

TALKING TECH

[CES: Cool gadgets from the tech show](#)

By David Sheets

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LAS VEGAS - With more than 2,500 exhibitors at this year's International [Consumer Electronics Show](#), it was impossible for conventioners to see everything. In fact, the term used most by people to describe the show was "overwhelming."

Even with 1.6 million square feet of display space devoted to CES, many people said they still felt crowded. Before the show began, CES organizers expected about 130,000 attendees. But the on-site registration windows remained busy right up to Sunday, the final day. Las Vegas TV stations were reporting that more than 200,000 people paid a visit.

Despite the crush, Talking Tech cruised the displays and sampled the product demonstrations, and these are what we believe were among the coolest items on display (Prices on some of the products have yet to be determined):

[Raptor electric skateboard](#) - Too lazy to ride a conventional skateboard? Exkate Powerboards has the answer. The Raptor 4.0 reaches 15 mph in 4 seconds, has variable speed control and goes up to 15 miles on a single battery charge. Estimated retail price: \$200.

[Robonova-1](#) - People always ask Talking Tech, "If we can put a man on the moon, why can't we build a foot-tall robot that can do cartwheels?" Hitec Robotics hears you and is getting ready to market a \$1,000 programmable robot that dances better than Denny Terrio.

[AlcoHawk portable breathalyzer](#) - Don't wait for the police to test your blood-alcohol level; do it before getting in the car with the AlcoHawk. The device registers levels up to 0.10 percent (way above the legal limit), and it fits on a keychain. Q3 Innovations also has developed a ThermoHawk touchless, infrared thermometer that's just as portable.

[LG plasma televisions](#) - These vivid gas-panel wonders have displays up to 60 inches, are HDTV-ready and contain their own digital video recorders. You'll wish real life looked just as good.

[SingingCoach software](#) - Can't carry a tune? Well, Carry-A-Tune

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Technologies is a bit more optimistic. All you have to do is load the program and follow the visual learn-to-sing instructions; the program actually “shows” the singer’s voice on the computer screen. Of course, the Talking Tech singers sounded so bad, we crashed the program. Back to the drawing board, eh?

[“Eli” network security appliance](#) - This device essentially sifts computer broadband connections for security threats. Eli, developed by Electronic Lifestyle Integrations Inc., (hence the name, Eli) comes preinstalled with a firewall, content filtering and parental controls, antivirus protections, plus anti-spam and anti-phishing filters.

[McAfee Wireless Home Network Security](#) - The big-name antivirus company scores by making wireless security much simpler to install and monitor. Besides locking down wireless routers, the program also encrypts the data each PC sends over the network. The software also automatically “rotates” the security keys for each device to dissuade even determined attackers. Estimated retail price: \$80

[RaySat SpeedRay and StealthRay](#) - Can’t stand to leave the comforts of home behind when you travel? Here’s a flat antenna for satellite TV and Internet access designed to fit easily atop recreational vehicles and SUVs. The 5.7-inch-deep disc looks like a really big hot plate, and probably will be a hot item.

[Nethrone](#) - This is what you get when you combine a dentist’s chair and a computer station (and, of course, mankind has craved that marriage). The developer came up with the idea after getting a sore back from too many hours spent in front of his computer. When Talking Tech looks at it, we’re compelled to say, “Open wide, please.” Estimated retail price: \$2,500.

[Powergrid Fitness Exer-Station](#) - Instead of exercising just your thumbs while playing video games, you exercise your whole body using this device. The Exer-Station is, in effect, a 24-inch-tall riding joystick that plugs into a video game console; game interactivity improves the more vigorously you push and pull the stick to control the on-screen action.


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1. David,

Great blog. I just started my own last week and linked to your google post from saturday. the address is <http://prsmarts.typepad.com> i work for fleishman-hillard but as you'll see in my first post--started this blog for a host of reasons--my ten year old daughter has a blog.... anyway, would like this blog to be known as a place where people can go to find out more about all of the new media tools that consumers are using. would love for you to check in on mine and post when you feel like it; as I will yours. Again, great blog. Tony

Comment by Tony Calandro — January 9, 2006 @ [10:33 am](#)

2. i thought the legal limit was .08 .10 isn't very high for a breathalizer.

Comment by Casey — January 10, 2006 @ [8:12 am](#)

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