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Issue 102  
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## FileBound Express

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## PS Vita

A new age for portable consoles



## The Travelling Professional

Top gear for pros



# The Business Issue



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One of the more interesting ebooks I've recently come across is Lawrence Lessig's *One Way Forward*. Lessig, a Professor of Law at Harvard Law School, has gone from being involved with copyright issues (he's a big proponent of alternative copyright terms in the age of digital reproduction), to setting his sights on fixing a (US) political system he describes as corrupted by money. It is Lessig's belief that movements such as the right-wing Tea Party and the leftist Occupy Wall Street, have a lot more in common than they think, and that citizens, united via common cause, can take effective measures to fix a broken system.

I think the same applies here in South Africa. From both ends of the political spectrum we need efficient service delivery, security, education and effective infrastructure. That's our common ground, and all of this is being destroyed by corruption. My gut tells me it's time to stop looking towards politicians to bring about change, and see what we can do ourselves.

Enjoy the issue,  
Mike (michael@techsmart.co.za)



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It does not take much to fall in love with an elegant executive saloon – we check out five of the best.

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Travelling for work can be a tiresome affair, but it helps if you have the best tech gear at your disposal. Now if only they can do something about those delayed flights.

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There's a lot resting on the first of Nokia's new Windows-powered devices, maybe even the future of the company. Good that it's such a great phone then.

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After a long wait the latest PlayStation handheld gaming console has landed locally. What can you expect from the Vita, and is it a game changer?

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## Top Tech Titbits



### Apple reclaims smartphone sales crown

Last year data from market research firm Strategy Analytics (SA) revealed that Samsung (27.8 million) bested Apple (17.07 million) in terms of worldwide smartphone sales. The firm's latest figures shows that during Q4 2011, Apple managed to reclaim the smartphone sales crown with a record iPhone sales tally of 37.04 million, spurred on by the release of the iPhone 4S. It has not all been going Apple's way though. Cupertino came under fire after an exposé by the *New York Times* revealed that Apple knew about labour abuses at its main supplier, Foxconn in China. Apple CEO Tim Cook responded by claiming: "We care about every worker in our worldwide supply chain."



### HP serves the future of servers

HP announced its intention to revolutionise the IT industry with its introduction of a number of radical new features to the database and server space, and the launch of its ProLiant Gen8 servers. Chief amongst the benefits is the significant savings afforded by the ProLiant Gen8 servers, as companies utilising the new technology will be able to nearly double their data centre's compute-per-watt capacity, resulting in a potential financial saving of \$7 million (R56 million) in energy costs for a typical centre over three years.

Additionally, the Gen8 servers will offer a 70% increase in computing capacity thanks to HP's 3D Sea of Sensors, which identifies over-utilised servers based on real-time location, power, workload and temperature information.



### Facebook goes public

Facebook finally filed an initial public offering (IPO) and plans to raise \$5 billion from sales of its stock. This would amount to the largest IPO of an internet company to date and could propel the firm's valuation into the \$75 billion – \$100 billion range. Documents recently filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission shows the massive growth in profits Facebook experienced of late. In 2009 the company recorded profits of \$777 million, managing to more than double this figure to \$1.974 billion in 2010. This strong growth trend continued last year as profits reached \$3.711 billion. ❖

## Hot New Products



### Nike's new HTM Flyknit running shoes

Nike re-imagined shoe construction with its new Flyknit collection, incorporating precisely engineered material to eliminate the need for overlays. This has resulted in much lighter, formfitting running shoes such as the Nike Flyknit Racer, which barely tips the scales (size 9) at 160 g. This makes the shoe 19% lighter than the Nike Zoom Streak 3, which happens to have donned the feet of all the podium finishers in the men's marathon at the 2011 World Championships. Nike stated that its Flyknit collection will be available as of June.

### Nikon D800

It's been a good few months to be a Nikon fan. In January Nikon pulled the wraps off its new dSLR flagship, the D4, and now the full-frame D800 makes its appearance. It's the long awaited follow-up to the highly successful D700, and is aimed primarily at professional videographers, still and multimedia photographers. The D800 boasts a remarkable 36.3-megapixel FX-format CMOS sensor, the highest resolution full-frame (36 x 24 mm) sensor on the market. It now also adds full HD (1080p) video and a native ISO range of 100 to 6400 to the spec-sheet. The D800 will be in SA by the end of this month, retailing at R34 999 (body only).



### LG Optimus Vu

Samsung's monopoly on the smartphone/ tablet hybrid market did not last long, as the other Korean tech company, LG, has unveiled its Optimus Vu to compete directly against the Galaxy Note. Like the Note, the Vu's large 5" (768 x 1024) display aims to provide a middle ground between the 4" smartphone and 7" tablet. At 8.5 mm it's quite slender and is powered by a 1.5 GHz dual-core CPU with an excellent 32 GB of storage space. Also onboard this 4G enabled device is an 8 MP rear-facing camera, a large 2080 mAh battery and Android 2.3 (with the promise of a 4.0 update to follow), also including a special stylus. No local release details are available.



### AMD Radeon HD 7770 GHz Edition

AMD ventures onto new graphics processing ground with its Radeon HD 7770 GHz Edition, the first GPU sporting a reference engine clock that breaks the one Gigahertz barrier, making it the world's first 1 GHz GPU. The Radeon HD 7770 further boasts 1 GB of GDDR5 RAM, a 1125 MHz memory clock, and AMD's new Graphics Core Next (GCN) Architecture, which the company says will boost performance and energy efficiency. Users won't need a separate power connector for this GPU, since it will deliver blistering gaming performance under 75 watts. No local release details are available yet. ❖







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# Sci News



## Black and white

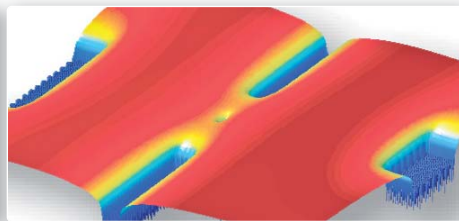
Enough with the lame jokes about where the zebra got its stripes, because science has a real answer. According to a study published in a recent issue of the *Journal of Experimental Biology*, the peculiar pattern may protect zebras against blood-sucking parasites. Horseflies, which often carry disease, use the pattern of linearly polarised light reflected from animals' hides to steer them towards their hosts. When a team of researchers varied the width and angles of a black-and-white striped pattern, they found that one similar to natural zebra hides is least attractive to the flies. All-white or all-black horse skins seem to be more attractive landing grounds. It's possible that the striped suit developed as an evolutionary advantage to let disease-bearing horseflies steer clear.



## (Not so) Fast fingers

If you need to hit the buzzer in a game show, best not to use the middle finger. Scientists write in a recent issue of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science*, that your middle finger is significantly slower off the mark than the thumb or the little finger. Volunteers were shown images of any of their ten fingers and then had to press a key with the indicated finger as fast as possible. The middle finger came in last.

But it's not the muscles that are to blame. Rather, the brain is slow to decide to activate the middle finger because of specific neural wiring patterns. The good news, though, is that you can up the speed of your middle finger with enough practice – if middle finger speed is your thing.



## One small step

What Neill Armstrong did for space exploration, transistors did for electronics. And now engineers may have taken yet one further step that could prove to be a giant leap. An international research team describe in a recent issue of *Nature Nanotechnology*, that they created a transistor consisting of a single phosphorus atom. Previous observations of this phenomenon were by chance, but now it seems possible to create these tiny transistors in a controlled manner. Using a powerful microscope, the researchers etched phosphorus atoms onto silicon crystals and then inserted an intricate network of electronic connections. The feat is even more remarkable because the electronic properties of the device match the theoretical predictions so well. [LP]

### More amazing great science

The Crisis of Antibiotic Resistance: [bit.ly/antires](http://bit.ly/antires)

Stonehenge based on 'magical' auditory illusion: [bit.ly/stonedillusion](http://bit.ly/stonedillusion)

Distant 'waterworld' planet confirmed: [bbc.in/waterplan](http://bbc.in/waterplan)

# Green News



## Plant muck helps with solar power

Researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology have discovered a simplified way of constructing electricity-producing "biophotovoltaics", removing the need for sophisticated lab equipment. Custom chemicals are mixed with green plant matter to create photovoltaic material. This material then produces an electric current via minute structures within plant cells called photosystem-I (PS-I), typically responsible for photosynthesis. Currently the resulting solar cells convert 0.1% sunlight energy into electricity and needs to be improved tenfold before it becomes useful. In future though, a farmer in a remote village will buy a bag of PS-I stabilising chemicals, mix it with the green by-products of his farming, paint the mixture on his roof and use the energy it generates to power his lights.



## Tesla showcases latest super (eco) car

Electric car maker Tesla's new Model S hits US roads in the second half of this year and will be available in 40, 60 and 85 kWh battery options. Going for the latter should provide owners with a solid range of about 480 km, whilst also enabling the standard model to go from 0 to 100 km/h in under six seconds on to a top speed of 200 km/h.

Those in need of more go can opt for the performance model, which impressively gets to 100 km/h in less than 4.5 seconds. Unlike internal combustion engines the Tesla's engine's only moving part is its rotor.

Pricing begins at \$49 900 (about R379 000), but unfortunately it does not appear as if it will grace local shores in the foreseeable future.



## Nissan introduces its energy efficient carrier

We often write about energy efficient cars, but how about a greener coastal car carrier? Nissan has unveiled just that in the Nichioh Maru. Compared to a conventional carrier of the same type, the Maru can achieve a fuel reduction of up to 1400 tons annually, which also converts to an annual reduction of 4200 tons of carbon emissions.

This eco ship's deck boasts over 200 solar power panels, removing the need for it to have a conventional diesel generator. The energy produced by these panels is used to power its LED lighting system. Other eco measures include a low friction coating on the hull of the ship which, coupled with its electronically controlled diesel engine, enables the Maru to be more fuel efficient.

### Other interesting green news

New solar panel start-up hits 33.9% efficiency: [bit.ly/newsolarpanel](http://bit.ly/newsolarpanel)

NASA offers reward for green propellant: [bit.ly/nagreen](http://bit.ly/nagreen)

London Bridge goes green with efficient LEDs for 2012 Olympics: [bit.ly/bridgelights](http://bit.ly/bridgelights)



# THE BIG ISSUE TWITTER CENSORSHIP

It seems as if not even this generation's champion of free speech, microblogging platform Twitter, is completely immune from the insidious threat of censorship.



## Free speech under threat?

Adding fuel to the fire, the company stated that as it continued to grow internationally, it would "enter countries that have different ideas about the contours of freedom of expression". This was the more ominous part of the announcement – as some countries for example, claim to permit freedom of speech so long as no objection is raised against the regime. In those areas, it's not impossible to imagine that tweets about the latest movie or weather would be safe, but tweets about government abuse of power would not.

Blocked tweets will show which country banned it, while the offending tweet will also be mentioned on the Chilling Effects (<http://chillingeffects.org/twitter>) website, along with providing the reasons why this tweet was banned. One interesting outcome of this approach is that it could lead users to being able to monitor censorship on a country specific basis

## To the point

The net result though, is that users have already begun questioning whether the company had sacrificed free speech and its original purpose on the altar of greater profitability, and in its bid to extend its global reach and achieve one billion users.

We suspect that the true test of Twitter's fortitude only lies ahead. Whether it will favour and thus passively protect governments and their leaders from the tweets of their populace, or prove itself as truly a people's champion and a bastion of free speech in the face of censorship's siren's call, remains to be seen as the year unfolds. [RN] ❖

Warning bells began ringing earlier this year, when Twitter announced that it was able to censor tweets by their country of origin. This alarmed users, who pointed out that the former 'free speech wing of the free speech party' was in effect betraying its original mandate. Twitter responded by clarifying that it would only step in if legally compelled to censor a tweet, and even so, this would only apply to the country of its origin – users from other countries would still be able to view the offending tweet.

In practise, this could give rise to the rather bizarre scenario in which the rest of the world is able to view tweets about a political uprising for example, except for those living in the country in which the event is taking place.



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# TechSmart's Top 5 Hot Executive Rides

What's better to be on the road wrapped in a cocoon of luxury and stateliness, enjoying power at your command and more tech at your disposal than NASA engineers? It does not take much to fall in love with an elegant executive saloon.

## BMW 6 Series Gran Coupe

To give an indication of the raw power behind BMW's very first four door coupe, the striking 6 Series Gran Coupe, look no further than the 650i's new turbo-charged eight-cylinder engine (330 kW). Put your foot down and it shoots from standstill to 100 km/h in just 4.6 seconds.

The Gran Coupe is a gadget lover's dream, offering surround view camera and BMW Parking Assistant; lane departure warning; an optional premium Bang & Olufsen sound system; and the latest-generation BMW Head-Up Display system projecting useful info on the windscreen in front of the driver. BMW's 6 Series Gran Coupe should arrive on local shores by Q2 of this year, with pricing details still to be confirmed.



## Audi S5 3.0T FSI quattro S

Audi has given its A5 a mid-life update, offering new engine choices that provide the car with a bit more grunt. The added power won't necessarily translate into higher spending at the petrol station, as an engine start-stop system comes standard, playing its part in keeping the fuel usage down.

Why go for the S5? Well it's simple, the new S5 uses a supercharged 3 litre, six-cylinder engine producing 245 kW and 440 Nm of torque. This means a sub-5 second sprint to 100 km/h and combined fuel consumption figures of below ten litres per 100 km. Its high-tech safety equipment includes driver fatigue detection, an active lane changing assistant and adaptive cruise control. RRP starts from R427 000.



## Mercedes-Benz CLS 63 AMG

The cars leaving the factory of the AMG division of Mercedes-Benz invokes thoughts of mind-boggling performance and the CLS 63 AMG is no different, boasting a new 5.5 litre V8 bi-turbo engine with an output of 386 kW and maximum torque of 700 Nm. If that isn't enough, you can go for the optional AMG Performance package that boosts power delivery to 410 kW and torque to 800 Nm.

The RRP of the Mercedes-Benz CLS 63 AMG puts it firmly out of reach of most South Africans, translating to a good measure of exclusivity for those lucky enough to have R 1 350 900 (sans the CO2 tax value levied upon it) to spend on a car purchase.



## Porsche Panamera Turbo S

In our humble opinion Porsche's new Panamera Turbo S certainly isn't the belle of this executive saloon ball, but it does claim the title of beast. Its high-revving 4.8 litre V8 engine delivers a delicious 405 kW of power at 6000 rpm and 750 Nm of torque. This allows the all-wheel drive, four-door Porsche to rocket to 100 km/h in a mere 3.8 seconds, on to a terminal velocity of 306 km/h.

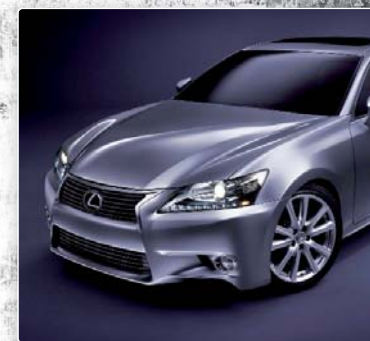
At a pricetag of over R2.1 million one would expect a fair bit of tech to be included and the Panamera Turbo S delivers the goods. Porsche Communication Management (PCM) with navigation module is combined as standard along with a BOSE Surround Sound System. The main attraction of the PCM system is its 7" touchscreen, which enables the front occupants to access features such as the car's MP3-compatible DVD-audio drive.



## Lexus GS 350

The luxury arm of Toyota is known for its exceptional build quality and reliability, and this is certainly true of the beautifully sculpted GS 350. The new generation GS is powered by an advanced quad cam 3.5-litre V6 that delivers 228 kW, which is enough to accelerate the luxury sedan from 0-100 km/h in a claimed 5.7 seconds.

Interior changes include media interaction now handled via a new 12.3" split-screen, high-resolution display that is big enough to support simultaneous viewing of a large map display, audio, climate or any other vehicle information. This luxury executive sedan will be headed to South African showrooms during Q2 of this year, with pricing details still to be announced. [HD] ❖





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# The Business Traveller



## Top tech for the professional

For those travelling on business, there has never been a better array of technologies to increase one's efficiency and help make business trips as productive (and pain-free) as possible. Travel and technology can, and often do, work together, and while there are many devices that are wonderful to bring along, such as a camera and ebook reader, there are others that are simply essential.



## Notebook or ultrabook?

While ultrabooks, such as Acer's Aspire S3 or Asus' Zenbook, have become the new darling of those on the go who desire long battery life, uncompromising power and a miniscule weight, for business PC users, notebooks still have their place. This is in no small part due to the fact that business notebooks often boast stronger security, fingerprint encryption and the inclusion of essential software to protect information is of prime importance. Having said that, we are quite sure that all these business features will soon make their debut on the fast growing ultrabook segment.

As much as we are fans of ultrabooks, we also can't help but wonder how much these are built to roll with the punches. In that regard we have lots of respect for Lenovo's ThinkPad range of business notebooks, while HP and Toshiba have also done a lot to make their notebooks studier.

## Here are a few of our current favourites:

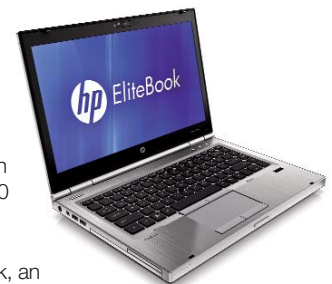
### Acer S3 ultrabook

At 18 mm thick and tipping the scales at a slight 1.38 kg, Acer's S3 ultrabook will barely register in your notebook bag. Under the hood, the Aspire S3 sports a Core i7 2637M CPU, clocked at 1.7 GHz, along with 4 GB of memory – making short work of spreadsheets, video-watching, document creation and surfing. Anyone PC user lucky enough to work with a solid state drive will attest to the speed and durability it adds, and the S3 is kind enough to offer a 240 GB SSD onboard. R10 000.



### HP Elitebook 8460P

When we reviewed HP's EliteBook 8460P, we walked away primarily impressed by its build quality and the general solidity of the device. The 14" notebook packs an second generation Intel Core i7 processor (2620M) running at 2.70 GHz, along with 4 GB of RAM, which is upgradeable to 16 GB. Additionally, and somewhat surprisingly for a business notebook, an AMD Radeon HD 6470M, with 1 GB of graphics memory is also onboard, along with a decent six hours of battery life. R16 800.



### Lenovo ThinkPad X1

Despite the X1 diminutive build (17 mm thick, 1.72 kg) it's still clearly capable withstanding the rigours of the road, thanks to a carbon-fibre rollcage and Corning Gorilla Glass protecting its screen. Also affirming the notebook's business-centric approach is the presence of a second-generation Intel Core i5 2520M dual-core processor running at 2.5 GHz and a solid 4 GB of DDR3 RAM, which should handle typical business tasks more than adequately. R15 000.



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 Windows® 7

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# The Business Traveller cont. Top tech for the professional

## Tablet or notebook?

While no business person is likely to forget their smartphone of choice at home, tablets are still used and loved for business purposes by some, or relegated to more casual use by others. However, when travelling, the smaller form factor, instant on accessibility, longer battery life and diversity of features on offer by tablets really do make these devices shine. But can the tablet replace a trustworthy notebook? Well this depends largely on the nature of one's work, since content creation, whether it be producing long documents, spreadsheets or presentations, is still easiest on a dedicated notebook. If only emailing is required, why bother with a large notebook?



## Your documents – backed-up and everywhere

The golden rules of backing-up are to do it as often as possible, and to always have three backups of critical information in three separate locations. This could entail having one's information stored on one's hard drive and two separate portable hard drives, but now also uploading documents to a myriad of online cloud-based storage offerings such as Dropbox, Microsoft's SkyDrive and ADrive.com. The benefit to business travellers is of course that now, documents can be edited and shared across all your devices that are internet connected, meaning no more worries about that critical document left on your work PC.



# Dropbox

## Appolutely essential – business apps to live by

No matter how svelte or appealing tablets and smartphones may be, it is the apps they carry that unleashes their true value. Here are some 'must have' apps for the roving professional.

1. An office suite such as Documents to Go if on an Android device, and Quick Office Pro or Apple's own iWork if using the iPad.
2. Skype is still our Voice over IP app of choice, which enables colleagues, friends and family alike to stay in touch wherever an internet connection is available.
3. Dropbox is possibly one of the most convenient cloud storage solutions available, with this free app enabling users to access their critical files wherever they are and easily synchronise documents and presentations between their tablet, PC, notebook and smartphone.
4. A decent PDF reader: On the Android platform we recommend EZ PDF, or alternatively Adobe Reader on iPad, for poring over protected documents.
5. Triplt is a great way to automatically build a travel itinerary, by doing nothing more than forwarding your confirmation emails on to them. It's also easy to share travel arrangements with co-workers or friends and family.



## Technology, protected

As well as taking its toll on the traveller, flights, taxi rides, shuttles, and trains can expose one's equipment to a fair amount of rough handling. With this in mind, it's well worth spending some time and money on a decent carrying case. The Targus Atmosphere TNT 007 notebook bag is a perfect case in point. Suitable for longer, international trips, it offers excellent build quality and comfort, with the ability to be expanded to accommodate a portable projector or a weekend's change of clothes. R433



## Portable power solutions

Having all the technology at your fingertips comes to naught when you run out of power. Making sure you have the appropriate power adaptor (or a universal power adaptor) helps, but this still requires the stress of having to hunt for scarce power sockets at airports to replenish those rechargeable batteries. A second battery is always a good investment, while new portable power solutions, the likes of the Powertraveller Powergorilla (±R2300 from Wintec Solutions on 011-467-2360), will add power to your notebook when you need it most. Also check out the Powertraveller solutions for smartphones and tablets on p19.



## Travellers Tips

- Consider making a copy of your passport, flight bookings, accommodation details, reference numbers and whatever other essential information you need and store it both on your tablet and/or smartphone and in a Dropbox account.
- Global currency cards are rapidly supplanting travellers cheques as an easy method of making payment or drawing money overseas, instead of incurring high charges associated with using one's credit card.
- Watch out for roaming charges. Sending and receiving messages and making calls can quickly become costly, and remember to turn off all automatic updates on your phone, tablet and notebook, since Vodacom and MTN have little sympathy when it comes to sky-high international mobile data costs.



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## Buffalo AirStation Nfiniti HighPower G300H modem router

Range and performance worth noting

Buffalo's AirStation Nfiniti HighPower Wireless-N broadband G300H ADSL2+ modem router is a tech geek's dream, packing not only a mean punch in terms of performance, but also carrying a goodie-bag full of features.

Included are four Gigabit Ethernet ports, replacing the 100 Megabit ports more commonly found on other routers, while a USB port caters for Network Attached Storage (NAS) and printers. If watching movies over your network is a given, then the Movie Engine should come in handy, since it optimises video and audio content, prioritising it above other network traffic. With support for DLNA clients, a BitTorrent client and VPN access, the Buffalo caters perfectly for a connected lifestyle.

It is also possible to install DD-WRT open-source firmware on the unit, supporting advance routing features and quality of service, bandwidth prioritising, IPV6 support and many more.

Finally, Android fans will love the hassle-free one-touch Wi-Fi connection provided by Buffalo's free AOSS app available from Android Market. The Buffalo AirStation G300H goes for R1507. For more info contact Miro distribution on 012-657-0960.



## Grandstream GXP1405 IP phone

VoIP as it should be

This Voice over IP (VoIP) phone will have SMEs making calls at HD audio quality and dialling up advanced features, all at an affordable cost.

If your business has made the move to VoIP communication, the Grandstream GXP1405 should be right up your alley. Amongst other features it delivers excellent high-definition audio quality; advanced security protection for privacy via user and administrator level passwords; dual switched auto-sensing 10/100 Mbps network ports and three-way telephonic conferencing.

Users can store up to 500 contacts in the phonebook, which also provides enough storage for a call history of up to 200 records. Additionally, you're able to access customisable application services including a local weather report and personalise ring tones – much like regular smartphones.

This GXP1405 boasts two lines with support for two SIP (Session Initiation Protocol) accounts and dual-colour LED light to indicate the line in use. It retails for R866.



For more info on these products please contact Miro distribution on 012-657-0960.



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# Nokia Lumia 800

## A new dawn

The Lumia 800 has a lot of responsibility resting on its slim shoulders. As Nokia's first device powered by Microsoft's Windows Phone OS, the 800 just has to impress, otherwise the company can kiss their smartphone future goodbye. Good that it's such a great phone then.

There are many appealing aspects to the Lumia 800, none more so than its minimalistic design, enhanced by the rather excellent 3.7" (480 x 800) AMOLED, ClearBlack curved glass display. It's got looks nailed down to a t, an aspect many shoppers find of bigger importance rather than which operating system it runs.

### Redmond-powered smartphone

Talking of which, users new to Windows Phone will discover that it offers them a different experience to both Apple's iOS and Android, but still a very user-friendly one. New functionality introduced by Mango, the latest version of Windows Phone, includes multi-tasking and speech functionality, with the latter allowing users to dictate messages, make calls or perform web searches via voice commands.

The biggest software issue remains the lack of apps, with a lot fewer apps available on Microsoft's Windows Phone Marketplace compared to Apple's or Android's. Having said that, it has the best integration of Outlook and Office you'll be able to find south of a Windows PC.

### Unique Lumia apps

Much like Android, Windows Phone is available on other manufacturer's handsets, so Nokia has a few tricks up their sleeve to distinguish their offerings. First up is the impressive Mix Radio service that allows you to stream music playlists live or to listen to offline at a later stage. Tracks are also available to buy at an impressive R8 a pop. Nokia Drive is also onboard, making the company's excellent turn-by-turn voice-guided GPS navigation service available to Lumia users.

### Performance

Powering this smartphone is a 1.4 GHz Qualcomm Snapdragon CPU that makes the Lumia snappy when it comes to general performance and running apps. There's also a solid 16 GB of storage space available, but that's what you have to contend with since there's no microSD card slot to expand this. Cloud-storage is not a problem though, with a massive 25 GB on offer via Microsoft's SkyDrive service. Also

**"The Lumia 800 proves that the Finnish giant can stand toe-to-toe with the iPhone and its Android-running rivals"**

onboard is an 8 MP camera with Carl Zeiss optics, which captures high quality stills and records HD-ready (720p) videos. The only real hardware gripe we have is this phone's battery life, since like most other smartphones, you'll need to charge it daily.

### Conclusion

They say a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step, and with the Lumia 800 Nokia's Windows Phone adventure is off to a smooth start. Whether the company is capable of making it to the top of the sales charts remains to be seen, but the Lumia 800 at least proves that the Finnish giant can stand toe-to-toe with the iPhone and its Android-running rivals. The Lumia 800 goes for a recommended retail price of R6999. [HD] ❖



# Sony Ericsson Xperia active

## Eye of the tiger

We're big fans of phones that are able to take the rough and tumble, it's just a shame that so few make an appearance in the shop.

Last year we saw Motorola taking Android to the dust- and spill proof Defy, and now Sony Ericsson is doing the same with their Xperia active. As the name indicates, the active is aimed toward the sportier end of the market, including a bunch of accessories that make the product an appealing one. Inside the box you'll find an arm strap, hand strap, a pair of earhooks for the active's headset and an extra cover.



The phone itself is nice and small although a bit chunky compared to the likes of the Samsung Galaxy S II, but it will fit easily in your favourite pair of gym shorts. It comes with tough as nails glass covering its 3" screen, and a speedy 1 GHz Scorpion processor, providing mid-range performance.

We're slightly disappointed in the additional apps that Sony Ericsson offered, with the only sports orientated inclusions being WalkMate (a step counter) and MyFitness+ (a workout tracker using GPS to log runs, which we soon replaced with Endomondo, our tracker of choice).

Sony Ericsson also provides covers for the 3.5 mm headset jack and the microUSB connector, adding fire to their claim that the active is dust proof and water resistant. We of course had to test this, so yes, we did submerge it underwater, and yes it did make it out quite all right. Although the cover let in water, the phone's innards were quite alright. It retails for R5299. [MJ] ❖



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### Acer TM5760G

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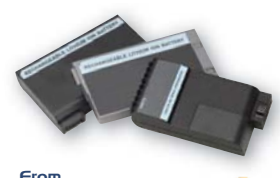
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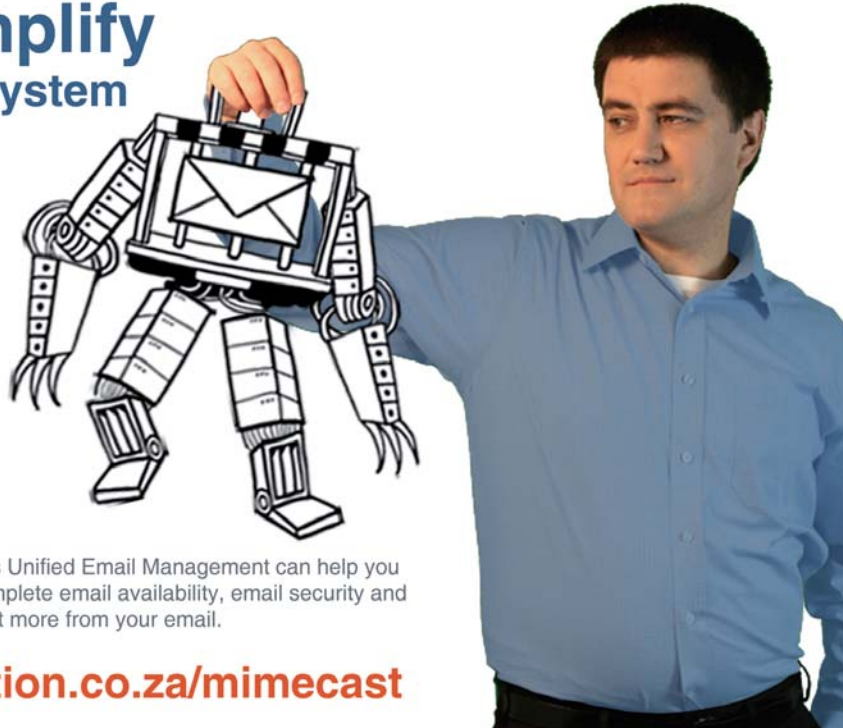


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# FileBound Express

Documents and processes fixed with one solution

Many companies struggle with two core processes central to any efficient business – electronic content management (ECM) and business process management (BPM). Luckily a solution is at hand: FileBound Express.

Essentially an EDMS and BPM solution rolled into one, FileBound facilitates paperless workflow, creating not just an automated office environment, but an 'automated business' environment – starting from less than R1000 per month.

FileBound Express provides everything you need right in the box, with a simple set-up process that requires little more than plugging the Express appliance into your network. Onboard you'll find all the tools required to scan paper documents, import images from your office copier, and save electronic documents from Microsoft Word or other applications.

This is an ideal solution that delivers on the promises of document security, control, and access without the technical complexity and cost typically associated with Document Management Solutions.

## Use FileBound Express for:

### 1. Document Management

Today's organisations need document management systems that go beyond mere document creation and electronic filing. You need the ability to control documents throughout your organisation so they're secure and accessible.



### 2. Business Process Management

FileBound enables you to automate repetitive business processes using configurable workflow, ensuring that these tasks are completed as efficiently and cost-effectively as possible. That means you can monitor and measure performance and ensure optimum output from your business and its most costly resource – your staff.

### 3. Easy integration with your business

The FileBound Solution integrates directly with popular applications such as Microsoft Office and QuickBooks. This allows for instant archival of items such as purchase orders, delivery notes, e-mails, mail attachments, invoices, and other important documents.

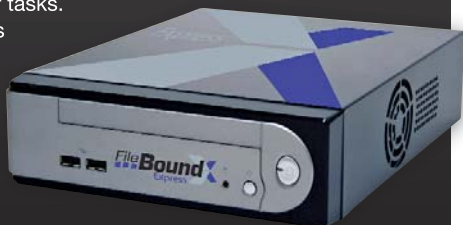
FileBound is compatible with your existing office copier or multifunction device, so no special scanners are required to convert your paper and hard copy documents into electronic format as they are received.

### 4. Regulatory and legal compliance

FileBound simplifies compliance by ensuring your business easily meets its legal and regulatory document storage requirements. It helps you to speed up month-end cycles and lengthy audit processes with its quick and user-friendly system functionality.

## How 'freedom from paper' works

- FileBound simplifies indexing and archiving of all types of electronic content, making it easy to store, find and use.
- Workflow and Business Process Management allows you to 'automate' staff and ensure they are accountable for their tasks.
- The system supports unlimited users.
- 24/7 file access from anywhere in the world – no need to be able to access your paper records.
- Password security based on user rights.
- Integrates with all current software and hardware including Microsoft Office.
- No paper means FileBound is a 'green' solution.
- Easy finance with no upfront fees.



## FileBound Express specifications:

- Pre-installed with FileBound Document Management Software.
- Easy to install plug and play network appliance.
- Connects to any corporate network with an ethernet cable.
- Provides ten concurrent user access, with unlimited logins.
- Two million document storage license.
- Automatic scheduled backups.
- Ten pre-configured applications with easy setup configuration wizard.

## Wanted: Resellers

As one of the best integrated systems on the market, FileBound Express offers the ability for IT resellers, copier vendors and PC dealers to offer a complete solution to their clients. Reseller opportunities are available, call Stephen Rufener on 082-558-4003 right now.

For more information about FileBound Express, contact FileBound on 0861-FILE IT (3453 48), or visit [www.filebound.co.za](http://www.filebound.co.za).

# FileBound Express. Instant Document Management.

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- Legislative and Regulatory Compliance
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- Password Security Based on User Rights
- Integrates with MS Office and other popular packages
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**FileBound**  
Express 

see our overview video at [www.filebound.co.za](http://www.filebound.co.za)





# HP: Cloud solutions for growing companies

A pain-free move towards the cloud

With a growing amount of companies looking towards the cloud in order to expand their business, here are the solutions on offer from HP.

## CloudSystem Matrix:



Three integrated HP CloudSystem offerings for a full range of cloud capabilities

CloudSystem Matrix is HP's base offering and targets clients who are looking to deploy a private cloud with a focus on Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS), enabling them to provision infrastructure and applications in minutes rather than months. This base configuration is built on HP's market-leading CloudSystem Matrix, which provides the means to create virtual pools of servers, storage and network. HP furthermore combines Matrix capabilities with their Server Automation and SiteScope products, allowing basic application provisioning, monitoring, patching, and compliance capabilities.

The CloudSystem Enterprise edition addresses clients who are looking to deploy a more robust private- or hybrid cloud environment. This offering, leveraging the capabilities found in CloudSystem Matrix, provides the following advanced capabilities:

- A single view of all services across private and public cloud environments using a unified service catalog via a self-service portal.
- After service selection, HP orchestrates the intelligent selection of resources needed to deliver the services based on business policies (performance, cost, compliance). These could be on-premise resources or off-

premise sources, utilising bursting or bridging capabilities.

- HP then provisions the application and infrastructure resources based on the selected resource pools, and provide ongoing monitoring and lifecycle management of the resources. Upon service retirement, they release the resources back into the shared pool.
- Finally, the CloudSystem Service Provider edition addresses the requirements of service providers. By building on the capabilities found in the other two offerings, HP offers the means for service providers to generate new revenue, decrease time to market, and simplify adoption of new value-added services. Specifically, the Software as a Service (SaaS) Aggregation Platform serves as a central interaction point where service providers can:
- Manage their own and third-party SaaS offerings.
  - Define, price, and expose service offerings to customers.
  - Integrate into existing billing and management systems.
  - Drive revenue management (settlement) with third-party providers and resellers.

## HP Cloud Maps:



CloudSystem Matrix automates the entire lifecycle to build and manage a private cloud

HP Cloud Maps provide an easy-to-use navigation system that can save you days or weeks of time architecting infrastructure for applications and services, reducing provisioning time by as much as 80%. Cloud Maps accelerate the automation of business applications on CloudSystem Matrix, so you can reliably and consistently fast-track the implementation of service catalogs.

It consists of tested engineering components, such as:

- Templates for hardware and software configuration that can be imported directly into CloudSystem Matrix, saving days or weeks of solution design time.
- Sizers to help guide capacity and performance planning.
- Workflows and scripts designed to automate installation more quickly and in a repeatable fashion.
- Reference white papers to help customise the Cloud Map for your specific implementation.

## HP's CloudStart Solution:

- HP delivers a true private cloud for a customer, integrated, running and productive within 30 days of hardware installation.
- The Private Cloud Foundation provides the foundation for a private cloud implementation, automated provisioning, catalog/portal, elastic virtualised resources delivered as the Converged Infrastructure.

- The HP Cloud Solution Infrastructure takes the Private Cloud Foundation and delivers a complete, running, productive "compute" solution, with resource metering and chargeback, integrated into the datacenter security, identity management, backup and DR planning. It can be extended to SLA management and software lifecycle

- management. Enterprise customers require a private cloud to be a compliant part of the datacenter infrastructure and that is what this solution delivers.
- The HP CloudStart Infrastructure is for customers needing to pilot or start up a private cloud solution quickly, and is a bounded, no options instance of the broader solution. ❁

For more information, please contact Gregory Deane at HP on 082-882-4444, or email [gregory.deane@hp.com](mailto:gregory.deane@hp.com).

# STREAMLINE

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[hp.co.za/streamline](http://hp.co.za/streamline)







# Breaking internet bandwidth limits

## Next level connectivity within reach

Now more than ever before, the demand for bandwidth is increasing. Many companies rely on the internet for email, VoIP services and video conferencing, making it an essential tool for business. Fast and reliable connectivity is king though, and 100% always-on internet is a must. The Peplink Balance range of solutions can secure much needed internet up-time.



### About Cyberlab

As appointed sub-distributor of the Peplink products in South Africa, Cyberlab does not only supply, configure and support Peplink products, but also assist companies to obtain the most from their available internet connections and other networking and server infrastructure.



Peplink Balance 20

Peplink Balance 710

Peplink Balance Family

### Peplink Balance overview

The Peplink Balance's world-leading internet load balancing and VPN bonding solution lets you take control of your WAN and improves internet connectivity, all with one easy-to-manage device. Able to intelligently distribute network traffic over multiple WAN links, including up to 13 DSL, cable, 4G, and 3G, the Peplink optimises traffic via its outbound traffic manager and DSL/Cable Optimisation Technology. Even with the most strenuous network traffic, the Peplink scales on demand to provide fast internet when you need it most. Should a connection fail, the Peplink Balance automatically switches to a healthy link in less than a second, seamlessly maintaining internet connectivity and corporate VPN functionality. Using Peplink's unique VPN bonding technology, you can aggregate the bandwidth of all available WAN links, significantly boosting speed, reliability, and failover performance.

- Optimise network traffic by load balancing**  
 Peplink Balance gives you the flexibility to customise your network. Easily increase network speed and bandwidth by adding new internet links from multiple ISPs. Use higher bandwidth connections for critical cloud applications, and other connections for surfing the net to ensure smooth transfer.
- Advanced load balancing algorithms**  
 Peplink gives you seven load balancing algorithms to fine-tune your network traffic. Create rules to distribute outbound traffic across all available connections and utilise bandwidth wisely. Using Weighted Balance to put more traffic on faster links, or Priority to keep routing traffic on your favoured connection, only takes a few clicks.
- Link failover as backup**  
 If any of your connections fail, failover will take place and traffic will automatically be routed through other connections. With multiple connections, including 3G support, you can access the internet with no interruptions.

- Host servers with confidence**  
 Peplink's Inbound Load Balancing Algorithms enable visitors to enter your server through different internet links to enhance the customers experience with faster response times and higher speeds. Hosting email, e-commerce, VoIP, and other business applications has never been easier, faster, and more reliable.
- Better connection between offices with VPN bonding**  
 Replace your leased lines with multiple ADSL internet services and you'll still have an MPLS-grade secure private network with the innovative Site-to-Site VPN bonding. Peplink's VPN Bonding turns all available connections into one big internet pipe, giving your VPN tunnel the sum of bonded bandwidth. Communicating among your offices has never been faster and easier.
- Email notification and Reporting Service**  
 The Peplink Balance can send out an email notification when an internet service goes down and a free Reporting Service can provide you with reports on usage and uptime of your internet links. Additional monitoring via major reporting protocols such as Syslog and SNMP, lets you monitor your network with the utility of your choice.
- Works well with all ISPs**  
 Many Internet Service Providers (ISPs) require the use of their own email server for a complete internet experience, causing applications to stop working if the user has a wrong configuration. Peplink Balance features SMTP Forwarding, allowing you to send out email promptly with the correct email server. Web Proxy Forwarding will direct traffic to the right server, even if the user setting is wrong. The network user will be able to surf the internet and send email as usual, saving time to troubleshoot for frustrated network users.

### Peplink product comparison

Category	Home User/Small Office	Small Business	Medium Sized Business	Large Enterprise	Mobile Router
Models	Balance 20 & Balance 30	Balance 210 & Balance 310	Balance 380 & Balance 580	Balance 710 & Balance 1350	MAX 700 & MAX HD2
WAN Connections	2 or 3	2 or 3	3 or 5	7 or 13	6 or 5
Load Balancing Algorithms	5	7	7	7	7
Site-to-Site VPN Peers	0	2	20 or 50	300 or 800	2
Approximate Price (Excl Vat)	R3 500 & R4 500	R13 500 & R14 500	R20 000 & R30 000	R41 000 & R70 000	R20 000

For more information about the Peplink range, visit [www.peplinkrouters.co.za](http://www.peplinkrouters.co.za) or contact Cyberlab at 011-664-8081.

## Powermonkey Discovery

The Powermonkey Discovery portable charger is extremely serious about extending smartphones' battery life. Thanks to an advanced 3500 mAh lithium polymer battery, it carries enough power to recharge your iPhone not once, but twice – making it ideal for extended trips to the bush. Other mobile phones can be recharged up to four times and music playback for MP3 players can be boosted by a whopping 120 hours. This device is compatible with a myriad of different devices since it comes with five adaptor tips including a mini- and micro USB. It retails for R699. ❖

## Jabra Freeway in-car speakerphone

Jabra's latest Freeway in-car speakerphone sports dualmic technology to ensure that your calls and voice commands remain free of background noises. Sound is further boosted thanks to the Freeway being the first in-car speaker offering a three speaker stereo system and Virtual Surround sound for crisp sound. Users will be able to keep both hands on their steering wheel where they belong, as the Jabra's voice capabilities enables them to make, receive and end calls using voice commands.

One can also stream music/ podcasts off smartphone thanks to A2DP technology, while the Freeway can connect to phones simultaneously. It retails for R1849. ❖

## Joby Gorillamobile Ori iPad 2

The versatile Gorillamobile Ori's functions as a sturdy, lightweight protective case for Apple's tablet. This case is constructed out of a special aluminum composite that is used in high-performance cars, meaning the Ori offers rigid stability in a sculptural, lightweight form. It does not stop there, since the Ori also doubles as a stand for the iPad enabling users to position their tablet at the most comfortable height and viewing angle whether watching a movie, scrolling around a webpage or composing an email. It retails for R799. ❖

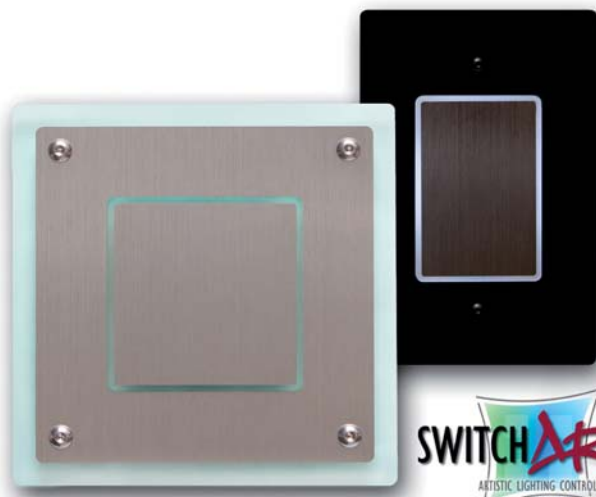


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## Qwik-Switch introduces Smartphone Home-Control



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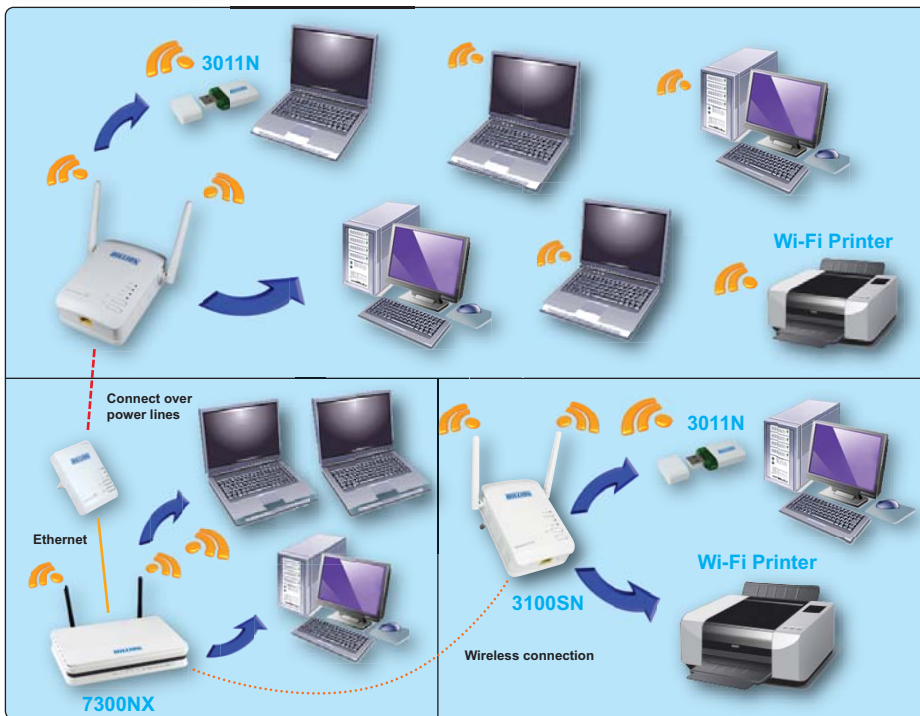


Wireless light switches to compliment your style



100 billion. Number of friendship connections made by Facebook's 845 million users who also post 2.7 billion likes and comments daily.





### Wireless-N 150Mbps ADSL2+ Modem/Router (7300W)

This router is ideal for users looking for high-speed ADSL internet access. The Billion 7300W supports ADSL2/2+ providing maximum download speeds of up to 24 Mbps. It sports a Wireless-N Access Point that supports a wireless data speed of up to 150 Mbps which helps to make the Billion 7300W ideal for online applications and video streaming.

### Universal Wi-Fi Range Extender (3100SN)

There's nothing quite as frustrating as dead spots in an office or home where the wireless signal does not extend to. The compact Billion 3100SN will assist users in securely extending their Internet access, making it easier to reach all notebooks, PCs, gaming consoles and smartphones in an extended office / home. This device can also be configured and employed as an Access Point and is capable of repeating 2.4 GHz Wi-Fi signals from any wireless router.

### Wireless-N USB Adapter (3011N)

The Billion 3011N is aimed at home and small office users and supports a blistering data transfer speeds of up to 150 Mbps upload and 300 Mbps download, meaning it can easily cope with bandwidth-heavy applications. The Billion 3011N is simple and easy-to-use providing an intuitive user interface for setting up the wireless network. To ensure a secure connection, the Billion 3011N supports WEP and WPA/WPA2 encryption as well as WPS (Wi-Fi Protected Setup). The Wi-Fi Multimedia (WMM) function offers priority to multimedia applications for optimal streaming.

# The Connected Office

Wireless-N networking devices that get you working

Modems, routers and other networking devices won't rank highly on most people's sexiest gadget list, but they do play a crucial role in connecting us to the net. Nology's range of Wireless-N enabled devices ensures that your home or office network provides the best coverage, as well as the quickest data transfer speeds.

### Billion Wireless-N ADSL2+ Modem/Router with 3G Failover\* (7300NX)

Most companies are dependent on a constant and reliable Internet connection, which makes working in SA challenging. The Billion 7300NX can fortunately meet these demands, since it not only provides ADSL support, but also 3G connectivity via a 3G/HSDPA modem\*. It supports downstream data transmission speeds of up to 24Mbps on ADSL2/2+. With the Auto-Failover feature, the router will automatically failover to the 3G connection, if the ADSL connection drops, ensuring that the Internet connection is always on. The Billion 7300NX will automatically failback to ADSL when the ADSL connection comes back up. (\*3G Modem not included)



### Wireless Ethernet Over Power Adapter Bundle (P106N)

Don't like the look of unsightly cables? Billion's P106N Wireless Ethernet over Power bundle allows users to deliver high-speed network access (transfer speeds of up to 200 Mbps) via the electrical wiring within their home or office. With the built-in Wireless Access Point, users have the freedom of high speed wireless connectivity, up to 300Mbps. It's as easy as pie to set-up and can help in homes and offices where wireless connectivity is a hassle.



### Demystifying Wireless-N

IEEE 802.11n, or the Wireless-N standard, supports significantly improved data rates (up to six times that of 802.11g), also providing up to three times the wireless coverage area of an 802.11g capable device. This means that a home served by a single Wireless-N capable Wi-Fi router suffers from fewer "dead spots" where there is no Internet connection, whilst businesses have speedier access to bandwidth-intensive applications including video conferencing and wireless VoIP (Voice over IP).



For more information please contact Nology on 012-657-1317 or visit [www.billionsa.com](http://www.billionsa.com) for your local retail outlet.

# The Fast & the Flexible Bundle

Valid from Thursday 01 March to Wednesday 14 March 2012

**R1599**  
Retail Price



Share Your 3G Connection Wirelessly with Multiple Devices



## Portable Wi-Fi 3G Router 351W

- USB 2.0 port for 3G/HSUPA modem\*
- Integrated wireless access point
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www.vkom.co.za

\* Modem not included \*\* At time of fabrication \*\*\* Card not included - Terms & Conditions Apply: [www.nology.co.za/terms](http://www.nology.co.za/terms)

ABC. Following the release of Nokia Belle (formerly Symbian Belle), Nokia will reportedly bring out Carla and then Donna.

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# CompTIA

## A look into the local ICT industry

ITWeb Annual Salary Survey provides a peek inside



The ever-changing nature of the ICT industry makes it extremely difficult to pin down what is the most in-demand or best-paying job. This is dependent on current demand and very often this is based on a product still in development, predicted to be the next big thing to hit the market. With this in mind, CompTIA shares some statistics gathered by the ITWeb team as published in the ITWeb Annual Salary Survey 2011.

### Sample snapshot

The 2011 ITWeb Annual Salary Survey was compiled from data provided by 3226 permanently employed workers. These included IT professionals, IT business managers and business owners from across SA, from small to large companies. The vast majority of respondents live in Gauteng, followed by the Western Cape. The largest area of work was software development and programming, followed by network infrastructure and processes. Over 80% of respondents are male, 52% are white and more than half are between 25 and 35 years old.

### Executive summary

- On average women are still earning less than men across all levels: strategic, operational and staff.
- Results indicate that Gauteng pays the best, salaries in Limpopo are the lowest.
- More experience means a higher salary in most cases.
- According to the survey, the top-paid niche areas of IT are document management and imaging, enterprise architecture and SOA, ERP and project management, e-billing, and supply chain management.
- Support/helpdesk respondents report earning the least, followed by desktop management/services, web design, web services and call centre management.
- Just under three quarters of respondents

received a salary increase in the last year. The majority of these increases were between 4% and 10%.

- The survey analysed salaries within three job levels: strategic, operational and staff. At the strategic level, the three top-paid job types were CEO/MD/President, then CFO/FD and then CIO.

At the operational management level, the three top-paid jobs were enterprise architect/chief architect, business development manager and database/data warehouse manager.

At the staff level, architects top the best-paid chart: the three top-paid jobs were enterprise architect/chief architect, software architect and systems architect.

### Education vs. salary

In general, the higher the level of education, the higher the salary. There is a marked difference in the salaries of those who have undergraduate degrees vs. those who attended technical college or technikon.

### Job satisfaction

The results of the survey show that the majority of respondents feel either happy with or neutral about their jobs. While only 16% admit to being unhappy, most respondents are on the hunt for new positions. 35% of respondents love their jobs, but 58% are keeping a lookout for something new.

This may be due in part to the fact that 41% of respondents feel their salaries are not competitive. Just over half the respondents believe their salaries to be competitive or very competitive – a 9% drop since last year. 30% of respondents cited “Want to earn more money,” as their primary reason for leaving a company, followed by “Want to work on new/more challenging technology.”

In terms of what makes respondents happy in their jobs, remuneration is an important factor, but it is not the most important, however. It falls under quality of management, career prospects and, the factor deemed most important, the challenge of the job.

For more information on the survey please visit [bit.ly/itwebsurvey](http://bit.ly/itwebsurvey).

Education vs. Salary		
	Count	Annual
Matric or equivalent	289	R 368,667.82
Further education or training (e.g. technical college)	369	R 304,658.54
Tertiary diploma (e.g. Technikon)	754	R 339,120.69
Professional certification (e.g. Microsoft, Cisco, Novell, etc.)	603	R 347,030.85
Tertiary / university degree (3 years)	465	R 413,994.84
Tertiary / university degree (4 years)	273	R 429,820.51
Honours	291	R 473,199.31
Masters degree	168	R 654,684.52
PhD	14	R 821,214.29

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# BluWave: Managing CRM from the cloud

Cloud-based CRM a boon for local SMEs

Imagine a world where you can access your data anywhere, anytime and from any device. Well that is now a reality with BluWave CRM.

BluWave has been a key Customer Relationship Management (CRM) player in the industry for over 22 years, responsible for hundreds of successful CRM implementations. With the inevitable adoption of cloud computing, BluWave has anticipated change with the latest release of new web-based, cloud-application CRM software. No expensive infrastructure is needed to make use of BluWave CRM since the software is browser-based and can be run from any internet connected device.

### CRM implementation

Implementing CRM can be daunting and time consuming, but necessary if you want to increase sales and retain customers. According to the highly respected *Harvard Business Review*, by implementing CRM, sales may be increased by 30% and more, with a reduction in selling cost of 25%. With Bluwave CRM, implementation is



BluWave Leads Management

BluWave Performance Dashboard

quick and effortless. You are literally up and running with a click of a button. No more long, tedious and complicated user installations.

**“The system is very easy to use. As a sales person the quotes function saves me half an hour per quote.”**  
Sales representative at Mercedes Benz Commercial Vehicles Eastrand

### Mobility

BluWave CRM leverages the power of tablet devices to ensure you have access to your data while you are on the move. Spend more time interacting with your clients and less time at your desk performing admin tasks. Data entered from different devices are stored in a single database so there is no synchronising and you always process and retrieve data in real time.

### Features

- Performance Dashboard
- Activity and Diary Management
- Opportunity Tracking
- Quotes Automation
- Customer and Contact Management
- Leads Management
- Document Management
- Automatic Push Reports
- Transfer leads from your website into BluWave CRM using a Web Service

### Free software trial

TechSmart readers who would like to try out BluWave CRM can do so by heading to [www.bluwave.co.za](http://www.bluwave.co.za). The trial is available for 30 days, with no downloads or installations required. BluWave CRM starts at only R220 p/m.

For more information call Tania Cooke-Tonnesen on 011-462-6871 or mail [sales@bluwave.co.za](mailto:sales@bluwave.co.za).



# VKOM 351W portable Wi-Fi router

Turning 3G into Wi-Fi

With a number of really solid, high bandwidth per month offerings from 8ta, MTN, Cell C and Vodacom, buying mobile data for the home is beginning to look like a very attractive proposition.

The problem is how do you share this in a home / office environment? The VKOM 351W portable Wi-Fi router provides the answer.

### Easy to connect

This small black device includes a twistable connector at the top where you insert your USB modem. If you've dealt with routers before you'll know that there's a bit of set-up involved, which is also the case with the VKOM. Luckily it's not too much of an effort, in fact setting up a router for an ADSL line is far more strenuous and involved.

Using a webpage-based management system and following instructions from the device's quick start guide, we were up and running in minutes. Once the VKOM is connected to the cellular data network, it forms a Wi-Fi hotspot onto which up to 32 devices, such as phones, printers, notebooks and tablets are able to connect wirelessly.

In regards to security, the default password is the MAC address located on the side of the 351W's box, but this, along with other admin settings, can be changed in the web management interface. The 351W supports 64/128-bit WEP, WPA, and WPA2 settings, in order to prevent unauthorised access to the network.

### Portable too

The VKOM 351W may find a permanent place in your home, but it also comes with a

rechargeable Li-Ion battery, making it a portable solution. It's small enough to carry around, and with the USB connector able to fold into the device, it should fit nicely in a suit pocket or a handbag.

In theory the router should provide similar download speeds as your modem, but in practice this is not always the case. The speeds we achieved differed when we went online via the USB dongle connected to our PC locally, than when connected via the VKOM router. The VKOM 351W supports the 802.11n protocol (Wireless-N), and is capable of Wi-Fi speeds of up to 150 Mbps, allowing for better coverage in the office.

### Final word

For those wanting to make use of current mobile data offers, the VKOM 351W will provide the means to use a 3G modem to form a portable hotspot. For more information contact Nology on 012-657-1317 or visit [www.vkom.co.za](http://www.vkom.co.za).



# TomTom GO LIVE Top Gear edition

Some say it's the best satnav around

In-car GPS units can be boring, humdrum, lacklustre and sometimes also dull. Luckily TomTom called upon the outspoken Jeremy Clarkson and a few other Top Gear-inspired features, to rectify this.

The TomTom Go Live Top Gear edition is the GPS unit that should have never been, since after it hit the shops, the BBC, who are responsible for the show, found that Jeremy Clarkson endorsing a car product is

**"Is the Top Gear edition really worth the extra cash? We're not convinced."**

indeed a conflict of interest. Luckily for the millions of Top Gear fans worldwide the broadcaster's concerns came too late, with the TomTom now available to purchase for R2399.

So here you have a unit that sports Top Gear-themed start-up and shut-down screens, and selected points of interest including the Top Gear race track. More useful to South African fans is having Jeremy Clarkson's sarcasm filled voice guiding them on their journey. Clarkson will reprimand you with "You've cocked up" when you miss a turn, while cautioning with "Be prepared to be charged for using a road your taxes have already paid for" when heading to a toll road. It can get dull rather quickly, with certain phrases like "Your driving is making me car sick" used too often. We soon switched to The Stig mode, which, you guessed it, renders the device silent.

## Other functionality

As a GO LIVE device, the Top Gear edition comes with a free one year subscription to TomTom's LIVE Services including HD Traffic. The latter



delivers updated routing and traffic information every few minutes to notify users whether they are on the fastest route. If there happens to be traffic delays further ahead, it estimates the time that these would set you back and suggests alternative routes. Bluetooth is also onboard, enabling you to make hands-free calls when you pair the device with your smartphone. Using voice commands for functions like making calls and setting a destination, turned out to be a bit of a hit and miss affair.

Although TomTom's GO LIVE Top Gear edition is a feature packed device, you could get the same functionality (minus the Top Gear exclusives) from a less expensive device such as the TomTom Via LIVE 120 South Africa. Is the Top Gear edition really worth the extra cash? We're not convinced. And on that bombshell we conclude our review. [HD] ❖

# Boogie Board 9.5" Rip

Scribblers of the world unite

Ever wished you could replace your pen and copious amounts of note-, memo- and sketch pads, with a single electronic solution?

Well the Boogie Board Rip LCD Writing tablet enables students, artists and diligent notetakers to do just that. With a large 9.5" pressure-sensitive LCD writing surface, you are able to compose notes and draw pictures using the included stylus.

The big difference between the Rip and other Boogie Board models is the ability to save notes and sketches as high-resolution vector portable

document files (PDFs) via the Boogie Board's internal memory (8 MB). You can store around 200 average-sized (30-50 kilobytes each, maximum: 192 KB) PDFs on the device. When the memory gets full, users can connect the tablet to their PC via the included micro USB to USB connection cable, to transfer the PDFs to their PC to organise and even edit



these by using a PDF editing program such as Adobe Illustrator. It goes for R1249 from the PDAshop.co.za on 012-743-6168, and you get an Ionic sports watch (R149) free. ❖

# The CAD Corporation joins Autodesk's elite partners

Local firm awarded Gold Partner status



Local firms don't need to look overseas to locate the best Autodesk solutions providers, as attested by local Autodesk partner and software solutions provider The CAD Corporation being awarded Autodesk's Gold Partner status.

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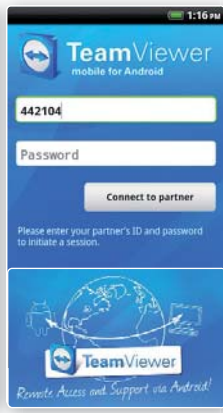
## Android Apps of the month

With over 100 000 apps available at the Android Market, we would like to help you get to the good ones first.



### OfficeSuite Viewer 5

Admittedly, there are many office applications on the Android market, so if you want full editing capability, you can fork out for apps like Documents to Go. However, if all you need to do is open and view a full range of office docs on your Android device, OfficeSuite Viewer 5 is an excellent option. OfficeSuite Viewer 5 supports a wide range of file formats, including DOC, DOCX, RTF, TXT, LOG, XLS, XLSX, CSV, PPT, PPTX, PPS, PPSX, EML, PDF and ZIP. Additionally, you can add cloud accounts, such as Dropbox and Google Docs, to open files directly from the cloud.



### TeamViewer Remote

TeamViewer for Remote Control is an interesting and effective remote app which enables you to use your Android device to connect to and control a PC remotely. However, you do need to install the free TeamViewer software on the PC you wish to access remotely as well. While setting up both the app, the PC program and your TeamViewer account can take a little while, the program (free for personal/non-commercial use) proved to be an effective way of transferring files from our computer to our mobile device, editing documents and accessing open windows on our android device when away from our desk.



### Business Calendar

The third of our business orientated apps, Business Calendar is a free app which integrates multiple calendars from several sources, including one's Gmail and other web based accounts, a local calendar generated on the device as well as events from one's Facebook account. These can then be viewed separately in either month, week or daily views, and an agenda view is also available, where you can specify whether two or five lines of details show under an appointment. The free version is ad supported, but these are unobtrusive and didn't get in our way much at all.



## Apple iOS Apps of the month

You'll never come close to going through all the apps in Apple's App Store. Let us suggest the best.



### Action Movie FX

Apple's iPhone is extremely competent on the video recording front, with the latest model offering 1080p video recording. On occasion though, you may want to take your videos to the next level by adding some special effects. Action Movie FX enables users to do just that, offering three highly impressive blockbuster-style effects. You start by choosing one of three scenes, namely Missile Attack, Demolition Rock and Car Smash. After recording your movie, the app will add your chosen effect with you editing its placement and timing. Once completed, you can post the jaw-dropping (well almost) result to Facebook. More effects are available to purchase.



### meta.DJ for iPhone

Ever found yourself on the dancefloor, thinking you can do a better job than the DJ? Well, meta.DJ provides you with the tools to put that suspicion to the test. Start by selecting a foundation track for your tune, then make it unique by adding various elements, including drum beats. Users can also add musical effects such as filter and stutter effects, as well as loops, in time to drop the next beat. If you love music and have even the faintest inclination towards mixing music, this is the app to get. meta.DJ also has a paid for version going for \$5, while the original iPad version, with four control decks, retails for \$20.



### WeatherSA

Weather apps aren't amongst the most exciting, but they do come in quite handy. A case in point being the new WeatherSA app, which is supported by the South African Weather Service. Besides providing users with standard info such as a three-day outlook, this app also delivers storm warnings and daily push notifications. But what about my outdoor plans for the upcoming week – should I reschedule? WeatherSA helps with this via a colour-coded chart, giving you the go-ahead (green) for activities such as braaiing or jogging, or telling you to check the weather (orange) or reschedule (red).

### Android Tip of the Month: Find it fast

Want to quickly find something located on your phone? Long pressing the menu button opens up Google's search bar with added local search functionality. Use this to quickly locate apps and contacts on your device, or to easily do a web search.



### iPhone tip: Creating folders

One of the major benefits of the iPhone is the ability to clean up homescreens by organising apps into folders. You can, for example, create a Games folder for all your mobile games or put all photography apps into a Pics folder. All you have to do is press and hold any app icon on a homescreen. When it starts to wiggle (shake), drag the icon onto another app that you want grouped. A new folder is automatically created, and now you can simply drag other similar apps into the new folder.



## DISCOVER KARAOKE

Do you love to sing? If you have a computer, iPad or iPad 2 all you need is DISCOVER KARAOKE to be the star of the show. DISCOVER KARAOKE is a complete karaoke system for your computer or iPad.



## TREKSTOR IPHONE PROJECTOR

With the Trekstor you can project images, videos or slideshows directly from your iPhone® 4/4S against a wall (diagonal from approx. 30 – 130 cm). Thanks to the built-in battery, the mini-projector can be used as a power charger for your iPhone 4/4S.



### AKG Gaming Headset

AKG GHS 1 brings an extra level of realism and excitement to video gaming. Designed for longwearing comfort, the headset features a boom microphone that filters out most background noise and volume and microphone controls right on the cable.



### Motorcycle BT Intercom

The Interphone F5 is designed for motorcyclists who like to travel in pairs or groups, and provides conference-type communication six or more users. INTERPHONE F5 is equipped with TTS (Text To Speech), which provides status messages and ensures maximum comfort.



### Oregon Mini ATC Action Cam

The ATC Mini is a super lightweight, compact, waterproof and rugged action camera for the toughest of conditions. The camera records at 720P HD video and can plunge to depths of 20 meters making it suitable for all your on-land, off-land and even underwater activities.



### XtremeMac Tango Bar

Need a new pair of speakers to go along with your iMac or Apple Cinema Display? The Tango Bar from XtremeMac might be just for you.



### Kikkerland Flip Clock

Designed by Michael Daniel, the 8 inches tall robot flip clock makes the perfect desk accessory for home or office. The retro black-and-white numbers flip to mark the time. The legs swing so they can be placed in different positions.



### Daisy BB Pistols

As fast as you can pull the trigger, Daisy's Powerline 008 semi auto pistol spits out ammo! Powered by a CO2 cartridge, the Powerline 008 really packs a punch, sending ammo downrange at 480 fps



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# Web Time Wasters

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## Calorie King

[www.calorieking.com](http://www.calorieking.com)

Calorie King (no relation to Stephen King) is a treasure trove of information for those looking to lose weight or just better manage their nutrition. The site offers detailed calorie and nutrient breakdown on a variety of foods, including fruits and vegetables, and translates the calorie cost of each food into how much exercise is required to burn the same amount of calories. You can also specify serving sizes and see the overall calorie content by quantity. Additionally, extensive FAQs provide answers about popular diets and a myriad of health concerns.



## Map my Hike

[www.mapmyhike.com](http://www.mapmyhike.com)

Who said taking a hike had to be a lonely pursuit? Not Map My Hike, which enables hikers to keep track of and share their hike routes, plan their workouts and nutritional goals, find friends interested in hiking and share their stories and photos with others. Additionally, members and visitors can view contributions ranging from playlist suggestions to healthy recipes, and read other member's stories related to hiking and working out. Map My Hike also has sister sites, including Map my Walk for walkers, Map my Ride for cyclists and Map my Run for – you guessed it – runners.



## Gogobot

[www.gogobot.com](http://www.gogobot.com)

Gogobot effectively turns anyone into a travel writer, enabling people to pen their own reviews of hotels and restaurants as well as read those of others. However, what makes it compelling and interesting is the recommendations and advice you can find for places you intend visiting, which makes it more of an online travel guide written by anyone. Imminently useful for those on their way to the locations discussed, it's not less interesting for armchair travellers or those dreaming of their next great travel adventure.

## The best (and weirdest) YouTube can offer:



A beautiful chance encounter with nature: [bit.ly/chancelive](http://bit.ly/chancelive)

How it feels like being a hula hoop: [bit.ly/huluhula](http://bit.ly/huluhula)

French prankster impersonating a traffic camera: [bit.ly/trafficcamm](http://bit.ly/trafficcamm)

The best Cinnamon Challenge yet: [bit.ly/cinmoneat](http://bit.ly/cinmoneat)

## Best of the rest:

A must check: The latest scale of the universe: [bit.ly/scaleun](http://bit.ly/scaleun)

450 free movies online (and no it's not torrents): [www.openculture.com/freemoviesonline](http://www.openculture.com/freemoviesonline)

And free books for your Kindle: <http://amzn.to/kindlefree>

Star Wars characters as samurai: [bit.ly/samstarwars](http://bit.ly/samstarwars)



## TechSmart's top tweets

Here are the tweets that struck our fancy during February.



**Senzy Mtshali** @SenzyM  
We live in a world where losing your phone is more dramatic than losing your virginity..



**Nicholas Boerma** @Boerrie  
The day computers become self aware, they will look at who they are, what the internet is made of...and then kill themselves.



**Niki** @NikiWithIssues  
The greatest trick the devil ever pulled was giving us internet access.



**Craig Wilson** @craigwilson  
When you say "I can think of nothing worse" you're clearly not trying hard enough.



**Gus Silber** @gussilber  
Someone asked me for a stamp today, & someone else asked if I could burn them a CD. What is this, the 20th Century?



**Jason Elk** @jasonelk  
<in the interests of only saying nice things, this tweet has been deleted>



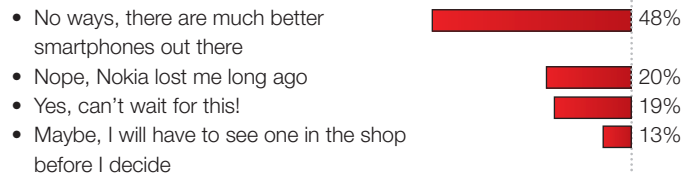
**vincent hofmann** @vinc= [Reply](#) [Retweet](#) [Favorited](#) [Open](#)  
I am sorry to say, and this hurts but Nokia & Microsoft have just made me smile more than Apple has. The Lumia's interface is beautiful.



**Alex de Coning** @senorblinky  
I read recipes the same way I read science fiction, I get to the end and I think, "Well, that's not going to happen..."

## TechSmart.co.za online poll results

### Will you be buying Nokia's new Lumia 800 operating on Windows Phone?



### Which gaming title are you looking forward to the most during 2012?



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# PS Vita: What you need to know

The PlayStation Vita (Latin for life) is aptly named, because gamers' response to it will go a long way towards indicating whether gaming on a portable digital console is alive and well, or whether smartphones and tablets are now the name of the game.

Even if it is the latter, we fully expect Sony's newest portable contender will not go quietly into that good night, as its launch is to be accompanied with a raft of new exclusive games to entice the PlayStation faithful.

## The Gear: Powerful

That said, even the best games on offer will matter little if what the device can actually do isn't up to scratch. On this front, the Vita looks set to be a decent piece of kit, sporting a 5" OLED (960 x 544) capacitive touchscreen, front and rear VGA (640 x 480) cameras, Bluetooth 2.1+EDR, built-in GPS, motion sensors, as well as a capacitive rear touch pad. Most importantly, the Vita boasts dual analog sticks – a feature sorely missed on previous PSPs.

The Vita is powered by a quad-core ARM Cortex A9 processor, whilst the graphics are handled by a SGX543MP4+ GPU. Added to this is 512 MB memory and 128 MB of video memory. Sony believes that in terms of visuals, this should amount to near PlayStation 3 level gaming, when taking into account the 5" screen output. It's also worth noting that the Vita does not have built in storage, and thus you will have to buy a new proprietary Vita memory card - available in 4 GB, 8 GB, 16 GB or 32 GB capacities – to save games or download titles

from the PlayStation Store. Alas, the Vita does not accommodate the Memory Stick Duo or SD cards.

## The Games: Extensive

This is possibly the most important part of a new console launch – as exclusive must-play titles have historically been a factor in driving players to invest in their console of choice. Launch titles will include Lumines, Dungeon Hunter Alliance, Asphalt Injection, Rayman Origins, Ridge Racer, Army Corps of Hell, Little Deviants, LittleBigPlanet, WipEout 2048, Resistance: Burning Skies and Uncharted Golden Abyss

browsing the web and chatting with PSN friends, while larger downloads (above 20 MB) would still require a Wi-Fi connection. That being said though, Sony has already released a firmware update to the device, which adds a maps application and enables video recording, so perhaps future updates will remove this limitation.

## The Uses: Tantalising

Besides the obvious – namely playing exclusive titles – the Vita does offer a few more reasons to look twice. For example, players will be able to stream games from their PS3 to the Vita and continue playing any supported title currently



**“Ultimately the sales will tell whether the PS Vita is still relevant in the age of smartphone and tablet gaming.”**

amongst others. Additionally, the console will play 275 PSP titles so far (with more being added) as well as PlayStation 'minis' downloaded from the PlayStation store. However, the Vita won't accept the UMD disks as used in the PSP, although it will play PSP games purchased on the PlayStation Store.

## The big choice: Wi-Fi or 3G?

The Vita will be available in two models, Wi-Fi only or the more expensive Wi-Fi and 3G. The question facing users may well be whether to opt for the cheaper model which requires a Wi-Fi hotspot to connect, or fork out a little extra for the 3G. Opinions are largely split, mostly because the 3G functionality appears to be limited to

running on the Vita's big brother. Additionally users will be able to use social networking apps such as Facebook, and browse the web, on the device. Using Wi-Fi, users will further be able to play against others on both their Vita or PS3. However, at present, the Vita 3G only allows for turn-based multiplayer over a 3G connection.

## The Price: Not too bad

Ultimately the sales will tell whether the PS Vita is still relevant in the age of smartphone and tablet gaming - we for one hope it is. The prices for the two versions aren't too steep, with the Wi-Fi version costing R2700 and the Wi-Fi + 3G available for an extra R600, at R3300. The Vita should be in shops now. [RN] 🍀



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