

Immigration Law TODAY

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The Treatment of
Unaccompanied Children
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Bo Cooper:
Coming Full Circle

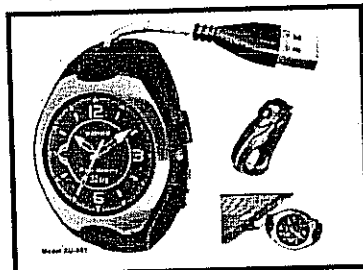
Gadgets for Today's Immigration Lawyer

THANK GOODNESS WE HAVE AN IMPORTANT CLIENT IN LAS VEGAS that requires periodic visits by our firm's lawyers. Otherwise, we would have had a tough time convincing our colleagues of the legitimate need for our attending the annual Consumer Electronics Show held every January in America's playground. For those of you who may not have heard about CES, it is the annual trade show for the world's computer and electronics industry and is the launching ground for the new high-tech products of thousands of companies from around the planet. For gadget lovers, this is the technogeek Super Bowl.

Of course, for us, it was much more than just checking out the hottest new plasma televisions, incredibly realistic video games, and wired sports cars, we had work to do! (Maybe we just glanced at a few of these items to make sure we're keeping up with the popular culture). But our goal was to find out about some of the coolest new gadgets that would be of interest to today's immigration lawyers. So without press badges around our necks, we still were able to gain access to a number of vendors and found lots of relatively inexpensive new items that may (or may not) one day become a basic part of your law office. Some are available now and actually were launching at CES. Others will hit the marketplace soon. Some will be available at major stores like Staples and Best Buy. Yet others can only be purchased directly from the vendor (For these products, we list the Web sites where you can find more information). Below is a summary of what we found.

Storage

Some of the most interesting gadgets found at this year's CES were the storage devices that hold data files—be they scanned images, word processing files, the 8 CFR—you name it. Devices that store data do not sound particularly interesting until you actually see some of the novel approaches that some companies are using. One that fascinated me was a wrist-watch from a company in China called XONIX (www.xonixwatch.com). They produce a watch with a USB cable built



Xonix watch

into the watch's wristband. The watch is a cleverly disguised external hard drive that stores up to 256 megabytes (MB) of data—the equivalent of about 200 floppy disks! The watches start at \$20 and go up, depending on the amount of storage memory.

Another device in the same family of products is from the Korean company Dyne Telecom. Its new digital audio player is about the size and weight of a cigarette lighter but serves as a digital voice recorder that can store up to 182 hours of voice recording, store 512MB of data, has a built-in FM radio receiver, and it has a liquid crystal display that allows you to see what songs are playing, the names of files, the length of a recording, and more. Like the XONIX watch, this digital audio player plugs into the USB slot on any laptop or desktop computer and does not require software to be loaded on the computer receiving the data. The product is on sale in Europe now



Dyne audio player

and will be available for the U.S. market in the next few months.

Syscan's TravelScan 464 (www.syscaninc.com) is a 600 dots-per-inch color compact scanner that is about the size of a mini-tote umbrella (11.5" x 2.0" x 1.7"). The device can fit easily in your laptop bag and can operate through your laptop's USB port, so carrying around another heavy power adaptor is not necessary. The scanner is the right width to scan standard 8.5-inch pages quickly and it comes bundled with optical character recognition software that can convert scanned pages into word processing documents for editing. The scanner retails for \$139.



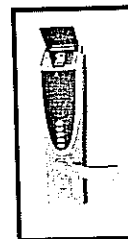
Syscan scanner

One of our favorite devices was a pen that stores up to 40 pages of text and interfaces with computers via USB. Take notes at meetings, hearings, or depositions, and then upload your notes to your PC. Proprietary text recognition software converts your notes (even cursive) into text for editing. This great new toy by FingerSystem will not be available until the summer, but we are first on the list to pick some up. It is expected to retail for under \$100.

Security

Security is always a concern for a lawyer. We need to keep our client's information confidential. Our offices also have valuable merchandise that is attractive to thieves. We found a number of items that will help make you less vulnerable to prying eyes and sticky hands.

The new ArrowVision Technologies Shepherd 220 Doorlock (www.arrowvision.us) is pretty Mission Impossible. The door lock looks conventional, but it actually has a small finger-

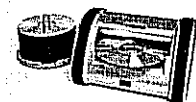


Shepherd 220 Doorlock

print scanner that can store data on as many as 50 users. Employee fingerprints can be programmed (or deleted) in a matter of seconds. Friends or short-term visitors can be given individual passcodes to punch in for temporary access, after which their individual codes can be deleted. Your employees will never have to worry about losing an office key or forgetting the entry code, and you won't have to change the locks every time an employee leaves your firm or you change cleaning companies. The product retails for about \$500.

Lawyers often think about totally removing data from computers when upgrading to new ones. But what about CDs and DVDs that store our critical data? The new Data Destroyer from New York's Norazza, Inc., is a small device through which you can run up to 15 disks a minute. It completely damages the entire disk so that it is impossible to retrieve any data. The product can be purchased at major stores like Office Depot for about \$40.

A clever inexpensive security device that was designed for forgetful people like the author is Fellowes' new Mobile Proximity Alarm (www.fellowes.com). The alarm is actually a tiny square that's a centimeter thick and sticks onto a laptop, PDA, or other portable device. It works with another tiny transmitter that is kept



Data Destroyer from New York's Norazza, Inc.

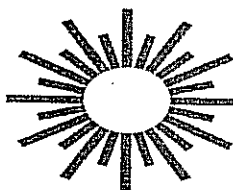
in your wallet, laptop case, purse, etc., and when the two devices are more than 15 feet from each other, an alarm goes off. So if someone is walking away with your laptop at an airport or you forget your cell phone or Palm computer as you are walking out of the office or house, the alarm will alert you. The product retails for about \$30 and is for sale either on the Fellowes Web site or at stores like Best Buy.

Accessories

Many of you probably have products made by Targus. Targus produces many of the high-tech accessories used by today's business traveler. Targus has a number of clever new products that will make life on the road just a little more convenient. The star of the Targus exhibition was its new Elite Series laptop bags. They've seemingly thought of everything. All three Elite Series cases fit notebooks with screens up to 15 inches. Some of their features include: Patented SafePORT® Air Cushion System, AirTrak™ Pneumatic Wheels, a Zip-Down Workstation, 15 different pockets and pouches, and a retractable light. The Port 2.1→



Targus Elite Easy Roller bag



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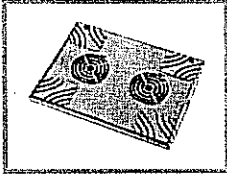
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Targus Chillpad

Elite Easy Roller bag retails for \$149.

Another device from Targus that the authors found interesting is the Chillpad. It is a one-half-inch thick square, lightweight unit that sits underneath your laptop computer when you are—as the name implies—working with your laptop on your laptop. If you've been sitting in an

airport for a while waiting on a flight and trying to get work done, you probably have become annoyed at just how hot your laptop computer can become. The Chillpad not only provides a physical buffer to keep your gorgeous, sensitive legs from becoming uncomfortable, it also has a built-in fan to blow heat away from you.

The small little devices that allow phone cords to roll up like tiny measuring tapes have been around a few years and have proven convenient little space savers that help us avoid jumbled cords in our computer bags. But many of us are now carrying around RJ45 cords that connect our laptops with Ethernet jacks in order to access high-speed Internet connections. Belkin (www.belkin.com), a company that has built its name making computer cables, has a new device, which rolls up RJ45 cords in the same way. Very helpful, but it does one more little thing that is nice—tucked inside the middle of the device is a jack and a tiny adapter that converts the device into a phone card adapter. Pretty nifty, huh? Now you

have one very small, lightweight unit to replace both your phone cord and your network cable. The retractable cord retails for about \$24.

You probably have seen wireless and optical mice, but have you ever seen a Wireless Scroller Mini Mouse? A few of these were at the show from manufacturers such as Belkin and Targus. The size of these mice (approximately 3" x 1.5") makes them great for travel and the wireless features avoid tangles at the office or on the road. The range of these mice is about three feet and they generally come with a USB receiver key. Targus' product retails for about \$49.



Wireless Scroller Mini Mouse

Another novel innovation is the Pointer Mouse. Again, there were a few similar devices at the show, but Alpha and Omega Corporation's (AOC) handheld, wireless trackball mouse (model MO-OM-HTB-RF-U) is the perfect tool for making presentations. The mouse has a thumb-operated trackball and an ergonomic contour for great comfort. It also sports a second left-click button that lets you trigger the mouse rather than clicking it. Finally, a built-in laser pointer allows you guide your audience through your presentation. AOC does not sell directly to the public, but you can buy the



Belkin retractable cable

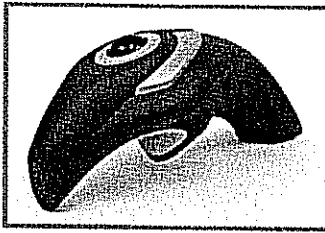
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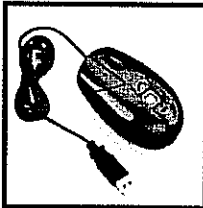


AOC Pointer mouse

product at www.microcenter.com for \$49.

One of the most intriguing mouse innovations is the Fingerprint mouse. The Fellowes Secure Touch Optical Mouse is a standard two-button

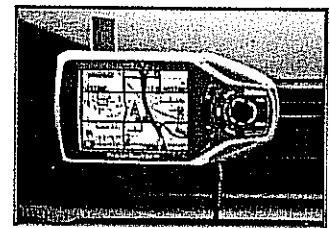
mouse with a small built-in fingerprint-scanning device. The scanner functions as a file lock permitting access to computers and files by authorized individuals only. Fingerprint's authenticator boasts an accuracy rate of just over 99 percent. Further, by coding passwords to your fingerprint, the mouse eliminates the need to remember them. The product retails for \$49 and can be purchased at the Fellowes Web site at www.fellowes.com.



Fellowes Secure Touch Optical Mouse

And finally, while most of the products we describe were under \$200, if you want to splurge, here's one to consider. Hertz Car Rental Company has had a device for years that has helped keep this author loyal to the Hertz company. Hertz includes in many of its cars a device from a manufacturer named Magellan (www.magellangps.com) called NeverLost, which is a great global po-

sitioning system to help drivers navigate their way during trips in unfamiliar cities. No need for a map with one of these devices. Magellan finally has figured out a way to make a unit comparable to the NeverLost that is lightweight and easily portable from one vehicle to the next. The new RoadMate is about the size of a PDA, has a wonderful touch screen, color display, and the same voice prompts as its NeverLost cousin. Plus, all the maps you need are built into the unit so there is no need to download maps. The souped-up version with all the maps built in retails for about \$1,100.



Magellan RoadMate

Greg Siskind is the author of the ABA's book, *The Lawyer's Guide to Marketing on the Internet*, and a partner in the firm of Siskind, Susser, Haas & Devine. **David Jones** is an associate in the firm's Memphis office and its resident technology guru.

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