

## Digital Debris

By Staff Writer, Bill Fogarty



### Faxing Without A Fax Machine!!

Now you can do it without a fax machine. Just go to [www.efax.com](http://www.efax.com). There are two basic levels of service, eFax Free and eFax Plus.

#### eFax Free

The price is right -- nothing, zero, nada. Under this option you receive faxes as email. The sender, on the other hand, will probably pay long distance telephone charges! You don't get a choice of area codes or telephone numbers.

I've been using an eFax Free account for more than a month with no problems.

Just a small warning - don't try to send your self a fax, it won't work.

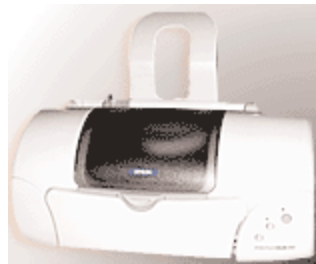
#### eFax Plus

To both send and receive faxes costs \$9.95 per month plus telephone charges. But you can get a local phone number or a toll-free number. A \$10 non-refundable activation fee is required to establish your Plus account.

Hint: If you anticipate sending and receiving a lot of faxes, you might be better off over the long term by buying a \$100 fax machine (Brother Fax-190) and a \$50 I-Ring unit. That way you need only one telephone line for computer, phone and fax machine and get a copier to boot.

Comments: Send to: [bill@digitaltimes.com](mailto:bill@digitaltimes.com)

## Product Review



I've had mine and used it regularly for more than a year. I am really satisfied with the Epson Stylus COLOR 777 PRINTER. This inexpensively priced ink jet printer [\$85.95 at [www.centralcomputer.com](http://www.centralcomputer.com)] has printing options, controls and adjustments found on more expensive printers.

It's most valuable feature, from my standpoint, is its reliability. I've had no problems at all. It just keeps going.

Now it should be understood that I use the printer primarily to copy web articles and email. As such I am not terribly interested in photo quality [which is acceptable, but not the best].

The one drawback that bothers me is the cost and capacity of the ink cartridges. I'm always buying black ink cartridges at \$30 a pop. The color cartridges last longer but cost anywhere from \$45 - \$80. Friends using this printer have the same complaint.

In summary, for home or light office use, this printer is hard to beat.

Next month:  
the Internet Printer by HP



### Talking Digital Thermometer

It had to happen, didn't it? I mean, no need to get a whiplash trying to locate where the hard-to-see mercury is on your thermometer. SupportsUSA has several digital models to choose from, including digital, deluxe digital, jumbo display digital, talking digital, and my favorite, 30-Second Read Flex Tip Electronic!

Six times as fast as glass thermometers, the Flex Tip Electronic has a flexible tip that conforms to the mouth and makes temperature readings comfortable and safe. Clinically accurate, it has a peak temperature tone, memory recall and auto shut-off. This baby can be used orally, rectally or under the arm. All models come in both Fahrenheit and Centigrade.

### Immerse Yourself With Touch

TouchSense technology provides tactile sensations to games, web pages, or productivity applications. Electronic touch devices with TouchSense translate digital information into physical sensations. When you push on a mouse or a joystick, the device pushes back—using magnetic actuators and sensors built into the device. This feedback, and resistance-process is called force. TouchSense devices can simulate springs, liquids, textures, vibrations, and more, as long as it can be translated into a mathematical equation.

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## Digitally Cool

### Digital Terrestrial Television

With an analog tuner card from TVTonic + their software application installed on your PC, you will be able to chat and engage in peer-to-peer communication with other viewers while watching the series SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN FRONTIERS and other programs under development by PBS Interactive and Wavexpress.

The Wavexpress platform delivers enhanced content and rich media—movies, music, sports, news, computer games, software—over a digital broadcast signal direct to any DTV-enabled PC.

### DIGITAL JUICE

You can grab the attention of your audience and create powerful graphical presentations quickly, whether your project is computer based PowerPoint slides, printed publications or other multimedia designs, including web sites!

Version 2.0 is a comprehensive library of 24 graphic-packed CDs containing over 50,000 images plus a tutorial video. Digital Juice for PowerPoint 2.0 helps users overcome the biggest obstacle to creativity - lack of time.

Digital Juice works with PC's, Mac's, and virtually every **presentation software** on the market. The product is priced at \$349.00 and ships with a tutorial video, printed index, and an innovative image gallery for easy access to thousands of new looks.

PC Magazine awarded Digital Juice a 5 out of 5 rating.

The information contained in Digital Times is a combination of original editorial content and information pulled from wire services, research and various online resources.

## SPEECH RECOGNITION Comes of Age

Have you ever called an Airline for information and been placed on hold for 5 minutes or lost in AUDIOTEXT land with instructions like, Press 2 for that and Press 3 for that or and Press...\*#!? and THEN placed on hold? Have you ever waited 20 minutes for a live agent?

How would you like to pick up your 2.4 gigahertz digital phone from Uniden or your Nokia, Panasonic or other cool tool, call that same number and simply say, "I'd like to fly from New York to Los Angeles next Tuesday at noon." and quickly get the schedule and ticket information that you really need?

**Natural Language** is a processing technology that allows a caller to use complete sentences as commands. For example, when an airline system that supports Natural Language asks callers what flight information they are looking for, users can respond by saying, "I want to fly from Boston to Denver next Thursday and return on Friday," and the system will understand the input.

**Directed Dialog** is a technique of guiding the caller by prompting for step-by-step information. For example, you could call your favorite wine shop and they might say, "Welcome to xxx." "Would you like to order, check availability or talk to the Wine Master?" You would respond with "order" or "check availability" or "Wine Master" and very quickly move forward.

**Barge-In** is a capability that lets callers interrupt the system whenever they are ready, so that callers don't have to wait for prompts when they know exactly what they want to do next.

**SpeechWorks**, a leader in the speech technology field can help your business achieve the full benefits of speech and deliver these capabilities to your customers. For more information, go to their website:

<http://www.speechworks.com>

## Touch Cont'd

Cool software from **Immersion Corp.** is what you need to enjoy tactile sensations while surfing! You also need a TouchSense-enabled **iFeel** mouse from **Logitech!** Just install the latest version of the **Immersion Desktop software for FREE.** Then, go to Blab.com--they offer "**Good Vibes**," a new line of FREE Internet greeting cards which use TouchSense™ technology.

### VOTE

What would you like to do with TouchSense?

- 1 Visit an e-commerce web site where you could experience the texture of fabrics, finishes, and lotions.
- 2 Enter a web site by reaching in and feeling the contours of its environmental design, from a desert landscape to a topographic map of Mars.
- 3 Go to a family web site and while you're chatting with your sister, reach out and tickle her, too.

[suggestions will be emailed to  
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