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Samsung Galaxy Note 10.1

The Note goes tablet



The Digital Imaging Issue



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The Simfy solution

The past month I've been keeping myself busy thinking of music to play via Simfy. For those not familiar with this new service, Simfy allows you to stream unlimited music for a reasonable R60 per month (check out our interview on p24). You never own the music, and although you can download albums to your PC or phone, you can only access these via their player. If you're a music fan like me, then Simfy comes as godsent, giving you access to discographies previously only dreamt.

Music streaming services also seem to have other interesting side-effects. A 2011 report from Sweden (birthplace of Pirate Bay) stated that these services have led to a 25% decrease in piracy, citing the range of music on offer and ease of use as some of the main reasons for their popularity. With rumblings of legislation forcing local internet service providers to cut repeated illegal downloader's connectivity, more of these streaming services could provide an alternative to pirating. Now if only someone would bring in a decently priced movie-streaming service...

Enjoy the issue,
 Mike (michael@techsmart.co.za)
 Disclosure – Simfy provided me with a year-long subscription.

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4 Top 5 executive compact-saloons

With BMW dominating the executive compact-saloons segment for a number of years, do they still have what it takes to take on fierce competition from its German and Japanese rivals? Check out our top five choices.

14 Samsung Galaxy Note 10.1

The Galaxy Note 10.1 refines the pen input functionality offered by the Galaxy Note 'phablet' to produce a device that offers something few other tablets can. We took it for some serious note-taking.

18 Compact system camera round-up

Compact system cameras provide a viable alternative to big and bulky DSLRs, since they are much smaller. Here are six of the best.

22 The iPhone 5: What you need to know

After lots of rumours and much hype, the iPhone 5 has been revealed. With the competition catching up to Apple's tricks, is the latest iPhone also a must-have device?



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Hot New Products



2013 Hennessey VR1200 Twin Turbo

In Texas they do everything big, just ask the folks at Hennessey. The 2013 Hennessey VR1200 Twin Turbo from this Texas-based tuning firm, boasts a massive seven liter aluminium V8 engine that pumps out an unbelievable 914 kW at 6 400 RPM, and enough torque (1 500 Nm) to flatten Table Mountain. Based on the Cadillac CTS-V, it rockets from standstill to 100 km/h in under three seconds onto a metro police eat-my-dust top speed of almost 390 km/h. Only 12 models will be manufactured, and the price is still to be announced, but expect the RRP to be as intimidating as the performance.



Sony Cyber-shot DSC-RX1

A full frame sensor in a compact camera body? That's exactly what Sony did with their Cyber-shot DSC-RX1, cramming a 35 mm full frame sensors, usually found in the top end of the professional DSLR segment, into a compact body (482 g). It should be any street photographer's dream, but that said, you're bound to one lens – in this case a pretty fast (f2) Carl Zeiss Sonnar T lens. Sony has confirmed that the DSC-RX1 will be coming to South Africa later this year, but no pricing info is available yet (\$2 800 in the US).

TAG Heuer Carrera 1887 SpaceX watch

Space exploration is a topic that has snagged a couple of news headlines of late thanks to NASA's Curiosity Rover and the launch of the SpaceX spacecraft. If you are looking for a special way to mark humanity's reinvigorated quest to explore the next frontier, then TAG Heuer's Carrera 1887 SpaceX watch is perfect, especially considering its out-of-this-world price of around R47 335. Only 2012 examples of this limited edition chronograph watch have been made, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the first TAG Heuer watch's trip into space on the wrist of astronaut John Glenn in 1962.



Hasselblad Lunar 24 MP APS-C mirrorless camera

Swedish medium-format camera maker, Hasselblad, has concluded a partnership agreement with Sony, with the first offspring from this union being the Lunar 24 megapixel APS-C sensor mirrorless camera. Basically a Sony Alpha NEX-7 in a more premium body, the Lunar is made from high grade aluminium and a grip constructed out of either carbon fiber (black, silver or titanium) or wood (beech, olive, pear or mahogany). The more stylish design does come at a price though, with the Hasselblad pegged at a jaw dropping R53 500, nearly five times the price of the NEX-7.



Samsung 75" ES9000 LED Smart TV

Samsung is out to prove that bigger is always better with its massive 75" full HD 3D ES9000 LED Smart TV. This gargantuan TV measures 1 678 mm wide and 958 mm (1 022 mm with stand) high, but only 36 mm thick. In terms of connectivity you'll find three HDMI input slots, three USB connections, and built-in Wi-Fi, enabling users to stream media content wirelessly to the ES9000 from their DLNA-enabled devices or connect to the internet. The price for this luxury? A not-so-budget-conscious R109 000, or about R1 450 per delectable inch. It is available at selected premium retailers.



Sony Vaio Duo 11

With Windows 8 due in October, many companies are getting ready for a touch-revolution. Sony's Windows 8-powered hybrid, the Vaio Duo 11, sports a sliding 11.6" (1920 x 1080) LCD display that transforms the device from a touch-only tablet to a petite ultrabook. Like the Galaxy Note 10.1, this device offers a more natural digital writing experience with users taking notes with the integrated stylus and bundled apps such as Note Anytime for VAIO. Beneath the Vaio Duo 11's stylish hood lies some impressive specs, including a powerful Intel Core i7-3517U or Core i5-3317U processor, up to 8 GB DDR3 memory, two USB 3.0 ports, an SD card reader and up to 256 GB solid state drive. Sony's Vaio Duo 11 is expected in SA from November, with pricing info available closer to its release.



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TechSmart's TOP 5

Executive compact-saloons

BMW has dominated the executive compact-saloon segment of the motoring market for nearly four decades with its 3 series. Now, the latest generation (F30) is facing its fiercest challenge yet from its German and Japanese rivals. Here are our Top 5 picks.



5

Volvo S40 2.0

Volvo's have always been known for their safety features, with the current S40 also bringing an elegant design, practicality and comfortable ride to the compact-saloon table. A 1 999 cc four-cylinder petrol engine churns out 107 kW at 6 000 RPM and 185 Nm at 4 500 RPM. This is enough to propel this Swedish looker from 0-100 km/h in under ten seconds, whilst keeping fuel usage manageable at 7.6 l/100 km on a combined cycle (highway and city driving). With a starting price of R283 300, this Volvo certainly isn't cheap, but is still considerably less than most of the other vehicles in this comparison. This RRP nets you one of the most functionally laid out interiors in the business, as well as a handy 400+ liters of boot space.



4

Lexus IS250

Propelling this stately Japanese Lexus forward is a 2 500 cc V6 that delivers 153 kW at a glorious 6 400 RPM, as well as 252 Nm at 4 800 RPM. This gets you to 100 km/h in 8.4 seconds and onto an illegal terminal velocity of 225 km/h. All this sportiness does come a cost though, with fuel usage being on the thirsty side at almost ten liters per 100 km. Getting into the driver's seat of this luxury sedan costs an equally luxurious R380 000, but the car does offer a lot more standard options compared to its rather spartan segment counterparts. This extensive feature list includes a touch-screen navigation system, rear camera parking assist and keyless go.



3

Audi A4 1.8T FSI

Audi revised its A4 at the beginning of this year with subtle styling changes and an improved engine, leading to a desirable combination of German efficiency, performance and elegant looks. The car is powered by a 1 798 cc inline four-cylinder engine with exhaust turbocharger and intercooler, delivering 125 kW between 3 800 and 6 200 RPM, as well as 320 Nm between 1 400 and 3 700 RPM. This is enough go juice to propel the vehicle from standstill to 100 km/h in 8.3 seconds on to a top speed of 225 km/h. All this whilst the A4 consumes just 5.5 l/100 km. The base price is R349 000, but unfortunately the 1.8T FSI is not exactly packed to the hilt with extras. Ticking any of the extensively listed options will quickly drive that up, with a Bang and Olufsen premium sound system adding another R9 800 for example.



2

Mercedes-Benz C180 BlueEfficiency

With its BlueEfficiency models Mercedes-Benz introduces intelligent measures such as reducing the vehicles' weight and aerodynamic drag to decrease fuel consumption and carbon emission levels, whilst retaining high levels of comfort and safety. Even with its eco warrior credentials, this pricey (R368 500) car is no slouch, with its speedometer hitting 100 km/h in just over eight seconds, whilst the terminal velocity is around 220 km/h. The 1 796 cc four cylinder engine cranks out 115 kW of power at 5 000 RPM and 250 Nm between 1 600 and 4 200 RPM, with fuel usage remaining frugal at a sub-7 liters per 100 km.

Like the A4, the C class has been sent for a bit of nip tuck recently, with minor design alterations such new headlights that remind one of the sublime C63 AMG Black Series.

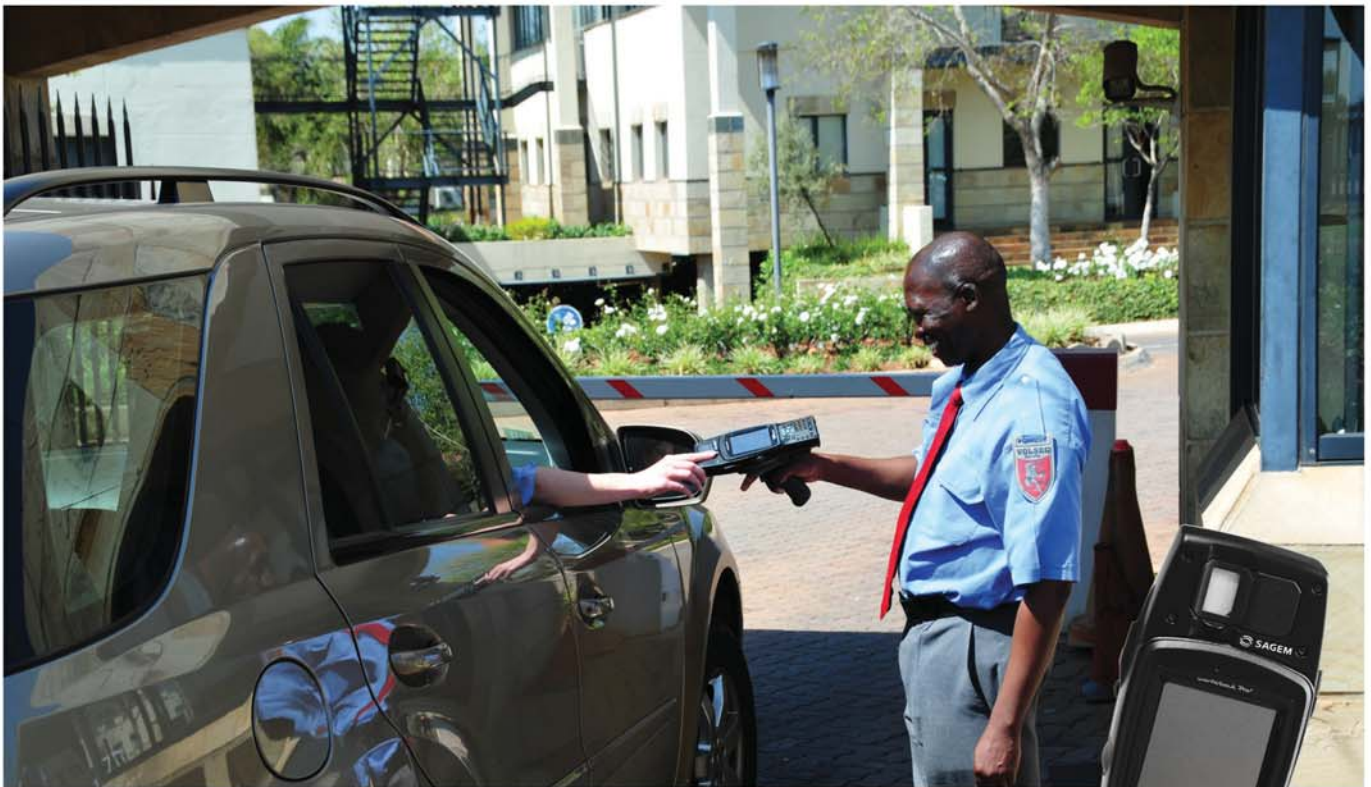


1

BMW 320i

BMW's newest 3 series offers drivers a more eye catching design and larger dimensions (translating to more interior space), without compromising the sporty ride for which this sedan is known. This is made evident with its two liter four cylinder engine churning out 135 kW at 5 000 RPM and 270 Nm between 1 250 and 4 500 RPM, whilst fuel usage comes to 6.1 liters per 100 km.

Another feature augmenting the sporty characteristics of the 320i is BMW's Driving Experience Control, which allows you to choose between four setup modes namely comfort, sport, sport+ and eco pro. Each of these modes makes changes to engine performance, the electromechanical steering system, throttle response and traction control, resulting in either a fuel efficient, less hurried ride (eco pro) or a very sporty but fuel tank draining performance (sport and sport+). Factors such as these help keep this class benchmark perched upon its class leading throne, but the gap between itself and its rivals has closed considerably. R363 000 is the price you'll need to pay for this rendezvous of luxury, efficiency and driving dynamics. [HD] ❖



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Building profitable partnerships

Qualcomm unwraps innovations in Berlin



Steve Mollenkopf, President and COO, Qualcomm.



As Qualcomm expounded on a series of innovations and mobile trends at its aptly named, Innovation Qualcomm event held in Berlin, Germany, one familiar message and prevailing theme threaded its way through the speeches: there is a mobile revolution of staggering proportions underway.

With a variety of keynote speakers, breakthrough sessions and exhibits, the company produced a vision of the future, enhanced by mobile devices that are infinitely more capable and more powerful than we would have dreamed of ten years ago.

For the uninitiated, Qualcomm is responsible for the manufacture of mobile processors (including the Snapdragon which runs a number of smartphones), which form the heart of every mobile device, and are ultimately at the root of how fast one's device is, how long its battery lasts, and the scope of the user experience it can provide. Enrico Salvatori, the senior vice president and president of Qualcomm Europe, explained that the Innovation Qualcomm (IQ) Berlin event was centred around the themes of "reach more, connect more and create more."

Everyone, everywhere

Steve Mollenkopf, the president and chief operating officer of Qualcomm, pointed out that it was "very rare" for a company to work on a technology that touched everyone. He continued that mobile phones, which have already become the centre of people's modern lives, may well become like a 'remote control' for various aspects of one's life in the future.

To this end, Mollenkopf explained that the company saw two trends underway. The first of these is that an increasing number of mobile devices, such as tablets, are being equipped with 3G or 4G connectivity, while the second indicated that data usage per phone was only increasing, and was expected to grow between 10 and 12 times between 2010 and 2015. He continued that

the future trend would centre around a variety of devices all being able to connect to one another. For example, he explained that in the forthcoming years, particularly with the introduction of faster wireless protocols like IEEE 802.11c, there would more than likely be hundreds of IP addresses throughout one's home rather than the two or three at present. Tablets would be connected to one's TV, the TV would be connected to the light switch, and all of the above would be controlled by one's smartphone.

More far reaching

Beyond this though, the mobile revolution could well have more far reaching impact. Mollenkopf suggested the role that mobile devices could play in healthcare, where patients with serious conditions could be remotely monitored via their mobile device. He added that it had been found that there is a 50% reduction in the mortality rate when such patients are remotely monitored.

"Mobile phones may well become like a 'remote control' for various aspects of one's life in the future."

Other developments, which offer less serious impact, but are exciting nonetheless, include technologies such as Qualcomm's AllJoyn, which provides a means for people to connect their disparate mobile devices, such as smartphones, tablets and notebooks, to each other, or connect to their peers, more quickly and easily, without the hassle of pairing.

The heart of the matter

At the heart of all this promise is the company's Snapdragon mobile processor. The processor is responsible for application processing, the length of the battery life on offer, and providing a

multimedia and graphics experience via its integrated graphics processing unit. As testament to the processor's power, the company showcased a tablet that dealt with a complex, and graphically intensive scene. In a desert landscape, flags wavered in the wind, dust particles floated across the sand's surface, flames burnt and reflections in a reflecting pool rippled, all rendered in exquisite detail simultaneously.

Vikrant Jain, the manager of business development at Qualcomm, explained that because Qualcomm makes its own components, it can optimise them to work together. As the scene was rendered, each core would only use as much power as it needed for the task at hand, which resulted in less heat being generated, and a greater saving of one's battery life.

A Snapdragon for all

According to Cristiano Amon, the senior vice president and co-president of Qualcomm mobile and computing, the one thing that shows little signs of changing is what people want and expect from their smartphones – namely, that they should be powerful, and last long periods away from a power outlet. He made it abundantly clear that the company was committed to providing an affordable solution for every price point, particularly as feature phones were being replaced with entry-level smartphones.

The future beckons

However, as central as one's smartphone already is to many people, Mollenkopf pointed out that today's phone doesn't do everything that it will in the future. "In the years to come, phones will start to anticipate what you need and provide relevant data to you using the cloud," he continued.

Indeed, the smartphone may act as one's filter to, and lifeboat in, an expanding sea of information, providing one with the data that is most relevant and necessary to one's unique needs. [RN] ❖

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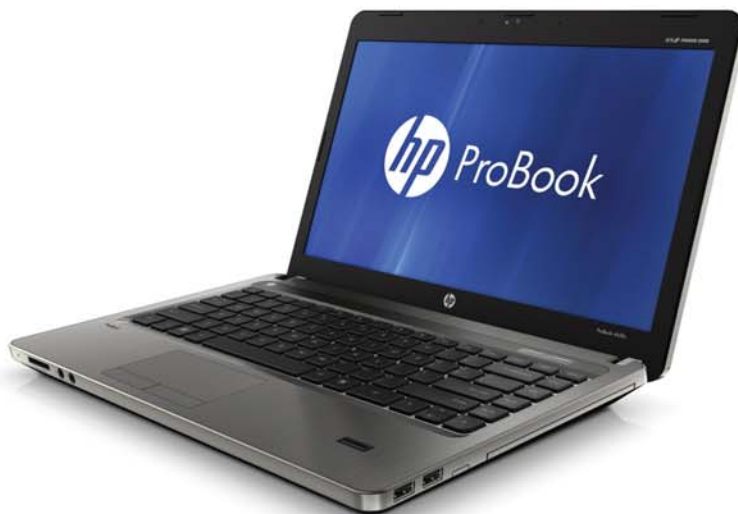
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Nokia 808 PureView

Not quite there, yet



Nokia delivers the successor to the N8 smartphone, the venerable 808 PureView. Can it set a new camera phone benchmark like its predecessors managed to do?

Although the snapper's tech might be novel, the design of this device is pretty conventional, measuring in at a chubby 13.9 mm and bulky 169 g. Nokia's 4" (360 x 640) ClearBlack AMOLED touchscreen is also a step behind in terms of its resolution, especially considering the below par pixel density of just 184 ppi.

CPU and OS

Powering the PureView 808 is single-core 1.3 GHz ARM 11 processor, keeping things churning along nicely when running apps or navigating the Nokia Belle with Feature pack 1 mobile operating system (OS). Luckily Nokia Belle is a lot more up to date than its forerunners, now sporting six homescreens and an Android-esque pull-down notification bar. Unfortunately Belle falls short regarding the amount of available apps (120 000) you can download from the Nokia Store, compared to Apple's App Store (700 000) and Google's Play store (600 000). Both the typing- and browsing experiences on this device are also not on par with that of Windows Phone, iOS or Android.

"It feels as if the 808 simply functions as a concept device for showcasing Nokia's new PureView camera technology."

Best camera phone ever?

There's been a lot of hype about the 808's PureView camera with its massive 41 megapixel resolution and Carl Zeiss optics. Nokia stated that the reason so many pixels are crammed inside, is to allow better quality images at lower resolutions, doing this via pixel oversampling, which merges many pixels into a 'single (super) pixel'. In the time we spent with the 808 we did get decent quality images with better detail, especially if you start zooming in, but to be honest nothing that really blew us away. The camera also misses a couple of tricks as found on other smartphones, including High Definition Range (HDR) pics, panorama shots and best shot selection. Add to this no access to Instagram and we're not quite ready to swop our iPhone, S3 or One X just yet.

To the point

While the 808's PureView technology has upped Nokia's photo quality, it is a difficult device to recommend with its rather ordinary hardware and software. It feels as if the 808 simply functions as a concept device for showcasing Nokia's new PureView camera technology, which has already made its way onto the cellphone giant's mainstream Lumia smartphone line with forthcoming Lumia 920. For R8 000 we don't see the 808 in many people's pockets. [HD + MJ] ❖

Samsung announces Galaxy Camera

Wedding bells ring for Android and its camera bride

In the photographic world, an interesting – some may say inevitable – union is taking place, as cameras and the Android OS are tying the knot. Along with Nikon, Samsung has also walked a camera down the aisle, as it announced its new Galaxy Camera.

Unlike Nikon's S800c, the new Galaxy Camera is not solely hitched to Wi-Fi, as it will also cater to 3G or 4G connectivity, depending on the model. It's a good move, which makes updating Facebook and Instagram possible from basically anywhere.

The camera boasts a 1.4 GHz quad core processor, 21x super long zoom lens, which can be controlled using buttons or via the touchscreen, a 16 megapixel BSI CMOS sensor, and runs on the Android 4.1 (Jelly Bean) platform. The company is wagering that its 23 mm lens, which caters to wide-angle shots; 4.8" HD Super Clear LCD screen; ISO range up to 3200 and several innovative features, will leave competitors catching the bouquet rather than getting the diamond ring.

With these features....

Samsung asserted that, thanks to the Android platform, the internet capabilities of the Galaxy Camera are equal to those of the latest smartphones, while users will further be able to browse the web and enjoy any applications from Google Play or Samsung Apps stores.

The Galaxy Camera will apparently be made available in two connectivity options: a 3G and Wi-Fi version or a 4G and Wi-Fi version. Alas, a local release date and price has not yet been announced. [RN] ❖

Nokia Purity HD stereo headset by Monster

Pure audio bliss

HTC smartphone owners craving a premium music listening experience can reach for a Beats by Dr. Dre headset, and now Nokia Lumia smartphone owners are able to do the same courtesy of Nokia's Purity HD stereo headset by Monster.

As with the Lumia handsets themselves, the Purity HD headset features a high build quality, with the device being constructed out of scratch resistant materials. Users have a choice of four colours, namely white, black, pink and blue, making it easy to get one to perfectly match your Lumia smartphone's colour scheme. Weighing in at 180 g, this on-ear headset fits snugly on the ears thanks to the comfy soft ear cushions.

Monstrous sound

Seeing that these on-ear earphones are engineered by Monster, the same guys who manufactures (at least until the end of this year) the Beats by Dr. Dre headsets, we had high expectations in terms of sound quality and luckily weren't disappointed. The sound quality you receive from the Purity HD stereo headset is excellent, with a crystal clear sound, devoid of any type of distortion even at the highest volumes. Monster's noise isolating technology also does a good job of

cutting out the bustling sounds of the surrounding environment. It must be noted though that bass levels are not quite as good as you would find on a Beats Solo Wireless headphone for instance, although the latter is a lot more expensive (more than R3 000) compared to R1 800 pricetag of the Purity HD stereo headset.

"If you want a great audio experience on the go and own a Lumia smartphone, you can't do much better than the Purity HD stereo headset."

Within the retail package there are two audio cables, one for Lumia smartphones and the other for any other mobile phone or portable media player. Only the Lumia designated cable though boasts controls for both volume and music playback.

To the point

Nokia's Purity HD stereo headset by Monster comes in a finely tailored designer suit and sports excellent sound quality. This does come at a price though with its recommended retail price being R1 800, but if you want a great audio experience on the go and own a Lumia smartphone, you can't do much better than the Purity HD stereo headset. Those who want to exchange the wired setup of the Purity HD for a wireless one, can wait until Q4 2012 for the release of the Nokia Purity Pro wireless stereo headset by Monster. Owners of other mobile devices can check out more affordable alternatives from the likes of Skullcandy, Philips and Sony. [HD] 🍌



20 million. Last month Samsung passed this sales milestone with its Galaxy S3 smartphone after just 100 days of availability.



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From a number of people we've spoken to in the industry, it seems like ultrabooks did not sell as well as Intel would have liked. One of the reasons provided is that people might be waiting for Windows 8 before they upgrade their old units. A more likely reason is price.

In most cases ultrabooks retailed between R13 000 and R16 000, with only two models we tested dropping down to R10 000 (Acer S3 and Samsung Series 5). Now, local PC brand Meцер is set to make some waves with their extremely well priced JW6 ultrabook retailing for a very strong R7 000.

For R7 000 you cannot expect the same level of design as the sensational R16 000 Asus Zenbook, but the JW6 still maintains a style that does not look out of place with the rest of the ultrabook brood. Mostly made from hardened plastic, our unit contained a gun metal cover, a matte finish round the keyboard and a slightly awkward touch of chrome around both ends of the screen/notebook hinge and above the mousepad. The screen is quite sturdy, and although flexible, no more so than most other notebooks we've tested. As expected in this price class, the 14" screen's resolution tops 1 366 x 768, and while being quite reflective, it nonetheless provided a decent viewing experience.

Mecer keeps it quite spartan around the keyboard, with only the power button visible and no other quick access keys available. As on most new notebooks, you'll find a chicklet styled keyboard which is easy to type on despite a shallow keypress. As far as the touchpad is concerned, it is quite big and multitouch enabled, but unfortunately it's centred right in the middle and not, as is more common, placed to the left. This meant that hitting it with your right palm happened more than we would have liked. As with all touchpads, it can be turned off.

Hidden underneath

The real surprise for us came underneath the bonnet of the Meцер. At R7 000 we expected a drop in performance to go along with the lower price, but this is not the case. Our unit came with the latest third generation Intel Core i5 3317U processor clocking 1.7 GHz and 4 GB RAM.

And while no discreet graphic solution is onboard, the latest Intel Graphics HD 4000 helped push the JW6 to the upper echelons of ultrabook benchmarking, topping a number of higher priced competitors. It returned very satisfactory results in Futuremark 3DMark06 (3738 vs. Dell XPS 13's 3503), Passmark (1209 vs. Lenovo U300s' 1114) and Heaven Benchmark 2.0 (209 vs. Asus Zenbook UX31's 178). In all, this is

surprisingly good performance from a machine that in certain cases is half the price of the competition.

On the connectivity front things are also looking good, since Meцер has included two USB 2.0 ports and a faster USB 3.0 one, an HDMI port to connect to HD screens, a VGA and WLAN port and an SD card reader – slightly better than par for the ultrabook standard.

One of the requirements of ultrabooks is that there should be a solid state drive (SSD) present. The JW6 contains a 32 GB SSD cache, which means booting times are fast, but the general performance increase associated with a full SSD solution is lacking (unless programs are installed directly on the SSD drive). Instead, you'll find a 1 TB hard disk drive, which provides ample storage for HD movies, music and photos.

Fast boot-up and the bad

Boot-up from powered off totaled a good 29 seconds until the first appearance of the home screen and 38 seconds till the cursor stopped spinning. From a sleep state, less

than 10 seconds will do, but the JW6 takes its time to go to sleep (38 seconds till fan goes silent) so it will give you hassles if you closed the lid but quickly want to check something again.

More disappointing is the battery life of the JW6, providing slightly more than 3½ hours per charge, which means you still need to drag your charger to work every day. The unit is also heavier than other ultrabooks, weighing in at relatively heavy 1.9 kg compared to the more common 1.5 kg. Finally, the onboard speakers not only sound tinny, but are also too soft, which means that using this for watching movies could be a strain on the ears.

To the point

For R7 000 we did not expect much from Meцер's JW6 i5-3317 ultrabook, but we were pleasantly surprised. Although its battery life is disappointing and its design might lack some of the premium material on show on some higher priced competitors, the JW6's insides were up there with the best of them. Couple this with a slightly above average performance on the connectivity front, and you have yourself a steal at R7 000. Contact Mustek for more information on 011-237-1000 or visit www.mecer.co.za/ultrabooks. [MJ] 🌟

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Nexus 7

Tablet

Sleek, slender and superlative

While 9.7" and 10.1" tablets garner most of the attention in the tablet space, 7" variants are quietly creeping in from behind and biting at their larger counterparts' heels. A case in point? The excellent 7" Nexus 7 tablet.

The tablet, which is actually built by Asus in conjunction with Google, simply oozes quality and is as much a pleasure to use as it is to look at and hold. And while the 7" market is gradually receiving some competition, in the form of the newly announced Kindle Fire 2, for example, the Nexus tablet shines in its own right.

Performance prerogative

The performance on offer by the tablet is superb, thanks to the presence of an Nvidia Tegra 3 quad core processor, clocked at 1.2 GHz, and 1 GB of memory. Indeed, in its benchmark tests, the Nexus 7 scored an excellent score of 10 636 in Antutu, and 3 849 in Smartbench 2012. By way of adding context, the top of the range Samsung Galaxy S3 scored 11 887, and the very good HTC One X racked up a score 10 652 in Antutu. Clearly, the Nexus 7 is playing with the big boys in the performance stakes.

Added to that, the Nexus 7 tablet further runs the latest version of Android (4.1), namely Jelly Bean, which is streets ahead of its previous Android iterations. This results in a device that is fast and as smooth as anything that comes out of Cupertino.

While the LED backlit IPS screen offers a middling resolution of 800 x 1 280 (216 ppi) this is still sharp enough to be enjoyable to look at and read off in this form factor. The Nexus 7 further makes an ideal ereader, amongst other things, especially when we loaded it with the Kindle and Aldiko ebook apps for Android.

Sweet Jelly Bean

Despite its excellent performance and build quality, the tablet is not terribly expensive (in the region of R3 500 for the 16 GB model). However, some corners have been cut; namely, it does not offer 3G, there is not an

microSD card slot, nor does the Nexus 7 have a back camera.

This is somewhat compensated for by the fact that, at the moment, the Nexus 7 is one of the few devices that boasts Android Jelly Bean, and this upgrade makes a significant difference. Google's focus on making Jelly Bean its smoothest OS to date, and eliminating the general lagginess that has plagued previous versions of Android (the objective was codenamed Project Butter), really does show.

However, greatly improved smoothness and user interface tweaks are only part of what Android 4.1 brings to the table. The OS also now enables users to resize their widgets on the fly, while other shortcuts on the screen rearrange themselves to fit.

Additionally, the notification bar has received a revamp, enabling one to expand or open individual notifications for further detail directly from the notification pane. For example, sliding open an email notification with two fingers reveals the first few lines of the message.

One of the key features that Jelly Bean brings with it is Google Now. In essence, this is intended to 'learn' about you, by taking into account your

search and email history, calendar entries and your location. This is aimed at providing users with the info that is most relevant to the purpose behind their search.

To the point

The Google Nexus 7 is a case of the whole being more than the sum of its parts, as the lightweight (340 g) device is easy to carry around; loud speakers make watching movies on it a pleasure; and a ten hour plus battery life means it is a very viable companion on a long flight. Indeed, judging by the enthusiastic reception and acclaim it has received, the Google Nexus 7 shows that 7" tablets' time in the sun has arrived. R3500, available in mid-October. [RN] 🍬

"The Google Nexus 7 is quite possibly the best 7" tablet we have had the pleasure of using."



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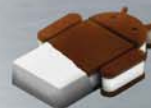
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Ice cream sandwich

Samsung Galaxy Note 10.1 tablet

You have the write to be brilliant



The Galaxy Note 10.1 refines the pen input functionality offered by the Galaxy Note 'phablet' to produce a device that offers something few other tablets can.

While many tablets offer stylus input, few, if any, centre the entire tablet's functionality around the dance between tablet and stylus quite like the Samsung's Note 10.1. Suffice to say, it does this extremely well, as performance in general, and writing on the bright 10.1" screen in particular, was extremely fast and responsive, thanks to 2 GB of memory and the presence of an Exynos quad-core 1.4 GHz processor. Our review model offered 3G connectivity and 32 GB of space, although this could be further expanded by up to 64 GB using the microSD card slot.

Stroke of genius

Removing the decently sized (6.5 mm) S Pen from its slot automatically prompted a choice between using Samsung's S Note, S Planner, Office or the excellent Photoshop Touch applications. More importantly, the Note 10.1 had no problem keeping up with us as we scribbled pages of notes at a conference using S Note, while the results could very easily be shared with our other devices, by saving the notebooks as PDFs.

Another of the Galaxy Note 10.1's standout features is the way in which it accommodates multitasking. The screen can be split into two, allowing one to browse the web in one pane, for example, while taking notes or checking email in another. The caveat is that this only works with multi-mode compatible apps, which are the browser, Office, S Note, email, the photo gallery and video player.

Pros and cons

The one area where we felt the Galaxy Note 10.1 was somewhat let down is in its build quality. While the device is a light 600 g, slightly heavier than the Galaxy Tab's 585 g, it felt less substantial and sturdy in our hands. The screen's 1 280 x 800 could also have been higher.

On the up side, battery life was outstanding, reaching and surpassing the ten hour mark on a single charge, while the strength of the device's Wi-Fi connectivity, and loudness of its speakers, bested that found on the iPad 2.

To the point

Using the device for an extended period of time made it crystal clear that this tablet is a boon for writers, journalists, and artists in particular, as well as for those for whom typing just doesn't feel as smooth or quick as writing. For those users who have been waiting for a viable digital alternative to the ol' pen and paper, in a speedy and powerful device, this is it. It retails for R8 500. [RN] ♣

HP Deskjet Ink Advantage 4625 all-in-one

Job done for less



Printers aren't what they used to be, they are better. Sporting not only Wi-Fi connectivity, the HP Ink Advantage 4625 has a potential cost saving benefit too.

The all-in-one (printer, copier, scanner, fax) Deskjet Ink Advantage 4625 makes use of HP's Ink Advantage system which the company believes enable users to print up to twice the amount of pages for the same cost, compared to other HP Deskjet ink cartridges. The original HP Ink Advantage cartridges (the 4625 takes four) can print up to 600 pages and retails from R110 to R130. Now while this print count is hard to prove, we can say that we used the 4625 in the office for slightly longer than a month, printing amongst others, three magazines' full colour proofs.

It was only at the end of this testing period that the 4625 started complaining about ink-levels – in our books quite an impressive achievement.

Wireless and ePrint

As with many of the new printers the 4625 can be connected to a wireless network, while featuring HP's ePrint technology which allocates an email address to the printer, to which you can email documents to print. While we barely used this, it is handy when a visitor enters the office and needs to quickly print a document. The printer also contains AirPrint technology to print from Apple iOS devices.

The 6.27 kg Ink Advantage 4625 is best suited for a small office or department, with a 35-page automatic document feeder onboard to help with scanning, copying or faxing multiple papers. One thing we did miss and almost come to expect from printers these days is duplexing, since the 4625 is unfortunately only able to print one-sided documents. There is also no SD card reader nor USB slot to help printing off or scanning onto these.

To the point

For us the benefit of the 4625 lies in the fact that it did the job we required of it, which was print when we needed. Prints were of good quality, and the 4625 is also capable of borderless photo printing, which were in-line with photo-printers we've tested in the past. The HP wireless network set-up is also one of the easier ones available.

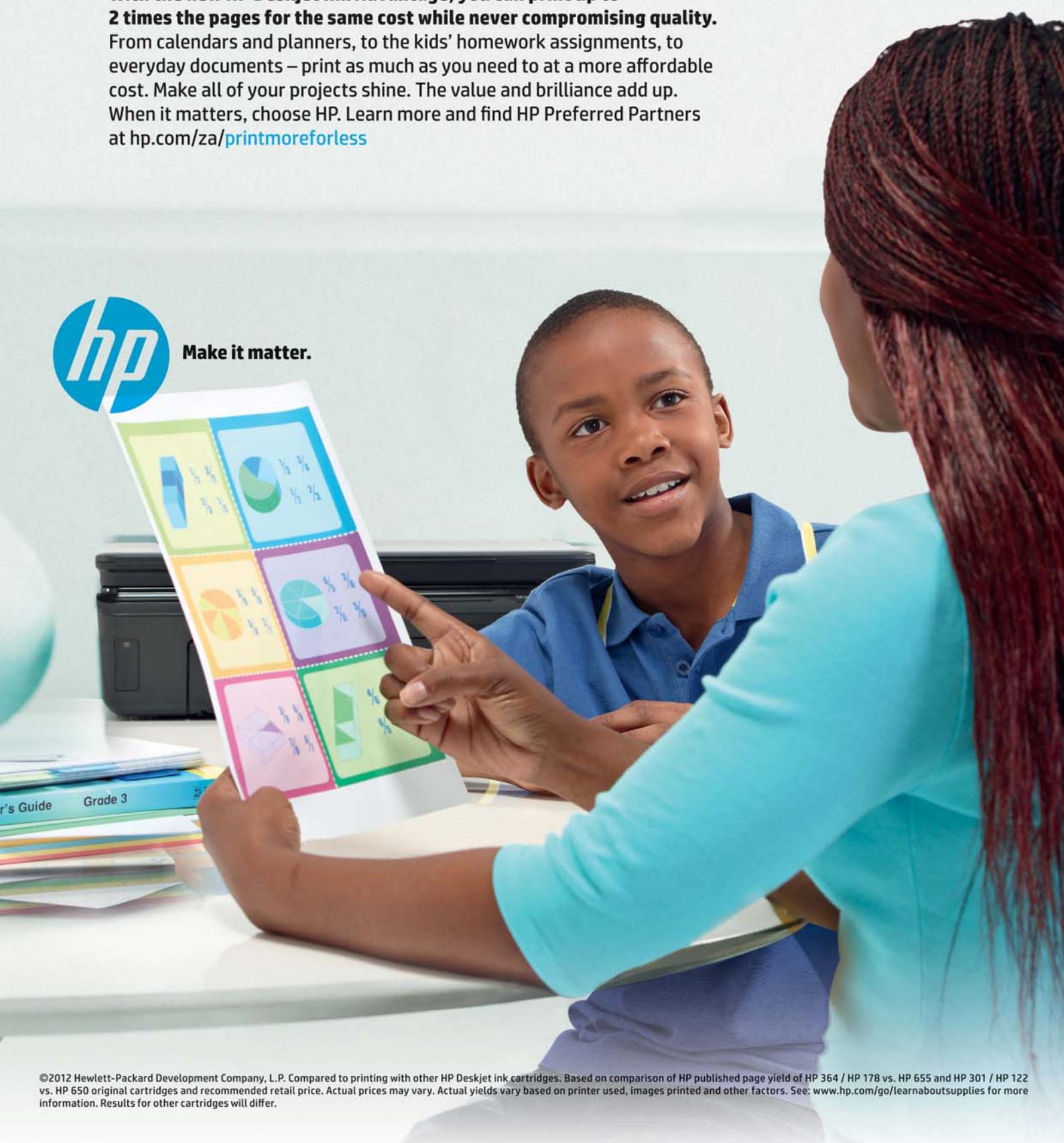
Although sparse on the extra features (colour LCD, duplexing, scan to USB) the Ink Advantage 4625 should get the job done, and most probably for less ink costs than other printers. R1 600. Visit www.hpshop.co.za for more info. [MJ] ♣

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Cloud computing and mobility will change the way individual businesses work



As always, the IT world is not short of innovation, and consumers are the drivers of these developments. This according to Rudi Greyling, chief technology officer and innovation lead at Avanade SA, who believes that cloud computing and mobility are what will change the way individual businesses – and business itself – work.



Cloud computing has attracted tremendous volumes of hype and media commentary, and as a result, many companies are tired of cloud-speak. “But don’t dismiss cloud. It’s time to start using cloud technologies like Windows Azure and Office 365,” Greyling says. “We find that once customers start using them, the penny drops and they finally realise what the cloud is all about.”

And that is, Greyling explains, reducing the cost related to IT, not to mention management time and effort. “Our assets help our teams deliver solutions on the Office 365 platform more than 30% faster and at lower cost than customer-led implementations. It’s all about making IT available as something to be consumed as and when needed,” he says. “We

have now begun to realise the age old dream of IT as a utility. We don’t really concern ourselves with how the electricity was generated or the water purified, we just use them as needed; now cloud computing is making that approach possible for technology. It’s a natural progression for businesses to move their IT onto one or other form of the cloud model.”

Consumers are driving this bus

Mobility, on the other hand, is definitely being driven by consumers, who have discovered an apparently limitless appetite for mobile devices and, more significantly, applications to run on them. It’s clear how the availability not only of applications but also corporate and other data from the cloud has turned the phone from a pure communications device into something much more. And then, in turn, sparked the development of devices to span the bridge between phone and notebook: the smartphone and, of course, the tablet.

“It’s a natural progression for businesses to move their IT onto one or other form of the cloud model.”

“Consumers are basically demanding desktop functionality on their mobile devices, and companies are buying into this trend because the productivity enhancements are so tremendous,” Greyling notes. Just one example: a sales person no longer needing to travel to the office to upload

sales data can undertake more calls — and, in fact, is most likely to spend the 15 minutes it takes to do the upload outside of working hours when he or she returns home.

Common concerns

Greyling says that customers always raise two issues when considering both mobility and the cloud as business strategies: security and bandwidth.

When it comes to security, international cloud providers like Microsoft enforce much greater physical security at their data centres. These are literally high-lockdown, zero-touch environments. Similarly, all the mechanisms for connecting to the cloud securely are in place; encrypted links are just one example. Device security is an existing problem that is independent of these trends but, as Greyling points out, software solutions to this challenge are coming to the market now — delivered as cloud services, naturally.

Bandwidth is the *sine qua non* of both mobility and cloud and, according to Greyling, something everybody complains about. In the business context, he feels that companies are often not appreciating the benefits that using the cloud can bring when it comes to dedicated links. “However, having your communications with branches set up, using the cloud to connect means you can use a local internet connection rather than a much more expensive dedicated link,” Greyling advises. “Just one of the ways in which the cloud — and mobility — can be used to deliver benefits like reduced costs and change the way the business runs. We’ve only just begun to appreciate the possibilities!” ❖

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Small bodies, big results

Compact system camera round-up

DSLRs are awesome, but the weight and bulk associated with carrying one around makes it easy to simply leave it at home. Compact system cameras (CSC) provide a viable alternative, since they are much smaller (as there is no reflective mirror inside the body) while also providing interchangeable lenses. Here are six of the best.

Sony NEX-6

Sony's NEX cameras have impressed us quite a bit in the past when it comes to image quality, following Samsung in introducing regular sized APS-C sensors (as found on larger DSLRs) into these compact system cameras (CSC). The recent NEX-6 makes a play for the higher end of the market, aimed at those who can't quite afford the excellent top-of-the-range NEX-7 (R16 000). On the NEX-6 you get a 16.1 megapixel APS-C running on Sony's latest Bionz processor, a number of quick-access dials and onboard Wi-Fi for wireless photo sharing. One of the stand-out features? The same have-to-have True-Finder OLED electronic viewfinder as found on the NEX-7, which contains a massive 2 359 000 dot resolution. No local release date or price is available yet.



Canon EOS M

Although Canon pitched up very late for the CSC party, it certainly made an entrance. Boasting a 298 g body, the EOS M should be very appealing for owners of Canon equipment, being compatible with the full line of Canon EF and EF-S lenses thanks to the optional Mount Adapter EF-EOS M. Three more things have us excited – the inclusion of an 18 megapixel APS-C sized sensor; a hybrid autofocus for snappy focusing; and a 3" (1 040 k dot resolution) Clear View II touchscreen at the back which should make navigating menus a breeze. The lack of an viewfinder, though, might be a problem for some. It comes with a 22 mm pancake lens and flash for approximately R8 000.



Samsung NX20

We're big fans of Samsung's NX compact system range, which offers cameras with a large amount of features, good image quality and decent design. Their flagship NX20 has now arrived in SA, right after winning the prestigious EISA award as best CSC against some stiff opposition. It's easy to see why, as it comes packed to the hilt with features, including an excellent shooting speed of eight frames per second, a 3" swivel AMOLED (640 k dot resolutions) at the back and an electronic viewfinder with a 1.4 million dot resolution. There's also Wi-Fi onboard, with Samsung including direct photo sharing on Facebook, emailing of images and automatic downloading of photos onto PC. Yours for R8 500.



Fujifilm X-Pro1

With a price tag of R20 000 for the body alone, the Fujifilm X-Pro1 will not be nesting in many camera bags soon. But we can say that for that amount you get excellent image quality (APS-CX-Trans CMOS sensor), a retro body that will last close to forever, and a number of easy to use mechanical dials. It's also the only CSC that provides a dual optical/electronic viewfinder, instead of only an electronic one, that many purists claim is difficult to work with. Also keep an eye out for the recently announced X-E1, which contains the same sensor but with a smaller body and better price.



Nikon 1 J1/V1

If you are set on a Nikon compact system because of your investment in their lenses, the 1 series with the F-mount adapter FT1 should work a treat. When we tested the J1 (R6 800) earlier this year, it provided the maximum results for a minimum amount of effort, but in terms of price it did not set the world alight. And while the J2 has made its appearance overseas, this camera with its higher resolution on the screen at the back and lower price, will not be making it to our shores. Looking for a unit with an electronic viewfinder? The V1 should suite you better, but comes with a higher price tag of R9 700.



Olympus PEN Mini E-PM1

Olympus was one of the first to market with a compact system camera in 2009, with their PEN cameras, which are based on the Micro Four Thirds system. Its sensor is smaller (18 x 13.5 mm) in size than APS-C sensors (25.1 x 16.7 mm), but still much larger than those found inside compact cameras. In the 12.3 megapixel Olympus PEN Mini (256 g) you have one of the smallest CSCs available. Together with a pancake lens, this will make photography a lot less cumbersome than dragging a big DSLR around. It is ideal for novice photographers looking for a camera with more punch than a regular point and shoot. R6 000. Also read our review of the excellent new Olympus E-M5 compact system camera on p22. [MJ]



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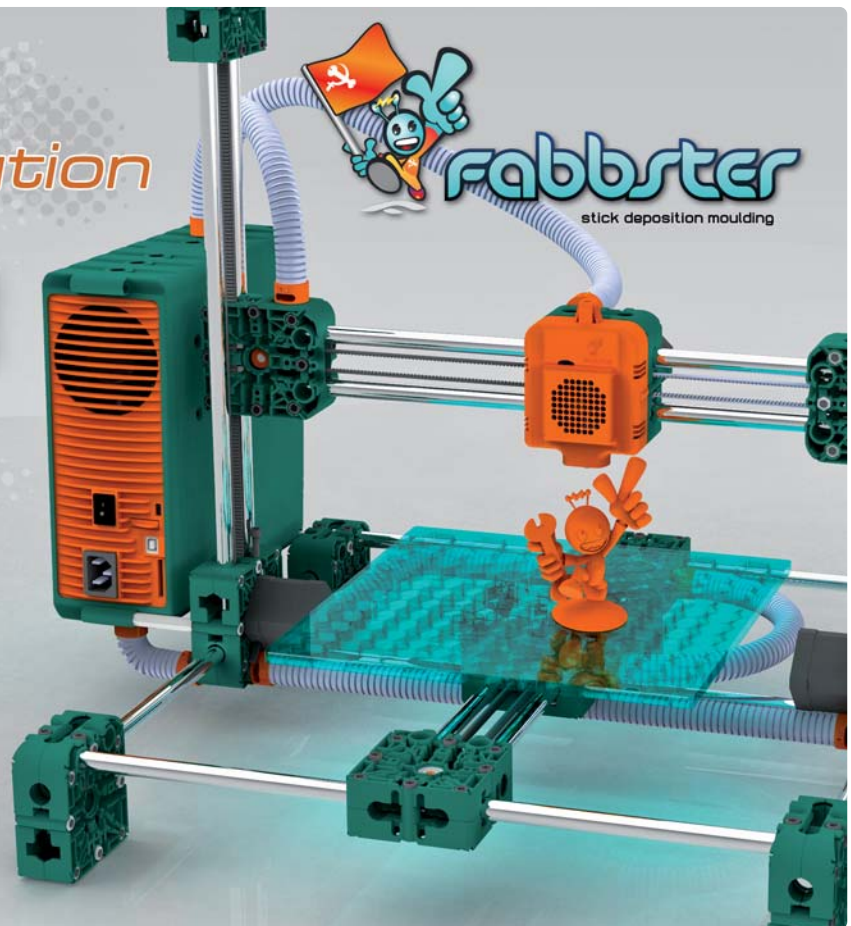


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Canon releases full frame EOS 6D, updates compact ranges

EOS 6D, PowerShot G15 and S110 see light of day



It has been a very busy September for Canon, with the Japanese imaging company announcing a number of new cameras. The most exciting of these is its smallest and lightest full frame yet – the EOS 6D.

Much like Nikon's new D60, this full frame camera comes in cheaper than the available full frame models, while also cutting down on bulk. In fact, Canon calls the 6D the world's lightest full frame CMOS sensor camera, pulling the scales at a manageable 770 g.

Canon SA believes that the 6D should retail in the range of R21 000, which puts it way below the full frame Canon 5D Mark III's R34 000, but above the prosumer 7D, which commands in the region of R14 000. It should be available end-October/mid-November locally.

Apart from the 20.2 megapixel 35 mm sensor, the 6D also includes both Wi-Fi and GPS connectivity. Also included is a native ISO range of ISO 100-25,600 (extendable to 50-102,400), and a 11-point AF system that the company believes offers the strongest low light performance of any Canon AF system to date.

G-series also updated

After seeing the impressive PowerShot G1 x stirring the market with a larger sized sensor, Canon now picks up the series where they left off with the G12, confusingly naming the latest in the series the PowerShot G15. The 13.3 megapixel G15 does not feature the G1 x's larger sensor; instead it opts for a faster lens, finally breaking through the f2 barrier with its new f1.8-2.8 5x zoom lens (28-140 mm equivalent).

Canon believes the G15 is the fastest Canon compact ever produced when it comes to autofocus, also including a Digic 5 processor, a 920k-dot resolution 3" PureColor II G screen and, as usual, an optical viewfinder. Luckily the G15's aluminium body (310 g) is not as bulky as the G1x (492 g), being approximately 17% smaller than the G12 (351 g).

PowerShot S110 now with touchscreen and Wi-Fi

Canon's small and delightfully impressive high-performance S-series also gets to level up, with the PowerShot S110 being unveiled. It looks and feels pretty much like the S100, and includes the important control ring at the front, but differs in two important and telling ways. Onboard you'll find both Wi-Fi and a 3" touch-screen at the back, which features a so-so 461 000 dot resolution. Canon opted to include the same 12.1 megapixel, 1/1.7-inch CMOS and Digic 5 processor as found on the G15, while this 5x optical zoom is equivalent to 24-120 mm on a 35 mm camera.

Our only concern is battery performance, since this trifecta of functionality – Wi-Fi, onboard GPS, and touchscreen – could be very demanding on the already quite small battery.

It is uncertain at this stage when the S110 and G15 will hit local shores or at what price. [MJ] 🍌

Canon IXUS 510 HS

Big deal in a small body

Calling the IXUS 510 'small' doesn't do its portability justice. More descriptively, the camera is tiny, even for a compact camera, and more along the lines of being credit card sized (apart from its thickness).



Canon has packed a number of features that are familiar to its IXUS range into this small, solidly built, if somewhat boxy, frame. Most of the 10.1 megapixel camera's features are accessed via its bright 3.2" touch screen, which has taken full possession of the back of the camera.

Added to its 12x optical zoom (a 28-336 mm equivalent) and 100 to 3 200 ISO range is built in Wi-Fi, which enables one to connect the camera to notebook PCs or one's wireless network. Additionally it offers HD (1 920 x 1 080) movie capture and the ability to shoot a picture without pressing the shutter, but by merely touching the screen. As befitting the camera's size, photos are saved to a microSD card.

As we have come to expect from Canon's IXUS range, image quality is very good, particularly at lower ISOs. Above ISO 400 though, noise does begin to creep in. Additionally, the small touch screen made navigating the camera's features a little more hit or miss; large fingered photographers, consider yourself warned.

To the point

Nonetheless, the 510 HS is still a very good, exceedingly compact camera, that is all too easy to carry around with one at all times. It has an RRP of R3 700. [RN] 🍌



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Canon

Olympus OM-D E-M5

The best CSC yet?



Sometimes you come across a camera that just makes photography seem simple. Olympus' EM-D E-M5 is one such beast. Granted, its battery life is not that great, and yes, its buttons are so small you would think it was designed for five year olds, but once set up, the E-M5 never stood in the way of a good photo.

As one of Olympus' Micro Four Thirds mirrorless cameras (also a compact system camera like those on p18) you know you are in for a small body, with the E-M5 (425 g) falling under Olympus' new OM-D line-up of cameras. Although the E-M5 is the only camera in this range, it seems like this line caters towards prosumers, with the E-M5's weather-sealed magnesium alloy body feeling like it can take a bullet and still be ready for shooting. You also have three mechanical dials and a number of buttons on the back that can be customised to such an extent that you never have to dig into the menu system. Much like we've seen on the Fujifilm X-Pro1, Olympus further provides a quick access menu on the playback monitor for further control over the most used settings.

Monitor and viewfinder available

Both the monitor at the back and the viewfinder need to be complimented. The OLED display might not have the highest resolution (610 k dots) but it can tilt upwards and downwards without having to fold outwards first, while it's also touch-enabled for certain functions, such as autofocus point selection and shutter release.

For many discerning shooters, the question of the usability of an electronic viewfinder is a moot point. We are getting very accustomed to these, with the E-M5 providing one of the higher resolutions of 1.4 million dots (not quite the Sony NEX-7's amazing 2.3 million dots though) and an excellent manual focus assist zoom-in functionality. Having said that, it is slightly slow to activate when approaching it with your eye.

To the point

Combine all these solid features with an autofocus system that is not only blisteringly fast, but also very sharp and almost never 'hunts' for the target, and you have yourself one of the most likable compact system cameras we've had the privilege of testing. Its small buttons, so-so battery life and a dial located right under your eye when shooting might niggle, but these issues are easily overlooked in the broader picture.

The Olympus OM-D E-M5 retails for R11 000 for the body only, and R15 000 with an 18-55 mm f3.5 lens. [MJ] ❀



Apple iPhone 5: What you need to know

Great enhancements, but missing wow factor



Last month Apple finally unveiled the highly anticipated iPhone 5. It comes across as more of an evolution of the 4S than a totally new, revolutionary product, leaving many with shrugged shoulders saying: "Meh".

On the design front the most important changes are to size. Cupertino claims that this is the thinnest smartphone in the world, with a revised 7.6 mm anodised aluminum body that is 18% thinner and 20% lighter than that of the iPhone 4S. It also packs a bigger 4" (640 x 1 136; 326 ppi) Retina display compared to the 4S' 3.5" touchscreen, and operates on iOS 6 which sports over 200 new features including Facebook integration and Apple's own Maps app.

Faster, new connector

As with all new tech, things need to go faster, so powering the iPhone 5 is the new A6 chip that the firm says delivers up to twice the performance of the dual-core 1 GHz A5 that does duty in the 4S (no info yet on clock speed or cores). As expected from Apple, there's also enhancements to one of the iPhone's biggest assets – its already excellent camera. The iPhone 5 incorporates an 8 MP iSight camera with backside illumination and a fast f/2.4 aperture that now offers a new panorama shot feature and the ability to capture still photos as you record video.

"Apple still leads the pack when it comes to smartphone design, but rival firms such as Samsung and even Nokia have caught up in a number of other aspects."

At the bottom of the 4G-enabled (works on 3G networks) smartphones you'll also find a new, smaller Lightning connector dock, with the bad news being that you'll need to get a Lightning-to-30-pin adapter to connect your old iPhone accessories to the iPhone 5. Additionally, you'll also need to cough up for a new nano-SIM card, since it does not work on the the iPhone 4S' micro-SIM.

To the point

Apple still leads the pack when it comes to smartphone design, but rival firms such as Samsung and even Nokia have caught up in a number of other aspects, offering features not found on the new iPhone including native NFC support, eye-tracking technology and wireless charging. In short, the iPhone 5 boasts a lot of much needed improvements over the 4S, but will this be enough to turn it into the class leading device that its predecessors were and keep the smartphone competition at bay? We think not.

The new iPhone 5 comes in either white and silver or black and is available in 16 GB, 32 GB as well as 64 GB versions. It is already available internationally, but no local release info has been made available yet. [HD] ❀

Nintendo 3DS XL

In this case, bigger is better

Having played with the Nintendo 3DS XL for awhile now, love at first sight has turned into a full blown love affair.



The reason for this is the way the XL feels in one's hands. The smooth rounded corners and the reassuringly solid build quality is just part of the 3DS XL's appeal. In a smart move, Nintendo has done away with the shiny, fingerprint attracting surface which characterised its smaller brother, the 3DS, in favour of a matte finish.

Big and beautiful

Build quality, however, is not the only thing the 3DS XL has going for it. For starters, it is significantly larger than its predecessor, which is

actually a plus when it comes to playing games. While the 3DS has a 3.5" top screen and 3" bottom screen, the 3DS XL boasts a 4.8" top screen (marginally smaller than the PS Vita's 5") and 4.18" bottom screen.

The difference between the two when side by side, however, is night and day. Along with the larger screen size, the wider dimensions of the device also makes using the controls feel more spacious and considerably less cramped.

Yet another improvement that we appreciated in the 3DS XL was the better battery life. While the 3DS was able to pull off three to five hours on 3D and a bit longer with 3D disabled, the 3DS XL fares quite a bit better. We were able to play a for a little more than eight hours on it before we needed to recharge, while playing 3DS titles with 3D on cuts that playing time almost in half.

“The difference between the 3DS and 3DS XL when side by side is night and day.”

But no seconds

The glaring omission though, is the lack of a second analog stick. Indeed, much has been written about it, but even with that lack, we still thoroughly enjoyed playing games on the device. Additionally, apparently a Circle Pad Pro peripheral for the 3DS XL, which adds the second analog stick, is in the works.

However, if you already own a 3DS, the question that undoubtedly will come up may well be: is it really that different? If you shied away from that console, the other question could be: does it justify your consideration – and cash – now? On both counts, if you love portable gaming, the answer is a resounding yes. It comes with a RRP of R2 350. [RN] 🌟

🌟 **Full Article** bit.ly/nin3dsxl

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Interview: Davin Mole, CEO Simfy Africa

Simfy, the online music streaming service that's now available in SA, is certainly one of the greatest things we've come across all year. For the price of half a CD (R60), you have more than 18 million tracks available to stream. TechSmart talked to Davin Mole, CEO of Simfy Africa, about this new service.

TechSmart: Lots of other music streaming services excludes SA in their service. Why did you decide to go for the local market?

Davin Mole: The other services all have their geographic comfort zones and presumably look upon Africa as a lower priority than say Europe or Asia. As Exactmobile [Simfy Africa is a joint venture between Simfy in Germany and eXactmobile in SA] we have been selling content in SA since 2000 and hence it made a lot of sense to us that now was the right time to deliver a cutting edge streaming product to the local market.

R60 to subscribe per month – how did you decide on that figure?

The price was derived from a combination of the licensing costs we need to pay as well as what we felt would be an 'everyone welcome' price point. Roughly speaking, the price is about half what one would pay in Europe for the same service so it represents excellent value in our opinion.

If I was to stream music from Simfy Africa for one hour, how much data would I use?

You would use about 85 MB in an hour. In due course we anticipate data costs will be so low that users will consume the music online. However, at present, if users are not on uncapped packages what we are encouraging them to do (and what they are doing very successfully already) is to download as much music as they can to offline mode.

If I am a small label or artist, how do I get my music on your service?

Email us at music@simfyafrika.com and our licensing team will assist.

There are a number of South African artists on your service. How do you make sure they are paid correctly?

Our agreements are with the artists' record labels, who will in turn be responsible for ensuring the artists get paid.

You have a spectacular selection of music (18 million tracks and counting), but seriously, where are The Beatles and Led Zeppelin?

You will need to ask them this question! For various reasons, some artists have not yet made their music available for streaming but they are an increasingly tiny minority so in time, we anticipate closing out the few gaps that we have in the catalogue. 🎵

The New iPad In Selected Altech Autopage Cellular Stores!



New Ipad 16Gb Wifi + Cellular Black
R 339.00 x 24 months
on Vodacom 1Gb Special

New Ipad 32Gb Wifi + Cellular Black
R 439.00 x 24 months
on Vodacom 2Gb Special

New Ipad 64Gb Wifi + Cellular Black
R 479.00 x 24 months
on Vodacom 2Gb Special

New Ipad 64Gb Wifi + Cellular White
R 529.00 x 24 months
on Vodacom 3Gb Special

· Once off SIM & connection cost of R202 on Vodacom contract



New Ipad 16Gb Wifi + Cellular Black
R 399.00 x 24 months
on Mtn Broadband 2Gb

New Ipad 32Gb Wifi + Cellular Black
R 449.00 x 24 months
on Mtn Broadband 2Gb

New Ipad 64Gb Wifi + Cellular Black
R 489.00 x 24 months
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Parkview (012) 993-3984
Cnr Garsfontein and Medcare Road,

Melrose Arch (011) 684-1430
14 The High Street, Melrose Arch,

Menlyn Park (012) 348-7394
Shop LG 13 Cavendish Square,
Menlyn Park Shopping Centre,

Faerie Glen (012) 991-3659
Shop 14 Glen Village,
Cnr Hans Strydom & Olympus Drive,

Clearwater Mall (011) 021-1064
Cnr. Christiaan de Wet &
Hendrik Potgieter Roads,

Benoni (011) 425-6119
Shop G15, Northmead Square,
Cnr O'Reilly Merry & 14th Avenue,

Brooklyn Mall (012) 460-9213
Shop 102, Upper Level, Brooklyn Mall,
Cnr. Middel & Duncan Rds, Brooklyn,

Centurion Mall (012) 663-5157
Shop 271a, Centurion Mall

Brakpan (011) 915-1363
Shop 42, Mall @ Carnival,
Cnr Airport & Heidelberg Road,

Terms & Conditions Apply



50% smaller. Size of new PS3 console, the PS3 Super Slim, as compared to the original.

Cloud computing is growing at an astonishing rate, with the adoption of these services by SMEs increasing proportionately. Part of this recent growth in interest can be attributed to cloud computing's cost-effectiveness, since application development, maintenance; data storage and IT infrastructure in the cloud are in the hands of the third party service providers. Services are also completely scalable according to an organisation's needs.

With more than 22 years of experience in developing and implementing CRM Solutions, BluWave Software is a leader in its field and the fastest growing locally developed CRM (customer relationship management) system. They provide CRM software as a service using and promoting cloud technology.

Resellers wanted

Translate this fast growing cloud-computing trend and BluWave expertise into a profitable income stream by joining their reseller program. BluWave is looking for IT service providers to connect with to be part of this inevitable move to the cloud. Use the Bluwave CRM Solution to drive the adoption of cloud computing by your customers.

The advantages of joining the BluWave CRM reseller programme are:

- An added income stream
- The ability to offer customers a total solution for the cloud (hardware and software)
- Strengthened relationships with existing customers and easy acquisition of new ones
- Attracting new customers that you can now cross and upsell to.

For your customers, using BluWave CRM provides the following benefits:

- BluWave CRM is compatible with all tablet devices – Android, Apple iOS and Windows.
- BluWave CRM integrates to all calendaring programs including MS Outlook and web-based calendars such as Google Calendar.
- BluWave CRM has built-in email filing allowing users to capture incoming and outgoing emails as part of the CRM system.
- BluWave CRM web services allow web developers to integrate your customer's websites. Post enquiries from the website directly into the CRM leads database.
- BluWave CRM integrates automatically with Pastel and most local accounting solutions.

Both reseller and value-added resellers (VARs) programs are available, with BluWave Software offering full sales, implementation and training services to them.



For more information on how to join our reseller program, contact Tania on 011-462-6871, email tania@bluwave.co.za or visit their website: www.bluwave.co.za.

117.1 million. Number of tablets expected to ship globally during 2012.

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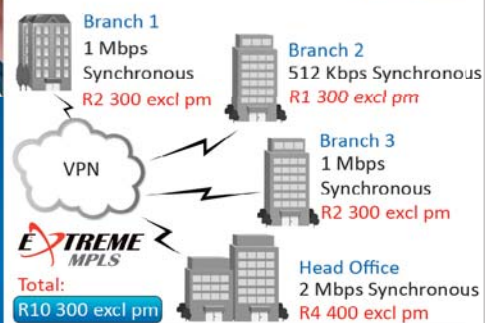
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VPN example



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- 2 Mbps Synchronous – R4 400 excl pm

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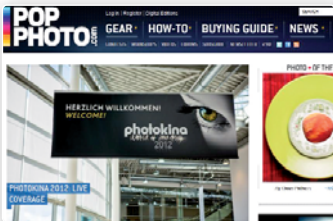
Web Time Wasters



What's your travel type

www.quiz.canada.travel

If you consider yourself a traveller, explorer or adventurer at heart, this site hosts a gentle, quick quiz that offers some insight into what travelling experience may best suit your particular style. The quiz spans 22 multiple choice questions, which takes a brief five minutes to complete, and then results in your 'type'. Travel types include cultural explorer, authentic experience, free spirit, no hassle traveller and virtual traveller, amongst others. For each type, it delineates travel values (such as comfort, luxury, immersing yourself in local cultural, experiencing natural beauty) and what attractions may offer the most appeal.



Popular Photography

www.popphoto.com

Since you are reading this issue, it's a fair assumption that, like many of us at TechSmart, you may well have more than a passing interest in photography. With that in mind, the website of the well established magazine, *Popular Photography*, hosts an exhaustive array of photographic related content. Articles on the latest cameras, how-to guides for some common photographic challenges, and photo galleries from which to draw photographic inspiration can all be found here. A buying guide for interchangeable lens cameras, compact cameras, and the all important lenses and unboxing videos of photographic products, also make an appearance.

Around the web

The iPhone 5: not the marketing video you think: bit.ly/i5promo
 Contacts, Vol. 1. The start of an excellent documentary about great photographers. bit.ly/contactsheetdoc
 Surfers dare massive waves: bit.ly/QzJNJt
 People are awesome: bit.ly/PKN4vd



Radiolab

www.radiolab.org

Radiolab is one of those internet gems which offers topics that are both thought-provoking, and unusual. The site, which bills itself as a show about curiosity, has a description that is no less alluring than the content found here, positioning itself "where sound illuminates ideas, and the boundaries blur between science, philosophy, and human experience". Visitors can elect to listen to podcasts, watch videos, or read written entries on topics such as the awe-inspiring power of nature, how to grow their brain, cities dissected, and the benefits of taking a break.



Philosophy Bites

www.philosophybites.com

What a delicious gourmet meal is to the body, thought provoking philosophy can be for the mind. With this 'in mind' Philosophy Bites offers quite a mental spread, courtesy of some of the leading philosophers, who expound on a variety of topics. Some of these include morality, free will, backward causation (where effects precede their cause) and decision making with regards to life and death situations. Podcast discussion of the above – and more – can be freely downloaded from the site, and the site further directs deep thinkers books from each of the philosophers, which can be bought online.

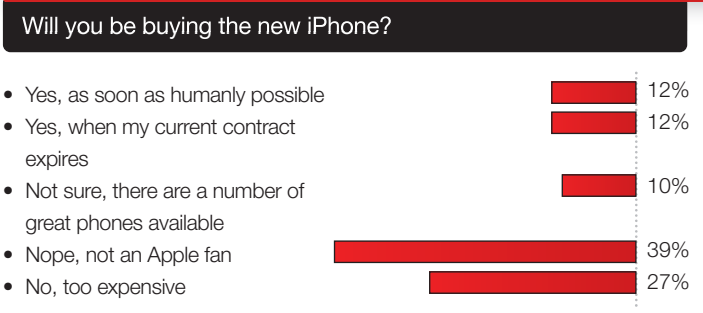
TechSmart's top tweets



Here are the tweets that struck our fancy last month

- 
Deep Fried Man @DeepFriedMan
 I'm staying up late tonight cutting disks of Australian rock bands. Yep, you could say I'm burning the Midnight Oil.
 Expand
- 
Khaya Dianga @khayadianga
 Samsung will announce the Galaxy S 4 in Feb - it will be bigger than the S3. In about 3 years, it will be as big as an iPad.
 Expand
- 
Glynn™ @Glynnryan
 Remember those days when having infrared was the in thing?
 Expand
- 
Tiego Modisagae @tiegodonas
 It's always a pleasure reading @TechSmartMag mag, the guys put stuff together nicely.
 Expand
- 
Sam Beckbessinger @greenham_sam
 Ad people: if you book those YouTube pre-roll ads you can't skip, you deserve to die. That is all.
 Expand
- 
Jacques Du Bruyn @jndub
 Forget the news, South Africa is the most amazing place in the world to live!
 Expand
- 
Will @WillyFerrell
 Sorry, your password must contain the entire alphabet, your left foot, a theme song to a television show, and the blood of your enemies.
 Expand
- 
Reuben Goldberg @RubyGold
 if iphone 5 doesn't have a built in toilet i'm giving up
 Expand
- 
Adam Carpenter @AdmanCarpainter
 I always enjoy when people refer to South Africa as "The Republic" - it makes me feel like I live in a Star Wars movie.
 Expand
- 
Ben Kelly @benedicktelly
 What to do when your designer decides to upgrade his OS on deadline? Death seems like the easy option.
 Expand

TechSmart.co.za online poll results



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To receive our newsletter: http://techsmart.co.za/user_registration

Apple iOS Apps of the month



CaptureNotes 2

As its name suggests, this R8 app enables one to capture text and written note, insert audio recordings and flag them according to whether their contents are urgent, important, research related, a task or to-do item. Users can further insert pictures, highlight key phrases in a variety of colours, while notes can be organised into different coloured binders. CaptureNotes 2 is essential for people on the go.

Expedia hotels

The newly updated and free Expedia hotels app enables one to search for great deals on hotels worldwide, as well as see and compare prevailing prices across various hotels. Each entry is accompanied by a number of exterior and interior images. Additionally, entries further show detailed information about available amenities, the full address, hotel policies such as check in and check out times, and most importantly, customer reviews.

SkyView 2.0

This R16 app brings astronomy within ready reach of one's iDevice, sporting a new interface for iPads. The app displays an augmented reality view of the sky, that can be employed from any position, as celestial bodies are rendered in 3D. The movement of the sun, moon or planets over the course of a day, while stars, and constellations can be easily identified. In app photos can also be shared via Facebook or Instagram. ❖

BlackBerry Apps of the month



Email++

Email++ is an Email plugin that displays a pop-up every time you receive an email, cutting down time of you having to go to your inbox to read the message. It includes a number of other capabilities, including the ability to un-send emails, while you're also able to "Convert To" – alter your emails into tasks, memos and or appointments. If you are serious about email, Email++ is a must for R33.

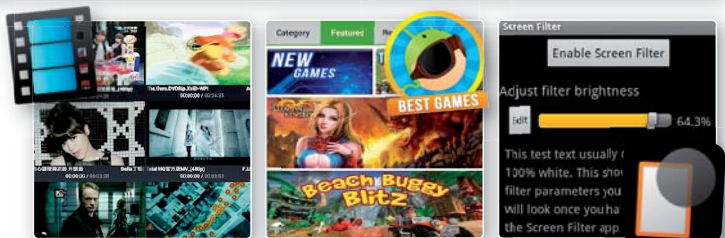
Asphalt 6

Good free racing games are few and far between for the BlackBerry platform. Lucky then for Gameloft's Asphalt 6: Adrenaline that allows you to race exotic cars and bikes including Lamborghinis, Ferraris and Ducatis. Besides the lengthy career mode, try out different challenges such as Time attack, drifting or take out your opposition in 'Beat em all'. Watch out for the cops though. If you need a break then Asphalt 6 is the one to get.

Daily Quote

Sometimes in life we need something inspirational to get us through the day. Daily quote provides access to thousands of inspirational and motivational quotes, which can be easily shared through BBM and email using one simple click. Daily quote has different features such as receiving the 'Quote of the day' straight to your BlackBerry, while it can be customised to suit your taste in the Options menu. [IF] ❖

Android Apps of the month



Super Video

We're big fans of Samsung's Pop-up Play functionality, and this app will cure some of the Galaxy S3 envy going around. Super Video is a pop-up video player, enabling users to watch movies stored on their smartphone and resize the playback window. This in turn allows users to multitask. You can also move the playback window onscreen, minimise it, or even watch two videos at the same time.

Applor

Love playing mobile games, but hate mining for hidden gems within the Google Play market's 600 000+ app library? Applor assist users to get to the best free games on the Play store. You can browse through a list of featured apps, do a category search, discover recommended games by Applor users or titles that other users are downloading most. A must have for mobile gamers.

Screen Filter

Our smartphones are the first thing we pick up in the morning, and the last thing we put down at night. The problem is that the default lowest brightness setting is often still too bright when reading/playing games in low light, often straining the eyes. Simply install the Screen Filter widget on an open screen and press when you need your screen to go darker, with the ability to adjust the filter brightness and even disable the annoying soft key backlights. ❖

Smartphone top tips

Struggling to master your new smartphone? TechSmart is on hand to provide some helpful tips.

Apple tip

It's a small setting that can make a big difference in the event of your iPad being stolen, and for several people, has not only led to their device being recovered, but tech-stupid thieves being nabbed. The key lies in ensuring that location services is always on, with this innocuous tab found under 'Settings'. Thus, missing iPads can be tracked and traced on a map using iOS's 'Find my iPad' feature. Under the same tab you can also select, or deselect, which apps can take advantage of location based services.

BlackBerry tip

Tip 1: While viewing email messages in your email inbox, just press the "C" letter to compose a new email message. Note that this only works with your email inbox and not SMS messages.

Tip 2: Do you want to switch apps quickly? Hold down Alt and the Escape key (also known as the Back key) – this will open the app switcher. Keep holding Alt, note every time you press the Escape key, the next application is highlighted in the list. This also cuts down time of using your trackpad.

Android tip

Owners of Android 4.0 (Ice Cream Sandwich) running handsets can access a hidden Android robot screensaver, by going to 'Settings', followed by 'About device'. Next, you simply repeatedly tap the 'About version' tab and a small Android mascot appears onscreen. Perform a long press on this mascot and the Flying Android screensaver will start. A pretty useless feature, but entertaining nonetheless. ❖

1 in 5 Android mobile device. Now utilising Android 4.0 (Ice Cream Sandwich).

Sci News



Sip shape

Raise your glass to science. According to a report in the journal *PLoS ONE*, the shape of your glass influences the rate at which you drink an alcoholic beverage. Researchers asked 160 social drinkers to drink either a beer or a soft drink from either a tall, straight-sided glass or a curved beer flute. The beer drinkers who

drank from the curved glasses finished their drinks almost twice as fast as the participants in the other group. During a follow-up task participants had to estimate volume from pictures of filled glasses and fast drinkers' estimates were less accurate than those from the slower group. The results suggest that it's more difficult to judge where the halfway mark is in a curved glass than on a straight one, and hence you're less aware of your drinking rate.



Riding the wave

Wave watching is not usually considered a science. Yet a close look at the characteristics of shallow-water waves at low tide resulted in a startling discovery. According to an article that recently appeared in the journal *Physical Review E*, waves regularly combine in a non-linear way once

thought to be only a very rare occurrence. Video analysis of interacting waves showed that when straight-line waves combine to form Y or X shapes, the height of the resulting crest is the product of the individual crests rather than their sum. An X-shaped wave can be seen on satellite images of the 2011 Japanese tsunami, which helps to explain its destructive power. Mathematical equations that describe this type of wave interaction may prove useful in predicting the impact of tsunamis. See how these waves form at bit.ly/hitthewaves.



Wings that won't break

Insect wings are more than they're cracked up to be it seems. In another *PLoS ONE* report, scientists explain that a network of criss-crossing veins can markedly strengthen flimsy insect wings. Initial tests on wings of desert locusts showed that the protein film that forms the wings is itself not very

resistant to wear and tear. However, video footage showed that cross veins stopped cracks dead in their tracks, thereby increasing the durability of the wing by up to 50%. Because cross veins are made from a heavier material than the wing film, a dense vein network could be at the expense of flight efficiency though. Further measurements, however, showed that the distance between veins is just enough to efficiently brake a crack's run without adding unnecessary weight. 🍀

Green News



BMW C Evolution electric scooter

BMW has showcased its latest electric scooter prototype, the C Evolution, which is able to compete head-on with its petrol-powered counterparts in terms of performance. The storage capacity of this e-scooter's high-voltage battery (8 kWh)

provides the two-wheeler with a class leading range of up to 100 km. This battery delivers a 11 kW continuous output and 35 kW peak output, translating to a top speed of 120 km/h and, according to the German luxury automaker, acceleration times comparable to current petrol-guzzling maxi scooters with engine capacities of 600 cc and higher.

Good thing then that the bike is equipped with equally effective stopping power in its high-performance brake system with ABS. Charging of the battery is done in just three hours via the e-scooter's integrated charging device. The C Evolution is being used by BMW as a prototype to showcase its green tech.



Eco solution for purifying water

A great number of people, especially on the African continent, do not have access to clean drinking water, putting them at risk from potentially dangerous bacteria in the water. This has prompted industrial design students Ryan Lynch and Marcus

Triest to come up with their Solar Bag prototype, a shoulder bag made from nylon that holds water within a polyethylene container that utilises the Sun's UV rays to decontaminate the life-giving liquid.

This bag was primarily designed for Sub-Saharan Africa, where villagers may travel for as long as ten hours on foot to get clean water. The pair asserts that they have potentially brought the purification process down to just six hours of the nearly nine and a half liters of water housed within the bag. Lynch and Triest are now looking for companies to help them manufacture it on a large scale.



Robots used to boost solar panel power generation

Unlike flowers, conventional solar panels do not rotate themselves according to the sun's path across the sky, meaning that these panels can only capitalise on the most direct rays for a

short period of time during the day. Solar power firm, Qbotix, is planning to change this with its first commercial prototype product dubbed SolBot.

SolBot is a set of mobile robots that are able to move on a track and pivot the panel that houses the solar panelling, enabling these to be turned to face the sun directly all day long. A single mobile robot is able to manage up to 200 panels, whilst each robot can also monitor the panel's power generation. 🍀

More cool science



Is online anger due to lack of eye contact?
bit.ly/eye4aneve

Philosophy vs. science: which can answer the big questions of life?
bit.ly/ScivsPhi

Tales from the Ig Nobel Prize
bit.ly/igtale

Green living tip of the month

Clean refrigerator gaskets and vacuum the condenser coils twice a year. Your refrigerator will operate more efficiently and use less electricity.

Taken from 23 tips for earth-friendly living, available at <http://bit.ly/23greenliving>



87 minutes. Average time the average Mxit users spends online each week.

Also in the office

We never have enough space to feature all the products that made an appearance in our office. Here are some quick thoughts on a few of them.



Adobe CS6 Master Collection software

Adobe latest Master Collection is a digital imaging *tour de force*. For photographers in particular, Photoshop CS6 is quite simply the best update yet, which given Photoshop's legacy, is saying a lot. Numerous new features, along with speed and usability improvements, makes CS6 the gold standard of

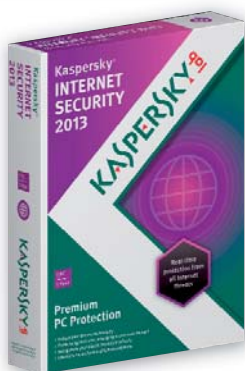
creative software that one can quite easily spend years learning and a lifetime mastering. R30 000, phone LivDigital on 010 590 9281.



Asus Nvidia GeForce GTX 680 graphics card

The GTX 680 was the very first GPU to sport Nvidia's 28-nanometer process technology for boosted performance and lower power consumption. This monster comes equipped with 2 GB of GDDR5 RAM, a 1 058 MHz graphics clock, 1 536 CUDA cores, which translates to buttery smooth gaming performance confirmed by

the 2 169 score within Heaven Benchmark 2.0. A worthy investment at R6 220. Phone LivDigital on 010 590 9281.



Kaspersky Lab Internet Security 2013

It seems like Kaspersky does not mess with something that works, with Internet Security 2013 retaining the look and feel of the previous version. New is a Safe Money feature that opens banking or money related sites in a secured browser, and an Automatic Exploit Prevention technology for protection against zero day exploits. One year no mess, no fuss protection for R260. Phone LivDigital on 010 590 9281.



VIU² remote monitoring system

The VIU² is a 3G enabled camera that streams live video to your Android or iOS device as soon as it picks up movement or sound. It's easy enough to set up, while you can also record to the cloud whatever the camera is picking up. It does need its own SIM and power supply though. R3 890 from Otto Marketing on 011-791-1033.



Lexmark OfficeEdge Pro4000 all-in-one printer

The OfficeEdge Pro4000 boasts a number of features to lure businesses away from the competition, such as Wi-Fi connectivity (802.11 n) and quick printing speeds (up to 21 ppm). Yours

for R2 430, but if you need additional functionality such as double-sided scanning, rather opt for the OfficeEdge Pro5500. Phone LivDigital on 010 590 9281.



LG D2542P Cinema 3D monitor

LG's D2542P display enables users to bring the 3D cinema experience home, since it doesn't only display 3D content, but can also convert 2D images into 3D. This 25" full HD (1 920 x 1 080) monitor sports a premium R3 760 price though, which is a lot more than you'll pay for a normal HD display and only worth it if 3D is a must-have feature. Phone LivDigital on 010 590 9281.

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Robotime – Educational Robots for kids

Robotime is a high-tech robot toys company providing affordable, innovative, imaginative, intelligent and interactive toy products which provide exceptional play value. Their revolutionary build-it-yourself robotic dinosaurs and solar kits offer children an educational experience with a fantastic play aspect.



Angry Birds USB Flash Drives

The EMTEC Angry Birds USB Flash Drive series features the characters from the popular Rovio game for touchscreen phones and tablets. Each Angry Birds character is available in 8GB size only.



Wireless Rain Gauge

This high-tech wireless rain gauge displays daily rainfall amounts, nine-day historical record and total rainfall. The unit has a high daily rainfall alarm and not only measures but also eliminates collected precipitation via the self-emptying rain collector.



Efergy – Energy Monitoring Socket

The energy monitoring socket allows you to connect your appliances and assess how efficient they are by showing you not only the amount of power they are consuming but also how much they are costing. A large LCD display counts consumption by the Kilowatt-hour, just like utility companies.



Magic Wand Portable Scanner

The very portable "Magic Wand" scanner from VuPoint Solutions is designed for copying images from books or documents with thick or fragile spines that don't allow them to be folded back for placement on a flatbed scanner. It's also useful for scanning pages that are located a long way from your office. Files are stored on a MicroSD card for transfer to your PC later.



Windup Tin Robots

Exclusively for the collector! Playthings takes you back in time, so enter the retro world of these classic tin robot toys, from Space Trooper to Chief Smokey and all in between. They are adorable and ready for you to start (or add) to your collection...



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Tekken Tag Tournament 2

The King of tag team fighting games

Namco Bandai has taken more than a decade to deliver the sequel to the original two-on-two, team-based fighting game, Tekken Tag Tournament, but can the progeny fill the class-leading fighting boots of that classic title?



Tekken Tag Tournament 2's (TTT2) battle is off to a great start, as it boasts a massive playable roster of 50 characters and a lengthy library of fighting moves (more than 100) for each. Within TTT2, experience points you earn throughout the game can now be used as virtual currency, allowing you to customise the look of your favourite characters by purchasing new clothing items and accessories.

Looks good, fights good

Graphically, TTT2 is not only the best looking fighting title in the series, but also the most attractive fighting game. Period. Sublimely modelled characters and arenas are complemented by cinematic cut scenes that punch above their weight.

In terms of gameplay, TTT2 remains extremely accessible for white belt novices due to its pick-up-and-play mechanics (standard Tekken controls fair), but doubles the fighting fun courtesy of its two-on-two premise. It is remarkable how much of a change this makes, as you are able to pick two fighters with totally different styles that compliment each other's weaknesses.

"Tekken Tag Tournament 2 is not only the best looking fighting title in the series, but also the most attractive fighting game period."

The Tag system now also incorporates Tag Assaults, which involve both of your characters teaming up to perform an attack on one of your opponents. A type of Tag Assault is Tag Throws, with one character holding the foe's arms behind his back for instance, whilst the other runs in to perform a flying kick.

Chemistry in the Fight Lab

Experienced Tekken campaigners will be able to use these Tag Assaults to inflict maximum damage to challengers, whilst newcomers can employ the Practice- and newly added Fight Lab modes to close the skills gap. Whereas the Practice mode is the virtual equivalent of a kata, enabling you to perfect all the moves of your favourite tag team, Fight Lab is more like sparring sessions schooling amateurs in all the fighting mechanics that make up TTT2 including special moves as well as combos and more importantly, when and how to use these during a fight.

To the point

TTT2 is a significant step up from the original game, with the updated graphics, Fighting Lab and new tag moves all playing a role in ensuring that this sequel karate chops all usurpers to the tag team throne. RRP: R600 [HD] 🍀

TechSmart's To Do List for October



To watch



Moonrise Kingdom

19 October

With a cast starring Bruce Willis, Edward Norton and Harvey Keitel, one would think *Moonrise Kingdom* might be the latest action blockbuster. Luckily that's not the case, since this is the latest from certainly one of the most brilliant minds in modern cinema – Wes Anderson. Anderson (*The Royal Tenenbaums*, *The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou*) brings together an ensemble cast that tells the tale of a boy and girl who run away together, and in so doing, shake up the local town. It should be offbeat comedy at its best, and if you need yet another reason to go watch it, try this – Bill Murray.



Frankenweenie

26 October

A Tim Burton (*Alice in Wonderland*, *Mars Attacks!*) film not starring Johnny Depp nor Helena Bonham Carter? How unique, and about time if you ask us. If anything, the stop-motion *Frankenweenie* should be a whole lot of fun, telling the tale of a boy that brings his dearly departed dog Sparky back to life. There are consequences to this resurrection though, although we're quite sure they are not in line with say, the dark and disturbing *Pet Cemetery*.



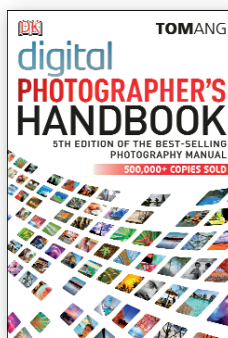
The Campaign

26 October

In *The Campaign* we find the gods of comedy smiling on us, seeing that it stars not only the amazing Will Ferrell (*Anchorman*, *The Other Guys*), but also one of our favourites, Zach Galifianakis (*The Hangover*, *Due Date*). Coinciding with election year in the US, the story is quite apt – a big idiot and a giant moron are running against each other for a seat in Congress. With comedy stalwart Jay Roach (*Austin Powers*, *Meet the Fockers*) at the helm, *The Campaign* should provide more than a few guffaws.



To read



Digital Photographer's Handbook

Tom Ang - R350. Penguin.

With this being our Digital Imaging issue, having Tom Ang's *Digital Photographer's Handbook* as our book of choice, seems quite apt. When starting off on your photographic journey, it helps to lay a solid foundation regarding knowledge of composition, lighting, depth of field and exposure control. *Digital Photographer's Handbook* is now in its fifth edition, and with more than 500 000 copies sold, Ang has clearly proved his mettle as a photography instructor. Defying purists, the book carries a large amount of information on image development and manipulation via PC, but we would have loved to have seen a chapter dedicated to famous photographers as well as certain EXIF data (shooting information), such as f-stop, shutter speed and lens used, accompanying each of his photos. 🍀



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