

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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CONSUMER ELECTRONICS SHOW CELEBRITY STYLE!



The word is OUT! No longer do you have to stand in line at a show or concert hoping to get a glimpse of your favorite celebrity; just attend the International **Consumer Electronics Show** in **Las Vegas**.

Many of your favorite celebrities will be there promoting various interests. Technology is the reason celebrities achieve the fame they do, because of the importance of being seen and heard, and this is something they understand very well.

At the 2005 International Consumer Electronics Show, XM Satellite Radio boasted many top celebrities, including Ludacris, Alan Parsons, Gene Simmons, "**Weird Al**" Yankovic, Al Jarreau, and baseball legend **Cal Ripken**, among others. They all had interesting things to say, and I really enjoyed getting to know them on a more personal basis. They were happy to answer questions from the audience, which was really cool, because it made them more human.

I found **Ludicris** to be a very humble person, which was a pleasant surprise. I asked him, "So, how does it feel to have every rapper in the world want you on their CD?" He almost seemed embarrassed, as he responded, "Well, not EVERY rapper!" It was very endearing.

Gene Simmons of the band KISS, was very cocky but rightly so; he is an incredibly intelligent man. He knows five languages, has a degree in theology, and has a business sense that even Donald Trump would admire! He also has a great sense of humor. He said Kiss will be touring Europe soon, and "will have on more make up and higher heels than your mommy!" Also, be watching for his new reality show on a television station near you!



Photos and story by: Lisa A. Jones
Staff Reporter
Digital Times

After listening to up close and personal interviews, the celebrities were happy to pose for pictures and sign autographs. Just think! No pushing, shoving or screaming fans!



It seemed as though everywhere I went, there was a celebrity right around the corner! I came across **Debbie Gibson** quite by accident. She was promoting **LEADSINGER**, The Next Generation of Karaoke. I am a singer as well, so it was quite a treat to hear her sing. I even got to test the product myself! I was allowed onstage to sing and experience how simple the product really is; everything is built right into the microphone. Just plug it into your TV, press a few buttons, and you're good to go!

Next, I went to meet **Jackie Chan**. He was there promoting his healthy interactive video games, Xavix. I even appeared onstage with him, as he put on my boxing gloves and helped me navigate to three boxing victories! It definitely got my heart pumping, and I plan on getting some of the Xavix games for my kids. So next year, make it a point to check out the show!



Digitally Cool



A great place to find new products, like this EZ Reach ergonomic keyboard by **TypeMatrix**, was at this year's International Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas. This board has a nice, small footprint of approximately 12 1/4 inches by 5 1/4 inches.

After typing a few words on the EZ Reach, I looked for the return [or enter] key. There are two-- one in the middle of the keyboard and another on the far right. While doing this newsletter in QUARK Express, a desktop publishing application, I discovered that the right Enter key has a different function than the middle one and pressing IT makes my content disappear!

Since I am making mistakes like crazy, I needed the backspace key and found it in the middle of the keyboard. I'm having difficulty with C and V, especially. The keys are VERY responsive and have a good feel, however. The manufacturer suggests that it takes @ two weeks to really "know" and feel comfortable with the EZ Reach and that once that happens, 95% of those who try it stay with it! I've been using it all of 30 minutes now, and am doing all right...

Again, key response is excellent. I am committed to using it exclusively for the next two weeks. If interested, look for my final assessment in the April issue of Digital Times.

-editor

Price: \$99

For: PC, Mac, Sun

Where to Buy: www.typematrix.com

Voice Over Internet

Broadband Phone Service



A technology I've been watching for years has finally matured. Voice Over Internet Protocol, or VOIP. How would you like **UNLIMITED** local and long distance phone calls in the U.S. and Canada using the telephone you already have for **\$24.99/mo.**? Part of my 'divorce' from Sprint involved finding a superior, more affordable, service. Less than one week after signing up with **Vonage**, The Broadband Phone Company, I received my package, containing a baseball cap, a Linksys Broadband Router, instruction manuals and a CD I didn't really need.

The instructions and diagrams were very clear. Turn everything off, plug this in and that in, and turn everything back on. I registered my Linksys router online, then after the devices 'talked to' each other they worked. My 1st call was from my cellphone to my new home phone number assigned by Vonage. I left a test voicemail message. Next, I called my son in California who informed me that he knows of entire businesses that have switched to VOIP! Then, I checked my email and found an incoming message from Vonage telling me I had one new voicemail message. *Sweet.*

500 Minutes Plan: **\$14.99/mo** for local and long distance service.

-editor

My Equipment:

Motorola 5.8 GHZ Digital Telephone

Cable Broadband Connection by CoxCommunications

PC running Windows XP

Optional Service:

Unique Fax Number, @ \$9.99/mo.

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Saundra D. Knowles, Founder

The information contained in Digital Times is
a combination of original editorial content
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research and various online resources.

April

The lowdown on Text Messaging
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Report on Verizon's **LG VX7000** video
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The eWaste initiative...

Review: The 2005 Game Developer's
Conference