

PVR+ Wireless



Topfield TF6000PVRt

I'll have a Topfield, with a dash of wireless on IceTv. If James Bond really needs a gadget it's this, the Topfield 6000 PVRt. Just perfect to record your favorite shows those pesky missions interrupt. And if the mission goes an extra day or two, no problem, just log into the 6000's web interface to set more timers.

I was a seasoned Topfield user before having the 6000 for a play over, so setting it up wasn't much of an ordeal. In fact the basics of setting up any Topfield is a painless. Perhaps the only tricky bit is getting the Topfield connected to your wireless network if you are not familiar with wireless technology. Once that's in place, you just need to put in your IceTv username and password and your away.

Finally we have a product on the market that will look after its own EPG without needing additional

you make your Topfield Web interface available on the internet, you are exposing all your files to anyone who finds it. Not to mention your IceTv username and password are stored in clear text, meaning someone could use them and causing you

bits and pieces to makeup for it. If you want a PVR with a 7 day EPG in Australia, this is what you buy. Previously this kind of service was only available to the tech savvy, and now the 6000 makes it accessible to anyone with wireless access and an internet connection.

So what's the catch, well you have to pay for it of course and the IceTv subscription will eventually need to be renewed too. The RRP is around \$1249, but a bargain hunter can usually do better than that. The IceTv EPG will cost about \$140 a year, but they too offer some great deals on subscriptions.

Good bits about the 6000. Apart from the wireless and EPG access, the obvious is being able to record two shows while watching a recorded show. Not to mention a wide selection of custom applications (TAPS) that can vastly improve how your PVR works eg ad skipping, EPG viewer etc...

Picture in picture will certainly save a lot of relationships, especially during the cricket season.

You can view your digital pictures and listen to MP3s, just like on previous models.

The menu system has been spruced up compared to the previous models and

has a logical engineering feel about it.

The real time clock is much better than relying on the broadcasters (who occasionally get it wrong) and the 19" format helps it fit in with your existing equipment.

Now the downside. As with new technology, there are always going to be hiccups, but not as many as I thought. You have to be nice to it when using the web interface, don't overload it with too much, especially when you're recording a couple of shows and watching another. But that's nothing that new firmware won't sort out.

It only outputs SD, but given we don't have much HD broadcast at this stage it isn't an issue. You can certainly fit a lot more SD recordings on the 200GB drive than you would HD, so that's a plus.

Not all the TAPs work on the 6000 yet, but that is slowly changing as the individuals who wrote them add support for the new model.

The wireless transfer speed is not quite enough to stream a recording to watch on another device. This would be a nice feature to have, but not a show-stopper.

Lastly a security issue, if

to be blocked. Security needs improvement.

Overall a great trailblazer with huge potential. If IceTv can make it suggest recordings in a similar way to the Tivo, it'd be a double '0' killer.

Matt Heinrich 23/12/2006

Cool Features

- *Wireless LAN*
- *7 Day Australian EPG*
- *Twin Tuner*
- *Picture in Picture*
- *TAP support*
- *Real Time clock*