

HDTV group pursues single remote control

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One of the top priorities of a new group developing high-definition television will be a master remote control for all equipment plugged into an HDTV system.

The industry association High-Definition Audio-Video Network Alliance said it planned to develop uniform standards that include central controls for every audio-visual device carried over HDTV, including content downloaded onto personal computers.

"A major benefit of HANA's initiatives will be the ability for one remote control to manage all of the video equipment that gets connected to a network," said Gerry Kaufhold, principal analyst with In-Stat in California. "This 'one remote control per room' capability is a major breakthrough and presents a tremendous opportunity for consumers to finally be able to have easy access to all their home video content."

Standardization will streamline design and also eliminate the need for cables to connect different pieces of equipment to the HDTV systems.

HANA said the first commercial products that comply with its standards are expected to be available in 2007.

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