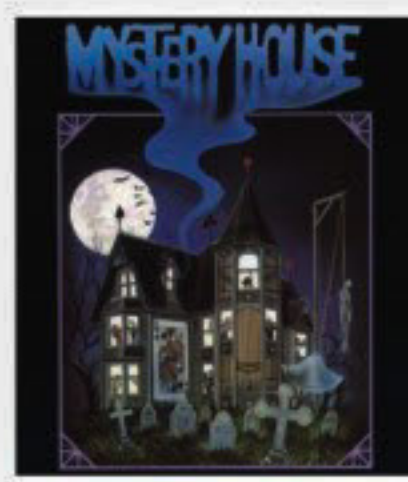


Mystery House is an adventure computer game released in 1980 by Roberta and Ken Williams for the Apple II. The game is remembered as one of the first adventure games to feature computer graphics and the first game produced by On-Line Systems, the company which would evolve into Sierra On-Line. Because of its use of graphics, GamePro named Mystery House the 51st most important game of all time in 2007. The game starts near an abandoned Victorian mansion. The player is soon locked inside the house with no other option than to explore.



TECHREVIEW

Tech attractions: 2010

TWO weeks into the new year and tech enthusiasts are already sniffing around for a whiff of what to look out for in 2010. Technology progresses so fast, it is sometimes just too tough to keep up. You buy the latest 3G mobile phone and are all set to show it off to your friends when your ego just comes crashing down as you find that it's already passé and that 4G mobile phones are the new best thing in the market. Even then technology can be such an enticer, the rushed progress doesn't stop many from pining for the latest gadget on the block, even if it means that your pockets are not going to like the sound of that. Mark Ecko's complex.com featured five of the top technology trends to look out for in the year 2010 based on the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) held in Las Vegas. From the looks of it, the tech future seems bright, and mostly 3-Dimensional. Following were the top rating technologies:

E-Readers
With the advantage of being portable, highly readable in bright sunlight long battery life and crisp quality display, E-Readers have already become a favorite among travelers and book lovers. Amazon's Kindle and Sony's reader are just a start. But 2010 promises them a lot of competition, with E-Readers from a variety of companies that suit each and every type of consumer need.

With a 6" EPD (Electronic Paper Display) screen, and a 3.5" touchscreen LCD screen powered by a power 624Mhz processor running Android, the Alex by Spring Design may be just the e-reader for us. You can browse the web in full color using the touchscreen like you were using your phone. You could even watch video clips and listen to music on it.

If most e-readers are just too small for you, the Skiff Reader should be perfect. Clocking in with an 11in screen, the Skiff is big enough for you to hold comfortably as though you were reading a real newspaper. They plan to introduce the Skiff Service which will allow users to directly download magazine issues, books, newspapers and blogs from a variety of sources.

4G Powered Devices
The 4G technology is supposed to allow data transfer upto 100Mbps outdoor and 1Gbps indoor. Moreover, it is said to support interactive services like Video Conferencing (with more than 2 sites simultaneously), wireless internet, etc. The bandwidth would be much wider (100 MHz) and data would be transferred at much higher rates. The cost of the data transfer would be comparatively very less and global mobility would be possible. What's more, the security features are claimed to be much better.

Many refer to WiMax as a 4G technology. However, WiMax can deliver only upto 70 Mbps over a 50Km radius, as opposed to the requirement for a 10 Gbps. Mobile phones are getting faster and more complex while wireless connectivity

innovation seems to creep along quite slowly. But it is hoped that WiMax can deliver on the promise and potential of these new devices soon.

While Intel shows off its developments with WiMax, Sprint steals the show with their Overdrive router. The little black box gives off a WiFi signal, based on a Sprint 3G or 4G signal, usable by up to five computer for instant internet anywhere.

1 Ghz Smartphones
Tech companies say it time and time again that there will come a day when your phone will cease to be your phone. It will become your ultimate mobile workstation. However, that sounds far-fetched, given the current speed of phones and the current screen size limiting the amount of work you can actually accomplish on the go. Hopefully that should change this year, with more and more companies introducing phones with faster and faster processors.

Google introduced its Android Smartphones. The debut of Google's official Nexus One "superphone" generated a lot of pre-launch hype with many heralding it as an "iPhone killer" before even seeing it. Fast forward to today. The phone is out and the reviews are in. Sleek, and nice to hold, this phone has everything—a 3.7" WVGA (800 x 480) widescreen AMOLED, accelerometer, 5 MP camera, a microSD slot (32Gb limit), digital compass, WiFi and everything else you'd need out of a phone.

The HTC HD2 Smartphone is another one termed as an "iPhone killer". It is possibly the best Windows Mobile phone ever. Powered by the new 1GHz Qualcomm Snapdragon processor, the HD2 sports a gigantic 4.3 inch screen. Making it even more attractive is HTC Sense, a special user interface that, according to HTC is "a

holistic experience that focuses on making phones work in the most intuitive way." All that means is it makes Windows Mobile nearly as easy to use as an iPhone, which is an outstanding achievement.

Tablets
While Apple's much talked about tablet is being anticipated, other companies have already released their own latest versions.

HP and Microsoft teamed up on a tablet that they're dubbing a Slate. It looks like a color Kindle that's supposed to have the portability of a mobile phone with the power of a PC.

Lenovo's IdeaPad U1 Hybrid Notebook is quite an interesting two-in-one. At first glance, it looks like a regular notebook with an 11.6" screen. And it is, it runs Windows 7 and is powered by an Intel Core Duo processor. But remove the screen and it transforms into a tablet that runs Linux and is powered by Qualcomm's Snapdragon processor. That's two



computing experiences in one. **3D Technology**
2010 is going to be the year of 3D. Whether it is televisions, cameras, or video games, all the big manufacturers (Sony, Samsung, LG, etc.) are showing off their vision of the three dimensional future.
Panasonic grabbed CNET's Best of CES award for their TC-PVT25 series plasma TVs. The set is basically a 3D capable version of their TC-PV10 TVs. You will need a set of 3D glasses to enjoy, however. They also previewed their upcoming 3D Blu-Ray player as well as their dual lens 3D camera. Whatever it is you want to do in 3D, if you got the dough, you can do it.
So the future has been put before you. It will now be up to you to take your pick... when it comes, that is. Get ready for some pocket shuffling this year.

Compiled by Nahid Akhter

Sony Ericsson trio unveiled

STARTECH DESK

ONE of the leading mobile set companies, Sony Ericsson has introduced its latest "Entertainment Unlimited" series in the local market. At a launching ceremony at a city restaurant in the capital yesterday it unveiled its newest Satio, Aino and Yari sets.

Satio, a touch phone loaded with built-in applications and Symbian operating system, is always ready to download more suitable applications. It has true 16:9, 2.5 inch widescreen display to let the users tap easily and directly into mobile videos, pod casts, music and TV series (if available). Its unique feature is its 12.1 megapixel camera with intuitive touch focus and Xenon flash. With Satio, users share their pictures with friends on social networking sites such as facebook and picasa. It comes with many built-in games and games can also be downloaded in it. This entertainment phone has 16 million colours in it to give feast users eyes on films and image. The product has a price tag of Tk54,900.

Aino, combined with keypad and intuitive touch UI in media mode, is an ultimate gaming mobile phone set. Integrated with Playstation 3 (PS3), users can control and access media content on PS3 from their sets. It can be done via local network between PS3 and Aino at home or via internet from anywhere in the world. It has an application called Media Home that pulls media contents from Media Go on the PC over Wi-Fi to the phone automati-



cally. The set just needs to be put into its EC100 charging stand and it automatically synchronizes with the latest media contents on the PC. It has 3 inch crystal clear screen and MH100 Wireless Stereo Headphone to listen to quality music. It also comes with 8.1 megapixel camera. The product has a price tag of Tk46,000.

Yari is said to be the ultimate phone for mobile fun whether it's gaming or music. It comes with gesture and motion games and gives users a unique gaming experience. Yari introduces a games carousel that allows users to access all their games from desktops and to browse downloadable contents on PlayNow arena. It also comes with a high quality music player and five-megapixel camera. The camera has features like autofocus, LED flash, Geo-tagging, face detection, image stabilizer which gives a good photo experience. The product has a price tag of Tk26,500.

TECHNEWS

Facebook teams with McAfee to tighten security

AFP, San Francisco

FACEBOOK has announced an alliance with Internet security specialty firm McAfee to get user of the world's leading online social network to better protect their computers.

Facebook users whose accounts are breached by malicious software or other cyberattacks will need to have their computers cleaned by McAfee before returning to life in the online community. Facebook users are also being offered free six-month subscriptions to McAfee security software and then discounted prices for continued service.

"If we get people's machines this protection, it is better for them, for Facebook, and the Internet as a whole," Facebook director of communications Barry Schnitt said on Tuesday.

Previously, Facebook simply reset passwords of members whose accounts hit by hacking, phishing, or other cyber-mischief and advised members to have "malware" purged from their computers.

"We found that they wouldn't fix the problems and got infected again," Schnitt said.

"Now, we've integrated a solution where they actually have to get machines scanned and cleaned."

McAfee and Facebook have collaborated on a free tool for cleaning up infected computers and Facebook said it will not share in any revenue that McAfee makes from security software or services.

"The common goal is to help protect users of the Internet globally," said McAfee vice president of marketing Brent Remai. "We are pretty excited about this partnership."

Facebook selected McAfee after a competitive review process.

McAfee Internet Security Suite software is available to Facebook users in Australia, Britain, Italy, Germany, the Netherlands, and the United States. It will be extended to more countries in the coming months.

Facebook and McAfee cited research indicating that 78 percent of computer users do not have updated virus and spyware protections on machines.

"By partnering with the market leader McAfee, we are taking an unprecedented step towards making the entire Internet more secure and reducing the possibility of threats being brought onto our service by unsuspecting users," said Facebook vice president of global communications Elliot Schrage.

"Keeping the Internet secure requires that users, security vendors and Internet companies all work together."

TECHNEWS

Hollywood, Web and gadgets a winning mix at CES

AFP, Las Vegas

A premier Consumer Electronics Show (CES) ended after rebounding from a global economic drubbing and wowing attendees with gadgets that merge 3-D, software, entertainment, and the Web.

"CES is back," analyst Rob Enderle of the Enderle Group in Silicon Valley said of the annual event at which electronics makers from around the world gather to display their latest creations. The show ended on Sunday.

"Last year when I left I was thinking 'It's the last CES,' it was a morgue." Device makers who felt the chill the fiscal crisis put on sales of consumer electronics last year poured passion and innovation into proven products and hot trends such as electronic-readers and 3-D television sets.

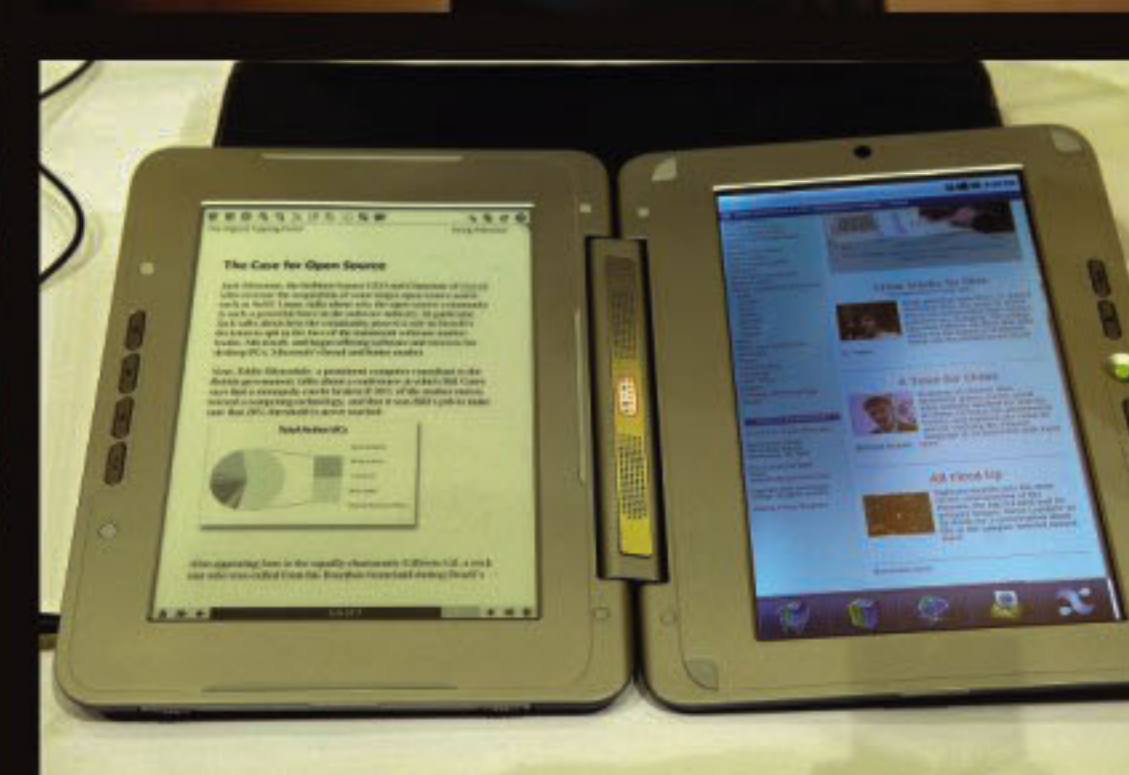
But "this is one of the most exciting CES events we've had in years," said Scott Steinberg, lead technology analyst for DigitalTrends.com.

Two Silicon Valley titans absent from the show floor left giant footprints on the gathering of more than 2,500 exhibitors.

CES was awash in e-reader, tablet, and slate devices that in some cases seemed hurried out to get a jump on an "iSlate" that



iPhone, iPod and Macintosh computer maker Apple is expected to unveil later this month. "I think a lot of the tablet buzz was trying to get upwind of



Apple," said Roger Kay, president of Massachusetts-based EndpointTechnologiesAssociates. "It's kind of a game of chicken or leapfrog where you're investing or pretending to invest in the tablet area in a bid to try to claim it before someone else gets there." A host of device makers unveiled smartphones, netbooks, or tablets based on Google's Android software.



A Google team had the Internet star's new Nexus One smartphone available for private meetings and on display one evening at an event in a Las Vegas hotel but not on the CES show floor. "Google was kind of the stealth company here," Enderle said. "Google Androids were in devices all over the place." Television makers who have

seen prices driven down by competition and the economy enthralled CES attendees by crafting eye-grabbing 3-D and Internet services into high-definition flat-screen models.

Internet pioneer Yahoo! added its software "widgets" to some televisions last year at CES and built on that momentum this week with an expanded array of sets and online services.

Forrester Research analyst James McQuivey said that 3-D TVs face "an uphill slog" and it is unlikely consumers will rush to buy them after many upgraded to high-definition sets in the past three years.

"I don't think we are going to be wearing those 3-D glasses at home any time soon," Steinberg said. Growth of 3-D has been slow because of a lack of programming, the need for the special glasses and the higher prices of 3-D sets.

The Consumer Electronics Association that runs CES estimated that more than 120,000 people attended the event in a jump of more than 20 percent from the prior year. Final attendance figures won't be available for several months.

Gartner expects consumer electronics sales to improve along with the economy.

PHOTOS: AFP