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◎ 主编 / 钟利平



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主 编 钟利平



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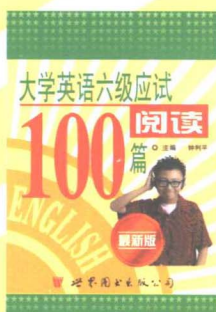
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Passage 1

1

With the coming of new century, the pundits(权威) of the high tech world are wondering whether 2001 will be the year that the software giant from Seattle will make a comeback(复辟).

It might seem strange to talk about one of the world's most powerful companies needing to make a revival, but 2,000 was probably the most disappointing year since the company was formed in 1975.

As the Internet economy roared, the company faced numerous challenges to its dominance. Rivals like AOL looked to be setting up their own proprietary system, which might eventually run on network computers without Windows.

Elsewhere, companies like IBM adopted Linux as the centre plank of their business applications, despite Microsoft's touting(吹捧) of Windows NT as a competing platform.

Then there was the antitrust trial, in which Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson ordered the company broken in two after finding that it violated antitrust laws by giving away its Internet Explorer browser in an effort to drive Netscape out of business.

In addition, a string of top executives left the company as Bill Gates gave up his position as CEO to become "chief software architect". Amid all this upheaval(剧变) it was not surprising that Microsoft lost more than 50 per cent of its share value in 2000.

But some things look different this year. With the new economy development, large companies like Microsoft with deep pockets are finding it easier to buy up promising dot coms and attract the sharp



talent that last year tended towards the stock option paradise offered by Internet companies.

The transmission to power of George W. Bush, who in the past has made clear his distaste for the activist prosecution by the Justice Department, has some thinking that Microsoft might be let off the hook.

Microsoft will thus have to look to its own products for its salvation(拯救), and many analysts think the company is on the right path.

Microsoft built its amazing run of fortune on these machines, for which sales are now flagging as the market has reached PC saturation point. Meanwhile new Internet appliances are proving popular with consumers who want computers just to email and surf the Internet.

Microsoft is thus looking beyond the PC to a host of other devices. The move was signified most strongly at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas Saturday, where Gates first unveiled the X Box. The idea is to position the X Box, whose countless high tech appliances — from Internet-enabled refrigerators to wireless networks — will all be coordinated by a descendant of the trusty PC. The concept puts Microsoft in direct rivalry with the king of consumer electronics, Sony.

On Tuesday Microsoft launched an “e-cliner” together with the La-Z-Boy furniture company. This dream will complete with an interactive WebTV connection.

Microsoft is also planning a wireless tablet computer with voice recognition abilities, an advanced clock radio that can play weather, traffic, news and music from the Internet by means of a wireless connection to a PC and a personal digital assistant that can use voice recognition technology to receive commands and data.



The technology linking them together is Microsoft's dot net concept, which will allow users to access the Internet. It marks a huge shift away from the company's PC-centric traditions, but it is a mission that Gates is fully committed to.

"The frontier of consumer electronics is increasingly seen here as the next big thing," wrote the New York Times' John Markoff in a recent profile of the company founder. If the company succeeds in navigating that change, armchairs and X-Boxes could just be the start of the new Microsoft.

1. *The main idea of the passage is that ____.*

- A. tech world is afraid of Microsoft's revival
- B. new government will continue to split Microsoft
- C. the beginning of the new century will be the chance for Microsoft to revive
- D. Microsoft's new creations

2. *According to the passage, which of the following factors will be the symbol of the revival of Microsoft EXCEPT ____.*

- A. With the new economy development, large companies like Microsoft with large money are finding it easier to buy up promising dot coms and attract the intellectuals.
- B. With the new-elect President George W. Bush Microsoft might be out of the trap.
- C. Microsoft will seek way to get out of the dead end itself and many analysts think the company is on the right path.
- D. Microsoft lost more than 50 per cent of its share value in 2000 and will regain benefit in 2001.

3. *According to the passage, Microsoft will do the following EXCEPT ____.*



- A. Microsoft is continually depending on the PCs.
- B. Microsoft unveiled the X Box as its new product.
- C. On Tuesday Microsoft launched an “e-cliner” together with the La-Z-Boy furniture company.
- D. Microsoft is also planning a wireless tablet computer with voice recognition abilities.

4. In the sentence “The transmission to power of George W. Bush, who in the past has made clear his distaste for the activist prosecution by the Justice Department, has...” in paragraph 8, the word “distaste” probably means _____.

- A. terrible smell
- B. bad taste
- C. hatred
- D. dislike

5. It is implied in the last paragraph that Microsoft will cultivate _____ as the main development in the future.

- A. PCs
- B. software
- C. platforms
- D. electronics

Passage 2

The Internet of the future should be a worldwide marketplace fully accessible by mobile customers everywhere, the leading networking specialists and content providers all agree.

Yet any number of pitfalls(未料到的危险或困难) lie ahead for the worldwide data network. Current networking technology has allowed only limited mobile access up until now. A small Finnish firm, however, is promoting a solution to connect portable devices — cell phones, personal digital assistants (PDAs), or laptops — reliably and securely to the Internet.



"Access to the World Wide Web will eventually be as foolproof as telephoning is now," says Panu Pietikainen, chief executive officer of Firma NetSeal Technologies of Espoo, Finland.

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While the Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) radio network spans the globe, only small bits of data can be transmitted over it. Wireless Local Area Networks (WLANs) can handle broadband traffic, but only within their local transmitting area. That's mainly why new wireless transmission techniques such as Bluetooth(蓝牙技术) can send data without cables, but only up to a distance of about ten meters.

Until now, any user who wanted to move between coverage areas would tediously have to close the old connection manually and then dial in again to the new network. RoamMate software will automate the process by establishing a mobile, secure Internet connection without the user having to give any thought to infrastructure concerns such as coverage areas.

"This kind of software, if it really works, would certainly be in line with our business goals," says Carsten Meincke of AOL, the world's largest online service provider.

Meincke sees the latest technological developments as headed toward uninterrupted Internet access anyway, whether it's from a car, a cellphone, or other portable devices. "We need to free ourselves from the idea that only one kind of device can get us online."

"There's certainly been no intelligent software of this type until now," says Andreas Guggenbichler of 3Com, the U. S. -based networking firm. "If I really didn't have to think anymore about which channel is best suited at any given moment to build a connection - whether to a local network or the Internet - it would make portable devices much easier to use," Guggenbichler, himself an expert in networking and Internet telephony, argues.



“For the first time, RoamMate allows every user to get on the Internet in the same way they use their cell phone,” says Pietikaeinen. A mobile Internet connection would resemble a cell phone connection.

Cell phone users don't worry about which phone company is providing network access when they're on the road; telephone companies have struck agreements to assure their customers interruption-free service. The phone automatically looks for the right provider as the user changes coverage zones, without interrupting the call.

Down the road, all mobile devices will work in the same way. RoamMate supports all current transmission technologies, such as ISDN, GSM, Bluetooth, local networks (LAN, Local Area Network), WLAN, modem, and even the anticipated mobile radio standard GPRS.

An Internet IP address, not a phone number, would then become the user's permanent identification code. The software, installed in the mobile units as well as in the servers of participating companies and Internet service providers, would take care of managing the addresses.

The new invention is already in place at AVECRA, the firm which runs the dining cars for the Finnish railways. RoamMate enables communication with or without a cable connection, so that the company's workers can get onto the company's private intranet during the trip.

After four years of development time, Pietikaeinen and his associate Juhani Talvela are now seeking out cooperative partners around the world to help put to work their (self-proclaimed) trail-blazing software.

“The important thing is to get on the market quickly,” says



Pietikainen. The Finns have already established their first contacts in the U. S. A. European marketing campaign is planned for the coming year. Private users will be able to take advantage of the software in two or three years, Pietikainen promises. You can find more information about RoamMate on the Web at www.roammate.com.

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1. The main idea of the passage is that _____.

- A. a new method to access to the Internet is on the way
- B. a new technology to connect with Internet has been created and seeking the cooperation to enter the market
- C. disadvantages of old ways to access to the Internet
- D. new tendencies in the fields of mobile communications

2. In the sentence "Access to the World Wide Web will eventually be as foolproof as telephoning is now" in the paragraph 3, the word "foolproof" can be explained as _____.

- A. popular
- B. easy
- C. clever
- D. smart

3. According to the passage, which of the following statements is NOT true?

- A. While the Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) radio network stretches around the globe, the amount of data which can be transmitted over it is only a small bit.
- B. Wireless Local Area Networks (WLANs) has the advantage of broadband, but their local transmitting area is limited.
- C. New wireless transmission techniques such as Bluetooth can send data without cables within about ten meters.
- D. Until now, any user can move freely between old con-



nection coverage areas and the new network.

4. *The followings are current transmission technologies which RoamMate supports EXCEPT_____.*

- A. ISDN, GPS B. Bluetooth
C. LAN, WLAN, D. modem, and GPRS

5. *We can deduce from the passage that _____.*

- A. all the technologies will give place to RoamMate software
B. RoamMate software will be the leading one in the access to the Internet whenever through cable or not
C. we can find more information about RoamMate on the Web at www.roammate.com.
D. market will be the main obstacle when RoamMate prevails

Passage 3

Even if you've used Windows for years, you may not be taking advantage of the small, built-in shortcuts that can make a day at the computer much easier and more productive. This week's questions allow us to uncover some of the most commonly neglected time-savers that you can employ in Windows.

Q: What's the best way to switch from one application to another in Windows?

A: While there may be no "best" way, there are certainly shortcuts that can save you time. Perhaps the quickest way to switch between open applications is by holding down the Alt key and pressing TAB. Doing so brings up the Windows task switching module, a little window in the centre of your screen that displays