



# IT Vertigo

## De-'myth'ifying IT Solutions

Richard O'Neill

### What is VoIP?

Voice over Internet Protocol, has been around for some time, Skype is one of the forms. In Australia, a firm called Engin is no doubt one of the success stories in the commercialisation of this system.

So, what is Voice over IP? Simply put, it is a way of making and receiving calls over the internet, bypassing "traditional" PSTN phone infrastructure (Telstra, Optus etc). By using the World Wide Web, you can tap into enormous telephone savings. You do need to have broadband and you need minimum upload and download speeds of 256kb per second. I suggest anyone with a regular phone bill that exceeds \$120 per month will be able to benefit. In my case I brought an average \$450 per month phone bill down to \$150 per month.

One of the little none applications is the remote location phone number. My parents are elderly and live interstate, the normal phone system would allow me calls up to 3 hours for \$2.50, and the same for them. I set up an Engin phone number in their city, it costs me \$5.00 per month, they call that number for the cost of a local call and I answer it in Montville. Of course, when I call them it still costs me 10 cents, untimed! This is an ideal set up for people with children away at university. For \$5.00 per month your students have access to you without massive mobile costs.

Want the flexibility of moving around the house, or sitting by the pool with your laptop? Today this is a simple process with modern wireless routers!

You hear many stories regarding the lack of security and how unscrupulous individuals can tap into your system and use your bandwidth or worse download personal information and codes. Well the latest technology, not only provides exceptional coverage of 300 metres plus, and great speeds, but provides a secure network. Your system can be protected by as many as 5 security codes. Naturally, the wireless networking system means no more wires along skirting boards or under the house, and retails for around \$330 plus install if required!

Phone Richard at Straylight Technology for more information on 5412 0334



# At Home on the Range



The expansive cottage garden and surrounds blend perfectly with this 1908 circa house belonging to Greg and Charmaine

Wightman of Maleny. The beautiful home originally stood on the Brisbane River at Yeronga and had been threatened with demolition when Greg discovered it. The house was then moved to Maleny in five pieces, through Hoppers Dairy farm to the site where it now stands in all its bygone glory.

"We designed the garden around the house, softening corners," said Charmaine. "As one section of the house was completed the garden was designed, to ensure both house and garden had an established harmonious feel."

Greg and Charmaine took great care to ensure that the house retained its originality and detail, which wasn't easy considering 22 inches of rain fell not long after the house arrived. Some of the ceilings were ruined, but with the help of an enterprising builder, they

have been cleverly reproduced. Some of the rooms still have the original light fittings. All in all it took 14 months to complete. The only changes that the Wightman's have instigated is raising the house onto piers (147 of them) and adding a portico at the top of the front stairs. This has been so well executed by all concerned that it looks like it has always been there.

The house is ideal for all weather conditions as sunny verandas wrap right around for winter warmth and large french doors open out for a beautiful breezeway in summer. The positioning is such that every room has a rural view, which is quite amazing considering it is situated a 5-10 minute walk to town. The décor throughout is very tasteful and elegant, combining muted and neutral colouring. The house lends itself to entertaining and will soon host the MCSR Volunteers Winter Social on July 22nd.

A separate cottage and livable shed are also located on the 2 acre property, while bird aviaries and the 'Chook Hilton' complete this idyllic picture.

Prospective buyers for this unique property can phone 5435 2888 for more information.



## LEVEL 2 WATER RESTRICTIONS

LET'S WATCH EVERY DROP

**Level 2 water restrictions now apply in Maroochy Shire.**  
Residents are being asked to watch every drop and make savings both in the home and outdoors.

**What do Level 2 water restrictions mean for you?**

- NO sprinklers, in ground systems or unattended watering devices.
- Hand-held hosing permitted between 4-8am and 4-8pm on an odds and evens basis.
- Watering of gardens and lawns with hand-held buckets at any time.
- Hosing of hard surface areas (eg. driveways or paving) NOT permitted at any time.
- Spraying or washing of roof NOT permitted at any time.
- Washing of vehicles, house, boats and windows allowed with a hand-held hose (with a trigger or twist nozzle) or a bucket filled directly from a tap.
- Permanent swimming pools, spas, fountains and ponds may only be topped up as per household garden times for hand-held hoses.
- Portable child pools (less than 1,000 litres capacity) may be filled at any time.
- Use of hoses and sprinklers for water play toys NOT permitted at any time.

**Hand-held hosing is permitted on the following days:**

Your street number	Times	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
Odd number	Between 4-8am & 4-8pm		✓		✓		✓	
Even or unnumbered	Between 4-8am & 4-8pm			✓		✓		✓

**Non-compliance may result in fines. Let's watch every drop. Tomorrow depends on it.**

For a detailed copy of the restrictions, visit [www.maroochy.qld.gov.au](http://www.maroochy.qld.gov.au) or call Maroochy Council Customer Service on 5475 8501



## Feng Shui Tips

### - Electromagnetic Radiation Hazards



with Richard Giles  
Home & Health  
Feng Shui  
& Astrology

Last month I mentioned the kitchen microwave, and touched on an area that we need to discuss more in our EMR (electromagnetic radiation) dependent society. The use of microwaves, mobile phones and wireless computer networks is a great boon for some as an efficient timesaver, but for others in our society its becoming a headache (literally) and a cause of sickness. The new illness is sometimes identified as Twentieth Century Syndrome, which also includes sensitivity to toxic chemicals, cleaning agents and synthetic fabrics.

Some people are extremely susceptible to EMF (EM Fields) in the home and public environment and readers may be surprised to know that its reaching to almost 15% of the population now who are in some way affected deleteriously by microwaves, EMF radiation through computers, mobile phones or phone towers or rooms loaded with EM equipment. Its being called Electromagnetic Sensitivity and is effecting people more widely in the following ways. Common symptoms - fatigue, dizziness, flu-like symptoms, depression, memory loss, muscle stiffness, sleeplessness and chronic headaches. Other more long term symptoms include irritable bowel syndrome, menstrual cramps, cancer, birth defects and infertility.

Many people who have these early symptoms put it down to ordinary tiredness or other events, but a pattern is emerging of regular illness in buildings called the Sick Building Syndrome. This is due to a combination of chemicals in the furnishings combined with EMF radiation in the rooms and brings illness and absenteeism. As a Feng Shui practitioner I always pay attention to this in people's homes or offices and look for ways to minimise your exposure. Young children and older folks can be much more susceptible than healthy adults. More next month.

Contact Richard with any Feng Shui queries on your home, property or office on 5435 0158 or email - [ricgiles@powerup.com.au](mailto:ricgiles@powerup.com.au)