Fast Forward Technical Achievement Awards, v. 7.0

PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR:
Shawn Fanning

COMPUTER HARDWARE:
Best new hardware (post May 2000): Home wireless (802.11b) networking
Most promising new technology: Home wireless (802.11b) networking
Honourable mention: AMD's mobile Duron processor; USB 2.0; Digital Wallet (portable storage)
Best multimedia home computer: Hewlett-Packard Pavilion 9880
Honourable mention: Compaq Presario 7000 series
Notebook (over $5,000): IBM ThinkPad
Notebook (under $5,000): Dell Latitude C800
Honourable mention: Dell Inspiron 8000, IBM X20
Subnotebook (all varieties): Sony Vaio Picturebook
Home printer (general purpose): HP Deskjet 990Cse
Honourable mention: Epson Stylus Color 670, Lexmark Optra 132
Home printer (photo printing): Epson Stylus Photo 2000P
Honourable mention: HP Photosmart 1218
Digital camera (under $1,000): Canon S100 Elph
Digital camera (over $1,000): Nikon CoolPix 995
Honourable mention: HP PhotoSmart 912
Multifunction device: HP OfficeJet G95
Sound card: Creative Labs Live! Platinum Video card (digital): ATI All In Wonder Radeon Video card (game): nVidia GeForce 3
Miscellaneous peripheral: D-Link DL-713 wireless transmitter/gateway/router
Honourable mention: ATI TV Wonder; Microsoft Intellimouse Explorer; Audiotron network MP3 player

COMPUTER SOFTWARE:
Best new software: Star Office 5.2
Honourable mention: MS Office XP
Most promising technology: MS Windows XP
Kids education: Digital Field Trip to the Desert, Digital Frog International
Kids entertainment: Disney's The Lion King Activity Centre
Home reference: McClelland & Stewart's The Canadian Encyclopedia
Home productivity: MS Works
Home graphics: JASC PaintShop Pro
Productivity application (graphics/multimedia): Adobe Photoshop
Honourable mention: CorelDRAW 10 suite; Adobe Illustrator; Macromedia Director
Productivity application (office): MS Office XP
Best Freeware: Zone Alarm
Honourable mention: Irfan View image viewer

HALL OF FAME:
Dell Computers

INTERNET:
Best new Internet technology: Zone Alarm software firewall
Honourable mention: GoToMyPc.com
Most promising Internet technology: Instant messaging
Honourable mention: Wireless Internet; Pocket Video Player from PacketVideo Corp.
Best plugin: Flash
Honourable mention: GoZilla download manager; Microsoft Windows Media Player
Best Web editor: Macromedia Dreamweaver 4
Best Web site: The Wall Street Journal
Honourable mention: www.zing.com; www.grocerygateway.com; www.straightgoods.com; NHL.com
Worst Web site: www.my-vasectomy.com
Honourable mention: Any government of Canada site
Best Kids Web site: YTV.com
Honourable mention: www.neopet.com
Best Search engine: Google
Honourable mention: www.askjeeves.com
Best miscellaneous Internet software: Zone Alarm
Honourable mention: EditPlus
Best thing about the Net: Instant messaging
Honourable mention: E-mail
Worst thing about the Net: Threat to privacy and security
Others: Spam; viruses; child porn; sexual predators

AUDIO/VIDEO:
Best new A/V technology: Recordable DVD
Most promising new A/V technology: HDTV
Best audio recording technology: MiniDisc, thanks to its editing capabilities and portability
Best audio Web site: www.soundandvisionmag.com
Honourable mention: Shoutcast

IBM TRANSONTE THINKPAD
Worst new A/V technology: SACD (super-audio compact disc)
Least necessary A/V technology: hard disk video recorders (TiVo and RePlay)
Best camcorder (under $1,000): Sony CCD-TRV87
Best camcorder (over $1,000): Canon XL1
Best Portable Audio player: Creative Labs Nomad Jukebox

TECHNOLOGY OF THE YEAR:
Peer-to-peer networking

Mask (Nintendo)
Best racing: Gran Turismo 3 A-spec (Sony)
Best gadget: Sega Dreamcast Maracas (Sega)
Best video game company (software): Nintendo

ELECTRONIC GAMES (PC GAMES):
Best new technology: GeForce 3 chipset (nVidia)
Most promising tech: Black & White engine (Electronic Arts)
Best action: No One Lives Forever (Fox Interactive)
Best strategy: Black & White (Electronic Arts)
Best Role Playing Game: (tie); Baldur's Gate II: BioWare and Deus Ex (Eidos)
Best sports: NHL 2001 (EA Sports)
Best adventure: The Longest Journey (Funecon)
Best simulation: The Sims (Electronic Arts)
Best puzzle/classic game: Return Of The Incredible Machine: Contraptions (Sierra)
Best racing: NASCAR Racing 4 (Sierra Studios)
Best gadget: Logitech iFeel Mouseman (force feedback mouse)
Best video game company: Electronic Arts

COMMUNICATIONS/MISCELLANEOUS:
Best new technology: RIM BlackBerry handheld pagers
Honourable mention: 802.11b home wireless networks
Most promising technology: USB 2.0
Honourable mention: 2.5G wireless data; unified messaging
Best miscellaneous gadget: RIM BlackBerry model 957 wireless handheld
Honourable mention: Palm M505 colour handheld
Best computer magazine: PC World
Worst new technology (all categories): Software rental
Worst business move: All tech companies (but especially Nortel and Cisco) for not anticipating the dot-com meltdown (Nortel and Cisco)
Other: Failure by the Canadian mobile telcos to build SMS gateways between themselves to capitalize on the European messaging success
Best business move: Telus' acquisition of Cleenet
Most exploitative use of technology: Cookies and other invasive technologies used to track users online habits, store them in vast databases, match them with real people, and sell the profiles to the highest bidder.
Others: HTTML graphic “bugs” in spam that track who reads the unwanted e-mail advertisements; RealNetworks’ use of hidden software code to keep track of users’ listening habits
Biggest scam: Microsoft’s .NET strategy
Biggest time waster: Waiting for Windows to boot up
Others: E-mail discussion groups; any WAP device
Most fun: Napster
Neatest gadget: Tania Breath Alert/Checker
Most improved technology: Microsoft's Pocket PC