



CABLE AND THE COMPUTER REVOLUTION

Montreal's Vidéotron cable system is one of the largest in Canada. In partnership with a local engineering and manufacturing concern called Videoway, Vidéotron proposes, in 1984, to begin selling a dramatically enhanced cable service.

The service will depend on equipping households with Videoway's user interface device. The device looks much like other videotex or teletext units: a box that connects to the cable and to the TV, and a remote control that looks similar to a hand-held calculator. The box is in fact a microcomputer, and is individually addressable over the cable network.

The cable subscriber equipped with a user interface will receive an integrated and highly sophisticated set of services. The device replaces a cable converter, a pay TV decoder, and a teletext decoder. It's also capable of displaying the time and current channel on the TV screen.