

SA's LARGEST TECH MAGAZINE

tech smart

FREE!

Issue 113
February 2013
ISSN 1726-3358

The best of CES 2013
See what gadgets are coming



Beats Beatbox
Sound on the go



Sony Xperia Z
The phone to regenerate Sony?



The Tech Savvy Issue



HIGH SPEED COLOUR LASER SOLUTIONS



MFC-9970CDW WIRELESS



MFC-9460CDN



HL-4570CDW WIRELESS



HL-4150CDN

- Lower printing costs with super high yield ink cartridges
- Up to 28 pages per minute
- Network connectivity
- Automatic duplex printing
- Shared consumables across the range
- Separate toners and drum
- iPrint&Scan



Visit www.brother.co.za to view our full product range.

print • copy • scan • fax • label...and more

www.brother.co.za





Right here, right now

I was becoming a bit addicted to Reddit.com, so when I drowned my HTC while fly-fishing, it was as good a time as any to go cold-turkey. Listening to the echoes on Twitter soon followed, joining News24, IOL and Times Live that I gave up last year.

Disconnecting like that made me realise how much of a reality the internet, social networks and constant news feeds actually create. In most cases, the concerns, misgivings, fears, happiness and joys divulged in this virtual world, were not my own, but emotionally it still had an effect. So, in this age of the internet, what if our most important commodity is not this shared sphere of interaction, but rather what Terence McKenna refers to as "the felt presence of immediate experience"? Fatboy Slim actually boils it down to the essence – being "Right here, right now."

Fighting against my Reddit addiction is going well, but oh how I miss pictures of Grumpy Cat...

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

kobo

Touch the future of eReading

Exclusive to

Pick n Pay smart shopper **PLUS EARN POINTS**

995⁰⁰ Each

Kobo eReader Assorted Colours

#1 RATED EREADER – WIRED MAGAZINE 2012

"The most natural e ink reader we've ever used."
– *Wired Magazine*

Always there for you

PRICE VALID 1 FEBRUARY - 28 FEBRUARY 2013 AT SELECTED PICK N PAY HYPERS AND SELECTED PICK N PAY SUPERMARKETS

EXCLUDING BOTSWANA, NAMIBIA, SWAZILAND, LESOTHO, EXPRESS AND DAILY STORES.

Pick n Pay endeavours to meet the demand for these promotional items, but stocks are limited. Some stores may not stock some of these products. Please check availability: 0800 11 22 88 (toll free landline only. Cellphone rates apply). We strive to ensure all printed information is correct, but will not be liable for any print errors that may occur. Advertised prices are inclusive of VAT where applicable. We reserve the right to limit quantities. **smart shopper terms and conditions apply.** Certain products are excluded from the smart shopper programme, please see in store or go online for more details.

Contents



4-6 CES 2013

The past Consumer Electronics Show 2013 was a good indication of what hot new gadgets are heading our way.

14 Sony Xperia Z

Is the new water-resistant Xperia Z with its full-HD screen the flagship that Sony needs to stay relevant?

17 Canon EOS M

At last we got to spend some time with Canon's mirrorless EOS M camera. Impressive image quality and an easy to use touch-screen made for a decent photographic experience.

22 Beats Beatbox

Dr Dre and his colleagues at Beats continue with their hot on-the-go sound, this time with the portable Beatbox. We turned the volume up to 11.

Need your Tech fix faster? Join us now on

Twitter: @techsmartmag

Facebook: facebook.com/techsmartmag

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

Copyright © 2013. All rights reserved. No material, text or photographs may be reproduced, copied or in any other way transmitted without the written consent of the publisher. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the publisher or of the editor. We recognise all trademarks and logos as the sole property of their respective owners. TechSmart shall not be liable for any errors or for any actions in reliance thereon. All prices were correct at time of going to print.

TechSmart
Editor print & online
Mike Joubert > 083-290-2889
michael@techsmart.co.za
Advertising / Agencies
Karien Steenkamp > 083-748-3413
karien@smartpublishing.co.za
Contributors
Mike Joubert [MJ], Hanleigh Daniels [HD], Ryan Noik [RN], Linda Pretorius [LP], Ismail Fadal [IF]
Designer
Brett Wilson
Accounts & subscriptions
Ronel Keet > 012-342-5141
accounts@techsmart.co.za
Distribution queries
marlien@smartpublishing.co.za

Smart Publishing
General manager
Anneke Claassen > 083-301-9134
anneke@smartpublishing.co.za
Business manager
George Grobler
george@smartpublishing.co.za
Print media manager
Suzanne van Niekerk
suzanne@smartpublishing.co.za

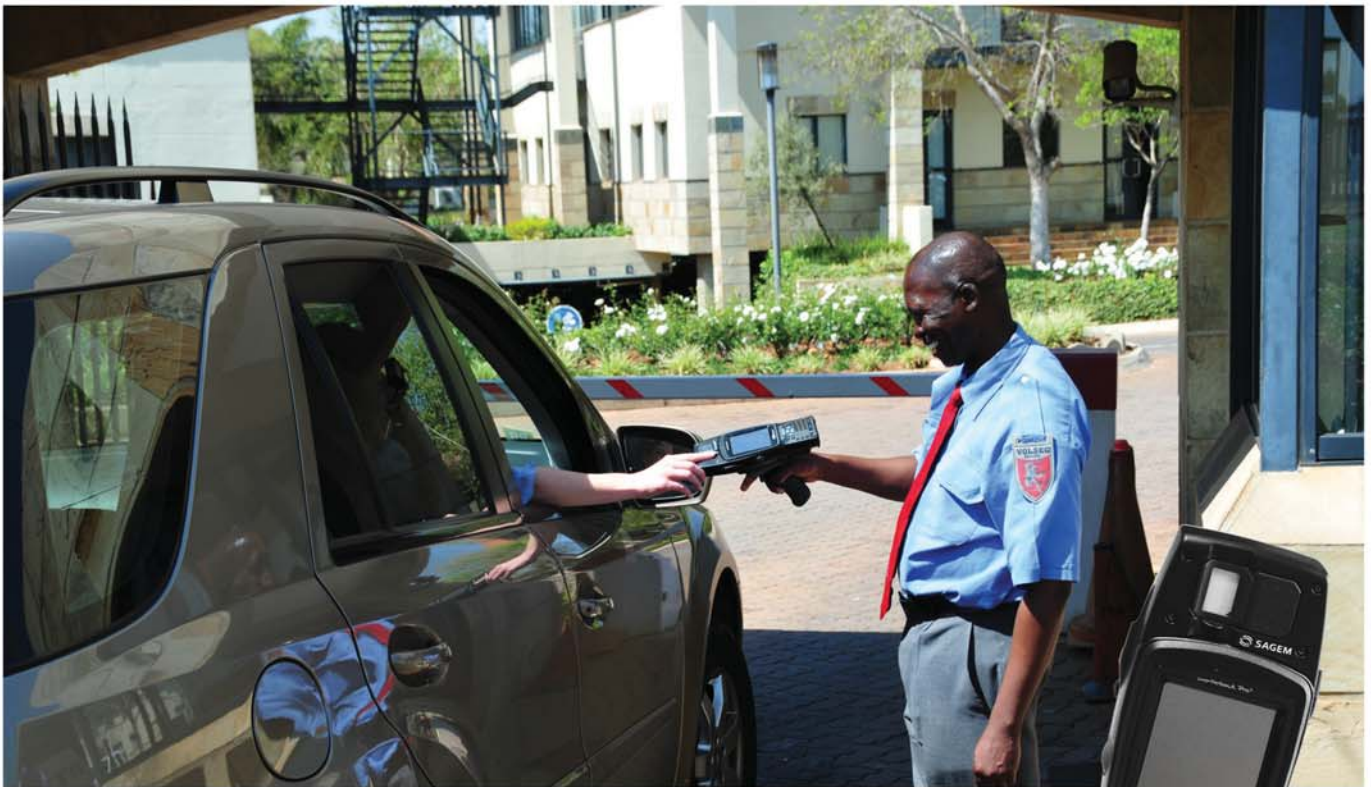
abc
74 384 average copies per month
Consumer: Male [Oct – Dec] 2012

BluWave
SOFTWARE
TechSmart uses
BluWave CRM.



SMARTPUBLISHING
FREE MEDIA SPECIALISTS

Tel: 012-342-5141
977 Francis Baard Street, Arcadia, PTA
www.smartpublishing.co.za



- 📍 Manage visitors responsibly
- 📍 Track processes effectively
- 📍 Verify Identities remotely
- 📍 Record transactions timeously
- 📍 Know **who** did **what, where** and **when**



EVIM solution is ideal for use at boom gates and security check points, replacing the old paper based process with an integrated digital record. Fingerprints are used to verify the identities linking the person with the transaction.

Verifying Identities ✓ Deterring crime ✓ Increasing security ✓ Building an ID trail ✓



0861 0 IDECO (43326)
contact@ideco.co.za
www.ideco.co.za

Building profitable partnerships

Top Tech Titbits



Telkom lowers uncapped ADSL pricing

Telkom has emerged as the unlikely bearer of good tidings for internet-dependent general users and businesses alike. As of this month, the company is reducing the prices of its uncapped offerings, with existing and new users benefiting from price reductions of up to 40% for consumer uncapped products and up to 35% for business uncapped products. For example, a 4 Mb do Uncapped Premium account will now cost the same as a 2 Mb do Uncapped Advanced did last month.



Gartner: Structural shift for PC market coming

How much are tablets changing the market? According to market analytics company Gartner, quite a bit, since a structural shift for the PC market is on the horizon. Gartner thinks that buyers will not

replace secondary PCs in the household, instead allowing them to age out and shift consumption to a tablet. The company asserts that this transformation was triggered by the availability of compelling low-cost tablets in 2012, and will continue until the installed base of PCs declines to accommodate tablets as the primary consumption device.



Apple starting to lose its shine?

During the crucial holiday shopping season (Q4 2012), Apple managed to sell 47.8 million iPhones, a lot less than the forecasted average of 50 million devices. Unlike previous years when Cupertino outdone analysts' expectations, the firm's \$54.5 billion revenue came in lower than the forecasted figure of \$54.9 billion, whilst profits 'only' managed to match the previous year's \$13.1 billion. This fiscal performance saw Apple's stock drop 10% as it shed a staggering \$50 billion from its market value, losing its place as the world's most valuable firm to Exxon Mobil in the process.



Privacy a strong concern for Facebook Graph

Social networking behemoth Facebook (FB) recently unveiled its new site-based search tool dubbed Graph Search (GS). Although FB asserted that GS is being developed with

privacy in mind, a number of concerns have been raised about GS. A new blog – actualfacebookgraphsearches.tumblr.com – has revealed how easy it is to discover personal info about users via GS; however the social networking firm maintains that only the info you choose to make public on FB will be accessible via GS. ❖

Hot New Products



Bentley Continental GT Speed Convertible

Bentley calls the new Continental GT Speed Convertible the world's fastest four-seater drop-top, and we are inclined to believe it considering this car's powerful twin-turbocharged 6.0-litre W12 engine that churns out 460 kW and 800 Nm of torque between 2000 and 5000 RPM. This enables the British cabriolet to rocket its sizable 2900 kg frame to 100 km/h in just over four seconds onto a 325 km/h top end. This luxurious drop-top is making its way to local shores by Q3 2013 for an equally luxurious price of around R3.8 million.



Tag Heuer Carrera MP4-12C Chronograph

In need of a wristwatch that can get as much envious looks as your multi-million rand supercar? Look no further than the Tag Heuer Carrera MP4-12C Chronograph, which draws design inspiration from the McLaren MP4-12C supercar after which it is named. Only 1000 of these super watches are available worldwide exclusively from McLaren's online eShop and dealerships for \$14 950.



Canon PowerShot N

Some more of the weird and wonderful that emerged from the Consumer Electronics Show held last month in Las Vegas (see p17 for more), is Canon's PowerShot M (\$300). Gone are the buttons and dials usually found on a camera, with all tinkering done on the 2.7" LCD tilt-screen at the back. Its real benefit is its Wi-Fi connectivity that

allows you to pair it easily with a smartphone to share images on the move.



Samsung S9 UHD (4K) TV

Samsung has showcased its S9 ultra HD (4K, 3840 x 2160 pixels) TV for those who require a Hulk-sized HDTV with the highest picture quality to match. S9 screen sizes start from 85" and goes up to 110", with the set's 4K resolution complemented by 2.2 channel, 120 watt sound. No local release info is available yet, but in South Korea you can order one for around R400 000. ❖

Consumer Electronic Show 2013: VIVA LAS VEGAS



From currently out of reach but stunningly gorgeous ultra high definition TVs, to some genuinely innovative products, the annual premier Consumer Electronics Show, held in Las Vegas, amazed with remarkable products. Here are some of the highlights.

TABLETS

Polaroid M7 and M10



Tablets at this year's CES were all about the price, and for Polaroid, it was also about staying relevant. Thus, the company aimed to capture tablet-lovers attention, with an unbelievably affordable tablet duo – namely the \$229 (R1 900) 10" M10 and the \$129 (R1 100) 7" M7.

Specs wise, the fare is familiar: the Android 4.1 Jelly Bean OS; and a dual-core processor and 8 GB of internal storage for the Wi-Fi only M7, and a quad-core CPU and 16 GB of internal storage on the Wi-Fi and 3G M10. While the display is a middling 1280 x 800 resolution, to its credit it does offer a microSD slot for expanding its storage.

Asus MeMO Pad



What is Cherry Red, Sugar White and on its way here? Asus' 7" MeMO Pad. Given the success of the Nexus 7, it was almost a foregone conclusion that the similarly sweetly priced MeMO Pad would see the light of day.

Preliminary slated to retail in the US at the \$150 (R1 245) price point, it should similarly appeal to those looking for an affordable 7" Android 4.1 (Jelly Bean) tablet. As for its specs, they include a not too shabby 1 GHz VIA WM8950 CPU, a Mali-400 GPU and 1 GB of RAM. Its LED-backlit display offers an OK-ish 1024 x 600 resolution, 140-degree wide viewing angles, and a commendable 350-nit brightness. Like Polaroid's offerings, the MeMO Pad will similarly allow users to expand the 16 GB of internal storage by up to 32 GB via a microSD card slot.

Panasonic's 20" tablet



It may not be something Joe Public ever uses, but Panasonic's 20" tablet, with its 4K (ultra HD) screen, still had tongues wagging nonetheless, with some wondering whether it was a tablet, or a table. The device nonetheless can apparently display an A3 sized document in full size. Clarifying that this one wasn't meant to be lugged onto a plane or train by your average user, it was instead aimed at designers, architects, engineers and publishers for whom apparently the need for a bigger display outweighs the desire for portability or mobility.

1 million. Amount of Surface tablets Microsoft reportedly sold during Q4 2012, amounting to about 5% of Apple's iPad sales during the same period.

ULTRABOOKS AND NOTEBOOKS

Samsung Series 7 Chronos and Series 7 Ultra



Samsung's updated 15.6" Chronos 7 refresh is a heavy duty notebook with the specs to prove it – namely an Intel quad-core i7 processor with up to 16 GB of memory, and dedicated 2 GB of graphics memory along with up to 1 TB of storage. Rather than stop there, Sammy then played it again by bringing an ultrabook to the Series 7 range. This, in the form of the 13.3" Series 7 Ultra, which similarly boasts a full HD display, Intel Core i5 or i7 processors and up to 16 GB of memory, along with a 256 GB SSD.

Lenovo ThinkPad Helix



Lenovo's latest, the 'rip and flip' ThinkPad Helix, were amongst the business focused ultrabook offerings that caught our eye. Continuing on the path of innovative design, the 11.6" Helix can twist itself into different configurations since it boasts a detachable full HD screen, enabling it to be used as a tablet. Beneath its supple exterior, the Helix also proved to have a healthy heart – up to a third-gen Intel Core i7 processor – as well as a 256 GB SSD drive, while able to 'keep on keeping on' for a good ten hours on a single charge. Optional LTE and Near Field Communication connectivity are also available.

TVs

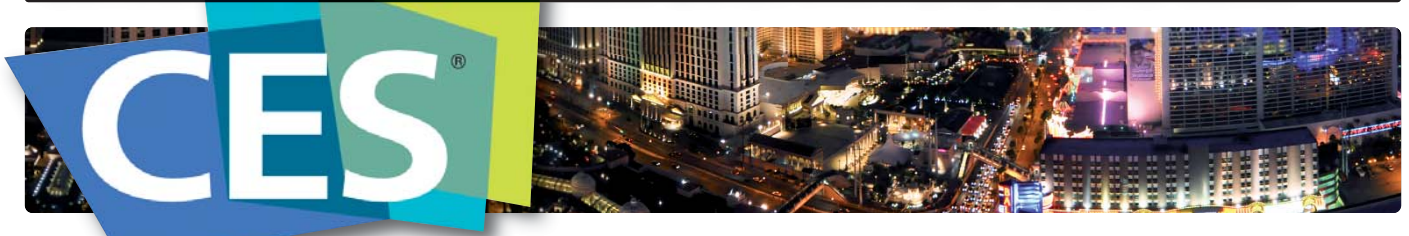
Sony 4K OLED 56" TV

In certain respects though, this year's show focused quite firmly on a domain close to many a technophile's heart – the ever-present TV. Now that the 3D buzz has died down, the newest and latest emphasis is on 4K screens, or ultra HD, which offer double the resolution of HD sets (8 million individual pixels and a resolution of 3840 x 2160) with the small caveat that they carry a heart attack inducing pricetag, and thus are largely out of reach for general users at the moment. Nonetheless, Sony, Samsung and LG all dutifully rolled out their offerings. It was Sony though, that was largely considered to have won this fight with its 56" 4K OLED TV, debuting an impressive prototype 4K TV with an OLED screen (no small feat amongst other 4K offerings). Despite the fact that it was also accompanied by the show's most cringeworthy moment, in which its presentation was marred by a technical glitch that left crowds looking at a blue 'screen of death' on a still beautiful 56" screen. The TV itself offered a glimpse into the not too distant future of vibrant TV images that puts even current HD offerings to shame.



671 million. Number of smartphones shipped globally during 2012, according to Juniper Research.

Consumer Electronic Show 2013: VIVA LAS VEGAS cont.



PROCESSORS

Quad-core becomes the smartphone norm

In the mobile processor front, Nvidia kicked things off by unveiling its long awaited Tegra 4 that boasts an unchanged quad-core plus one battery saver-core CPU layout. Not all stays the same though, since thanks to the new Cortex-A15-architecture, processing performance has been upped 2.6 times compared to the Cortex-A9-based Tegra 3. More dramatic is the boost in graphics performance, with the new 72-core GeForce GPU packing six times the graphical horsepower of Tegra 3's 12-core GPU.

No to be outdone, Qualcomm pulled the wraps off its Snapdragon 800 series and 600 processors. The Snapdragon 800 series features a 2.3 GHz quad-core CPU and Adreno 330 GPU that Qualcomm states offers up to 75% better performance than the Snapdragon S4 Pro, which powers Google's Nexus 4 smartphone. The company's Snapdragon 600 processor features a 1.9 GHz quad-core CPU and Adreno 320 GPU. Both the Tegra 4 and Qualcomm processors supports ultraHD (4096 x 2304, aka 4K) screen resolution and LTE (4G) connectivity.

Unlike its rival processor makers, Samsung opted to one-up the quad-core norm with its new Exynos 5 Octa chip that doubles it to eight cores. Whilst the processing power of this new chip might put it in a league of its own, the GPU it is reportedly paired with, is only comparable to current generation mobile devices.



GAMING

Razer Edge




Razer's new PC gaming tablet skated into to CES on the edge of glory, as those who thought PC gaming is a dying gaming form or limited to massive gaming rigs, clearly proved that there is plenty of innovation that PC gamers can look forward to.

The device liberates PC players from their rigs, by combining a hand-holdable 10.1" tablet form factor with console-like controls – and the capacity to play full PC titles in HD glory on the tablet's screen. In the specs department, the innovative gamer-focused offering is no slouch. The base model, the Razer Edge, will boast an Intel Core i5 processor, Nvidia GT 640M LE GPU, 4 GB of memory and a 64 GB solid state drive, while the premium model, the Razer Edge Pro, will up the ante to include an Intel Core i7 processor, 8 GB of memory and either a 128 GB or 256 GB SSD. The tablet has made such an impression that technology network CNET awarded its Best of CES award.

Nvidia Shield



Chalk this one up to surprise of the show, as Nvidia stepped into the portable gaming console arena, not with a sword, but with a Shield of its own. The mighty graphics card company's handheld console, which has a 5", 1280 x 720 (294 dpi) HD multitouch display, is able to play Android games, as well as stream titles from PCs with a Nvidia GeForce GTX graphics card onboard. Not surprisingly, the core of Project Shield is the newly announced mobile processor, the Nvidia Tegra 4, while its storage can be bolstered by microSD cards.

It apparently marries Android and PC gaming with the console's influence in a slightly different way as Razer's offering, as the bottom half of, and its control scheme, will be very familiar to anyone who has ever held an Xbox 360 controller. 

200 million. Number of smartphones shipments in the fourth quarter of last year, with Samsung devices accounting for one in three shipments for the year.



I would follow you
to the edges of the Internet...
but first, show me some love
... protect me with **all-in-one**
internet security

Listen to your computer



ESET® SMART SECURITY 6

- Antivirus and Antispyware
- Anti-Theft
- Personal Firewall
- Antispam
- Parental Control



www.eset.co.za



Are fears of digital device theft justified?

ESET SURVEY SAYS YES!

Everyone knows that notebooks, tablets and smartphones are hot property for thieves. Many readers probably own at least one, if not all of these digital devices. So should you be concerned about yours being pinched, pilfered, peculated, purloined, or in other words, stolen? Based on the survey that ESET internet security recently conducted, the answer is a resounding “Yes”.

The survey* found that 1 in 10 device-owning adults reported experiencing at least one device theft. When you think about how much confidential personal and sensitive company data there are on the various mobile computing devices that we use, the idea of having a device stolen is frightening. But where are these device thefts occurring?

Devices stolen from cars

According to the experiences of ESET’s survey respondents, the single most likely crime scene for the theft of notebooks, smartphones or tablets, is the car, cited by 21%. Following closely is the home, mentioned by 18%. Also dodgy are airports, trains, buses, and other public transportation (11.5%). Dining out can be equally dangerous for digital devices. Somewhat surprisingly, at just 7%, the office is less of a hot bed of portable computer crime than you might expect.

Losing a digital device is usually a huge pain for the device owner, but the numbers from ESET’s survey raise information security

concerns that go beyond the owner of the device to impact people and organisations whose data may be compromised by the theft. A stolen device not only harbours data but also contains, in most cases, credentials with which to access other systems, which criminals may then seek to abuse. Think of your email accounts, social media accounts, bank and shopping accounts.

ESET now featuring Anti-Theft tracking
With ESET Smart Security 6, the new Anti-Theft feature tracks and locates missing notebooks. When you mark your notebook as missing, ESET Anti-Theft will automatically connect with the missing device when it goes online and perform the following actions:

1. Reboot the device, hide your user accounts and log into the Phantom Account
2. Protect your personal data
3. Collect data on the device location, webcam pictures and screen snapshots
4. Send the data to my.eset.com

Users are also able to send a one-way message to the missing notebook, or even paste gathered webcam pictures or desktop snapshots as a background.

ESET Mobile Security – ready to protect
For smartphones, ESET Mobile Security features Remote Wipe to delete all personal information stored on the unit; SIM matching that notifies allocated contacts when an unauthorised SIM is inserted in your device; and Remote Lock that blocks access to data. ESET Mobile Security for Android also features GPS Localisation to track your phone by a remote command. 🌟

**Survey based on a poll conducted online within the United States between 2-4 January 2013 among 2126 adults, aged 18 and over.*

For more information on ESET products and services, or to purchase directly, visit www.eset.co.za.

Livdigital
.co.za

Best

deals

Special offers exclusive to TechSmart readers at shop.livdigital.co.za



+FREE
backpack!

Core i5 power house HP Pavilion DV6

Intel Core i5 Processor 3rd generation, 6GB Memory, 750GB Hard Drive, **2GB dedicated graphics**, DVD-RW Drive, 15.6" Display, Windows 7 Home Premium

TechSmart readers price (incl VAT, while Stocks Last):

Was R7,999 **Now R6,999**
Incl. Free Delivery



Windows 8 workhorse Lenovo G580

Limited Stock

Pentium Dual Core B950, 4GB Memory, 500GB Hard Drive, DVD-RW Drive, 15.6" Display, Windows 8

TechSmart readers price (incl VAT, while Stocks Last):

Was R4,499 **Now R3,999** Incl. Free Delivery

Ultimate gamer laptop Lenovo Z580 Quad Core

Limited Stock

Intel 3rd Gen Core i7, 8GB Memory, 1TB Hard Drive, 2GB dedicated graphics, DVD-RW Drive, Windows 8

TechSmart readers price (incl VAT, while Stocks Last):

Was R9,999 **Now R7,999**
Incl. Free Delivery
Use Promotion Code: **Liv580a**



Buy online at shop.livdigital.co.za



If you have any questions call us at **010 590 9281**
or send us an e-mail at deals@LivDigital.co.za

Terms & Conditions shop.livdigital.co.za/terms_and_conditions

Livdigital
.co.za



Asus Zenbook Prime Touch

Asus' Zenbook ultrabook has made a reappearance, now in the form of the Zenbook Prime Touch. This time lathered with Windows 8 and a touchscreen. Can it still win our hearts?



On the design front, the ultrabook looks and feels just as fantastic as we remembered it from the end of 2011, with an all metal, chrome and black colour scheme that looks modern and attractive. More importantly, its thin profile (18 mm) and light weight (1.3 kg) is complemented by an exceptionally solid

build, which means the ultrabook oozes quality. The chiclet keyboard and generously sized trackpad fare no worse; the brightly backlit keys exhibit just the right amount of depth and springiness to impress. As this is a Windows 8 device, the notable difference between last year's Zenbook and the Zenbook Prime Touch is the screen and the operating system.

The Zenbook Prime Touch's 1920 x 1080 touchscreen looks sublime.

Eye of the beholder

This time round, its full HD IPS display is glossier, and thus more reflective, than what we remember from the Zenbook. That being said, the display's 1920 x 1080 resolution (165 ppi) looks sublime, colours are exceptionally vivid and saturated (photographers, take note), with the added benefit of it being touch-enabled. It goes without saying that watching videos on the

device is a treat, and the audio is well served by the Bang & Olufsen speakers, offering up loud, clear and crisp sound. Two USB 3.0 ports, an SD card slot and micro HDMI are all onboard.

Specs wise, it is the high-end, third-generation Intel Sandy Bridge Core i7 processor (i7-3517U) doing performance duty here, aided by 4 GB of DDR 3 memory, and a 256 GB solid state drive, which accounts for both the storage and fast boot up times (a mere eight seconds from powered off). Along with a slender brown sleeve in the box, there are also adapters that cater to VGA and Ethernet ports, and an appreciably small and light power adapter.

To the point

Admittedly, we have not given Windows 8 the warmest reception around our office (for several good reasons), however, if there is an ultrabook that may just thaw our hearts to the new OS, the Zenbook Prime Touch could very well be it. It is that good, and it once again, has won us over, except for its pricey RRP of R20 000. [RN] 🍌

ASUS recommends Windows 8.

ASUS[®]
Inspiring Innovation • Persistent Perfection



ASUS ZENBOOK™ Touch

FOR ALL OF US WHO SEE BEAUTY IN THE CHALLENGE
World's First Ultrabook with Full High Definition Display

ASUS ZENBOOK™ THE INCREDIBLE ULTRABOOK™. INSPIRED BY INTEL.

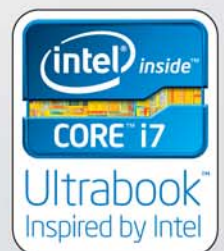
As thin as it is light. As simple as it is elegant. As powerful as it is stunning. The ZENBOOK™ powered by the Intel® Core™ i7 processor, with Windows 8, is designed to not only move right along with us but to take us even further. Where will it take you?

See beauty unfold at insearchofincredible.com



Intel, the Intel Logo, Intel Inside, Intel Core, and Core Inside are trademarks of Intel Corporation in the U.S. and other countries.

The incredible Ultrabook™ - Inspired by Intel



Acer overhauls its M Series ultrabooks



When Acer launched its Aspire U M3 back in the middle of last year, it caused a few raised eyebrows, as we pondered the larger than average ultrabook. Now, the whole of the company's M Series have received an overhaul, as Acer aims to bring the Windows 8 touch experience to mainstream users.

The new ultrabooks, which are robed in an aluminium alloy chassis for increased durability, offer 10-point touch – as expected from a Windows 8 machine – in a frameless HD display. According to the company, the latter will provide a larger viewing area for a fuller web browsing experience as well as greater multimedia enjoyment.

Additionally, users can look forward to the latest Intel Core processors (the new Sandy Bridge architecture), which is complemented by a discrete graphics solution in the form of the Nvidia GeForce GT 640M GPU. This, Acer asserted, will afford users both flawless streaming of internet videos and movies, while also enabling users to play graphics-intensive games without compromise.

Staying true and flouting convention

Despite its high performance, gaming-ready credentials, the machine will apparently remain true to the thinner and lighter ultrabook ethos, as the M Series ultrabooks will weigh in at 2.1 kg and have a 20 mm profile. This despite the fact that, like the Aspire U M3, Acer's newest offerings will similarly flout convention by offering an optical drive, along with a chiclet keyboard and a numeric keypad.

Additionally, the latest range will boast Green Instant-On, which Acer claims enables them to be ready for action, and resume from sleep mode, in a mere 1.5 seconds. In addition, Instant Connect reconnects to favourite access points in 2.5 seconds.

To the point

Most important for any mobile device though, is its battery life. On this front, the company is promising that users can count on a good eight hours worth off a single charge.

Our experience has been that Acer's Timeline notebooks have generally been commendable for their battery life, so if the company's claims bear fruit, then the new ultrabooks will certainly be worth keeping a close eye on, particularly for both road warriors and gamers on the go.

Prices for the new Windows 8 touch-enabled M series are still to be determined.

Toshiba Excite 10 (AT300)



Toshiba certainly knows how to make solid devices, and its Excite 10 tablet – also called the AT300 – is ample testimony to this fact. The big question is, in lieu of Android Jelly Bean devices and Retina displays, can an Android 4.0 (Honeycomb) tablet still impress?

To start with, the tablet certainly inspires confidence from a build perspective, being reassuringly solid, and at 9 mm, thin enough in one's hand. A very nice, stippled aluminium back further makes it comfortable to hold for long periods, which is aided by the Excite 10's weight of 599 g – certainly a lot lighter than their previous effort, the AT100's 765 g.

While it boasts a 10.1" scratch resistant screen, the Excite 10 feels somewhat more compact than other 10.1" devices that have crossed our path, a factor which certainly counts in its favour when holding it in one hand.

A considerable differentiating factor is the presence of expandable storage via a full-sized SD card slot.

Tough enough

Despite only having a 1280 x 800 resolution (149 ppi), in use we had few complaints about the screen, which offered up deep, saturated colours. Moreover, the Excite 10's sound is satisfyingly loud, if a little tinny when pushed to maximum.

Performance is also speedy, thanks no doubt to the Nvidia Tegra 3 quad core processor (recently superseded by the Tegra 4) and 1 GB of memory. However, the Excite 10 is not just yesterday's news. A considerable differentiating factor, and selling point of the device, is the presence of expandable storage via a full-sized SD card slot, making this one tablet that can actually host up to 128 GB of storage. This along with a micro USB 2.0 and micro HDMI port.

To the point

In many respects, the Excite 10 is a very solid entry from Toshiba. Yes, you get tablets with better displays, but for those who require a tough device that can accommodate plenty storage, it's an attractive proposition. It has a RRP of R5 500 for the 16 GB model and R6 000 for the 32 GB version. [RN]

IT Headaches?



Get an Onsite IT Professional

Deepcool Windpal

IS-M7006-10

HOT DEAL!

9.7 Android V4.0 Tablet, 1.2GHz CPU, 1GB DDRIII Memory, 9.7" IPS PANEL, MULTI-POINT CAPACITIVE TOUCHSCREEN, 8GB FLASH, Wireless LAN



R2495

While Stock Lasts

Toshiba C850-F227

Core I3 2.40 GHz, 4GB DDR3 Memory, 500GB HDD, Bluetooth, WiFi, DVD RW, Windows 7 Home Basic 64-bit, 1 Year Carry in Warranty

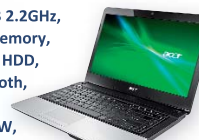


R4989

While Stock Lasts

Acer EI-571

Core I3 2.2GHz, 4GB Memory, 500GB HDD, Bluetooth, WiFi, DVD RW, Windows 8, 1 Year FRR Warranty



R5199

While Stock Lasts

Acer Travelmate P453

Core I5 2.50GHz, 4GB Memory, 500GB HDD, Bluetooth, WiFi, DVD RW, Windows 7 Professional 64 Bit, 1 Year FRR Warranty



R7995

While Stock Lasts

Laptop Chargers

Laptop Batteries



R245



From **R240**



From **R695**

RECEIVE OUR PRODUCT PRICELIST INSTANTLY!

SMS **laptop** space your email address

TO 41876 R2 per SMS

AND WE WILL CALL YOU BACK

Terms and Conditions apply. Stocks are limited. E&OE. Prices may change without notice due to Rand Dollar fluctuations. All prices quoted are cash or EFT only and Incl VAT.



SPECIALISTS IN LAPTOP REPAIRS

Printer Repairs | Laptop Repairs | Upgrades | Projector Repairs | LCD Screen Repairs | Onsite IT Support

012-663-9190

All repairs done in our workshop



HP, Acer, Compaq, IBM, Dell, Fujitsu Siemens, Mecer, Sony, Asus, Toshiba, Packard Bell, LG, Lenovo, Proline, Gigabyte, Apple Mac, BenQ, Sahara, and many more...

South Africa's first super fast broadband fibre offering



Speeds of 25 Megabits per second (Mbps), 50Mbps and 100Mbps available, more than 10Mbps faster than existing options.

Metro Fibre pricing

25Mbps – R15 500 per month
50Mbps – R27 250 per month

Metro Ethernet pricing

25Mbps – R21 950 per month
50Mbps – R37 150 per month
100Mbps – R64 370 per month

Call us on 087 980 0375 | www.xdsl.co.za | sales@xdsl.co.za

E & OE, terms & conditions apply. All prices exclude VAT. Installation and hardware cost not included!





Hands on: Sony Xperia Z

TechSmart was given the opportunity to play with Sony's latest flagship, the Xperia Z, at a function held at Vodaworld, Midrand. Is this the phone to put Sony back in the top three?

Sony believes its latest flagship, the Xperia Z, will be a winner, and from what we've seen of the phone, they might be right – for now at least. While the unit looks big with its massive 5" screen, at 146 g the Z does not come across as overly bulky, unlike the Nokia's portly Lumia 920's 185 g rump. The Xperia Z learned a few lessons from its rough-and-tumble cousin, the Xperia Go, also being water resistant up to 1 m. In our opinion the Z's boxy design is not an immediate head-turner, but having a water resistant top-end phone is a much needed safety-net.

The Xperia Z surely looks like an exciting unit, able to compete, and give a hiding, to the best available.

Screen with joy

It's the screen, though, that is the big drawcard, with its 5" falling between the Galaxy S3's 4.8" and the Note 2's 5.5". Unlike those two, Sony is offering full HD on the device, with the 1080 x 1920 pixels pulling the pixel density of the unit over the 400 ppi (pixels per inch) mark to a lustworthy 441 ppi. It bests the iPhone 5's Retina Display's 326 ppi by quite a bit, and it looks simply excellent. Doing the hard work in the background is a 1.5 GHz Qualcomm APQ8064 chip with four cores pulling at 1.5 GHz each, a more than helpful 2 GB of RAM and a so-so 16 GB of internal storage. Fortunately, this can be expanded using the microSD storage slot.

To the point

As we've noted on www.techsmart.co.za, when the Sony Xperia Z made its appearance at CES earlier this year, it surely looks like an exciting unit, able to compete, and give a hiding, to the best available. But with a number of hot phones scheduled for the Mobile World Congress in February, and the Galaxy S4 ready to soon pounce from Samsung's R+D department, will it have what it takes to remain top in class? The Sony Xperia Z is expected to debut in SA early in Q2 2013, with no official price been announced yet. [MJ] 🍷



Samsung Galaxy S3 mini

When it comes to smartphones, one size definitely does not fit all. So if the 4.8" display of Samsung's S3 is simply too much, how about the mini-me in the form of the Galaxy S3 mini?

The Galaxy S3 mini looks like a shrunken-down version of the S3, now with a more compact frame (121.55 x 63 x 9.85 mm; 111.5 g). Despite its smaller body, the mini is actually a bit thicker than the S3 (9.85 mm vs 8.6 mm) but not dearer (R4 000 vs. R7 000).

The similarities between the S3 and S3 mini stop at the name and styling, since inside they are all too different. It's not the same quad-core Exynos beast that does processing, instead the mini runs smoothly on a dual-core 1 GHz NovaThor U8420 processor, with the latest Android 4.1.1 (Jelly Bean) doing the operating. Despite packing a reduced amount of CPU firepower, the mini delivered a very respectable score of 6871 in the AnTuTu benchmark, easily beating the HTC's fellow midrange Desire X's (1 GHz dual-core Qualcomm Snapdragon CPU) 5206.

If you like the S3's style, but can't live with its 4.8" screen, then the S3 mini might be the solution.

Better on the small screen

Samsung fitted the mini with a 4" (480 x 800; 233 ppi) Super AMOLED display that provides for a fairly decent viewing experience. For those keeping track, it's actually the same size and resolution as the original Galaxy S that appeared in 2010. The latest version of the company's TouchWiz user interface is included and luckily features the same extras that differentiate the S3 and Note II from the rest of the Android brigade, including Smart Stay and pop-up play.

To the point

If you like the S3's style, but can't live with its 4.8" screen, then the S3 mini might be the solution. Although it does not have the same processing kick, it offers the S3 experience for a lot less (R4 000 for the 8 GB model), and within a more manageable 4" frame. Also keep in mind HTC's Desire X (R4 000), and Sony's Xperia Sola (R4 300). [HD] 🍷

Asus VariDrive

Ultrabooks are great for portability, but fall short on ports and optical drives.

In most cases you'll receive 2x USB ports, one HDMI or mini-HDMI port, and no DVD drive – limited if you're used to the more abundant setup of regular notebooks or PCs. Asus' VariDrive offers a great way to bridge this conundrum, with this smart looking device providing a major extension upgrade to your ultrabook. Onboard are 3x USB 3.0 ports, a

Giga LAN port and an extra full sized HDMI port, rounded off very nicely with a DVD writer.

We liked the fact that the VariDrive can be folded flat from its standable position, making it easy to carry in your notebook case (we wish a little pouch was included though), with the unit matching the Zenbook's (p10) beautiful spun-metal design. RRP: TBA. Call Asus SA on 011-783-5450. 🌟



Logitech K310 Washable Keyboard

Logitech aims to relegate sticky, grimy keyboards to the past courtesy of its new waterproof, spill-proof and dust resistant Washable Keyboard.

Unlike conventional keyboards, the K310 can be hand washed with water and soap in the kitchen sink when it gets really dirty, but for smaller cleaning tasks like brushing away

dry crumbs, you can use the small brush that is housed at the back of the keyboard. During use, we found that the keys are a bit stiffer than those of a normal keyboard initially, but you soon get used to this. There are hinges at the back of the keyboard, allowing one to raise the keyboard to improve the typing position, unfortunately this is a wired offering and not one of Logitech's smart wireless units.

The K310 is comfortable to type on and makes it easy for clean-freaks and clumsy PC users whose previous keyboard has received a caffeine baptism, to keep their new one as clean as the first day they unboxed it. RRP: R600. 🌟



Asus ROG Tytan CG8890 gaming PC

Imagine assembling all the best components into one dream gaming PC, and what you will end up with is Asus' Republic of Gamers (ROG) Tytan CG8890.

Inside this massive (300 x 530 x 630 mm; 24 kg) beast of a gaming case resides a six-core Intel Core i7-3960X running at 3.8 GHz, coupled with Asus' GeForce GTX 690 GPU sporting 4 GB of

dedicated RAM. This powerful duo ensured that we could play every game in our collection including Crysis 2 and Far Cry 3 at maximum resolution and buttery smooth frame rates.

The Tytan packs 16 GB worth of G.Skill Ripjaws Z DDR3-2133 MHz RAM, a snappy SanDisk 128 GB SSD along with a 2 TB 7200 RPM HDD, and Windows 7 Home Premium that handles the operating.

A plethora of connectivity options are also on offer including four USB 3.0 and six USB 2.0 ports.

Pricing depends on the components you equip this gaming monster PC with, but for these specs users are looking at an estimated RRP of staggering R50 000. 🌟



Need to sell more of your products and services?

Talk to TechSmart's specialised sales team today for print and online advertising opportunities



Print Advert Specialist

Karien Steenkamp

Key Accounts Executive

Cell: 083-748-3413
karien@smartpublishing.co.za



Online Advert Specialist

Sandra-Lee van Rooyen

Digital Accounts Executive

Cell: 079-515-8493
sandra-lee@smartpublishing.co.za

71%. Highest percentage of users who say they happy with their mobile operating system of choice use the iOS operating system according to a new survey.

Samsung NX20 Pros and Cons



We've recently done some shooting with Samsung's NX20 compact system camera. Here a few of its pros and cons.

Pros

Electronic viewfinder

Due to a lack of regular DSLR mirror, the viewfinder on the NX20 is not optical; nonetheless the electronic viewfinder (EVF) offers a decent alternative with a very good 1 4440 000 dots crammed into it. If you don't want to use the EVF, the swivel type 3" AMOLED screen (a so-so 614 000 dots) at the back will have to suffice.

Built-in Wi-Fi

Samsung is quite sharp with their Smart range of cameras that features built-in Wi-Fi. Although it demands a fair bit of setup and installation, once done and connected to a network, your camera can auto backup to a selected PC; display pictures wirelessly on Android smartphones; backup to Skydrive; or even mail images directly off the camera. Pretty smart indeed, but you might find yourself struggling to troubleshoot problems.

Custom setting and loads of customisation

Very few, if any, entry-level APS-C cameras provide a custom setting directly on the top dial. With this you can, for example, save a fast setup for shooting sport and another for monochrome, with three custom slots available. With both a top mounted scroll wheel, and a circular d-pad dial at the back, you can adjust your aperture and speed in a heartbeat – a feature usually found only in prosumer DSLR cameras.

It's damn fast

Eight frames per second is fast in anyone's language, but for an entry-level consumer offering it's excellent.

Cons

Bad battery life

Since the camera displays everything you view electronically, it draws a lot of the battery, and the 1300 mAh rechargeable battery is simply not up to the challenge. Seriously consider a second battery if you intend to shoot often.

Autofocus searching

Unlike the Olympus OM-D EM-5 (granted it's more than double the price of the Samsung), we did have problems with the NX20's autofocus. It sometimes hunted for focus, requiring a second press of the autofocus to latch on to the correct position.

Lack of second hand market

Unlike cameras from Canon or Nikon, your second hand market for NX-mount lenses is very limited (that's true of the rest of the CSC manufacturers too). So if you opt for one of the other NX-mount lenses, know that you'll most probably have to dish out for a new one. [MJ]



The Samsung NX20 is available for R8 500 and that includes an 18-55mm kit lens.



New Samsung flagship camera introduced

At CES 2013, the NX300 surpassed the NX20 (on the left) as Samsung's flagship model. This compact system camera includes a redesigned 20 megapixel sensor and hybrid autofocus (contrast and phase detection) for fast autofocus. Although it looks a lot like its older brother, the NX210, the NX300's 3.3" screen at the back can tilt upwards and downwards, much like Sony's NX range. No electronic viewfinder is included, so you're pretty dependent on this AMOLED screen (785k dots) for composition. The good news is that it's also touchscreen, which should enhance navigation through the menu structure much easier. The bad news? Smudgy fingerprints might make composition on the screen difficult.

As we've seen with a number of new Samsung cameras, there's Wi-Fi onboard, allowing one to connect to a smartphone and then post pictures directly from the camera to Facebook. Images can be saved in the cloud, or auto backed-up on PC. The new NX300 is smaller than the NX20, while featuring in-camera HDR and more autofocus points, making the fact that it will apparently also be cheaper all the more delectable. It should launch in the 2nd quarter of 2013, with no price available yet.

The Korean tech giant also introduced the NX 45mm F1.8 2D/3D lens. According to Samsung, this is the first one-lens 3D system capable of capturing both still images and full HD movies in 3D quality. It's debatable if the 3D trend has not all but passed, but nonetheless, users of this lens will be able to capture both 3D stills and movies to playback on 3D televisions, with Samsung of course being able to help in that last regard too.



Canon EOS M

Canon was the final big player that needed to get on the compact system camera (CSC, also mirrorless) bus, and last year they did just that with the EOS M.

Although Canon and Nikon dominate the DSLR market, the CSC market is beset by Sony, Olympus, Samsung and Fujifilm, some with already their fourth generation units in market. Unlike Canon and Nikon, these companies do not have to worry too much about cannibalising other product lines, and it's important to view the M from that perspective. It seems as if this camera is aimed at those looking for great quality pictures (it shares the EOS 650D's great APS-C sensor) out of a very solid compact body, without wanting to bother too much about the know-how behind it. This way, it does not tread on Canon's DSLRs' toes, nor really intrude on their impressive G-series compact line.

The EOS M seems aimed at those looking for great quality pictures without wanting to bother too much about the know-how behind it.

Auto and touch whammy

An intuitive Intelligent Auto mode combines extremely well with the 3" capacitive touchscreen at the back. One can see that the M has learned a number of good touch tricks from Canon's compact range. For example, being able to select your different shooting options directly by touch, or, much like a smartphone, choose your focus point on the screen, make operation a breeze.

Missing are an electronic viewfinder and built-in flash, while we also struggled with the autofocus assist, inconveniently placed next to a key holding area. Luckily an adaptor allows integration with Canon's regular EF lenses.

To the point

Finally Canon has now played their CSC hand, with the EOS M being a mirrorless camera that's easy to use with very good image quality. The M is not the best camera to buy to learn the ins and outs of photography, nor first choice if you demand a lot of functionality from a small body (the G15 is your man there). It's pretty clear that Canon is not prepared to tread on their other lines' well entrenched territory, which begs the question – what is lying ahead for their next model? [MJ] 🍀

It retails for R 8 500 for the body with 18-55mm lens and a flash, or R10 000 for the body with a 22mm pancake lens, EOS adapter and flash.



Top 3 reasons to like: Canon EOS 5D Mark III

There is no denying that the full-frame EOS 5D Mark III is an impressive camera. But having had the opportunity to spend a lot more time playing, and photographing with it of late, there are three features that stand out in everyday use, each making a considerable difference to the photographic experience.

1. The focusing system

Borrowed from the top of the line EOS 1D X, the 61 point focusing system on offer is an absolute joy. Provided one takes the time to learn the length and depth of how to use it, and how to take advantage of the different focusing scenarios that the Mark III caters to, the new focusing system can make a significant difference to one's shooting style. Whether selecting a fine focusing point to target in on a bee hovering over a flower, or instead setting the focusing point to capture fast moving action, the focusing system performs like a star.

2. High ISOs, low noise

Perhaps the most liberating aspect of the 5D Mark III, is the capacity to venture into high ISO territory while being assured of little to no noise. What this means is that in practise, one can support the two basic creative controls – aperture priority and shutter speed – with one's ISO settings. This comes in handy when responding to low light obviously, as well as when wanting to squeeze out a bit more control of one's aperture or shutter speeds. The end result? Greater creative latitude and the opportunity to capture images that would otherwise have gone amiss.

3. Great quality

One of the biggest noticeable gains when moving from a cropped sensor to a full frame sensor is the sheer quality photos that the 5D Mark III produces by comparison. While there is certainly nothing wrong with the image quality of a 20D, for example, particularly when paired with a great lens, the image quality on offer by the full frame sensor is a noticeable step up. In short: it has made us fall in love with the art of taking and making images all over again, and thus reinvigorated our photography. [RN] 🍀

The Canon EOS 5D Mark III retails for R34 000 with the 24-105mm f/4 L lens.

Hyundai 3rd generation Santa Fe – First Impressions



Hyundai South Africa has launched the all-new, third generation Santa Fe, which features striking new styling along with capable performance on- and off-road. It makes a compelling contender in the large SUV (sports utility vehicle) segment.

Local buyers have a choice between the front-wheel drive Santa Fe Premium and two all-wheel drive derivatives – namely the Executive and Elite. All of these models look fantastic thanks to the firm's 'Storm Edge' styling, highlighted by a bold hexagonal front grille and flowing lines. We did find the rear window a bit small as it limited our visibility, but this is mitigated by the car's Rear Parking Assist System (RPAS) that uses ultrasonic sensors to determine the proximity of objects behind you.

The Santa Fe's value aspect distinguishes it, since there is plenty of standard kit that make for pricey add-on options on competing cars.

Smooth operator

A big SUV needs a capable powerplant and the new Santa Fe has one in its efficient 2.2 litre, 4-cylinder turbodiesel, utilised within all three derivatives. It delivers 145 kW of power at 3800 RPM, and 436 Nm of torque between 1800 and 2500 RPM. Hyundai's fuel consumption figures are around eight litres per 100 km for the Premium FWD model and 8.3 litres per 100 km for the all-wheel drive Executive and Elite derivatives on a combined cycle.

Helping adventurous drivers to stay on course in rough terrain is a 4WD lock mode selector that distributes power in a 50:50 ratio to front and rear wheels for increased off-road ability. We got a chance to test out this mode on gravel roads and some off-road driving at Trekoskraal, near Paternoster, and were surprised by how easily the big SUV coped with the rougher terrain, slopes, and loose sand, particularly as it is lacking low-range.

To the point

In our opinion the new Santa Fe is able to go toe-to-toe with its SUV rivals including BMW's X3, Audi's Q5 and Toyota Fortuner in terms of handling and design. Hyundai's value aspect distinguishes the Santa Fe however, since it features plenty of standard kit that make for pricey add-on options on competing cars. [HD] ❖

The prices of the all-new Hyundai Santa Fe range:

Santa Fe R2.2 Premium FWD 5-seater - R434 900
 Santa Fe R2.2 Executive AWD 7-seater - R459 900
 Santa Fe R2.2 Elite AWD 7-seater - R499 900

Ford launches new Fiesta



Ford's Fiesta is very popular with local buyers and the US carmaker now aims to boost sales even further with the all-new 2013 edition.

As can be expected the latest edition sports updated styling while also introducing the company's International Engine of the Year – the 1.0-litre EcoBoost power plant – to the Fiesta line-up. The Fiesta's revamped exterior is highlighted by a redesigned front dominated by a large trapezoidal grille, which makes the Fiesta look a lot like a more compact Focus from the front.

Ford promises exceptional levels of fuel efficiency from its patented new 1.0-litre EcoBoost engine (4.3 litres of petrol per 100 km on a combined cycle), while the tried and tested 1.4-litre petrol and 1.6-litre TDCi engines are also available.

Safety features

Some of the safety features include an anti-lock braking system (ABS) with electronic brake-force distribution (EBD) that is standard across the entire Fiesta range, while also making a debut is Ford's MyKey. The system enables parents to configure factors such as maximum speed and audio system volume limits for the car key, so kids won't be able to drive faster than 120 km/h nor wreck their ears on too-loud Lady Gaga. This while the snazzy Sync in-vehicle infotainment system featuring Bluetooth connectivity is also onboard.

The Fiesta comes in three specification grades (Ambiente, Trend and Titanium), with the range topping Titanium models extensively equipped with premium features including keyless entry, power start button, auto headlamps, rain sensing wipers, auto folding mirrors and cruise control. Hill Launch Assist is also offered as an option on Trend models and standard on Titanium versions. ❖

Pricing for the Ford Fiesta MY2013 models:

Fiesta 1.4 Ambiente 5 door - R164 400
 Fiesta 1.6 TDCi Ambiente 5 door - R178 400
 Fiesta 1.4 Trend 5 door - R187 600
 Fiesta 1.6 TDCi Trend 5 door - R201 400
 Fiesta 1.0 EcoBoost Trend 5 door - R211 200
 Fiesta 1.0 EcoBoost Titanium 5 door - R231 500

Top 5 executive mid-size saloons

German auto trio Audi, Mercedes-Benz and BMW have long been dominating the executive mid-size executive saloon space with the A6, E-class and 5 Series respectively. The job of choosing has now been made even more difficult by other equally attractive options from Jaguar and Lexus. Here follows our Top 5 picks.



5 Audi A6 3.0T FSI quattro S tronic

Under the bonnet of Ingolstadt's mid-size executive saloon rests a 2995 cc V6 producing 220 kW between 5250 and 6500 RPM and 440 Nm of torque between 2900 and 4500 RPM. This is enough go-juice to reach 100 km/h in 5.5 seconds and go onto an illegal top end of 250 km/h. More sensible drivers should see a modest 8.2 litres per 100 km fuel usage.

Pricing comes to an expensive R683 000 that does include a few useful features the likes of park distance control with rear view camera, but you will have to fork out for a lot of goodies that most of the other less expensive cars in the comparison comes standard with. These include R5 400 for a multi-disc CD changer and R11 100 for a Xenon Plus headlight system that includes LED daytime running lights and LED rear lights.



4 Lexus GS 350 EX

Powered by a 3456 cc V6 that smoothly churns out 233 kW at 6400 RPM and 378 Nm of torque at 4800 RPM, this Japanese sedan is able to sprint to 100 km/h in a quick 6.3 seconds onto a top end of 235 km/h. This zippy performance does mean an uninspiring fuel consumption figure of around 9.4 liters per 100 km though.

At R584 900 (including carbon tax and VAT) the GS offers a lot of value, and includes an automatic dual-zone air-conditioning with pollen filter. This should be music to hay fever sufferers' ears, as will be the first-class 12-speaker Lexus premium sound system with iPod/iPhone Integration. Those who struggle with parking will find the reverse camera with backing up guide monitor functionality quite handy, with this camera feed displayed on the sizable 12.3" Electro Multi Vision display screen.



3 Mercedes-Benz E350 BlueEFFICIENCY

This classy Merc may be renowned for its stately ride quality, but that doesn't mean that its slow. It is able to rocket to 100 km/h in 6.3 seconds onto a top speed of 250 km/h, thanks to a 3498 cc V6 that delivers 225 kW at 6500 RPM and 370 Nm of torque between 3500 and 5250 RPM. Considering that this is a BlueEFFICIENCY vehicle, fuel usage is down to an impressive, comparison leading 6.8 liters per 100 km, whilst carbon emission levels at 161 grams per km are also the lowest within this comparison.

The sizable costs of sliding behind the driver seat amounts to R709 000, which nets you features including the COMAND online multimedia system that makes use of an integrated camera to identify the speed limits on road signs and displays these on the central screen.



2 Jaguar XF 3.0

The exhaust note from the 3.0 litre V6 of Jaguar's sublimely styled British saloon might be compared to a purr as opposed to the lion roar of the sublime 5.0 liter supercharged V8. However this powerplant still produces a very respectable 175 kW at a glorious 6800 RPM and 293 Nm of torque at 4100 RPM. It propels the car towards 100 km/h in just over eight seconds onto a top speed of 237 km/h. The XF is one thirsty cat, with fuel usage coming to 9.6 litres per 100 km on a combined cycle (highway and town driving).

Forking out R638 400 for this car means that you expect a lot of standard kit. Jaguar delivers with Xenon headlights with LED daytime running lights, dual-zone automatic climate control, keyless go, a 7" colour touchscreen, and Bluetooth audio streaming.



1 BMW 535i

The sixth generation 5 Series sets the standard in the executive mid-size class, courtesy of its sporty performance, attractive (looks like a smaller 7 Series) styling, premium 7 Series inspired cabin, and best mix of handling dynamics and ride comfort.

Performance is always a strong suit of BMW's and the 535i is no exception as its 2979 cc V6 offers 225 kW at 5800 RPM and 380 Nm of torque between 1750 and 2750 RPM. This not only enables 100 km/h to be brought up on the speedometer in under six

seconds, but also delivers a combined cycle fuel usage figure of just 7.6 liters per 100 km.

At R679 000 this certainly is not the cheapest saloon in the comparison. But it ticks off cruise control with braking function, rear view parking- and reverse camera, front and rear park distance control (PDC), automatic dual-zone air conditioning, as well as a Control Display with high-resolution TFT colour monitor for displaying functions including the view from the rear view camera. [HD] ❖

Asus Radeon HD 7950

The Radeon HD 7950 is the second graphics card, after the range-topping (and more expensive) 7970, to feature AMD's 28 nm GPU architecture, aiming to topple rivals such as Nvidia's GeForce GTX 670.



Like Nvidia, who replaced its 40-nanometer (nm) Fermi GPU architecture with the new 28 nm Kepler process technology, AMD succeeded its 40 nm Cayman technology with a 28 nm Graphics Core Next (GCN) process, promising gains both in performance and power efficiency.

In order to make good on these promises, the Radeon HD 7950 sports a whopping 3 GB worth of GDDR5 RAM, a 900 MHz engine clock, and a dual fan DirectCU thermal setup for 20% improved cooling performance and significantly quieter airflow. In terms of connectivity, the card is set for DVI-I, full HDMI, and two mini display ports, with a miniDP to DVI adaptor included in the retail package.

Less power, more performance

When it comes to power, this massive (300 x 129 x 58 mm) beast of a GPU is less of a power hog compared to its bigger brother – the Radeon HD 7970 – which requires one 8-pin (150 W) and one 6-pin (75 W) PCI Express power connectors. Like the GeForce GTX 680, the

7950 only needs two 6-pin PCI Express power connectors from a 550 W power supply unit (PSU).

Beyond the power efficiency gains enabled by the GCN architecture, performance also gets a shot in the arm. Not only does the 7950 offer blistering frame rates at the highest resolutions and maximum quality settings for demanding titles such as Crysis 2 and Rage, it also dishes up impressive tallies during benchmarking. During testing the 7950 delivered a fantastic score of 1874 within Heaven Benchmark 2.0, whilst a score of 2300 was obtained via Futuremark's 3DMark 2011 DX11 benchmark test (using the extreme presets).

The Radeon HD 7950's performance wasn't worlds away from the more expensive GeForce GTX 680, whilst being less demanding on power than the Radeon HD 7970.

To the point

Asus' Radeon HD 7950 GPU offers a significant amount of GPU bite for its equally potent RRP bark of R5 000. Its performance wasn't worlds away from the more expensive

(R6 200) GeForce GTX 680, whilst being less demanding on power than the Radeon HD 7970. [HD]

Fast Internet for a connected home.

Think Fast. Think Telkom Internet.



Telkom Simple

R399 P/M

- ADSL Internet up to 1Mbps
- 5GB blended data
- 500MB 8.ta once-off data
- Includes Telkom landline rental
- **FREE** evening and weekend calls
- **FREE** installation for new customers
- **FREE** 3G dongle
- **FREE** Wi-Fi modem



Telkom Simple Plus

R499 P/M

- ADSL Internet up to 2Mbps
- 10GB blended data
- 500MB 8.ta once-off data
- Includes Telkom landline rental
- **FREE** evening and weekend calls
- **FREE** installation for new customers
- **FREE** 3G dongle
- **FREE** Wi-Fi modem



Wise Touch Tablet

7" Android Tablet with 3G and Wi-Fi

R74 P/M

- 7-inch display
- 512MB RAM
- 4GB Hard Drive
- 1-year carry-in warranty
- Android 2.3
- Wi-Fi compatible
- Wise Education Centre (Google translate, dictionary, school planner, etc.)
- Wise Shopping Mall (bookshop, banking mall, general discount stores, etc.)
- Wise Business (legal information, insurance quotes, employment opportunities, etc.)
- Subject to a 24-month sales agreement



Cideko Easi net-TV

Android Media Player with Air Keyboard

R60 P/M

- Turns your TV into a computer
- Browse the Internet
- Check your Email
- Download Android applications for use on your TV
- Connect your USB Hard Drive or SD Card to share content on your TV
- Wise Education Centre (Google translate, dictionary, school planner, etc.)
- Wise Shopping Mall (bookshop, banking mall, general discount stores, etc.)
- Wise Business (legal information, insurance quotes, employment opportunities, etc.)
- Subject to a 24-month sales agreement



Call 0800 00 00 11
SMS "Simple" and your name to 34702



Visit a Telkom Direct Store or
www.telkom.co.za



Terms and conditions apply. Offers subject to credit vetting (ID or certified copy of ID, proof of residence & 3 months' bank statement to be presented at Telkom Direct store). Advance payment may be required subject to credit vetting. Free weekend calls only applicable on Telkom-to-Telkom calls. While stocks last. Offers end on 31 March 2013. Telkom reserves the right to withdraw these promotional offers at any time. E&OE. *Subject to infrastructure and customer availability. Business customers do not qualify for the above mentioned offers.

R3.5 million. Amount that Sony has been fined by a British data protection watchdog for allowing its network to be hacked in 2011.



TechSmart Business

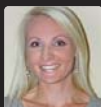
In today's cut-throat business environment being on the cutting edge of technology is no longer an elective, it is an imperative.



TechSmart Business is the logical extension to industry leading retail title, TechSmart. For over 10 years TechSmart has been the first choice for advertisers looking to reach a broad, and extensive demographic with 262 500 readers in the 7-10 LSM bracket.

TechSmart Business is the one-stop resource for top executives, decision makers and anyone with a stake in improving efficiency, efficacy, and productivity in the 21st century business environment. This provides the perfect channel for suppliers, vendors and service providers to showcase their products and expertise to carefully chosen corporate and business sectors.

Contact us today to find out how your business can benefit from TechSmart Business:



Karien Steenkamp
Tel: 012-342-5141
Cell: 083-748-3413
karien@smartpublishing.co.za



Dumisani Mbatsha
Tel: 012-342-5141
Cell: 079-515-7929
dumisani@smartpublishing.co.za



Beats by Dr Dre Beatbox portable

The Beats by Dr Dre Beatbox portable speaker delivers a phenomenal premium sound, and unlike other docking stations, this portable system can follow the party wherever it goes.

We expected top-draw audio quality from the Beatbox and weren't disappointed, as a massive audio boom emanates from the 171 mm high unit, accompanied by an impressive sound quality that features a generous amount of bass. At maximum volume though, distortion subtly creeps in with an audible hiss coming from the system.

Bereft of power? No problem, since you can power the Beatbox with six "D cell" batteries. This will cost in the region of R170, making it a bit of a shame that a rechargeable battery is not offered. Transporting the speaker is made easier by two handle grips on either side of the device, but at 4 kg you aren't likely to use it as a new-age boombox.




The Beatbox portable's phenomenal sound bang can accompany you virtually anywhere.

Connect now

On top of the Beatbox is an iPod dock connector that enables iPod and iPhone users to dock their devices, but you cannot connect an iPad since the housing of the connector is way too small. There are also six clip-in adaptors for differently shaped iPhone and iPod models in place, but iPhone 5 users still need to buy an expensive (R330) Lightning to 30-pin connector.

Non-iPhone users have two other connectivity avenues open, namely a 3.5 mm jack (cable not included) and Bluetooth wireless audio transfer over a distance of around 10 m. An always-handly remote is also present to comfortably control playback from your couch or bed.

To the point

The Beats by Dr Dre Beatbox portable delivers great audio quality and a phenomenal sound bang, and thanks to battery power support, this monstrous sound can accompany you virtually anywhere. As other products by the good doctor, it does not come cheap – R5 000 from Phoenix Software on 011-803-5437. [HD] 



Samsung DA-E750 Wireless Audio with Dock

Most docking stations support either Apple's iOS running mobile devices or Android-powered units, but Samsung's DA-E750 Wireless Audio with Dock (WAD) can accommodate both.

Beyond its dual docks, you can cut the hardware umbilical cord by sending your tunes over Wi-Fi to the WAD by way of AllShare for Samsung's Galaxy devices or Airplay for Apple's portable devices. iPhone 5, iPad mini and fourth generation iPad users need to make use of these wireless functions because their devices will not work with this dock, since Apple switched to a new smaller Lightning connector (R330).




Additionally, Bluetooth A2DP support means you are able to stream sound from all other Bluetooth-enabled music players or phones, whilst the included USB port enables users to play audio files directly from a flash. Samsung also threw in a handy remote to control music playback from the couch or bed.

With an impressive amount of connectivity options and clear audio even at the highest levels, Samsung's DA-E750 is one to watch.

Bumping sound

The WAD delivers its sound bang via a 2.1-channel speaker that incorporates a 100 watt subwoofer, providing you with an impressive amount of bass and audio quality that remains clear. Samsung equipped the WAD with its Vacuum Tube Amp technology to further boost its sound and this shows, especially at the maximum volume levels. It managed to retain a phenomenal sound quality even at the highest levels, showing up the Beat by Dr Dre Beatbox portable which exhibited signs of distortion whilst playing bass-heavy tracks at full blast.

To the point

Samsung's DA-E750 provides plenty of connectivity options and impressive sound bang for its equally sizable price tag of R7 000. If this RRP exceeds your budget, you can consider the more affordable (R2 500) DA-E570 wireless system that also offers dual docks, great sound and a range of connectivity options. [HD] 

Parrot Zik bluetooth headset

We love good design and great sound, but hate wires. What else can we do but fall in love with Parrot's Zik earphones?

There were not many signs coming from Parrot that it would come up with such an audacious product like the Zik headset. Sure the company manufactured good quality earphones, headsets and Bluetooth car kits, but the Zik is in another class. For one, it's designed by one of the hottest industrial designers of the past two decades – Philippe Starck. The Zik is classy on so many levels, allowing us to forgive its slight weight issue and difficulties in adjusting its fit.

It's not difficult to recommend Parrot's Zik headset, especially for those who find Beats Audio too bombastic and heavy on the bass.

Sound and fury

Now on to the nitty gritty – sound quality is excellent once you adjust it through the free Parrot Audio Suite app available for iOS and Android devices. In this app the equaliser provided a few presets but we found it best to simply manually adjust it to a custom setting. Once done there, visit the 'Concert Hall' feature to adjust the speaker angle virtually. The app is a useful touch, one that far too few headset manufacturers utilise.

We've been struggling with the Beats Audio headsets to easily adjust the volume and control playback via buttons on the ear cup of the headset. This is not a problem on the Zik, since the one earcup is touch enabled – slide your finger upwards or downwards on it to adjust the volume, and left and right to control track selection. This worked without hassle on Android-powered smartphones and Windows 8 Media Player.

Adding to the Zik's usability is a sensor embedded in the left cushion, which can tell if it is in use or not. Take off the headset and it automatically stops your music player. This not only provides savings in terms of battery life, but for use in an office where you can be easily disrupted, it avoids the hassle of having to start your playlist from the beginning if you've forgotten to put the headphones back on.

To the point

Apart from providing a sterling audio experience, you can also receive your cellular calls through the Zik, and it contains active noise cancellation. In all, it's not difficult to recommend Parrot's Zik headset, especially for those who find Beats Audio too bombastic and heavy on the bass. If you're up for the price, it's worth it. R4 000 from www.smac.co.za. [MJ] ❖



Gaming Survey 2012/2013

**Win an
Xbox 360**

Complete our survey at
www.gamingdef.co.za

Please ensure you enter your contact details when completing the survey to be entered into the draw. Please mail info@gamingdef.co.za for any queries. Results will be published in the March issue of TechSmart magazine and on www.gamingdef.co.za.

Brought to you by Gaming Def



Deloitte Global Technology, Media and Telecommunication Predictions 2013

The annual Deloitte Technology, Media & Telecommunications (TMT) Predictions were recently released and contain some of the key international developments over the next 12-18 months. Here are few infographics on the findings.



Over-the-top may lift legacy broadcasters and distributors more than pure plays

Deloitte predicts that in 2013:

- In markets where services are available, two of the top three over-the-top (OTT) TV program and movie services are likely to be provided by existing broadcasters and distributors.
- In markets where services are available, two of the top three over-the-top (OTT) TV program and movie services are likely to be provided by existing broadcasters and distributors.
- Any company can provide OTT TV and movie services and many do so, including TV broadcasters, device manufacturers and fast food vendors.

P@\$\$1234: The end of strong password-only security

90% of user-generated passwords, will be vulnerable to hacking

Solution: Multi-factor authentication such as:

- Biometric feature such as a fingerprint or iris scan
- Password sent to a user's registered cell phone
- Dongle that plugs into a USB slot

Let's get together: Crowdfunding portals bring in the bucks

Crowdfunding portals are:

websites that enable large numbers of individuals to financially support a project or company

crowdfunding will raise

\$3 billion in 2013, 100% increase on the \$1.5 billion raised in 2011

Connected TV: hits and misses



In 2013, Deloitte predicts that tens of millions of connected TV sets will sell globally, and the installed base of TV sets with integrated connectivity should exceed 100.



Tens of millions of connected TV sets will sell globally.

4K kicks off!

Deloitte predicts that in 2013 the television industry will commence the roll-out of the next generation of high definition (HD) TV, known as 4K, which will offer four times higher resolution than the current highest standard HD.

HD × 4 = 4K
which will offer four times higher resolution than the current highest standard

About 20 4K TV set models from more than ten vendors should be available by year-end 2013



Dual video screening readies for prime time

10% In developed countries

3% In developing countries



Will dual video screen their television consumption monthly

A strong year for LTE adoption

More than

- 200 operators operators in 75 countries will have launched LTE by end 2013.
- 200 million LTE subscriptions should have a 17-fold increase in just two years.
- > 3x faster realised (as opposed to advertised) LTE speeds as compared to 3G.
- \$10 per LTE chipset; a decrease of over \$20.

by the end of 2013:

10% of global mobile service revenues will come from subscribers on LTE tariff plans. Most calls will be carried over 2G or 3G networks.

"Mobile" advertising is dead. Long live tablet and smartphone advertising

- "mobile" advertising will get split into two categories tablets which will generate \$3.4 bn and smartphones which will generate \$4.9 bn
- Display revenues, which include in-app ads, are forecast at about \$7 per tablet, considerably higher than a forecast \$0.60 per smartphone
- On a per unit basis tablets will be more valuable with ad revenue likely to reach \$2.50 per smartphone, and \$12.60 per tablet

All-you-can-app

50 - 100 Mobile operators will offer all-you-can-eat services with unlimited access to specific applications.

- offer unrestricted use of each services content, with connecting charges bundled in.
- In 2013 AYCA services will be aimed primarily at customers interested in, but hesitant about, mobile data usage, due to worries about running up large data charges.

Smartphones ship a billion but usage becomes simpler

Global shipment of smart phones

= 1 billion for the first time

1/5 smartphone owners may never or rarely (less than once a week) connect to the Web through cellular or Wi-Fi in 2013.

The looming spectrum shortage: worse before it gets better



Although additional spectrum will continue to be made available in 2013 in many global markets, spectrum exhaustion will continue to exacerbate in many countries, especially dense urban areas.



Spectrum shortages, characterised by dropped calls, slower speeds and poor connections, are likely to become more widespread as demand for bandwidth outstrips supply.



It is expected that by 2016 wireless traffic will have increased 50-fold from the levels seen in 2012.



The bottom line is that demand for wireless bandwidth will likely outstrip supply over the coming period, especially in dense urban areas.

Opinion: Do violent games result in violent acts?



It has been a well-worn topic over the years, but in light of the recent Sandy Hook shooting tragedy, the question of whether violent games cause violent acts has once again re-emerged as a hot button issue. Ryan Noik, TechSmart's head journalist, gives his opinion.

The strongest indication to date of how seriously the link between violent games and real world violence is being considered, is evidenced by the fact that President Barack Obama recently asked the US Congress to set aside a substantial \$10 million to study the impact of video game violence on children.

Whether this will result in new information that previous studies did not reveal is uncertain, but the kneejerk response to those who blame games for real world violence is certainly understandable, given the often unabashed depictions of killing seen in many first person shooters.

However, a particularly interesting point of view comes from Joe Houston, the developer of Dishonored, a game which could be unflinching in its depiction of graphic violence, and simultaneously offered players the choice to opt for a completely non-violent approach.

Sobering light

In his editorial, Houston writes: "I don't believe that game violence causes real world violence, but I do believe that it does little to prevent it. And games with meaningful (and potentially distasteful) choice just might do better because they stand a



Ryan Noik

Society at large needs to critically address the issue of violence and take the necessary steps towards resolution.

chance of making the player think about what they're doing on screen." He pointed out that Dishonored is one of the few violent video games that has not been censored by the German government. "One could argue this is largely because the game can be played without killing anyone. This doesn't change all the things you might do in the game, but simply by knowing that it allows non-violence you find that every violent act you choose is cast in a sobering light," he continued.

Finding fault

The question remains: are games the villains when it comes to the rampant and senseless violence that plagues society? To my mind, abusing games as an inspiration for terrible violence rather than as a form of entertainment is not the fault of the medium, if that is the case. Rather, I believe that the fault rests, first and foremost, in the individual, and then perhaps with other socio-economic issues that have to be resolved.

To the point

Clearly, society at large needs to critically address the issue of violence and take the necessary steps towards resolution; however, I for one am not convinced that a simple and convenient approach (such as banning violent games or clamping down on freedom of expression) comes close to being either the correct or the most beneficial answer to a disturbing trend. [RN]

Bankrupted. Veteran game's company, Atari, whose demise would spell the end of a 30 year run.

learnfast

The Leaders in IT, Softskill & Business Short Courses

- Computer based short courses for the new and every day PC user
Computer Courses
- Business, management and essential life skill short courses
Softskill Courses
- Affordable half day workshops and seminars
Workshops

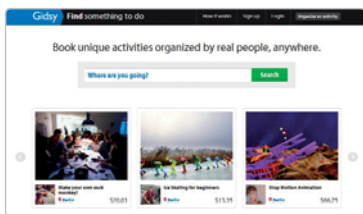
Sandton, JHB | Centurion, PTA | Boksburg, ER | Umhlanga, DBN
 Tel: +27 11 262 2054 | Tel: +27 12 643 1409 | Tel: +27 12 643 1409 | Tel: +27 31 584 7219

General Enquiries: info@learnfast.co.za | Training Enquiries: training@learnfast.co.za

Web Time Wasters



Looking to give your home a not too extreme makeover? Then Houzz should be your first stop. The site contains a plethora of design ideas conveyed via its database of one million photographs. Every possible room is covered, including bedrooms, bathrooms, living and dining rooms, kitchens and home offices. There are even ideas on offer for the humble storage closet. Additionally, design ideas are categorised by style, such as contemporary, modern, Asian, tropical, Mediterranean, traditional or eclectic. By signing in with your Houzz account, you can even save inspiring ideas to later show your interior designer or architect.

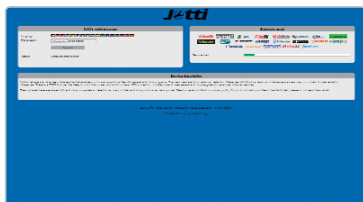


Gidsy

www.gidsy.com

If travelling, rather than home decorating is more up your alley, then Gidsy is another site worth a visit. The site's premise is simple: instead of turning to the well-worn

typical touristy activities, as organised by a tour operator, rather connect with locals who live in your destination to have a more authentic and unique experience. Activities on offer range from those centred around exploring a city with a local, cooking classes, boat tours, wine tastings and photography workshops, amongst others.

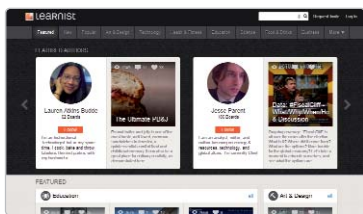


Jotti

<http://viruscan.jotti.org/>

Use Jotti to make 100% sure files are free of viruses. This is particularly useful when you intend to share a file widely. The site puts a file, up to 25 MB in size, through multiple

virus scanners at once, without requiring you to install all the virus programmes on your PC first. Some of the scanners used include Kaspersky, F-Prot, Bitdefender, AVG and Eset. However, files uploaded on the site are shared with the security companies to help them optimise their products, so be careful of your most confidential files.



Learnist

<http://learni.st/>

As the site's name implies, Learnist is a rich resource for those seeking to learn something new, as it plays host to self-proclaimed experts within a variety of

fields sharing their knowledge. Both text and video are included, with topics ranging from travel and places, politics, sports, entertainment, as well as art, design and technology. If sharing your expertise is more of a drawcard, then the site offers you the ability to scratch that itch too. 🍀

TechSmart's top tweets



Here are the tweets that struck our fancy last month



Khalifa @KKAIThani

Sometimes when I don't feel like listening to my favorite songs, I put my iPod on shuffle.



Brendan Jack @brendanjack

If NASA is so good at astrology, then why don't they have horoscopes on their website? #brandfail



Peauxtassium, k? @NotJPo

I'm not gonna lie. I like singing karaoke at bars that don't have karaoke.



Matt Roller @rollidgitty

1. Hide clown in car trunk. 2. Open trunk in busy parking lot and exclaim, "Another one?" 3. Explain, "This used to be a clown car."



Honourable Cde Zama @JoziGoddess

I remember when it was fun being South African. When we owned peace shirts and Manto would staple pamphlets on condoms.



Shelley Pembroke @ShellsPembroke

I love how European it feels to catch the train to Pretoria. I'm a bloody agent. Also, I love dogs.



Reuben Goldberg @RubyGold

South Africa #feelslike 40% love for our nation 20% corruption 20% incompetence 10% hope



Brent Smith @Brenttweets

I can't get past that level on Super Mario Bros where you have to hold a conversation with a woman.



SweetandWeak @sweetandweak

1. Type word & see autocorrect suggestion 2. Think no but hit space anyway 3. Backspace 4. Repeat step 1 5. Repeat step 2 6. Become Amish.



Chris Izrigrod @izrigrod

When someone unfollows me, I always assume it's over 'creative differences' or 'Yoko Ono.'



Trevor Noah @Trevornoah

Castle is genius. They sponsor Bafana because nothing drives the nation to drink, more than our soccer team.

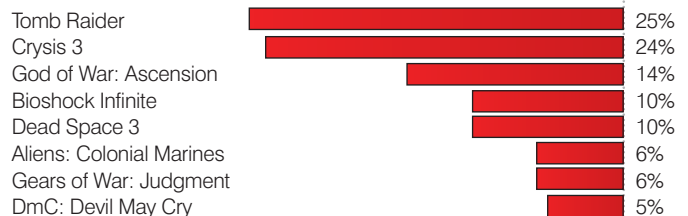


Domenic Tetro @NintenDom

If you love someone, let them go. If they come back, they're Arnold Schwarzenegger.

TechSmart.co.za online poll results

What game are you looking forward to the most?



Need your Tech fix faster? Join us now on:

Twitter: @techsmartmag

Facebook: facebook.com/techsmartmag

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

Apple iOS Apps of the month



Temple Run 2

Arguably one of the most successful free endless running games on the App store, Temple Run, has received a much needed update, and Temple Run 2 is a worthy successor.

Imangi Studios' game boasts the familiar jumping, sliding, swiping action of its predecessor, with much better animations and graphics, more detailed characters – along with a more fearsome gorilla – new traps to avoid and of course, a host of coins to collect. Additionally, there are some familiar and new abilities and upgrades to garner, include the option to save your progress, for a price. In short, Temple Run 2 is a leap ahead of its predecessor.



WWF Together

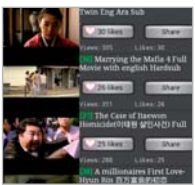
Admittedly, we have some animal lovers in our offices, and thus apps like WWF Together are not just ideal for educating one's kids, but is also fantastic for those just keen on zoology or animal conservation in general. Along with being full of interesting tidbits, stunning photos and videos, the app is also beautifully made. An origami globe, for example, shows how far away a particular species is from your location, while the apps navigation is amongst the best we've seen.



Swipe

If, like us, you tend to store loads of photos on your iDevice, and sometimes would like to add text to them, then Swipe is a worthy addition to your app arsenal. The R8 app enables one to type on a text, selecting from a myriad of fonts, and then adjust font's colour, and position within seconds. 🍷

Android Apps of the month



MovieTube: Free Full movies

Moviebuffs and foreign language students will love MovieTube, which collects and sorts full-length films from YouTube. These are available in 14 languages including English, French, and German, with all of the movies that this app serves up having been authorised for viewing either within South Africa or EMEA (if you selected SA as your country). Just make sure you are connected to a Wi-Fi network to avoid any nasty data bill shocks.



Blood & Glory: Legend

If all the ancient combat action from TV shows *Spartacus* and *Game of Thrones* has you itching to step into the arena to slice and dice your adversaries, then this title will allow you to do just that. Take note though that this free game weighs in at a massive 320 MB, so rather connect to a Wi-Fi network when downloading it. Once done, you'll be rewarded with some excellent graphics and addictive gameplay.



Silent Sleep

Ever had your peaceful slumber interrupted by a late night call or SMS, because you forgot to set your smartphone's ringer to silent? If so, then Silent Sleep is perfect for you, as it will automatically mute and unmute your device according to the times you set (23:00 - 06:00 for example). You can select which days of the week to implement this, and whether to totally mute the phone or simply set it to vibrate. Now if it would only work on the neighbour's cat... 🍷

BlackBerry Apps of the month



Job RSA

Looking for a new job but don't know where to start? Have a look at Jobs RSA by Paladin Management. This app serves as a shortcut to the Jobs RSA website; however the website itself has a variety of features such as the latest/available career opportunities and the ability to save the type of jobs you would like to be notified about. On the other hand, do note that you need an account with the site in order to have full access to the website.



Night Camera

Night Camera by DAN IT Fonts Led costs R12 and increases the quality of pictures taken at night. However, do note that quality of pictures will vary with Blackberry devices – for example older devices may not gain much of an improvement compared to newer devices. You can also set an interval and number of pictures that will be taken. Still sceptical? Try the free version.



Texas Hold'em Poker 3

Besides offering a lengthy career mode, Gameloft's free Texas Hold' em Poker 3 features decent sound effects, a training section to improve your card skills, and a levelling up feature with a reward system that earns you money as you climb the ranks. Also try your luck at the roulette section to win in-game prizes. Need to improve your poker face? Give this app a try. [IF] 🍷

Smartphone top tips

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

Apple iOS tip

One of the niftier features introduced in iOS 6 is the ability to categorise certain contacts – and the mail one receives from them – as a VIP (very important person). These emails then appear in their own separate section of the inbox, making them easier to find in a hurry. To make a contact a VIP is straightforward enough – simply find an existing email from them and touch their name to reveal their contacts card. In the resulting pop up, you will see an option to add them as a VIP.

BlackBerry tips

Tip 1: By holding down left Shift key, the Alt key, and H, you will access the 'Help me' screen. This screen provides useful information such as BlackBerry Pin, current battery level and the OS version.

Tip 2: Do you want to see the strength of your signal? Hold Alt and type N M L L. This will change your signal bars into a number, with the higher the number the stronger your signal.

Android tip

Factory reset

If you are about to upgrade your smartphone and plan to either sell or give the old one away, the personal info, photos etc. on it needs to be removed. To do this, tap on Settings > Back up and reset > Factory data reset and finally on Reset device. 🍷

Sci News



Mass effect

If losing some weight is part of your plan for 2013, you're not alone. The very standard of mass needs to get back in shape too. According to a recent report in the journal *Metrologia*, carbon build-up has caused one of the 40 official platinum-based kilogram replicas to weigh in about 100 g heavier than when it

was made in 1884. The gain may seem benign, but it could have significant implications for industry, especially if the different replicas used around the world put on weight at different rates. Fortunately scientists found that a quick treatment with UV light and ozone can easily remove the extra carbon layer to bring the kilogram back to its ideal weight.



Forget me not

Here's something worth remembering: a treatment for Alzheimer's disease may be on the cards. Scientists write in a recent issue of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, that they have found a substance that can stimulate the brain's

natural defence against the disease. A study in mice showed that protein plaques known to cause Alzheimer's symptoms had reduced by 80% after the mice were injected with a molecule called MPL (monophosphoryl lipid A) for 12 weeks. The mice also improved in learning new tasks in this period. MPL has long been used as a component in vaccines, which raises hopes that it could soon be incorporated into a vaccine against Alzheimer's disease.



No sweat!

Having smelly armpits suck, but according to an article in a January issue of the *Journal of Investigative Dermatology*, a lucky few need not sweat the small stuff. Researchers found that from a sample of almost 6500 British

women, 2% have a gene mutation that prevents them from producing smelly sweat. Interestingly, about three quarters of non-smelly sweating people use deodorant although it's not necessary. The researchers think using one's genetic make-up to guide personal hygiene product purchases could be useful to prevent unnecessary chemical exposure among consumers. And if you want to know whether you might be part of the select few, check your earwax: apparently non-smelly sweaters are likely to have dry rather than sticky ear wax. [LP]

Green News



VW showcases CrossBlue SUV concept

At last month's Detroit Motor Show, VW revealed its new CrossBlue SUV (sports utility vehicle) concept. This car is powered by a hybrid power unit that combines a

conventional two-litre turbodiesel engine with two electric motors to deliver a combined 225 kW of power and 700 Nm of torque, enough to propel the SUV to 100 km/h in approximately seven seconds onto a terminal velocity of 202 km/h or 120 km/h in electric-only mode. VW claims that the CrossBlue's 9.8 kWh lithium-ion battery offers a 33 km driving distance on pure electric power, with a combined fuel usage figure of just over two liters per 100 km.



Accolades for innovative SA-developed eco tech

The Innovation Hub has announced the winners of its Gauteng Innovation competition. Within the

green category, Smokeless Coal came out tops for its smokeless energy source. By combining waste coal, clay and water, it burns longer than conventional coals. SavvyLoo scooped second prize for its low cost, waterless toilet that is easy to assemble and clean, and is able to flush problems such as water pollution from pit latrines down the toilet. Handy Power Chargers took the final podium place, winning third prize for its kinetic chargers that can be used on notebooks, mobile phones, lamps, radios and the like, in areas where there is no grid electricity supply.



Gravity weighs in as lighting solution within developing countries

Two London-based designers, Martin Riddiford and Jim

Reeves, have developed a new type of light called GravityLight. Currently in prototype, it is being developed for third world countries where access to the electricity grid is unavailable. Instead of an expensive solar power system, inconvenient batteries, or dangerous kerosene fuel, the GravityLight is powered by, you guessed it, gravity. Any object weighing in at around 9 kg can be attached to the pull-weight power system working on kinetic energy. When a user lifts this weight (it takes about three seconds) the light is powered for about half an hour, as the pull-weight makes its way back down.

Gear in the office

The TechSmart office usually overflows with new products coming in for review. Here are our thoughts on a few of them.

Fujifilm XE-1

We adored the image quality that came out of the Fujifilm X-Pro1, the problem was the camera was not only bulky, but also very expensive (R20k for the body). With its mechanical dials, aperture ring on the lens and old-school look and feel, the new XE-1 is what we were waiting for, all in a smaller body and a better price (R14 000 with 18-55 mm lens). The cherry on top? It contains the same X-Trans APS-C sensor found on the X-Pro1.



Nokia Lumia 820

Nokia's Windows Phone 8 Lumia 820 is powered by the same 1.5 GHz dual-core Snapdragon S4 CPU doing duty in the Lumia 920, but packs a 4.3" (800 x 480 pixels) ClearBlack OLED display compared to the 920's 4.5" (1280 x 768) LCD. A decent dose of nostalgia is included with the 820, as users can swap out the back covers *ala* 3310.

RRP: A pricey R6 400 and R450 for the wireless charging cover.



Razer Blackwidow Ultimate gaming keyboard

Smashed your standard keyboard to bits after its inadequate setup caused you to lose an FPS deathmatch recently? Then you should consider Razer's Blackwidow Ultimate gaming keyboard, which packs a sturdy and weighty design. Pulling off perfect combos and rotations within your favourite MMO or FPS are made simple via fully programmable keys with on-the-fly macro recording along with five additional dedicated macro keys. RRP: A touchy R1 900.




HP Deskjet Ink Advantage 5525

With its Deskjet Ink Advantage 5525, HP aims to cover all the connectivity options for those looking for a capable all-in-one for the home. Onboard is Wi-Fi connectivity, direct printing off an SD memory card and emailing to the printer via HP ePrint. The Ink Advantage ink is also cheaper than regular cartridges. RRP: R1 500.



Powertraveller Spidermonkey

With tablets and smartphones all needing a recharge at the end of the day, the Powertraveller Spidermonkey provides the ideal way to do so. It contains four USB ports in a small space efficient device, so no more trying to find enough space on the power cord extension. The first two USB hubs are specifically designed for Apple products seeing that it adapts the charging parameters automatically. R500 from www.mobilegadgets.co.za. 

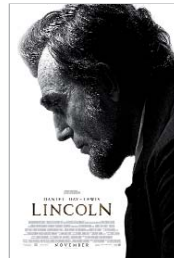


To watch



Lincoln

1 Feb 2013



The chances of Daniel Day-Lewis not walking away with his third Oscar for *Lincoln* are, we think, slim to none. Even if the story of Abraham Lincoln, America's second best president (superseded only by the distinguished reign of George W. Bush Jr) is of no concern to you, go watch this for some of the best method acting south of *Borat*. It's directed by Steven Spielberg, who apparently spent 12 years researching the movie, and addressed Day-Lewis as 'Mr. President' for the duration of filming.



Hitchcock

8 Feb 2013

If Day-Lewis' turn in *Lincoln* is not enough to fill your appetite for exquisite acting, then maybe Anthony Hopkins can assist. *Hitchcock* tells the story involved in getting *Psycho* on-screen, starring Hopkins as the legendary scare-monger alongside the excellent Helen Mirren as his suffering wife. For fans of Hitchcock, this is a must see, for anyone else, Bruce Willis is waiting below.



A Good Day to Die Hard


15 Feb 2013

A Good Day to Die Hard is the fifth time John McClane (Bruce Willis) needs to save the day, making it a full working week of almost kicking the bucket. McClane finds himself in Moscow teaming up with his son (Jai Courtney, *Jack Reacher*) to stop the scourge of terrorism, weapons grade uranium and nukes. All these are of course not new to the aging McClane, so it should be nothing more than a regular day at the *Die Hard* office.



Movie 43

8 Feb 2013

Movie 43 can easily turn out to be either the funniest movie of 2013, or the most offensive. Probably both. We're not even attempting a summary on such a strange film, except that it stars an ensemble of actors, including the lovely Emma Stone, Hugh Jackman, Kate Winslet and Gerard Butler as a Leprechaun. Don't say we didn't warn you first. 

HELIGUY VIPER RC

This is the latest generation of super agile Quads that will enable a lot of new people to get into the hobby of radio control. They are easier to fly than even the small helicopters, yet this quad is very agile in the EXPERT mode and can perform axial and pitch flips. It may be small, but the Heliguy Viper micro quadcopter's performance capabilities belies its size with it even being able to fly outdoors.



JBL ONBEAT MICRO

With the new Lightning dock connector built in, the JBL OnBeat Micro lets you enjoy your music without wires or adapters.



PETSAFE REMOTE DOG TRAINER

Electronic handheld transmitters deliver correction signals to your dog's remote training collar from a distance of up to 300 meters.



iRIG MIC CAST

iRig MIC Cast is the ultra-compact, portable voice recording microphone designed specifically for recording podcasts, interviews, lectures, voice memos, speeches and more



ION JUKEBOX DOCK

Listen to all your music in style with the Jukebox Dock from ION Audio. The Jukebox Dock is a table-top speaker dock for iPad with vintage looks and modern capability. The Jukebox Dock has an eye-catching, real wooden cabinet with lighted neon-style trim. It's a great addition to any decor and will get everyone talking.



APPLE TV

With Apple TV, everything you want to watch - films, some in 1080p, photo slideshows and more - plays wirelessly on your widescreen TV.



SENNHEISER PMX 6851 SPORTS NECKBAND HEADSET

The PMX 6851 SPORTS neckband headset is not only lightweight but also sits unobtrusively under your biking half helmet.



CLOCKY: RUNAWAY ALARM CLOCK

Clocky will never let you oversleep again. Clocky runs away and hides if you don't get out of bed.



FRANCHISEES REQUIRED FOR:
Bloemfontein, Port Elizabeth, Durban, George, Polokwane
PTA - Brooklyn Mall (012) 346-2726
PTA - Woodlands (012) 997-0450
JHB - Randridge Mall (011) 792-4912
CNT - Centurion Mall (012) 643-0967

LOOKOUT FOR OUR WATERFALL MALL

BRANCH, RUSTENBURG
OPENING MARCH 2013!



THEGADGETSHOP.CO.ZA
Franchise enquiries, please email franchise@thegadgetshop.co.za
f b @TheGadgetShopSA

CASH REGISTERS
SUPERB
olivetti
086 100 5855

Superb Uniwell Systems
555 Mitchell Street
Pretoria West 0183
South Africa
Tel: 012 327 5855
Fax: 012 327 6275
sales@superb.co.za
www.superb.co.za

EUniwell JAPAN e-POS GPOS
JIN RIBBON CORN CTION H.R.S. fidelity
olivetti ITALY ECR SPARES

IMPORTER & DISTRIBUTOR

Refurbished PC

DELL	IBM ThinkCentre
hp	
IBM Business Partner	
	IBM Lenovo SFF Desktop ..a 983
	Dell Optiplex Gx520 ..a 1395
	HP DC7700 SFF ..a 1375
	HP Compaq Laptop ..a 1994

Small Photo only, your needs may vary

- CASH REGISTERS - PC POINT OF SALE - SCANNING - TOUCH SCREEN - NETWORKING - SCALES - BAR CODING -

- CASH DRAWERS - SCANNERS - POLE DISPLAY - POS PRINTERS - RIBBONS - RENTALS - REPAIRS TO ALL MAKES OF CASH REGISTERS -

www.superb.co.za Dealers Countrywide Franchise/Dealer Opportunity Available



DEDICATED TO POS

- Focus specifically on the Hospitality, Retail &Catering
- Global distribution and support network
- Software development for PoS, Back Office & Head Office
- Systems integration with option of embedded or PC based systems
- Range of PoS terminals to suit various styles of operation & budgets

Software Solutions:

- GPS software
- Epos Promotions Manager
- Booking Systems B&B, Hotel
- Touch Screen Till System
- Cashless Solutions
- Customer Loyalty Schemes
- Chip & Pin EFT Providers
- Sports & Leisure System
- Kitchen Monitors
- TV Screen Promotion System



PC Back Office i/c (Max 31) Link to PC

* Supermarkets * Bottle Stores
* Butchery * Convenient Stores * etc



R695.00

RC Helicopter Gyro Dynamite

The ultimate in RC entertainment – not only does this infrared controlled helicopter look the business; it offers pilots a sleek, stable, ultra-smooth flying experience. The 3 channel helicopter immediately strikes new users as one of the quietest and most stable RC toys around.



R125.00

Whistle Key Finder

Whistle and your keys will flash and beep noisily until you locate them!



South Africa's only one-stop online shop for the urban man.
www.BuyMantality.co.za



Tel: 011-462-5482

NEXT DAY COURIER DELIVERY!
E & OE | All prices include VAT



R325.00

Shot Glass Chess

Pit your wits against your opponent while enjoying a swift snifter.



R525.00

USB Voice Recorder

Take notes or record conversations with this small and subtle USB Voice Recorder.



R100.00

Plunger Magnets

You might not be able to unblock the sink with them, but these cute plunger magnets will liven up any fridge. Great for those special photos on your fridge.



CubeX

Need professional grade big parts?
With CubeX, it's a slam dunk!



3D Printers • 3D Scanners • 3D Design

Print In Multi-Color

Easily create your multi-color parts with CubeX Color Software



Design Software Included

Includes a free license of Cubify Invent Software and material to get you started



CubeX 3D printer is designed to bring your creations to life with professional grade printability for the office, school or home.

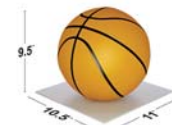
Web: www.3d-printer.co.za



CubeX Trio

Print as Big as a Basketball

Print up to 11" x 10.5" x 9.5"



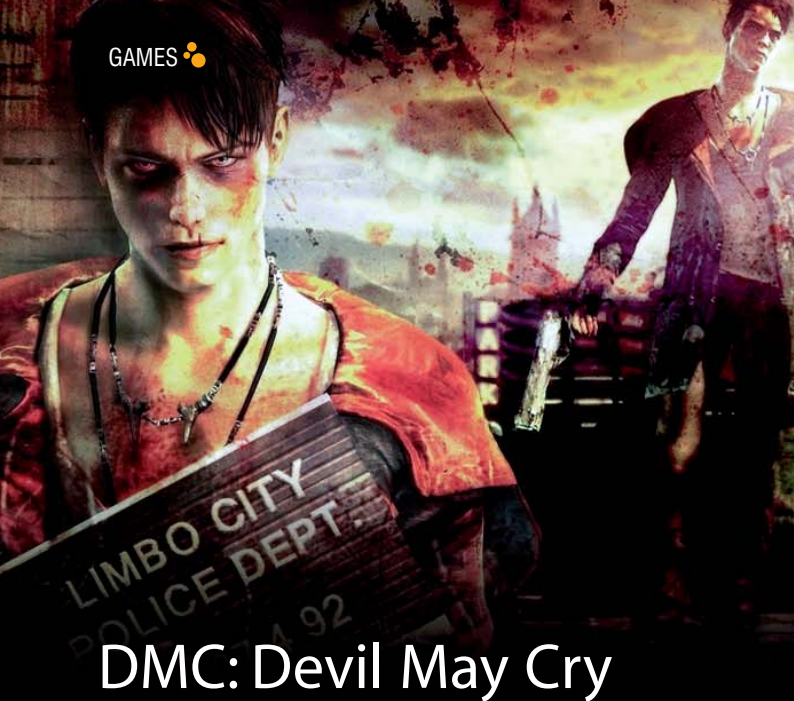
Print in over 30 colors & materials

Print in PLA and ABS



Unit 6 Ground Floor Right, Cambridge Park
5 Bauhinia Street, Highveld Technopark,
Centurion

Tel: +27 (0)12-654-0559
Cell: +27 (0)82-561-5051
Email: info@3d-printer.co.za



DMC: Devil May Cry



We have been keeping a close eye on Ninja Theory's reboot of the Devil May Cry franchise for quite some time now, and the big question on our, and many a fan's mind, has been whether the

Heavenly Sword developer will do the long running franchise justice.

To put anxious minds at rest from the get-go, our conclusion is that neither we nor fans need to have fretted, as the game is everything we hoped it would be. The story, in brief, revolves around Dante, who is approached by The Order, a resistance group led by his long lost brother Vergil, to help him defeat the demons which have nefarious plans for Earth.

DMC proves itself to be a game that is as gripping as it is gory.

Awesome arsenal

Dante, who is more than a mere mortal and is capable of inflicting bloodshed on a level that Dexter would envy, does so, at least to begin with using his guns, Ebony and Ivory, and his sword. This though is complemented as the game progresses with a variety of other weapons to add to his arsenal, including but not limited to, the Arbiter, a demonic Axe which offers slower, but shield breaking attacks, the Osiris Scythe for handling large groups, and an Ophion Whip to grapple enemies or interact with objects.

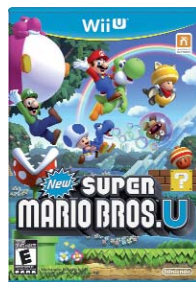
A considerable feature of the game though, is how stylishly Dante fights, and this entails using a vast variety of combos and abilities players can purchase, and upgrade, at the start of a mission or at a the Divinity Statues dotting the levels. Also in its favour, is the fact that production qualities are top notch, with distinctive graphics, fantastic levels, flawless sound and very fluid and satisfying combat. Equally as important, the story is expertly crafted, which is exactly what we were expecting from Ninja Theory.

To the point

Along with numerous keys to find to unlock secret doors, lost souls to liberate and a grading after each mission, which offers impetus to try improve one's score, DMC proves itself to be a game that is as gripping as it is gory, and one that we can unreservedly recommend action fans pick up. [RN]



New Super Mario Bros U



We can think of few better, more nostalgic ways to break-in a new Wii U than with a new Mario instalment, and New Super Mario Bros U is a fine title to do just that.

For any player that has ever played a Super Mario Bros game, the story is familiar: Mario's nemesis Bowser, has captured Princess Peach and it is up to Mario to save her (again). In case you are wondering why the princess in question doesn't just hire a few bodyguards, given the number of times she has been kidnapped, the answer is simple – it would obviate the need for Mario to traverse numerous craftily designed worlds, which would be a shame.

The side scrolling adventure game can be played with either the Wii U GamePad or with a Wii remote, however, we were happy to note that playing on the former, which we opted to do, felt wholly natural and comfortable.

Additionally, on the Wii U, the game looks fantastic, offering sharp and vibrant visuals. The good news continues on the gameplay front, as the inventive levels offer a plethora of secret areas to discover and the familiar three and a half minute time limit, making them ideal for some quick, bite sized entertainment.

On the Wii U, the game looks fantastic, offering sharp and vibrant visuals.

Bite-sized brilliance

Depending on how adept your platforming skills are, some levels, complete with boss battles, are more difficult than others, and may require several playthroughs to successfully complete. Worry not though – each level certainly has replayability value, as finding and garnering all star coins per level and within the whole game is a more challenging feat.

For the multiplayer inclined, the Boost, Challenges and Coin Battle modes offer their fair share of extended fun. For example, playing with friends takes on a different dimension when one player handles the GamePad and is tasked with summoning floating patterns to aid other players as they complete the game.

To the point

New Super Mario Bros U is a fine debut for Nintendo's latest console, as well as being a fun, and absorbing platformer in its own right. Easily recommended. [RN]

WALKA Mobile TV accessories



Universal Car Mount - Headrest

R169

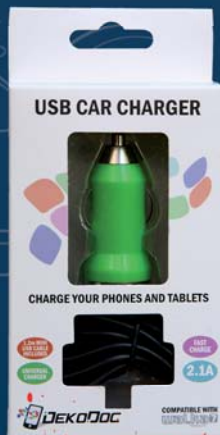
WALKA 7 Stand and protection cover

R229



WALKA cover

R89



USB Car Charger

R79



Portable Charger

R299



Anti-Glare Screen Protector

R69



Selected products available at selected stores. E & OE. Prices valid while stocks last. Special valid from 1 February – 31 March 2013




Aspire S7 | Touch

Open up with the Acer Aspire S7 Ultrabook

- **Premium materials and construction**
 - White Gorilla® Glass 2 cover is smooth, thin, strong, scratch resistant, easy to clean
- **Touch and show in Full HD**
 - 10-point touchscreen opens flat; hotkey flips view 180° for sharing
- **Light-sensing keyboard**
 - Automatically adjusts brightness to ambient light
- **Chill out with Acer TwinAir cooling**
 - Comfortably cool in your lap and under your palms



Beautiful, fast, fluid  Windows 8

For further information please call Acer Sales on:
0861 Acer SA (223 722) or visit www.acer.co.za

For regular updates visit our
Acer Africa Facebook page
and follow us on twitter



www.acer.co.za