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Thursday, Nov 20, 2003

Business

Posted on Mon, Nov. 17, 2003

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TECHNOLOGY

Move up to double wide

Company offers two side-by-side, 15-inch flat screens for cheaper but still large LCD monitor

By Craig Crossman
Knight Ridder/Tribune News Service

The CRT is dead. Long live the flat panel display. OK, so you can still buy those clunky tube screens; but LCD screens are better in every way except when it comes to their price tag.

LCDs run cooler, use less energy, take up less desk space and just look better. And the price gap between flat and CRT displays is getting smaller.

The cost of 15- and even 17-inch flat screens have dropped dramatically. But if you want something bigger, say in the 20-inch range, prepare to shell out some big bucks.

But one company has come up with a clever way to beat the high cost of the 20-plus-inch flat screens by using two smaller screens to make one big one.

DoubleSight has just launched the DoubleSight DUAL 15 inch LCD Monitor and it's a lot more than the sum of its parts. This is one great looking monitor. The DS-1500 packs in 1.57 megapixels and uses the company's "Smart Control" technology. This gives you the option of being able to display a single image that spans across both screens, or display two different images at the same time.

With the screen's combined 2048 by 768 resolution, you can stretch a screen such as a spreadsheet across both screens to view the maximum number of cells, or display two different windows at the same time. This is accomplished by either distributing or replicating the signals to both display panels. An on screen menu display offers a range of customizable tools so you can optimize each screen individually, or together as one. Everything can be controlled and accessed via the DoubleSight's control buttons located on the front of the screen.

The DoubleSight is housed in an attractive aluminum case and stand



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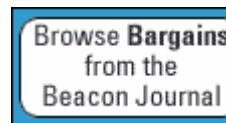


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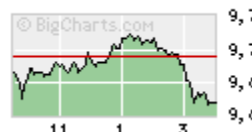
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that allows you to tilt and swivel the screens for optimum view. You can also detach the screen from its stand and mount it directly onto a wall. Connections can be made via one or two VGA ports as well as a DVI port. Two separate computers may also be attached via one VGA cable from each system.

The viewable area of the DoubleSight dual LCD monitor is 24 inches (horizontal) by 9 inches (vertical) with a minimal center bezel that allows for optimal display continuity. The contrast ration is 400:1 making the images bright and sharp. You could easily pay over \$2,000 for a single screen monitor with that kind of size and resolution. But the DS-1500 lists at \$799 making it an affordable alternative.

To keep things color coordinated, a companion wireless keyboard and optical mouse kit are also available. Both sport the same silver and charcoal gray color as the DS-1500. The keyboard and mouse are Windows only. The DS-1500 screen works with either Windows or Macintosh computers.

If you're looking for a bigger display on a shoestring, seeing double may be the way to go.

www.doublesight.com



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