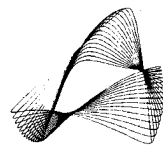


Viewdata '80, London, 1980.

# **VIEWDATA AND VIDEOTEXT, 1980-81: A Worldwide Report**

**Transcript of viewdata '80,  
first world conference  
on viewdata, videotex, and teletext**



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**Viewdata and Videotext, 1980-81: A Worldwide Report**

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# Introduction & Preface

The use of the ubiquitous TV set as an information display and interactive personal electronic communication device will bring dramatic changes to the way in which we conduct our day-to-day lives. The effect will at first be most apparent in business with the easy availability of computer-stored information and the ability to send and receive mail electronically. The effect will then become apparent in the home with the TV set gradually enhancing its primary role of entertainment device to incorporate information acquisition, computer-aided education and electronic message transmission.

This book comprises written back-up to the presentations given at Viewdata '80 - The First World Conference on Viewdata, Videotex and Teletext.

To ensure that the preprints are as up-to-date as possible, the authors have supplied them to us in camera-ready form which does not allow for editing and for this reason we would ask for your understanding with some of the overseas papers where English is not the author's native language. In order to keep the book as up-to-date as possible, the papers have been printed in random order.

Development & Applications of the Antiope-Didon Technology

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France

The French Antiope teletext has now been on the air for almost 3 years in France : a full public service has been implemented, and will be promoted in the near future by industrial production of VLSI component equipment.

Teletel-Teletext full compatibility in terms of display processing makes Antiope products the best suited to the present new developments aiming at teletext message delivery on broad band channels, in low-cost business or specific audience applications, especially in the United States.

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The French ANTIOPE system was reportedly developed as a unique visualization process, aiming both at video broadcast one-way information display and at interactive data retrieval and display via the switched telephone network.

The narrow band two-way communication service is called TELETEL : in this mode, the ANTIOPE decoding unit of the user's terminal is connected to a data base via a telephone line through classical telephone modems, currently 1200/75 bauds, using dedicated logic circuitry.

For ANTIOPE teletext wide band delivery, the same ANTIOPE decoding unit is fed through specific demodulator and demultiplexer circuits called DIDON.

After a brief description of the main technical features of DIDON and ANTIOPE, this paper describes the services now on the air in France, future developments based on actual marketing in France and abroad, especially in the United States, and decoder mass production schedules.

## 1. DIDON DATA TRANSMISSION PROCESS

The main features of the DIDON transmission process are its complete independence from the bit frequency, and its ability to use any video line within the frame. DIDON transmits one data packet per video line : it is completely transparent with regard to the nature of the data. This means that ANTIOPE teletext alphamosaic codes are only one example of the kinds of data that DIDON can transmit. In fact, any kind of digitally coded message can be transmitted via DIDON, and the useful data flow can exceed 4 Mbits/sec in full channel (625 line standard) capacity (2.8 Mbits/sec in 525 line standards), i.e. when the entire video channel is filled with data packets.

This feature allows the distribution of ANTIOPE codes either on any small number of video lines within the blanking intervals, together with the regular TV program (like Ceefax and Oracle), or on a full video channel : on the air or on cable. In the United States, for instance, Multipoint Distribution Systems (MDS) are devoted to pay TV at 2 GHz in over 100 of the largest American cities : these channels might also be very useful for ANTIOPE teletext broadcast either with spare channel capacity during pay-TV hours (from 5:30 p.m. to 2 a.m.), or with full channel capacity during business or other night time hours.

Cable TV stations might also make use of the Didon full channel capability for teletext transmission as well as for any other data packet delivery.

## 2. ANTIOPE ALPHAMOSAIC DISPLAY PROCESS

Didon's features free ANTIOPE coding and editing from any constraints with regard to the length of a video line, or anything else. Thus, for alpha-

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