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THE EXPERTS' GUIDE TO THE BEST OF CES

Top innovations
from the world's
biggest tech show



Welcome once again to our special coverage of the International Consumer Electronics Show. For one hectic week each year, Las Vegas is refashioned from a glitzy playland into the epicenter of technology.

Reviewed.com and USA TODAY are proud to bring you this special guide featuring the CES Editors' Choice selections that highlight the best products from the show, along with in-depth looks at the top trends.

The CES is the biggest event of its kind, featuring about 3,000 exhibitors spread out across 2 million square feet of space. Hundreds of new products make their debut to an eager crowd of press, buyers and industry analysts.

The range of products is a marvel to behold.

From dishwashers to smartwatches, from blenders to televisions, if it plugs into an outlet or runs on batteries, you're likely to find it here.

David Kender
Reviewed.com /
USA TODAY

There's simply no way for one person to see it all. That's why we brought a whole team. More than two dozen Reviewed.com writers and editors have trawled the show floor to find every worthwhile gadget.

So enjoy this special coverage and look for these products later in the year on shelves and, of course, on Reviewed.com.



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Reviewed.com
Sharp UB30 television



Withings Activite Pop watches

WITHINGS

SONY
Sony MDR-1ABT

LG
LG Flex 2

LUME
Lume Cube external flash and video lighting for GoPro

LENOVO
Lenovo Yoga 2 8-inch with AnyPen

FITBIT
FitBit Charge HR

Group to set standards for 4K Ultra HD TVs

Will help ensure that movies look the same in theaters, at home

Dave Swanson
Reviewed.com

Though it's still a luxury item for most of us, consumers have chosen the next upgrade for their TVs.

At the 2015 Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas, the Consumer Electronics Association (CEA) announced that sales in the U.S. of 4K Ultra HD TVs are projected to reach more than 4 million units in 2015, up from 1.3 million last year.

The TVs offer four times the resolution of current HDTVs right now, and better color and contrast are in the near future.

The only problem: So far, there hasn't exactly been a wealth of content available for consumers

to show off on their new screens. Industry standards — the technical protocols that wend from the movie sound stage to the screen in our living rooms — have been inconsistent, meaning the expensive hardware has been underutilized.

Resolving the engineering and marketing challenges is a complex process, but resolution may be just around the corner.

On Tuesday, major Hollywood studios, consumer electronics brands, content distributors, post-production facilities and technology companies joined together to form the UHD (Ultra High Definition) Alliance. The coalition will standardize criteria for 4K resolution, High Dynamic Range, Wide Color Gamut, High Frame Rate and Immersive Audio.

Ron Martin, president of Panasonic Hollywood Labs, said that the agreement helps to ensure that a movie director's vision

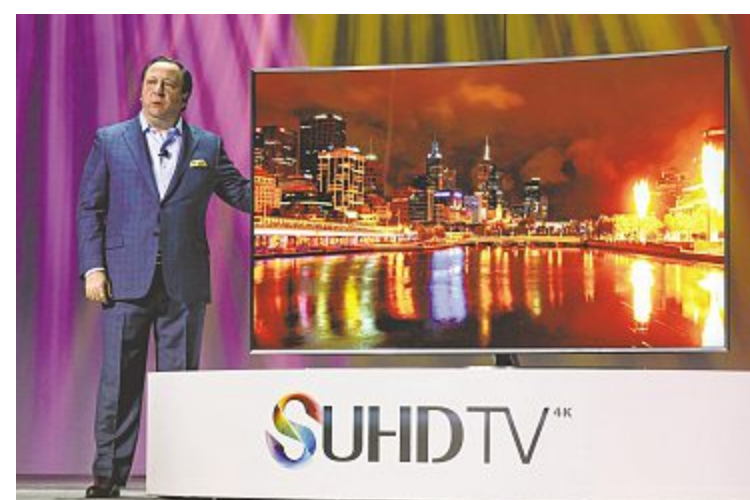
matches what the viewer watches at home.

"Bottom line, the alliance says we're going to set a fairly high bar for interoperability and performance to maintain creative intent," explained Martin.

The alliance plans to introduce new color standards that will allow TVs to display something closer to the full spectrum. Current Rec. 709 standards allow for about 16 million colors on existing TVs, but the human eye sees something closer to 1 billion colors.

"We now have all the ingredients to bake a wonderful cake," said Martin. "When you start adding these things together — a new realm of brightness, higher resolution, the wider color range, and get the frame rate up — we're now to a point where it feels like you can reach through the screen."

"It's a win-win for the TV industry and the content provid-



Patrick T. Fallon, Bloomberg
Joe Stinziano, executive VP of home entertainment for Samsung Electronics, unveils the SUHD 4K TV on Monday.

ers," said Jusy Hong, principal analyst for TV set research at IHS. "But the agreement also provides better, more immersive picture quality for the consumer."

Film directors like Ridley Scott are on board for the new standards, and consumers are eager for bigger, better TVs. One drawback TV-buyers will face is that all the classic movies will need to be remastered and reissued to deliver the new standards.

But plenty of recent movies show off the potential of 4K Ultra HD TVs. Martin says Baz Luhrmann's *The Great Gatsby* looks spectacular on the TVs. ("Go back and watch the fireworks scene, and your jaws will drop.")

At the trade show, huge screens with stunning pictures line booth after booth.

"4K TV is a huge narrative at CES this year," said Steve Koenig, CEA's director, Industry Analysis.



Slow Control smart bottle gives feedback on how to hold it to keep babies from swallowing air.

Gadgets can help give parents peace of mind

Monitor fevers, keep tabs, prevent concussions

Ben Keough and Erin Fife
Reviewed.com

When it comes to your children, there's nothing more important than safety. And at CES 2015, that simple truth has spawned a wave of clever new gadgets designed to help parents keep tabs on their kids, and keep them safe.

STUCK ON YOU

One of the coolest parenting gadgets we've seen at CES is Temp-Traq's stick-on wearable thermometer. It's a soft, thin sticker the size of a business card that can be placed under an infant's armpit to continually record her temperature.

The patch uses a Bluetooth antenna to send data to a smartphone app, which then graphs the baby's temperature in real time. Parents can add time-stamped notes about medicine or food intake, and the data can be e-mailed to health care professionals directly from the app. Parents can also opt to receive alerts if the baby's temperature rises or falls outside of a predetermined range.

SMART TRACKERS

Child trackers are everywhere at CES this year, from U.K. start-up Child Angel to French firm Weenect and Sweden's Trax. These devices give parents peace of mind by packing GPS, Wi-Fi, or cellular communications into wristbands or dongles that report their wearer's real-time location.

Child Angel's lightweight, water-resistant wristband will alert parents if it's removed, or if their kids leave a designated, customiz-



Children's watches by HereO are equipped with GPS.

able perimeter.

Weenect's device, called Weenect Kids, went on sale in 2013 but is making its U.S. debut this week. It's a dongle that includes an "SOS" button, as well as a seven-day history of each kid's movements. Weenect Kids is expected to launch sometime this year.

Trax, which has been selling wearable trackers for years, is showing off its new Trax Ping. It's designed to clip onto a keychain or wallet, making it far less obtrusive than competing devices.

HEADY STUFF

Of course, parents' concerns don't end when their kids reach adolescence. One of the biggest fears these days has to do with the long-term damage caused by sports-related head injuries. And this year, CES is playing host to a number of devices designed to limit the risk of concussions.

BlackBox Biometrics' Linx IAS (Impact Assessment System) band made its debut at CES Unveiled on Sunday. The IAS itself is a super-thin rectangle about the size of a USB stick. It fits snugly into either a stretchy skullcap or

a headband, and nestles behind your ear. It monitors head impacts, alerting the wearer if they've had a dangerous blow.

Another interesting concussion-monitoring device comes from Marucci Boditrak. The company makes its own sensor and helmets, as well as materials to retrofit existing gear. Boditrak sensors measure impacts, but their real selling point is the Head Health Network — an app that sends players' impact data directly to health care professionals for quick analysis.

A host of other new family safety devices have also debuted this week, including BlueMaestro's Bluetooth-enabled smart pacifier and iSwimband's drowning-prevention wearable.

The proliferation of effective, low-cost sensors and cameras has enabled rapid innovation in this space, and it's only expected to intensify as Millennials become parents. There are legitimate reasons to worry about connected devices continuously monitoring you and your family, but this is one area where it's hard to overstate the advantages.

TV TERMINOLOGY



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4K: 4K (or Ultra High Definition) is a new level of clarity and sharpness for TVs. 4K offers four times the resolution of regular HD TVs, roughly doubling the visible details in the picture. In 2015, many of the big-screen TVs you can buy will be 4K TVs.



SAMSUNG

Curved: Curved TVs first appeared in 2014 as a new take on the traditional flat-panel design. The curve of the screen is meant to simulate the curve of a larger movie screen, such as in an IMAX theater. Curved TVs are otherwise no different from flat ones.



LG

OLED: OLED TVs are a new technology made of "Organic Light-Emitting Diodes." The technology allows parts of the screen to be turned on and off individually, which makes for incredible contrast — perfect for home theater enthusiasts. OLED TVs are also capable of very bright, vivid colors compared to LCD TVs.



SONY

Quantum Dot: Televisions with Quantum Dot capability boast greatly improved color saturation and vivacity. Quantum Dot is an enhancement for traditional LCD TVs that uses nano-crystals to create colored light. They typically offer about 30% more color ability than TVs without Quantum Dot.

Thank your phone for your smart home

It's a main reason why smart homes are finally practical

Tyler Wells Lynch
Reviewed.com

People have been talking about the idea of the smart home for decades, but it's always been just over the horizon. Since the 1960s, the concept of the autonomous, connected home has floundered in a sea of technological impossibility and logistical chaos.

But at this week's Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, it was obvious that the smart home's moment has finally arrived. Every other company seemed to be showing off a smart home gadget or a product that could fit under the umbrella term "the Internet of Things." In case you're in the dark, that term refers to the larger movement to connect and automate all the dumb, unconnected devices in our lives.

So why now? And why CES?

There are a couple reasons, the first being simple technology feasibility. Sensors are now small and affordable; wireless communications are faster and more efficient; and smartphones are ubiquitous.

"A lot of this has been driven



Samsung spokesperson Kai Madden displays the connectivity feature on a Samsung smart refrigerator.

by the growth in smartphones," says Bill Morelli, director of Internet of Things, M2M & Connectivity at IHS. "Folks are just expecting them to be able to connect to more things."

All this means that anyone from basement inventors to Silicon Valley giants can experiment with ways to automate the activities of the home, and to synchronize them with one another. That doesn't mean any old smart gadget is going to be successful, but the point is that smart home innovation is being democratized.

We saw this in products like the OnKöl Health Monitor — a smart hub that helps you remotely keep tabs on loved ones who might require observation — and the Netatmo Welcome, a facial recognition camera that notifies you if a stranger enters your home.

We saw it in start-ups like Sevenhugs — which offers a sleep tracking and environmental monitoring system for the whole family — and Edyn, a smart garden monitor that keeps track of plant hydration and soil nutri-



TIM LOEHRKE, USA TODAY

The Goji smart lock sends real-time picture alerts via text or e-mail of the person who is entering your home.

ents. We saw it in security systems like Chamberlain's smartphone-enabled video door chime. And we saw it in big box appliances like Dacor's voice- and app-controlled Discovery iQ oven, and LG's fridge that responds to simple text message commands.

Promising more than \$100 million in funding for developers, Samsung CEO BK Yoon stated in the CES keynote address that the Internet of Things "is no longer a pipe dream." By 2017, he added, 90% of Samsung devices will plug into the IoT ecosystem, and within five years it will reach 100%.

But there's another reason smart home has taken center stage here at CES. Huge steps were taken in 2014 to establish

development kits and communications protocols that allow competing products to work alongside one another.

At the moment, all of these smart home possibilities have coalesced around three development platforms, each from familiar names in consumer tech: Apple's HomeKit, Samsung's SmartThings and Google's Nest. These programs provide a mobile framework for developers and manufacturers to fold their smart home products into a larger commercial ecosystem. They also put an end to the stagnation the industry has suffered at the hands of proprietary standards, *theoretically*.

Like any nascent tech category, the obstacles are formidable, and smart home poses the unique challenge of overcoming an infrastructure of dumb, unconnected devices.

This is why industry cooperation is so important, and why companies like Apple — a brand notorious for its proprietary ecosystems — are embracing open development platforms.

"Because of these tools and how they integrate with broader ecosystems like the Android or the iOS ecosystem — that's going to drive growth," says Morelli. "Over the next few years, we're going to see smart homes start to become a real thing."

HOW PRODUCTS WERE CHOSEN

The CES Editors' Choice selections were made under the strictest ethical standards. A thorough electronic voting system was developed to ensure that no nominee was overlooked and that all votes were counted fairly.

Any product making its U.S. debut at CES 2015 was eligible for an award. Thousands of products were narrowed down to a list of a few hundred nominees. An editor sought out and experienced each of these products on the show floor. In the rare instances in which working versions of products were not available, we conducted a thorough discussion with company representatives to better understand the product.

The voting took place in a closed-room session deep into the night on Tuesday. Only Reviewed.com editorial staff were permitted in the room during the voting period, and all telecommunications devices of the voting body were turned off and stowed. Our picks, based on personal, expert observation, begin on this page and extend over the following two pages.

You should understand that we have not tested these products under lab conditions. But based on the best available information, we believe them to be the best in show.

THE WINNERS
REVIEWED.COM

Learn more about the Editors' Choice products from the 2015 CES



Best of the best from the floor

The CES halls are packed with hundreds of exciting debuts, but some stood out from the crowd. Excelling in innovation, technology, design or value, each of these products managed to earn one of our Editors' Choice picks.

AUTOMOTIVE

Ford Sync 3

Ford unveiled a major revamp of its in-car infotainment system at CES 2015. Sync 3, which will debut on 2016 model year vehicles, is fast, responsive and dead simple to use. The automaker carefully designed its new BlackBerry QNX-based UI to be cleaner and less distracting for drivers than the much-maligned Sync 2. Sync 3's voice recognition is top-notch, and it doesn't need a data connection to provide navigation and other crucial services.



Hyundai Display Audio

If you've ever wished your car's navigation system was as easy to use as your smartphone, you're in luck. Hyundai's Display Audio puts your smartphone on your dashboard — specifically, on a 7-inch high-resolution LCD screen. And here's the best part: It works with either Apple Car Play or Android Auto.



Because your smartphone does all the hard work, Display Audio is less expensive and a little lighter on the hardware than a full-fledged infotainment system. And along with Volkswagen's MIB II system, it's one of the first car infotainment systems to be platform-agnostic.

Volkswagen MIB II

Like Hyundai's new Display Audio, Volkswagen's MIB II infotainment system is powered by your smartphone, providing a familiar interface and in-dash connectivity that won't break the bank.



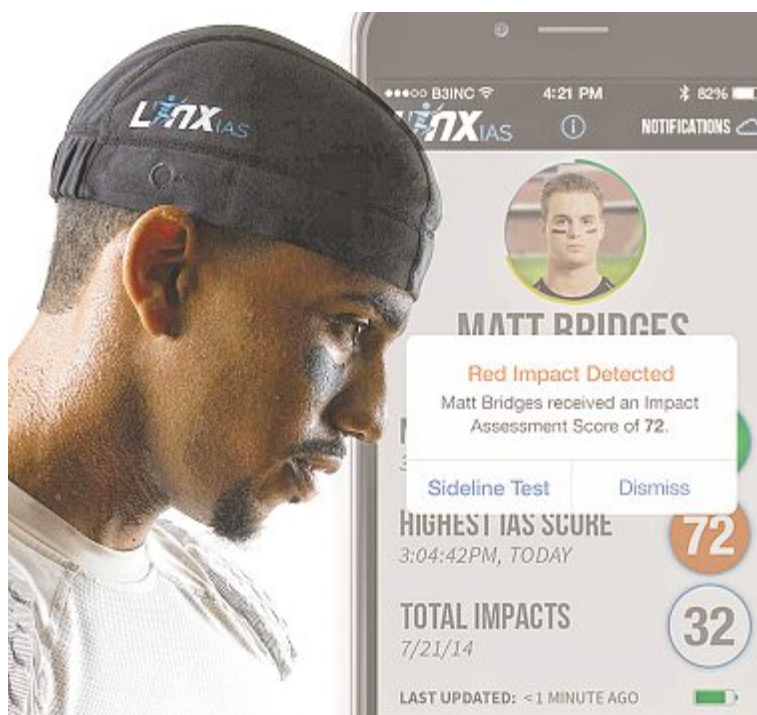
Most important, MIB II doesn't care which smartphone OS you use — Android and iOS are equally welcome. It'll detect your phone when it's plugged in, and launch either an Apple CarPlay or Android Auto interface. And unlike Hyundai's solution, MIB II supports a select group of additional phones via MirrorLink technology.

PARENTING, HEALTH AND FITNESS

Black Box Biometrics Linx IAS

The Linx IAS by BlackBox Biometrics monitors and rates any concussive or sub-concussive head impacts an athlete suffers over the course of a season, stores that information, and makes it available via a slick smartphone app. Significantly, over time the accumulated data can be used to gauge the danger of chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), thought to be the cause of memory loss in professional athletes. The data may also help scientists learn more about the dangers moving forward.

The device itself is small enough to fit inside a headband or skull cap, and was developed in conjunction with the U.S. military. It records the rotation and force of each blow to the head and even lets the user know when medical attention is necessary. At under \$200, it's a great option for youth athletes, their parents, or even whole teams.



BLACK BOX



FITBIT

Fitbit Charge HR

The Charge HR updates Fitbit's well-loved Charge with continuous heart rate monitoring — a crucial addition that allows you to track calories burned and monitor the intensity of your workout in real time and with greater accuracy.

As far as design goes, the display is on the smaller side. The stylish band is nearly as thin as a traditional watch strap and uses a new material that Fitbit says won't irritate your wrist.



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OnKöl

Anyone who has an elderly parent or grandparent living on their own knows what it means to worry about them. With OnKöl, you can be there without actually being there.

OnKöl is able to link to myriad health-tracking and security sensors, and can notify family members by cellphone when a relative fails to get out of bed, take their medications, or perform any number of important tasks. The stylish box requires no setup on Grandma's end; all she has to do is plug it in and it automatically connects to any sensors you have installed through Z-Wave technology. You'll have to set her up with the sensors separately, though.

The OnKöl system costs \$29 per month.

Ozobot Bit

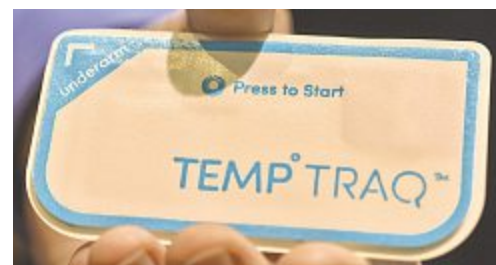
When the tiny Ozobot robot first hit the market last year, it taught kids the logic of coding by letting them control Ozobot's movements along colored lines drawn on a tablet or even plain paper. With the introduction of the new \$49 Ozobot Bit, kids can graduate to basic "if, then" programming using Google's simplified Blockly language.



OZOBOT

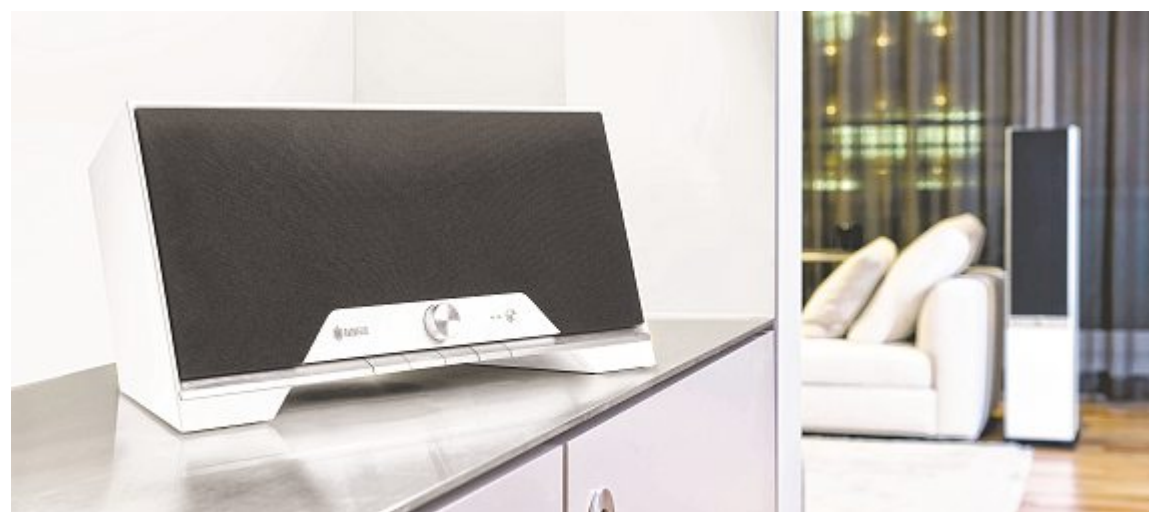
TempTraq

TempTraq lets you keep an eye on a sick child's health no matter where you are. It's a small, disposable patch that attaches under a child's arm and records his or her temperature for up to 24 hours, sending data back to a mobile app. The app charts readings over time and allows parents to make notes and share data with doctors or caregivers.



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AUDIO



RAUMFELD

Raumfeld Multiroom Streaming System

German company Raumfeld is bringing its broad lineup of attractive, wireless, multiroom speakers to the U.S. market. The speakers range from small all-in-one models to bookshelf speakers to large cabinets, and feature similar functionality to the popular Sonos system. There's also a base station that can turn traditional speakers into a high-quality, wireless audio system.



SONY

Sony MDR-1ABT

Sony's latest update to its popular MDR-1 line adds Bluetooth and a touch-control feature for a bit more freedom and usability. They're stylish, wireless, and expected to be a good value in the category when released later this year.



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Beyerdynamic Custom One Pro Plus

The newest headphones from industry leader Beyerdynamic build on the company's popular Custom One Pro model, but add a customizable exterior and removable cord with volume control and a built-in microphone. Just like the original Custom One Pro headphones, the playback can be tuned to boost bass or draw out the high notes in your favorite track. For \$230, it's a value proposition that simply can't be beat.



DEVIALET

Devialet Phantom

The Devialet Phantom is an attractive, all-in-one speaker that packs a ton of high-quality sound into a small footprint. Shaped like a cross between a soccer ball and a football, the futuristic Phantom lays bare many of its most important components for an appearance unlike that of any other speaker we've seen.

EDITORS' CHOICE AWARDS



MOBILE TECH



LG G Flex 2

LG did an unusual thing this year: It improved a high-end phone by making it smaller. The new G Flex 2 has a gorgeous 5.5-inch, 1080p OLED screen that fits the hand far better than its predecessor. The elegant, flexible curved design is still a delight, and the self-healing back can make scratches disappear in seconds. A cutting-edge Snapdragon 810 processor puts it among the most powerful devices on the market—at least for now.



Lenovo Yoga 2 8" with AnyPen

The Lenovo Yoga 2 tablet with AnyPen packs a unique new feature: It doesn't care what you use as a stylus. At CES 2015, we used a fork, a pencil, and even a carrot to draw on the screen, and were surprised to find it worked exactly as advertised. If you're tired of carting accessories around, this seems like a fantastic improvement. The \$299 retail price certainly doesn't hurt, either.



goTenna

The GoTenna is a smartphone accessory antenna that uses long-range radio waves to create a point-to-point messaging network. That means you can send texts to other GoTenna users within a 6-10 mile radius, even in places where you have no cell service. Other standout features include shareable GPS locations and an emergency messaging feature that could be a real lifesaver for hikers and other outdoor enthusiasts should they get caught in a bad situation. The devices will sell in pairs for around \$150.



Withings Activité Pop

At first glance, Withings' Activité Pop looks like a fun, modern take on a classic watch. But look closer and you'll find a hidden fitness tracker. More casual and more affordable than the original Withings Activité, the Activité Pop is lightweight, functional, and stylish. It lasts about eight months on a single button cell battery, tracking sleep and fitness in addition to telling time, all for \$149.99.

Toshiba Portégé Z20t

Combining high performance with long battery life, the Portégé Z20t is like an iPad and a MacBook Air in one. The beautiful Wacom-powered touchscreen offers up to 9 hours of battery when used as a tablet, and that figure jumps to 17.5 hours when it's plugged into the included keyboard dock. A powerful but silent Intel Core M processor and fast SSD storage ensure it can keep up with all but the most demanding users.



Asus Transformer Book T300 Chi

The Transformer Book T300 Chi is a stylish evolution of Asus's long-running Transformer line, boasting a 13-inch full-HD or WQHD screen, an efficient but powerful Intel Core M processor, and a Bluetooth keyboard that can control the tablet display from across the room. At \$799, it's a cheaper, better alternative to buying a laptop and a tablet.



Alcatel OneTouch Watch

The Alcatel OneTouch Watch might look similar to Motorola's Moto 360, but it's more affordable and can work with both Android and iOS devices. The battery lasts a whopping three days and can charge in just half an hour via a full-sized USB port cleverly hidden in its band. The watch has basic functionality with lots of built-in apps and fitness trackers, and connects to smartphones via Bluetooth. Best of all, it's listing for just \$149.



TELEVISION



Sharp UB30 65-inch 4K TV

While even the best LCDs haven't been able to match the inky black levels of OLED TVs, full-array local dimming technology comes pretty close. Sharp's UB30 line isn't a flagship series, but it's the company's most compelling overall offering this year. With prices starting under \$800 for the 43-inch model, and a 65-inch variant with full-array dimming checking in under \$2,300, these TVs are encroaching on Vizio's famously affordable, high-quality P-series.

Panasonic CX850

With full-array local dimming, 4K resolution, and the near-perfect color reproduction of the fantastic Panasonic AX900U, the CX850 is a flagship TV worth keeping both eyes on. Add in slick voice control, a vastly improved smart platform based on Firefox OS, and THX certification, and you've got one of the most promising televisions at CES 2015.



LG EF9800

LG's first flat 4K OLED is exactly what high-end home theater enthusiasts have been clamoring for: a no-nonsense OLED display that's all about image quality with none of the distractions. At less than two tenths of an inch thick, it's skinnier than a ballpoint pen—so skinny, in fact, that there was no room left for built-in speakers. It ships with a sound bar that's integrated with LG's Music Flow system, but serious cinema geeks can easily integrate it into their own high-end audio setups.



Samsung JS9500

Thanks to quantum dot tech, full-array backlighting, and UHD resolution, the JS9500 is the crown jewel of Samsung's 2015 "Super UHD" TV lineup. It's big, bright, and incredibly beautiful—especially if you have the right kind of color-rich content to take advantage of the spectacular chromatic capabilities of quantum dot. With a new Tizen-based smart platform under the hood, Samsung is taking the rest of the TV world head-on.



Dish Sling TV

Kill your cable subscription with Dish's Sling TV. This \$20-per-month service gives you access to many of the most popular live TV channels, such as ESPN, ABC, Adult Swim, HGTV, Food Network, TNT, CNN, and more—no contract, no hardware, no skeezy cable installers required. The app is easy to download and, much like Netflix, will work on just about every smart device you already own. Forget cutting the cord—Sling TV wants to cut cable for good.



Dish 4K Joey

The new Dish 4K Joey is a slim new set-top box capable of streaming 4K content from your Dish Hopper to anywhere in the house. The sleek, discreet device can be mounted almost anywhere—including behind your TV. Plus, a major bonus for sports fans: the 4K Joey has enough bandwidth for two simultaneous Full-HD sporting events side-by-side. No need for specific brand name TVs either—the 4K Joey is compatible with any UHD TV with HDMI 2.0 and HDCP 2.2.

HOME APPLIANCES



LG's Twin Wash System

The LG TWIN Wash is a small, low-capacity washing machine that fits underneath almost any front-load washer. It doubles as a pedestal and is designed to be gentle on your clothes. Those who want a second washer to run a delicates cycle at the same time as their normal laundry should be pleased with this space-saving, time-saving concept.



Whirlpool Sunset Bronze Kitchen Suite

Sunset Bronze is Whirlpool's new true stainless steel color option inspired by rose gold. It promises a unique—yet still familiar—look, for those who want something a little different from traditional silver stainless. Countless hours of research went into developing a new color that will match the cabinetry of both existing kitchens and new remodels.



Samsung Flex Duo Dual Door Range

For 2015, Samsung's added a new feature to its already outstanding Flex Duo oven, noted for the ability to operate either as one large oven cavity or two smaller ones. This year Samsung added Dual Door technology, allowing the open either the whole oven door or just the top portion, preventing hot air from escaping the bottom cavity.

Samsung Active Wash Washing Machine

Most folks who pre-treat their laundry do so on top of the washer. But the Samsung Active Wash top-load washer hides a small glass basin and water jet beneath its lid that can be used for soaking and pre-treating. When you're done using the basin, you can just let the water fall into the washing machine. It's like adding a sink to your laundry room, and it doesn't take away from the washer's capacity.



Haier Smart Mini Wine Cellar

Chill out and enjoy the perfect glass of wine in style. The drop-dead gorgeous Haier Smart Mini Wine Cellar is a single-bottle wine chiller that can quickly cool your favorite vintage to the perfect temp. A Bluetooth-connected app lets you fine-tune the cooling for specific varietals, and when it's ready you can remove the cellar from its dock and take it with you. The cellar's insulated walls will keep your vino cooled for up to 10 hours, until you're ready to pop the cork. (We'd say it's cooler than cool, but that's not really how you're supposed to drink wine.)



PHOTO AND VIDEO

Narrative Clip 2

The Narrative Clip 2 improves on 2012's Narrative Clip—a tiny lifelogging camera that automatically snaps shots as you go about your day—with a new 8-megapixel sensor and a wider lens. But the big news here is that it lets you view your photos right away, thanks to built-in Wi-Fi and Bluetooth connectivity. The Narrative Clip 2 costs \$199 and is expected to ship in early 2015.



NARRATIVE

Sony Action Cam FDR-X1000V

With a slim design, 4K recording and waterproof case good down to 32 feet, there's no question that Sony's new 4K Action Cam is gunning for GoPro's throne. Drone-friendly image stabilization, a user-friendly app with excellent remote functionality, an optional control watch and a huge range of accessories are just icing on the cake.



SONY



SONY

Sony FDR-AX33

Sony's FDR-AX100 4K Handycam was one of our favorite camcorders of 2014, but at nearly \$2,000, it was still out of reach for many consumers. The new FDR-AX33 brings the MSRP down to just \$1,099 while also shrinking the camera's footprint and adding improved optical image stabilization.



PANASONIC

Panasonic HC-WX970

Panasonic brought some much-needed innovation to the camcorder space last year with the HC-WX850. It was a fine HD camcorder with a secret weapon: picture-in-picture recording from a tiny, rotating camera on the edge of the screen. Now you could record an event in front of you and the reactions of the people around you. It was awesome. The new HC-WX970 is just as awesome, with an improved secondary camera and 4K recording.



PANASONIC

Panasonic DMC-CM1:

How do you improve on the smartphone camera? The same way you do with so many other digital cameras: put in a bigger sensor. The new Lumix CM1 Smart Camera from Panasonic packs a 28mm-equivalent Leica lens and a 1-inch, 20-megapixel image sensor—far larger than any competing smartphone—into a stylish, pocketable package. Best of all? It's coming to the U.S. later this year.

Lume Cube

The Lume Cube is a small, Bluetooth-controlled LED light cube that connects with your smartphone, tablet or action camera. The durable little light produces 1,500 lumens and can act as either a flash or continuous light. The battery is rechargeable, and the cube is ideal for action shooting in scenarios with less-than-ideal lighting. Lume Cubes sell for \$60 each or \$100 for a set of two.



LUME



NIKON

Nikon D5500

For the past couple years, Nikon's D5000-series DSLRs have been our go-to recommendation for buyers who want a solid traditional DSLR and serious video chops. The new Nikon D5500 ticks all the same boxes, but its redesigned body is lighter, slimmer and adds an articulating touchscreen. The result? A compact body that packs plenty of value.

LAPTOPS AND COMPUTING



XYZPRINTING

XYZPrinting da Vinci Nobel 1.0

The da Vinci Nobel 1.0 from XYZPrinting is a new SLA (Stereolithography Apparatus) 3-D printer that uses UV technology to quickly harden liquid resin, creating finer detail than most consumer models. Better still, the Nobel 1.0 will cost just \$1,499—extremely reasonable compared to other, far more expensive SLA printers.



HP

HP Stream Mini

At \$179, the HP Stream Mini is an amazing value. This tiny computer comes with Windows pre-installed and features a 32 GB SSD, expandable RAM, an SD card slot, four USB 3.0 ports, and an HDMI port. It's perfect for replacing an aging desktop on the cheap, or for use as a media center.



DELL

Dell XPS 13 (2015)

The Dell XPS 13-inch laptop is an exceptional value. It's ultra-thin and has a teeny, tiny bezel around its 1080p screen. With a Core i3 processor, 128 gigabytes of flash storage, and plenty of RAM—all for just \$799—this one will disrupt the market.



LENOVO

Lenovo S41

This good-looking, well-built laptop is the kind of meat and potatoes machine we'd recommend to a friend. It's three-quarters of an inch thick, has a 14-inch matte screen, and runs the brand-new fifth-generation Intel Core chips—all for \$799. With not a penny wasted on features you don't need, it's got top-of-the-line power at a middle-of-the-road price.



LENOVO

Lenovo LaVie Z HZ750

This laptop is so incredibly light it almost feels hollow. But don't be fooled, inside roars an Intel Core i5 processor. It has a magnesium alloy chassis and includes Lenovo's Yoga hinge, allowing it to transform into a tablet. Retail price is \$1,499—not bad for all of the great features you're getting.



Razer Open Source VR

Designed to spur the development of virtual reality gaming on a massive scale, Razer's Open Source VR is an Oculus Rift headset copycat that boasts an attractive \$200 list price. That's cool, but the big news here is that—as the name would suggest—it's entirely open-source. Razer is banking on a fanatical VR gaming fanbase to make its product success, but that seems like a safe bet to us.



SAMSUNG

Samsung Portable SSD T1

Tiny enough to fit in your shirt pocket, this adorable, highly portable solid state drive offers up to a terabyte of storage with lightning-fast USB 3.0 file transfers. It comes in three sizes, ranging from a 256-gigabyte option that retails for \$180, all the way up to the 1TB for \$600. You might be paying an early adopter tax, but this is seriously cool tech.

LaCie Mirror

The LaCie Mirror, designed by industrial designer Pauline Deltour, would be a perfect fit on any executive's desk. It's an external hard drive with a full terabyte of storage and high-speed USB 3.0 connectivity, but its most notable qualities have more to do with pure aesthetics. The polished Gorilla Glass exterior rests on a richly-colored ebony base, and both pieces are undeniably good-looking. At \$279, it's an affordable luxury.



LACIE

SMART HOME

Samsung SmartThings

Samsung's SmartThings platform promises to connect you to all sorts of devices via the so-called Internet of Things. With a new hub, new partnerships with companies like Chamberlain and Honeywell, and a commitment to increased connectivity from Samsung products in the future, SmartThings is a smart choice for those interested in smart homes.



SAMSUNG

Edyn Garden Sensor

First funded on Kickstarter, Edyn is a solar-powered smart garden monitor that tracks garden conditions like moisture levels and soil nutrition, then provides users with data to help their plants thrive. Multiple Edyns can form a network across a larger garden, and even connect to water valves and automatically water the garden as needed. Each Edyn device retails for \$99.99, and each hose spout is an additional \$59.99. Edyn says the monitor will soon hit store shelves at Home Depot.



EDYN