

NETWORLD + INTEROP BEST OF SHOW AWARDS

30th

NetWorld+Interop offers wares to fill your every networking need ... even those you never knew you had. These offerings range from the sublime to the slightly ridiculous, so to help you find the cream of the new crop, our Best of Interop awards team invited vendors to submit their top products for evaluation (for details on how we select winners and a list of judges, see "Judgment Day at Interop," below).

This year, 124 vendors submitted 172 products for consideration in 10 categories: Enterprise Network Infrastructure, Network Applications Software, Network Servers & Peripherals, Convergence Technology, Wireless Technologies, Networked Storage, Network Test & Measurement, Network Management, Performance Enhancement and Security. Our judges performed a competitive analysis, rating each entry on factors from general and key distinguishing features to price. We evaluated how the product advances the state of the art for networking, weighed the strength of the business case for purchase and implementation and chose finalists in each category.

Then the fun started. Front-runners were put on the hot seat as judging teams dug into the nitty-gritty of each product. After these face-to-face meetings, the judges convened to discuss the merits of each qualifier and selected a winner in each category. There were also two special awards: Best Start-Up, given to the outstanding product from a company less than two years old, and the coveted Best of Interop Grand Prize.

Now, on to the winners...

Best of Interop Grand Prize Winner:

VBrick Systems' VBXcast
(www.vbrick.com)

VBXcast, which took the Convergence Technology category, is notable because it's the first MPEG-4 video appliance to hit the enterprise market. MPEG-4 compression means the VBXcast uses less bandwidth than MPEG-2 predecessors while maintaining high-quality streams. This slashes the cost of



entry for enterprises looking to deploy premium video setups. Each box has multiple levels of security and administration, and users can



Enterprise Network Infrastructure

3Com Corp. Nj90 Network Jack (www.3com.com)

The Nj90 is a four-port, 10/100 switch packaged into a wall jack, giving new meaning to the term *small footprint*. It multiplies the capacity of cramped wiring closets by a factor of four while eliminating the disruption, cost and time involved in running and terminating new cable. The icing on the cake: a retail price of \$99.



Enterprise Network Infrastructure

Finalists: EmergeCore Networks IT-100 "IT in a Box" (www.emergecore.com), Sprint SprintLink Frame Relay (www.sprint.com)

Network Applications Software

Computer Associates International CleverPath Portal (www.ca.com)

CleverPath's Information In Action program lets organizations add high-octane knowledge management and business intelligence to their CleverPath Portal applications by welding business metrics into the dashboard. The portal features prebuilt portlets, support for multiple Web standards, auto-transcoding, both .Net and J2EE Web services and integra-

tion portlets for major document-management vendors. **Network Applications Software Finalists:** Enpia CDMaster (www.enpia.net); Websense Enterprise 5 (www.websense.com)

Network Servers & Peripherals

Digital V6 Kaveman 16 (www.digitalv6.com)

Kaveman 16 sports all the features you'd expect from a high-quality IP KVM switch plus innovative extras, such as access for up to six people via IP with any browser that supports Java or with a VNC client. Kaveman's three integrated serial ports can be used for serial consoles, remote control of the Kaveman 16 with a modem, or for control of other serial devices. No specialized software is needed to access the Kaveman 16, which can support as many as 32 servers and is manageable via SNMP MIB. The unit supports SSL and SSH for secure access.

Network Servers & Peripherals Finalists: American Power Conversion Corp. InfraStruXure (www.apc.com); Intel Pro/1000 MT Quad Port Server Adapter (www.intel.com)



Judgment Day At Interop: Twelve judges from the editorial staffs of four CMP Media technology publications—NETWORK COMPUTING, *Network Magazine*, *CRN* and *VARBusiness*—reviewed the product nominees. Judges were assigned to categories based on their fields of expertise.

Vendors submitted detailed nomination forms for each entry listing general features, key distinguishing features, how the product advances the state of the art for networking, a competitive analysis, pricing and a business case for purchase and implementation. The judging team assigned to each category reviewed the nominations and, where necessary, gathered additional information from the vendor or its Web site. Judges then determined which nominees moved to the final round, choosing a maximum of three products in each category. Finally, judges conducted interviews to determine winners. **BEST OF INTEROP JUDGES:** Ron Anderson, NETWORK COMPUTING; Bruce Boardman, NETWORK COMPUTING; Elizabeth Clark, *Network Magazine*; Mike DeMaria, NETWORK COMPUTING; Sean Doherty, NETWORK COMPUTING; Mike Fratto, NETWORK COMPUTING; David Greenfield, *Network Magazine*; Joseph F. Kovar, *CRN*; Lori MacVittie, NETWORK COMPUTING; Don MacVittie, NETWORK COMPUTING; Peter Morrissey, NETWORK COMPUTING; Frank Ohlhorst, *CRN*; Steve Schuchart, NETWORK COMPUTING; Greg Shipley, NETWORK COMPUTING; and David Strom, *VARBusiness*.

control audio and video input and schedule streaming sessions via a friendly Web GUI. We predict that this easy-to-use appliance will quickly find its way from enterprise networks to other sites, such as schools and hospitals, that need reliable, high-quality communications and monitoring.

Best Start-Up:

Tarari Anti-Virus Content Processor (www.tarari.com)

Tarari has created a new architecture for accelerated content processing with its XML and antivirus products and the Tarari Content Processor, a plug-in PCI card for servers and appliances that lets developers and resellers deliver higher-performing applications to their customers.



Tarari was founded last fall by spinning off the staff and intellectual property of Intel's Network Processing Group, a noteworthy achievement in itself.

Convergence Technology

Vbrick Systems VBXcast (www.vbrick.com)

VBXcast, the Best of Interop Grand Prize Winner, is a standalone video appliance that compresses audio and video signals into MPEG-4 format for delivery as high-quality streaming media over LANs, WANs and the Internet. For more on VBXcast, see page 66.

Convergence Technology Finalists: Cisco Systems IP Phones 7902G, 7905G and 7912G (www.cisco.com), Radvision Corp. viaIP 400 (www.radvision.com)

Wireless Technologies

The AirMagnet Distributed System (www.airmagnet.com)

The AirMagnet Distributed WLAN Integrity Management System lets network managers sniff out both rogue and



authorized access points across an enterprise. It can detect access points with misconfigured security policies as well as identify wireless intruders. AirMagnet was the only finalist to cover both 802.11a and 802.11b networks.

Wireless Technologies Finalists: AirWave Wireless Management Platform (www.airwave.com); Chantry Networks BeaconWorks (www.chantrynetworks.com)

Networked Storage

Cisco Systems MDS 9000 IP Storage Services Module (www.cisco.com)

Cisco's MDS 9000 IP combines the benefits of Fibre Channel and Ethernet. This eight-port line card supports both iSCSI and FCIP simultaneously on each port and delivers wire-speed performance. The MDS 9000 overcomes the distance limitations of Fibre Channel, facilitating SAN extensions for remote backup, mirroring over LANs, WANs and MANs, and other applications.

Networked Storage Finalists: Computer Associates International BrightStor SAN Manager (www.ca.com); Sony Electronics SAIT-1 drive (www.storagebysony.com)

Network Test & Measurement

Ixia Optixia & OLM1000STXS24 (www.ixia.com)

Ixia's new load module, a RISC-based traffic generation blade for the Optixia line, offers interchangeable fiber

and copper ports, a centralized software-distribution model and support for 48 independent instances of Linux (one per port). The combination of innovative hardware engineering and streamlined management of the Linux-enabled virtual machines gives testers a more time- and cost-effective method of performing Layer 2 to 7 performance testing.

Network Test & Measurement Finalists: Spirent Communications IPsec Hardware Accelerator (www.spirentcom.com); WildPackets RFGrabber Solution (www.wildpackets.com)

Network Management

Panacya BusinessAware 2.2 (www.panacya.com)

BusinessAware helps businesses resolve service delivery issues quickly with its thresholding and organizational technology. It replaces the usual static thresholds that swell IT maintenance costs with intelligent dynamic thresholds built with baseline, real-time and expert input. Noisy alerts are avoided through a peer-to-peer communications system at the agent level, and each management domain, network, system and application unit can identify those metrics deemed important.

Network Management Finalists: Lumeta Corp. IPsonar 2.0 (www.lumeta.com); OPNet Technologies VNE Server 1.2 (www.opnet.com)

Performance Enhancement

Nauticus Networks N2000 Intelligent Data Center Switches (www.nauticusnet.com)

The N2000 series switches provide enhanced network performance at Layer 4 to 7 using the TideRunner chipset, integrated SSL cryptographic acceleration and TCP termination capabilities. Nauticus' Virtual Switch Technology lets a single device be partitioned into multiple, fully compartmentalized virtual switches, each with its own routing tables, VLANs, content routing rules and security policies.

Performance Enhancement Finalist: Tarari Anti-Virus Content Processor (www.tarari.com)

Security

netForensics 3.1 (www.netforensics.com)

The proliferation of security devices—and the events they generate—make aggregation and correlation necessary to manage the flood; netForensics distributes the database for local load-balancing and rules for forwarding events to a central database, improving performance. It manually correlates events across multiple security events, providing accurate naming regardless of the originating sensor. And its Java-based user interface overcomes HTML limitations to offer numerous feature enhancements, such as high-level visualizations and context-sensitive launching of external management consoles.

Security Finalists: Computer Associates eTrust Security Command Center (www.ca.com); CyberGuard Corp. NSP2000B-SSL Half-Height (www.cyberguard.com)