

KEYSTROKES

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Seven things I learned at CES 2012



by [Harry McCracken](#) January 15, 2012 2:48 PM PST

At many major tech conferences, one big story--a product, technology, or trend--dominates the entire show.

CES 2012 was not one of those events. Intel's [Ultrabook](#) was the closest thing there was to a show-dominating topic, but in the end, what I was struck by was the diversity of stuff on display at the Las Vegas Convention Center and surrounding venues. And in some cases, the no-shows were as interesting as the products that *were* there. Here-with, a few of the lessons I took home with me after four jam-packed days in Vegas:

Giant OLED TVs aren't inherently amazing. It's a long-standing [CES](#) tradition for TV makers to try and out-do each other with demos of high-end big screens that won't wind up in many living rooms anytime soon. This year, the makers in question were LG and Samsung, which had [55-inch OLED TVs](#) at their booths. I checked out both sets--and didn't come away lusting after either one. The LG, at least when I saw it, was displaying gimmicky 3D videos, which made it hard to judge how good it would be for anything else. And the video clips I saw on the Samsung were way over-saturated, giving everything an artificial, candy-colored effect that reminded me of some OLED smartphones.

Windows Phone was the mobile platform of the year. At CES 2011, [Android](#) devices such as Motorola's Xoom [tablet](#) and Atrix phone generated a huge amount of buzz. This year, however, I heard more chatter about Windows Phone--especially Nokia's promising [Lumia 900](#). For awhile now, folks who have tried Windows Phone have been impressed by it; now even industry types who haven't used it seem to have a favorable impression. It'll be fascinating to see if Microsoft can translate all that goodwill into the one thing Windows Phone doesn't have: meaningful market share.

Android 4.0 Ice Cream Sandwich *still* isn't the current version of Android. At least if "current" means that you can safely assume it will come preinstalled on brand-new devices. Upcoming phones such as [Droid Razr Maxx](#) will ship with 2010's Android 2.3 Gingerbread, with the promise of an Ice Cream Sandwich upgrade at a future date.

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UPCOMING SIGS* & MEETINGS

FEBRUARY 9,16 AND 23, 2012 2:30 PM
ABC'S OF COMPUTING

Presenters:

Don Williams (9)

Rena Chambers (16)

Richard Dubois (23)

MARCH 1, 2012 2:30 PM

Photo Calendar

Presenter: Laura Demers

MARCH 15, 2012 2:30 PM

Micro Solution (Russel and Jim)

APRIL 5, 2012 2:30 PM

To be confirmed

APRIL 19, 2012 2:30 PM

To be confirmed

*SIG: acronym for Special Interest Groups

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will be able to help with a problem.

W A N T E D

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THE NEXT ISSUE?**

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irdsoft@hotmail.com



The Keystrokes
Editor's Corner's
Journal

In this issue you will find references to new technologies and trends as seen and demonstrated at the January CES (Consumer Electronics Show) in Las Vegas.

As usual, some gadgets are just that—Gadgets but others are interesting. Need a tablet that you would not be afraid to bring near a stretch of water? See article on page 4.

Another interesting one that I only recently heard about through a TV add is this keyboard that is designed to help people who have vision problems (like some seniors). Big black on yellow lettering makes for a high contrast, easier to read keyboard and the one I saw on TV even had a lighted keyboard so that you could see it better even in dim lighting.



The one shown here is a wireless Keyboard and Mouse combination that sells for around 60\$ but if you look around you may find equivalent products for cheaper. The add I saw on TV was around 20\$.



Questions on comments,
Don't hesitate, email me at

irdsoft@hotmail.com



Ask Mr. Modem! – January 2012

www.MrModem.com

Manage Your Kindle eBooks

Q. I love my Kindle that I got this past Christmas. I've read a lot about it, but I can't figure out how to use something called collections. Can you explain that, Mr. M?

A. If you store a lot of content on your Kindle, you can create collections to facilitate your ability to find books and articles faster. A collection is just a fancy-shmancy name for a category you create on your Kindle Home screen. You can then move your eBooks, audiobooks, and personal documents from the Home screen to the collections you create.

To create a collection, click Menu > Create New Collection or select Create New Collection from the Home screen menu. Type in a name for your collection, then select Save using the 5-way controller.

To rename a collection, select the collection name as it appears on your Home screen, then move the 5-way controller to the right to display Collection Options. Select Rename and follow the on-screen instructions.

If you decide at some point to delete a collection, the process is virtually identical to renaming a collection, except instead of selecting Rename, select Delete, then again follow the on-screen instructions.

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When you delete a collection, the content on your Kindle doesn't change. In other words, items previously added to a collection that are stored on your Kindle will appear on the Home screen after the collection itself is deleted, so you are not wiping out your purchased books in the process.

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Q. What is the proper way to uninstall a program which will not budge using Add/Remove Programs in the Control Panel? Thank you, Mr. M.

A. Sometimes programs take up residence and like a bad house guest, won't take a hint when it's time to leave. (Are you paying attention, Uncle Rudy?) Whenever you want to uninstall a program, the first thing to do is to look within the program itself to determine if it has its own uninstaller. So go to Start > Programs, highlight the program and if there is an uninstaller, it will display as a sub-menu that you can then click to execute. If it doesn't have its own uninstaller, then proceed to the Control Panel > Add/Remove Programs.

If that doesn't work, then Revo Uninstaller (www.revouninstaller.com) is a powerful uninstaller that will be able to evict your stubborn digital tenant. Revo is easy to use: Download then double-click to run it. A list of all installed programs will be displayed. You can then click to select whatever program you want to remove, press the REMOVE button, and it will be gone with the wind.

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Ask Mr. Modem! – January, 2012

(continued from page 3)

Q. I've been using Internet Explorer 8 since it came out and while I generally like it, it's getting awfully slow. I also have Firefox and I've been trying Google Chrome, which you mentioned was much faster. I don't mind abandoning IE, but I'd like to find out what's causing it to be so slow. Any ideas?

A. Add-ons are often the cause of IE sluggishness, particularly if everything else is running normally. You can check it out by going to Tools > Manage Add-ons. Check "Load Time" in the right-hand column and you will immediately know which browser extension is the offending culprit.

Mr. Modem's DME (Don't Miss 'Em) Sites of the Month

Causes.com

This site was founded on the belief that anyone can participate in change by informing and inspiring others. No, seriously The site provides tools for people to mobilize their friends for collective action, to spread the word to friends of friends and acquaintances, and eventually launch movements. Whether you are an activist who wants to protect baby asparagus or a nonprofit that promotes literacy, Causes.com can help you achieve your objectives and spread your message. Launched in 2007, today it has more than 170 million participants who have raised more than \$40 million for more than 500,000 causes.

www.causes.com

Con-Artist Awareness

Courtesy of the State of Ohio Dept. of Commerce, you will find a great deal of practical information here that can help you avoid scams, cons, flim-flammers and bamboozlers. Included are the articles, What is Investment Fraud? How to Spot a Con Artist, How to Check your Broker, and a File a Complaint link. Though geared to Ohio residents, the information is excellent no matter where you reside.

<http://conartist.ohio.gov>

Modern Ruins

Elegant photography that contains starkly beautiful images of modern ruins, including abandoned factories, hospitals, orphanages, train yards, jails, mines and other architectural relics of recent history. If you're feeling upbeat and happy, but concerned that your life is lacking a sense of hopelessness and despair, this site will quickly remedy that situation.

<http://oboylephoto.com/ruins>

Editor's note: Looking for a tablet that you could bring to the pool and not be afraid of getting it wet?

Here is an interesting choice:

One of the many, many tablets announced at CES (Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas) this year is available today, the Pantech Element. It's an 8-inch Android tablet running on AT&T's LTE network that normally wouldn't be anything to write home about — especially since it's only running Android 3.2 — but it also has a twist: it's fully waterproof down to 30 feet. It has a 1.5GHz dual-core Snapdragon processor and something Pantech calls "Enhanced Haptic Feedback." Pantech says that it will be upgradeable to Ice Cream Sandwich later this year.

Seven things I learned at CES 2012 (from page 1)

Once again, it isn't the year of the tablet. At CES 2011, Motorola's Xoom and RIM's BlackBerry Play-Book got so much attention that it would have been rational to expect that non-iPad tablets were about to chip away meaningfully at Apple's head start. A year later, though, the market has changed surprisingly little. And while there were [plenty of new tablets at CES 2012](#), most of them didn't make much of a splash. The most newsworthy one was probably Samsung's [Galaxy Note](#)--a pocket-size device that's either a tablet-esque phone or a phone-like tablet.

3D TV is no longer cool. I'm not saying that it's a failure, but for the most part, TV companies weren't pushing it as *the* future of home entertainment. (LG's extremely 3D-centric booth was an exception.) As Samsung's press conference, for instance, Boo-Keun Yoon, president of the company's consumer electronics division, said that Samsung is "continuing to invest heavily" in 3D TV. But the press conference emphasized Internet connectivity, not 3D.

Thunderbolt is making progress. The connectivity standard, invented by Intel, is [pretty darn neat](#). Until now, however, it's only shown up on new Macs and a handful of peripherals. That's why I was happy to see it figure in several announcements at CES. Acer's [Aspire S5 Ultrabook](#), for instance, is one of the first Windows computers with a Thunderbolt port. Seagate showed off [adapters](#), due in January, that turn its external drives into Thunderbolt drives. And Western Digital gave a sneak peek of [Thunderbolt](#) disks it plans to ship by mid-2012.

Gesture and voice input could be CES 2013's biggest story. Using body motion and voice to control consumer-electronics devices was a mini-trend at this year's show, thanks to debutantes such as [Microsoft's Kinect for Windows](#) and Samsung's [TV with gesture and voice control](#). I'm betting that both types of input will get lots more attention at next year's conference--especially if the conventional wisdom that Apple is [working on a TV with Siri voice control](#) turns out to be true.

I came back from CES 2012 feeling smarter about the consumer-electronics industry, and better prepared for the year to come. That's all you can ask of an event like this. It's more than enough to keep the show [valuable](#) even in an era when giant trade shows are an endangered species.

About Harry McCracken

Harry McCracken is the founder and editor of Technologizer, an award-winning independent Web site about the Web, mobile tech, consumer electronics, and PCs. He also writes a weekly tech column for Time.com

Staying Technology Young

By Darry D Eggleston

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<http://DarryD.com>

The challenges for me are increasing as I strive to remain technologically young. What used to take years to change now occurs in a matter of months. So many new products are appearing in such rapid order that, unless one reads, observes, and communicates with like-minded friends, one ends up talking about the "good old days" of technology way back in 2009.

Someone referred to technology's growth in "dog years" and I suspect she might be right. Technology now leaps in one year where we would expect it to take seven years in the past.

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Staying Technology Young (from page 5)

One need only look at cellphones, cameras, and notebook computers to see that devices are shrinking while their capabilities are exponentially increasing.

Just yesterday, a conversation between two neighbors awoke me to this fact again. Both are my age in the 60-to-1,000-year-old range. One neighbor extolled finding a new restaurant quickly because of his car's trusty dashboard-mounted global positioning device (GPS).

The other, without hesitating, replied, "Oh, I got rid of my old GPS six months ago," as he pulled out his cellphone. "Mine's in here." Proudly, he showed us his Nokia N8: "Unlocked GSM touchscreen phone featuring GPS with voice navigation and a 12 megapixel camera."

Even my research for this simple article relied on technology that I wish was available when I was younger:

1. I Googled to learn more about Dave's cellphone. (Nokia's website boasts that N8 phones can connect to social networks, web TV programs and Ovi Store apps. It has Carl Zeiss optics, Xenon flash, HD-quality video recording, film editing software, and Dolby Surround Sound.)
2. I used FastStone Capture to take a screenshot of the Nokia description, pasted it into OmniPage which scanned the image and converted it into plain text, which I copied and pasted it into WordPerfect.

You can either ride the waves of innovation rushing to the shores of your existence or you can be swept out into the sea of ignorance. You can stay technologically young or die in place at a pace that's more fitting for an old folk's home.

Choices, my friend, it's all about choices.

ICE Your Cell Phone - Save Your Life

By Sandy Berger, CompuKISS

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www.compukiss.com

You may have never heard of the ACEP, American College of Emergency Physicians, but their new consumer website is one you might want to visit. With the number of emergency room visits growing rapidly, this organization has put together a website where patients can access health information, share stories, and get involved in advocacy efforts. www.acep.org

Visits to the emergency department hit a new high in 2006. A record 119.2 million people, up from 115 million, were recorded by the Centers for Disease Control, with an average of 227 visits per minute. The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) predicts those numbers will only keep rising.

According to the report, age groups with the highest visit rates were infants under 12 months of age and those over the age of 75. In fact, people aged 65 and older are the fastest growing segment of the U.S. population and are the most likely to be admitted to the hospital of all emergency patients. Researchers conclude that visits for patients between 65 and 74 could nearly double from 64 million in 2003 to 111.7 million by 2013. Despite these numbers, emergency departments continue to close - causing delays for people with serious medical conditions like heart attacks.

In honor of its 40th anniversary, ACEP will be making available video clips featuring emergency medicine pioneers, vintage photographs and radio public service announcements. In addition, the organization is launching a new consumer website, EmergencyCareForYou.org, which features extensive public information. The year-long campaign is sponsored in part by General Motors OnStar, Ultrasonix and ZOLL Medical Corporation.

The EmergencyCareForYou website is a comprehensive site that you will want to visit. It has information on everything from "how to tell if it is an emergency" to "family disaster preparedness".

One important section of this website talks about how "ICE" and Your Cell Phone Can Help Save Your Life.

The website states, "Emergency physicians are recommending that people with cellular phones add "ICE" entries into their cell phone address books. This stands for "In Case of Emergency," and medical professionals are using it to notify the person's emergency contacts and to obtain critical medical information when a patient arrives unconscious or unable to answer questions."

I didn't know about this, yet it sounds like a great idea! Check it out. It may save your life. More information can be found at the ICEforHelp website. www.iceforhelp.com



Misc. Funny Quotes [unattributed].

I live in my own little world, but it's ok, they know me here.

Money can't buy happiness, but it sure makes misery easier to live with.

I don't approve of political jokes...I've seen too many of them get elected.

If life deals you lemons, make lemonade; if it deals you tomatoes, make Bloody Marys.

I love being married. It's so great to find that one special person you want to annoy for the rest of your life.

Shopping tip: You can get shoes for 85 cents at bowling alleys.

I am a nobody, nobody is perfect, therefore I am perfect.

I married my wife for her looks...but not the ones she's been giving me lately!

Every day I beat my own previous record for number of consecutive days I've stayed alive.

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Carol Costello, Webmaster

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