

HANA 2.0 Goes Wireless

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LAS VEGAS—While home networking is a standard part of any DSL or cable Internet installation, consumer networking still is a mystery to most people. At CES, the High-Definition Audio-Video Network Alliance (HANA) announced their second-generation spec.

The difference between HANA 1.0 and the new HANA 2.0 spec is the additional content security, according to an Alliance spokeswoman. In addition, wireless capabilities (using the Pulse~LINK wireless protocol) are supported, and alliance members said they were showcasing the technology at CES.

HANA flips the concept of Media Center or any other PC-centric technology on its head by using a single TV and a single remote control, through which content on other devices can be accessed and played back. The typical transport mechanism is the coaxial cable that's commonly used in cable set-top boxes, although IEEE 1394 "FireWire" is also supported by the alliance and be used with a bridge to connect to a set-top box.

However, HANA 2.0 also supports wireless, specifically the Pulse~LINK protocol, which conveniently works with both cable as well as wireless. (Westinghouse and Pulse~LINK showed a wireless HDTV at CES.) "We don't anticipate HANA TVs," Bill Rose, the co-chair of the HANA technical working group, said in a brief phone interview. "There will be a wireless TV adapter outputting [wired] HDMI so consumers don't have to replace a \$2,000 flat-screen TV."

HANA can stream five simultaneous HDTV streams over the home network, and it can also reserve devices for timed recordings, such as a PVR.

The HANA protocol does a little "light compression" using the JPEG2000 compression standard to minimize bandwidth, Rose said.

