

“The Real e-Ticket” (rough draft – 02.24.01)

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Do you travel a lot? Then you know about e-tickets used by most airlines. Saves a little time so what's the big deal. But there is another e-ticket that offers extraordinary savings of time and money as well as wear, tear and energy. This ticket lets you *travel electronically* just as predicted by science fiction writers who often called it *teleportation*. OK, but when and how much will it cost? The good news is it's here now and it's cheap.

First, let's decide on how much of you really needs to be teleported. Do you want to send all those pounds of DNA? Maybe you want to transport a few of your senses – or maybe just data. We already transfer more data than voice, something that was not foreseen by most even 5 years ago. Before reaching the “what to send” conclusion, let's examine how the teleportation concept was used by renowned explorer, Dr. Richard Ballard.

When Ballard, the man who located the Titanic, realized that his roundtrip work commute was almost 8 hours, he decided to take full advantage of existing and “soon-to-blossom” technology. No, the long commute wasn't in Silicon Valley; it was to the bottom of the ocean in a deep submersible. Dr. Ballard realized that he needed only to move the “window” of the submarine up to the surface ship. The sub could stay down and the crew could go to work in the morning by taking 20 steps in the mother ship. Eventually, high tech cameras and fiberoptic links were deployed and the “work window” was moved up 12,000 feet to the oceans surface. Later, using satellite links, the “space window” was moved to shore – actually to many shores. The deep submersible not only beamed pictures and data to classrooms around the world, students could actually steer the sub from a classroom computer from the other side of the planet.

Moving the window (sight) electronically increased effective time by an order of magnitude or more. Better yet, the work crew was multiplied by orders of magnitude and eventually millions of students learned about the wonders of the planet and the joys of going into technology through Project Jason (name taken from Jason and the Argonauts).

So before you grab that paper e-ticket, ask yourself if moving your window could do the job. High speed Internet access lets us send data, sight and sound. Got it? That's the ticket. Take a ride on the new broadband high-speed Internet for your next meeting. Travel as pure photonics energy at the speed of light or take a course at a leading university complete with sound, motion video and interaction. Catch the wave and even become the wave!