

## The Stream Age

Connect your islands in the stream to make your life easier. by Gordon van Zuiden



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The home office might be one of the most serious spots in your home, but there's no reason why it can't have a little fun. By connecting the flat-screen TV to entertainment components in other rooms you can tap into high-def cable programs, DVD movies and more without cluttering the room with a stack of black boxes. Electronics design and installation by Advanced Communication Technologies.

Five years ago, most of our homes had televisions, phones, lights, a heating/cooling system and a couple of computers. And in most homes, none of these items were connected to each other. That was all well and good then, but each of these stand-alone systems today is an island of technology—doing one thing, but also cut off from the benefits of the others.

The fact is that many of these systems can now connect with others via the same Ethernet protocol that connects all of our computers at work. Just as we enjoy file and print services in the office, we can now enjoy music and video services on our home network. Connecting everything in our home—from computers to entertainment systems