Explorer 8300
Digital Video Recorder
Front Panel Features

1 Power  
Turns the DVR on and off

2 Video and Audio Input*  
Connects to video and left/right (L/R) audio outputs of an external device to deliver the audio and video to a TV or other device

3 List  
Displays the list of recorded programs

4 Exit  
Exits menus, the on-screen guide, and program information

5 Info  
Displays a description of the selected program. This button is available from the on-screen guide and while viewing a program

6 Guide  
Accesses on-screen services, such as the on-screen guide, video-on-demand, or pay-per-view

7 IR Sensor  
Receives the infrared signal from the remote control

8 LED Display  
Displays the selected channel number and time of day. The LED also displays the following:

- Message (✉️)
- Power (assertInstanceOf)
- RECORD

9 VOL + and VOL -  
Increases and decreases the volume

10 CH + and CH -  
Scrolls up and down through the channels

11 Select  
Provides access to your on-screen choices

12 Smart Card*  
Allows smart card access

13 USB Port*  
Connects to external equipment, such as a keyboard

* These connectors are reserved for future use or may not be available on all 8300 DVR models.
Back Panel Connectors

Note: This back panel may vary from actual product.

1 Cable In
Connects to a coaxial cable that delivers the signal from your service provider.

2 Cable Out
Connects to a coaxial cable that sends analog audio and video signals to a TV or VCR. These signals are standard-definition TV (SDTV) video and stereo audio.

3 Audio Out (LEFT and RIGHT)
Connects to RCA cables that send analog audio signals (left and right) to the stereo inputs on a TV.

4 Video Out
Connects to the video input of a TV or VCR.

5 Digital Audio Out
Connects to an RCA cable that sends a digital audio signal to a surround-sound receiver or other digital audio device.

6 Secondary Video and Audio Out
Connects to either a VCR for archiving saved content from the DVR or connects to another set of inputs (composite) on your TV.

7 S-Video Out
Connects to an S-Video cable that sends an S-Video signal to your TV or VCR. This signal is standard definition, but higher quality than other SDTV connections.

8 IR
Connector reserved for future use.

9 eSATA
Connects to an external Serial ATA (eSATA) hard disk drive for expanded drive space. (An eSATA drive is not an archival device.) Check with your service provider for a list of approved hard drive models for use with the DVR.

10 1394
Connects to display devices equipped with a 1394 input (may not be available on all DVR models).

11 AC Outlet
Connects to the AC power cord from another device, such as a TV.

12 AC Power Input
Connects to the power cord to deliver power to the DVR.
Connecting the DVR

To connect your DVR to your entertainment devices, complete these steps.

1. Connect the coaxial cable that carries the signal from your service provider to the CABLE IN connector on the back panel of the set-top.

2. Connect your SDTV to the DVR. Refer to the Connections for a Standard-Definition TV and Standard VCR section on page 5.

3. Identify the additional devices you will connect to the DVR and TV. See pages 5 through 7 and the related user guides for more information.

4. Plug the DVR and the TV into an AC power source. **Important:** To protect the set-top from power surge damage, ground (earth) your cable product to provide some protection against voltage surges and built-up static charges. To avoid these voltage surges that can be caused by lightning storms and power outages, plug the set-top into a surge protector to reduce the risk of damage.

5. Do not turn on the DVR or TV yet.

6. It may take several minutes for the DVR to receive the latest software, programming, and service information. Wait until one of the following appears on the front panel of the DVR to indicate the update is complete:
   - Current time
   - Four dashes (- - - -)

   **Note:** If four dashes appear, your DVR is not authorized. Call your service provider.

7. To begin watching TV, turn the TV ON, and press POWER on the front panel of the DVR or press Power on the remote control.
Performance Tips
If the DVR does not perform as expected, the following tips may help. If you need further assistance, contact your service provider.

No Picture
• Verify that the power to your TV is turned on.
• If the DVR is plugged into a wall switch, verify the wall switch is in the ON position.
  
  Note: You should avoid plugging the DVR into an outlet that is controlled by a wall switch.
• Verify that all cables are properly connected.
• If your system includes a VCR or stereo, verify that you have properly connected them to the DVR.
• Verify that the TV is set to the proper input channel.

No Color
• Verify that the current TV program is broadcast in color.
• Adjust the TV color controls.

No Sound
• If your setup includes a stereo, verify that you have properly connected it to the DVR.
• Verify that the volume is turned up.
• Verify that the Mute function is not engaged.

Automatic Software Updates
The TV screen may display a message that indicates the DVR is automatically updating its software. Should this occur, wait for the time to appear on the front panel of your DVR before continuing. When the time appears, the update is complete.

Frequently Asked Questions

Where Are the Connection Diagrams?
The diagrams are on pages 5 through 7 of this guide. The diagrams show examples of common ways to connect the DVR to your TV, VCR, and home theater receiver. However, these diagrams do not show every possible combination of devices. Refer to the user guides that came with your other electronic devices for further information.

What Cables Do I Need?
The required cables are shown in the connection diagrams in this guide. Some of the cables and adaptors shown in the diagrams may not be included with the DVR.
Connecting to a Standard TV

**WARNING:**
Electric shock hazard! Unplug all electronic devices before connecting or disconnecting any device cables to the DVR.

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Connecting to a Standard TV and Standard VCR

**WARNING:**
Electric shock hazard! Unplug all electronic devices before connecting or disconnecting any device cables to the DVR.

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**Cable Input**
Connecting to a Home Theater Receiver and Stereo TV

**WARNING:**
Electric shock hazard! Unplug all electronic devices before connecting or disconnecting any device cables to the DVR.

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[Diagram of connections from Cable Input to Home Theater Receiver and Stereo TV]

- **Cable Input**
- **Home Theater Receiver**
- **Stereo TV**

**Connecting to a Home Theater Receiver and Stereo TV**
Connecting an External SATA Hard Disk Drive (optional)

Complete the following steps to install an external SATA (eSATA) drive.

1. Verify that both the DVR and the eSATA drive are unplugged from power.
2. Connect the data cable for the eSATA drive to the DVR.
3. Plug in power to the eSATA drive.
4. Plug in the DVR power cord, and then turn on the DVR.
5. Follow the on-screen instructions. One of the following occurs:
   - If it is a new eSATA drive or one used on another device, you will be asked to format it.
   - If the drive is formatted and will work with this DVR, you will get a confirmation that the drive is working.

How the eSATA Drive Works with Your DVR

An eSATA drive is an extension of the internal hard drive of the DVR; it is not an archival device. Programs recorded to the eSATA drive can be played back on the DVR originally connected to the eSATA drive. For instance, you cannot record programs to the eSATA drive, remove the drive, and then connect it to a computer or a different DVR for playing back programs.

Some programs will record to the DVR internal hard drive and some will record to the eSATA drive, depending on the space available. The DVR selects the drive that has enough space to record the entire program; a program is not split between the internal and external drives.