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Issue 105  
June 2012  
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## HP Folio 13

The new ultrabook king?



**Awind wireless  
presentation interface**  
Boardroom cables be gone



## Sony Xperia S

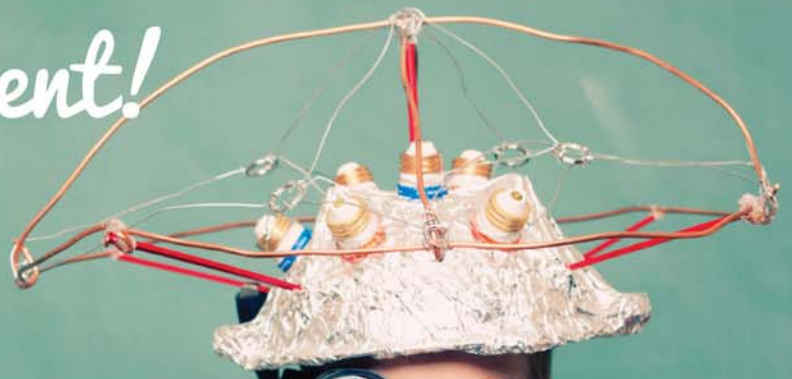
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## Build a rocket boys!

It was on a cold day in May that an extraordinary thing happened. An old Pretoria Boys High student, Elon Musk, sent his rocket into space. By the time you read this, the unmanned Dragon spacecraft carried onboard the Falcon 9 rocket, should have already docked at the International Space Station (ISS) and be on its way back to Earth. It's an exceptional occasion, since it marks the first time that a private company has launched a spacecraft to the ISS (see more on p6).

I have not been keeping a very close eye on space travel after NASA's retirement of their Space Shuttles in July last year, and thought that it would still be quite a while before an endeavour of this magnitude could take place. But there on the 22nd of May was Musk, CEO of SpaceX, the private company behind the programme, stating that this launch was as significant as the advent of the internet.

Locally the Twittersphere was abuzz. But we weren't celebrating a rocket, but rather squabbling over a spear. What a disgrace.

Enjoy the issue and please feel free to distribute the mag's PDF, available at [techsmart.co.za](http://techsmart.co.za),

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## 8 Top 5 SUVs

This month we're heading off-road, or at least onto the curb, to bring you the best SUVs available. Engage the 4x4 and let's go.

## 10 HP Global Influencer Summit 2012

TechSmart was on-hand in Shanghai, China, to get the latest scoop on HP's next-generation ultrabooks. And we must say, it's looking pretty impressive.

## 20 Braun Series 3 390cc shaver

Apart from cleaning your face, the 390cc foil shaver from Braun also cleans itself. We used it to tackle some serious stubble.

## 26 Top tech for presentations

Making a presentation can be a daunting task for anyone. Luckily there's some excellent technology available to help you along the way.



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## Top Tech Titbits

### WACS cable bumps up local bandwidth

Last month the 14 500 km long West African Cable System (WACS) was commercially launched in South Africa. This cable will boost South Africa's international broadband capacity by over 40%, adding more than 400 Gigabits per second (Gbps) of international broadband capacity on launch. This amounts to the download of 4.8 million MP3 files or more than 5000 DVDs per minute. More bandwidth? Oh yes please.

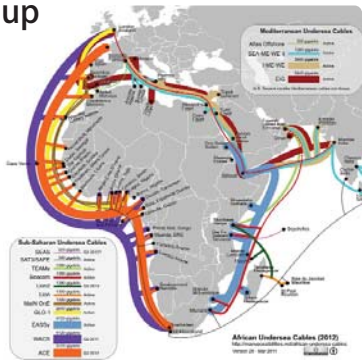


Photo from <http://impossibilities.net/african-undersea-cables/>



### Facebook goes public

Facebook's initial public offering (IPO) saw the social networking behemoth closing its stock at \$38.23 a share on its first day as a public company. This resulted in the company's co-founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg's 503.6 million shares and options being valued at around \$19.1 billion. At time of going to print, Zuckerberg occupied the number 26 spot on Bloomberg's Billionaires Index, above Google co-founders Larry Page (no. 30) and Sergey Brin (no. 31).



### iPad Wi-Fi + 4G is so yesterday

Apple landed in legal hot water in some countries, most notably Australia, over the name of certain models of its third generation iPad (see review on page 12). Consumer bodies and action groups felt that Apple's promotion of the new iPad variants that could access data networks as "Wi-Fi + 4G" was misleading due to the fact that the tablet can only access 4G/LTE networks in certain places like the US and Canada. The company decided to apply a discrete name change within regions that do not have access to 4G. In these countries, including South Africa, these models will now be called "Wi-Fi + Cellular" going forward.



### Samsung now occupies the mobile throne

After ruling the mobile phone sales charts for 14 years, Nokia found itself in second place for the first time since 1998. The new number one? None other than Samsung, selling 86.567 million cellular phones, compared to Nokia's 83.162 million devices. Even though Apple's phone range includes only smartphones, its sales tally of 33.120 million iPhones was enough to claim third place, ahead of Chinese manufacturer ZTE (17.439 million).



### Corporate shakeup for Yahoo!

Last month Yahoo! was rocked by a scandal after it was discovered that the company's chief executive officer, Scott Thompson, had lied on his CV. The college that Thompson attended, never offered the computer science degree which he claimed to have. In the aftermath of this revelation, Thompson resigned and the internet search company appointed Ross Levinsohn as interim CEO.



### Chrome becomes browser champ

It's been a long and hard struggle, but at long last Microsoft's Internet Explorer has been dethroned as the top web browser. According to analytics service StatCounter, May saw Google's Chrome edge past IE for a full week for the first time ever. The lead was not much – 32.76% of the world's web traffic was done on Chrome, with 31.94% on IE. It might be a significant occurrence, but don't expect IE to take the route of Netscape soon. ❖

## Hot New Products

### Beasty boy: Ducati Diavel Cromo motorcycle



Other manufacturers may shy away from using flashy chrome accents within the design of their motorcycles, but Ducati embraces it on its Diavel Cromo. This beast features a chromium-plated fuel tank that nicely contrasts the bike's overall glossy black design. Powering the devilishly handsome ride is a Testastretta 11° 1198 cc L-Twin cylinder Desmodromic engine that pushes out 119 kW at 9500 RPM and a tremendous 127.5 Nm of torque at 8000 RPM. Yours in the US for \$18 995 (R157 335).

### Light but no spec featherweight: Lenovo ThinkPad X1 Carbon

Most ultrabooks pull the scales at about 1.5 kg. Chinese manufacturer Lenovo touts their X1 Carbon as the world's lightest, weighing in at less than 1.3 kg. The X1 offers features we would like to see standard on all ultrabooks – a backlit keyboard, 3G connectivity, a fingerprint reader and Dolby Home Theatre sound, as well as the usual USB 3.0 and USB 2.0 ports and an SD card slot. We were impressed with Lenovo's consumer-focused U300s ultrabook, so we can't wait to get our hands on the business savvy X1 Carbon when it launches in the second half of 2012. No local pricing info is available yet.



### For B&W lovers: Leica M Monochrom camera

For those harking back to the timeless and graceful era when black and white photos of celebrities like Marilyn Monroe and Grace Kelly graced magazine covers, Leica presents its M Monochrom camera. The company calls it the "first full-frame, 35 mm format digital camera to be designed exclusively and without any compromises for black-and-white photography." To back up that claim the M Monochrom sports an 18 MP sensor that "does not 'see' colours", ISO up to 10 000, and compatibility with Leica's full range of M lenses. The cost for this privilege? A mere \$8000 (R66 270). Needless to say our name is not on the order list.

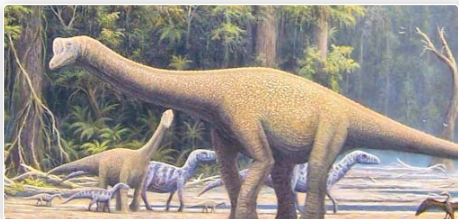


### Not a Swatch: A.S. M47-331 Military Tank watch

Only 500 of the A.S. M47-331 Military Tank watches were made to commemorate the completion of Arnold Schwarzenegger's second term as California governor. Each watch includes a letter from the former Governor, informing buyers how his days as a M47 tank driver in the Austrian army inspired the design of this watch. Buyers can strap one onto their manly wrists for the bargain basement price of \$1000 (R8283). The proceeds will benefit After School All Stars, a charity that provides after-school programs to needy kids. ❖



# Sci News



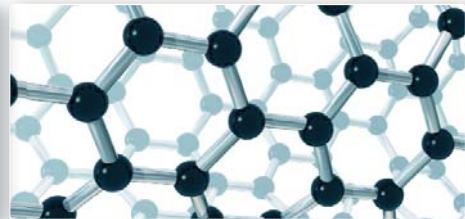
## Gas heaters

The dinosaurs should be blamed for global warming, albeit some 150 million years ago. According to an article in a recent issue of *Current Biology*, the large herds of sauropods of the Mesozoic Era may have belched close to 520 million tons of methane into the atmosphere every year. This is comparable to the combined emissions from wild animals, industry and commercial cattle farming today. Methane is 23 times as strong a greenhouse gas as carbon dioxide and likely contributed to the planet being almost 10 °C warmer then than it is now. What's more impressive, though, is that these vast amounts of gas were produced by gazillions of tiny gut bacteria that helped the massive sauropods to digest their food. Who said the little guy can't change the world?



## Save the date

The world endeth not this year. Or for the next few thousand years it seems, according to ancient Maya calculations. Archaeologists studying the Xultún complex in Guatemala write in a May issue of the journal *Science*, that they have uncovered a kind of Mayan math blackboard likely to be 1200 years old. Small glyphs consisting of bars and dots are scribbled all over an ancient wall, complete with red markings that seem to be corrections to formal calculations. Deciphering these inscriptions, the archaeologists found four long numbers that represent significant astronomical events 7000 years into the future as well as the date of the inscription. These findings show that – contrary to Hollywood hype – the Maya predicted the world to be around for quite a while still.



## Suck it up

Big ideas usually start small. Think nano small. Scientists report in an article in *Nature Scientific Reports*, that they developed a sponge of tiny carbon tubes that can suck up oil from water. The carbon fibres attract oil but repel water, which makes it a useful tool for cleaning up oil spills in the ocean. Up to now it has been difficult to create complex nanotube structures because of the way the molecules connect during growth. But adding boron atoms to the mix creates elbow junctions in the carbon lattice, which forms a 3D network of tubes. Simulations and lab results showed that the resulting superstrong structure can absorb up to 100 times its weight in oil, without being damaged by squeezing. ♣

### More amazing science news

Why you'll never escape from a black hole: [bit.ly/blackescape](http://bit.ly/blackescape)

What if SETI finds aliens? [bit.ly/truthisoutthere](http://bit.ly/truthisoutthere)

Human conflict: why we fight: [bit.ly/whyfight](http://bit.ly/whyfight)

# Green News



## Audi pedals into a new biking direction

Audi has provided electric bike fans with a glimpse into the future with its e-bike Wörthersee prototype. This bike boasts a carbon-fibre frame that weighs just 1.6 kg (total weight of the bicycle is 21 kg) and a 2.3 kW electric motor that delivers 250 Nm of hill conquering torque to the rear wheel. This motor is powered by a lithium-ion battery that can be fully recharged in 2½ hours, to give the bike a riding range of 50-70 km.

The rider can opt between five modes using a touchscreen located in the top tube frame, or a downloadable app for smartphones. These modes range from pedal power only, electric-only travelling (top speed: 50 km/h) or a mix of the two (80 km/h).



## Lighting design competition now open to learners

Eskom's energy efficient lighting design competition challenges South Africans to come up with innovative lighting system designs, to win their share of R214 000 in prize money. This year, the biennial contest opens its doors to high school students too, with learners able to enter the special awards category for the most promising young designer, standing in line for a first prize of R10 000. Other categories include residential luminaire design for varsity students (R30 000 first prize), and the professional category (R40 000) where entrants are asked to submit innovative energy efficient designs, systems or products, suitable for residential application. Visit [www.lighting-design.co.za](http://www.lighting-design.co.za) for more info.



## Redmond aiming to go green by July

Microsoft will soon rip open its neatly pressed corporate shirt to reveal a big, green E (for eco) logo underneath. The company aims to become fully carbon neutral across all its operations including data centres, software development labs, air travel, and office buildings.

Microsoft has created an internal carbon fee within its structures, which it will apply to all its operations in over 100 countries. This fee places a price on carbon, based upon market pricing for renewable energy and carbon offsets, with the goal of making each business division responsible for the cost of offsetting its carbon emissions. ♣

### Other interesting green news

A new Enzo hybrid to prance out of Ferrari's stable at year-end: [engt.co/greenEnzo](http://engt.co/greenEnzo)

First practical artificial leaf boosts drive towards sustainable energy: [bit.ly/fakleaf](http://bit.ly/fakleaf)

WWF: SA has 4th biggest eco footprint per person in Africa: [bit.ly/SAecofoot](http://bit.ly/SAecofoot)

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# XPERIA

**THE BIG ISSUE**

# SPACEX LAUNCHES SPACECRAFT

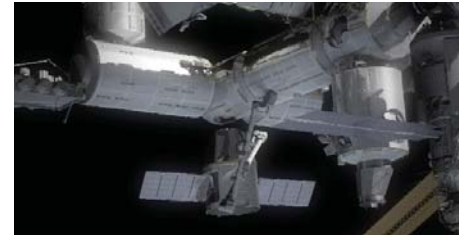
In an auspicious occasion for private space flight, Space Exploration Technologies (SpaceX) has taken a small step that may well prove to be a giant leap for commercial space travel.

Private company SpaceX successfully completed the beginning of its ambitious mission to send an unmanned spacecraft to the International Space Station (ISS), as its Falcon 9 rocket, carrying the Dragon spacecraft, was launched into orbit from the company's launch pad at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. By the time you read this, if all goes well, Dragon should have hopefully docked with the International Space Station, delivered its payload, picked up supplies and be sent on its way back to Earth.

### Great beginnings

Commenting on the significance of the launch, SpaceX chief executive officer and chief designer, Elon Musk, who is a South African born inventor now living in the US, compared it to the arrival of the internet. "This mission heralds the dawn of a new era of space exploration, one in which there is a significant commercial space element," he explained. "It is like the advent of the internet in the mid-1990s when commercial companies entered what was originally a government endeavour. That move dramatically accelerated the pace of advancement and made the internet accessible to the mass market. I think we're at a similar inflection point for space. I hope and I believe that this mission will be historic in marking that turning

# SPACEX



point towards a rapid advancement in space transportation technology," elaborated Musk.

**"This mission heralds the dawn of a new era of space exploration."**

However, the occasion was auspicious for another reason as well. SpaceX's mission also marks the first test of NASA's plan to outsource space missions to private companies since it retired its Space Shuttle fleet. Success of SpaceX's mission would provide evidence to NASA that Falcon 9 and Dragon are up to hauling

cargo – and ultimately astronauts – for the vaunted space agency.

### To the point

With the right business model, we suspect and hope that in time this could herald the birth of commercial space travel for not only multimillionaires. Barring that lofty hope, it also portends a launch into unprecedented, uncharted terrain, where the ramifications of commercial space travel are as unimaginable as they are exciting. If Musk's comparisons to the birth of the internet are on course, then Dragon's success may turn out to be a roar that is heard and remembered for decades to come. [RN]



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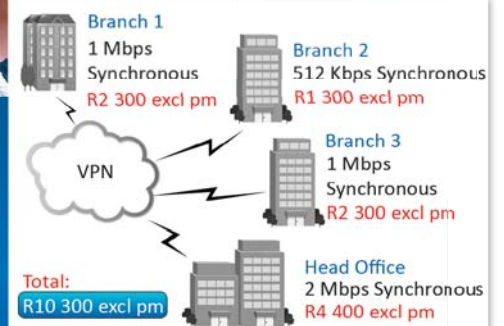
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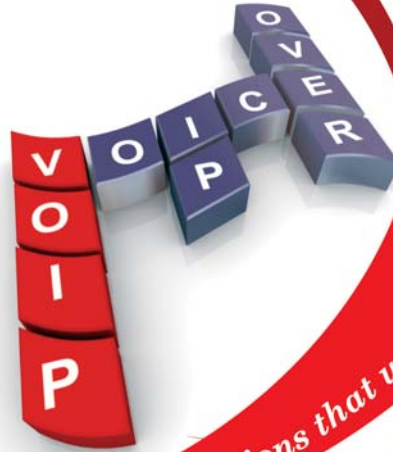
>900 million. Number of active monthly users of Facebook.





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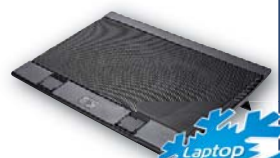
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419.1 million. Number of mobile phone sales during Q1 2012, a 2% decline from last year.

TechSmart's

# TOP 5 SUVs



So which are the most luxurious, tough and tech advanced sport utility vehicles (SUVs) that will have drivers not just travelling in style, but also enable them to easily climb the curb whilst parking near Loftus? Here our top 5 choices.

## 5 Lexus RX 350 XE

With a retail price of R694 000 (including CO<sub>2</sub> tax and VAT), Lexus' RX 350 XE certainly isn't cheap, but luckily this all-wheel drive SUV is filled to the hilt with technology. A lengthy list of safety features includes large thorax abdomen-pelvis (TAP) side airbags for driver and front passenger, a premium sound system and satellite controls on the steering wheel. The RX 350 XE's 3.5 litre V6 delivers 204 kW at 6200 RPM as well as 346 Nm at 4700 RPM, and manages to propel the two and a half ton SUV from 0-100 km/h in eight seconds flat, onto a top speed of 200 km/h.



## 2 Range Rover Evoque

With a price starting at R582 000, the Evoque is actually the most affordable car in our list of desirable SUVs. Jeremy Clarkson's Car of the Year for 2011, is powered by a humble 2.2 litre TD4 diesel powerplant that generates 140 kW of power and 420 Nm of torque. This is enough to propel this Range Rover from 0-100 km/h in just 8.5 seconds onto a terminal velocity of 195 km/h. All this, whilst keeping fuel usage manageable at a combined fuel usage figure of only 6.5 litres per 100 km. Geeks will appreciate this SUV's central 8" touchscreen and 5" colour information display, with the latter providing key information such as navigation instructions and hill descent status, whilst the former is for controlling the infotainment system.



## 4 Jeep Grand Cherokee 3.6L Overland

Catch a glimpse in your rear-view mirror of the seven-slot grille on the aggressively styled 2012 Grand Cherokee, and you'll quickly vacate the right hand lane of the highway. This car's Pentastar 3.6L V6 petrol engine generating 210 kW of power and 347 Nm of torque, will ensure that its sporty design bite is backed up by powerful performance bite. The Grand Cherokee boasts some useful off-roading tech including hill descent control, which helps drivers navigate up challenging terrain without requiring constant braking. You can get into the luxury cabin of this SUV for around R583 000.



## 3 VW Touareg V6 TDI Terrain Tech

Matching the Jeep in terms of off-roading prowess is VW's Touareg, which sports a terrain tech package with 4XMotion (four-wheel drive), hill descent control and centre- and rear differential lock. This SUV's three litre V6 engine churns out 180 kW at 4000 RPM and a very handy 550 Nm of torque between a low 2000 and 2250 RPM. However, this power doesn't translate to the SUV being a fuel hog, since BlueMotion technologies, including stop-start with energy recuperation, mean that fuel economy is boosted to a claimed 7.3 litres per 100 km. At almost R675 000 though, your corporate ladder climbing skills should match this SUV's hill climbing ability.



## 1 BMW X5 M50d

BMW are renowned for their luxury saloons and M-sporting performance cars, and at the beginning of this year they also introduced its diesel-powered M Performance range. The X5 M50d is one of these, powered by a three litre six-cylinder common-rail diesel engine that sports three turbochargers, pushing out 280 kW between 4000 and 4400 RPM and a whopping 740 Nm between 2000 and 3000 RPM. The X5 M50d rockets from standstill to 100 km/h in just 5.4 seconds, almost as quick as the petrol-powered X5 M's 4.7 seconds. Unlike its petrol guzzling stablemate (almost 14 litres per 100 km), the X5 M50d won't require you to invest a large percentage of your salary into a fuel station, since BMW claims a combined fuel cycle of under eight litres per 100 km.

The X5 M50d goes on sale in Germany this month for €82 300 (about R868 000). Of course buyers can up the price by adding some optional equipment like the fighter pilot-inspired head-up display, or real time traffic and weather updates. No local release info is available yet. ❖



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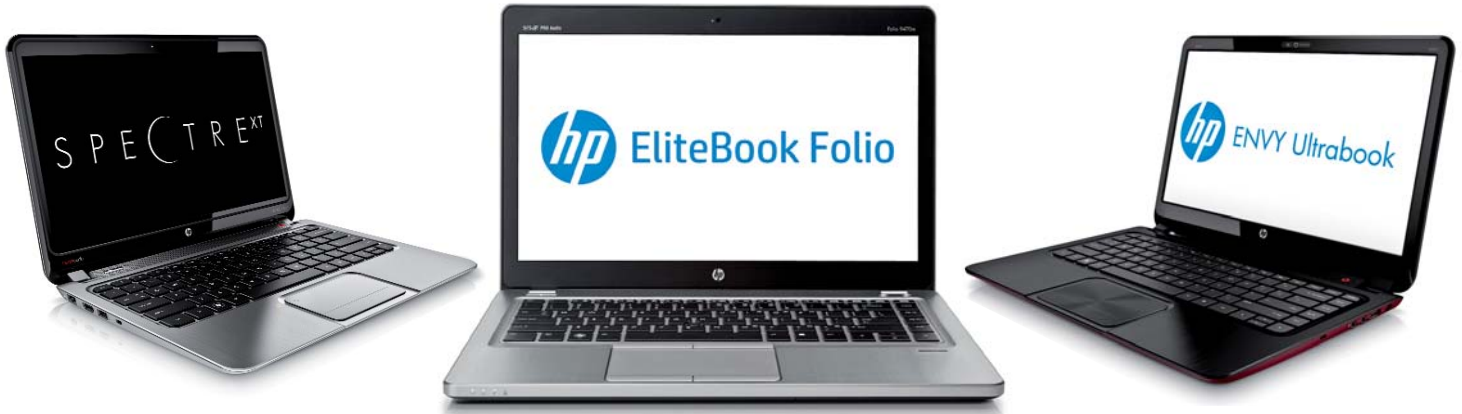
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# HP Global Influencer Summit 2012, Shanghai, China

## Next generation ultrabooks revealed

 Almost 500 journalists across the globe joined HP last month at the Global Influencer Summit in Shanghai, China, to witness the company unveil close to 80 new products in the consumer, SME and enterprise space. TechSmart was on-hand to get the scoop.

After recently regaining the number one spot for top PC vendor, HP has come out in full force at the Summit, with a strong emphasis on their range of second generation ultrabooks. Both consumer and business users are catered for with the new line-up, but the company has also diversified its range by including larger 15.6" models.



### HP Envy Spectre XT

The Envy Spectre XT was hot property during the event, with every journalist jostling for hands-on time. It certainly cannot be criticised for its appearance, sporting a full-metal brushed aluminium design, while weighing in at only 1.395 kg with a thickness of only 14.5 mm. This 13.3" device comes with a 256 GB solid state drive for quick boot-up and performance, with the model we saw boasting an Intel Core i7 3667U processor running at 2 GHz, and 4 GB of DDR3 RAM. HP believes that a single charge will grant more than eight hours of battery life, which amounts to an average full working day.

To distinguish the Spectre XT from the rest of the ultrabooks in the market, HP is including some interesting offerings. These comprise of full versions of Adobe Photoshop Elements 10 and Adobe Premiere Elements 10, while two years worth of Norton Internet Security is also part and parcel of the package. The company further mentioned a Concierge Service Hotline for technical support, but whether this will be supported locally remains to be seen. No local release info is available yet.

### HP EliteBook Folio 9470m

Although the HP Folio 13 has just arrived in SA (see review on p14), the new EliteBook Folio takes enterprise-focused ultrabooks to the next level. The 9470m's 19 mm frame and 1.58 kg weight might not compete favourably against other skinnier models available, but the number of onboard ports will no doubt make this machine well-loved with IT managers.

Full-sized Ethernet, optional built-in wireless WAN, a VGA port for legacy monitors and projectors, a DisplayPort and three USB ports (two of which are 3.0) can all be found on the side of the device, while this ultrabook can also be docked. Additional features include an integrated smart card reader, fingerprint scanner, embedded TPM security chip as well as HP BIOS Protection and HP Premier Image, which further includes business software and antivirus protection. The 14" EliteBook Folio makes the most of its onboard battery, offering nine hours worth of usage according to HP, and unlike a number of other ultrabooks, users can replace the battery themselves when it becomes depleted. This machine is only expected to make an appearance in October, with no price available yet.

### HP Envy ultrabooks



Our personal favourites of the event were HP's sleek Envy ultrabooks, especially in the menacing black-and-red guise. We were glad to see 15.6" model released next to a 14" version, since for many the smaller sized ultrabooks are not the most effective. More appealing for those who desire a bit of gaming on their ultrabooks, is that the machines are also available with graphic solutions, in the form of AMD Radeon 7600 series GPUs. Both the 14" and 15.6" version include Beats Audio, and thanks to two speakers and a subwoofer, we found the sound much better than on HP's Spectre XT ultrabook.

Unfortunately, the machines pull the scales at a slightly heavier 1.75 kg (14") and 1.93 kg (15.6"), and are also available in a silver-and-black version. The HP Envy ultrabooks are expected to be available locally in June, starting at R9000. [MJ]

### What, no tablets?

As the Summit progressed, it became increasingly clear that HP did not intend to release any info on their upcoming tablet line-up. We know this much – the next range will run on Windows 8 (also part of the reason for the no show, since Microsoft has not provided a launch date for W8 yet), and, according to a spokesperson at the event, their new tablets will contain very important distinguishing factors. We'll keep you updated.

### Why China?



Staging the HP Global Influencer Summit in China was not a random choice. China has recently overtaken the US as the world's largest PC market and is in the cross-hair of every major PC manufacturer, including HP. But the company has a big mountain to climb, since the Chinese giant, Lenovo, currently has majority market share (35%) of their backyard neatly tied up.

### But what about Africa?



So where is Africa in all of HP's plans? In the final Q+A session, HP CEO Meg Whitman mentioned that HP is committed to Africa, drawing special attention to the markets of South Africa, Nigeria and Kenya. Whitman also stated that she believes Africa is where China was 20 years ago. Only time will tell if we'll see 2032's Global Influencer Summit being held in Johannesburg.

17.4 million+. Number of global media tablets shipped during Q1 2012 according to IDC.

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# Sony Xperia S

## Mr. Right Now

It's goodbye to Sony Ericsson, as Sony now goes it alone with the smartphone brand. The new Xperia S certainly points the company in the right direction.

If the Xperia S was speed-dating, it would tick all the right boxes quickly and easily. Very powerful performance, check. Awesome screen, check. Great camera, check. And out of the current range of leading smartphones available in SA, Sony's S definitely flies in the top 5.

### Excellent screen

Let's expand on some of its key features. Firstly, the 4.3" HD-ready screen is simply superb. With a resolution of 1280 x 720 pixels, its pixels-per-inch (ppi) of 342 leaves the iPhone 4S Retina display's 330 ppi trailing. Most notable when browsing pictures and movies, it is one of the S's main assets. Going hand-in-hand with this is very strong performance specs, which puts the S in the upper echelons of our benchmarking tests. In the Antutu benchmark, the Xperia S came out tops, even beating the powerful Samsung Galaxy Note, while in Smartbench (2011, not 2012), it ranked in the top 5.

**"Out of the current range of leading smartphones available in SA, Sony's S definitely flies in the top 5."**

As we've come to expect from Sony (Ericsson), the camera is up to most challenges, in the S's case boasting not only 12 megapixels, but also a super-fast shooting action that sees annoying shutter lag become a thing of the past. 1080p video recording (with convenient auto-focus) should also be useful if you have a full HD TV to watch it on. Using the Sony S to do this is easy enough, since a micro HDMI connector is located on the right hand side of the device (no cable included unfortunately). Furthermore the phone contains no microSD card, instead offering 32 GB of onboard storage, of which about 26 GB is accessible.

### The new Prince Charming?

Despite all the S's great characteristics, we can't help but feel that another Prince Charming is right around the corner. Two phones in particular are ready to pounce – the quad-core HTC One X with its 4.7" screen, and the imminent arrival of the Samsung Galaxy SIII (read more about it on p20), both of which promise to take smartphone performance to the next level. The fact that the Sony S also don't come with the latest version of Android – Ice Cream Sandwich, straight out the box is also a disappointment, but there is talk of an update later this year. R6800 [MJ] ❖

# The New iPad

## On-screen love

All of the effusive praise and superlative reviews that have met the iPad 2, which has become one of if not the most popular tablets on the market to date, equally apply to the new iPad, along with some added features that see the new iPad only raising the bar.

The new iPad has an almost identical form factor to its predecessor, to the extent that, on the surface, it could be quite difficult to tell them apart. That is, until you turn it on. It is then that the most notable upgrade becomes apparent, namely the Retina display, which offers a 2048 x 1536 resolution, quadrupling the number of pixels of its predecessor.

**"The new enhanced screen makes an already fantastic tablet even better."**

This translates into a significantly sharper and clearer screen than the LED-backlit IPS LCD touchscreen found on the iPad 2, which in itself was no slouch.

### Superlative display

However, this is more apparent in certain circumstances than in others. While the text on icons is sharper, it is when playing games, watching videos or viewing pictures, that the Retina display screen and the new A5X processor's quad-core graphics really shows their prowess. In short, graphics look spectacular. When browsing the web, reading ebooks and viewing text documents, the resolution bump is somewhat less noticeable, so keep that in mind if you have to make a choice between the iPad 2 and 3.

Performance wise, both the iPad 2 and the new iPad are similar in responsiveness and their speed of opening and running apps. However, the new iPad does get noticeably warmer than its predecessor; while not unbearable or scalding hot, the extra strain on both the larger battery and the processor is apparent in the heat that the device gives off. Additionally, the new iPad is marginally thicker (9.4 vs 8.8 mm) and noticeably heavier (662 vs 607 g) than the iPad 2; but this makes little if any difference to the comfort level of holding the tablet for long stretches.

### To the point

The new iPad offers a greatly enhanced screen and makes an already fantastic tablet even better. More significantly, the accompanying price-drop on the iPad 2 transforms the market into a very difficult place for any competitors.

The new iPad costs R5000, R6000 and R7000 for the Wi-Fi versions only respectively and R6300, R7300 and R8300 for the Wi-Fi and 4G (now called Cellular) versions respectively. At present the latter will instead work off 3G speeds locally. Thanks to Nashua Mobile for providing the review unit. [RN] ❖

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# HP Folio 13

Solid performer in a stylish package



HP has long impressed us with the build quality of their notebooks, and its ultrabook, the Folio 13, is no exception. Granted, there are certainly thinner ultrabooks out there, but not nearly as many that feel so solidly built and well put together.

The Folio 13 sports an attractive if somewhat conservative black and silver aesthetic, and at 1.5 kg we still found it easy to carry around and nestle on our lap for long periods. Specifications wise, the Folio 13 boasts an Intel Core i5 2467M processor, clocked at 1.6 GHz, which, along with its 4 GB of memory, proved to be up to web browsing, checking email, running office applications and playing media.

**“The Folio 13 does so many things right that it overcomes its few shortcomings.”**

The 128 GB solid state drive (SSD) accounted for the fast boot-up; this took five seconds from a sleep state and 22 seconds from being fully powered off until it was ready for work. However, where the Folio 13 really scores is on its battery life; we managed a very decent more than eight and a half hours on a charge.

## Positives and negatives

The 13.3" matte display, which offered a maximum resolution of 1366 x 768, was adequate enough if not outstanding. The matte finish meant that distracting reflections were kept well at bay; while the screen offered excellent colour reproduction and decent enough overall sharpness and brightness. On the keyboard front though, we were particularly impressed. The chiclet keys provided a satisfying balance between depth and springiness in a slightly recessed sink, which made typing a pleasure, and the keyboard was further enhanced by backlighting. Playing a movie on the ultrabook quickly revealed that the sound served up by the Folio 13 is exceptional, proving to be loud, clear, crisp, and full, without a single trace of distortion at maximum volume.

Additionally, the Folio 13 has not skimped on ports. Onboard is one USB 2.0, one USB 3.0 and one HDMI port, along with an Ethernet port, a headphone jack and an SD card slot. Surprisingly though, for a business orientated ultrabook, it does not have a fingerprint scanner, however, it does have a TPM 1.2 Embedded Security Chip.

## To the point

In the final analysis, the Folio 13 does so many things right that it overcomes its few shortcomings, and amounted to a very good machine that was a pleasure to use. It retails for R13 000. [RN] ❖

# Ultrabook vs. Tablet

Which one to choose?

It's a question we are getting more and more often – should I buy a tablet or ultrabook? Read on to find out.



For content creators, such as writers, designers, digital artists and video editors, the ultrabook's full size (and increasingly frequently backlit) keyboard, numerous ports and ability to accommodate full versions of Photoshop and other digital software, for example, still give it the edge. Another area where ultrabooks score is in the computing power, memory, and the more capacious drives. No less important is their capacity for multitasking – browsing the internet, watching a movie and keeping an eye on one's email simultaneously is no problem for an ultrabook.

For content consumption though, tablets quite easily have the upper hand, as browsing the web, reading ebooks and news stories and watching videos is certainly a more comfortable affair than any notebook or ultrabook can claim. There's of course the plethora of excellent apps available for tablets that make it an unarguably strong device and portable gaming console in its own right. For drawing, sketching, painting and taking handwritten notes, the touchscreen on a tablet is also a boon.

Then of course, there is the question of price. Ultrabooks are still generally more expensive than their tablet counterparts, by around R4000 to R10 000.

## To the point

Which is better for you? It depends on how much you are willing to spend and on what your primary usage patterns are. Content creation – grab an ultrabook. Content consumption – a tablet is your man. [RN] ❖



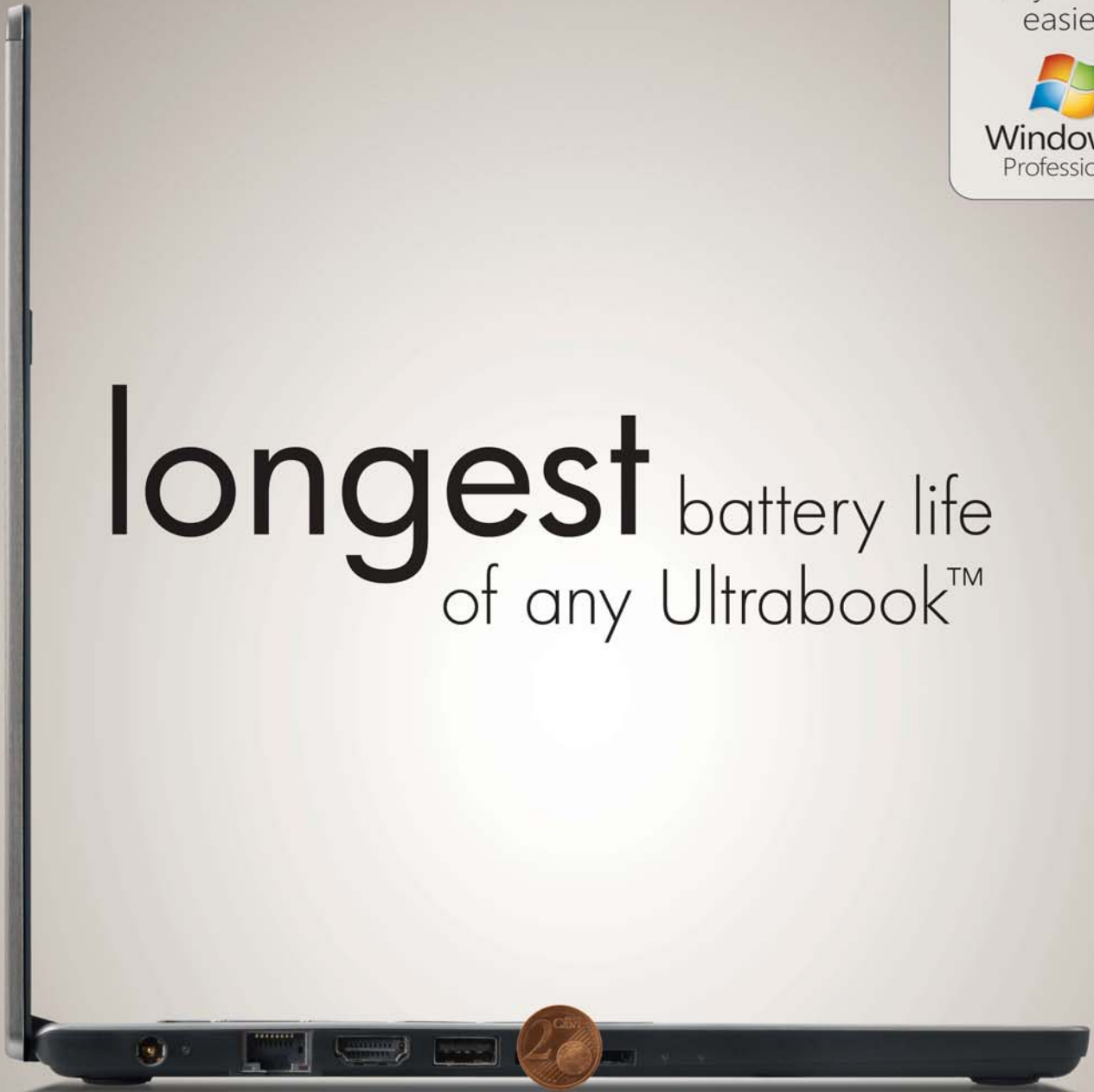
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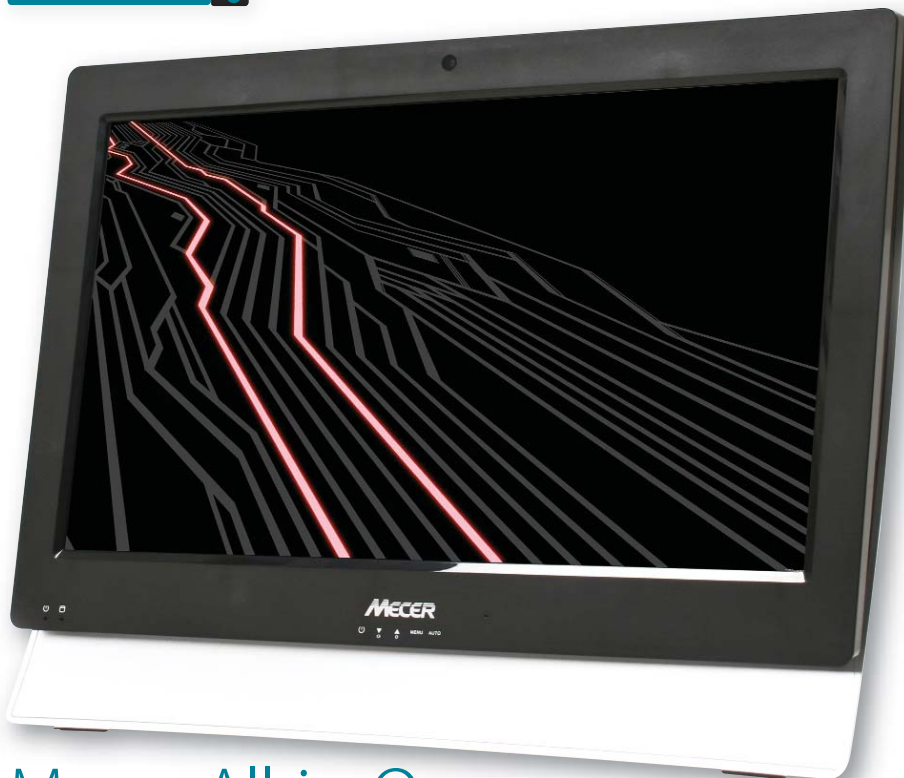
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## Mecer All-in-One

### Capable AIO for desktop users

Ultrabooks may be the flavour of the moment when it comes to the PC market, but that doesn't mean desktop users have no use for an all-in-one that merge capable processing performance and an attractive design.



Enter Meцер's All-in-One (AIO) PC, whose form factor sees all of the processing components built straight into the monitor, resulting in a capable workstation that also enables users to win back some desk real estate due to the lack of a tower.

The epicentre of this AIO PC's design is the 21.5" Full HD (1080p, non-touchscreen) LED screen that presents HD videos, and high resolution photos with an amazing amount of detail, whilst also boasting some useful viewing angles. This AIO's black plastic finish at the front is nicely contrasted by the silver metal accents utilised in the rear, as well

#### Latest Intel chipset inside

This is one of the first machines we've received that runs the new third generation Intel Core i processors (Ivy Bridge), in the Meцер's case a very powerful Core i7-3770 processor running at 3.4 GHz. We expected a lot from this and we weren't disappointed. During benchmarking, the processor scored at the top of the league, topping a number of tests.

The lack of a dedicated GPU (graphics processing unit) means that this is not a PC for gamers. Intel's onboard HD Graphics 4000 GPU may be able to handle some light gaming titles such as FIFA 11, but is definitely not for users looking to play the latest, graphically demanding games. Our test unit was also not the quietest machine we've tested.

Strangely, the unit is sold with a keyboard and mouse as optional accessories – an odd choice

**"We expected a lot from the third generation Intel Core i processor and we weren't disappointed."**

as on the round kickstand, although the bezel is quite large.

You can find the DVD drive on the side of the AIO, and this is accompanied by a built-in webcam just above the monitor for video chatting on Skype. Unfortunately, many of the ports, including the VGA port, network connector, and four USB 2.0 ports (no USB 3.0 connections) are located at the back of the PC, which doesn't make for the most convenient layout. Fortunately there are two additional USB 2.0 ports on the left side alongside an SD card reader.

since the unit is not a touchscreen. Meцер's slim keyboard and MP-156 optical mouse will cost you an extra R158 for both. As for the operating system onboard, Microsoft's Windows 7 Home Basic (32-bit) makes an appearance.

#### To the point

With above average performance thanks to its third generation Intel Core i brain, and an all-in-one body, the Meцер AIO PC makes a compelling case to become your next SME workstation or home PC. It retails for R7000. Contact Mustek for more information on 011-237-1000. [HD] 🍀

# Know your brands

Brand profile: Meцер

## MECER®

Meцер is the proprietary brand of Mustek, the largest assembler and distributor of PCs and IT-related products in South Africa. Mustek launched the Meцер brand of PCs in South Africa in 1987 and, after rapid growth, Meцер has remained one of the best-selling PC brands in the SA IT market over the past twenty years.

The Meцер brand encompasses a comprehensive range of desktop PCs, notebooks, netbooks, tablets, ruggedised notebooks, servers, as well as PC peripherals and accessories, including LCD screens, monitors, UPS, WiDi adaptors, switches, external hard drives, headphones, flash drives, etc.

#### Mustek

Mustek, the operational division of Mustek Ltd, has a comprehensive nationwide sales and service support network and is a certified Intel and Microsoft OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer) of Meцер desktop PCs and notebooks.

Locally-assembled Meцер PCs offer superior quality custom-designed computing solutions for all sectors of the South African market, and the company states that they are usually first to market in SA with the most innovative new solutions.

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All Meцер desktop PCs and notebooks incorporate the latest international components and software, as well as compliance with the required local and international IT standards of Microsoft WHQL testing, ISO 9001 Operating Standards, and Microsoft "Designed for Windows" Certification. 🍀

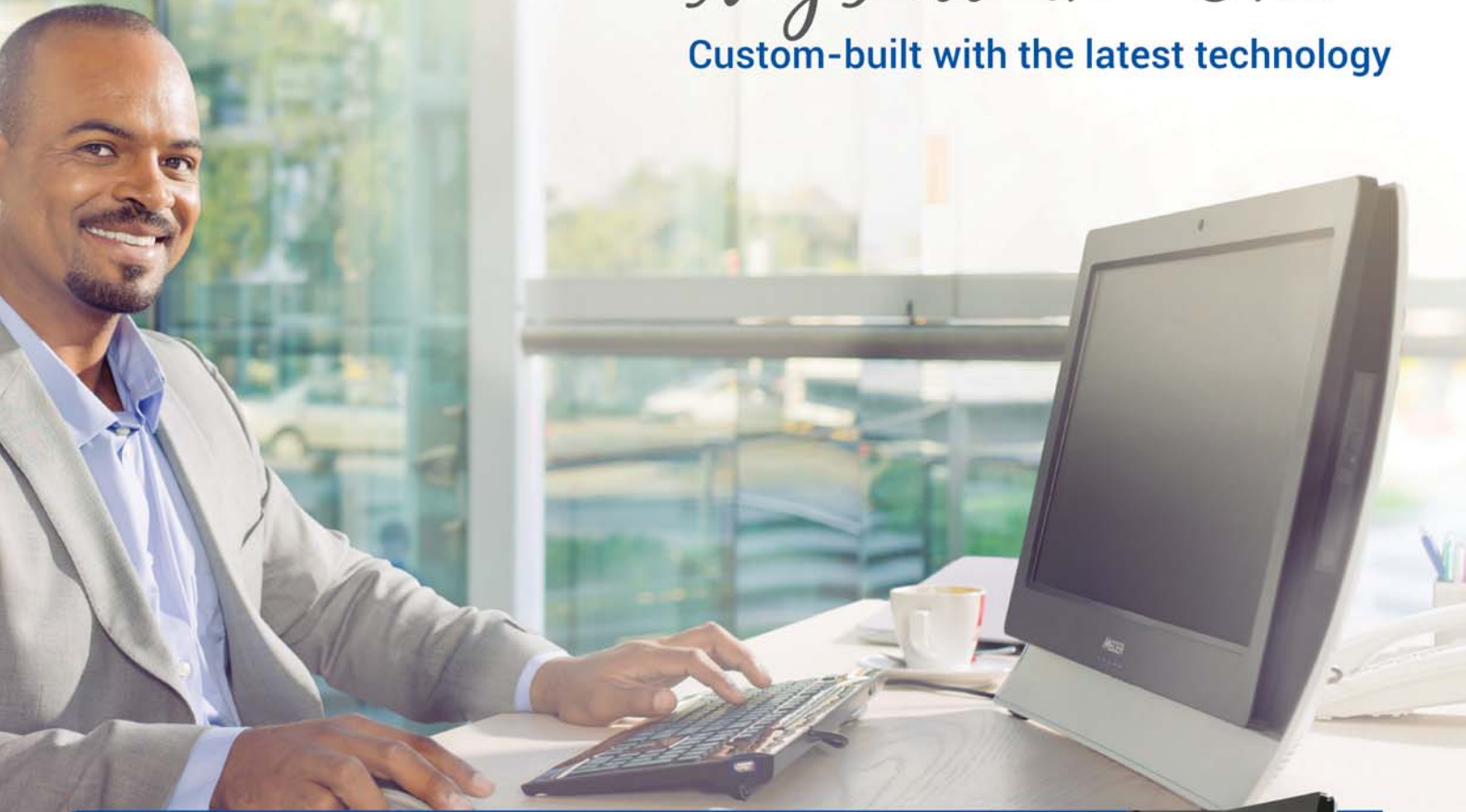


6000+. Number of computer viruses released every month, or an average of 2000 every day.

# My Meccer

## My All-in-One

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Another SA first. The new stylish Meccer All-in-One PC incorporates Intel's latest 3<sup>rd</sup> generation Core i5-3450 processor, superseding 2<sup>nd</sup> generation Core i5-2400 processors. Unlike other all-in-one PCs which use proprietary components (and outdated processors), the Meccer All-in-One is assembled in SA with the latest industry-standard components, effectively reducing total cost of ownership.

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\* Keyboard & Mouse not included



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**MUSTEK**

# Canon EOS 5D Mark III

## Sublime shooting experience

As impressive as its specifications are, in actual use, the EOS 5D Mark III is simply put a superlative full frame camera whose ease of use belies its dazzling array of features.



Photo by dectypte:  
<http://en.wikipedia.org/User:Dectypte>



Like the top of the range EOS 1D X, the 22.3 megapixel Mark III sports a magnesium alloy body that feels reassuringly solid and comfortable in one's hand, even without the optional vertical grip attached. Unlike that camera though, we had no

problem holding or touting it around for long periods, even with a 70-200 2.8 USM lens attached, which in itself adds some considerable weight of its own (although the included strap could have been better).

Admittedly, we have been fans of Canon's control dial placement since the 20D. Using the camera's combination of thumb dial and joystick made short work of selecting a focus point or region from

among the 61 autofocus points on offer, which has been borrowed from the 1D X to great effect. The menu, through which many of the camera's exhaustive array of features are accessed, is logically laid out and easy to navigate, meaning that standout features like image quality, HDR, mirror lockup and bracketing are within easy reach.

### Fast and faithful

However, even without choosing focusing points manually, we found the Mark III to be unerringly accurate when left to its own devices, particularly when tracking difficult moving subjects, such as fish in a still pond, beset by multiple reflections. As to how it fares from an exposure point of

view, we were particularly impressed, as we went out of our way to throw some of the most difficult exposures we could find at the camera. A backlit crane behind a glass pane, a sumptuous interior lit by a myriad of small lights, and a darkened passageway illuminated only by a neon sign were all rendered faithfully.

### True and terrific

The quality of the images helped along by the DIGIC 5+ imaging processor is terrific, which left us with no qualms about shooting at 800, 3200, 6400 and even in a pinch at 25600 ISOs. This came in handy since we chose to photograph using available light only (Canon's latest flash was not supplied to test), nor does the Mark III sport a built-in flash. Be warned though: shooting at 22.3 megapixels JPEG and RAW

can chew through the camera's Compact Flash (CF) and SD cards at a prodigious rate, as can HDR.

Additionally, the

Mark III handles video no less impressively, boasting 1080p full HD video at 24, 25, and 30 fps and 720p high definition recording at 60 and 50 fps.

### To the point

As the follow-up to the highly regarded 5D Mark II, the Mark III excels, proving to be a viable alternative to the more expensive EOS 1D X. It provided lightning quick focusing (an aspect the Mark II was criticised for), excellent image rendition as well as impressive ease-of-use for a professional camera. It retails for R34 000. [RN]

**"We found the Mark III to be unerringly accurate when left to its own devices, particularly when tracking difficult moving subjects."**

# Canon PIXMA Pro9500 Mark II inkjet printer

## Perfect printing



As the only company remaining that has a stake in both the world of high-end cameras and printers (and printing paper), one can expect a certain amount of cross-pollination to take place. The Pro9500 Mark II high-end inkjet printer is a good case in point.

Just from looking at this bulky beast you know it means business. Weighing in at just under 15 kg and measuring 660 mm wide, this inkjet is not meant for the office. Rather it is suited for the professional photography studio which needs to print proofs (it actually contains little slider wheels to help it move around easier).

The Mark II can print images as large as 330 x 483 mm (13" x 19"), while canvas printing is also supported. Underneath the hood you'll find the 10-full colour pigment LUCIA Ink system. This includes 10 separate ink cartridges, featuring gray, black and matte black, which helps not only with better monochrome printing, but also cater specifically to glossy or matte prints. With print droplets as fine as three picolitre (one pl is 10<sup>-12</sup> litres) our A3 prints looked simply superb. Colours were reproduced accurately, and prints on both glossy and matte paper were well saturated, while monochrome prints provided excellent detail.

Don't expect too much on the speed front, since we clocked in the range of 9½ minutes for an A3 borderless print. But although it might be slow, it was very quiet, barely noticeable as it chugged along.

As it is meant for the professional, the Pro9500 Mark II does not come cheap – R8599, with cartridges retailing for R199. Call Canon SA for more info on 011-265-4900.



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# Samsung Galaxy S3: What you need to know



## The most anticipated Android yet?

After months of speculation, rumour and anticipation, Samsung has finally unveiled its latest Galaxy S3 smartphone, and it is looking extremely appealing.

The good news around the S3 is that specifications-wise, it is at least almost as impressive as everyone has been hoping it would be. The new phone does in fact boast a quad-core CPU, namely the Exynos 4212 Quad chip running at 1.4 GHz. This accounted for the impressive speed and responsiveness we experienced in some brief hands-on time with Samsung's latest.

## "The Galaxy S3 looks strikingly stylish, even futuristic."

Additionally, the smartphone offers 1 GB of RAM (not the 2 GB that was rumoured) and comes in 16 GB, 32 GB and 64 GB variants. Unsurprisingly, the phone runs on Google's newest operating system (OS) Android Ice Cream Sandwich, covered with some like-it-or-not Samsung TouchWiz sauce.

The S3 looks strikingly stylish, even futuristic. It has a gentle curved shape, which provides it with a measure of ergonomic comfort, and at 8.6 mm thin, it's only .1 mm thicker than its predecessor.

### Large screen, portable size

At 4.8" the size of the S3's HD Super AMOLED screen is considerably larger than the S2's 4.27" and brings a welcome 720p (1280 by 720 pixels) resolution to the mix. However, this is not quite as large or as expansive as Samsung's phablet, the Galaxy Note's 5.3". Those for whom that device's size was a turnoff, will be relieved to know that in form factor and function, there is a noticeable difference between the two devices.

Indeed, the Korean company has apparently been mindful of the portability factor; the S3 weighs in at 133 g, and despite its larger screen, in hand the S3 is svelte enough to hold comfortably and fits quite readily into a normal sized pocket. An eight megapixel rear camera is onboard, as is support for Bluetooth 4 and DLNA.

Smartphone battery life is always a concern, but Samsung has reassured that the S3 will be up to the task, thanks to a 2100 mAh (removable) battery. Additionally, wireless charging is a feature that will be supported in the near future.

### To the point

According to Samsung, the local launch of the device will be the company's biggest to date, and it will make an appearance in the first half of this month. The price of the device locally has not yet been confirmed. [RN] ❖

# Braun Series 3 390cc foil shaver

More than  
a close  
shave

In the world of shaving, at the end of the day only one thing matters – is the stubble gone? With the Braun Series 3 390cc cordless foil shaver, the answer is a definite yes. But wait, there's more.



The 390cc provides a triple action free float system, which Braun claims provides better performance on three day beards. In theory, this means your Monday morning shave after a lazy weekend should go down a lot

**"The Clean & Renew system cleans the heads, kills 99.9% of germs and bacteria, and lubricates the shaver."**

smoother, and in practice this was indeed the case. Using the shaver dry provided a pleasingly close shave, most importantly, without leaving behind the usual shaver rash associated with some entry-level electronic models. For those with sensitive skin, going wet with shaving gel/cream should not be a problem, since the 390cc is protected from water and can be used in the shower.

### Also does the cleaning

The device's battery life was excellent and after two weeks, we've still not bothered with the power cord. Actually there is no need to use it separately if you make use of Braun's rather excellent Clean & Renew system. One of the problems with electronic shavers is that they can become quite mucky, even with constant manual cleaning. Pop the Braun 390cc into the alcohol-based Clean & Renew centre and it starts a four-minute four-step cleaning process. It cleans the heads, kills 99.9% of germs and bacteria, and lubricates the shaver – all while recharging the unit as it goes along. This works extremely well, and having a clean shaver makes for one less hassle at the start of the morning. The only possible problem we foresee is having enough space in the bathroom (and a power plug) for this quite bulky system.

### To the end (of stubble)

There's really not a lot that we can use as ammunition against Braun's Series 3 390cc shaver. It provides a clean shave without any shaver burn (in our case at least); it can be used in wet or dry conditions; and has great battery life. The added benefit of having a clean razor each morning thanks to the Clean & Renew system seals the deal.

The Braun Series 3 390cc foil shaver should retail in the region of R1049, and is available from Dis-Chem and Dion Wired Stores. [MJ] ❖

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# SanDisk®



## Extreme SSD now in SA

### But why switch to SSD?

SanDisk has recently released their new Extreme Solid State Drives (SSD) locally, offering a range of benefits compared to traditional hard drives. We talked to Mandy Duncan, IT sales manager at local SanDisk distributor Tudortech, about the Extreme range.

#### What are some of the key benefits of switching over to SanDisk Extreme SSD?

Firstly, better performance and reliability since there are no moving parts so less risk of failure. This can save on IT costs in the long run, because maintenance requirements associated with the disk drive failure are extremely low. The range also includes lightning fast read and write performance (550 MB/s reads, 520 MB/s writes) which can speed up boot-up and application loading times.

So this is actually a way to make my PC perform faster without having to buy a better processor? Absolutely, boot up of files is much faster, while the Extreme SSDs draw less power so power consumption is better. There is also less noise due to the fact that SSD has no moving parts.

#### Are there improvements regarding data protection when using SSD?

The drive is engineered to withstand shocks and vibrations, so the chance of failure is a lot less than that of a standard drive, thus keeping the data more secure.

#### Do SanDisk SSDs work in both PCs and notebooks?

The current SanDisk Extreme is designed for the



notebook form factor only, but there are new products being introduced in the range towards the end of the year that will cater for PCs too.

#### How difficult is it to replace my notebook's current hard disk drive with a SanDisk Extreme SSD?

It is a relatively simple process to replace the physical hard drive. The important element however is the transfer of data and my suggestion would be to get your reseller partner or IT retailer to assist you with this.

#### How long will the process take?

For the hardware, you're looking at about 15 to 20 minutes. The transfer of information is dependent on how much data you hold on your current drive.

#### In what sizes are these available?

There are 120 GB, 240 GB and 480 GB versions available.

#### Where would one be able to find a SanDisk Extreme SSD?

Tudortech is the sole distributor for SanDisk in South Africa, so customers can email me on mandyd@tudortech.co.za, or phone 011-803-2226. For more information on SanDisk Extreme SSD, visit [bit.ly/SanDiskSSD](http://bit.ly/SanDiskSSD).

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Replace your laptop's hard drive with the SanDisk Extreme SSD and enjoy quicker boot ups, shut downs and faster application launches. Lower your power consumption and extend your battery life, while experiencing noise reduction and lightning fast performance. Designed to withstand shocks and vibration, this hard drive is extremely durable, and you'll even have the benefit of a three year warranty.



Available Capacities: 120GB | 240GB | 480GB



For more information please contact Tudortech (Pty) Ltd for your closest SanDisk outlet  
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### AIRSTASH WIRELESS FLASH DRIVE

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### METEOR MIC

Meteor Mic is the universal solution for recording music on your computer. Perfect for your home studio, Meteor Mic is also ideal for Skype, iChat or voice recognition software. With Meteor Mic, you can make incredible recordings that are out of this world.



### Mobile Notes Pro

Handwritten notes and illustrations are captured remotely using an ink filled digital pen and base unit attached to normal paper. If a Bluetooth connection is active between Blackberry or Android smartphones, notes will be shown in real time on the device's screen.



### LED Lenser Torch X7R

The LED LENSER X7R is a rechargeable flashlight that can reach up to 320 meters when the lens is focused in, and has a luminous flux of up to 500 lumens that can either be concentrated as a search light beam or for close up work it can shine in a circle up to 45 metres in diameter.



### Clingo

Clingo is a company that makes a range of really creative device holders, the key part of which is a gel pad, onto which your devices stick. It doesn't matter if it is a BlackBerry, iPhone, Droid, Samsung, or whatever. Whether in your car, at the office, at home or wherever – Clingo holds it.



### JBL OnBeat Extreme

The JBL OnBeat Xtreme™, high-performance wireless speaker dock equipped with Bluetooth wireless technology, delivers astonishing sound with best-in-class blind listening results.



### Indoor Bark Control

Safely control your dog's barking from up to 8 metres away. Your dog will learn to associate his barking with the unpleasant sound. Now there's the answer to the problem barker!



### Nanobeat Speaker

You can turn any hard surface such as a wooden desk or glass table into a loudspeaker by simply placing the device on its surface. It is easily connected with any audio or video devices, smartphones, etc. and the Bluetooth version is also now available.



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# Top tech for presentations

Making an effective presentation can be a daunting experience for anyone, however, having the right tools that can be relied on to work can make a significant difference. Here is some top tech to help with great presentations.

## Awind wePresent 9 wireless presentation interface

### Cutting the cables for wireless presenting

PowerPoint presentations are a mainstay of the corporate world, but so is the cable hassles associated with getting notebooks and presentation equipment connected. The wePresent 9 Wireless Presentation Interface from Awind will end this cable headaches.

The wePresent 9 WP920 basically functions as a wireless router, and with this device plugged into the back of a HDTV or projector, participants to meetings or presentations can wirelessly share content in real time from multiple devices. And it's not just notebooks that can connect, thanks to the downloadable apps, tablet and smartphone users (Android and iOS) can also have their content displayed.

#### Hassle-free setup

To get started, you simply connect the wePresent 9 to the projector, HDTV or plasma monitor, using the standard VGA input connector. All the participants then connect to the device in the same manner as they would connect to a Wi-Fi network.

Up to 32 users can connect to the device at

the same time and once connected, they simply download the wePresent software (done only once via the wePresent 9 or a provided dongle for PC users) for their respective devices. Participants can then use this software to display their presentation, either one screen at a time, or up to four users being able to show their info on screen simultaneously using the 4-to-1 split screen projection feature.

#### Conference control functionality

To ensure an ordered flow of information, a designated conference facilitator can use the wePresent 9's conference control mode. This web-based administrator mode allows the moderator to select whose content is presented and in what order.

#### HD video streaming

Besides presentations with images and audio, the wePresent 9 boasts the ability to stream high quality video in popular formats. This video is scaled to XGA (1024 x 768, 720p) resolution so it looks great, whilst remaining lag-free.

#### Remote desktop

In addition, Awind's wireless presentation Interface sports a USB 2.0 port, enabling users to connect a USB keyboard or mouse to control a PC remotely – handy if you want to access a difficult to move PC tower that is still in the wePresent 9's range. The wePresent 9 goes for an RRP of R4570. Call Forefront Presentation Media on 011-259-7000 for more info. 🌟



## Logitech Professional Presenter R800



Logitech's Professional Presenter R800 is ideal for presentations, as it offers numerous features that can make presenting considerably easier. Its integrated bright green laser is visible on both plasma and LCD displays, and can be seen in brightly lit rooms as well. Additionally, it offers a long range wireless reception of up to 30 metres, which enables presenters to freely move around a room. A built-in LCD display also helps one keep track of the time, wireless strength and all important battery levels, while the device sports large slideshow control buttons that can be identified by touch in a darkened room. RRP: R910



## SlideShare.com

Creating and giving presentations is one thing, sharing them with others is quite another. This is where SlideShare.com comes in. The site, which offers both free and paid-for options, enables users to upload their presentations and share them with a vast audience online. Presentations are organised by categories, ranging from business, design, entertainment, health and technology to travel, finance, education and career.

The site ensures that rather than an insightful presentation being buried and forgotten after its use, presenters can instead give their efforts long term longevity, long after the audience have left the auditorium.



## SlideShark app

Along with correctly displaying PowerPoint presentations on the iPad, SlideShark further offers a Presenter mode, which shows slide notes and presentation timers, enabling presenters to use the app on the iPad as their guide while giving a presentation.

Additionally, PowerPoint presentations can be uploaded to one's free SlideShark account from a PC or from the iPad itself. The app then downloads whatever presentations are stored in the cloud, to the iPad for offline use, essentially offering slideshow synchronisation and remote access to one's presentations to boot. 🌟

Feature sponsored by Forefront Presentation Media. Visit [www.forefrontpm.co.za](http://www.forefrontpm.co.za) for more details or call 011-259-7000.



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# 3CX phone system increases business efficiency

## Communication taken to next level

**3CX** B&D System Engineers believes businesses can transform the way they communicate and save a significant 80% on line rentals and call charges, by taking advantage of 3CX IP PBX + VoIP.

3CX IP PBX is based on the SIP standard and therefore works with leading SIP phones, VoIP gateways and Telkom lines. Additionally, businesses could replace their proprietary PABX with 3CX Phone System for Windows and effectively evolve their business communications.

### Benefits & features

The benefits offered by the 3CX Phone System are compelling. For cost-conscious businesses, no doubt, of greatest interest will be the potential budget benefits. For starters, the 3CX Phone System is considerably less expensive

than a traditional PABX system. Furthermore, using a VoIP service provider can not only reduce call costs substantially, it also allows users to easily work remotely, providing them with the freedom to be anywhere and still be in contact as if they were in the office.

Additionally, users can use low cost and flexible VoIP providers as phone lines, or keep existing Telkom phone lines with a VoIP Gateway. Many leading SIP Phones are interoperable with 3CX including the likes of Yealink, Snom, Cisco and GrandStream.

The 3CX Phone System further offers numerous features, including:

- Call transfer, integrated voice mail, digital receptionists, call queues and ring groups.
- Click 2 Call from Outlook and other CRMs, with full logging.
- Integrated call recording.
- Unified messaging – enabling voice mail messages and faxes to be forwarded to one's mailbox.
- The ability to work from home or off-site with a remote extension or intelligently forward calls to mobile.

- Built-in 3CXPhone softphone or compatibility with popular IP HD phones from Yealink, GrandStream and Snom, amongst others.
- No separate phone wiring, use existing wired IP network (LAN or WAN).
- Configuration and management via its web-based management console.
- Growth with clients' business as it offers an unlimited number of extensions.

3CX can automatically configure most SIP phones with the appropriate extension settings, saving users on installation and setup time. This further saves business money while granting the benefits from all the commercial features provided by 3CX PBX.

### Conclusion

B&D System Engineers will arrange a convenient appointment to visit your business, in a bid to better understand your requirements and fully explain the features and cost savings of having its 3CX phone system installed. Contact B&D System Engineers on 012-663-1515 for a free no obligation quotation. 🌐

Visit [www.smesupport.co.za](http://www.smesupport.co.za) for more info.

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# Audiovox Ecco

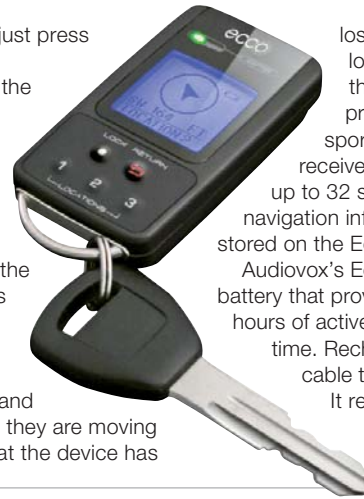
## Finding the way back

Ever parked your car at a huge shopping complex, only to end up forgetting where it was? The Ecco GPS personal navigation device will put an end to this and other scenarios.

This compact (55 x 40 mm) keychain GPS assists users to find their way back to locations such as a hotel or campsite. To store a location, you simply press the "lock" button and to return to this same spot from as far

away as 16 000 km, users just press the "return" key.

Users are guided back to the stored location via a simple interface, with a blue LCD displaying the direction in which you must go and the distance left before users reach their destination. Coloured LED lights above the Ecco's screen also provides additional visual feedback, with a green LED indicating that this device is locked onto an active GPS signal, and red LED to show users that they are moving in the wrong direction or that the device has



lost satellite connections due to lofty obstructions. The chance of the latter occurring, however, is pretty slim, seeing that this device sports a highly sensitive GSP receiver that allows the Ecco to track up to 32 satellites within 60 seconds. The navigation info for up to three places can be stored on the Ecco.

Audiovox's Ecco is powered by a rechargeable battery that provides the unit with around ten hours of active usage or two weeks standby time. Recharging the battery via USB cable takes about 1½ hours.

It retails for R645 and is available from Mantality on 011-462-5482 or [www.mantality.co.za](http://www.mantality.co.za).

# Philips AS111 speaker dock

## The Android's sound

There are a number of docking stations available for the iPhone, but good quality systems for Android phones have been few and far between.

Luckily Philips came up with a number of docking speakers for Android-based devices. We've had the Philips AS111 for a few

weeks, and can report back on good quality sound that does not skimp on power.

Your phone connects to the device via Bluetooth, and although a docking seat is available, we barely used it, simply because we preferred to keep the phone in hand. The majority of Android smartphones will fit on the FlexiDock, which can be adjusted according to size. If docked, your device will be recharged via the microUSB/charger port, while Philips' Fidelio interface takes over



the screen via a downloadable app. Unfortunately, it's with the software that we had a problem, since after installing the Philips Fidelio app, it hassled us for connection everytime we plugged a microUSB cable into our phone. Philips also recommends the Songbird app, but you're better off simply making use

of the regular music player, or a music streaming service such as the TuneIn Radio app.

It retails for R1200 at selected Makro stores, visit [www.philips.co.za](http://www.philips.co.za) for more information.

## Ecco GPS R699.00

Personal GPS devices are most definitely worth their weight in gold. Never get lost again with the Ecco II Personal Pocket GPS Locator.



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# VKOM 301 3G USB modem

## Mobile lifeline to the web

Staying connected whilst on the go is a necessity in today's fast-paced and technology enabled world. To this end VKOM's 301 USB modem ensures that you have access to a fast 3G internet connection.

The portable (87 x 26 x 12, <30g) VKOM 301 USB HSUPA modem provides users with high speed data connectivity with download speeds of up to 7.2 Mbps. Since the modem is compatible with all 3G networks, it can be used with any of the local service providers' data packages, while it also supports international networks. This modem is the perfect solution for the person planning on using 'prepaid data', where costs can be managed on a 'pay as you go' basis.

The VKOM 301 can be used as a USB flash drive by simply inserting a microSD card into the provided slot, while it also supports SMS functionality enabling you to send and receive text messages on your PC.

The VKOM 301 USB modem retails for R550. If you require even faster download speeds, the VKOM 303 USB, with download speeds of up to 21.6 Mbps, retails for R660. For more information, contact Nology Distribution on 012-657-1317 or visit [www.nology.co.za](http://www.nology.co.za).



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64.4%, 20.9% & 5.5%. Respective user shares for Android Gingerbread, Froyo, and Eclair.



## Android Apps of the month

With over 500 000 apps available for Android smartphones at the Google Play app store, TechSmart would like to help you get to the good ones first. Here are our top Android Apps of the month.



### Google Currents

Admittedly, one of our most frequented uses for our Android devices is catching up with news stories, with story aggregators like Pulse and News360 taking up a considerable chunk of our free time. The latest reader from Google for Android, Google Currents, joins this esteemed company, offering a beautiful, magazine-like experience of our favourite news sources. Like other news readers, there is a vast array of categories on offer, including news, business, design, entertainment, lifestyle, science and sports. The app also shows trending stories. Additionally, any story can be sent to Pocket (Read it Later) or to a friend via email or shared to Facebook.



### Cordy Sky: Robot Fun

The first Cordy won us over thanks to its charm and attractive graphics, with Cordy Sky now the second entry in Cordy's adventures. It is no less attractive, even though it sees the cute robot take to the sky in this vertical platformer to amass as many gears as possible while accruing power ups along the way. The game offers three control methods – classic familiar controls, a tilt control which uses a device's gyroscope, and slide controls which rely on the touchscreen. The free title is no less fun than its predecessor, despite being less whimsical and more fast-paced. It requires Android 2.2 and up. Watch out for the possible in-app purchases though.



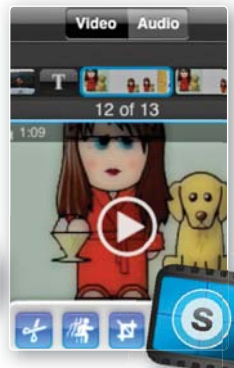
### Fancy: Bookmark it

Fresh off the significant interest generated by the like of Pinterest comes Fancy, an android app which similarly enables one to bookmark things or places of interest in a variety of categories (once you have painlessly signed in with Facebook or signed up for a Fancy account). Fancying an item then enables one to build up a personal collection of things that catch one's interest. These can then be commented on, shared via Twitter, Facebook, Tumblr or email, and more information on an item can be obtained. Suggestions are given for other items you may want to look at, while one can easily obtain more information – such as where to buy a selected item – from within the app.



## 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.



### Splice Video editor

While the iPhone 4S is able to record full HD (1080p, iPhone 4: 720p) videos, there aren't any on-device video editing options available beyond trimming clips. Like its name suggests, this app enables users to splice together high resolution photos and HD videos, by adding sound clips, music stored on their smartphone, video transitions and clip borders. Additionally, users can also speed up (2x speed) or slow down clips, or record audio such as their own voice narrating a particular section of the video. Once done, they can export videos at medium (960 x 540) resolution or high quality (1280 x 720) to their smartphone's gallery, and send it in an MMS, email, or post videos to YouTube, Twitter or Facebook.



### Sack Dude (Smash Dude)

If a stress ball doesn't do it for you anymore, then this app will become the virtual tension outlet needed to relieve some work-related or personal anxiety. Sack Dude (SD) is an interactive puppet on which to relieve penned up feelings of stress on. This can be done using various methods, including boxing gloves, guns including a shotgun, a feather for some tickling torture, fire, paintballs as well as different coloured electrical bolts to electrocute the poor fellow. He will also respond to your torturing methods by laughing whilst being tickled or trying to evade the flames. Unfortunately it's not possible to rename the little character after the source of your frustration.



### Official UEFA EURO 2012 app

This app is for all the fans looking forward to the UEFA EURO 2012 soccer competition as much as we are. It will assist users in staying abreast of all news surrounding the teams and matches of this regional soccer competition, taking place between 8 June and 1 July in Poland and the Ukraine. Not only will you have access to the latest news surrounding EURO 2012, but users can also view results of previous games, standings, team lineups, players profiles, detailed statistics and photo galleries of their favourite team's training sessions or free video interviews with the coaches or star players. Can Spain remain Europe's number one? We'll have to wait and see.

>90 000. Apps on Windows Phone Marketplace, compared to 600 000 in App Store and 500 000 in Play Store.

## Android Tip of the month

Give selected contacts their own song as a ringtone firstly by copying your MP3s to a new folder on your SD card named 'ringtones'. Additionally, you can similarly specify custom ringtones for 'alarms' and 'notifications' by creating folders for each of these respectively.

Then, in Incoming Calls, select set custom ringtone and assign your chosen contact their own MP3.



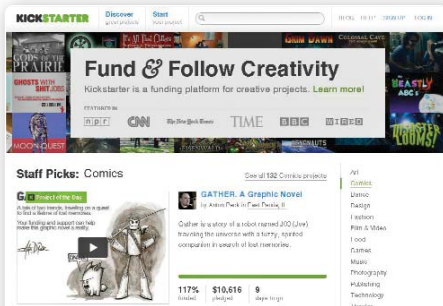
## iPhone tip: QWERTY quickly

The iPhone sports one of the best touch-based QWERTY keyboards available, while also including a hidden menu for special characters such as ê, ë or ö. To access these characters, you simply tap and hold the letter that closest resembles the special symbol or character you want – for example tap and hold e to get to ê. This also works in the browser if you tap and hold the .com button, you get access to additional domains including .co.za.



# Web Time Wasters

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## Kickstarter

www.kickstarter.com

Kickstarter has been featured in the news quite a bit of late, namely because it has become the go-to destination for raising venture capital informally. The site enables one to post creative ideas in the hopes of eliciting funding, in return for rewards. Alternatively, one can elect to support other entrepreneurs' projects that may be of interest.

Rewards are as varied as the projects; for example, filmmakers raising money for their endeavour may offer the appearance of contributors' names in the credits. Browsing through the projects on offer, across a vast variety of categories, including technology, art, games, music, photography, film and publishing, to name a few, is as eye opening as it is inspiring.



## ScienceDaily

www.sciencedaily.com

Admittedly, ScienceDaily isn't the most attractive website around, but it is possibly one of the smartest. Almost every available space is crammed with interesting scientific news, covering everything from earth sciences; medical science; technology; plants and animals; computers and math. Throw in a good dollop of stories pertaining to space and time; the mind and brain; matter and energy; ancient life; archaeology and anthropology, and you have a site that is a treasure trove of interesting scientific knowledge.

Spending ten minutes on this site is a near guarantee of coming away knowing more than you did when you opened it.



## SummerTomato

www.summertomato.com

The one activity that everyone partakes in on a daily basis is eating. SummerTomato though, offers a wealth of articles and resources on making this daily part of life as healthy as possible. Run by scientist and San Francisco-based foodie, Darya Pino, PhD, the site boasts a wealth of interesting articles on healthy nutrition, with posts ranging from how to break a diet soda addiction; what to look for when picking fruits and vegetables; ten overrated health foods; and how to eat less without noticing.

The site also concentrates on sourcing food from markets and improving one's 'Healthstyle,' which consists of eating and exercising for better health.



## Links from around the web

Paralysed woman moves robot with her mind. [bit.ly/JBBCOc](http://bit.ly/JBBCOc)

Game of Thrones' Joffre gets slapped by his uncle. [bit.ly/ejMSR8](http://bit.ly/ejMSR8)

Never give up. Gulf war veteran turns life around. [bit.ly/neverevergive](http://bit.ly/neverevergive)

What really happened at Stonehenge. [bit.ly/syCXKC](http://bit.ly/syCXKC)

iPad survives 60 foot drop. [bit.ly/JX7jBi](http://bit.ly/JX7jBi)

Birth of an iceberg. [bit.ly/JbUqpl](http://bit.ly/JbUqpl)

## TechSmart's top tweets

Here are the tweets that struck our fancy last month



**Andy Borowitz** @BorowitzReport

The new iPad has features that make it even easier to ignore your family.



**Mafedi Selepe** @MafediSelepe

So I turned my iPad into "airplane mode" and threw it up into the air. Worst transformer ever!"



**Jon Silk** @prgeek

Just realised the 'save' button in Word is a floppy disc. "What's a floppy disc?" [bit.ly/K0m4D6](http://bit.ly/K0m4D6)



**Tim Siedell** @badbanana

If these walls could talk, I'd probably stop hanging things with nails.



**seth simonds** @sethsimonds

You missed your opportunity to seize the moment because you were too busy retweeting a quote about seizing the moment.



**patrick h. lauke** @patrick\_h\_lauke

you say "android fragmentation", i say "real life outside of the single hardware/software vendor walled garden" (though not as catchy, sure)



**Sarveshen Govender** @sarvs

Sooo if you go into witness protection, do you have to also get a new Facebook Page & Twitter Handle?



**Toby Kurien** @TobyKurien

Bloody hell. Mankind makes a significant step forward with SpaceX and all I see on my Twitter feed is some crap about a painting.



**Saul Kropman** @saulkza

What did we do in queues before twitter?



## TechSmart.co.za online poll results

### Do you like movies in 3D?



- Yes, they are definitely worth the extra bucks 36%
- No, it is a gimmick 20%
- No, it gives me a headache 15%
- I do not go the cinema anymore 13%
- No, it is too expensive 10%
- Nope, it makes the movie too dark 6%



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- ◊ 4GB DDR3 RAM
- ◊ 500GB HARD DRIVE
- ◊ 400W TOWER CASE
- ◊ 22X DUAL LAYER DVD WRITER
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- ◊ PS2 MOUSE
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# Diablo III

Terror reincarnated

To say that Diablo III has been hotly anticipated is akin to saying that the invention of fire was a minor footnote in the rise of human civilization. So let's get down to it, does Diablo III live up to the hype?



It's been a long eleven year wait, but in Diablo III we revisit the battle between good and evil as demons once again plague the world of Sanctuary. Belial the Lord of Lies, and Azmodan the Lord of Sin, threatens to destroy the mortal world and retrieve the trapped Lords of Evil. Meanwhile the Angels squabble over whether to save or destroy humanity. First things first though, it's time for us to pick a hero...

## Classes

Diablo III gives players five classes to choose from: the rampaging Barbarian wielding axes, swords, maces and telephone poles to beat hell's minions to a pulp; the Wizard with its barrage of elemental and telekinetic magic; and the holy Monk employing blinding speed and bone crushing power to devastate enemies. The Witch Doctor prefers using poison and summoning horrific creatures, while the Demon Hunter specialises in the methodical slaying of the supernatural through ranged weapons and traps.

## Gameplay

After firing up Diablo III and gawking at Blizzard's signature cinematics, players are dropped into the outskirts of New Tristram. Immediately we encounter our first enemies: undead feasting on the remains of slain townsfolk. These shuffling monsters are easily dispatched, but throughout the first Act, increasingly difficult enemies appear, culminating in epic demonic battles before long.

**"Engaging in battle with the forces of hell cooperatively is one of the best experiences in PC gaming, period."**

Combat is similar to previous titles, but feels much more powerful and visceral. This time, players can have up to six skills available at one time, controlled by the mouse buttons and 1-4 on the keyboard. While your level and skillset moulds your character, it's the game's gear that is the icing on the cake. Players can collect gear from fallen monsters, buy them at shops, or craft them at the blacksmith. Items range from normal to legendary gear, fit for none but the god of war himself. As was hoped for, level design is epic.

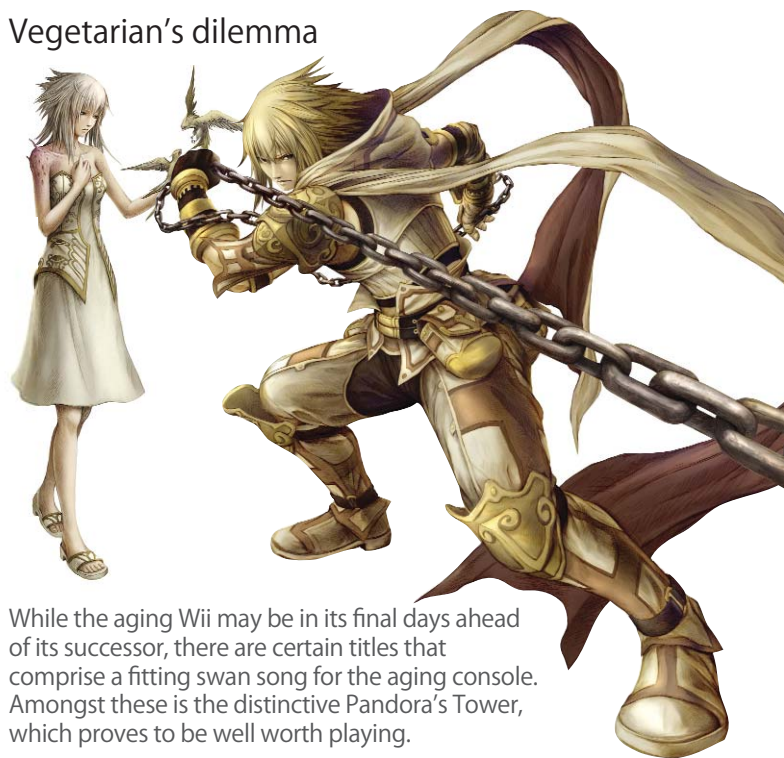
The game is playable online with up to four players, and engaging in battle with the forces of hell cooperatively is one of the best experiences in PC gaming, period.

## Conclusion

Diablo III is what every action role-playing game aspires to be, and from start to finish, it has not disappointed. In short, if you buy one game this year, make sure it's this. R500. [JK] 🍀

# Pandora's Tower

Vegetarian's dilemma



While the aging Wii may be in its final days ahead of its successor, there are certain titles that comprise a fitting swan song for the aging console. Amongst these is the distinctive Pandora's Tower, which proves to be well worth playing.



The game wastes little time jumping into a rather macabre story, about a young girl, Elena, who has been cursed to slowly transform into a beast after being attacked at the harvest feast. The player steps into the shoes of her love and hero, Aeron, who has to traverse thirteen different towers and slay the monsters within, as the only way to hold the curse at bay is for Elena to eat their flesh. Slaying enough of the monsters may eventually lift the curse and free Elena for good.

If you thought that premise was creepy, bear in mind that Elena is a vegetarian, and thus her disgust at eating the beasts' flesh (heart) is conveyed in detail. This is offset though, by Aeron's poignant and apparent devotion to her. It forms the core of the game, as players can choose just how fully they want to express that devotion, which then has impact on one of twelve possible endings.

## Caught in its grip

The graphics are par for the course on the Wii, not brilliant but not terrible either, while the voice acting and dramatic soundtrack is actually quite good. Moreover, the game's combat is innovative in its own right; Aeron has the standard sword for melee attacks, with which he can perform slashing and charged attacks, as well as the ability to block incoming assaults.

**"The game's greatest strength is that, in its own right, it is a love story compellingly told."**

Also on his side is the Oraclous Chain, with which he can tear flesh off the monsters he defeats, rip items out of other adversaries as well as manipulate levers and access distant portions of the environment. Add in the ability to upgrade his weapons using said items, and the ability to immobilise foes using the chain, and the combat becomes satisfyingly complex and rewarding enough to hold one's interest.

## To the point

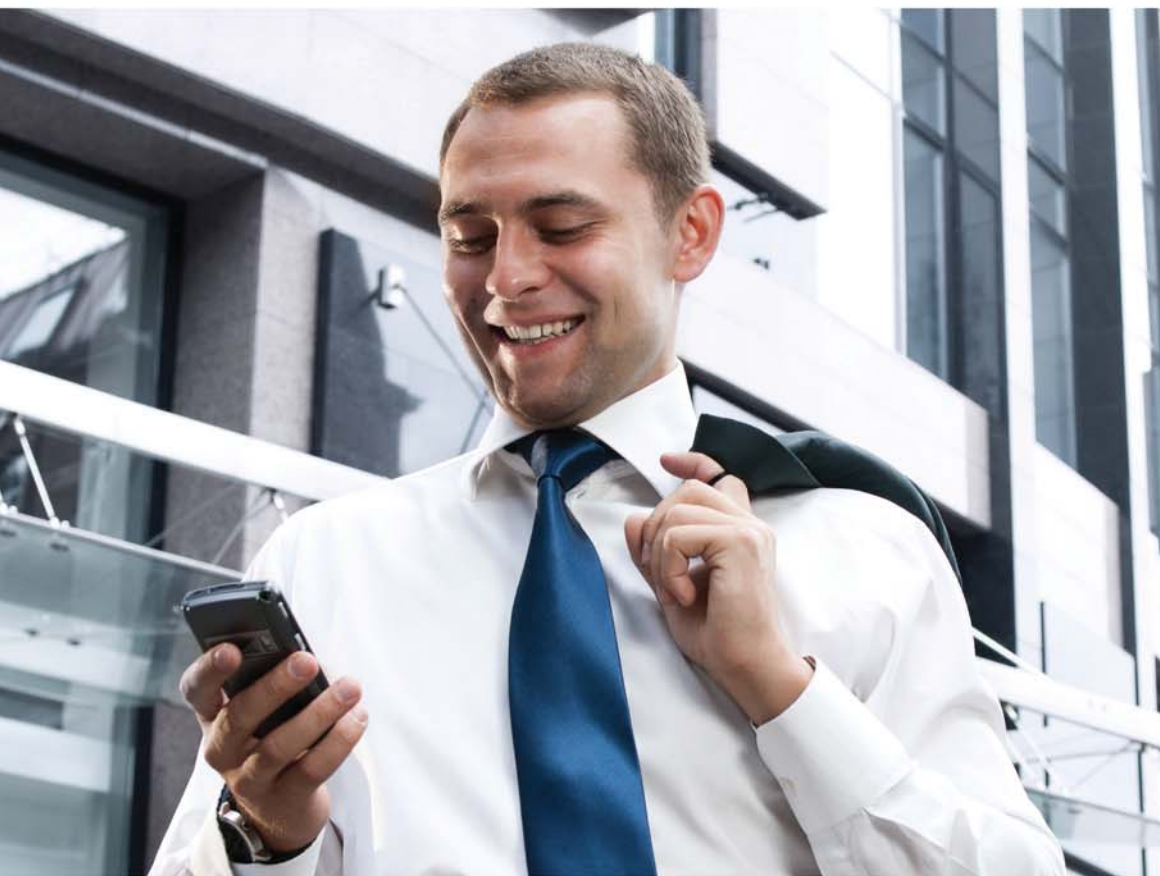
The game's greatest strength is that, in its own right, it is a love story compellingly told, which marries engaging combat with a poignant narrative, and proved that there are still some gaming gems on the aging system. R500 limited edition. [RN] 🍀



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