

Microsoft unveils new webcams

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Microsoft Tuesday unveiled a line of webcams designed for optimal performance with the company's popular Windows Live Messenger instant-messaging system.

The LifeCam VX-6000 and VX-3000 are Microsoft's first foray into webcam hardware and will retail from \$50 to \$100 in the United States later this summer.

"People spend more than 1 billion minutes in Windows Live video conversations each month," said Microsoft Vice President Tom Gibbons. It is clear that consumers are now embracing technologies that support relationship-centered digital communications."

Gibbons said the new cameras were aimed at improving the quality of the "digital communications experience" for consumers.

The VX-6000 is the higher-end model and provides video of 1.3 megapixels and still images at 5 interpolated megapixels. The 71-degree lens can fit three people into a picture, Microsoft said.

In addition, the cameras both include noise-canceling microphones and various video backgrounds that can be used to liven up conversation sessions.

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