

INNOVATIVE

Delivering Everyday Easy

Control4 has buffed up it's Home Controller

Do you really need a Home Controller with a Dual Processor? The people at Control4 seem to think so.

The dual processor, featuring both an ARM9 and Digital Signal Processor, not only enhances the speed of the controller, but essentially broadens the bandwidth of the system. "A lot of digital audio tasks can be offloaded to the second processor," says Control4 president Glen Mella. "Today, the HTC can do three to five simultaneous audio streams. The HC-300 is expected do about twice that."

In addition to the dual processing feature, the HC-300 differs fundamentally from other products by providing "substantially more horsepower, and HD output process, and a lot more processing speed," says Mella.

The HD output produces a much richer graphical user interface. Browsing



With the Brushed-Aluminum Chassis and Compact Footprint, it will easily fit in with your other equipment and into any location.

album art in HD is "notably different to the consumer" compared to the standard-def experience.

The HD output is just one new feature of the HC-300 (\$699 including remote), which sits between Control4's entry-level Home Theater Controller (\$600) and higher-performance Media Controller (\$1,500) that offers 80 GB of storage.

In addition to the substantive changes, the HC-300 looks and feels much meatier than its predecessors. It also features a brushed aluminum chassis "that will have a lot more ooh-ah factor than the original

Story Continues on Page 4

Inside the Technology Advisor

- ◆ Does Your Computer Know Where You Are?
- ◆ Nurse Teddy Bear - Here to help you
- ◆ Innovative's New Showroom! Take Our Showroom for a Test Drive.
- ◆ How Do You Measure Up on the Forbes Wealthiest List?

Robotic "Huggable" Teddy Bear - Coming to Hospitals

In children's hospitals across the country, millions of children hug a teddy bear each day. But what if he hugged back?

Such a huggable interactive toy will be introduced in 2007, developed by

a research group at the MIT Media Lab. Studies have long shown that animals lower stress and blood pressure, reduce heart and respiratory rates, and improve moods. But interaction with animals can be restricted

Story Continues on Page 2

Soon Handheld Devices Will Watch You...

A computer screen that knows just where its viewer is and automatically adjusts itself to provide better images has been developed by researchers in Taiwan.

Their technique prevents users from seeing a blurred or distorted image when viewing a liquid crystal display (LCD) from an angle instead of straight on.

The Taiwanese researchers have developed a prototype display connected to a miniature camera that tracks the location of a viewer. Software then calculates how to adjust the liquid crystals within the display to produce the clearest possible image. "Viewing angle is an inherent, fundamental problem for the LCD because of its working principle," says Wayne Cheng, who developed the screen with colleague Chih-Nan Wu at the Photonics and Display Institute, National Chiao Tung University in Taiwan.

Tiny valves

Cheng explains that the brightness of each pixel in an LCD is controlled by altering the angle of the liquid crystals held between two polarizing elements. These crystals act like tiny valves, varying the amount of light that can pass through. When a viewer looks at an LCD from one side, however, they effectively alter the viewing angle of these crystals. This reduces the brightness and contrast of a pixel and can also distort the clarity and colors of an overall image.

Cheng says the displays found on many handheld devices can be particularly unclear when viewed

from an angle. This is because their designers assume that users will always look at the screen straight-on. But studies of digital camera use suggest that users often view a display from angles of up to 40 degrees from the vertical and up to 20 degrees from the horizontal.

"In some applications, the degraded image caused by viewing angle may compromise the judgment made by the viewer," Cheng says.

Miniature camera

The solution proposed by Cheng and Wu is to place a miniature camera next to the display. This camera looks back at the viewer so that the liquid crystals in the display can be adjusted accordingly.

Their prototype device uses software on a laptop to track the location of the viewer's head.

The orientation of liquid crystals in the display, and the power fed to light-emitting diodes behind each, are then adjusted to provide the best picture.

Cheng and Wu say trials of the screen have been promising and they are now working on a simpler, infrared sensor that tracks a user by the position of their eyes. It should be easier and cheaper to incorporate such a sensor into handheld devices, they say.

Doctors and surgeons who use LCDs to view scans or X-rays could be the first to benefit from the idea, says Cheng. However, he admits that it is only possible to make adjustments for one viewer at a time using the technique.

Continued from front page 1... due to allergies, visitation times, or risk of disease.

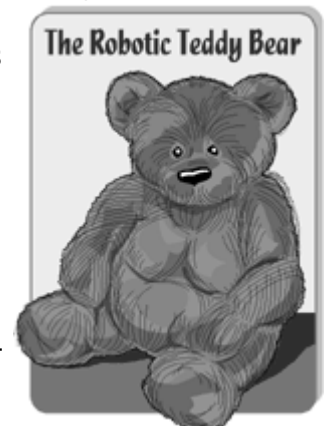
That's where "The Huggable" comes in. It's a useful tool for nursing staff while being a comfort to patients, both with how it feels and how it responds. Hug it and it hugs back. Move to a table and it notices and may gesture for attention.

It can tell the difference between a tickle and a scratch. Special sensors can differentiate between a playful tickle and a painful squeeze. In future versions, it may look up at you when you enter the room. It does this all while also providing monitoring capabilities to the nursing staff.

The Huggable uses sensate skin technol-

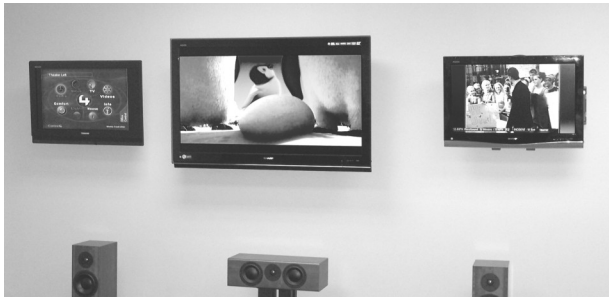
ogy, which measures temperature, force, and electrical fields. The sensors lie beneath a soft silicone skin and fur fabric, making it feel less like a robot and more like a real animal. It also contains cameras placed in the eyes, microphones placed in the ears, and a new silent voice coil actuator (think of it as the bear's skeleton) to provide more fluid movements.

The ultimate comfort bear, the Huggable records patient data and sends it to the nursing staff.



New at INNOVATIVE

Innovative's New Showroom!



While here, you can view up to 3 different movies on our plasma Screens while listening to the quality surround sound.

What better way to see if you want to own a product then to give it a test drive? We at Innovative have built a showroom that features our products just so you can come and try them for yourself.

While here, you can get hands on instructions on how to use a Home Theater System. Sit down with John and make your dreams of owning a Home Theater come true. He has the knowledge of all of our equipment and prices. This way you can customize a system that will not only work for your home, but work for your budget as well.

Not looking for a Home Theater? Maybe you just want to be able to make sure all of the lights are off in the house or office as you walk out the door. Come in and we can show you how Home and Office

Automation not only can make your life easier, but how simple it is to use. Believe us, our whole building is programmed this way and boy does it save us time and worries as we lockup for the night.

In our Showroom, we feature the following items for you to experience:

- Pioneer, Sharp, and Vizio TV's
- R & R Theater Seats
- Surround Sound Processors from Pioneer Elite, Denon and Sherbourne
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All of this is controlled and automated using Control4.



Come and relax for a while in our luxury stadium theater seats. There's plenty of room for you, your friend and a family member.

Contact us at 800-875-5675 or info@purelyinnovative.com to Schedule our Showroom Experience!

Santa Clause Tops *Forbes* Wealthiest List

The folks at *Forbes* magazine have been spending their time making a list that was difficult to create. Was it the wealthiest people of the year? Not exactly. Here is their list of the wealthiest fictional characters of 2006:

1. Santa Clause
2. Oliver "Daddy" Warbucks
3. Richie Rich
4. Lex Luthor
5. C. Montgomery Burns
6. Scrooge McDuck
7. Jed Clampett
8. Bruce Wayne
9. Thurston Howell III
10. Willy Wonka
11. Arthur Back
12. Ebenezer Scrooge
13. Lara Croft



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Story Continued from Page 1

products,” Mella says.

Like the other Control4 controllers, the HC-300 has built-in Zigbee wireless technology that allows it to interact with any Zigbee devices on the Control4 network, not to mention other hardwired IP-based Control4 devices.

He says that the HC-300 is not expected to replace either of the existing controllers, but for an extra \$99, why wouldn't anyone upgrade their Home Theater Contoller?

Contact us at 800-875-5675 or info@purelyinnovative.com to see how we can make Control4 work for you.

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