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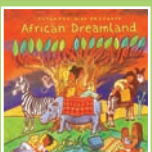
TIVOLI AUDIO® NETWORKS™ GLOBAL RADIO

Listen

From the day the company was founded, by Tom De Vesto, Tivoli Audio has brought products to market that were innovative, elegant, and delivered performances that belied their size.

to the world

Whilst some of these products may have looked retro in design, internally they used leading edge technology.

From the day the company was founded by Tom DeVesto, Tivoli Audio has brought products to market like the Model One for example, with its old world design charm, real wood veneers and solid cabinet, continuously proves to be one of the best looking and sounding radios in the market place.

As good as the Model One is, the number of radio stations you can listen to is limited to the amount of broadcasters in its reception area.

Knowing that connected consumers around the world want and often expect more from less, Tivoli Audio CEO Tom DeVesto and his team of engineers began with a few simple questions when looking at adding another product to the Tivoli Audio range.

They asked, "Suppose we could make a radio that does anything we want. What would that be? What would it look like? How would it work?"

First on their wish list was a radio that gets reception from any radio station, anywhere, anytime. People in cities often don't get good reception. And what if the radio station you want to listen to isn't nearby?

Secondly, Tivoli Audio wanted a radio that could play music, anywhere in the home, that's stored on PCs as digital files without having to wire the whole house.

Their answer is the new Tivoli Audio NetWorks radio, that apart from taking advantage of broadcasting over the Internet, features Tivoli Audio-quality, can be expanded with a stereo speaker, a CD player and subwoofer may be added, the radio offers digital connectivity, and builds upon the company's reputation as a design leader by offering a choice of furniture-quality hardwood cabinets.

Few would argue that the NetWorks radio looks elegantly simple, yet in the Tivoli Audio tradition, beneath its classy exterior is a technologically-advanced heart that points to the future of home audio entertainment. But what is the future of home entertainment?

Tivoli Audio believes that this future is the ability to listen to streamed audio, be it from an Internet radio station, music stored on a home PC or network, an MP3 player or even from a USB flash drive. What's more, all of this should be achievable without IT knowledge, it should be easy and intuitive to use, and a PC shouldn't necessarily be a requirement.

For me, an obvious question was why place

so much emphasis on the radio's network abilities?

The answer to this is question is simple.

What if you're – to borrow from a Sting song – an Englishman in New York, who misses listening to your favourite BBC talk show? If they stream the station on the World Wide Web, you'll be able to listen to it.

search methods, from "location" to "genre" to "station identity", and one can store favourite stations either on one of the five "preselect" buttons or under a "favourites" setting.

During my short time with the radio, I listened to radio stations from Canada, Australia, and the UK, all countries where I have family. What's more, finding these

Internet radio station dropouts. While it does take just a little longer before you start to hear audio when using this feature, during the time I used the NetWorks Radio, I never experienced any drop-out of audio.

Now despite the fact that Tivoli say that you don't need a computer to use the NetWorks Radio (and you don't if you can wirelessly connect in a free wireless hotspot), you will need one if you're going to use some of its other features.

One I used was the radio's ability to stream music stored on my computer at the AVSA office. Using an Ethernet connection or the Wi-Fi network already set up in your home or office, NetWorks gives you an instant home or office network.

WHAT BETTER WAY COULD YOU THINK OF LISTENING TO MUSIC FROM CHINA, DEBATE FROM SAMOA OR THE LATEST NEWS BEING BROADCAST IN THE U.S. OF A?

Your choice of stations to listen to extends from the handful broadcasting in your locale, to the hundreds of thousands of stations streaming on the web.

What better way could you think of listening to music from China, debate from Samoa or the latest news being broadcast in the U.S. of A?

The NetWorks Radio is probably the best way of expanding your music listening horizons, and this is made easier by the radio's search function, which has numerous

stations was as easy as following a few prompts on the NetWorks Radio's clear display.

As there is an option to listen to Pod casts I could have listened to any of these, from around the world, too.

A feature that is pretty important to bandwidth-starved South Africans was SuperBuffer, developed exclusively by Tivoli Audio. This extends the standard buffer time you would normally have when listening to streamed audio, and virtually eliminates

To do this, all I had to do was turn the unit on, wait for it to detect the office network, enter the password, and ensure that my PC was set to share files. As this had been done to ensure I could listen to streaming audio, I was soon wirelessly listening to all the music on my PC and this function is another reason that Tivoli state that the NetWorks Radio is the future of home entertainment.

As long as you have a wired or wireless network in your home or office, you will be able to listen to MP3, WMA, and Real

Audio-encoded music anywhere you have a Networks Radio.

I've already mentioned that we are bandwidth starved here in SA, and while things are getting a whole lot better, there are times such as when listening to local radio stations that you can save bandwidth by using the radio's built in FM tuner rather than listening to the same station over the Internet.

In Tivoli Audio style, the built-in tuner easily tuned into all the local stations I usually listen to, and these all sounded pretty good.

On the subject of sound, the NetWorks radio employed a full-range 3.5-inch magnetically shielded driver, which delivered crisp, clean audio, and a second wired speaker was supplied so that I could listen in stereo too. For those that like to contour their audio, there is an adjustable Equaliser too.

More IT types may want to know about software updates, and these are automatic. As soon as one is available, the radio asks if you want to download it. If you say 'yes', it does so without fuss. There is even a NetWorks global portal where you can find a wealth of information on the radio and what people feel are their favourite stations. One is also able to instantly add new stations to your favourites list and to update the database of over 22,000 stations already listed on the NetWorks.

Before I close, I do want to mention a feature that signalled to me just how much thought went into the design of the radio. While the radio's designed to be used with its supplied remote, there is a complete set of controls located at the rear of the radio. This means that if you're as good at losing remotes as I am, or if the batteries go flat, you will always be able to use all the features of the radio.

Overall I certainly enjoyed using the NetWorks Radio and its ability to take me around the world.

Yes, bandwidth in SA is still an issue, but the radio's overall competency and ease of use meant that even when I was concerned about bandwidth, I could still enjoy its other streaming audio abilities.

The Tivoli Audio NetWorks Global Radio comes in Walnut, Cherry, and Wenge furniture-grade wood finishes with gold-toned faceplates.

Joel Kopping

VITAL STATS

Analogue Tuner .... FM with preselects
Inputs .... Ethernet, USB, Aux, mixing.
WiFi .... Yes
Outputs .... Second speaker, subwoofer, and stereo headphone, record.
Clock/alarm .... Dual alarms
Remote control .... Yes

PRICE .... +/-R7 500

VERDICT .... Tivoli Audio's NetWorks™ radio sounds good, looks good and can expand your listening horizons to new heights.
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