

By: ~~Aug 2008~~ Botezatu, Hardware Editor

[VidaBox Unveils Magnetically-Mounted Home Automation Touchscreen Computer](#)

The TouchClient12 runs Windows XP Embedded Edition

VidaBox has just announced its new TouchClient12 in-wall home automation system, equipped with a 12.1-inch touch-sensitive LCD display and running Windows XP Embedded. The system can be used either as part of an in-house media and automation setup, or as a standalone computer that runs Windows XP Embedded-compatible applications. The TouchClient12 kit is comprised of an LCD screen with input capabilities, that is fixed into the wall, and the computer itself. The setup can be used out of the box, as it only requires an Ethernet connection and 12 volts of power to be fully functional. It comes with a pre-installed distribution of Windows XP Embedded, that is located on the built-in solid-state drive. "The only connections needed are 12V low voltage power and a network connection with CAT5 cable," claimed Steven Cheung, the company's CEO. "Once installed, integrators can point its internet browser to web-controllable resources like CasaTunes, or install any program that runs on XP embedded, such as control or automation software, and run it right from the touch panel! With its built-in dual RS-232 and dual USB ports, this opens up the possibility of local automation and control being run directly from the TouchClient12," he continued. The home automation system runs at a native screen resolution of 1024 x 768 and comes equipped with dual stereo speakers for local audio playback. The LCD display can be mounted on the "rough-box" using the built-in magnets, which would dramatically reduce its deployment time. "With a magnetic mount design, integrators can pop the screen assembly into an installed rough-in box in seconds, and not waste valuable time turning screws to access the back panel after the initial install," claimed Cheung. The operating system is initially locked down in read-only mode, which reduces the risk of infection with malware and spyware. Should the system get infected, it can be reversed back to its initial state by simply rebooting the unit. However, the write protection can be disabled by system integrators, in order to allow the addition of extra software to the system. The home automation system is available immediately for an estimative retail price of \$2,499.