

best of broadband

The past few months have seen a proliferation of broadband content and applications. But where do you start? In the first part of a regular section, Guy Dixon brings you the best of broadband, from sites to software



FILM

www.britishpathe.com
British cinema legend Pathé has archived hundreds of hours of historic newsreel footage on its website. The bi-weekly news bulletins were a familiar part of cinema entertainment from 1910 to 1970.

Thanks to a grant from the National Lottery more than 3,500 hours of footage are now available online. All low-res preview material is free of charge, while high-res clips are £100 each for web publishing or just £50 each for use in PowerPoint presentations.

www.ifilm.com
IFilm is widely recognised as one of the best streaming video sites on the web and it claims to have the world's largest online collection of short films and clips.

RADIO

www.spinner.com
Radio over narrowband was always a bit of a hit-and-miss affair. Now with broadband it's becoming a genuine killer application. Spinner lets you tune into more than 175 stations, featuring music, news, sports and local radio. It has a favourites facility allowing

you to bookmark up to a maximum of 40 of your most listened to stations. Spinner also offers in-depth artist information. Simply download the Radio@Netscape Plus player and you're off.



ADVICE AND HELP

www.pcadvisor.co.uk
You won't come to our forums for broadband content, not yet anyway. But if you haven't yet made the broadband plunge and want to check on the reputation of a broadband vendor, try searching our ConsumerWatch forum (www.pcadvisor.co.uk/consumerwatch).

Alternatively, ask for advice in our live walk-in clinic. If you're having technical difficulties with your broadband connection, be it hardware- or network-related, we can almost certainly help. With nearly 400,000 postings, fellow visitors have more than likely experienced a similar problem (www.pcadvisor.co.uk/helproom).

EDUCATION

<http://becominghuman.org>
Becominghuman.org is an ambitious educational website aimed at providing the general public with up-to-date scientific information about the study of human evolution.



It was created by Arizona State University's Institute of Human Origins and has managed to make a difficult and often confusing science both engaging and broadly accessible. Like a lot of the best broadband content about it's American, but if you can handle the accents it's definitely worth a dabble.

SPACE

www.earthobservatory.nasa.gov
Nasa's Earth Observatory provides an impressive array of the latest satellite imagery and scientific information about planet Earth, with a primary focus on climatic and environmental change. All materials published on the Earth Observatory are freely available for republication or reuse, except where copyright is indicated.



GAMES

www.popcap.com
PopCap creates straightforward games aimed at a mainstream audience. All titles are

Java-based, so you can play them straight from your browser. On a broadband connection they load at the click of a mouse.



www.gamespy.com
If you're a broadband-connected gamer and are looking for someone to play with, get yourself over to GameSpy. You can hunt cheats for your favourite games and join in one of the world's biggest gaming communities.

MUSIC

www.classical.com
Classical.com claims to have the world's largest online classical music collection. Listen to more than 10,000 tracks or hundreds of playlists. It offers downloads, custom CDs, and subscriptions.

INSTANT MESSAGING

This may come as a surprise to those of you who've been using AOL Instant Messenger for years on a narrowband connection, but research shows that a broadband connection transforms your messaging experience. The extra bandwidth makes it even more instantaneous, allowing you to share hefty files in real time.