



# Synaptics

## Insight

### Video Streaming

There are a number of main stream contenders in this industry.

- RealNetworks with Real player and Helix servers

- Microsoft with Windows Media Player and Windows Media Server

- Apple with Quick Time and Darwin

This issue will give you some help and advice for utilising Reals software.

The Free player can be downloaded from RealNetworks \*

For the user to experience a smooth and unbroken video stream it is advisable to proxy the content. As RealNetworks higher quality streaming video uses the RTSP protocol over UDP or TCP which will not cache on a normal HTTP server. (Although Real can stream in HTTP you get a much better stream with UDP/TCP).

This is where the Helix Proxy server comes into play. It is relatively easy to install and even works well on a virtual system such as VMware. This provides a significant improvement in quality, once a stream has been played locally.

A trial version can be downloaded from Realnetworks \*

It is important to note, video streams do not like Network address translation (NAT). If you're having problems streaming UDP there are issues with either NAT or your firewall settings. RTSP requires both inbound and bound out ports open on UDP/TCP (554,770,6670-6999).

### QoS on your DSL Line

A number of businesses increasingly need to ensure that their internet connection is available 24x7.

To ensure good QoS you can use a number of DSL lines to create a virtual circuit. This service has to be supported by your service provider.

If your supplier does not support virtual circuits, you can use a DSL load balance system. (This is usually a hardware device which can Round Robin your connection between a number of available DSL lines). On one of the connections losing connectivity, the device will automatically switch the users to another live DSL line. This has the disadvantage, that should a connection be lost during a download of a large file, then the download will have to be reset.

The virtual circuit system does not suffer from the same issue and the connection would remain operative. For the smaller SME there are a number of open source solutions available such as Balance, a small Round Robin proxy system.

[www.synaptics.biz](http://www.synaptics.biz)

## News

### Skype 2.0 Launch

The long awaited up date to your favourite voice over IP system has been released. Skype 2 offers improved voice data integrity and the addition of video. It also boasts a new way to group contacts and better integration for web sites utilising Skype.



### BBC launch New video News Archive

The BBC have finally got some forward motion on licensing issues and have made available to the public domain 80 pivotal News stories of the last 50 years.

### Free Version of VMware

If you have ever fancied trying some of the best virtualisation software out.

VMware have just released VMware player, this version restricts you to standard installations of operating systems but allows full beta software testing of applications.

### Watch out for .eu fraud

The body which will control the .eu registration, EURid warn agianst business fraud. You can only pre-register the name before the official launch on the 7th of April 2006 if you are a public bodies or trademark holder.

Our advice if you do not fall into these catagories WAIT!

## Synaptics Newsletter

### Introduction

Synaptics offers IT services and consultancy to Business and Education.

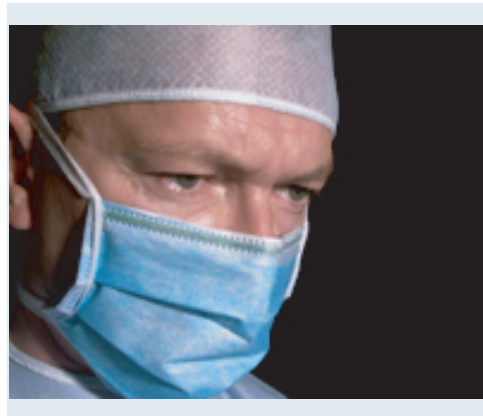
Our whole ethos is based around the successful low cost airlines of America's mid west.

Its aim is to always provide you with the best solution currently available on the market, regardless of supplier. We are fiercely independent, and as such, guarantee that our advice is completely independent.

The newsletter will provide you with the latest IT innovation and technological advances on a bi-monthly basis.

To get more information and see web links to information please see our website

## Special Offers



### Business Health check

Small Medium Enterprise -

~~£159.99~~ £129.99

Small Business Check -

~~£99.99~~ £79.99

The above offers are available for the months of February/March. Special rates for education establishments are also available.

For full Details of what is included in the health checks please see our website...

## Next Issue

### Windows Media Server

A run down of the server and its associated products

### Latest News

### Voice Over IP options

What options are available? and what does it cost?

\* Please note full URL Paths can be found in our News section of our website