy Harbour (or Northcliffe). If you are looking for an option the doesn’t include Telstra there are 2 carriers that we know of that use the Telstra hardware successfully enough: Aldi and Boost. While you can now get a signal 30kms SW to SE out to sea, you may not be able to get one when you are much closer but out of sight of the tower— eg. over the headland at Salmon Beach.

Mobile Phone Recycling



More than 90 per cent of materials used in those phones and accessories - including rare metals like gold - can be recycled to make products, including jewellery, plastic fencing, stainless steel and new batteries.

Do the right thing and drop off your old mobile phones here at the CRC for the mobilemuster collection. We can also accept your used toner and ink cartridges for recycling (Cartridges 4 PlanetArk).



Above:

Rediscover the ancient art of the family collage...

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 10 am to 5 pm • Thursday 10 am to 6 pm • Friday 9 am to 6 pm