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Dish Network Smart Card

By Frank Johnson

In researching Dish Network as a satellite TV provider, you may have asked yourself...

Just what is the Dish Network Smart Card?

In an effort to combat signal piracy, satellite providers have faced quite a challenge: keep their broadcasting secure from unauthorized users while providing uninterrupted service to their base of subscribers.

For Dish Network, the result is the Smart Card.

In the past, Dish Network satellite receivers used a blue access card to assist with activation and programming setup. Those old blue cards have been replaced by new, yellow smart cards. And quite smart they are.

Already popular in European applications, the Smart Card is now starting to take off in the States as well. Used in credit cards, wireless communications and sensitive personnel identification, the Smart Card is becoming more prevalent as our dependence on technology grows.

The Dish Network Card is similar to the size and shape of a credit card. But that's where the similarities end. Unlike the magnetic strip on your credit card, the Dish Network Smart Card has a microprocessor inside. Where magnetic strips can be easily damaged, erased or worse, read, the microprocessor is much harder to crack, keeping sensitive information secure from prying eyes. The card reader in your satellite receiver actually talks to the microprocessor to determine what programming access you should have and make sure that programming is delivered to you on schedule. It also checks to see that the programming you're receiving is done through the receiver you purchased. This prevents any signal theft in the event your Smart Card is lost or stolen.

Another interesting feature of the new Dish Network Card is that it improves Dish Network's ability to manage your account through more accurate billing. The microprocessor keeps up with any premium programming you might purchase so you're only billed for what you actually watched.

Dish Network Smart Card

To protect your Dish Network Card, keep it away from magnets and static electricity. The Smart Card should be inserted gently into the receiver ensuring the card is correctly positioned and free of any foreign materials.

I am first and foremost an observer of life. I enjoy analyzing and exploring all aspects of life on planet Earth, and expressing my personal perspective on the nitty gritty of it all. As a result of my observations, I have become a freelance writer.

<http://www.dish-network-satellite-tv.ws/>

How a Satellite Dish Works

By Gary Davis

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Dish-Network-Satellite-TV.ws

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Dish Network Satellite TV

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A satellite dish is an

antenna

designed to focus on a specific

broadcast source. The standard dish consists of a parabolic (bowl-shaped) surface and a central feed horn. A controller sends it through the horn, and the dish focuses the signal into a relatively narrow beam.

A narrow beam is generated as the dish reflects energy from the feed horn.

The dish on the receiving end can only receive information; it cannot transmit information.

Dish Network Smart Card

The receiving dish works in the exact opposite way of the transmitter. When a beam hits the curved dish, the parabola shape reflects the radio signal inward onto a particular point, just like a concave mirror focuses light onto a particular point.

The curved dish focuses incoming radio waves onto the feed horn.

The feed horn then passes the signal onto the receiving equipment. Ideally, there will be no obstructions, such as trees to interfere with the signal from the satellite to the satellite dish. With no obstructions you receive a much clearer signal.

Some systems are set up to receive signals from more than one satellite.

A new dish design uses two or more horns to pick up different satellite signals. As the beams from different satellites hit the curved dish, they reflect at different angles so that one beam hits one of the horns and another beam hits a different horn.

The central element in the feed horn is the LNB (low noise blockdown converter) The LNB amplifies the radio signal bouncing off the dish and filters out the noise (radio signals not carrying programming). The LNB passes the amplified, filtered signal to the satellite receiver inside the viewer's house.

A cable is run from the satellite dish into the house and then connects to the satellite TV

receiver (black box) thus completing the connection.

Gary Davis is owner of

Dish Network Satellite TV

, has several years experience in the Satellite TV

Industry and has written several articles on satellite TV.

How a Satellite Dish Works

Guide to Mounting your Satellite Dish

Looking for Dish Network? Not All Dealers Are Created Equal

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