

CES 2006: Of DRM, Format Wars, the PC and Tiny Video

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It's official: HDTV is blasé.

This year's CES was supposed to be the year of the next DVD: a high definition format using blue lasers. But infighting between the Blu-Ray and HD-DVD camps and an inability to deliver key content protection technology resulted in yet more technology demos and no actual shipping products.

The PC was a bigger factor in this year's CES. Part of it was Intel's launch of its Core Duo processor, a dual-core CPU based on the Pentium M architecture, but sporting a shared L2 cache, increased performance, more robust power management, and built on Intel's 65nm process technology.

All in all, CES 2006 proved to be so large that no single trend could possibly emerge. But we'll see hundreds of interesting, cool products, not to mention numerous failures and also-rans emerge in the coming year. We'll be along for the ride.

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