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Games & Entertainment



Hot!

8 SFF PCs:

Small, But Not So Quiet

Small form factor PCs can easily blend into the background of any room in a home or office. But if fan noises are a concern, some of our test candidates with Pentium 4s inside might not necessarily make a good fit.

Desktop Summit 2005: Linux' Chic Factor

Nobody said Linux shows had to be dull. But Desktop Summit hosted by Linspire showed what fun can really be had in a Linux universe of cool and cheap PCs, fast cars and music.

Regulars

VGA Charts IV: AGP

VGA Charts V: PCI Express

In Part IV of the Tom's Hardware Guide VGA charts, we pitted the current AGP models against each other. In Part V, it's time to take a look at the new models utilizing the PCI Express bus.

CPU Charts Part 1

CPU Charts Part 2

We take you back in CPU history in Part 1. We continue detailing AMD's path from its Athlon debut to its Athlon64

Gaming at CES: Some Interesting Gadgets for Gamers

Watch This!

LCD monitors are still pretty expensive for most gamers, and the slow pixel response rate often creates an effect called "ghosting," where images from fast-moving games tend to blur across the screen. Well LG Electronics has made all of that a thing of the past, with its new gaming flat panel monitors featuring 8 millisecond response times and a special chip they call the "fENGINE".

Article Info

Gaming at CES: Some Interesting Gadgets for Gamers

Created:
January 8, 2005**By:**
[Christiaan Allebest](#)**Category:**
[Games & Entertainment](#)**Summary:**
What does the biggest Consumer Electronics Show have to say about the future of your favorite pastime? We take a look at some of more interesting hardware devices designed to improve the gaming experience.

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The fENGINE is an actual microchip on the flat panel's internal hardware that monitors the incoming image and then enhances it before displaying it. Colors are made more vibrant, darks darker, and lights lighter, which increases apparent contrast. When the technology was initially being explained to me I was skeptical - I thought a separate piece of hardware processing the image after a high-end video card had already gotten to it would slow down games. That simply wasn't the case; one of LG's Directors, Kim Way, enabled and disabled the fENGINE chip while I was watching an intensive ATI graphics card demo and then playing Unreal Tournament 2004 and Far Cry. There wasn't even a hiccup, only a dramatic increase in visual quality that isn't done justice by the split-view screenshot below.

and show 3,300 benchmarks for CPUs since 1995 in Part 2.

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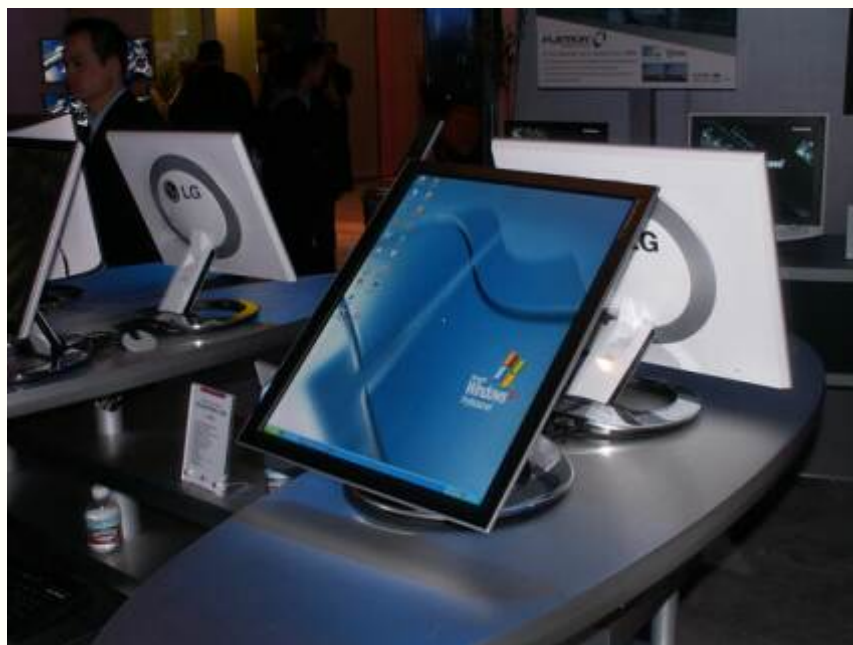
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Another great feature of the soon to be released monitors - expect 17" and 19" models - is their ability to be moved in nearly any direction, with the image automatically adjusting to compensate. Rotate the [monitor](#) sideways and after a brief moment as the hardware detects the change, the image rotates as well - great for presentations or viewing that centerfold you scanned last week.



Market Survey, Part 1: A Comparison Of The Latest Pentium 4 Motherboards

Prescott Reworked: The P4 600 Series and Extreme Edition 3.73 GHz

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You can also flip the screen upside down, so someone across from you can view the slideshow you made on company time of your trip to CES, again with the image correcting itself.



In addition, the monitor can also be flattened for wall-mounting - pretty cool if you are short on desk real estate.



Right now using the image orientation function will boot you out of your game, but LG's Christopher Neff assured me that the hardware is capable of doing it seamlessly if the game [developers](#) integrate support for it into the [game's](#) code.

Look for these exciting new monitors to be twisting and turning in a store near you within the next few months.

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