

# Getting More From Your Gadgets

## PC Helps Bring Together The Pieces Of Your Digital Life

(NAPS)—With more and more people buying digital cameras and portable music players these days, digital media—digital photography, music and video—is exploding in popularity. A lot of users are learning that the PC can help the everyday user become a whiz with the latest digital media trends. The key ingredient for many is a new operating system for home users.

Many people have yet to explore the new digital media potential of their home computer. Now, anyone can produce high-quality digital video, music and photographs and send them electronically to friends and family. “The advanced technology that was considered the domain of die-hard computer geeks as little as one or two years ago is so easy now that even novices can take advantage of the very latest trends in digital media,” says Tom Laemmel, product manager for Windows at Microsoft Corp. which makes the new Microsoft Windows Millennium Edition (Windows Me).

“Maybe you just bought some music CDs, a digital camera or a camcorder,” Laemmel adds. “If you’re using Windows Me, those things just get better. You can copy, sort, organize and share video footage, music and pictures. With Windows Me, the PC adds value to those other devices.”

In addition, with an up-to-date home computer setup, music lovers can transfer all their CDs to their personal computers and create playlists of any combination of styles, artists or genres. With just a



**With new devices like digital cameras and portable music players appearing in many homes today, having an up-to-date home PC becomes even more valuable.**

few clicks of the mouse, they can listen to Elvis, Mozart or a combination of both without hearing the songs they don’t like.

“But these features,” says Laemmel, “are just the tip of the iceberg.” Windows Me includes many improvements—such as an integrated Internet experience, the Home Networking Wizard and PC health advances—that enhance the usability of the home computer.

“I used to go over to my parents’ home and discover that there had been some ‘fixing’ going on,” recalls Keith Powell, who installed the operating system on his parents’ computer. Now Powell doesn’t have to worry about his parents deleting critical system files. System File

Protection, a new feature, protects these critical files from accidental deletion. This feature alone, Powell says, has gone a long way toward solving the problems that arise when his parents begin “fixing” things on their PC.

According to Laemmel, Windows Me puts the PC at the heart of the home by enabling users to be more productive and creative. “This means families can devote their attention to what’s important to them in home computing—whether it’s music or video, playing games or surfing the Internet—without finding technology to be a barrier.”

For more information, visit the Web site at <http://www.microsoft.com/windowsme/>.