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PC Magazine Names Best of Comdex Winners

November 19, 2003

PC Magazine and MediaLive announced the Best of Comdex Las Vegas 2003 award winners in a ceremony on the show floor this afternoon. The awards were handed out after *PC Magazine* editors and Lab analysts scoured the floor and public meeting rooms for the best Comdex had to offer.

"We were impressed by the quality of products we saw at this year's Comdex. Our Best of Comdex awards include a number of new technologies that could dramatically affect IT over the next few years," said *PC Magazine* Editor-in-Chief Michael J. Miller.

In order to qualify for consideration, products and services had to be exhibiting on the show floor or within one of the show's publicly-accessible meeting rooms.

Click "next" to see the winners and finalists.

Category: Peripherals

Winner:
CMS Velocity Series Backup System
CMS Products, Inc.
With data transfer rates three times faster than USB2.0 or FireWire (up to 1.5Gb/s), the new Velocity Series from CMS Products incorporates a high-speed Serial ATA (SATA).

CMS Velocity Series Backup System
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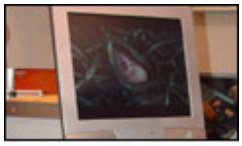
Finalist:
NEC MultiSync LCD2180UX
NEC-Mitsubishi Electronics Display of America, Inc.
This professional-level 21-inch ultra-thin-frame display offers innovative capabilities including integrated multi-monitor tiling support for financial and public display markets.

Finalist:
Dell W1700 LCD TV
Dell Inc.
This 17-inch LCD TV integrates a flat panel monitor and a television tuner into one device. It includes DCDi by Faroudja de-interlacing technology, which processes rapidly moving images so that they appear crisper, smoother and clearer. The W1700 is HDTV ready and supports picture-in-picture to let users simultaneously view images from the PC and video inputs.

Category: Gadgets

Winner:
Visart Wireless Mobile TFT LCD TV
Shanghai Visart Technologies, Ltd.
Why have your television tethered to a cable and power connection? This free-standing, wireless television system includes an 802.11g transmitter that connects to any video source and beams the signal wirelessly to the 17-inch LCD screen placed anywhere within range. But what about power, you say? The included 6 hour battery pack solves that problem.


Visart Wireless Mobile TFT LCD TV
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Finalist:
MacSense HomePod MP-100
MacSense

This Mac/PC-compatible wireless music receiver and player/ accepts all popular music formats and can receive them via your wireless network and play them back through its integrated speakers, headphones or your home stereo speaker. And to save shelf space, it even includes a built-in FM Tuner.

Finalist:
Zalman Theater 6
Zalman USA, Inc.
The Theater 6 headphones deliver a true surround sound experience for gaming and movies. Each earpiece includes three tiny speakers that deliver front- , center- , and rear-channel signals.

Finalist:
Therapeutic Robot: Paro
National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology
This endearing pup actually has a very serious purpose. Its entire body is covered with sensors that react to touch, making this responsive robot a perfect fit for hospitals and nursing homes. It not only learns its name, but changes its response over time, becoming a true, healing companion.

Category: Enterprise Hardware

Winner:
Nexsan ATABeast
Nexsan Technologies
This enterprise class storage array is built around the latest ATA high-speed disk drives and offers unparalleled density and security. It is OS independent and every component is hot swappable.

Nexsan ATABeast

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Finalist:
Qualstar RLS-5244 Rack Mount SAIT Tape Library
Qualstar Corp.
This rack-mountable unit delivers high storage density in automated tape library. It utilizes Sony's new SAIT tape drives to store over 57 terabytes into just 5U of rack space.

Finalist:
Tatung TUD-3114 Ultra Dense Blade Server
Tatung Company
This high-availability ultra-dense blade server accommodates up to 14 independent server blades in a single 3U chassis, which translates to 196 Xeon servers per rack.

Category: Enterprise Software

Winner:
Microsoft Small Business Server 2003
Microsoft Corp.
SBS 2003 gives small businesses the power of Windows Server 2003 without the complexity. It includes server-based solutions for e-mail, fax, database and security, all in one integrated solution with unified setup and centralized management.

Microsoft Small Business Server 2003

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Finalist:
Cloudmark Authority 2.0
Cloudmark Inc.
This gateway antispam solution features an automated process that predicts whether a message is spam by looking for specific mutations in message structure. Updated by real-time information from 700,000 SpamNet users, Authority requires no additional hardware.

Finalist:
ViewletFarm2
Qarbon
This takes an effective demo creation tool and scales it up to the enterprise. It allows companies to execute large-scale Viewlet creation and deployment projects.

Category: Wireless Infrastructure

Winner:
SonicWALL SOHO TZW
SonicWALL Inc.
This secure wireless gateway integrates firewall and VPN technologies in a single solution, delivering the convenience and benefits of both wireless and wired connectivity to small-to-medium sized networks. The network administrator has the flexibility to create multiple trusted zones of access, providing an unprecedented level of control without compromising network security.

SonicWALL SOHO TZW
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Finalist:
Netgear WG302 ProSafe 802.11g Wireless Access Point
Netgear Inc.
This value-priced, access point is targeted at small to medium businesses and hotspot implementations. It boasts an enterprise-class feature set, including: WEP encryption, MAC address filtering, VPN pass-through, 802.11x user-based authentication, WPA, WDS, Web-based management, and SNMP.

Finalist:
Canon CanoBeam DT100 Series
Canon USA, Inc.
This free-space optics transceiver system combines high tech with a reasonably low price. The DT-110 Series lets companies wirelessly beam data for distances ranging from 20 meters to 500 meters, at speeds of up to 156 Mbps. It provides secure co-location of crucial data.

Category: Security Infrastructure

Winner:
Aruba 2400
Aruba Wireless Networks
This scalable Wi-Fi switching system is designed to help IT administrators better deploy, secure and manage 802.11 infrastructures. It combines high-speed Ethernet switching, virtual private networking (VPN), stateful firewalling, and advanced RF security into a single system. With the Aruba 2400, corporations have the ability to build self-healing, self-calibrating Wi-Fi networks.

Aruba 2400
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Finalist:
ProAccess FaceOK
Titanium Technology Limited
The product's cutting-edge face-recognition technology provides secure sign-on using 3-D facial recognition to provide the highest degree of security against unauthorized access.

Finalist:
Compucage PC Security Devices
Compucage, Intl.
Think of these locks as The Club for your notebook and desktop computers. Not only are they a visual deterrent, but more aggressive thieves will have a difficult time wresting precious equipment from the hardened tamper resistant jaws of these locks. Compucage's latest offerings accommodate the new, wide-screen notebooks and small desktop mini-towers.

Category: Desktop Computing

Winner:
HP Media Center PC m390n
Hewlett-Packard
This Media Center lets users enjoy TV music, video and photo content in powerful and easy-to-use package. It includes a built-in camera dock holder, front-mounted analog video inputs for capturing home movies, and a DVD recorder to save and share digital content.

HP Media Center PC m390n

Finalist:
Tatung Media Center PC
Tatung Company
This Media Center looks more like a home stereo component than a PC, but with the full power and prowess of Microsoft Windows MCE 2004.

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Finalist:
Zalman TNN500A
Zalman Tech Company, Ltd.
The TNN stands for Totally No Noise and the computer case achieves this through a combination of advanced materials and clever engineering. The result is a completely fanless system which isn't just quiet, it's silent.

Category: Mobile Devices

Winner:
MSN Direct
Microsoft Corp.
The MSN Direct service gives people glanceable information they need when they need it, including news, weather, stock updates, personal messages and appointment reminders. Initially available in Smart Watches from Fossil and Suunto, these devices feature multiple watch faces and automatic time-zone adjustment based on location.

MSN Direct

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Finalist:
HP IPAQ Pocket PC h4350
Hewlett-Packard
With its backlit keyboard, bright display and both 802.11b and Bluetooth wireless connectivity, the h4350 is currently our favorite Pocket PC. It's ideal for road warriors.

Finalist:
PalmOne Treo 600
PalmOne
If you prefer a phone/PDA combo, the Treo 600 is the way to go. It features an integrated keyboard and a bright display for using the Palm OS functions, and it's not much bigger than a standard cell phone.

Finalist:
Bluespoon Digital
Nextlink.to
This is the smallest and lightest wireless Bluetooth headset we've seen. It fits snuggly in your ear and features digital noise cancellation, providing unsurpassed audio quality in noisy environments.

Category: Software

Winner:
Xcelsius Professional Edition
Infommersion Inc.
This clever package brings Microsoft Excel to life by bridging the gap between data analysis and visual presentation. It allows users to create easily deployable and visually stunning interactive reports.

Xcelsius
Professional Edition

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Finalist:
Microsoft Office 2003
Microsoft Corp.
More than just a suite of applications, Office is now a communication system for the interactive office. New features in each individual application enhance productivity, while backend improvements (such as XML support) make Office documents leverageable across the enterprise.

Finalist:
Microsoft Windows XP Media Center Edition 2004
Microsoft Corp.

We loved Media Center Edition when it first debuted. The new version delivers even more media-centric functionality, including FM radio support and improved PVR features.

Finalist:
Apreso 2003 for PowerPoint
Anystream
This PowerPoint add-in gives business presenters a simple and affordable way to improve the clarity and effectiveness of everyday communications. Ideal for trainers, educators and speaking professionals, one click is all it takes to automatically capture the content of PowerPoint slide shows as they are presented and instantly create interactive presentations that are viewable in a Web browser.

Category: Best of Show

Microsoft Small Business Server 2003
Microsoft Corp.
SBS 2003 gives small businesses the power of Windows Server 2003 without the complexity. It includes server-based solutions for e-mail, fax, database and security, all in one integrated solution with unified setup and centralized management.

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