

## Managing Technology

*Technology is always changing, sometimes obviously for the better, and sometimes it seems to be just added confusion. The new Sanyo CD burner is a case in point. DVD seems like the best alternative for moderate data backups, but with the market being fractured with three competing formats, there's no standard. Sanyo has just completed an end run around its competition by creating a low-cost alternative to DVD data backups.*

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## *Sanyo Doubles CD-R Capacity*

Sanyo Electric Co. Ltd. announced a Compact Disc (CD) recordable drive that can read and write twice the normal capacity of data using a standard CD-Recordable (CD-R) disc. The new CRD-BPDV2 drive can store up to 1.4GB of data on a standard 700MB CD.

Sanyo uses its new HD-Burn technology to increase the density of data storage by using smaller pits on the surface of the disc and adding improved error correction that enables a greater proportion of the available pits to be used for storage. The error correction uses a new Reed-Solomon Product Code (RSPC) instead of the Cross-Interleaved Reed-Solomon Code (CIRC) that is the current standard.

Sanyo's new technology will allow up to two hours of video to be stored on a single, low-cost CD-R disc, saving users from the higher costs of DVD-R burners and discs. The Sanyo burner should be available after the first of the year, and then other hardware manufacturers will follow suite with low-cost alternatives to DVD recordables.

## *Red Hat Linux Targets Home & School Desktops*

Red Hat, the leading distributor of the Linux operating system has fired a shot across the bow of Microsoft's flagship operating system, Windows.

Version 8 of Red Hat will include a "personal desktop" alternative that creates an interface specifically for home or desktop use. This is an audience that is traditionally guided by mainstream operating systems, such as Microsoft Windows, but at the same time very fiscally conservative. The total purchase cost for Red Hat Linux and a white box PC can be substantially less than the cost of a name brand computing with Windows preinstalled.

Applications that run on Linux are freely available on the Internet for common tasks such as word processing, spreadsheet analysis, and graphic presentations. Home and school users with a broadband Internet connection can take advantage of these software resources and the lower operational cost of Linux to save themselves hundreds of dollars over similar Windows systems.

Over the last few years Raleigh, N.C.-based Red Hat has developed a market for its network server and high-end application server versions of Linux; however, little has been done to market Linux to home and school audiences.

This new version, coupled with other free products, such as Wine, will enable home and school users (and businesses) to have a choice in selecting their computer operating system and application software: they can either move to native Linux applications or continue to run their existing Windows programs such as Word and Excel.

## *Windows XP Update*

Microsoft has released an update, Service Pack 1 (SP1) to its Windows operating system. This is a must-have for all Windows XP users.

The Windows XP SP1 includes enhanced security, reliability and compatibility; new capabilities; and consent decree compliance.

Details are posted to Microsoft's Web site. The 140MB update may be downloaded for free or ordered on CD.