

PHILIPS

*i*pronto

Dashboard for the digital home





Just imagine...

The list of new electronic applications appearing in our daily life is growing exponentially. Along with that, new technological evolutions like broadband connections and the digitalization of audio and video content are advancing rapidly. These evolutions are creating a huge array of new possibilities for the digital home. This potential however demands a completely new approach to clustering functions, in addition to device control.

Digital content and broadband

The entire spectrum of audio and video is digitizing at extraordinary speed. Non-digital applications are being rapidly replaced with superior systems. And because of this, various devices are gaining enhanced ability to communicate both with each other and with the outer world.

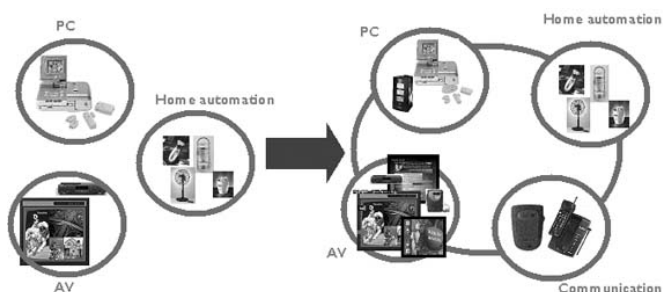
The rise of broadband communication is leading to communication possibilities unimagined even a short time ago. Downloading content from the Internet will no longer be a privilege reserved for your computer but will be an expected function on most devices.

Component clusters moving together

In the home, entertainment, communication and control clusters have traditionally been separate from each other. A television or home theater system is in one room, the pc and the internet are in another. The interface to the security system is typically found in strategic places like the entrance area or the master bedroom.

The trend which Philips has monitored through market research throughout the decade is that these clusters are moving together. First of all devices are increasingly communicating with each other within their own cluster as well as between clusters. Secondly the integrated clusters are more and more reaching outside of the home to communicate with services and databases in the internet.

iPronto is designed to work in this integrated and interactive environment to enhance the overall user experience.





The future exists today...

... and it is called iPronto!

When people come home from a long day, they don't want more problems or to be confronted by chores left undone. They have had enough stress for one day. They want to relax and enjoy life. And that is the very concept that powered the Philips creation of iPronto, a programmable, multifunctional remote control connectable to the home network and to the Internet. Along with controlling all manner of devices, it provides the user with an up to the moment Electronic Program Guide (EPG) and instant information.



One Touch And You Are There



With iPronto, your customers are rid of the maddening jumble of multiple remote control devices and systems. iPronto means a single intuitive User Interface with one look and feel. It offers a consumer friendly, finger operated user interface to navigate through the applications. Eight direct touch buttons to the left of the screen give access to eight separate layout screens. Each layout can contain one to four applications that are displayed in quarter or full screen views. It allows the user to perform multiple tasks while staying in control. Through the customization options that iPronto offers, each layout screen can be given a different theme and purpose, e.g. news while having breakfast or sports while watching a game.

For easy text input, an on screen full sized QWERTY keyboard pops up whenever it is needed. Also a stylus is supplied for more accurate tasks such as web browsing.

You can also program action oriented buttons with the iPronto. One touch on one button initiates a complex sequence of actions. It could be, for instance, one button to turn on or switch off all A/V components. Or an intuitive map of your house for remotely switching lights on or off. With this iPronto programmability, you offer your customers the exact level of complexity they want.



Always on, always connected

The iPronto can be connected to a broadband modem and to the Internet via a wireless access point. iPronto uses the Internet for instant access to information, e.g., daily updates of the Electronic Program Guide.

The user can quickly and easily check online information like the stock exchange movement, the weather report for this afternoon's destination, or latest news headlines. They can also use several online activities while watching TV or listening to music.



Besides these obvious user benefits, it provides an easy software upgrade mechanism. This way, any new services can be offered on top of the iPronto core use as they become available. Philips offers a whole series of online services. Software upgrades, IR code upgrades, downloading of new applications, an Electronic Program Guide...

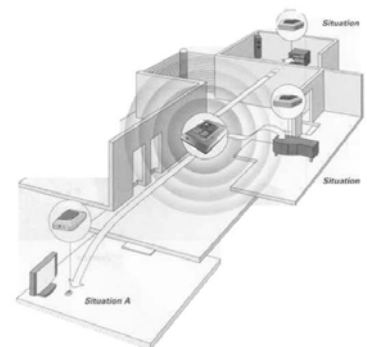
Device control

iPronto has its roots in the award winning family of Pronto remote controls. But that was only the launch point. The iPronto is, in the first instance, a universal remote control for audio, video and home theatre, and for every other device in the home that uses Infra Red (IR) signals for control.

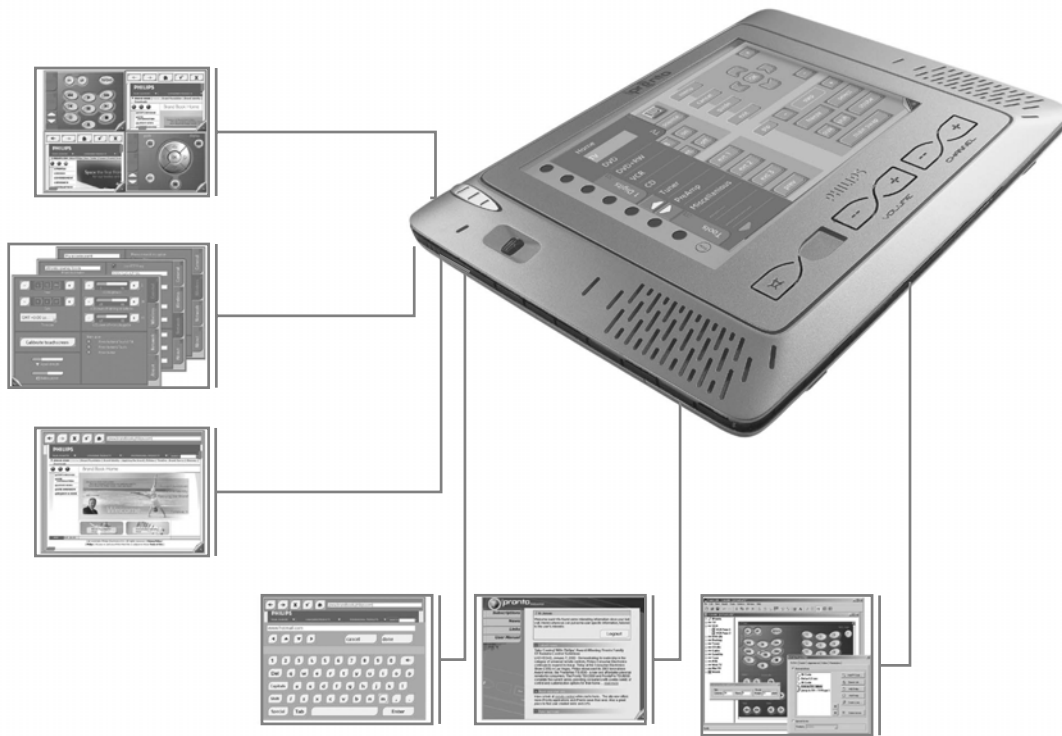
The easiest way and quickest way to install IR control codes is to use the universal database already available on the iPronto. This database contains the codes for more than 500 brands of devices in categories such wide ranging as high-end audio/video components (TV, DVD, etc.) and utilitarian home automation equipment (lighting, curtains, etc.). Any IR codes not already available in the database can be transferred into iPronto by pointing the new control device at the iPronto and click.



iPronto produces powerful IR output signals that make it possible to control all the devices in one room. Remote devices in another room or out of sight that cannot be reached directly with line of sight IR, can be controlled by the iPronto network extender. The network extender connects to iPronto through the local area network (LAN), via either an Ethernet cable or a WiFi (IEEE 802.11b) connection.



The network extender functions primarily as an IR blaster. Additionally, commands can be specifically routed to one of eight addressable IR ports. This guarantees secure targeting of a single device. Power sensors, temperature sensors, or other binary sensors can be connected to provide basic status feedback for up to eight devices per network extender. For more extensive status feedback, the network extender is equipped with a serial communication port.



Media control

Philips extends the concept well beyond device control by introducing media control. This allows the user easy selection of all audio and video content.



- Electronic Program Guide: a weekly upload of all programs to be broadcast. Filter the genre you want to watch. With the category selected, iPronto uses the remote control functionality to switch on the TV to the right channel at the right time. Using iPronto, any audio/video component in the system can be designated as the zapping device. Additionally, a selected program can be recorded by activating a programming function for a recording device like DVD.

- Another example: an audio jukebox server or any other network enabled audio/video component (e.g. hard disk, personal computer) containing songs and play lists, can be controlled via iPronto. iPronto can access all content on the server. By selecting a single song, this is displayed on the screen of the iPronto while at the same time playing it through the speakers of your choice. The music and video catalogues accessible online are expected to be virtually inexhaustible.

Home control

Lights, heating, air conditioning, lawn sprinklers, fire and burglar alarms, safety cameras, Web cams, the intercom system for the kids room... all the things that now need to be controlled from a box fixed onto the wall, will be operable via the hand-held portable iPronto.

Simple home control and security applications are readily available for iPronto. Any IR controllable device such as air-conditioning, lighting, etc., can be integrated into the iPronto remote control interface. Moreover, networked cameras can be made visible through the iPronto browser. This way, someone watching TV, can keep an eye on the garage.

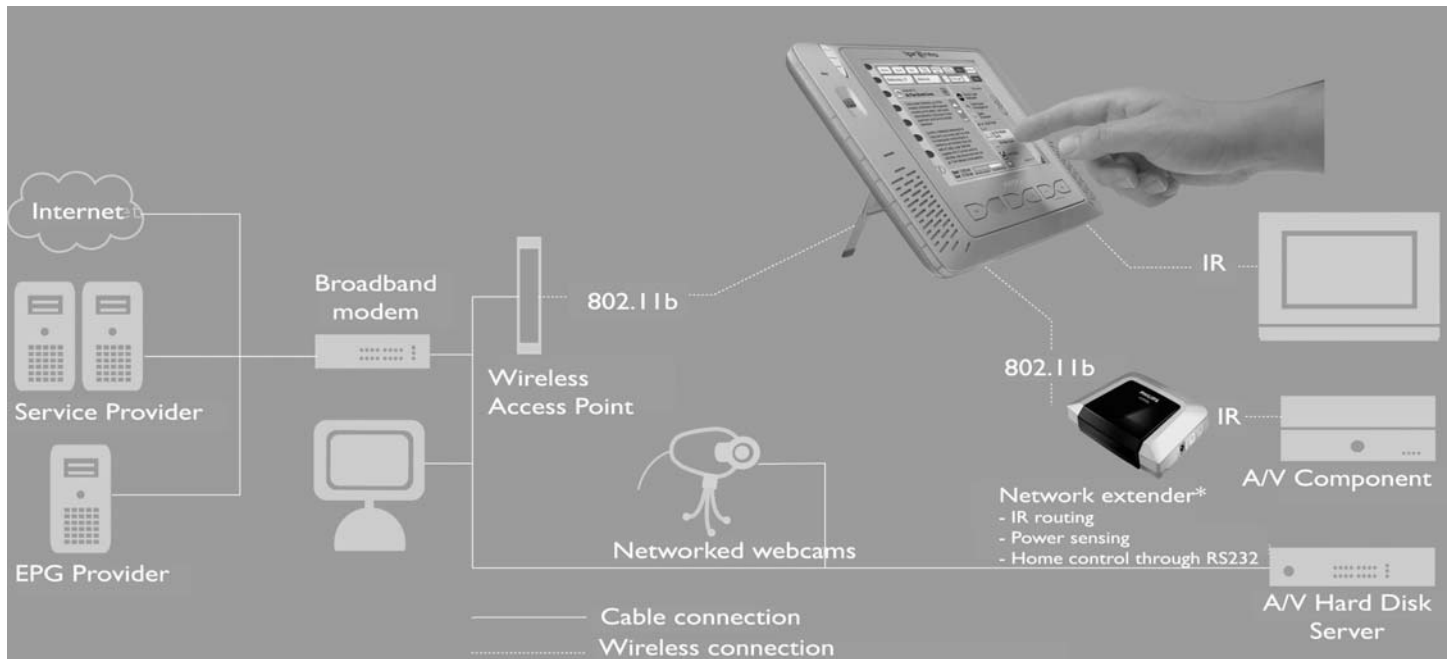
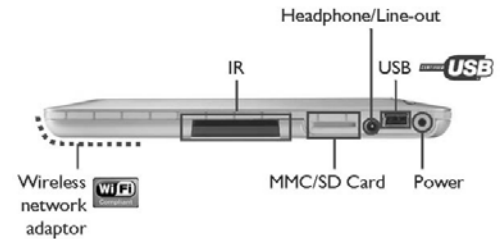
Ultimately, every security, lighting, and home control system will be able to be operated by iPronto. Philips and its partners are working to design applications that enable the integration of all of these systems through iPronto. Using the embedded software upgrade mechanism in iPronto, any specific home control application can be installed on iPronto.



The heartbeat of the home network

iPronto produces powerful IR output and has a WiFi (IEEE 802.11b) wireless Ethernet connection.

- iPronto can blast IR signals via the WiFi wireless access point and a network extender.
- The wireless access point can be connected to a broadband modem, to make use of services like EPG and to enable the iPronto browser to connect to the Internet.
- If the wireless access point is connected to the home network, iPronto can control every A/V, home control, and security system on this network. Additionally, content on personal computers or network Web cams can also be accessed. Imagine the personal list of MP3's or a photo-album that can be displayed on iPronto.



Easy to install, easy to use

Automate your customer's house in 10 steps

iPronto is designed by engineers to work in the real world. The design is based on feedback from installers as well as users. As a result, iPronto installation can be done well organized and handy. Here's how you can automate your customers' home in just ten steps.

1. Draw up a plan

Make an overview of all devices in the home that the client wants to control. Draw a plan of the house and determine strategic locations for wireless access points.

2. Get the network environment ready

Install the necessary network cables where a wired network is needed. Prepare a broadband Internet connection. Make sure cable, ADSL, and satellite broadband lines are present. Install wireless access points to the home network and ensure they work. When the home network is installed, configure to DHCP (Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol) or to a fixed IP (Internet Protocol).

Note the following details:

- Wireless access point SSID (Service Set Identifier);
- Wireless access point encryption details, i.e. pass phrase or keyword, if encryption is used;
- IP address that can be assigned to iPronto, if fixed IP is used;
- Proxy address and settings, if html proxy is used for Internet access.

3. Connect the iPronto

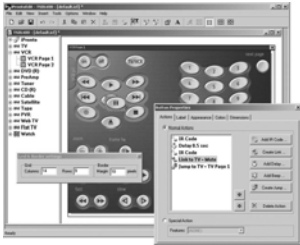
Switch on iPronto. After startup, iPronto will automatically detect the SSID of the nearest wireless access point. If neither a DHCP network nor an html proxy is used, iPronto is connected to the home network and to the Internet. If not, the relevant network settings (see details above) need to be entered into the settings of iPronto.



4. Extend the IR reach

If there are any locations that are outside of the scope of the IR reach, a network extender needs to be installed. If a network cable is available, plug this into the network extender. If such a cable is not available, the network extender can have a wireless connection with the closest access point.





5. Configure the Remote Control

The simplest setup is to use the default iPronto configuration file and the learn mode to control devices. If you need to go further, you can use iProntoEdit to configure the user interface. To install iProntoEdit, login to www.pronto.philips.com and download the iProntoEdit software onto your personal computer. Using iProntoEdit you can configure the remote control interface for all the different devices you want to control. The onboard universal database provides the codes of more than 500 brands of audio/video appliances and home control devices. Using a standard bitmap editor, a personal look-and-feel can be created. Based on the devices, a more extensive action list can be created to serve as 'one button – one touch'. When the iPronto configuration file is ready, it is a simple matter to download it into iPronto, provided that the iPronto is connected to the same network as the PC. If the code is not in the database, iPronto can learn the codes from the original remotes. Afterwards, for safekeeping of those codes, upload the configuration onto your PC.

6. Configure the Electronic Program Guide

The full contribution of the cost for a five year subscription is included in sales price. You only need to activate the subscription either on iPronto or via a regular PC. An online registration wizard is provided to easily select the right network provider, network type, and channels. An activation code will then be provided to enable the EPG function on iPronto. Should any of the network providers or channels change, simply log back onto the registration portal to change the details.



7. Set the browser favorites

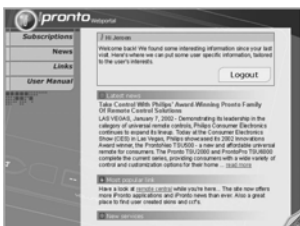
iPronto comes with eight customizable layouts, containing more than ten separate browser views. The layouts are accessible via the touch buttons on the left side of the screen. In various layouts, the browser views can be configured to the user's favorite settings:

- e.g. connect instantly to information from the Internet (weather, stocks, traffic),
- e.g. lock on to a web cam
- e.g. create a photo album from digital pictures on the PC, accessible on iPronto via the home network



8. Register the iPronto

The user/owner needs to register to use the online help and software upgrade mechanism. Using the same password and ID to download iProntoEdit, login to the iPronto portal. Registered users, that have provided a valid email address, will receive an email notification when software upgrades and updates become available.



9. Enable the iPronto applications

Via the application section of the iPronto portal, a growing variety of additional applications and services are offered. These can be added services to the EPG (electronic program guide), user targeted services, or integrated partner applications for home control. Selection of the desired application or service will automatically install this onto iPronto. Configuration and first usage depend on the service or application selected.

10. Familiarize the user with iPronto

Make user familiar with all options that iPronto provides. After initial installation and familiarization, software and functional upgrades can be added to the current setup as they become available.





About Philips

Royal Philips Electronics of the Netherlands is one of the world's biggest electronics companies and Europe's largest, with sales of EUR 32.3 billion in 2001. It is a global leader in color television sets, lighting, electric shavers, medical diagnostic imaging and patient monitoring, and one-chip TV products. Its 184,000 employees in more than 60 countries are active in the areas of lighting, consumer electronics, domestic appliances, components, semiconductors, and medical systems. Philips is quoted on the NYSE (symbol: PHG), London, Frankfurt, Amsterdam and other stock exchanges.

For more information, please visit:

www.pronto.philips.com

