

WIN a Sony Ericsson C510 Cyber-shot phone!



PC WORLD.ca
Sony Ericsson

FREE PCWORLD.CA NEWSLETTER
News, reviews, how-to documents and downloads

TECHNOLOGY ADVICE YOU CAN TRUST

PCWORLD.ca

Search

RSS Feeds



Newsletters



Mobile

About | Contact Us | Site Map

News Reviews Features How To Comparisons Business Centre Game Zone Blogs Forums Contests Downloads Videos Shop Advertise

- Most Popular Features
- Desktops
- Notebooks
- Software
- Cameras
- Printers
- Cell Phones
- Video Games
- Security
- The Web
- Slideshows

FREE PCWORLD.CA NEWSLETTER
News, reviews, how-to documents and downloads

Today's Poll

No Polls Available

::: Consumer Electronics ::: Gaming

eBay's Retro Gaming Revival

eBay Canada recently hosted a one-day retro gaming event in their downtown Toronto offices. Picking up on the latest trend where gamers are buying up the consoles and games they grew up with, eBay bought a sampling of the most popular items on online auctions and set them up to be played.

"We though we would tap into something a little bit fun and kitschy," explains Marc Saltzman, eBay's tech expert, "out of the 200,000 gaming items available at eBay Canada, 6,000 of those are retro gaming items.

Converting their boardroom into a vintage gaming arcade, eBay Canada gave visitors a chance to relive gaming life in the 70s, 80s and 90s with all the games and gear they acquired. Aside from consoles and dozens of game titles, the boardroom had **a variety of game specific controllers** like joysticks and guns.

Atari 2600, Nintendo NES, Sega Genesis, ColecoVision and Intellivision are just some of the names that brought video games from the arcade to the home.

This was a time before personal computers were popular and the only options for **game enthusiasts** were smoky arcades or home consoles which used game cartridges to replicate the arcade experience.

Saltzman tells us that a lot of the games are in excellent and playable condition and some were great online deals bundling the console and multiple games.

Many of the games were in mint condition and came in their original packaging which featured great art that was reminiscent of the time.

He says that vintage consoles make great presents for people who grew up with these games and systems.

"When I was 13 years old, I got a ColecoVision and it was just magical. ColecoVision had Donkey Kong and it was the precursor to the NES and the Sega," Saltzman recalls, "for me, **ColecoVision** is near and dear to my heart."

It is interesting to see how much these systems are going for on eBay Canada. A working handheld Coleco Head to Head football game from 1980, one of the more single expensive items was purchased for \$59.95. The 1977 Atari 2600, famous for its wood-finish cabinet with 20 games has a starting bid price of \$43.00.

The wildly popular Nintendo Entertainment System (NES) complete with seven games will set one back \$69.99 and the Sega Genesis console was won for \$23.71.

The games themselves vary in price from as low as \$1.00 to \$21.00 depending on rarity, age and condition. Saltzman noted that lot times buyers can find consoles and games bundled together for a good price.

"Not only are these consoles great as a nostalgic items or to show your kids the types of games you played with but to show that before photorealistic graphics, a good game is a good game," Saltzman notes.



Indeed, a lot of the landmark games of each system had tremendous replay value despite being sparse in terms of graphics. Game play, game theory and strategy were just some of the aspects that made these games challenging and exciting **before graphics were any good.**

Games like **Space Invaders, Pac-Mac, Defender** and **Super Mario Brothers** are still incredibly tough to beat and are a lot of fun to play.

"These games really challenged the designers. They had memory and graphical limitations and they had to make do with the tools they had

given to them as well as the controllers which were button-based as well," Saltzman explains while bouncing Mario around the screen.

eBay Canada's statistics state that more consumers who grew up in the 70s and 80s are seeking out nostalgic and vintage items.

Of the 6,000 vintage games items listed on eBay Canada, 300 items are new and have never been used. The statistics also found that Nintendo and Atari still top the popular searches.

Author
Gadjo Cardenas Sevilla
PCWorld.ca
Tuesday, September 08, 2009



FREE Download
Photo organization made easy.
PCWORLD.ca foto bounce

Ads by Google
RealArcade Games
Visit the official RealArcade site and play hundreds of games today!
www.RealArcade.com

Free Online Arcade Games
Want to Play Hit Online Games Free? Tons of Fast-Paced Games. Try Now!
www.WildGames.com

Play free dressup games
super fun and free dressup dolls enjoy all girl games free
www.fupa.com

Backup Software and Games
Xbox, PS3, PC, Nintendo Wii and DVD On Sale Now! 50% Off Only \$29.99
EasyBackupWizard.com

Play Donkey Kong Games
Play Donkey Kong Now! It's Free with the Casual Games Toolbar
CasualGames.alot.com

Ads by Google
Tetris
Play Tetris! Simple. Fun. Free.
www.TetrisFriends.com

Arcade Legends only \$2699
Free Shipping - New in the Box 125 Games Centipede Joust Defender
www.gameroomguys.com

Streak Survivor
Show off your sports knowledge. Go for the \$100,000 Grand Prize!
www.wagerline.com

Buy 2 in 1 Genesis System
3rd Party System Plays Both NES and Genesis Games. All for Only \$27.85!
vpgames.com/genesis-retro-

Download Free Games
Download the Top Hidden Object Puzzle, Arcade Games...Free!
www.SpinTop-Games.com

Related content:

- The Hottest -- and Most Hideous -- Game Box Art Ever**
- The Ten Greatest PC Games Ever**
- A Brief History of Geeks**
- The 10 worst games of all time**
- Gamers blog**

Sign up for our PCWorld Canada **Newsletters**

::: Consumer Electronics ::: Gaming

Email the editor

Bookmark this article on:

delicious | Digg | Google | Technorati | Facebook | Yahoo!

BlackBerry@ Curve™ 8520
Keep Up With What Is Important In Your Life With The BlackBerry Curve
www.BlackBerry.com/Curve8520

Video Game Design Diploma
Study at the Academy of Design Toronto. Call 416-929-0121
aodt.ca

RealArcade Games
Visit the official RealArcade site and play hundreds of games today!
www.RealArcade.com

Free Online Arcade Games
Want to Play Hit Online Games Free? Tons of Fast-Paced Games. Try Now!
www.WildGames.com

eBay's Retro Gaming Revival
Those interested in the old NES and SNES should check out the RetroDuo deck. We bought one last Christmas so our kids (and us) could play some of the old favorites. It plays both types of cartridges quite nicely. Only problem I found with it was that because the controller interface is SNES, we couldn't use the old NES light gun, so no Duck Hunt :(
Written by: **DigitalFrog**, from ...

Add a Comment

Name:

City:

Email:

Anti-Spam:

Title:

Comment:

Submit Comment

Your email address will be used only in the event that the editor wishes to contact you and for no other purpose whatsoever.

About Us | Contact Us | Privacy Policy | Copyright Information | Site Map