

Austin American-Statesman

TECHIE GIFTS

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December 18, 2006

Publication: Austin American-Statesman (TX)

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TECHNOLOGY

Herman Cárdenas

Chairman, NetStreams Inc.

Dream gift: The ultimate home theater

Santa made an early stop at Herman Cárdenas' home, and he brought a really heavy bag.

Cárdenas co-founded NetStreams, which makes systems that distribute audio and video feeds throughout a house using Internet protocol. It's only fitting, then, that Santa delivered a tricked-out home theater.

"This is the wish list Hollywood directors and producers have for their own homes," Cárdenas said.

His theater starts with the new VP11S1 1080p DLP projector from Marantz, which costs about \$20,000. (Prices here are a la carte, which is usually more expensive than when part of a home-theater package.)



Marantz VP11S1 Projector

1080P Home Theater Projector

You can't point a machine like that at a white sheet on the wall, so Cárdenas went to the guys who build screens for real theaters, Stewart Filmscreen Corp. He got Stewart's 10-foot Cine-Curve model (\$20,000).

But what would all that be without top-quality content and sound? Add a Samsung Blu-Ray DVD player (\$600), which plays discs that can hold much more data than standard DVDs (read: very high definition).



Run it all through a Lexicon MC 12-HD processor (\$14,000) and hook up a batch of top-line Polk Audio speakers (\$2,900 a pair).

"Theaters can't produce the audio experience that you can get in a small room," Cárdenas said. "When you can re-create the movie experience in your own home, in a controlled environment, you can't get better than that." - Dan Zehr