

Citizen Lebedev?

The 'London Evening Standard's' new owner insists that he is not interested in making money. So how, exactly, did the former KGB agent become a billionaire newspaper proprietor?

BY STEVE BUSFIELD
THE GUARDIAN, LONDON

RESUME:
Age: 49
Education: Moscow State Institute of International Relations
Career:
1980: Recruited into the KGB
1988: Economic attache at the Soviet embassy in London, rising to lieutenant colonel
1990s: Set up the Russian Investment Finance Company
1995: Chairman of the state Duma
2003: Elected to state Duma
2006: Part-owner of Novaya Gazeta
2009: Owner of the London Evening Standard

Russian tycoon Alexander Lebedev bought a controlling 75.1-percent stake in the venerable but money-losing Evening Standard newspaper for a "nominal sum," widely reported to be US\$1.43.

PHOTOS: AP AND AFP



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[TECHNOLOGY REVIEWS]

By squeezing two cameras, a music player and a hand-held game system into one device, the third-generation Nintendo DSi is aiming for a spot in your pocket next to your smartphone. It will be in stores in the US and available online at Amazon.com on April 5 for US\$170.

The first thing you will notice are the two 0.3-megapixel cameras, one facing away from you and one for self-portraits. These new electronic eyes can be used to enable a new generation of video-conferencing features, or they can be used to capture images and beam them to a friend's DSi.



The third-generation Nintendo DSi.
PHOTO: NY TIMES NEWS SERVICE

Some changes are subtle, but overdue. You can swap games or play music when the lid is closed, and an audio mixer lets you mash up sounds for a new ring tone. The speakers are louder, the screens brighter and the case made thinner by shedding the Game Boy Advance port. Don't worry, all 850 DS cartridges still work. And don't overlook the SD card slot, a new digital bridge for storing downloaded games. If you want to call your mother for a ride, though, you're out of luck.

POINT-AND-SHOOT AND BELLS AND WHISTLES

Canon's SX1 IS, announced for sale in the US last week and set to ship in April, is a bit of a trendsetter. The 10-megapixel compact uses a complementary metal oxide semiconductor, or CMOS, sensor, which is the kind found in higher-performance digital single-lens reflex cameras.

Other point-and-shoots use older charged coupled device, or CCD, sensors. The SX1 IS also employs its CMOS sensor to shoot HD video.

Though relatively small at 3.5 inches by 3.5 by 5 inches and 620g, there are quite a few tricks inside the SX1 IS. The self-timer starts when a new face is added to a group, and exposure and



Canon's SX1 IS.
PHOTO: NY TIMES NEWS SERVICE

color balance can be keyed to faces. In addition to standard JPEG images, uncompressed RAW images can be shot simultaneously, so you can have a larger file to tweak for higher-quality final results.

The RAW format availability — along with HD video, a hot shoe for external flash units that uses street-available AA batteries — could make the SX1 IS, at US\$599, a good traveling companion for a more-than-casual photographer.

DATA BACKUP? A DISK DRIVE OFFERS MORE THAN ENOUGH

As disk drives get larger and larger, you would expect them to be harder to use.



The Western Digital MyBook World Edition.
PHOTO: NY TIMES NEWS SERVICE

Not so with the Western Digital MyBook World Edition. This huge drive — it can hold up to 2 terabytes of data — simply sits on your home network and backs up all of your computers continuously with no muss or fuss.

The drive has a built-in Ethernet

port, and Windows and Mac computers can immediately start backing up to the drives without intervention. The drive also supports Digital Living Network Alliance networking and can connect to game consoles like the PlayStation 3 and Xbox 360 to stream music, movies and photos. You can also access your files over the Internet using a password-protected account.

The drive costs US\$229 for the 1-terabyte model and US\$450 for the 2-terabyte model. You can also expand your storage by connecting another USB hard drive to MyBook. An illuminated capacity gauge on the front of the drive tells you when you're running low on space. Both are available now online and in retail stores.

Considering that a few years ago drive capacity used to be measured in megabytes, less than US\$500 for 2 terabytes of no-brainer backup space seems like a space age miracle.

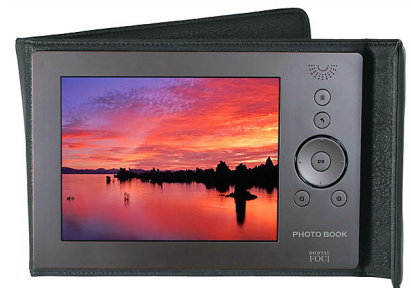
PICTURES OF THE KIDS? HERE'S A SLIDESHOW

Digital photo frames are great if you're sitting in the den, but what if you want to show pictures of your loved ones on the bus or at a restaurant? Digital Foci's Photo Book lets you show images in 800-pixel-by-600-pixel resolution in a package

about as big as a paperback book.

The Photo Book displays RAW and JPEG images and has 4 gigabytes of internal storage as well as support for SD, Memory Stick and xD flash memory cards. You can also drag images via USB from your computer or copy data from memory cards to the book's on-board memory for backing up images on the go.

The device can play MPEG videos and has a built-in speaker for viewing slideshows with music. It lasts two and a half hours on one charge, and it will cost US\$189 when it is available in May. With enough storage to keep thousands of pictures in your bag or purse, the Digital Foci Photo Book makes it easy to share your favorite photos with anyone, including complete strangers.



Digital Foci's Photo Book.
PHOTO: NY TIMES NEWS SERVICE