

Digital Times

Digital Times is a "for eCommerce newsletter reporting on the development and/or availability of interactive products and services."
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International CES 2006, Las Vegas, NV



Steve Young for HDTV



IPTV vs. HDTV vs. HDDVD ...and the Winner Is?

High definition broadcasting and viewing is starting to come of age, with many competitors of opposing technologies staking billions of dollars on the outcome.

As explained by the High Definition DVD group, 2 layers are burned into these DVD's - when a consumer uses high definition equipment, the content is played in high definition mode. \$499 HD DVD players from Toshiba will hit store shelves in March and can already be pre-ordered from Amazon.com.

A format war is taking place between supporters of HD DVD and larger capacity Blu-ray discs, but who wants to pay \$1,800 for a Blu-ray player from Pioneer? The success of either of these technologies is threatened by consumers preferring to get their video from Google, or other websites offering movies over the Internet, which brings me to IPTV.

IPTV is Internet Protocol Television. For an excellent explanation of the difference between this and HDTV, [Go Here](#). Key to analyzing all cutting edge products and prototypes are claims and forward-looking statements made in presentations and news releases that relate to future plans, events or performances. It will take years for standards, and many are competing. Providing impetus for the "pushing and shoving" in the marketplace is the FCC mandated move to digital-only broadcasting. For a listing of all HDTV programming in your area, try <http://ww1.titantv.com/>

CES ... This annual January convergence covered 1.6 million square feet of floor space and featured more than 2500 exhibitors, plus 150,000 attendees. As Steve Young said to the crowd, "has everybody got a room?" The purpose of being there was to attempt to discover and influence where the consumer electronics market is going. Home Theatre products were everywhere. The Nexgen Digital Home was nicely digitized, but a person would need an extra \$60,000 - \$70,000 to afford it!

The protection, organization and accessibility of digital content in the home was a main theme. Network appliances for connecting home and small office computers were everywhere. The Mira Personal Server, for example, "helps people protect their digital lives" with an easy-to-use home backup solution for multiple PCs. Mira has signed a retail deal with Fry's Electronics, Inc. so you can look for it soon! This brings me to one of the caveats of this show - Manufacturers

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A thing of beauty... from the 'Style' line



A gentleman with Hannspree Global, a Taiwanese company, asked me why I took a picture of *this* product, rather than any of their others. I replied, "because at my age I particularly enjoy beautiful things in my home, and this is a thing of beauty."

Hannspree's first U.S. store is at Union Square in **San Francisco, CA**



from Taiwan, China, Korea, and countries all over the world came to CES showing trendy gadgets and seeking U.S. distributors. As usual, much of what is seen will NOT be available for purchase in the U.S. this spring, this year, or ever! One success story is that a product I viewed and featured in Digital Times last year [the Evoluent vertical mouse] is now being distributed in the U.S. by The Human Solution.

Although products from Asian and European companies are in every exhibition hall at the show, there

is a major concentration of displays by U.S. and Asian manufacturers on exhibit at The Hilton, one of my favorite spots! This cool videophone is an example of the many well



designed items on display there. The videophone is by **Leadtek**, a U.S. company. **Leadtek's H.264 based Triple-PlayVideophone XTP8830 and Leadtek H.264 based Triple-Play Set-Top-Box XTP8721 won CES 2006 Design and Innovations Awards.**

Leadtek is famous for their enVidia GeForce graphics cards and *Hardware Zone* winner for their WinFast PX6600 GT EXTREME 3D video card. I later learned that their Leadtek Video Enabled Broadband VoIP Adapter BVA8070 won a CES 2006 Design and Innovations Award, as well.

ShowStoppers ...

CES is ~~BIG~~ a **Monster** - now only is it held at the Las Vegas Convention Center, Sands Convention Center, The Hilton Hotel, Alexis Hotel and at many other venues, hospitality suites and presentations are also held at MGM Grand, The Mirage, Treasure Island, Venetian, Mandalay Bay, and the Wynn...**ShowStoppers, one of my favorites, was at The Wynn.**

Founded in 1993, ShowStoppers features sneak previews, start-ups, new products by 100+ cool companies, great food, and surprises.

ShowStoppers also hosted, for the fifth consecutive year the **PC World "Innovations Awards."**



<---this digital jukebox by wurlitzer

was on display in the Gibson tent. Powered by D2Audio's patented *Digital Audio Engine-1*, it delivers music with astonishing audio dynamics while allowing users to store a vast amount of music in digital format. Users can create mix CDs, personal-

ize playlists, and export songs to a music player. Up to 1,500 CDs can be stored and called up with a wireless, touch-screen remote. Music lovers have direct access to the Wurlitzer Music Service, a *digital music service* that offers 100 channels of digital radio and a full download store that contains hundreds of thousands of songs for purchase.

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