

Paul Day

“One day, all music will be delivered on the internet”, claims Apple’s boss, Steve Jobs. Have you started downloading music yet?

While having long since had iTunes on my work computer, most of the music I was playing was uploaded from regular CDs. Music at home was provided by an old JVC CD player in the kitchen - the centre of house. However, I was disappointed to discover that the CD player wouldn't recognise the odd CDR I picked up along the way.

About four months ago I subscribed to Emusic, an on-line facility whereby you can download 90 songs a month for \$19. Suddenly I was generating 6 or 7 CDRs a month and thus needed to bin the JVC system.

Instead of replacing it, I ran a 10m cable (£10) from my home computer in the dining room, through the wall into the kitchen, where it connects to a set of PC speakers (£35). I installed iTunes on the home PC and uploaded my CDs onto it. The result is a hard-drive based music system onto which my wife and kids have also now uploaded their music. Soundtracks can be set for entire evenings while folders such as ‘dad’s Good Stuff’, ‘Mum’s Wet Drivel’ and ‘Busted’ keep everyone happily segregated.

An iTunes account for the kids now means it’s downloaded music all the way.