

## MicroWorld Receives the VB 100% award

Granted for exceptional results on the Windows 2003 Advance Server

**C**eScan has received the Virus Bulletin award for the fourth time, for being able to detect viruses known to be 'in the wild'. eScan showed 100% detection rates for all in-the-wild viruses, under all testing criteria. Unlike some other similar-sounding schemes, Virus Bulletin uses the most

up-to-date Wild List in its tests. This means that products that are 'up with the game' are the ones most likely to be granted VB 100% awards.

All MicroWorld products use the same Technology, ensuring consistently high detection rates across all platforms. i.e. based on the

MWL technology. MicroWorld Winsock Layer (MWL) blocks Information Security threats at the Internet Gateway itself, way before they can reach your system. It gave our products (eScan and MailScan) an edge that has seen them being honored with several certifications

and awards by some of the most prestigious testing bodies.

So far, MicroWorld remains one of the few antivirus providers with a clean record at Virus Bulletin, after winning the VB100% award every single time it submitted a product for testing at VB.

## A Computer for Every Kid

A \$100 notebook? A global effort is underway to make it happen by next year

**I**t was a pipe dream only a few months ago, but soon it will be reality. An ambitious effort from MIT Media Labs to put a \$100 notebook in the hands of every child in the world is picking up big corporate partners, top engineering talent, and interest from several countries. One Laptop Per Child (OLPC), a nonprofit venture, is expected to start distributing machines late next year and to produce 100 to 200 million machines in 2007. AMD, Brightstar, Google, News

Corporation, and Red Hat are backing the effort, and Brazil is likely to be a manufacturing center for the notebooks. OLPC is initially targeting poor children in Brazil, China, Egypt, India, and Thailand, with ministries of education earmarked to purchase the machines for them.

So how do you produce a notebook that can sell for \$100? "We will get the fat out of the systems," MIT Media Labs chairman Nicholas Negroponte said in a statement.

Researchers are working on adapting an under-\$30 colour LCD commonly found in inexpensive DVD players; it can be used in bright sunlight and at four times normal resolution.

The notebooks will run Linux, so the operating system will be free. The systems will have built-in Wi-Fi and cellular technology and will likely have 500-MHz chips and 1GB of storage. Because of lack of power in some areas, hand-cranking will be an option for

power. The notebooks will also use mesh networking technology for peer-to-peer connectivity and sharing Internet connections.

"We are totally on track for 2006," says Javier Villamizar, a VP at Brightstar Corp., which is overseeing several aspects of laptop distribution. "We have identified a list of OEMs and contract manufacturers, and we are selecting from that list." Being poor doesn't have to mean being disconnected.

## Calling All Bloggers

All the world's a blog

**T**hat's the impetus behind the Creative Reporter Network, the latest addition to the collaborative journalism movement from Creative Weblogging ([www.creative-weblogging.com](http://www.creative-weblogging.com)) (www.creative-weblogging.com). The site, started two years ago, is in partnership with around 50 bloggers who run their own sites under the Creative umbrella and share in advertising revenues, says CEO Torsten Jacobi.

Potential bloggers are approved by Jacobi, who says that most of his bloggers have some sort of journalism credentials. But postings do not go through a formal approval process, which means that it's up to the individual blogger to observe rules such as fact-

checking.

Jacobi has been swamped with e-mails from Woodward and Bernstein wannabes. He launched Creative Reporter ([www.creative-reporter.com](http://www.creative-reporter.com)) so that "now all our readers can turn into reporters for collaborative journalism." So far 100 "reporters" have signed up for free registration. Creative has no formal contract with the reporters but will give them a byline and pay \$10 for every 1,000 page views of a

story.

"There is no line for us between blogger, amateur, and real journalist," says Jacobi. "We are blurring the lines." That is certainly true, but don't believe everything you read.



## Surround Your Head

Stereo Sound with spatial Effects

**N**ot long ago, the folks who unleashed the MP3 music file format on the world introduced a multichannel version of the format dubbed MP3 Surround. There was just one problem: The surround effect was lost on users playing MP3 tracks through stereo headphones. To enjoy the surround effect, you needed six speakers. Now, MP3 researchers from the Fraunhofer Institute in Germany think they have an answer: virtual surround. Dubbed Ensonido, the technology uses a real-time program that converts discrete surround-sound signals into a stereo audio stream that recreates the surround effect for headphones. The effect is achieved by adjusting the timing of the five channels and the subwoofer.

"The idea was to take the 5.1 content and recreate the spatial effects," says



François Thulliere, an MP3 manager at Thomson, which licenses MP3 Surround and Ensonido. It works best with standard headphones and earbuds.

Ensonido will appear in software applications later this year, with hardware available next year. But the real benefit may be for DVD movies on portable players. SRS Labs also offers WOW technology, which restores spatial cues and creates an immersive experience during stereo playback. And before you poke fun at it, remember that not long ago record companies scoffed at the idea of MP3 files supplanting CDs.