



These pieces of text, with codes indicating their priority and the chosen graphic, are run into a minicomputer dedicated to the Infovision service. Software in the Infovision computer fetches the chosen graphic from its library of graphics, puts it together with the text, and then checks the new item's priority.

The Infovision computer sends a continuous stream of encoded pages out, on a cycle that's normally half-an-hour. The computer is flexible. It can be programmed to repeat main news items every five or every fifteen minutes, if you want, or to always send the weather pages at five minutes before the hour.

Infovision started telecasting over Toronto's Rogers Cable in the fall of 1983, using a direct feed of Broadcast News to Rogers' head-end. Rogers required only a Norpak Mark IV decoder which directly fed the cable system. But Infovision sees itself ultimately as a cable news network. It proposes to send a set of national or regional pages regularly to timer-cycler equipment in communities around the country. Local newspapers or cable companies would select the pages they wanted to use locally, and add local information much like the current Brockville situation. A connection like the Brockville one would send the pages to the cable head-end, and from there to subscribers' homes.