

# XBox365

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## Microsoft Crafts Movie Deal for Xbox Live

Microsoft has struck deals with five horror movie directors for a series of short films in a move aimed at boosting the original entertainment content available on its Xbox console. With competition fierce between Xbox and Sony's Playstation 3 console, the rival companies are looking to films, TV programmes and other content to boost the appeal of their devices.

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## Will Xbox Live Become Free?

The UK's Guardian are asking if Xbox Live will remain a pay service or if it will become a free - on the back of the news that Games for Windows Live - essentially a PC version of Xbox Live - will now be available for free makes it increasingly difficult for Microsoft to justify charging a subscription to Xbox Live

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## Blu Ray Xbox 360.... Not On Your Nelly

Shane Kim, vice president of strategy and business development for Microsoft's Interactive Entertainment business, told Forbes.com that the company has "no interest" in adding Blu-Ray functionality to its console, opting instead to focus on digital distribution. "I can categorically say that we're not working on a Blu-Ray player for Xbox 360," says Kim. "To my knowledge, we don't have any intent to do that."

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## Xbox Price Cut & Plans 60GB Model

Starting Sunday, the Xbox 360 console with a 20-gigabyte hard drive will cost \$299 in the U.S., down from \$350. An updated Xbox 360 is set to arrive in stores in early August. The \$350 replacement will arrive with a fat 60GB hard drive, significantly more space for storing the games, TV shows and movies Microsoft sells on its Xbox Live Marketplace Web site.

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## **Xbox Live to Stream Netflix Movies**

Microsoft has announced that they are entering into a deal with movie rental company Netflix. This deal would enable the owners of their Xbox 360 to stream movies over the Internet - assuming they have a Netflix account. Microsoft made this announcement at the E3 Media & Business Summit in Los Angeles.

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## **Unreal Tournament 3 Now Available**

Midway today announced Unreal Tournament 3 is now available, with several new features including split screen, five exclusive maps and two all-new characters, as well as all previously released downloadable content. In addition, Xbox 360 owners will get an exclusive video preview of Gears of War 2, the eagerly anticipated sequel to the 4.7 million unit-selling blockbuster third-person action game, included on the Unreal Tournament 3 disc.

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## **Whats in Store for Xbox 360 Owners at E3 2008?**

E3 begins next week and Microsoft's David Gosen has said in an interview that Microsoft would have "fantastic surprises awaiting everybody at E3". Does this mean a party bag full of money and plastic figures? We hope not. We're hoping for a bag of goodies including: Price Cut, Blu Ray Support and new dashboard - maybe in 3d? Also, how's about some motion controllers?

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## **Bungie Day Comes With Free Cold Storage Map And Other Goodies**

Beginning on July 7, there will be a 48-hour long seven-player FFA playlist in Halo 3's Matchmaking where you can turn the calendar back to 2001 and control Rockets, Invis and Snipe. For now, Cold Storage will be implemented in regular rotation in playlists that require the Legendary Maps. To avoid confusion, playlists that previously required the Legendary Maps will now remind players that they need "all Maps" to participate, and since Cold Storage is free, it shouldn't be a big

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## **Inside Sega's Tokyo HQ**

The Times have written a great piece detailing their visit to Sega's Tokyo office this week. They detail how Sega transformed from a single console company to a multiplatform software house - and how Microsoft helped them make the leap.

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## **Heads Up: Raven Squad: Operation Hidden Dagger**

SouthPeak Games have announced that it will distribute Raven Squad: Operation Hidden Dagger this fall. Published by Evolved Games, Raven Squad is set in the near future. The game is a unique blending of real-time strategy and first-person shooter genres.

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