

Leading the Digital Age With



How Apple TV Can Turn Your Mac and PCs Into Home Theaters

By Harry Rocker

Whether you're a Mac or PC lover, one thing you have to admit is that Apple creates some incredible products, products that usually change or define an industry. I follow the industry closely, mostly to see what new toy I can get to show off. But seriously, the computer industry moves very fast, not with just computers, but with everyday communications and entertainment devices.

In the past, computer companies built just that—computers. Today you can purchase a TV from Dell, a camera from HP and yes, a phone from Apple (coming in June).

So you have iTunes and you have your iPod and you've just started to realize how great it is to be able to download near-DVD quality movies and TV shows in addition to your favorite music. But it can be a little uncomfortable sitting at home watching movies on your computer or iPod when you have that beautiful brand new flat widescreen LCD or Plasma display sitting there. If you have ever stayed in a hotel and used the "On Command" movie system and thought, "How cool would it be to have an 'On Command' system in my home?"

then your dreams have come true. Let me introduce Apple TV.

No, it's not a television, but an intermediate entertainment device that will broadcast your iTunes and iPhoto library from any networked computers in the house to your TV via wireless or cabled ethernet. Best of all, it's Mac and PC compatible.

For those of you who understand a little technology, the Apple TV connects to your TV via an HDMI port or component video and audio ports. Its built-in 802.11 wireless capability syncs your iTunes library. Apple TV stays synchronized; anytime you change your library in iTunes, Apple TV also changes automatically.

Known to create not just great functional products but also great streamlined designs, Apple created this small low-profile device that will easily fit in with most entertainment centers.

The user interface is simple. The small, accessible remote offers simple control, very similar to the front row program installed on some of the current Apple computers. For \$299 (retail) this is a product worth getting!

It's available at the Apple Store and online at www.apple.com.