



## Australian Personal Computer

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# Billion BiPAC 7800VDPX

Billion comes roaring back into the router business.

MODEM ROUTER

www.billion.com.au @

\$199 \$

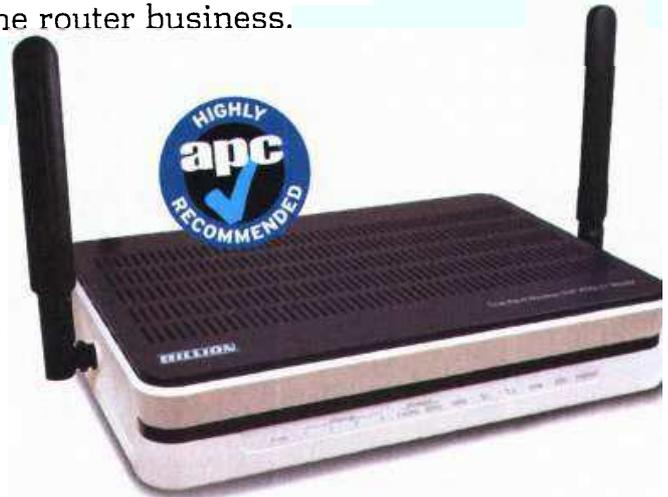
A huge feature set with all the mod cons, built-in VoIP. ✓

Not really suitable for non-technical users. ✗

Once the darling of many a technical user, Billion was known for its feature-rich, highly configurable routers. Sure, the routers weren't very friendly to neophytes, but hardcore users loved them. Then the product releases slowed to a trickle and stopped altogether. The existing routers were still selling, but new models were nowhere to be found.

Meanwhile, other router vendors made their products more capable and easier to use, and Billion disappeared from the general consciousness. Now it's back with the 7800VDPX, a router that tries to be all things to all people. It's a VoIP router, with full PSTN failover and two phone ports. It's an ADSL router, but you can reconfigure a LAN port as a dedicated Gigabit Ethernet WAN port, so you won't have to throw it out when the NBN comes along. It's a Gigabit Ethernet switch and a dual-band 300Mbps 802.11n wireless access point to boot (sadly, no 450Mbps yet). It even has a USB port for shared storage and printers, with both Samba (Windows File Sharing) and DLNA support.

Some things haven't changed, however. The administration interface is still likely to be terrifying for neophytes and awesome for hardcore techies. There are an incredible number of options to work with and if you like, you can really drill down into minutia like QoS rules, TR-069 management and some quite sophisticated VoIP settings. If you want an affordable router with every feature under the sun and an interface that



lets you tweak it to the limit, this a go-to product. However, we still think the similar AVM Fritz!Box Fon WLAN 7390 has it a little bit more together – both from a hardware and design standpoint. On the latter score, the 7800VDPX won't win any awards, being huge and ugly. But it's feature-rich and capable, and if you've liked Billion routers in the past, this is totally in the Billion style, modernised and ready for the NBN.

**Nathan Taylor**