

Displays 3-D image – without the glasses

Monitor wizard

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Remember those old monochrome computer monitors that used to show only green type on a black background?

You may soon be thinking about your monitor with the same feeling of nostalgia.

Canada's first SeeReal Cn 3D computer monitor — the first screen of its kind to allow users to view three-dimensional images without special glasses — arrived in Winnipeg two weeks ago and it's been turning heads ever since.

"We haven't been really excited about something in the computer industry in a long time. I was saying a few years ago that the next big thing would be 3-D," said Stewart Hayek, a partner at Forest Computers, the Henderson Highway computer shop that is the

only Canadian company authorized to sell the new monitors.

"When we ordered it we thought 'How good could it be?' but when we saw it we were blown away."

'Sweet spot'

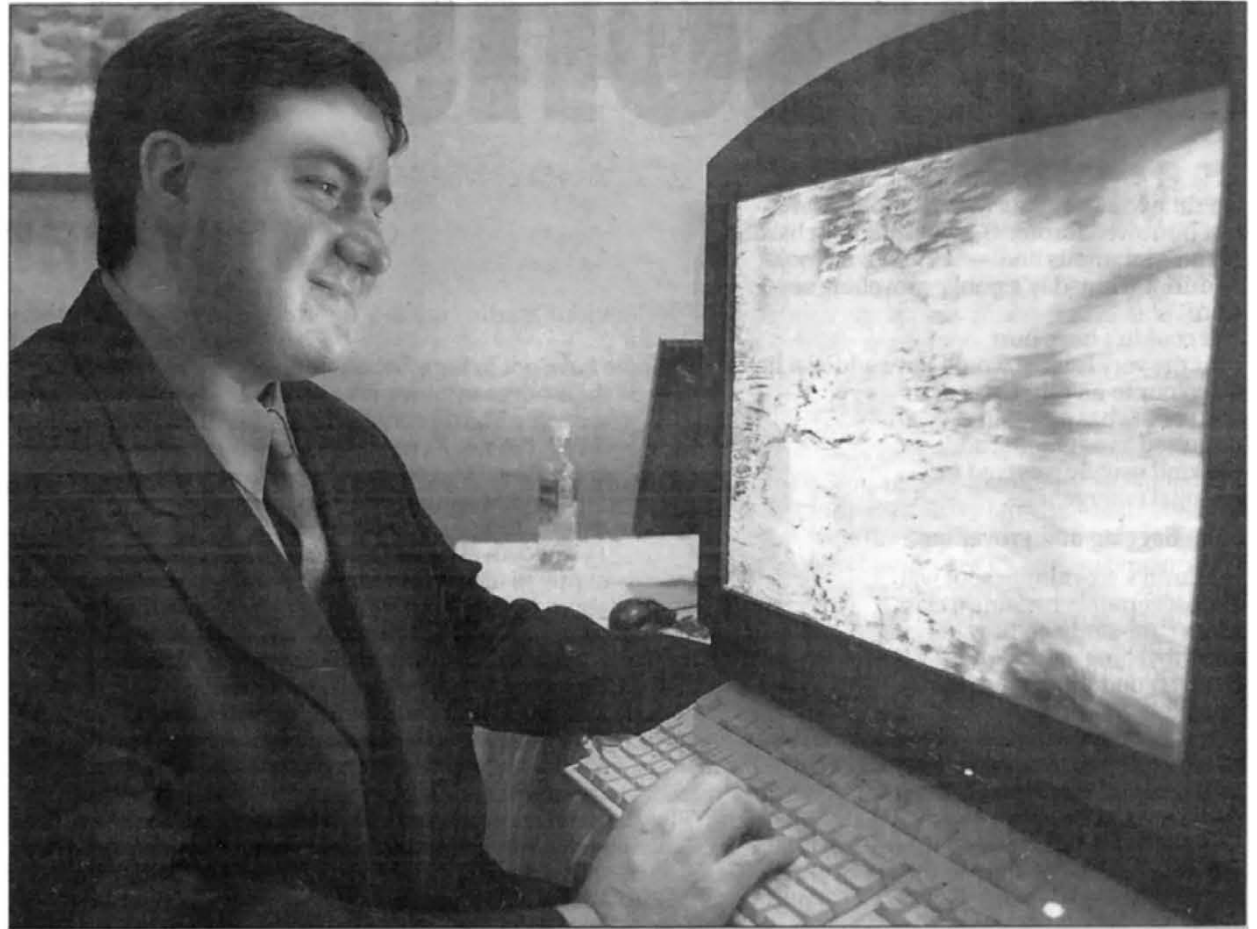
The monitor, which retails for \$5,700, splits the computer image into separate parts, so each of your eyes sees a different thing, thus creating a 3-D effect, said Paul Profeta, Hayek's partner.

Although the LCD screen is flat, its prismatic design causes both images and videos to jump out of the screen.

It's the first monitor to allow users to see 3-D images without wearing glasses or having their head movements tracked, said Profeta. All you have to do is sit in a "sweet spot" of about 250 square centimetres in front of the screen.

"When we saw it we were blown away."

— Stewart Hayek of Cn 3D technology



Paul Profeta, partner in Forest Computers, works on a 3-D image on a SeeReal Cn 3D display monitor.

BRIAN DONOGH Sun

Possible applications include viewing 3-D medical images or architectural drawings, watching 3-D movies, or playing 3-D video games, among other things.

The monitor was invented by the German company SeeReal Technologies and has only been on the market in Europe for a few months. There is only one in the

U.S., and Forest now has the only one in Canada, said Profeta.

"To give you an idea how new it is, the serial number on this one is 60," said Hayek.

Gilbert Detillieux, a systems analyst with the U of M's computer science department, said although this is the first monitor to work in this particular way,

Toshiba and Sharp have different kinds of 3-D products on the market.

Forest has brought in only one for now but will order them in for anyone who wants to buy one, including possibly Universite Laval, which has already expressed an interest in getting two, said Profeta.