

| **NEWPRODUCTS****SCREENING ROOM** by Robert Archer

# Company Ushers In New Age

Unless you live in a vacuum, it's hard not to notice the rapid proliferation of computer-based entertainment devices hitting the electronics market. Until recently, despite all the publicity these products have gotten, it's been pretty easy to dismiss the category because the products generally didn't deliver what they promised.

Based on my experience with the **Inteset Denzel** it's no longer possible to ignore the category because products like this have quickly made up the performance and reliability gaps that existed between consumer electronics and computer gear.



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**Technologies & Design**

The Denzel is a one-box solution that incorporates just about everything a homeowner will need for a complete entertainment solution. Some of its features include two terabyte (2TB) RAID supported storage capabilities, HDTV tuner, SDTV tuner, FM tuner, Web browser, DVD/CD player and burner, DVR functionality, photo, video, music storage, 7.1 surround-sound decoding, and compatibility with control systems from companies like AMX and Crestron. The Denzel employs Microsoft's Windows Media Center OS, and it

can integrate into a home network to share digital files.

**Installation**

One of the interesting selling points of the Denzel is its ability to replace multiple components. In my system, I removed my DVD player, CD player and pre/pro from my system and replaced them with the Denzel.

Using proprietary cables from Inteset I connected the unit to my Bryston 9B-ST amplifier, and with the help of Jeff Lloyd, CEO of Inteset, we quickly set up the rest of the peripherals, which included a keyboard and my cable set-top box (STB), and the rest of the A/V cables to complete that portion of the installation. The physical connections were pretty straight ahead, and to prove how easy it was to set up Lloyd referred me to the



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owner's manual for instructions.

With all the connections made the next step was to configure the Denzel through its setup wizard called the "Launch Pad." The wizard allows an installer to configure audio specifications such as speaker distances, sizes, video specifications for video output resolutions and integration into a home network. In total with dealer training it should take a matter of a few hours to set up and configure a Denzel. The time variance basically depends on the home network and the complexity of the system.

### Performance

I don't consider myself a computer guy and I feel more comfortable on my Apple Powerbook than on a PC.

With that said, I found the Microsoft-based Denzel easy to use and reliable. During the course of my time with it I was able to transfer family photos and movies to the unit, as well as music files without any problems.

I was able to effortlessly save favorite radio stations and record television programs by the touch of a button. In addition, the Denzel handled everyday tasks such as CD and DVD playback in Dolby Digital 5.1 without any hiccups.

My only real complaint with the product is that despite the fact that it has an over-the-air HD tuner, it down scales HD content to 480p levels if the feed is from a STB. Lloyd says that future versions will handle HD from

STBs, but I had to get used to watching down scaled HD feeds.

### Final Thoughts

Overall I was really impressed with the Denzel. It's simple to use. It's reliable. And when combined with Inteset's companion Vana piece it is a true home entertainment solution. It's also worth noting that if a user wants to add DVD ripping capabilities through a software upgrade the Denzel can handle that too.

Its ability to display family movies and photos was handy and they looked awesome on my TV. And its playback of music and movies was good.

Dealers examining the Denzel should recognize, however, that comparing the Denzel's sound to a system from a high-performance audio company is like comparing apples and oranges. Remember these A/V brands are the best at providing pure performance, but they don't offer the multitude of entertainment and storage options of the Denzel.

Nonetheless, the Denzel is a product that dealers can present to their clients to deliver a plethora of entertainment options, including multiroom capabilities, a simple interface and above all reliability.

It shouldn't take a ton of intensive training for dealers to learn how to install this cutting-edge product.—*Robert Archer*

**MSRP is \$6,595,  
[www.inteset.com](http://www.inteset.com)**



**Inteset, LLC**  
**51 Mill St, Bldg E, Suite 21**  
**Hanover, MA 02339**  
**781.826.1560**  
**[www.inteset.com](http://www.inteset.com)**