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Hardware News around the Net

There is new IT hardware making its debut on the Internet every day. In this series of articles, we'll collect some of the noteworthy items and share them with you. We'll also analyse and explain how you can use these systems / devices / ideas to improve your everyday life.

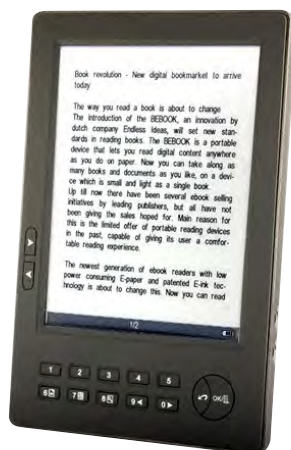


AIO trend

The AIO, or "All In One" computer system, where the monitor and the processor box are combined in one unit, is not a brand new idea. Take the iMac for example - Apple has been building AIO systems for years. However, the iMac's high price tag keeps it away from being a mature mainstream product. Now PC manufacturers are reinventing the AIO system with new hardware components and aggressive retail pricing. We are not going to name manufacturers right here, but we should keep a close eye on this market segment as more and more devices get introduced to the market.

Touch

Ever since the introduction of the iPhone (also by Apple), almost all IT manufacturers are focusing on touch technology. No matter whether they are a computer system manufacturer, a digital camera maker or a mobile phone company, everybody is rushing to market with touch-sensitive devices. The big, beautiful, high-resolution screen is rapidly replacing buttons. This trend lowers the learning curve for most of the IT market, making it more intuitive and appealing for ordinary people. Look out for more touch-screen mobile phones in the very near future - it is probably the hottest segment in the industry.



E-book reader

More and more manufacturers are releasing E-book readers (such as Kindle from Amazon) to the general public. An E-book is an electronic display unit with the contents of one or more books stored in its memory that can be read almost anywhere. While most people are optimistic about this new and exciting category, many others worry about the content (in this case, the book itself) that goes behind the device. Without a solid choice of readable content, the E-book reader is just another useless piece of fancy gadgetry. Much like the AIO market mentioned above, electronic readers have been around for a long time. The turning point comes when content providers start to design and produce E-book readers themselves. With hundreds and thousands of items of reading materials - books, newspapers, magazines - available for download, we should see a strong wave of E-book readers coming to the retail market.