

Contents



Editor Guy Dixon
Contributors
 Wendy Brewer,
 Ben Camm-Jones,
 Andrew Charlesworth,
 Spencer Dalziel, Simon
 Easterman, Rosemary
 Haworth, Will Head,
 Peter Judge, Peter
 Thomas
Art Director
 Aileen O'Donnell
Designer Sarah Auld
Art contributors
 Ian Alderman, Lee
 Hasler, Robert Holmes
Production Editor
 Becci Leach
Senior Sub Editor
 Matt Egan
Sub Editor Liz Miller
Research Executive
 Kirsty Robertshaw
Advertisement
Director Matthew
 Tasker
Account
Director Mark Brown
Business Development
Manager Matthew
 Samuel
Magazine
Co-ordinator Nikki
 Turnbull
Publisher
 David Fernando
Head of Production
 Sharon Bird
Deputy
Production Manager
 Richard Bailey
Senior Production
Controller Fay
Harward Production
Controller Arthur Cole

If 2002 was all about broadband, in 2003 wireless networks - primarily Wi-Fi - stole the show. We all know that a combination of Windows XP, broadband and a Wi-Fi network is a beautiful thing when it comes to handling traditional networking applications. The question is, can it manage the leap from bog-standard network activity to entertainment nervous system?

Go Digital put it to the test by pushing Wi-Fi to its limits (see page 14). It might be very good at sharing broadband internet access, transferring files and sharing the family printer, but how does it stack up when you pump music, graphics and video through its veins?

We've also put the PAN (personal area networking) standard, Bluetooth, through its paces. Rumours of its death have been greatly exaggerated, especially since a consortium representing the world's leading Bluetooth vendors sat down a year ago to resolve ease of setup issues. They set themselves the five-minute Bluetooth challenge - anyone buying a Bluetooth-enabled product should be up and running within five minutes of taking their new toy out of its box. Not one to miss a trick, we subjected the latest Bluetooth products to our own *Go Digital* challenge, using our group of mixed-ability guinea pigs (see page 34).

With over half our workforce now defined as mobile workers, the UK is leading Europe in terms of mobile communications. This year *Go Digital* predicts it will prove to be the hottest ticket in town. In the drive to eradicate 'dead time', employers are looking at ways of improving the efficiency of their increasingly mobile workforces. Combining mixtures of GPRS and broadband hotspot access, anyone working on the move will be affected by mobile communications - whether they're in a plane, on a train or in an automobile (see page 36).

In the home, meantime, the digital revolution (or should that be revolutions) is proceeding at an even faster pace, with interested parties as diverse as Rupert Murdoch, Bill Gates and Michael Dell all staking their claim for the digital throne. From Sky+ to Media Center, *Go Digital* puts different versions of the digital home to the test on page 62.

Guy Dixon

04 Digital hype = digital reality?

There's no such thing as a digital lifestyle - it's more a digitally assisted lifestyle, where the sum of the parts is bigger than its messy-looking individual components.

06 Trend & analysis

Go Digital goes behind the news: Dell moves into TV, Sony launches its PSX home hub, copy-protection takes a big step forward, TV downloading is the new Napster and how Tivo could have been a contender.

14 Wireless in the dock

Is Wi-Fi robust enough to handle our entertainment needs? *Go Digital* pushes Wi-Fi to its limits using a combination of music, graphics and TV. Plus, do you still require a PhD in astro physics to set up a Bluetooth network? Read our *Go Digital* five-minute Bluetooth challenge to find out.

36 Planes, trains and automobiles

If you're on the move and need to keep in touch with either an office or home network, smart roaming is the name of the game.

49 Go Digital heads home

Who's going to win the battle for the digital home? From Bill Gates to Rupert Murdoch, the world's most powerful media moguls are jockeying for ownership of the home hub.

62 Microsoft's home of the future

What will the home of 2010 look like? *Go Digital* stares through Microsoft's keyhole to get a glimpse of the software giant's vision of the future.