

New Device Grabs Songs from FM Radio

January 6, 2006, 8:34 PM by Ed Oswald



Washington-based Time Trax Technologies announced Friday that it was launching a new product called the TraxCatcher, which is sure to make the folks at the RIAA upset.

The TraxCatcher is a MP3 player that sits on top of a FM radio dock. From there, it will tune into your favorite FM radio station and record songs from the radio into "near perfectly cut" high-

quality MP3 files.

The first model to be announced is the TraxCatcher Classic, retailing for \$159.99 USD and providing basic functionality.

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According to the company, future higher-end models would include HD radio support, digital inputs and outputs, USB connectivity, versatile MP3 docking capabilities, clock-radio functionality and satellite radio receiver integration.

Those models are expected to range from \$99.99 to \$499.99 USD, Time Trax said.

In response to questions of legality, the company claims its product is legal due to the Fair Use laws in the United States. In what could be viewed as an effort to prevent piracy, the device will embed product serial numbers within that file to track copies that make it onto P2P networks. Time Trax also says it isn't interested in fighting with the record industry, but would rather work together in the future.

"We want input as we shape our future. We aren't interested in being a rogue trailblazer," CEO Elliott Frutkin says. "Time Trax wants to be a welcome partner to the recording industry."

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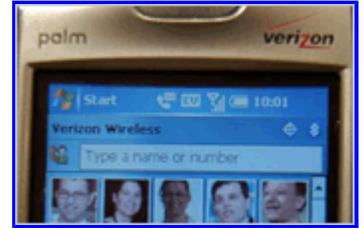
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Microsoft CES Party

To promote its new URGE music service, MTV Networks joined Microsoft in a Thursday evening celebration at PURE in Caesar's Palace with The Killers.



Photos: Digital Experience

Pepcom's annual Digital Experience event at CES followed the Bill Gates keynote and gave the press a look at the tech being showcased at the show.



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