



Islander August 2010 Technology Update

Part 2 - Make your yacht a “safe and secure, home from home” environment by using the best marine broadband Apps.

Following on from Part 1 in the last issue where we looked at the best Apps that bring good communications to a yacht, we are now going to look at turning your yacht into a “Home from Home” and making it “Safe & Secure” by using the best Apps (Applications). Marine broadband is an essential service on all large yachts today and as a result there are some great Apps that improve the quality of life on board for owners, guests and crew alike. There are some that make the running of the vessel easier and safer, and others that make the vessel more secure.

Home from Home

In the commercial shipping world, Home from Home services are referred to as welfare services. They are communication services, and there are indications that such services will soon be a human right for all crew working on ships. In the meantime let’s look at the Apps from a fun perspective rather than as a legal requirement. Under our Home from Home banner we are including any App that makes you feel at home whilst on your yacht anywhere in the world. So we include in this list:

- Fast and reliable email, internet and social networking services for all the family and crew.
- The yacht could have your home country telephone number so that family and friends can call the yacht using a local number.
- Use your own GSM cell phone wherever the yacht is in the world
- Watch your home TV anywhere in the world including all your favourite shows.
- Print your home newspapers when on board.
- Have you home doctor on hand live wherever you are in the world.

The primary application for marine broadband is fast and reliable email and internet. By having an internet connection, access to social networks is available. These are standard services available when using VSAT, Inmarsat and 3G services.

If the yacht has a VSAT then as part of the VSAT service VoIP (Voice over IP) is commonly offered. Extended VoIP service offerings usually include assigning any worldwide telephone number to any of these VoIP lines. This then means the yacht has your home country phone number.

By using the eCell@Sea App on board the yacht becomes a GSM cell which means that wherever the yacht is, so long as it is in a



VSAT footprint, you can use your home cell phone to make calls and your home cell phone will ring if anyone calls you.

We can also provide a service using The Jetstream which allows you to watch your home TV channels live anywhere in the world if you have a marine broadband connection.

One of the first Apps we introduced for use with marine broadband a few years back, which is still a perennial favourite, is being able to print and read your home newspaper onboard wherever you are in the world and usually before it hits the news stands at home. This is the NewspaperDirect service that offers 1640 newspapers from 91 countries in 47 languages.

A major concern a lot of people have when travelling is their health. It is now possible to utilise marine broadband to bring your own doctor or physician on board using video conferencing or simply just his or her voice. Your doctor can also have access to all your vital signs data by transmitting it to him using a telemedicine system such as the Safe Triage system from Ocean Medical connected into the communication systems onboard. Systems from Guardian 24/7 can instantaneously turn the owner's cabin or the gym into a "ready room" and dispense drugs already placed on board. The physicians reassuring face can also be seen on the screen talking to you.

There is not much else that can provide the warm fuzzy feeling of home to make you feel happy about venturing over the horizon.

Safe and Secure

"Safe and Secure" is a minimal term for the whole vessel management, safety and security Apps that are available using maritime broadband. These are as follows:

- Automatic chart updates and navigation warnings
- Weather services and weather routing
- Passage planning
- Telemetry integration and preventative maintenance
- Communication cost control and management
- Live CCTV video and remote security monitoring

For many years safe navigation has required manual paper chart corrections using tracings. Over the last decade updates to electronic charts were sent out on CD and the chart folios on the PC onboard were updated at the start of the Med season and the start of the Caribbean or Indian Ocean season. However today we have various Apps that provide these services automatically using the broadband services on board. The ChartCo service provided by DaGama automatically sends through chart corrections only for the folios held on board, downloads and installs them. The services all include the latest Navigation Warnings.

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There is a vast selection of Internet sites providing weather information. Our particular favourite that is free and is very good is www.passageweather.com.

DaGama also provide weather routing and passage planning Apps using services from ChartCo and specialist security based passage plans from their own wealth of experience.

Broadband services are also used by machinery manufacturers to extract telemetry data to feed into their preventative maintenance systems to pre warn the yacht that servicing is due or faults are about to happen. Remote maintenance can be provided using the broadband data services from companies, such as ourselves, on the various equipment on board such as the stabilised antennas or the network servers.

If you have data services connecting the yacht to the rest of the world are which are expensive to use and not set at a fixed price, it is all too easy to let the data use and costs run away. We have an App called the eDSC Data Service Controller that controls who can use what from where. It also counts the data going through the data pipe and when it reaches preset peaks it will provide alarms and warnings to the captain and the management company.

Finally, an App from Affiant provides remote security monitoring with remote surveillance, live streaming, recording CCTV & network IP cameras. It also provides secure real time monitoring of your moving assets by looking at video and SCADA. They can use it to manage incidents or GPS tracking cost effectively over maritime broadband. All these services are available as Apps through the maritime broadband data channels.

So that completes our finest selection of Apps to make anyone feel Safe and Secure and Home from Home when aboard their yacht.

We will have all these Apps on our Marine Broadband Apps booth QS89 at the Monaco Show. We'll all be there, so please come and see us for a drink and a chat.

Roger Horner of E3 Systems

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