

InformationWeek

**Wrap-Up: Demo Conference's Gee-Whiz Tech Included Plenty For Businesses
Wireless stole the show, and the consumer-tech influence was everywhere.**

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Pigs flew last week at the Demo 07 conference, a showcase for new software and gadgets. Bluetooth-enabled pigs, no less. The plastic pigs' wings were triggered by a wireless device, using new interoperability software from DartDevices designed to let devices with different operating systems--say, the Hewlett-Packard iPaq Phone and a Mac--communicate, interoperate, and synchronize. The trick is a virtualization layer, the DartPlayer, that obviates the need for specific drivers. Mobile devices and software were the highlight of the conference, which straddles consumer gadgetry and hard-core business software--though that line's increasingly hard to draw, as the show proved. The shower of products can give IT managers ideas for new tools to offer--or warnings about what employees might start bringing to work. Many new products were like the one from Inilex: The GPS-based car anti-theft system feels significant, but there's no telling whether this company will succeed with it, though something like it will. Inilex's Kepler Advantage is a hardware-based system--allegedly a 20-minute install--that reports car location information to the user's mobile phone or PC. The potential killer app: teen tracking, so protective parents receive a text message when their progeny stray to the wrong side of the tracks.