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HP Z1 Workstation

All the power, no tower



Canon PowerShot G1 x

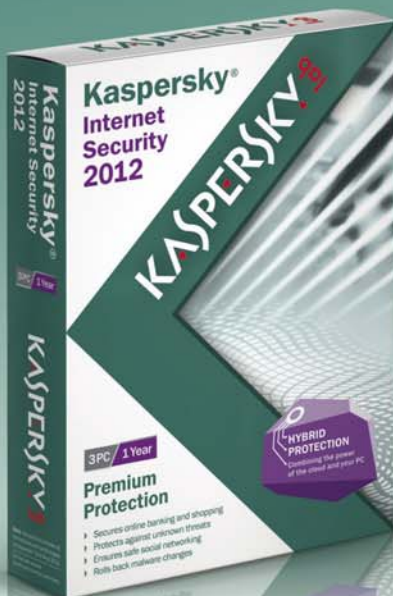
The beast is back



Top 5 hottest
sport rides



The Security Issue



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The Security Issue May 2012



The needle and the damage done

In the age of the internet, it's easy to become addicted. Some people's kicks come from the little red notification that appears on their Facebook page, others' high from a tweet that's been retweeted and yet another follower added. Mine comes, or, I hope, came from news.

News24 was my dealer, keeping me hooked with a constant stream of local and international stories. For flavour I would pass by Times Live, more than I would IOL. The high grade stuff over at the Guardian was a must, or, if I was really indulgent, the in-depth analysis of The Daily Maverick would leave my head buzzing.

I gave it up on Good Friday, not for any religious reason, simply because a camping trip, and the one day only battery life of modern smartphones, forced me to go cold-turkey. I'm happy to say that I've been clean now for more than two weeks, although every day is a constant battle.

Sometimes I absentmindedly type in a news website's URL, but then I catch myself and simply browse to my Flickr stream to see how many views my photos are receiving.

Enjoy the issue and please feel free to distribute the mag's PDF, available at techsmart.co.za.

Mike (michael@techsmart.co.za)

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B&D System Engineers



6 Top 5 hottest exotic sport rides

For a moment we forget that we'll never be able to afford one, in order to compile our Top 5 list of the most delectable sport cars available.

11 Samsung Series 7 Chronos notebook

Ultrabooks might be the in-thing right now, but more powerful notebooks are still out there. We review the latest notebook from Samsung's increasingly better stable.

16 Canon PowerShot G1 x

Fans of Canon's G-series rejoice! The G1 x at long last comes with a bigger and better sensor. We took it through its paces.

32 FIFA Street + Competition

Stadiums are benched in order to play soccer in alleyways and underpasses with EA Sport's FIFA Street. We're also giving away PS3 and Xbox 360 copies of the games!



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Top Tech Titbits

Mac computers infected with Flashfake botnet

Previously thought of as virus-safe, it seems like Apple's Mac computers have now become an enticing prospect for cyber-criminals. Recently the Flashfake botnet infected over 600 000 computers globally, with the overwhelming majority of these operating on a version of Mac OS X. The cyber-criminals reportedly gained entry into users' computers by exploiting vulnerabilities in Java. Mac OS X users are advised to install the latest updates via bit.ly/secupdate.



Local ADSL prices go south

ICASA's announcement on a 30% cost cut to Telkom's IP Connect has left SA internet users much better off. A number of local internet service providers have slashed their internet offerings, including MWEB who are now offering 1 Mbps uncapped data-only pricing of R199 per month.

Additionally, the company will also offer a free upgrade to all data only uncapped 384 Kbps clients.



Facebook acquires Instagram for \$1 billion

The popular photo-enhancing and sharing app, Instagram, finally made its Android debut last month. A week later the company announced that Facebook is buying it for a cool \$1 billion (R7.6 billion), consisting of a combination of cash and

Facebook shares. Facebook's pledge to retain the app's integrity did not stop online protests from peeved Instagram users.



Redmond reveals Windows 8 flavours

For such a big event as a new version of Windows, even news about the editions that Windows 8 will be released in is important. The first edition, simply called Windows 8, is targeted at average consumers, while Windows 8 Pro is

designed for technology enthusiasts and businesses. Users of ARM-based mobile devices will get the dreadfully named Windows RT (WinRT) pre-installed, with a touch-optimised version of Microsoft Office in tow. According to rumours, Windows 8 is expected in October.



Foursquare reaches double milestone

Popular social media sharing site Foursquare has crossed the 20 million users mark, with these users having checked into more than two billion locations around the globe. After launching in March 2009, Foursquare went on

to reach the ten million user milestone in June 2011. It took less than ten months to double this user tally.



Google makes latest Android usage data available

The latest Android mobile operating system (OS) usage info places Gingerbread (Android 2.3) at the helm of Android army, as 63.7% of users employ a Gingerbread-powered smartphone. Taking a distant second place is Froyo (Android 2.2) at 23.1%, with

Eclair (Android 2.1) gobbling 6% of the Android usage pie. ❀

Hot New Products

Close shave: Braun Wet & Dry 3 Series shaver

One of the banes, and often quite literally, pains, is having to shave after a weekend of growth. Braun's Wet & Dry 3 Series cordless electric shaver, aims to address this, promising a smooth and pain free shave, especially engineered to effectively reduce skin irritation when shaving longer stubble.

The device sports a triple action free float system that has three fully adaptive cutting elements, which includes a combination of two foils combined with a middle trimmer. It also includes a Clean & Renew System, which can be activated with one touch to ensure one's close shaves remain hygienic rather than dangerous. It goes for R1050.



Watch us get smarter: Sony SmartWatch

Phones became smart some time ago, now it's wristwatches turn. Sony's Android-based SmartWatch boasts a 1.3" OLED touchscreen, and connects to a large number of Sony's Xperia phones, as well as other Android-based smartphones.

The SmartWatch can display Facebook and Twitter updates (for those who want to wear their data on their sleeve), answer calls, give users a convenient way to control their ever present music and yet another means of reading the never-ending texts and emails. Naturally, it supports apps from Google's Play market. It retails for \$150, with no local release available yet.



Designed for perfection: Photoshop CS6

Not content to leave excellent alone, Adobe's latest version of Photoshop, CS6, brings yet more features to the premiere digital imaging software. The new edition boasts a cleaner, smarter interface which displays panels for functions only when they are being used, faster overall performance, and video editing in the standard edition (previously restricted to the pricier extended version). A must for all graphic designers, the

long awaited new version goes for \$699 (R5600) for the standard version and \$999 (R8000) for the extended version.

Ace(r) up their sleeve: Ultra M3 ultrabook

Here's a ultrabook with at least two noteworthy differences: unlike many others, Acer's 15" Ultra M3 has not forsaken the stalwart optical drive, and has crammed a dedicated graphics card in the form of Nvidia's GeForce GT640M into the 20 mm thick body for a touch of gaming on the go. Along with Intel's Core i5 or i7 processors, the ultrabook also offers both solid state storage and conventional hard drives. The price? If Acer is to be believed, an affordable R8000. A hot product worth watching? Definitely. ❀





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Sci News



Getting stoned

Kidney stones aren't fun. And now a study explains why some people are more prone to getting them than others. According to a recent report in the *EMBO Journal*, the formation of kidney stones is linked to the action of a gene called claudin-14. The gene is usually inactive in kidney cells and only kicks into gear when your urine becomes too concentrated. This blocks the path along which calcium returns to your blood and could lead to calcium crystals becoming lodged in the bladder or urether. In people with a specific variation of claudin-14, however, the gene's activity is erratic, which ups their risk of developing kidney stones by as much as 65%. Understanding this molecular mechanism may help scientists to develop treatments that could keep the gene in check in high-risk people.



March of the penguins

The phrase 'bird's-eye view' recently got a whole new meaning. An international team of scientists reports in an April issue of the open-access journal *PLoS ONE*, how they used satellite images to count the number of emperor penguins in Antarctica. By using a technique called pan-sharpening, the team could improve the resolution of the satellite images enough to distinguish between birds, shadows, ice and guano. Ground counts and aerial photos were used to calibrate the analysis. The results were encouraging: the count of 595 000 birds is almost double the previous estimates. The success of the counting technique is good news for ecologists, because it gives them a reliable way to conduct – and repeat – species counts in places that are usually difficult to reach.



The fire men

It seems South African men have been standing around the braai for a long time. Probably for about a million years already, write archaeologists in a report recently published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. Findings from an archaeological dig at the Wonderwerk Cave close to Kuruman in the Northern Cape, show that human ancestors may have used fire in a controlled way 300 000 years earlier than previously thought. Spectrographic analysis of ashes showed that the fires were likely fuelled by plant material such as grasses and leaves. The burning sites were also found about 30 m into the cave and soil analysis indicates that the fires repeatedly occurred in the same restricted spots, which means the ashes are unlikely to have been blown into the cave after wild fires. ❁

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Green News



The latest green measure – White Ceratech roofs

Technology developed by NASA to keep the space shuttle cool has finally trickled down to the local home owner. According to Ceratech, applying their thermal barrier coatings to roofs can ease the heat load on buildings. This white roof coating contains millions of hollow ceramic beads, which repels heat back into the atmosphere. These can reduce the internal temperature of buildings by up to 45%, lessening the occupants' dependency on air-conditioning in summer.

Some of the benefits to utilising this coating include lower energy consumption costs, a reduction in roof degradation by up to 80%, and added resistance to mildew. For more info visit www.ceratechcoatings.co.za.



New type of ultra-thin solar cells

Researchers from the Johannes Kepler University in Austria and the University of Tokyo have developed new organic solar cells which are thinner than a thread of spider silk and flexible enough to be wrapped around a human hair.

These cells consists of electrodes on a plastic foil that is a mere 1.9 micro-meters thick (one micro-meter is one millionth of a meter). Currently the solar cells can produce as much electricity as 10 watts per gram, and although it can't quite compete against silicon-based systems in terms of efficiency, its efficiency to weight ratio makes it ideal for applications in robotics, electronic textiles and, apparently, manufacturing synthetic skin.



BMW i8 Concept Spyder

Following hot on the German heels of its i3 Concept and i8 Concept, BMW unveils the latest edition to its i Concept line-up, the sublime looking open-top i8 Concept Spyder. This plug-in hybrid is powered by an eDrive drivetrain that combines a high-performance electric motor that delivers 96 kW, with a turbocharged three-cylinder petrol engine which produces an additional 164 kW of power.

The result of this union is a combined system output of up to 260 kW along with peak torque of 550 Nm, which is enough to accelerate the car from rest to 100 km/h in five seconds onto an electronically governed top speed of 250 km/h. Despite this exhilarating performance, the two-seater i8 Concept Spyder utilises a mere three litres of petrol per 100 kilometres, according to BMW. ❁

Other interesting green news

Thermata banks on high-tech mirror to lower solar panel costs: cnet.co/lowsolar

Take off – first Boeing 787 Dreamliner flight powered by biofuel from Washington to Tokyo: bit.ly/bioboing

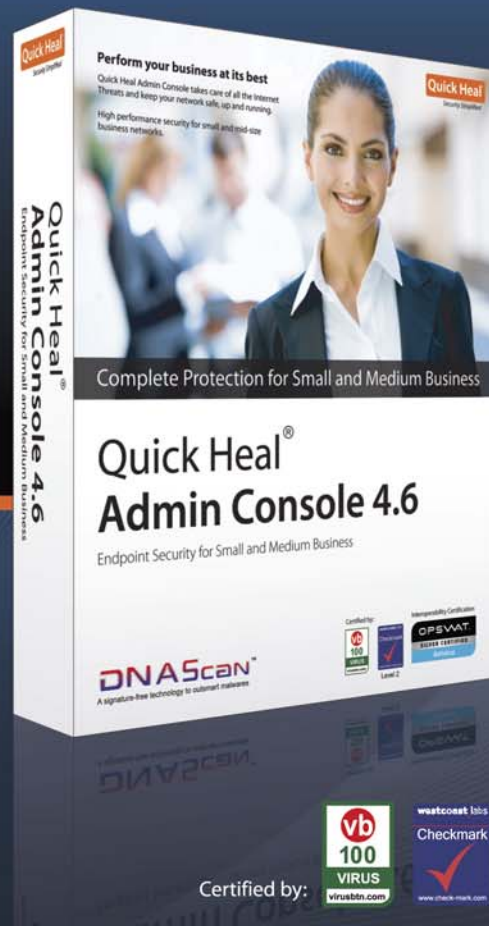
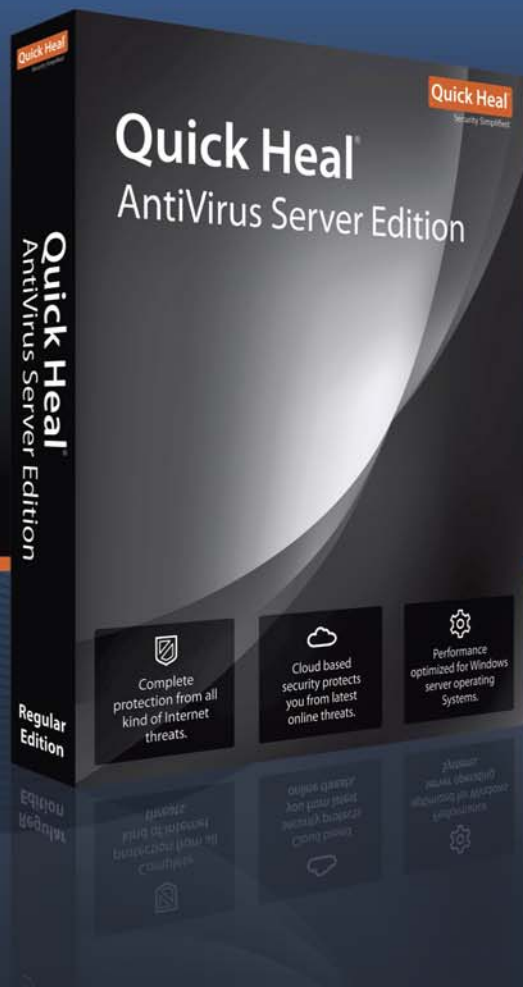
Sun-Mar's composting toilet helps users flush 27% less money down the water bill toilet: bit.ly/ecotoil

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TechSmart's TOP 5 hottest exotic sport rides

Every little boy has at one time or another, had a poster of his favourite supercar donning his wall. This month we take a look at some of the hottest, fastest and most desirable of these dream vehicles, that very few of us will actually get to own.

5 2012 Aston Martin Vantage

Aston Martin's updated V8 Vantage will be powered by a 32-Valve 4735 cc V8, capable of accelerating this rear-wheel-drive aristocrat from 0-100 km/h in under five seconds. From there this blue blood can groove to a top speed of 290 km/h. The Vantage's exquisite styling is matched only by the deep growl of its British heart, which revs to 7300 in order to push out 313 kW of power and 470 Nm of torque at 5000 RPM. Local release info isn't available yet, but in the UK the Coupe and Roadster versions pricing starts at £85 000 (about R1 073 000), making it the least expensive car in this "I've won the lotto" wish list.



4 Porsche 911 Turbo S

Posh as the Aston may be, it won't beat its archrival, the Porsche 911 Turbo S on the racetrack. This is because the Turbo S sports a 3800 cc V6 beating out 390 kW between 6250 and 6750 RPM. This rear-mounted power-plant pushes out enough torque (700 Nm, between 2100 – 4250 min) to turn Mount Kilimanjaro into a molehill, and helps propel the Turbo S to 100 km/h in a just 3.3 seconds on to a top speed of 315 km/h. The multi-clutch Porsche Doppelkupplung (PDK) system sends power to all four wheels, helping to keep the car grounded. A mere R2 233 000 will see this German mädchen parked in your garage.



3 Lamborghini Aventador

Lamborghini's new flagship model churns out an astonishing 515 kW at 8250 RPM and 690 Nm of torque at 5500 RPM courtesy of its 6.5 liter V12. All that power underneath your right foot, means you can rocket from 0-100 km/h in a blink-and-you'll-miss-it 2.9 seconds onto a terminal velocity of 350 km/h. Unfortunately this staggering performance makes the Italian beast quite thirsty, with a claimed combined fuel consumption figure of 17.2 l/100 km. Its price-tag is as epic as the performance though, since R5.7 million needs to disappear from your savings to sniff the Aventador's leather interior on a daily basis. O yes, you also need to wait 18 months for an order.



2 Ferrari 458 Italia

This not so reasonably priced (R3 400 000) baby Ferrari, is the entry-level car in the Italian car maker's thoroughbred stable (if it was a BMW it would be a 1 series). Even though the first models started rolling out the factory in 2010, this is still the best looking supercar out there in our opinion. Once you stop admiring the look and head onto the road, the 458's dual-clutch, seven speed F1 gearbox will assist you in sending the power to the rear wheels. This car produces 419 kW at a heavenly 9000 RPM and maximum torque of 540 Nm at 6000 RPM, helping the Italian stallion gallop from 0-100 km/h in under 3.4 seconds on to a maximum speed of 325 km/h.



1 McLaren MP4-12C

Just like Porsche's 911 Turbo S, McLaren Automotive's MP4-12C accelerates from rest to 100 km/h in 3.3 seconds, on to rocket to the higher top end of 330 km/h. Aston Martin's less posh, track-focused British neighbour has delivered a car whose mid-mounted 3.8 litre V8 twin-turbo engine delivers 441 kW at 7000 RPM and 600 Nm of torque between 3000 and 7000 RPM. All this, whilst ensuring that you don't get to first name basis with your petrol pump attendant too soon, since the combined fuel consumption figure is a claimed 11.7l / 100km. With a carbon fibre composite body, 7-speed Seamless Shift gearbox and a vast amount of head-turning power, the McLaren MP4 will demand the R3.2 million lying around in your bank account. ❖



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2.1 million. Number of times Avatar, the most pirated movie to date, has been downloaded online.

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BlackBerry Bold 9790

A slicker Bold

Research In Motion looks to boost the sales figures of its BlackBerry smartphones by expanding the number of devices available within its ranges, including the classy Bold line-up. The new Bold 9790 comes in at a slightly lower price-point, but does it possess the same aristocratic blood as its sharply dressed older brother – the Bold 9900?

The Bold 9790 is both more compact (110 x 60 x 11.4 mm) and lighter (107 g) than the Bold 9900 (115 x 66 x 10.5 mm, 130 g). This premium smartphone sports the iconic ready for business Bold design, giving it an high-quality feel in hand. Like the 9900, the 9790 is a touch-and-type device, marrying RIM's brilliant soft-touch Bold QWERTY keyboard with the convenience of a 2.45" (480 x 360 pixels, 245 ppi pixel density) TFT capacitive touchscreen.

Processor and snapper

Like the Curve 9380, RIM's Bold 9790 is powered by a Marvel Tavor MG1 processor, which sports a quicker clock speed of 1 GHz, compared to the 806 MHz on offer with the all-touch Curve. Along with the phone's good dollop of RAM (768 MB), the processor makes quick work of running apps and multitasking within the latest edition of RIM's mobile operating system – BlackBerry 7 OS.

“The Li-Ion battery managed to last an entire two days, doubling the average of modern smartphones.”

RIM equipped the 9790 with a 5 MP auto-focus camera with LED flash, which enables you to capture detailed stills and handles close-up shots better than the fixed-focus snappers on offer on the 9360 and 9380. That said, we were quick to criticise the Curve 9380 on only being able to record VGA video, but on a more expensive model such as this, having no HD ready video recording is almost unforgivable.

Even though we put the phone through its paces, doing things like snapping photos, browsing the web, connecting to Wi-Fi and chatting on BBM, the 9790's 1230 mAh Li-Ion battery managed to last an entire two days, doubling the average of modern smartphones.

Final word

RIM's Bold 9790 makes a classy touch-and-type experience available to more BlackBerry users. Its snappy processor and large amount of RAM ensures smooth navigation of BlackBerry 7 OS, whilst the smartphone also offers a fair amount of storage space (8 GB) and touch-enabled display. If you cannot afford the R7700 asking price of its older sibling, then the Bold 9790 will provide you with the same premium design and functionality for R4980. [HD] ❖



BlackBerry Curve 9360

RIM's QWERTY championing Curve

Besides the all-touch BlackBerry Curve 9380, Research In Motion (RIM) also offers the more conventional Curve 9360 smartphone as part of its new Curve line-up. Although this device doesn't sport a touchscreen, it still boasts a myriad of improvements over the Curve 9300.

The first of these is its thinner frame, since the Curve 9360 measures in at 11 mm, compared to the Curve 9300's thickness of 13.9 mm. This sturdily constructed smartphone won't be mistaken for anything else than a Curve, with its conservative all-black design that is interrupted only by the greyish metallic bezel.

Only QWERTY lovers need apply

Besides its eye-catching design, the 9360 sports a finger-friendly QWERTY keyboard for fast, accurate typing. The tough, rounded plastic buttons on the distinctive Curve keyboard appear small, but makes typing a joy because of the spacing between each individual button. Above the keyboard one finds a 2.44" HVGA (480 x 360 pixels) LCD screen that sports a higher resolution than the previous Curve 9300's display (320 x 240). Its pixel density of 246 ppi (pixels per inch) might not be top of the line, but the screen provides crisp looking colours, considerable levels of detail and easy to read text. Unfortunately this display isn't touch-enabled, putting the 9360 under pressure from touch-and-type devices like Nokia's E6 and HTC's ChaCha.

CPU and camera

As slick as the display, is the 800 MHz processor (unspecified make) that allows for speedy and smooth performance whilst navigating BlackBerry OS 7, and it puts in a better performance when multitasking compared to the Curve 9380.

“It's slimmer, faster and sports upgraded features like a higher resolution display.”

Also onboard is a 5 MP camera with LED flash which captures decent looking photos when enough light is available and records VGA videos. This unfortunately isn't up to par in today's market where even entry-level Android smartphones offer HD-ready video recording. RIM equipped the 9360 with a relatively small 1000 mAh removable lithium-ion battery, which actually managed a good 1½ days of battery life.

Conclusion

As one would expect, RIM's BlackBerry Curve 9360 is a much better device than its predecessor, the Curve 9300. It's slimmer, faster and sports upgraded features like a higher resolution display. You can pick one up for R3670, which is somewhat pricey considering that a similarly specced HTC ChaCha can be found for a thousand rand less. It does come with the usual BlackBerry Internet Service, which is a big benefit. [HD] ❖

❖ **Full Article** bit.ly/Curv9360

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HP Z1

Workstation

Power without the tower

In an age where smartphones, tablets, and ultrabooks get the lion's share of attention, power-users are often neglected. After all, imagine a world without movies like *Kung Fu Panda*, *Avatar*, *How to train your Dragon* and *Shrek*. Enter the HP Workstation Business.



No compromises were made on the Z1: it combines the capabilities of a workstation with the elegance of an all-in-one to meet the demanding visualisation and computing needs of power users.

“Easily add a hard-drive, upgrade memory or access the graphics card by snapping the machine open.”

HP workstations are designed to set the standard for some of the most computer-intensive industries, including animation, film/video editing, graphic design, CAD, architecture, photography, high-definition video, manufacturing, finance, healthcare, scientific imaging, and oil and gas exploration.

The HP Z workstations, for example, are being used to design everything from running shoes and race cars, to animated characters and deep-sea submersibles. They are also used to manage research labs, mission-critical IT

environments, and billions of rands of tradable securities.

The Z1 is the only all-in-one workstation with quad-core Intel Xeon processors. This makes renders faster and crashes a thing of the past, with professional graphics and ECC memory. Your work can further be enhanced with the HD Webcam, SRS Premium Sound processing and whisper-quiet acoustics. Furthermore, the Z1 Workstation provides all the customisability options you need, since you have a choice of optical drives, like the slot-load Blu-ray Writer, not to mention a variety of storage types, including 7.2K and 10K SATA, SSD options, and optional RAID configurations. Easily add a hard-drive, upgrade memory or access the graphics card by snapping the machine open and enjoy the control of easily swapping out parts on your own.

Starting from R18 999, the Z1 features a 27" LED-backlit display that has an impressive 178 degree viewing angle and supports over a billion colours. It features professional NVIDIA Quadro graphics for blazing fast renders and performance, in order for you to focus on giving your creativity free reign.

So what are you waiting for? Come and flex the Z1 Workstation's muscle and see what you are capable of doing in front of a computing powerhouse. 🦁



Samsung Series 7 Chronos

Making the most of your time



HP Folio 13: What you need to know



Samsung's clout in the notebook space has been heavily boosted with their Series 9 ultra-thin last year, and their general line-up of notebooks is becoming more and more respectable. The new Chronos is a good case in point.

With all the hype around ultrabooks the past few months, it's good to receive a regular notebook for review again, especially in the form of the Samsung Series 7 Chronos. With decent looks and great performance, this 15.6" model comes packaged in a brushed aluminium shell that denotes pure business.

Power with a punch

Although it's no ultrabook in size, its weight of 2.3 kg and 24 mm height is commendable, especially if you consider that it provides not only a second generation Intel Core i7 quad core processor (2675QM @ 2.2 GHz), but also a graphics card via the AMD Radeon HD 6750M. This ensures that regular business duties are performed without even a hint of trouble, helped along with a very generous 8 GB scoop of RAM. Once home, the latest games should survive with medium to high details settings.

For faster boot-up times the Chronos combines the regular hard drive (in our model 500 GB) with

an 8 GB SSD drive, known as the ExpressCache solution. This allows it to boot-up much faster (about 40 seconds till everything finished loading), than with only the regular hard drive.

All aboard

The keyboard and number pad fits in the same amount of space as many other machines provide for a keyboard only. Despite the keyboard's smaller size we found it very easy to type on, while, as an added bonus, you can control the brightness of the backlighting. Unfortunately the palmrests are slightly too large for our liking, while the mousepad could have benefited with a few millimetres' move to the right.

You won't suffer due to lack of choice on the port side, since the Chronos includes a generous two USB 3.0 ports for faster data transfer (plus one USB 2.0), HDMI, a DVD drive and SD card reader. Samsung's conglomeration of the most common adjustments under their Easy Settings shortcut is also a definite plus, although we feel that the Korean tech giant could have done more to up the sound of the onboard speakers.

With its above average performance and battery life, decent looks and added number pad, it's difficult not to recommend Samsung's Series 7 Chronos. Yours for R13 400. [MJ] ❖

HP have long been known for producing well-constructed, attractive and often impressive notebooks; this tradition has followed it into its first ultrabook, the Folio 13.

Robed in a pleasing combination of brushed aluminium and black accents on the keyboard and touchpad, the Folio 13 boasts an Intel Core i5 processor, clocked at 1.6 GHz, along with 4 GB of memory. Its 13.3" matte display is accompanied by integrated Intel HD graphics 3000; while not up to intensive gaming, this has become par for the course on many ultrabooks.

Like many other ultrabooks, the Folio 13 comes with a 128 GB solid state drive (SSD), which accounts for the fast boot-up (at least once you get past the initial set up and Windows rigmarole) which takes five seconds from a sleep state close to twenty seconds from off.

The backlit chiclet keyboard proved to be a pleasure to type on, with just the right amount of depth and springiness for our liking. The 1.5 kg ultrabook sports one USB 2.0, one USB 3.0 and one HDMI port, along with a claimed nine hours of battery life. It retails for R13 000. ❖

58%. Percentage of local active internet users who shop online.

Ideco Biometric Security Solutions

Take control of business security with biometrics



All over South Africa, Morpho fingerprint technology is cutting the losses caused by unauthorised access in organisations ranging from residential estates to mines.

Instead of relying on old-fashioned access cards, passwords and PINs, thousands of local companies are using fingerprint-based identification to improve security. In fact, there are now over 70 000 Morpho fingerprint readers installed at all sorts of SA organisations, securely controlling access and managing attendance for more than 2.5 million local employees.

Not buddy clocking

The problem with access cards, passwords and PINs is that they don't identify the people who are using them. "Anyone can use yours and you can use theirs," says Marius Coetzee of Ideco Biometric Security Solutions, SA's largest

distributor of fingerprint technology. "For example, I can use your card to clock-on for you and you can use mine to clock for me. This so-called buddy clocking is a major problem because of the losses it causes in payroll and productivity. A tried and tested way to completely end this is to replace cards with Morpho fingerprint readers."

Another big benefit of Morpho technology is that it can increase control over who can go where and when. For some organisations, the investment in biometrics might be based on reducing theft by strictly controlling and monitoring access to specific areas, such as storerooms.

Not just for corporates

Coetzee stresses that Morpho technology is no longer just for big organisations with big budgets. "Ten years ago, the idea of using fingerprint readers to identify people in the workplace still sounded a bit like science fiction. But all that has changed. More and more local companies have seen that the technology pays for itself by accurately controlling access and attendance. It's now an established, cost-cutting business tool in companies of all types and sizes."

The use of Morpho technology is now so widespread that it is supplied by all of SA's leading access control and workforce management companies. Coetzee says: "In association with Ideco and backed by many years' practical experience, these companies have a detailed knowledge of how to get proven business results from biometrics."

For more info on the Ideco and Morpho range of biometric security solutions, call 0861-04-3326 or visit www.ideco.co.za.

Vivotek FE8171V fisheye fixed dome network camera

Access all angles

Vivotek's Fisheye fixed dome network camera offers a variety of features, not least of which is a field of view that is eight times wider than standard VGA cameras.

If installed on a wall, the camera boasts a 180° panoramic view, but if mounted on a ceiling, floor or table, this expands to a 360° surround view, without any blind spots. This mitigates the need for users to employ multiple cameras.

Hemispherical images captured by the 3.1 megapixel camera can be converted into

conventional rectilinear projection for viewing and analysis. Additionally, users can further employ the ePTZ functionality to focus on and zoom into a particular region of interest.

Additional features include a removable IR-cut filter, to



ensure clear images at all times, and a microSD/SDHC/SDXC card slot for on-board storage. No less important is the durable camera housing, which protects the camera body from rain and dust as well as vandalism. RRP: R5803.

For more information phone Miro Distribution on 086-123-MIRO.

QNAP VioStor VS-2008 Pro network video recorder

Recording what you need, when you need it

QNAP's VioStor network video recorder is a two-bay network surveillance system, offering a host of features particularly suited for small and medium businesses as well as home offices.

Powered by a dual-core Intel Atom processor and 1 GB memory, the VS-2008 Pro VioStor NV is capable of capturing up to eight megapixel recordings from multiple IP cameras or video servers. Additionally, a multi-server monitoring feature can survey up to 128 IP cameras from

multiple QNAP NVR servers simultaneously.

The QNAP offers ease of installation which does not require prior connection to one's PC, along with the ability to monitor internet protocol (IP) cameras over a network. This while a VGA connector enables users to connect a monitor, keyboard and mouse, to view video playback.



This network video recorder further supports several popular formats, such as H.264, MPEG-4, M-JPEG, MxPEG, as well as a vast number of IP camera brands, while it also offers several ways to specify how recordings start, such as being scheduled or triggered by multiple alarm events.

RRP: R11977. For more information, phone Miro Distribution on 086-123-MIRO.

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Interview with Manoj Bhoola, MD Avanade South Africa



Started in 2000 as a joint venture between Microsoft and Accenture, business technology solutions and managed services provider Avanade has recently opened a local office. TechSmart talked to Manoj Bhoola, MD for Avanade South Africa, to find out more about the services they offer.

TechSmart (TS): Avanade has close ties with both Microsoft and Accenture. How is this linked to what you do?

Manoj Bhoola (MB): Avanade is a joint venture between Accenture and Microsoft. The company is owned by both parties with an 80% stake by Accenture and 20% by Microsoft. Although we have this ownership structure, we are a separate entity and trade as such.

As a business technology solutions and managed services provider specialising in Systems Integration, Avanade focuses on delivering world-class solutions designed on methodologies created by Accenture and technology from Microsoft. Our solutions and services connect insight, innovation and expertise in Microsoft technologies to help customers realise results. We develop solutions using proven and emerging technologies and offer flexible deployment models — on-premise, cloud-based or outsourced — helping IT leaders get the most from their technology investments.

We know the most about Microsoft, and our expertise helps extend the value of Microsoft technologies across enterprises. By specialising in a single technology platform, our people develop and maintain a level of expertise in Microsoft technologies not offered by other global services companies.

Through our close connections with Accenture, we can bring an additional layer of industry expertise to a project, tapping their rich source of industry-specific knowledge and best practices.

Against this background, our customers express high satisfaction with Avanade because of our technical competency and professionalism, and quality of results, with 96% of customers reporting being satisfied or very satisfied with Avanade.

TS: Tell us more about Avanade's core services.

MB: We specialise in different Service Lines aligned to the Microsoft stack, and as per the demand in each country. In South Africa we have launched Service Lines that cover Technology Infrastructure, Application Development, Information Management and Collaboration, Customer Relationship Management, Enterprise Resource Planning and Outsourcing. We have a team of highly

skilled professionals in each Service Line supported by our international teams that work either in an on-shore or off-shore manner. The company sees demand in the Mobility and Cloud space — both of which falls as an umbrella of offerings above the Service lines.

Through extensive experience and training, Avanade brings exceptional skills in designing, developing, delivering and maintaining large-scale applications and solutions based on Microsoft products and technologies. Each Avanade service and solution reflects the insight and research of engineers, real-world feedback from customers and consultants, and collaboration with our partners — Accenture and Microsoft.

TS: How does the typical company that can benefit from your services look like?

MB: Although we focus on the enterprise customer base in South Africa, we do work with smaller organisations that have specific requirements. We have created assets from all over the world and hence have the ability to offer innovative solutions to our customers. Avanade has specific assets for all the verticals in the enterprise space — Financial Services, Public Sector, Communication and Media, Resources and Mining, Manufacturing, Commercial, etc.

TS: Avanade is an international company — how do you keep a local flavour?

MB: We have a local entity that drives a local strategy with local employees. We are leveraging the power of three — Avanade, Accenture and Microsoft — to remain relevant to the South African market and implement solutions and services to meet demands of businesses locally.

Our training programs are designed to help our employees advance their professional and technical skills. We receive extensive training to help organisations identify specific business and technical challenges, plan the appropriate solution, and execute that solution plan. Our people are deeply skilled and motivated to continuously learn.

The international organisation offers a central support infrastructure that helps with worldwide assets, operational tools, and compliance methodologies.

TS: Have you noticed certain technology trends that play a big role locally?

MB: We are seeing cloud services especially on the Azure platform making inroads in the local market. Consumerisation of Enterprise IT is also a mega trend at the moment, while cost cutting exercises — moving from expensive technology to more agile and innovative platforms — are also prevalent.

TS: On a personal note, what gadgets/ gear can you not go without?

MB: Mobility is not hype — it's a reality, and mobile devices (tablets, smartphones) are the future of computing. Personally I am attached to my smartphone running Windows Mobile and can't live without a GPS, media play back devices, music player (MP3 player) and my tablet. 📱

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Canon PowerShot G1 x

The Beast is back

Offering some of the same functionality as prosumer DSLRs, Canon's PowerShot G-series was recently forced to undergo a transformation of sorts. The result is the G1 x.



A bit of history is in order. The past few years have seen new mirrorless cameras come to market, offering interchangeable lenses on bodies much smaller than regular SLR cameras. These cameras came from smaller players in the photographic market – Sony, Olympus and Samsung amongst others. Nikon and Canon were noticeably absent, so when Nikon played their mirrorless hand with their new 1 range, the pressure was on to see how Canon would respond.

Larger sensor

Enter the PowerShot G1 x. It might not have an interchangeable lens system (it comes with a f/2.8 – f/5.6 4x optical zoom lens, equivalent to a 35 mm 28 mm – 112 mm), but the G1 x offers a much larger sensor (almost twice) than Nikon's 1 range, being only about 20% smaller than the APS-C sized ones in its DSLRs. Larger sensors generally mean better image quality (although a multitude of other factors also contribute), and in our case it made for more confident shooting with impressive results.

This 18.7 x 14 mm sensor unfortunately brings bad news for those who've grown fond of the G-series' macro capabilities, with the G1 x's closest focusing distance now being 20 cm. Instead we used the more pixels on offer (14.3 vs. the G12's 10 megapixels) to digitally zoom into close objects.

Bigger body too

Dainty is a definitely not a word that comes to mind when looking at the G1 x and its stainless steel body. It's a large chunk bigger than its predecessor, the G12, and is on the verge of being too big to fit inside a coat pocket.

“The larger sensor made for more confident shooting with impressive results”

Although the top ISO dial is gone, the Exposure compensation dial is still present, while the all-important Mode and Control dials make it easy as pie to adjust speed and aperture when shooting in manual. Canon also at long last included full HD video recording, and like a number of other cameras, a dedicated video record button can be found on the back of the device.

To the point

When it comes to functionality, the Canon G1 x kicks sand in the face of the mirrorless competition, and although it might not have an interchangeable lens system, the G1 x's new improved larger sensor is a big step up for the G-series. It retails for R7000, which is pricier than the G12 which can be picked up for about R5000. ❖

Canon launches EOS 1D C and 60Da DSLRs

Videographers and astrophotographers rejoice

Not content to rest on its laurels after launching its top of the line EOS 1D X at the end of last year and then following that up by releasing the EOS 5D Mark III, the company's latest addition to the EOS range include not one, but two new cameras: the EOS 1D C and the EOS 60Da.

Canon EOS 1D C

The EOS 1D C focuses particularly on professional level video recording for those producing content for the motion picture and television industries. To this end, the EOS-1D C supports in-camera 4K (4096 x 2160) video recording with 4:2:2 colour sampling using 8-bit Motion JPEG compression at 24p, while Full HD (1920 x 1080) video capture is available at frame rates up to 1080/60p. Video can also be output to external recorders via an integrated HDMI terminal.

Additionally, the camera boasts Canon Log Gamma, which facilitates the capture of high-quality video rich in exposure latitude and dynamic range. This is ideal for video professionals who want to retain the maximum amount of information without huge file sizes. The EOS 1D C further sports a 18.1-megapixel full-frame CMOS sensor which has been optimised for high quality video capture, a 61 point focus system, 12 fps stills and a 3.2" screen. RRP: \$15 000, no local retail date available yet.



Canon EOS 60Da

The EOS 60Da similarly focuses on a niche area of photography, only it looks to the heaven-bound stars for its inspiration, particularly addressing the needs of astrophotographers. With this in mind, the new camera offers a modified infrared filter and a low-noise sensor with heightened hydrogen-alpha sensitivity.

The company explained that these modifications allow astrophotographers to capture photographs of red hydrogen emission, nebulae and other cosmic phenomena, due to a hydrogen-alpha light sensitivity that is approximately three times higher than that of a normal Canon DSLR camera. Additionally, the EOS 60Da camera sports an 18 megapixel CMOS sensor (APS-C) that far supersedes its predecessor, the 20Da's 8.2 megapixels.

The camera further offers an improved 3.0" Clear View LCD screen while its flip-out Vari-angle functionality allows users to adjust the screen for easy viewing when the camera is mounted to a telescope via a third-party T-ring adapter. RRP: \$1500, no local retail date available yet.

We have been assured, however, that the new cameras are the tip of the iceberg of what is to come. [RN] ❖



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WaRCoM IT Solutions

IT problems solved – remotely

No matter the size of your business, it will at some point run into the need for IT support. However, with the demands placed on companies today, getting back up and running as soon as possible is paramount. With this in mind, WaRCoM IT Solutions provides small to medium sized firms with the necessary tools to run their businesses to its full potential.

The company possesses a broad range of technical skills, ranging from Microsoft network solutions and network infrastructure, through to VoIP, ADSL bandwidth, software licensing management, while also doing hardware sales and repairs.

When in need

WaRCoM's aim is to help customers with their PC and network related problems, which might include anything from adding printers to the network, software troubleshooting and diagnosing network connectivity problems. This is done as quickly and efficiently as possible.

For this reason, the company's NeedSupport Desktop Care Package enables remote desktop support services that cut out the need to log a query and wait for a technician to come and address the issue.

The main features of the NeedSupport PC Support Service offering, include the following:

- Remote desktop support
- Audit and inventory (Hardware & Software)
- Patch and service pack management
- Monitoring and alerting
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- Desktop policy management
- Comprehensive reporting
- Anti-virus (Optional) – powered by Kaspersky Labs' anti-virus engine
- Backup (Full Image, folder and offsite backups)

How it works

The company will install its NeedSupport Agent software on your company's PCs, which enables its desktop support engineers to assume remote control of these computers and provide assistance to clients from the WaRCoM premises. In order for the engineers to support clients' PCs remotely, the computers need to be connected to the internet, which will enable WaRCoM to resolve issues, without negatively affecting the productivity of your staff.

National footprint

In addition, this national company has a footprint of technical support throughout South Africa, with clients being able to access immediate support from locations in Durban, Johannesburg, Cape Town as well as East London, Port Elizabeth, Louis Trichardt, Welkom and remote support to the rest of Africa.

For more info contact WaRCoM on 0861-927-266, visit www.warcom.co.za or send a mail to sales@warcom.co.za.

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Interview with Peter Aleshkin, Kaspersky Lab

The need for ONE security solution

Kaspersky Lab recently launched its Kaspersky ONE Universal Security package, a multi-platform solution that provides protection for a wide range of personal devices, ranging from PCs and Macs through to smartphones and tablets. TechSmart talked to Peter Aleshkin, senior consumer marketing manager at Kaspersky Lab about the need for this product.



Full Interview
bit.ly/kasinterone

KASPERSKY ONE



TechSmart (TS): Why is an all-in-one security solution, such as Kaspersky ONE, needed? Peter Aleshkin (PA): For the average user, securing multiple devices can quickly result in a technological tangle, having

to juggle multiple manufacturers, licenses and functions. Even choosing these packages can be a time-consuming process, and it's one many users are unwilling to undertake.

However, according to a survey, three out of four owners of multiple internet-capable devices would welcome a single universal security package which covers all platforms – smartphones, tablets, laptops and PCs – as surely this would be easier and more convenient?

TS: How much of a threat is malware on your smartphone?

PA: Malware is a large threat for a smartphone user and a concerning factor in light of the personal data stored on such a device. In less than a year, Android malware quickly exploded and became the most popular mobile malware category out there. Critical mass was hit in November 2011 when we uncovered over 1000 malicious samples for Android, which is almost as many as all the mobile malware the company has discovered in the past six years.

TS: With the five device included in the Kaspersky ONE solution, will I be able to protect five PCs, or only a mix of products?

PA: Kaspersky ONE can be installed on any combination of devices. For example the product can be installed on 2 PCs, 2 Macs and 1 smartphone. However, if the user has 5 PCs or laptops, he can setup security solutions for PC on all of them with no issues.

TS: What will I be able to do with Kaspersky's solution when my smartphone gets stolen?

PA: Today mobile security products have a host of different features like privacy protection, remote wipe or block if a device is lost or stolen, encryption, cloud security, anti-spam filters, antivirus engine – all of which assist in fully protecting your smartphone device. 🍀

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The Tech Rumour Mill

When gadgets are highly anticipated, or simply wished for fervently enough by technology enthusiasts, a rumour mill develops that churns out new tidbits of information ceaselessly. We investigate the most recent tech buzz.



Samsung Galaxy SIII

One rumour doing the rounds has centred on a forthcoming Galaxy SIII smartphone, set to be the official smartphone of the upcoming London Olympics. The SII was a winner, garnering acclaim and earning the title of setting the gold standard of Android smartphones by many, including us. The SIII, which was set for launch early in May, was rumoured to sport a quad core processor. More controversially, a persistent debate centred around whether or not it would have a home button, reminiscent of the Galaxy Note and that other Phone That Shall Not Be Named (the iPhone 4S), or whether it will ditch physical buttons altogether in favour of touch sensitive controls found on other Ice Cream Sandwich phones.

Rumour has it that the device sports a ceramic body, while also boasting either a 4.65" display with 720p resolution, the same size but with a Super AMOLED Plus screen, or a 4.8" display with 1080p resolution. By the time you read this, these rumours will either have been confirmed by the product launch, set for early May, or crushed.

Photo first appearing on Reddit.com, no source provided by submitter. bit.ly/sams3ung



iPad Mini

Another rumour that has been steadily escalating is that Apple is in the process of developing an iPad mini, a device with a 7.85" screen and a resolution of 1024 x 768 (the same as found on the iPad 2). Despite the fact that Steve Jobs famously disparaged the 7" size, that was before the runaway success of the 7" Kindle Fire tablet, which proved that users in fact would welcome a more portable device. The iPad mini, if in fact it is released, is rumoured to hit the market at a price point of between \$199 and \$250, which one analyst called "the competition's worst nightmare", and is expected to be released in the third quarter of this year.

Additionally, it would make a modicum of sense, as apps already designed for that screen resolution would run very nicely on the small screen size. It could replace the iPad 2, and appeal to those seeking a more affordable tablet, while reclaiming market share being lost to the Kindle Fire. [RN]

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Only the original owner of the backup is able to decrypt and restore the data by using their username, password and the original encryption key. Customers are able to restore data at any time and from anywhere in the world, as long as they are connected to the net.

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Technology innovations make security landscape more challenging

CompTIA

Innovations in technology that make applications, data and networks more accessible and devices more mobile are also creating new challenges for information technology (IT) professionals responsible for cyber-security.

And while organisations in South Africa feel they're doing a good job today in defending themselves from cyber-security threats, they also acknowledge that the risks are increasing.

IT industry association CompTIA recently concluded a survey of nearly 1200 IT and business executives in six countries- including South Africa – who are directly involved in setting or executing information security policies and processes within their organisations. The results were published in CompTIA's Ninth Annual Information Security Trends study.

Cyber-security top priority

The survey found that cyber-security is a top priority for South Africa, more so than for the other countries in the CompTIA study. A full 81% of South African companies said cyber-security is at the top of their IT priority list for 2012. Additionally, three-quarters of organisations said cyber-security will continue to move upward on the priority list.

The main security concerns among South African companies today are malware (96% of organisations surveyed), hacking (94%), data loss (87%), social engineering (87%) and

human error among end-users (85%). Nearly nine in ten companies (89%) said understanding the security risks of emerging areas is another high-level concern.

More connectivity, more threats

One of the biggest factors driving cyber-security concerns today is the greater interconnectivity of devices, systems and users. Billions of devices are connecting to the internet daily and each touch-point is a potential source of new security vulnerabilities. With more data being produced and touched by more people, the potential for data loss or leakage grows accordingly.

Specific concerns among South African organisations with regard to the greater mobility of workers and devices include mobile malware, malvertising and employees downloading unauthorised applications. 45% of companies believe that they have struck the right balance when it comes to security and the mobility needs of employees.

Cloud a loss of control

Though a significant proportion of South African companies have not yet adopted cloud computing, among those that use the cloud, a major concern voiced with regard to cloud-security is the loss of control for the company. This is more of a concern in South Africa than in other countries surveyed. The majority of companies using the cloud undertake at least a moderate review of policies with a focus on data backup, data integrity and identity and access management. More than three-fourths

of companies are confident about the security capabilities of their cloud providers.

Human element also a concern

South African executives responsible for cyber-security believe that the human element is responsible for most breaches and is more of a factor today when compared to two years ago. The failure of end-users to follow procedures and carelessness are cited as the main reasons for this increase.

On average, South African companies said they experienced five security breaches in the past 12 months, with 63% attributed to human error and 37% to shortcomings in technology. Data loss was reported by 47% of South African companies surveyed. Types of data lost included financial data, corporate intellectual property and employee data.

Education and training

The value of ongoing cyber-security education and training is clear to the large majority of organisations: 61% of companies said their staff needs more training and education. Among IT staff, 38% of South African companies report having less IT security staff (6.1 employees on average) than what is needed (8.4). Additionally, 42% have experienced challenges in hiring security specialists. South African companies also value security certifications for IT staff, with 75% using certifications formally or informally. Security certifications deliver high or moderate return on investment for nearly all South African companies (94%).

Breach! What companies do when it happens.

When confronted with a security incident or breach, organisations took the following actions:

- 68% reviewed and updated the staff security policy.
- 44% reviewed and updated the configuration of systems, servers and firewalls.
- 44% reviewed and updated a process for installing security updates and patches.
- 37% reviewed and updated overall governance framework.
- 35% reviewed and updated staff security training.



About the author:

Todd Thibodeaux is the president and chief executive officer of CompTIA, a non-profit trade association dedicated to advancing growth of the information technology industry through educational programs, market research, networking events, professional certifications and public advocacy. For more information, visit www.comptia.co.za.

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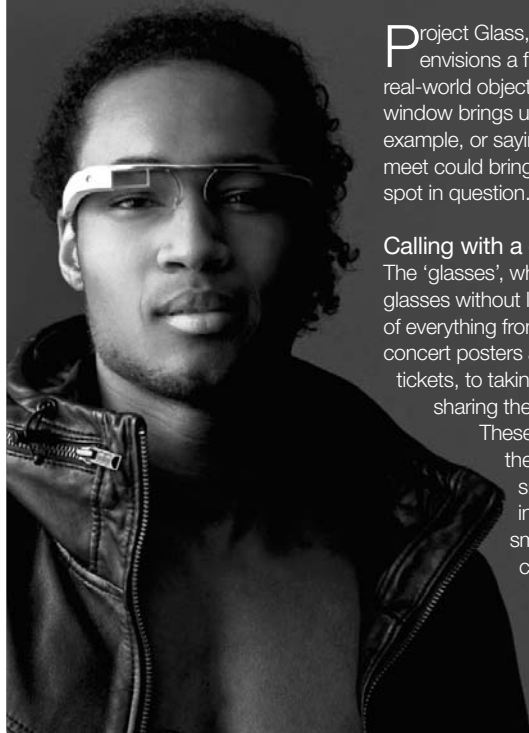
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GOOGLE'S PROJECT GLASS



Although still in the concept phase, Google's recently announced Project Glass brings Minority Report interaction one step closer to reality. Are you ready for an augmented world?



Project Glass, Google's augmented-reality glasses, envisions a future in which information is overlaid over real-world objects, as you look at them. Peering out the window brings up an overlay of the weather report, for example, or saying a friend's name who you are due to meet could bring up a map or directions to the meeting spot in question.

Calling with a glance

The 'glasses', which more closely resemble the frames of glasses without lenses, are also envisioned being capable of everything from calling friends with a glance, scanning concert posters and instantly booking the necessary tickets, to taking photos of one's surroundings and then sharing them on social networks.

These features are not unfamiliar – many of them are currently connected to smartphone functionality. However, integrating features currently reserved for smartphones into wearable technology could prove to be as disruptive (positively speaking) to personal technology as tablets have been to the PC industry. And that, as proven by the popularity Apple's iPad, is the holy grail at present.

Technology and fashion fusion

Indeed, the argument can be made that the trend towards thinner and lighter smartphones that has dominated over the past several years has been an attempt to make technology less obtrusive – and more wearable.

Google is not the only company in the preliminary stages of exploring wearable technology, even if it is less ambitious than Project Glass. For example, already a jogging suit has been developed which has an MP3 player embedded into it and is ingeniously powered by kinetic energy (bit.ly/Hwx1Zj). And then there is esteemed videogame company, Valve Software, who are apparently in the research and development stage of creating wearable computing hardware which would overlay real world input with some kind of gaming experience.

To the point

These developments, as significant as they are, point not only to technology becoming something we wear, but to a future that brings new meaning to the phrase "you ain't seen nothing yet" and a technology industry that has more than a few surprises up its sleeve. Watch the video here: bit.ly/glassgoogle. (RN)



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**Voodoo Knifeblock**

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**Boogieboard RIP**

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New Norton Tablet Security Protects Against Loss, Theft and Online Threats

Norton Tablet Security is designed specifically for Android tablets to protect the device, as well as the user's privacy and important data, against loss, theft, viruses, and other threats.

Web Time Wasters

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Freerice



www.freerice.com

Freerice's premise is simple but profound: help people expand their vocabulary while ending world hunger. The site is formatted as a game; it dishes up a word and challenges players to identify its correct meaning by choosing from four possible answers. For each word correctly identified, ten grains of rice is donated by the site to the United Nations World Food Program. The more words one gets right, the harder the game becomes; getting words wrong likewise makes it adjust to offer up easier words.

The site 'warns' that continuous playing may help its users better formulate their ideas, speak more precisely and persuasively, comprehend more of what they read and generally be more successful and smarter. To date 91 billion grains of rice have been donated.



Smart History

www.smarthistory.org

Smarthistory bills itself as an art history 'textbook'. In truth, it is a lot more interesting than an ordinary book and the dreary connotation that holds. Instead, the site plays host to some lively, unscripted conversations about art by historians. The site covers artwork that is organised by artist, art medium (such as oil paint, tempera paint and bronze casting) and theme, from ancient times (400 CE) all the way up to modern day works. The site is exceptionally comprehensive and a treasure trove for art lovers.



Longform

www.longform.org

Longform collects and collates long form articles from around the web on a variety of subjects, including arts and culture, business, crime, science, technology, politics and sports. Articles can be saved for leisurely reading, using Readability, Instapaper or Read it later, either on one's Kindle e-reader or one's tablet or read online. Articles include everything from a history of cellular ringtones, to the investigation into two deaths in Yellow Stone park, that reveals an unexpected perpetrator. While the topics featured are vast and frequently odd, they share the commonality of being superbly well written, shorter than a book but considerably longer than most articles found in print or online.



Can you run it?

bit.ly/canisplay

Very simple in its application but imminently useful for PC gamers. Can you run it? enables PC gamers to search for or select any PC game and have their computer analysed to determine whether it meets the minimum specifications required. A comprehensive report is then generated, detailing what CPU, CPU speed, RAM, operating system, video card and how much disk space one's computer has at present while showing what the game in question requires.

The site does require installation of the latest version of Java before the report can be generated, but at 11 MB, this is fast and painless over a decent ADSL connection. (Thanks David H for the link!)

Links from around the web

Assassin's Creed for Kinect
<http://bit.ly/HcNIYt>

Loopkicks Camp: <http://bit.ly/F0dYYQ>

Husky sings with iPad: <http://bit.ly/d6sSA7>

J P Morgan CEO has some advice for a gold digger <http://bit.ly/Hk51dg>

A different use for an iPad: <http://bit.ly/HuoHJj>

Texts from a dog: <http://bit.ly/HIFzSY>

TechSmart's top tweets



Here are the tweets that struck our fancy last month



Catherine Lückhoff @cluckhoff

I'll say it again: if you share your Foursquare check in on Twitter, you will be unfollowed no matter who you are.



Trevor S @trevso_electric

Good news: just lost fifteen pounds. Bad news: I'm in England.



Gus Silber @gussilber

Wolfram Alpha is like the hipster version of Google. It's super-smart & cool, & only a few of us hipsters use it.



Amber Duh @AmberDonn

My favorite thing to do when I got home was to get naked and dance around. Then mom and dad asked me to move out.



Henno Gous @WhisperdScream

Worse with a Borat one RT @menshumor: Cops don't like it when you ask them "Need some help?" especially when you're wearing a Batman costume



Richard Wiseman @RichardWiseman

I suspect this plane is going to be delayed. Cabin crew just collected the in-flight magazines and handed out War and Peace.



Brendan Jack @brendanjack

Attention Instagram users: If you haven't uploaded a photo of a cappuccino yet, please do so immediately ~ Instagram management.



Gareth van Zyl @GarethvanZyl

I'm quite chuffed today: the security guard for our building told me this morning that he follows me on Twitter!



Saul Kropman @saulkza

"@Anatinus: Half the people in my timeline seem to hate Vodacom." The other half hate MTN

Headlines we're unlikely to see soon:

- 1 Windows now open-source
- 2 Apple's new Android smartphone lauded
- 3 Nikon, Canon merger welcomed
- 4 Facebook introduce Unlike button
- 5 Why I use Bing – Sergey Brin



TechSmart.co.za online poll results

Would you provide a would-be employer unfettered access to your Facebook account for a background check?

- Yes, no problem. 26%
- Maybe, depending on how desperate I am for the job. 23%
- No, they can stick their job. 51%



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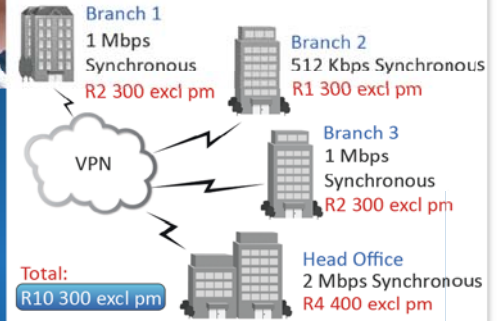
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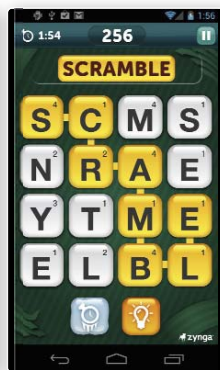
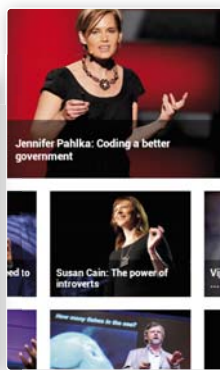


31 billion. Devices expected to be connected to the internet by 2012.



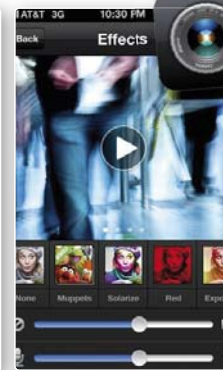
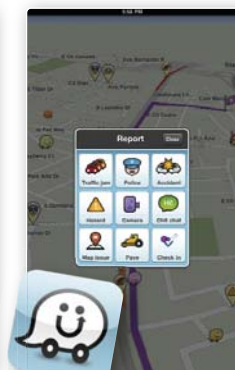
Android Apps of the month

With over 450 000 apps available for Android smartphones at the Android Market, TechSmart would like to help you get to the good ones first. Here are our top Android Apps of the month.



Apple iOS Apps of the month

You'll never come close to going through all the apps in Apple's App Store. TechSmart finds the best free apps that the App Store has to offer.



Read it Later/Pocket

For those who love to read, most particularly long form articles that offer indepth rather than bite sized explorations of topics, Read it Later, recently renamed Pocket, is a must have app.

As the name suggests, its function is simple enough – it enables users to read articles that they have saved from the web on their phone or tablet device at their leisure, offline. However, it also saves web videos for later viewing, synchronises one's saved lists across multiple devices (across one's account) and formats web pages for easy reading. With the rename, the app has become completely free for all its features.

Official TED app

We have long been fans of TED (the website). Now though, the site dedicated to providing illuminating talks on technology, entertainment and design by a diverse range of speakers and covering an equally varied range of topics, has its own Android app. The app organises talks by featured talks, popular ones and new additions, while personal favourites can be downloaded and saved to a My Talks tab. We were pleasantly surprised by how quick and responsive the app is; scrolling between talks was seamless, and on a 10.1" device, no fewer than 12 topics at a time were visible.

Scramble with Friends

In a somewhat similar vein to Words with Friends, Scramble with Friends challenges one to try find as many words as possible in a given time from a mashup of different letters. One can spell words by running one's finger horizontally, vertically, or diagonally across them, providing each letter is adjacent to the next. The game also offers power ups such as freeze, which temporarily stops the clock, or inspiration, which highlights a letter for consideration. Add in the social nature of playing with Facebook friends, Twitter followers or random strangers, and Scramble with Friends challenges one to think on one's feet and ultimately amounts to a great deal of fun. Free with ads, R8 without.

Waze: Drive Safely

Waze doesn't only provide you with free (besides the data costs involved) voice-guided turn-by-turn navigation, but also enables users to save time and petrol by avoiding heavily congested roads. This free app shows pop-up notifications of hazards en route or in the nearby vicinity, including robots that aren't working, construction works or roadblocks. These have been shared by other Waze users and you can also report other annoying time consumers and hazards like accidents or speed cameras to the Waze community. In addition, users can setup or join groups, chat with registered Waze members, share their location via Facebook, Twitter, Foursquare as well as email and post traffic reports to Twitter.

Viddy: Easy video sharing

Viddy is a video-sharing app that works in a similar way to the ultra-popular Instagram application, except with videos instead of photos. This app enables users to share captivating, humorous or interesting moments with others, simply by recording a 15 second clip, which can then be enhanced by adding music and using Instagram-like filters. This is done via the app, with users also able to select the intensity level at which these filters are applied. When you're done, clips can be shared via the social web to YouTube, Facebook, Twitter and Tumblr. You can also follow other Viddy users to like, tag yourself in or comment upon their videos. It's a nice app, just check those data costs.

Free Ringtones by iOS Lab

iOS is one of the most stable and user-friendly mobile operating systems available, but also somewhat restrictive in what aspects of the OS users are allowed to customise. For instance, you cannot easily use music tracks on your smartphone as ringtones. This is where the Free Ringtones app comes in, since it allows users to broaden their iPhone's acoustic horizons, by making thousands of ringtones available within over 30 lists. These include sound effects and holiday-themed tones, which users can browse through via categories including most downloaded and top rated. Users can also preview sounds before downloading them.

Android Tip: Block Caller

Hopefully, there are not too many people in your contact list you really want to block from calling you. If you do though, the standard version of Android provides an easy enough means of doing so. Simply select the offending name in question in your contacts list, press the Menu key and choose Options. You can then check the box that states: Send calls directly to voicemail. Now, if only we could figure out how to add those various service providers who call us night and day to "offer" us "special opportunities" to subscribe to some worthless deal or another to our contact list...



iPhone tip: Another use for the timer

Ever fallen asleep with your headset on whilst listening to your favourite music or podcast episode? Apple has made an easy way of preventing users from depleting their smartphone's battery in this manner, available within iOS. Simply open the clock app, whilst listening to music or the podcast and set a timer for however long you want to listen for. Then you simply select "Stop Playing" as the action to be performed when the timer ends.





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Wireless Headset RS 220

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Griffin Helo TC

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Cable Management

Cable Drops – gently grasps your power and peripheral cords so they don't fall off your desk every time you unplug your laptop.

Cable Clips – manages your cables in a simple and fun way by keeping cables accessible and organised.

Sumo – Sumo acts like a paperweight for your cables and features high-tech Japanese micro-suction pads underneath for further grip.



Magic Cube

The cool new Magic Cube Virtual Laser Keyboard is a Bluetooth device that projects a laser-generated full-sized QWERTY keyboard onto any flat surface for iPads, iPhones, and Android devices. A handy gadget for travelers or anyone who prefers a full-sized keyboard.



Ion Slides to PC Express

SLIDES 2 PC EXPRESS makes it easy and fun to rediscover your 35 mm film negatives and slides on your computer. If you're like one of the millions of people who have boxes of slides in little yellow boxes in the kitchen, this is perfect for you!



NSD Power Balls

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5 million. Galaxy Note tablet-smartphone-hybrids shipped in the first five months of availability.

FIFA Street

Taking soccer to the streets



In FIFA Street, you get to leave Old Trafford and Anfield behind, in favour of rooftops, graffiti-filled underpasses and parkades. Is it as amazing as the tricks you can pull off?

In this game of football, style and flair matter as much as (and sometimes more than) scoring goals, with the ability to display your eshibobo skills in over 35 different venues, all of which look superb and amazingly detailed. There are iconic real life locales such as the favelas of Rio de Janeiro, as well as more exotic locations, such as a rooftop in Shanghai and London city square.

Controls

As with previous Street titles, a variable encyclopedia of tricks can be discovered and mastered at these venues using the game's pick up and play control scheme. This simplified control scheme means that the game is much easier to pick up and play compared to both PES 2012 and FIFA 12 with their tactical defence systems and precision dribbling. It also makes FIFA Street much more suited to quick challenge games with your mates.

World Tour mode

FIFA Street's main mode is called World Tour and allows players to create a virtual footballer (or import their FIFA 12 virtual pro), build a team and head on out to become the best street soccer team in the world. Along the way you will face amateur outfits as well as professionally licensed clubs from the likes of Real Madrid, Barcelona and Manchester United.

"In FIFA Street, style and flair matter as much as (and sometimes more than) scoring goals."

As you progress through the tournament you can add more skilled players to your team's roster, while each win also unlocks new clothing items and provides you with points that you can use to buy these.

A match type to suit your creative playing style

The main match types are 5-a-side, whereby the winning team is the one which amasses the highest goal tally, while Last man standing has your team losing a player (no goalkeepers allowed) every time one finds the back of the opponent's net. One of our favourite modes is Panna rules, a points-based match with a point being awarded for getting past an opposing player with a beat move including faking left, but going right. Beating an opponent with an aerial move, such as a rainbow flick (flicking the ball over his head using both heels), nets you two points.

Final word

You probably won't spend the same amount of time per session on FIFA Street as you would playing FIFA 12, but those quick bursts will definitely be more entertaining. FIFA Street also holds an addictive appeal for casual gaming soccer fans. It goes for R599. [HD] ❁

❁ **Full Article** bit.ly/streetfifa

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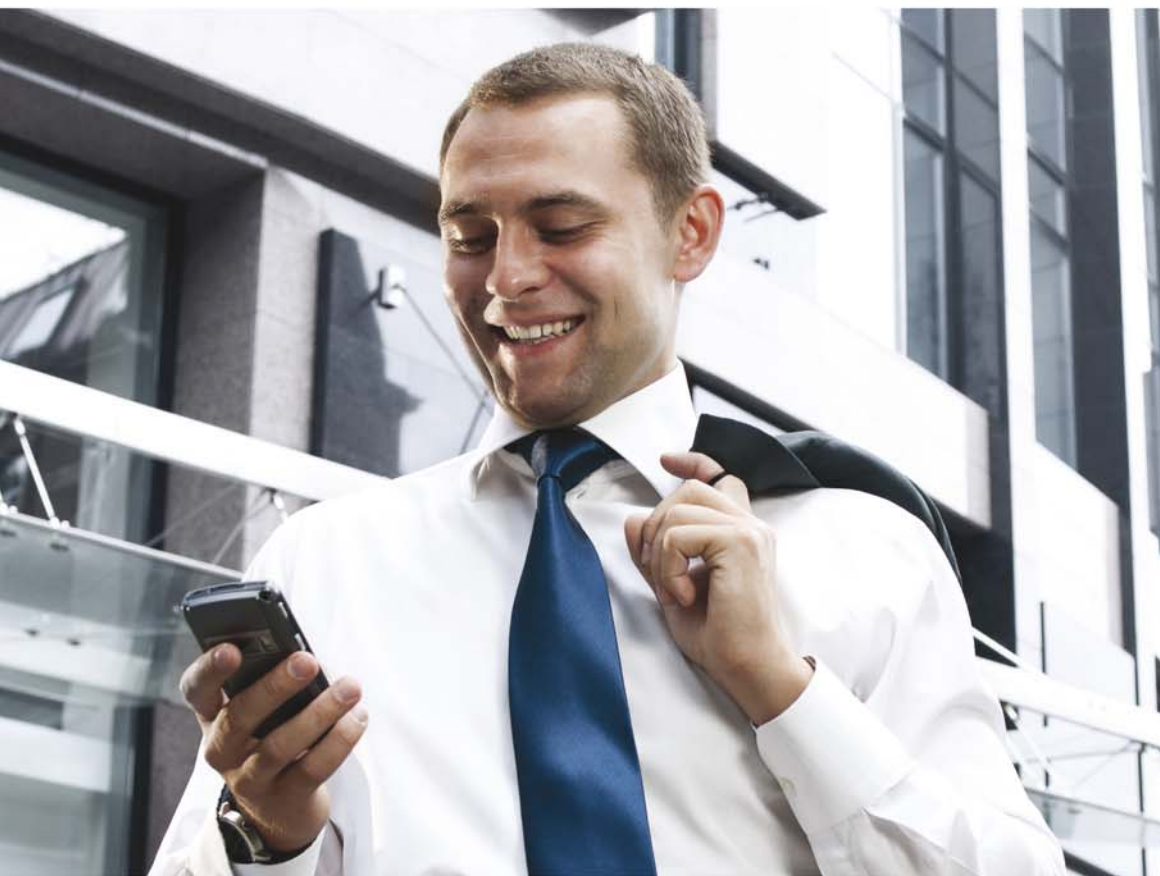
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