

focus on TECH

Fellowes shredders, HP and Canon printers in the news

By Art Snyder

Your rink and its profit centers — think: snack and redemption areas — are a reflection of the daily, unheralded work done in the back office. That's where technology plays its many roles, from the humble shredding of confidential rink records and receipts to the printing of signage, media releases, school fliers and employee handbooks. With that in mind, we have reviews of the new **Fellowes Powershred** shredders, new printers from **Hewlett Packard** and **Canon**, and new storage devices from **Iomega** and **HP**. Details are below.

Fellowes Powershred shredders

From tax forms and employee payrolls to mailing lists and accounts receivable, your everyday business records are *crucial* to your rink's success. And today's hyper-challenging competitive environment only intensifies the need for



Fellowes' Powershred series

vigilance with all your records, forms, receipts and other paperwork that arrives and leaves each day, in and out of your back office.

That's why you need — now, more than ever — control over all the paperwork. It's a business necessity. And as state and federal laws grow ever more complex in 2009, control over the *privacy* of all your personnel records, employment applications, staff reviews and the like is a matter of law. Stay safe and ensure your rink success with one of the new **Fellowes'** shredders that were introduced recently. They can go a long way — and offer top cost and performance value — as they confidently do their job and literally shred inserted paper to mere confetti.

"The **PS-79Ci**, **SB-89Ci** and **SB-**

99Ci [models] make up **Fellowes'** **Powershred** series and are uniquely designed to address desk-side and shared-use shredding needs in the ... business setting," explained Daniel Karen, spokesman with GolinHarris, Chicago publicists for **Fellowes**. "The **PS-79Ci**, **SB-89Ci** and **SB-99Ci** have high-security cross-cut capabilities, ensuring confidential information is destroyed into unidentifiable pieces.

"The machines handle from 12 to 17 sheets of paper per pass and can shred CDs/DVDs, credit cards, staples and paper clips in a matter of seconds," daily saving staff time and labor costs. "The shredders also have easy-to-empty pull-out bins, making waste disposal easier.

"The shredders eliminate jams and prevent overloads by instantly calculating the amount of paper being fed into the machine. The proprietary technology features a sophisticated sensor that measures the thickness of a paper stack and automatically stops a paper jam before it occurs. Similar to a traffic light which lets a driver know when [he or she] can proceed, an indicator light lets the user know when sheet capacity is near. A green to yellow light indicates the user is within paper capacity.

"A red light signifies the shredder has been overfed, and the machine will automatically stop, letting the user remove excess paper before the shredder resumes.

"In addition to its jam-free capabilities, the machines also have a patented **SafeSense™** technology, which automatically disables the shredders when sensing hands ... are too close to the paper opening, and **SilentShred™** technology, which features a whisper-quiet motor that alleviates common shredder noise concerns" in nearly any office, no matter what the size or ambient noise level.

In extensive testing, I found that the **Fellowes PS-79Ci** model to be impressively quiet. Just a nice, quick hum when I inserted an array of papers that quickly became no more than insulation fodder or garden mulch. The speed and ease of operation of the **PS-79Ci** was another eye-opener. It reminded me of how a V-8 automobile has such native strength when you compare it to a simple 4-cylinder car that you perhaps switched to in recent years. It seemed as if no amount or types of paper or cardstock could put a crimp in the test performance of the **PS-79Ci**. Also, it's easy to overlook shredder tasks such as emptying the paper basket, and the easy-access basket of this **Fellowes** shredder was a treat to handle — pull it

out when its indicator says it's full, shake it into a trash can, and insert it back into place.

Fellowes is the originator of the office paper shredder, and the **Fellowes PS-79Ci** is welcome proof that the company has put its leadership to good use with continual improvements over time. Having owned and used several **Fellowes** shredders (and other brands) over the years, I can attest to the **Fellowes PS-79Ci** being the quietest and most muscular of the lot. It should serve rink offices with tremendous performance and provide great bottom-line value. The **Fellowes Powershred Series** is available online and at select office retailers nationwide, with prices ranging from \$199.99 for the **PS-79Ci** to \$279.99 for the **SB-99Ci**.

New HP OfficeJet printers

Hewlett Packard this spring has launched its latest inkjet printers for the small-business community: the **HP OfficeJet Pro 8500 All-in-One**, the **HP OfficeJet Pro 8000** and the **HP OfficeJet 6500 All-in-One**. The reliability and performance of **HP** inkjets over the years is legendary, and these models promise more of the same, and then some. Priced between \$299 and \$499, the **OfficeJet Pro 8500** is as speedy as a laser, and new proprietary technology allows this inkjet to be even more frugal with ink usage. The **Pro 8000** printer is another high-value item, priced from \$149 to \$179. It stands out with both wired and wireless networking options for any number of users in your rink office to print documents. The **OfficeJet 6500 All-in-One** is the third model that features lower ink consumption than inkjets in the past, and this printer lists from \$149 to \$199. Overall, **HP** has outdone itself by improving its new generation of printers while still squeezing down those costs. You win!

Canon debuts new all-in-one printers

Not to be outdone, **Canon U.S.A.** this spring introduced their latest all-in-one inkjet printers: the **Pixma MX860** and the **Pixma MX330**. Priced at \$199.99 for the **MX860** and \$109.99 for the **MX330**, these inkjets offer an abundance of useful features that can improve staff efficiency and print performance with signage, fliers and other rink tasks. Print resolution is superb, sharper than ever and among the elite performers of any type of printer. Other features of rink value are wireless

connectivity, for ease of printer setup and use, not to mention placement. As all-in-ones, these printers have scan, fax and copy features, in addition to their print function. Overall, as with any printers you



Pixma MX860

might be considering, take a look at the **Pixma MX860** and the **Pixma MX330** at your local tech retailer, and see first-hand why you'll marvel over their agreeable price and performance.

Iomega eGo portable hard drives

We've discussed in recent columns a number of portable external hard drives that can give you much-needed backup capacity, and veteran drive and storage company **Iomega** has joined the fray with several models that are as full-featured, compact, value-laden and attractive as any. Under the **Portable Hard Drive-Series** banner, these space-saving external drives are plug-and-play via any USB port on your **Windows** computer, and you can use them as backup or alternate storage of any files that you customarily save to your C: hard drive. As portable drives, these **Iomega eGos** allow you to work on files at the rink or at home, so you can slip the drive (after unplugging it) into your shirt pocket and take it to the other location to continue working on a file saved to the disk. In only seconds, you can connect the drive's USB cord and put an **Iomega eGo** drive to work. **Iomega eGos** are available in capacities from 160 to 500GB, in eight decorative colors and other styles (leather and camouflage among them), at prices of \$80 on up. The **Iomega eGo** model I've been testing rigorously for two months has performed flawlessly. Competition is keen in the storage realm, as pricing and features suggest, so look and buy now.

Products mentioned in this column are widely available. Check local office suppliers, computer and technology vendors, mass-merchandise and discount retailers, and mail-order and online sources. With broadband Internet access, software programs are a fast, easy and often cheaper download, saving you staff time and improving efficiency in many ways.

Art Snyder is a longtime RINKSIDER contributor. He lives in Centerville, Ohio, and has used computers and technology since 1986.