

## GET INTERNET ACCESS ON THE WATER

On an overnight trip out to the reef recently, Ian and Lynne Wheeler discovered a product called 'Maxon Modem' that allowed them to get Telstra CDMA coverage, allowing them internet access out on the water at 144 kbps, and while cruising back into Cairns, they realised it could peak at 2 mbps (faster than your home ADSL).

On a balmy weekend in Cairns, the weather forecasts on 'BOM' (Bureau of Meteorology) and 'Weather Zone' had predicted calm winds as low as 10 knots. Ian explains how he and his wife cruised out for a calm early morning swim/snorkel at Michaelmas Cay on their 6.5 metre aluminium Cat.

"After a disastrous breakfast at 0800hrs, the eggs benedict wound up being 'scrambled egg surprise' because the wind was buffeting the boat. So I pulled out the trusty laptop and cranked up the Telstra Wireless Broadband access card to check the weather forecast. We were nearly 50km from the mainland and hovering behind a cay. I still had about 100 kbps speed on the internet, so I'm floating around on the ocean and getting three times the speed of dial-up, and the BOM website was still showing 10 knots. I went to weather zone and it had Green Island at 21 knots.

I then noticed around us there were families with young kids and boat loads of ski equipment arriving, all having looked at the weather websites that morning and expecting a calm day on the reef. I moved the boat around behind Vlashoff Cay and cranked up the Wireless card again. This time, the weather bureau website had suddenly changed the forecast to 15 - 20 knots and Green Island was already 22 knots. So we decided 'that's it, the radar is predicting a rough time ahead, let's return home'.

On the way back we passed many boats ploughing through the spray that were still working on old information. I'd take a punt that I was one of the very few people who had internet access out on the reef that morning and sent a warning SMS to friends who were also planning a day out on the boat. While the Coast Guard does provide weather reports over the radio, it was really handy to browse the internet and check the most accurate and updated source - the weather radar."

For more info on Maxon modem see [www.telstra.com/countrywide/telstramobility](http://www.telstra.com/countrywide/telstramobility)



## WHAT DO YOU DO WITH YOUR IPOD WHEN YOU GET HOME?

Ok. So you've got all your favourite music on your iPod. You get home, you've got all your friends around for a bottle of wine and you just want to plug your iPod into some speakers and play all your favourite tracks out on the back deck. That's all you want, you don't need anything complicated, just nice and simple, without rustling through your cds. The new i-deck by 'Monitor Audio' has been designed to get the most from your iPod, at home or workplace. 'Monitor Audio' has an enviable reputation worldwide for building high-end speaker systems for over 30 years, receiving countless accolades and awards. i-deck transforms your iPod into a full blown separate hi-fi system with stunning sound quality. And it comes with a radio frequency remote control.

At \$599, the i-deck is compatible with all iPod models.

For more info see [www.targahifi.com.au](http://www.targahifi.com.au) or ph 4041 0422



## STOP SPAM

For most businesses, virus and spam are like dreaded eczema for babies; an ongoing problem that will continue to annoy, destroy and irritate until properly treated. Nearly 18 months ago, 'Sunlover Cruises' were experiencing problems with their IT system. The system was being constantly attacked, so Cairns IT Consulting implemented the Anti-Virus/Spam software, MessageLabs, onto their system. MessageLabs is a 24/7 guard that, instead of blocking emails by their titles or domains, uses heuristic technology (trial and error) which looks at the contents of the email, and then calculates the probability that a message is spam based on the occurrence of a set of message characteristics. Over a four-week period in January, MessageLabs reported the following statistics on Sunlovers email traffic:



Of 21,943 emails received by Sunlover - 805 (3.67%) emails were found to have a virus and blocked, 17,086 (77.87%) were rejected as being spam, and additionally, MessageLabs have seen zero attempts by the Sunlover network to send out viruses.

For more info on MessageLabs installation see [www.cairns-itc.com.au](http://www.cairns-itc.com.au)

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