

Stan Pattison

Seeing as I can hardly see (registered blind) I think the digital revolution in the form of my talking computer (Windows 98SE + Window Eyes v4.5) is just *amazing*. I'm able to read The Sunday Times, or any other newspaper from anywhere round the world at the press of a key - NOT the CLICK of a MOUSE in this house! New technology enables me to know what is going on in the world, keep in touch with far flung friends and family, do my own shopping - pretty well all the things anyone else can do on a computer.

On the downside I went to buy a new digital cordless phone last Saturday, but there isn't one that allows me to redial or access a number stored in the memory. All require me to read the LCD screen, as do nearly all mobile phones. I'm looking to replace the Hi Fi - find me one with buttons that click and stay clicked, or a TV that I can tune in, or a microwave that I can the list goes on. I fancy an iPod; ideal for music and talking books, but can I find the track I want? NO
The technology exists for all these menus to be spoken, so why aren't they? And whatever happened to buttons that stayed pressed?