

PC MAGAZINE

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best of the year

After testing more than 1,000 products, we choose the ones that rise to the top

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ow many products did *PC Magazine* review in the past year? As of press time, the number was over 1,300 and growing. Our team of editors, writers, and PC Magazine Labs staff ran the rule over everything from PCs, PDAs, and printers to office software, 3D games, and MP3 players.

Choosing which of those products earned a coveted place in this story was quite an undertaking. After sifting through our list of Editors' Choice recipients and the hundreds of other products that grabbed our attention this year, we humbly submit our picks for the best of the year. Every product in this story received a rating of at least 3.5 out of 5, with many of them garnering a top rating of 5 and an Editors' Choice.

In choosing this year's best, we also had a chance to look back at our picks from last year and reflect upon the rapid growth and change in the technology landscape. Mobile devices, home networking products, and digital cameras are just a few areas that have taken developmental leaps as user adoption increases exponentially. And people are using their PCs to do more, thus driving demand for high-tech peripherals such as all-in-one printers, flatbed scanners, and cool gaming gear.

With so much technology improving worldwide, it's become increasingly difficult to narrow down the list of exceptional products. After weeks of debate among our editors, Labs staff, and reviewers, we whittled down the list to 93 products that represent the cream of the year's tech crop.—*Cade Metz*

BUSINESS SECURITY APPLIANCE

Astaro Security Gateway 220

\$1,995 list. Astaro Corp.,
www.astaro.com.

The Astaro Security Gateway 220 is an impressive hardware solution, with eight 100-Mbps Ethernet ports, a 1.2-GHz Pentium III processor, 512MB of RAM, and a 40GB hard drive. The firmware adds spyware protection to its previous security offerings, and the logging and reporting sections offer querying, searching, sorting, and live views..



▲ Astaro Security Gateway 220



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