

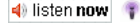


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TOP STORIES FINANCE INTERNET CLEANTECH COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA COMPUTING BIOSCIENCES SECURITY MAGAZINE ARCHIVES

Pocket projector

on 30 April 2000, 22:00



by [Niall McKay](#)

Martin Eberhard, the erudite founder of [NuvoMedia](#), believes that by 2005 people will be much more comfortable carrying an electronic book than a dog-eared paperback. "E-books will replace most of the throw-away books and a large chunk of the printed news by then," he says.

But Henry Yuen, the CEO of the electronic programming guide technology company [Gemstar](#), which in January bought both NuvoMedia and its chief competitor, [SoftBook Press](#), may have bigger ideas for the technology.

He bought both companies for \$564 million, and many believe his aim is to use e-book technology to create a "TV remote control on steroids." Unremarkable? Perhaps. Until you realize that Gemstar International, NuvoMedia, and SoftBook Press are all in the copyright, content, and delivery business.

Picture a TV remote control as a portable entertainment device. In the home, it communicates with your audio/visual system to deliver TV programs, movies, music, books, and games. Slip it in a backpack and watch the rest of that movie on the bus. Called a [MoviEbook](#), this type of device is still some time away. Even 2005 is too early to be downloading movies over the air, but storage is getting cheaper every few years.

Gemstar will have a battle on its hands, however. [Microsoft](#), for one, isn't going to give in without a fight. It's currently integrating its "clear type" technology into Windows 2000 and the next-generation Windows CE devices called Pocket PCs -- technology that could potentially turn every laptop into an e-book.

Every device manufacturer wants a slice of the entertainment device market, says Bill Schilit, a scientist with [Fuji-Xerox Palo Alto Laboratory](#). "People are beginning to ask why they should carry around three devices when they can have one."

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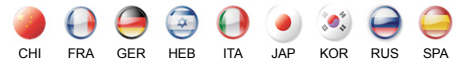
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The living room is a jungle of plastic and wires – I say enough already.

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One company is feeling the love because of Nintendo's Wii storage solution: Telltale's Strong Bad.

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Satoru Itawa's keynote touched on both systems, but it seems like the Wii got the short end of the stick.

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