

NEWS WATCH: SCANNERS

Keeping Track of Business Cards, Simplified: A Scanner to Digitize Them

By Michel Marriott

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Even in these digital days, the old-fashioned business card remains an efficient means of exchanging contact information. It is portable, cheap and never needs batteries.

But cataloging the information printed on the card -- not to mention ensuring that it is accessible when you need it -- is another story.

One answer is the electronic card scanner. You can think of the \$250 CardScan Executive from Corex Technologies as a tool for making business cards more useful.

The palm-size CardScan scanner connects to a personal computer via a U.S.B. cable (the connection also provides power to the unit). It can scan both sides of a standard color business card in three to four seconds. A black and white card takes even less time -- about two seconds.

Using proprietary optical-character-recognition software, the CardScan Executive can store a faithful image of the card, extract its data and place it in a searchable databank.

The CardScan information can be synchronized with other devices, like Pocket PC and Palm organizers, BlackBerrys and systems using Outlook and ACT.

The CardScan Executive is available in office supply stores, including Office Depot and Staples, as well as at computer retailers and directly from www.corex.com.

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