
R&D Subcommittee

March 2008 Presentation

IT News

- ❑ Mozilla Releases Firefox 3 Beta 4
- ❑ Firefox 3 Beta 4 includes more than 1,300 fixes and is intended for testers and developers; casual Internet users are advised not to download it.
- ❑ Toshiba gives up on HD-DVD. Sony wins with Blu-Ray. Walmart withdrew sales of HD-DVD in all 4000 US stores.
- ❑ Microsoft is making clear its motives for a big move in the virtualization space with the announcement of an acquisition and the Windows Server 2008 Hyper-V. Windows Server 2008 will ship with SP1 already included... 😊.



IT News

- ❑ Mar 5, 2008: MS releases WS2K8, SQL Server 2008 and Visual Studio 2008.
 - ❑ IE 8 beta planned for release 1H 08. Compatibility with older web sites, increased security, better support for Ajax.
 - ❑ MS cutting Vista prices: Ultimate from \$400 to \$320, Home Premium from \$160 to \$130.
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New products

Ports:

VGA

DVI

USB

DisplayPort

HDMI

The Future of the Monitor Port

FOR YEARS, PC users had a simple choice of connecting a monitor to a computer via either an analog port (VGA) or, more recently, a digital port (DVI). But new monitors and high-definition content require technologies that can handle more data.

A limited number of display vendors (such as Samsung) are using the ubiquitous USB connection to route graphics data from the PC to the monitor through a technology called DisplayLink. Its main benefit is that it allows you to daisy-chain up to six monitors to one PC. Meanwhile, USB 3.0, expected to arrive in 2008, could send ten times as much data as USB 2.0. And Wireless USB, touted as offering

freedom from corded technology, may be another way of using DisplayLink.

But the real port showdown is between the emerging DisplayPort and HDMI. Because DisplayPort is a royalty-free standard, manufacturers don't have to pay for each use of the technology (for HDMI, the current cost is 4 cents per port/use), so economic considerations may be an incentive to push DisplayPort.

Tom Mainelli, senior research analyst for monitors at IDC, thinks HDMI has the edge, partly because it's largely compatible with DVI through the use of simple adapters. DisplayPort, on the other hand, has a new structure that may require new, more complex (hence, potentially more expensive) adapters. For now, the upstart DisplayPort may be royalty-free, but the more-established HDMI has already appeared on some large monitors, and is slowly working its way into smaller ones. —*Roy Santos*



DELL'S 30-INCH, \$1999, DisplayPort-equipped UltraSharp 3008WFP display.

The Future

IN TEN YEARS, AND BEYOND...

We don't want to get too far ahead of ourselves, but the next couple of decades could dramatically change computing. We look forward to delving into these advances in future issues of *PC Magazine*.

2014

Wireless chip integration onto the CPU die and advance coprocessing

2016

Hybrid laptops with solar cells and lithium ion batteries

2018

System cache size big enough to run operating systems

2022

"Spintronics," technology that changes the quantum spin of electrons. Some call this "quantum computing."

2027

Holographic processing, with advanced projection technology to allow users to do away with displays

Resources

- [PC World Tips & Tricks](#)
 - [Rammac-it.org](#)
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