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It is time to upgrade and make things better with your computer system. But why stick with the same old stuff when you can have something that works great, looks great, is fun to use, and really makes life better. So, these are the products you should look at. Think of it as a late holiday present to yourself and check back after the CES show to see if something new pops up.

Skype is the latest way to connect with friends and family all over the world for next to nothing. To make that connection easier, you need a video camera and microphone and the [Blue Microphones](#) Eyeball 2.0 Web cam is what you need. Decent video but the sound you get with the microphone makes all the world difference when talking to someone. About \$65.



For safely moving files between computers, an external drive is what you need and the best way to do that and have something really secure is the [Inwin Development](#) Ammo Hard Drive enclosure. Get your own Sata 2 1/2 inch drive, install, and then turn on the encryption security and you are forever secure. About \$39.



It is time to give up on the dull computer cases and get something that is you and actually looks good sitting there on your desk. Inwin Development again comes through with the Diva. About \$94.

Here are two more cases for you to think about, one left is the Matrix from Inwin again and the second is brand new case from [Fractal Design Products](#), new to the USA.



Some of the best software out there is not for Windows so if you need a Linux operating system to run it on, you can't beat [Ubuntu](#). Easy to install, open source and free, easy to upgrade, and a ton of software available.



Want a free Anti Virus program that is the top rated one and actually works and is not intrusive on your computer or a storage and memory hog? Would you believe it is [Microsoft Security Essentials](#) !



Power Protection for your wide screen television is a must and the best way to do that is with [Monster Cable's](#) Powercenter 3 outlet surge protector. This plugs into a double wall outlet and gives you protection for the television, cablebox, and the cable coming in. About \$50.



Keeping the computer cool and quiet is something that [Coolit Systems](#) does very well. the ECO Advanced Liquid Cooling system is low profile and designed to keep systems running much cooler. Great for overclockers and those who need cool and quiet systems. About \$75.

Keeping all those electronics charged is a real pain and I have tried some of the power charging pads and still don't really like them. So what I use is this, the [Kensington](#) K39254US Auto/AC Adapter to charge my cell phone, my PDA, and most Smartphones. Simple and easy to use. About \$29.



For keeping those lenses, digital cameras, Smartphones, and PDAs clean, you must have a [Lenspen](#). No other way around it. I have carried these for years and won't travel without them. The basic Pen is just \$15 and is well worth having a couple of extras.



So, look for something fun and useful under your own tree this year. Happy Holiday.

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