

Digital Times is a "for eCommerce newsletter reporting on the development and/or availability of interactive products and services."

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The dish on BlueTooth

One of the most useful audio gadgets for cellphone users is a blue-tooth hands-free headset. Early adopters frequently had a disappointing experience due to poor reception. That was spec 1.1.



Most current bluetooth units are 2.0, which allows for up to ten times the transmission speed of Bluetooth 1.1. 2.0 also allowed for a significantly extended battery life through lower power consumption.

On August 1, 2007, Bluetooth 2.1 was commissioned, and it will allow for better filtering procedures while pairing Bluetooth-equipped headsets with another device for a more rewarding experience. Also, 2.1 units will require even less power consumption than a Bluetooth 2.0 device. Look for a whole new lineup of Bluetooth 2.1 headsets very soon.

The newest 2.0 model I can find is the V1 Voice controlled BlueTooth headset by BluAnt, a San Francisco, California company. This model uses their trademarked BlueGenie™ Voice User Interface...talk to it, and it talks to you! One button gives the user control of the entire function set of the V1, in an easy to use voice interface.

BluAnt's Z9 dual microphone 2.0 Bluetooth headset won last years **Innovations Award** at the **International Consumer Electronics Show** in Las Vegas, NV. The Z9 features revolutionary Voice Isolation Technology™ to produce noise suppression and echo cancellation, with zero voice distortion. This model has many other features, including 'On-the-Fly' phone switching between multiple devices (up to 3), automatic connection & reconnection with notification, different ring-tones for known and unknown contacts and much more.

By **Michael Lindsay**
Staff Writer

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Down for
rest of
issue!



A Digital Perspective



Digital Times® was born in 1994, in what was basically an analog world. Why did I get the idea for it? Well, a few *visionaries* were talking about a future technical conversion from an analog world to a digital one. A passion developed within for a cool, new future filled with a 'Willie Wonka-type wonderland' of **gadgets and gizmos**. Fueled by my attempts to actually develop a web page when there were no books on the subject, I dreamt of eCommerce and interactive online services in what was then, a text-based browser world.

My passion began to wane when the **Internet** ceased to be the coolest home-stead opportunity in my lifetime -- after all, registering domains had been **FREE**, sharing music was **FREE**, etc. The Internet eventually became bogged down in red tape, **DRM** [Digital Rights Management], legislation, intellectual property battles, and the fraudulent diversion of domains via fake domain renewal notices + identity theft and lets not forget **hackers** looking for fame. An early adopter of new services, I abandoned VOIP by Vonage due to unacceptably poor service and reception.

It is also distressing that a few years ago, **my domain was phished** and bogus junk mail went around the world...I was the recipient of a some of it, myself!

I did most of my **Christmas shopping** online. Not only did my 'fingers do the walking' it was great to comparison shop and much easier to have packages delivered to my door, with most vendors providing free shipping! Never before has it been easier to book a trip, either. We booked a great travel package with online travel agency **Expedia** to **Vienna, Austria**, for a wonderfully old-fashioned **Christmas**.
-editor

The Sky is Falling...

2007 was the 'watershed year' in that newspapers, books, music **REALLY** went digital.

Naturally, there is an increasing amount of anxiety growing related to the conventional means of delivery in publishing and music. Print editions of newspapers cease to exist and our local newspaper, the Review Journal, is offering subscribers an expanded electronic-only edition. eBook options delivered by Amazon and others are viewed as favorable alternatives for consumers. After all, we *are* saving trees and **going green** in the process.

Internet radio has come of age; notable websites include **Pandora**, where you just enter the name of a holiday song you like and stream it. You can try a pre-mixed holiday station created by Pandora's Team or easily create a personalized radio station for yourself, based on an artist who performs holiday music by entering their name, followed by the word 'holiday' [for example, 'Ray Charles Holiday'].

Music: CD sales are plummeting and shelf space dwindling. **Capital Records** is keeping overhead low and pleasing consumers by making out-of-distribution music from 1948 to 1964 *available as digital downloads*. Their Nashville division released nine albums by Charlie & Ira Louvin recently. **Vanguard Records** is putting out 73 catalog titles in January. **Concord Music Group** has 5 out-of-print R&B albums from **Stax Records** and jazz giant **Blue Note Records** has a digital-only aspect at their Website.

Digital reissue label Anthology Recordings sells about 60 titles. Labels **Universal** and **Warner's Rhino** have numerous titles available and other labels have digital-only projects in the works. **Concord's** Jonathan Bender said "**There will just be digital-only titles**" practically eliminating the physical production and distribution costs leaving the one-time expenses of remastering recordings, scanning artwork and uploading label copy and liner notes. **Vanguard's** Stephen Brower said it costs nearly nothing to "make those titles available for that percentage that's interested."

This month **eMusic** offered digital downloaders **25 FREE MP3s** to decide if they liked eMusic. If not 100% satisfied there is an option to cancel before the trial period ends. This sounds like a win-win situation.

-editor

Digital T.V. Converter Box Coupons Available!

Millions of \$40 government coupons become available in January to help people buy special converter boxes for older TV sets that might **NOT WORK** after the switch to digital broadcasting.

The television industry will complete its transition from analog broadcasting to digital in early 2009. Anyone who doesn't own a digital set and receives their programming using over-the-air antennas will no longer be able to receive a picture.

Converter boxes are expected to retail for \$50-\$70 at major electronics stores. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration will begin accepting requests for two \$40 coupons per household to be used toward the purchase of the boxes.

Call 1-888-388-2009 or apply online [at their website](#).

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