

Using my analog TV with converter box (converting to analog) I received many more stations than I did with an analog signal only. And the pictures were wonderfully sharp. But here's the catch. Most if not all of the stations' signals would get interrupted by 1) wind blown trees, 2) low flying aircraft and 3) other buildings 4) flying gnats. Most exasperating was the fact that literally the only station that I really cared about was my local PBS station (i.e., WETA). I couldn't get the signal though the broadcast antenna is all of about seven miles away! (I contacted the station with my observation and they said that they were broadcasting at full strength and no intention of installing 'repeaters.'. Also I am restricted to an indoor antenna because I live in what is deemed to be a historic condominium.)

Update December 10, 2008

I have purchased a digital LCD TV - so far untested - as the 'quality' converter box that I had purchased for my old but functional analog TV quit working. (I also tried the high speed fiber optic option. I jettisoned that idea after spending 3 ½ hours on the phone attempting to get an answer to a question and being repeatedly placed on hold "for the next available operator." I figured that if this was an example of the service I could expect. I wanted no part of the company and canceled my subscription contract.)

Update January 29, 2009

The decent antenna that I had purchased, in fact, did no better than my rabbit ears. The broken signal was so frustrating that I unplugged the box and continued receiving the analog signal with my old rabbit ears.

In the fall of last year I bit the bullet and very briefly subscribed to a fiber optic high speed service, as described above. Following that debacle I decided to give the box another try. I discovered to my annoyance that the box did not work, power but no joy!

I reasoned that digital-to-analog converter boxes are sort of an after thought of the various electronic companies. After all they

would probably rather sell serious money making technology, i.e. digital TVs. What I needed was an established technology. I bought a digital TV. Next I spent many hours online and on the phone researching antennas, something the oh-so-simple government TV ads don't tell you that is probably required depending on variables I previously listed. This is the biggest failing of the government and the various TV networks; they don't tell the analog TV viewer that going digital is more than plug and play. What is someone to do that isn't particularly adept at doing this kind of research?

So now I have a nice digital TV and a good quality indoor amplified antenna, but my picture still breaks up. Perhaps not as bad as with my analog TV, converter box, and decent indoor antenna troika but, yes, the image still breaks up. Digital TV is great, when it works, but not tonight.

Update: 11 August 2009.

I have totally given up attempting to watch PBS (WETA) as the signal is so easily disrupted and lost. So what I am stuck watching is reality TV (pablum for the masses) or NetFlix. I'm opting for NetFlix as the government has managed to destroy what was 'free' to all Americans.

So when is the FCC going to fix this abortion called analog to digital conversion and spend the big bucks that the government made selling bandwidth to corporate TV media and install digital repeaters (sic) in those many, many regions of the country that cannot pick up the wimpy digital signal?

You have my address I expect a cogent, meaningful, to the point, response.

Thank you for your time.