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ProductNotes

Total Search™ by LexisNexis®

LexisNexis "TOTAL SEARCH"™! integrates research at Lexis.com with searches against the law firm's own internal work product, using a highly scalable and state-of-the-art search engine. The unique part of the product is the application of an intelligent referencing engine that automatically identifies a firm's own work product.

All of this resides, in the physical sense, upon the law firm's premises and behind its own firewall. At the core of Total Search is the IDR (Internal Document Repository) Server. The server performs the search and retrieval at the same level as the LexisNexis premier search engines with the IDR performing the intelligent referencing of a firm's internal documents in parallel with the IDR server and the lexis.com web interface.

The Total Search concept works essentially in the same manner as the familiar Lexis.com website. But the big difference is that a user can search his or her firm's internal work product at the same time as making a Lexis search. The navigation is essentially the same as working on the website, with a firm's own tab included within the site.

Total Search is designed to simultaneously and securely search the LexisNexis databases and the firm's internal work product, which was created with the DMS within a single search—using the popular Lexis.com environment and the same search syntax. When the user searches Lexis for a single point of law, or legal issue, instantaneously the firm's database is also searched. As the search is run, in the chosen LexisNexis database, seamlessly, without the user ever having to consciously initiate another search, it is also run against the firm's internal database repository. Now that saves time and effort, while doing a full and complete job! I highly recommend that you take a good look at LexisNexis Total Search. **Reviewed by Tony Vittal**

Mercury On-the-Go Hard Drive

Other World Computing makes a number of models of small-form large capacity storage devices. Their Mercury On-the-Go (OTG) external hard drives present an attractive, well-made, reliable, and reasonably priced storage option for laptop and desktop users alike. Other World Computing offers the OTG in a FireWire (400) and in a combination FireWire (400)/ USB 2.0/1/1) version. The Firewire/USB combination drives cost only a few dollars more than the FireWire only drives. The additional flexibility offered by the USB connectivity make the extra few dollars for the combination drives a good investment.

The OTG drives come in 20GB, 40GB, 60GB, and 80GB sizes. Current pricing ranges from \$169.99 for a 20GB drive to \$369.97 for a high-speed (7200 RPM) 60GB drive. The slower (4200 RPM) 80GB drive lists for \$349.99. The 80GB drive weighs only 11 ounces and measures 3" x 5.5" x 1". Other drives in the line have comparable sizes and weights.

The 2.5" hard disks come attractively packaged in a translucent plastic housing and include the drive, a case, and required cabling for connection. The drives also come with utility software and drivers for Mac OS 8.6 and 9.2 as well as for Windows 98 and 2000. You do not need any additional driver for Mac OS X or Windows XP installations.



The OTG drives are reliable and fast enough to use for backup as well as normal data storage purposes. They look good enough to leave on your desk, but have a package with a small enough size and weight to make it easy to take the drive with you when you leave the office. **Reviewed by Jeffrey Allen**

Belkin High Speed Wireless Cable/DSL Gateway Router and Wireless Notebook Network Card

Belkin's 54g Wireless Cable/DSL Gateway Router allows you to set up a network in your office or your house without using network cables. It uses the new 802.11g technology that provides speeds nominally five times faster than the standard WiFi 802.11b devices. The integrated 4-port 10/100 Base-T Ethernet switch allows you to connect wired computers to the network as well. The Gateway Router provides connectivity up to 1,800 feet, using the 2.4GHz band. The Gateway Router works well in mixed environments. The 802.11g equipment is backward compatible with equipment operating on the 802.11b standard. The router also has a Turbo Mode that allows isolation of the network from the 802.11b clients to facilitate data transmittal at the higher 802.11g rate. The Gateway Router lists for \$189.99.



The Gateway Router sets up easily enough using the automatic install program that comes with the hardware. The Easy-Install Wizard automatically detects any existing Internet connection and adjusts the Gateway Router to the appropriate settings to get you online quickly and with little effort. The Router ensures network and data security with wireless 64 and 128 bit WEP encryption and employs NAT and SPI firewall technologies to protect the network from hackers.

The Gateway Router works with Macintosh as well as PC computers and also supports computers running on the Linux or the Unix operating systems.

Belkin's 802.11g Wireless Notebook Network Card works as a companion piece to the Gateway Router. It also serves as a standalone wireless network card for your laptop that will interface with other equipment using the 802.11g technology or 802.11b technology. The card is "plug-and-play" in any laptop with a standard 32-bit CardBus slot. It slides into the slot and enables the laptop to connect wirelessly to the network over a range of 1,800 feet. The Network card lists for \$99.99 and is compatible with Windows 98 SE, 2000, and XP. The Network Card draws its operating power from the laptop computer's battery. By using a special low-power consumption chipset, Belkin has tried to limit the drain on the laptop battery to keep it running longer.



The Wireless Network Card and Gateway Router have lifetime warranties and come with Belkin's free, 24-hour technical support. **Reviewed by Jeffrey Allen**

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