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Lenovo ThinkPad Helix

Tablet without compromise



Xbox One vs. PS4

The fight is on!



Top 5 Bakkies

The tough test



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At the heart of the image





The cost of privacy

The recent revelations from whistleblower Edward Snowden regarding the US government's large

scale surveillance on its citizens are very frightening, but not totally unexpected.

Regarding the sacrifice of privacy in order for better security, the argument often goes that if you've got nothing to hide, you've got nothing to fear. For this it might help to go back to the words of one of America's Founding Fathers, Benjamin Franklin, who said: "They who can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety."

It's interesting to note that, at the time of his revelations, Edward Snowden was working for consulting firm Booz Allen Hamilton, a private company contracted to work for the US government. It begs the question - even if a government is to be trusted with conducting large scale surveillance (they're not), why did a private company have access to this information? And who's to say these companies are trustworthy? If you think it's any better here in SA, maybe go and read this: bit.ly/mgarticle.

What Edward Snowden, Bradley Manning and Julian Assange have proven, is that the ones that have the most to hide, are governments themselves.

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

P.S. Go to www.techsmart.co.za, you might find something new.



6 Xbox One vs. PS4

At long last all the detail surrounding the next-gen consoles have been released. We go head-to-head with Microsoft's and Sony's latest.

12 Lenovo ThinkPad Helix

Lenovo doesn't skip with the new ThinkPad Helix, offering a Core i7 powered tablet with a great keyboard dock. Is it worth its R25 000 asking price?

22 Top 5 Bakkies

Biltong, rugby, sunshine, corrupt politicians and bakkies – a good description of life here in SA. We knuckle down and bring you the toughest rides, ready for some serious off-road action.

31 Top 5 games from E3

E3 is the biggest gaming expo of the year and a goldmine of new games. We pan through the dreck to find you the top new titles.



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5 million. Number of videos uploaded to Instagram over the course of 24 hours, following the app's unveiling of a new video sharing feature.

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Top Tech Titbits



Google launches Project Loon

Google's launch of its new Project Loon, which is either lunacy or genius, aims to enable internet connectivity in rugged, remote or rural areas using balloons. These are carried by the wind at altitudes twice as high as commercial planes, and are intended to beam internet access to the ground, with connection speeds comparable to that offered by 3G networks. While the pilot flight is being tested in New Zealand, South Africa is on the list for other countries that could host their own testing of the project.

Microsoft partners with The Jobs Fund

Microsoft South Africa, together with the government's Jobs Fund, announced a partnership aimed at directly addressing youth unemployment in the country. Microsoft elaborated that it will train more than 3000 unemployed graduates, with the aim of enabling them to obtain permanent jobs in the technology sector in the next three years. Students would sign 12-month internship contracts under the Jobs Fund banner, with a target of having a minimum of 75% of the students employed in full-time jobs by the end of their training. Those interested can visit <http://www.jobsfund.org.za/>



Apple unveils iOS 7

Apple has answered the problem of its iOS system looking and feeling quite long in the tooth, unveiling a more modernised iOS 7 operating system for its mobile devices. The new platform boasts a completely redesigned 'flat' interface, with simpler typography and translucency. The new OS also brings several new features to the fore. These include a new Control Centre, Notification centre as well as enhanced multitasking. The latter should enable users to switch between their apps using a stackable card-like user interface. It is expected this spring.



Microsoft recants Xbox One restrictions

In a sudden shift, Microsoft announced that its imminent Xbox One was abandoning DRM restriction plans that would have required users to connect to the internet at least once every 24 hours. Furthermore, the company also changed course on its approach to buying, selling and hiring second hand games, stating players would be free to sell or lend their games as they saw fit. The console's region locking restriction was also lifted. The announcement came following the Electronic Entertainment Expo, when players indicated displeasure at Microsoft's approach. See page 6 for more info on the next-gen consoles.



End of an era. This winter Nokia ships its last ever Symbian-powered smartphones in the form of the final batch of 808 PureViews.

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Hot New Products



Porsche 911 50th anniversary edition

Few car models can boast a fifty-year lineage, but the Porsche 911 is not just any car. In celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of its most famous model range, the German sports car maker is launching the 911 50th anniversary edition. This rear-wheel-drive coupé is powered by a 3.8-litre flat-six rear-mounted engine that can rocket to 100 km/h in 4.2 seconds (3.8 seconds in the case of the PDK version) and onto a terminal velocity of 300 km/h. The special edition 911 will be available in limited numbers during Q4 2013 for a cool \$125 000.

Bowers & Wilkins 805 Maserati Edition speaker

The 805 Maserati Edition loudspeaker from British audio aficionados, Bowers & Wilkins, aims to deliver the perfect blend of studio quality sound and opulent design. Beautiful maple wood veneer and the same black leather one finds in Maserati's luxury sports cars adorn this luxurious speaker. When it launches during spring, this speaker will go for \$5 000 Stateside, plus another \$700 for the stand emblazoned with the famous Maserati Trident logo.



RJ-Romain Jerome deluxe Moon Orbiter

The RJ-Romain Jerome watch company designed its new Moon Orbiter wristwatch as a timepiece tribute to space travel. Its black dial contains actual moon dust, whilst the steel case incorporates "elements from the Apollo 11 space shuttle". Only 25 Moon Orbiters will inhabit the luxury timepiece galaxy with each carrying an RRP of \$115 000.



Lomography Konstruktor DIY camera kit

Everyone is a photographer these days, but not everyone can build their own camera. Well actually you can. The Konstruktor DIY camera kit from Lomography gives all you need to construct a fully functioning 35 mm SLR.

Price: \$35. Try lomographystore.co.za on 011-403-0302 to see if they have in stock yet.



Lego Superman Metropolis Showdown

Our favourite childhood things in one package – can it be? Just in time for the *Man of Steel* movie comes Lego's DC Universe Super Heroes. The set we're eyeing is Metropolis Showdown, featuring the mighty Superman doing battle against the destructive General Zod in downtown Metropolis. Yours for R200 from <http://toysouthafrica.com>.



Nike Flyknit Hyperfeel

For the runner looking for a barefoot feel but with a fair amount of comfort added, Nike has just released their Flyknit Hyperfeel running shoes. It might look like a funky sock with a sole, but the Hyperfeel's Flyknit technology uppers and a next-gen Free sole should be enough to provide a comfortable glide past opponents. No official release date is set yet.



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WELCOME TO THE NEXT-GEN Xbox One and PS4 cross swords



This year's Electronic Entertainment Expo (E3) was the scene for an auspicious kick off of the next-gen console gaming wars. The question on many players' lips now is do they opt for Microsoft's Xbox One or rather go the route of Sony's PS4?

On a hardware level, there is not too much of a distinction between the two consoles. Both sport eight-core processors and Blu-ray drives and each has undergone an aesthetic redesign. Additionally, both consoles boast 8 GB of memory, although the PS4 takes the lead by opting for GDDR5 RAM as compared with the Xbox One's DDR3.

'Eye' am watching you

Whereas the Xbox One ships with Kinect included (it's no longer optional), the PlayStation Eye will be an optional extra. Additionally, each console will have its fair share of tantalising exclusives upon, or at least shortly after, release. On the PS4, players can look forward to the likes of *inFamous: Second Son*, *The Order: 1866*, *Knack*, *Shadowfall*, *Killzone* and *DriveClub*. On the Xbox One, players can expect to see *Dead Rising 3*, *Quantum Break*, *TitanFall*, *Sunset Overdrive* and inevitably, *Halo 5*.

A stream of clouds

Beyond the hardware and the games, the unveiling was auspicious for another reason,

highlighting two companies with very different approaches to gaming as a whole moving forward. Both Microsoft and Sony expressed readiness to embrace the cloud; on the Xbox One, players can look forward to having their entire libraries backed up and available in the cloud, while Sony players will have the facility to stream their PS3 and PS4 titles as of next year.

Furthermore, each console has its own approach to the second screen trend; Microsoft via its SmartGlass app, while Sony still opts for its dedicated handheld, the PS Vita. Neither the Xbox One nor the PS4, will be backwards compatible with older games.

Sudden changes

However, the most stark difference between the two companies and their forthcoming consoles lay in their original approaches to sensitive and controversial issues such as digital rights management (DRM). At first, Microsoft presented a restrictive and confusing strategy in regards to second hand games. Additionally, the Xbox One started its launch requiring players to connect once every 24 hours to the internet, something which could leave those with spotty connections unable to play any of their games until they do so, single player titles included.

The company also laid down prescribed conditions for selling, trading in or even just giving one's game away to a third party, while confirming that its new console would be fully region locked. Following E3, claiming it had listened to its customers, Microsoft suddenly reversed course on all of the above, discarding the connectivity requirement, lifting

restrictions on the resale of games and making the console region free.

Sony, who's announcements followed Microsoft's, took the opposite tack from the outset. Indeed, the company ultimately won the loudest applause not so much for what it will change, but rather, for what it won't. Jack Tretton, Sony's CEO, stressed that it would not enforce DRM or in any way require users to connect in order to check in with a server and validate their purchases.

Furthermore, Sony added to this by announcing that players will be able to freely share and sell their games as they saw fit, as well as buy second hand titles if they so desired, without restrictions on Sony's part. Additionally, like the PS3 before it, the PS4 would not be region locked. Adding to this momentum, the company then offered firm and unwavering support to independent developers, and not just the developers of expensive AAA titles – something Microsoft is struggling with.

To the point

Sony's *coup de grâce* to the Xbox One announcement though, really came with its price, with the PS4 commanding \$400 (R4 000) as compared to the Xbox One's \$500 (R5 000), a full \$100 lower.

This, while Sony assured that subscribers to PS Plus would continue to receive free monthly downloadable titles via its Instant Game Collection offering. Suffice to say, the console war battle has clearly begun, with both systems now on a near parity. Come this November, we should see which side garners the most supporters from the outset. [RN] ♣

100 million+. Apple surpassed this global sales milestone for its iPod touch range, first on sale back in 2007.



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Asus tempts tablet transformation at Computex

Asus came to Computex, which took place last month in Taipei, Taiwan, with a number of tantalising new products which users can look forward to.



Transforming Trio

At its "We Transform" Computex 2013 press event, the company's chairman, Jonney Shih, introduced the Asus Transformer Book Trio, a new Asus Transformer Pad Infinity, along with the Asus Fonepad Note 6 and the Asus Memo Pad HD 7.

Leading the transformation charge was the Transformer Book Trio (pictured above), billed as being the world's first three-in-one mobile device. Aided by an 11.6" detachable display and dual operating systems, the company elaborated that the three-in-one device can switch effortlessly between functioning as a Windows 8 notebook, Android tablet and Windows 8 desktop PC.

This means that users will be able to access the 700 000 apps in the Google Play Store and more than 50 000 apps in the Windows Store from one portable device. The company continued that the PC Station dock has its own 4th generation (Haswell) Intel Core i7 processor, keyboard and 750 GB hard drive. With the tablet display detached, it can be connected to an external display for use as a desktop PC.

Additionally, the PC Station serves as a charger for the tablet to extend battery life. The tablet features a 2.0 GHz Intel Atom processor and a 16:9 aspect ratio IPS display with full HD 1920 x 1080 resolution and up to 64 GB of storage.

Did you get the memo?

In keeping with the trend to cater to the mainstream market, the company also announced its 7" Memo Pad HD 7. Once again pushing the price envelope as it did at the time with the Nexus 7, Asus announced that the 8 GB version would cost \$130 (R1 300) and the 16 GB version would cost \$150 (R1 500). It may be lightweight at 302 g, but the quad-core processor should ensure that no corners have been cut with regards to performance. Indeed, this was certainly the case with that other budget star, the Asus-produced Nexus 7.

The 10-point multi-touch IPS display will offer a resolution of 1280 x 800, while users can expect to see a front 1.2-megapixel camera and optional 5-megapixel rear-facing camera onboard. Finally, the device will likely be aimed at the young, or young at heart, considering the fact that it will be available in a range of colours, including dark blue, white, pink and green.



To infinity and beyond

Asus then moved on to usher in a new Transformer Pad Infinity. This boasts a 1.9 GHz Nvidia Tegra 4 mobile processor with a quad-core ARM Cortex-A15 CPU and 72-core GeForce GPU.

The 10.1" display sounds like it is no slouch either, boasting a sumptuous resolution of 2560 x 1600. The tablet's redesigned keyboard dock now features a multi-touch touchpad, USB 3.0 and an SDXC card reader. Asus asserted that the dock will also provide a longer battery life when the tablet is docked.



Note well

Following on from the versatile Fonepad, the company also announced the device's successor, in the form of the Fonepad Note FHD 6. Continuing in the same vein as its predecessor, this too is intended to be part 3G smartphone, part tablet, with a 1.6 GHz Intel Atom Z2560 dual-core processor. The Fonepad Note FHD 6 can lay claim to 1920 x 1080 Full HD Super IPS+ display, and a display brightness of 450 nits. As the Note in its name suggests, the 6" tablet includes a stylus for quick and accurate handwritten input. Hopefully, this will make it not just a writer's companion, but another option for those who long for a portable digital sketchpad.



To the point

Admittedly, these are early days for the products; with prices and availability yet to be confirmed. However, it certainly seems that those who love mobility will be spoilt for choice when these products do arrive locally. [RN] •

256.5 million. Total number of tablets expected to ship this year, a 67% increase as compared with 2012's 153.6 million.

ASUS recommends Windows 8.



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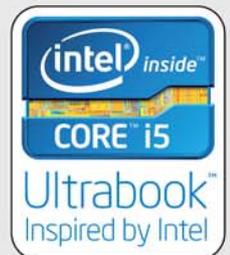
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Acer Iconia W510

The Iconia W700 was a good tablet, but was let down by a strange keyboard and docking station combination that was difficult to carry along. The Acer Iconia W510 puts an end to this problem.

The W510 offers a keyboard dock which you simply click the tablet into. Although made from plastic, the keyboard comes across as well designed. One thing to remember is, since this is a 10.1" tablet, the keyboard's size is a lot smaller than you might be used to working on with a regular notebook. The same is true for the trackpad, but nonetheless, it is a great deal better than trying to type on Microsoft's onscreen keyboard.

Going to the dock

The docking keyboard provides one full sized USB port, and although a micro USB connector is found on the tablet itself, Acer doesn't provide the necessary adaptor. Ditto for the micro HDMI port, while a MicroSD card slot can be used to expand on the 65 GB of storage space provided.

The W510's keyboard is a great deal better than trying to type on Microsoft's onscreen keyboard.

One thing that Acer can be commended on is that, once docked, the screen can be tilted backwards far enough to provide a comfortable viewing angle, without the unit falling over. The Samsung Ativ (see adjacent), for example, doesn't provide the same degree of flexibility, which makes it difficult to type when it's on your lap, while HP's Envy X2 simply tilts over due to the weight of the screen.

Processing power

The W510 cuts down on processing power, since it does not include the Intel Core i3 processor as found on the W700, but rather opts for a dual-core Intel Atom Z2760 processor running at 1.8 GHz and 2 GB of RAM, similar to the Samsung Ativ smart PC. If you're going to work with large files, the W510 is not the one to get, although common tablet tasks should be fine.

To the point

As a tablet with a keyboard docking solution, we were quite fond of the Acer Iconia W510, but its R10 000 pricetag makes it compete more closely with the larger Samsung Ativ which boasts better connectivity options. [MJ] 🍌

Samsung Ativ 500T

One of the lessons that the tablet craze has taught us, is maybe all that processing power isn't always necessary.

The past few months we've received a number of new Windows-based tablets for review. Many come with a separate keyboard dock, turning them into a notebook-like device to help with creating documents, spreadsheets and emails. In order to assist with battery life, they offer the less powerful, but more battery friendly Intel Atom processors onboard.

At 11.6" the Samsung Ativ 500T is slightly larger than your average tablet. The few inches extra on the screen make it easier to work on, but at 740 grams it certainly isn't the lightest unit available. Once docked with its keyboard, the Ativ comes very close to a full sized notebook.

One of the Ativ's best features is its battery life.

If you're going to use the Ativ as a notebook, certainly the best feature is its battery life. Connected to a Wi-Fi network and running a movie we received 11 hours of power, so a full working day on the battery alone is not out of reach. That said, the Intel Atom Z2760 processor, combined with 2 GB of RAM, is definitely not suitable for heavy lifting. It showed during benchmarking – the Atom simply cannot hold a candle to the more powerful Intel Core processors. If your aim is photo and video editing, or intensive multitasking, it's best to look elsewhere.

Docked in the bay

On the tablet itself is a microSD card expansion slot, with which you can add to the 64 GB onboard storage already available. You'll also find a slot for a SIM card, allowing for 3G connectivity on the go – a boon for road warriors. The keyboard dock adds two very important USB 2.0 ports to the equation, bringing the total to a very comfortable three.

We found the chiclet keyboard comfortable enough to type on, although it has a very plastic feel to it and it's definitely not as nice as the dock found on HP's Envy X2. As a final bit of critique we would have loved to have heard a solid click when slotting in the tablet into the keyboard. Instead you're sometimes left wondering if the keyboard is fully connected.

Despite Microsoft's best efforts, using Windows 8 in desktop mode on a tablet is still a painfully frustrating experience. Luckily Samsung includes a stylus, and although not as nice as the S-Pen found on the Galaxy Note 10.1, it improves the user experience quite a bit.

To the point

As far as Windows 8 tablet solutions go, the Samsung Ativ 500T1C is a very solid offering. Used in conjunction with its keyboard dock it offers pretty close to full notebook experience, as long as you don't expect too much with regards to performance. The added stylus and 3G connectivity raises its profile even more. It retails for R10 500 [MJ] 🍌

Up to 12 hours. Battery life expectancy of Apple's new 13" MacBook Air, with the battery of the smaller 11" version expected to last up to 9 hours.

ASUS recommends Windows 8.



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Lenovo ThinkPad Helix

Lenovo lists its ThinkPad Helix as a tablet, but that might just be a bit misleading. Docked in its keyboard it is actually a full strength, fully capable notebook.

As with most ThinkPads you can take the Helix ultrabook to a bar fight. It is built like a brick and the click it makes when you dock the tablet is comparable to closing the door on a fine German saloon.

For business users connectivity is a big deal, and on the 11.6" tablet you will find a SIM card slot for 3G connectivity on the go. There's also a USB 2.0 port and a MiniDisplayPort, but no SD card slot to expand on our review unit's 256 GB SSD (large for an SSD). All the ports are unfortunately located at the bottom of the tablet; a bit of a pain when you have a USB stick inserted and you're working on your lap. Once docked, users will find 2x USB 3.0 ports at their disposal (inconveniently placed at the back of the dock), while Lenovo provides a USB dongle for ethernet. Luckily, Lenovo also includes a digitiser stylus to work with on-screen.

And docked

As far as the keyboard dock goes, it is by far the best we've used. The ThinkPad range is renowned for its excellent and type-friendly keyboards, and the Helix is no exception. It is partly for this reason that the Helix feels like a proper notebook that you can simply whip off the screen to use it as a tablet.

The Helix feels like a proper notebook that you can simply whip off the screen to use it as a tablet.

The other reason is the processing power at its disposal. Inside you'll find a top-end Intel Core i7 3667U dual core processor that runs at 2 GHz per core, backed-up by a massive 8 GB of RAM. If you favour multitasking, or have a number of processor intensive applications, this is your machine.

To the point

It's not to say the Helix is without its faults: located at the back is a flimsy piece of plastic that detracts from the overall design; the tablet gets quite hot; the volume rockers are difficult to press; and the screen can only tilt back so far. We dare say though, that in future, many more notebooks will follow the Helix's footsteps. It seems like Lenovo didn't spare any expense in producing a device that simply does not compromise. The main deal breaker is its price – an expensive R25 000. [MJ] 🍌

Sony Xperia Tablet Z

Sony has a good thing going with its Xperia Z smartphone – so why change when it comes tablets?

Sleek and stylish: two words that describe the Xperia Tablet Z, Sony's latest. Luckily for us Sony did not stop there, since much like its flagship phone, the Xperia Z, its new 10.1" tablet is also dust and water resistant. In fact, if all the ports' flaps are closed, you can keep the Z under one metre of water for up to 30 minutes. This means that reading Kindle ebooks in the bath is now at long last a worry-free experience.

There's very little that Sony hasn't done right with the Tablet Z.

As can be expected, the Tablet Z takes its design-cues straight from the Z smartphone. It's definitely not as curvy as other tablets, but this does not detract from a comfortable user experience, with three things helping out. The matte finish of the back cover allows for a bit more grip, while the tablet's weight and thickness makes it a pleasure to hold for an extended period of time. In fact, at only 6.9 mm (495 g), the Tablet Z is thinner than most smartphones.

And performance too

With all this counting in the Z's favour, one might expect a drop in performance. Not true: the Tablet Z is one of the best performing tablets currently available. With 2 GB of RAM and the 1.5 GHz Qualcomm S4 Pro quad-core processor onboard, it benchmarked the same as the similarly specced Z smartphone, trouncing tablets such as the Samsung Galaxy Note 8.

Add to this a brilliant full HD 10.1" LED screen with excellent viewing angles, expansion of the 16 GB storage via microSD card and full HD connectivity, and you have yourself certainly one of the top tablets currently available.

To the point

There's very little that Sony hasn't done right with the Tablet Z. It's a premium Android (4.1.2) device that shows a commitment from Sony to being more than an also-ran in the tablet space. Onboard you'll find everything that you need (except a stylus and power cable) including an excellent screen, strong performance and solid design. You pay for the privilege though, since it retails for an expensive R9 000. [MJ] 🍌

R600 million. Amount of money raised by Snapchat, a smartphone messaging app startup that deletes messages moments after they are opened.



TECHNOLOGY BECOMES ART

Samsung has created an entirely new benchmark for television with its new 85" Ultra-High Definition (UHD) TV. This is not just a TV, it's a timeless masterpiece.

When television programmes overtakes film as the place that top tier actors ply their trade to great critical acclaim, you know that it's become the centerpiece of home entertainment, a talking point, and a focal point for home theatre enjoyment with friends and family.

Samsung has created a new standard in television with its new 85" UHD TV, not only in terms of cutting edge techno-

you'd want a unit that not only supports, but enhances those elements. This unique aesthetic concept looks unlike any that has gone before it. Seemingly floating in its frame, supported by a base inspired by an artist's easel, it marks a new frontier in what innovation can deliver. Since size really does matter, and as this is the biggest Samsung television to be currently commercially available, it also boasts an extraordinarily vivid resolution - small surprise, then, that the 85" UHD TV offers four times the resolution of full HD.

It's all about smart evolution, a UHD TV able to respond to future UHD amendments, providing a truly timeless viewing experience that isn't limited by outdated technology, but rather harnessing enhancements through an embedded update facility.

With lifestyle trends driving the desire for larger screens with ever-better quality and performance, this isn't just a television, it's a design statement, a floating, ever-shifting piece of art, as worthy of a place in a gallery as it is in a home.



Premium design follows a premium lifestyle, so game-changing innovation in your products is not a nice-to-have, it's a must-have. For that superior home cinema experience you want the simplicity of classic design to draw your focus in one direction only - towards the remarkable 85" screen. Used to a snarl of cables behind your HD TV? Imagine a TV that boasts just one discreet cable connected to the foot of the base, while the inputs run to a separate 1-connect box. Now that's form meeting function.

logical development, but by creating a striking point of difference in design - because your TV is not just a medium of entertainment, it's a statement of intent for proud homeowners. It's all about functional design at its very best.

But why pay the premium for UHD when there's currently no broadcast standard or content designated for UHD TV? This crystal-clear TV has a secret - an unusual feature that utilises an optimum up-scaling algorithm that can select the most suitable settings according to the video source, making detailed images much sharper and at the same time minimising the noise.

And if character and understated style are the basis of your home's décor, then

Did you know?

- The 85" UHD TV boasts an extraordinary vivid display - equal to four times the resolution of full HD.
- No cable clutter! A single cable is discreetly wired into the base, while a separate 1-connect box combines all other inputs into a central location.
- The Evolution Kit ensures that the 85" can be upgraded to the latest software and hardware as developments occur in UHD.
- Six speakers with an output capacity of 120 watts. To contextualise this, the average TV has a speaker capacity of approximately 20 watts.



Interview: Grant Atkinson, Professional photographer



While we have spent some hands-on time with the Canon EOS 6D, we asked professional photographer and guide, Grant Atkinson, for his view and experience of the entry level full frame offering.

TechSmart (TS): What features in general offered by the 6D do you most appreciate and use in professional situations?

Grant Atkinson (GA): Fast, accurate autofocus, even in the lowest levels of light, is a strong point for the camera. It also has image quality that is excellent, especially at higher ISO sensitivity settings that I am often forced to use for nature photography. This while twenty megapixels of resolution give options for big prints or cropping.

TS: Did you find the Wi-Fi connectivity facility on the camera – something that the higher end full frame 5D Mark III does not offer – to be an imperative feature or just a good-to-have when travelling?

GA: For my use the Wi-Fi allowed me remote control of the camera without having to carry extra components like a separate infra-red trigger and camera remote. This was invaluable when travelling, as airline baggage allowances often impact how much gear I can travel with. I like to use remote camera locations for wildlife when the occasion presents itself, and the smaller the camera unit, the less likely it is that wild animals will take note of it.

TS: What kind of photography do you believe the 6D is most suited towards?

GA: I see the 6D as a less-costly all-rounder that is going to find itself filling all kinds of roles, just like the 5D Mark II before it. The camera has a control set that will be instantly familiar to those users upgrading from the Canon 700D range, and a compact size that means it will not be intimidating, even to those with smaller hands.

The 6D's particular strengths are its AF performance, especially so in low light, and its image quality, as well as its compact size. It is great for weddings, events and any general photography usage, both indoors and out. With a very quiet Silent mode, it makes it unobtrusive, while it also makes a super landscape camera, with its image quality, and lightweight making it easy to carry. ❁

Full Article bit.ly/6dinter
Also visit Grant's website at www.grantatkinson.com.



Canon PowerShot N

In the realm of portable cameras, it's all too easy to start longing for something a little different, that rocks the compact camera boat. Enter the PowerShot N.

The camera, firstly, is shaped somewhat differently than the usual, bearing a distinctly more square shape rather than a rectangular one. With a 2.8" LCD screen that can lift ninety degrees to the body, it then resembles a cube in one's hand. Its design, however, is intentional, as the variable screen enables one to capture stills and video from awkward angles.

Distinguishing features

Other differences which distinguish the 12.1 megapixel camera in general use include the absence of the usual shutter release on the camera's top, and the familiar zoom nib. Rather, images are taken by touching the screen, or by using one of the two control rings encircling the lens. The second control ring accesses the camera's 8x (28-224 mm equivalent) optical zoom. The control rings can take a little getting used to. thus, we preferred to use one control ring to zoom into our subject and then just capture the image by touching the screen.

Creative companion

Cementing its role as a creative companion – and challenging the allure of using one's smartphone camera – is an innovative feature called Creative Shot. This fires off six different images of the same scene with varying exposures, points of focus, contrast, composition and colour options, often producing some interesting, even surprising, results.

The PowerShot N's funky approach is a breath of fresh air.

Also onboard is Wi-Fi for connecting to one's notebook, tablet or smartphone. Like a smartphone, the camera is smaller than most compacts, connected, and creatively orientated. This enables shooters to connect the PowerShot N to their smart device and share their efforts via the social network of their choice. The inclusion of Canon's DIGIC 5 image processor ensures general use and navigation is quick and responsive.

To the point

The Canon PowerShot N may seem odd at first, but that is because it marches to the beat of its own, creative tune. When all is said and done, the camera's unique, whimsical and funky approach is a breath of fresh air. It has a RRP of R3 700. [RN] ❁

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A photograph of an office desk with two computer monitors, a keyboard, a mouse, and a water bottle. A blue rounded rectangle is overlaid on the top left of the image, containing white text. The background shows a window with a grid pattern and a white brick wall.

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The power to do more



Nikon School of Photography in South Africa

Nikon in South Africa is committed to assisting Nikon users with getting the most out of their equipment. We investigate what they have to offer.

I AM LEARNING

Nikon School of Photography (NSP) aims to inspire photographers of all levels and promote discussions about photography amongst Nikon users. The aim of the school is to help photography enthusiasts master new techniques and improve their picture-taking skills by providing clear, direct information on a wide range of technical and creative topics.

Not only does the NSP have an extended range of offerings to suit a variety of different skill levels and requirements, but it has also teamed up with some fantastic presenters to provide truly unique experiences.

Free camera training

The NSP runs free camera training on all their entry-level Digital Single Lens Reflex (DSLR) cameras. These free training courses are designed to help users discover the potential of their Nikon camera and teach the basic functions. Once completed, Nikon users will be able to get the most out of their equipment.

Free photographic workshops

In addition to free camera training the NSP presents free workshops on a number of topics. These are run on a monthly basis and cover a specific topic each month. There is no

cost associated with these workshops and each has a theoretical and practical component. Participants are given practical tips and camera settings that will help them understand a particular photographic theme.

Workshops for the remainder of the year include Sports and Action photography (July), Photographing Kids and Pets (August), Wildlife and Travel photography (September) and Engagement photography (October).

Introductory course – Exploring Photography

The NSP is very excited to announce a new series of courses that will help amateur photographers gain a greater understanding of the photographic process. This four-hour workshop is designed to help understand the key photographic concepts of Aperture, Shutter speed and ISO. It will show participants techniques that will ensure that every image is correctly exposed; how white balance settings can be used to enhance photographic images; the importance of obtaining correct focus; and how to handle shooting in low light conditions.

The course is filled with valuable tips and techniques to optimise camera settings and create innovative and exciting images. The course, Exploring Photography, will start in August and booking is essential.

Specialist Workshops

The specialist courses presented by the NSP offers more experienced photographers and advanced enthusiasts the opportunity to learn advanced techniques from acknowledged industry leaders. Workshop topics include Aerial photography, Advanced painting with light techniques, Setting up a studio and

Speedlight photography. Each of these workshops are conducted by an industry specialist with practical sessions included, since most photographic techniques are learnt not by understanding the theoretical aspects but by grasping the practical component of the genre.

Photography Tours

Nikon in South Africa and Land Rover Centurion have joined forces to create an exciting initiative called "I AM ADVENTURE". The initiative sees two great adventure brands creating exciting photographic excursions for all levels of photography. Land Rover Centurion has invested three new Discovery 4 Land Rovers and together with Nikon trainers and equipment, the vehicles will be the perfect tools to set out on photographic adventures. Nikon will be offering exclusive workshops where clients will have the opportunity to drive the new Discovery 4 while partaking in specially designed photographic excursions.

To the point

Nikon School of Photography workshops are great for beginner photographers, advanced amateur photographers, or even professional photographers who want a fresh way to look at their photography. All the training facilitators are passionate photographers themselves, who strive to create workshops that are fun, engaging and filled with learning opportunities. The Nikon School of Photography is about empowering individuals to engage in photography and create a lifetime of great images.

For more information on the NSP, contact school@nikon.co.za or 086-116-4566. 🌟



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200+. Number of new features that have been added to Apple's upcoming computer operating system called Mac OS X Mavericks.

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Pinnacle Africa and Samsung

Unique solutions for unique needs



Pinnacle Africa and Samsung have partnered in South Africa to bring you a raft of cost-effective new packages to meet companies' mobile needs.

Over the last few years Pinnacle Africa, distributor of advanced ICT equipment and manufacturer of products such as the Proline PC range, has been focussing on the business sector in conjunction with all the major software and hardware providers within the IT and mobile environments. Likewise, Samsung has followed on its consumer strengths with a targeted focus on corporate customers.

Now the two companies are joining forces by offering smartphones and tablets; value-add services; and customised bundles, directly to the end-user. Many institutions can benefit from this, including those seeking to outfit their staff, along with educational institutions looking for cost-effective digital solutions for teachers and students, for example.

The model essentially allows corporates to leverage existing IT budgets which have been dedicated for device capex spend, and to procure mobile devices via traditional IT channels. Pinnacle Africa fits nicely into this channel as they are a major distributor of mobile technology.

A new approach

As this new business model has evolved, Pinnacle Africa has listened to what their clients need. "Initially, when we first tried this model," says Gerhard Hartzenberg, divisional head of Samsung, Pinnacle Africa, "we noticed that, from a pricing perspective, the markets we were targeting were extremely price sensitive. A more innovative approach was needed, so we started offering lower memory variance devices and, most importantly, Wi-Fi only options too. This is most definitely a unique selling point from our perspective as it can be deployed to staff or students without any additional fees." The idea has found traction within the education and corporate world because there is a significant price difference between Wi-Fi only and 3G models. The option to go with Wi-Fi only models is further enhanced by many big organisations having easy access to Wi-Fi infrastructure.

Pinnacle Africa also saw that many of their customers needed to have mobile business apps or content loaded onto devices before sending it to the end-user. "It was impractical

to order 1000 units and then have users physically install the required software on each unit themselves. We decided to offer a service whereby we would preinstall content that the client needed" Hartzenberg noted.

Personalisation is key

The product customisation does not end here. Pinnacle Africa is able to put specific branding and covers onto smartphones and tablets. "Further, we can insert marketing collateral inside the device packaging, so that if the customer wants any particular communication around a specific offer, it is available. This allows for the product to become a client-specific out-of-box experience which has been extremely popular as many of our clients want to personalise their offering going to the end user. We are, at our core, hardware movers and our entire drive is to create value for people who are buying hardware from a capex perspective and need reliability, after-sales service and product flexibility," Hartzenberg continued.

Hartzenberg further believes that the success of Pinnacle Africa's various packages is based around a trend where consumers realise that they can purchase a device of their choice, and then look for a separate voice and data bundle. "What we have seen of late is consumers actually going out and buying devices and using them on a pay-as-you-go basis. You may want two or three different devices but don't necessarily need a contract for each of them. Furthermore, customers may find a great deal and want to upgrade without having to take out a new contract. You can simply use your existing contract on your new device."

Service is everything

To complete their value-add offering, Hartzenberg says that Pinnacle Africa have launched an industry first. "For the first time in the mobile industry, we are offering a two-year on-site, next-business-day warranty on Samsung smartphones and tablets. This means that if customers have a problem with a device, they can phone one number and we will send out a technician who will offer post-sales service and support. If the technician cannot fix it on the spot he will do a swap-out. This, we believe, will be of great benefit to the corporate world, since smartphones and tablets have evolved into critical business tools. It is simply not viable to wait 14 days to get a device back."

Contact information

For more info on Pinnacle Africa's mobile communications offerings, contact them on 011-265-3000 or go to www.pinnacle.co.za.

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TOP 5 Double cab bakkies

There are few things as South African as the Big 5, biltong, Currie Cup rugby and the weekend braai. Also included in this list is the hallowed double cab bakkie. Here are our top 5 choices.



5

Mazda BT-50 3.2 SLE double cab

Like most of the other bakkies within this comparison, Mazda's BT-50 is the prop of the double cab rugby team, making for an imposing sight on South African roads. What sets it apart from the rest is its exterior

looks, which certainly will not leave anyone in doubt as to what bakkie is rapidly approaching in their rearview mirror.

The BT-50 is powered by a 3198 cc in-line five cylinder turbodiesel engine, which delivers 147 kW at 3000 RPM and a useful 470 Nm of torque between 1750 and 2500 RPM. Though the outside of the BT-50 adopts a love it or hate it styling approach, the interior cabin presents driver and passenger with a comfortable, car-like environment with features such as Bluetooth voice control and cruise control as standard. RRP: R409 600.



3

Amarok double cab 2.0 BiTDI 4x2 Highline

Besides sporting the most handsome face out of all the bakkies in this comparison, VW's Amarok also boasts the best in class handling on tarred roads. Its 1968 cc four cylinder

turbocharged motor cranks out 132 kW at 4000 RPM and 400 Nm of torque between 1500 and 2250 RPM.

Sensible drivers should see a combined-cycle (town and highway driving) fuel usage figure close to the claimed 7.9 litres per 100 km. Also onboard is plenty of safety tech to assist drivers on or off road including an electronic stabilisation programme with brake assist, hill start assist and hill descent control. RRP is R396 500.



4

Toyota Hilux 3.0 D-4D Raised Body Raider DC

Toyota's evergreen Hilux has lost some of its shine in the face of some more modern double cab rivals such as the Ford Ranger and new KB, despite its comfortable interior

and capable off road performance. The Raider DC is powered by a tried and tested 2982 cc inline four cylinder turbo diesel engine developing 120 kW at 3400 RPM and 343 Nm of torque between 1400 and 3200 RPM.

For R389 000, you not only get a bakkie that is capable of hanging onto a fairly good resale value, but 17" alloy wheels, six speaker sound system with Aux and USB input, as well as a 5 year or 90 000 km ToyotaCare Service Plan.



2

Isuzu KB 300 D-TEQ LX 4x2

Unlike all the other manufacturers in this comparison, Isuzu specialises in off road vehicles. The all-new, sixth generation KB bakkie is powered by a three litre, four cylinder turbocharged diesel engine that

delivers 130 kW at 3600 RPM and 380 Nm of torque between 1800 and 2800 RPM. More conservatively minded drivers should obtain a combined-cycle fuel usage figure of 7.8 litres per 100 km.

A plethora of safety features are onboard such as ABS, EBD, driver and front passenger airbags, curtain airbags, and front seat side airbags. The RRP of this desirable double cab is R410 400, which nets buyers plenty of standard kit including automatic climate control with pollen air filter, a six speaker sound system and integrated Bluetooth mobile hands-free system.



1

Ford Ranger 3.2 XLT HR Diesel

Under the bonnet of the Blue Oval's Ranger resides Ford's phenomenal 3198 cc 5 cylinder turbocharged powerplant that easily outmuscles rivals (barring the BT-50) courtesy of its 147 kW at 3000 RPM and trailer pulling 470 Nm of torque between 1500 and 2750 RPM.

Together with the Amarok and KB, the Ranger represents the latest and greatest tech one can find in a bakkie, as opposed to SA's number one choice – the Hilux, which delivers capable off road performance, best in class build quality and resale value as its main selling points. Ford's Ranger bests the Hilux in terms of its design as well as its powerplant's performance, and the rest of its rivals in terms of interior features.

The RRP of the Ranger comes in at R407 600, and includes plenty of standard kit the likes of Bluetooth-based voice control for calls and audio streaming, helping the Ranger ascend to the top of the double cab hill. [HD] 🍷

The best-selling passenger cars in SA during May 2013: VW Polo (2688 units), VW Polo Vivo (2645), Toyota Etios (1507).

More power, less fuel usage for the Hyundai Sonata



Hyundai skipped the midlife revamp for its Sonata and rather opted to introduce a new powerplant and some minor styling changes, culminating in the new 2.4 GDI Elite.

Styling wise, the new Sonata is almost unrecognisable as a new model, thanks to subtle changes that include new fog lights, a slightly redesigned grille, as well as revised head- and taillight clusters that now boast Xenon bulbs. Interior changes are also minimalistic and offers a sound system that features a touchscreen display, and heated seats for the front occupants, which should be a delight to use on those cold winter mornings.

The biggest difference comes in the form of the 2.4 litre four-cylinder GDI (Gasoline Direct Injection) petrol engine that produces 148 kW at 6300 RPM and 250 Nm of torque at 4250 RPM. This is enough power to accelerate the car from standstill to 100 km/h in nine seconds. Despite providing the Sonata with 13% more power and 10% more torque than before, the new engine actually utilises less fuel, as the combined-cycle (town and highway driving) usage drops to 7.9 litres per 100 km (from 8.2 litres) in the new 2.4 GDI Elite.

Driving impressions

When you floor the accelerator pedal of the Sonata GDI Elite, there is a bit of lag initially before the engine changes down a gear so that you are able to keep your speed while ascending a hill.

Drivers can bypass this lag by changing gear for themselves via the shifting paddles situated behind the steering wheel. These work a treat especially on the highway when you want to overtake, since you merely flick the left paddle to change down a gear, providing the level of acceleration needed to pass slower moving traffic.

During our almost 110 km test route, the gas-charged dampers and fully independent suspension of the Sonata did a magnificent job of absorbing the impact of speed bumps and potholes, whilst the coil-springs and stabiliser bars kept body-roll down to a minimum.

To the point

The RRP of the new Sonata 2.4 GDI Elite is a pricey R379 900, but the biggest sales hurdle facing the Sonata is the lack of brand appeal compared to its luxury saloon competition, most notably BMW's 3-Series. [HD] ❖

Audi RS5 drops its top



Audi RS 5 drivers looking to let the sunshine in during those sunny afternoons are in luck, as Audi South Africa has unleashed the RS5 Cabriolet onto local streets.

The German luxury carmaker expanded its 2013 RS model range to five vehicles with the addition of the new RS 5 Cabriolet. This joins its four high-performance siblings, the RS 4 Avant, the RS 5 Coupé, the TT RS Coupé and the TT RS Roadster) in the lineup.

Even though winter is underway in South Africa, RS 5 Cabriolet drivers can bathe in the rays on a sunny afternoon, with the four-seat convertible being able to lower its soft top in just 15 seconds. If the weather happens to take a turn for the worst, the top can be raised in 17 seconds, even while the vehicle is travelling at speeds of up to 50 km/h. The RS5 Cabriolet's roof compartment takes up a mere 60 litres of the total 380 litre luggage compartment capacity of the car, leaving passengers with 320 litres which is a best-in-class figure according to Audi.

Putting a smile on petrolheads' faces

This Cabriolet should be capable of delivering an exhilarating drive in the twisty mountain pathways or rain-soaked city streets thanks to its high-revving naturally aspirated 4.2 litre V8 FSI engine. This powerplant churns out 331 kW at 8250 RPM and 430 Nm of torque between 4000 and 6000 RPM, enough power to launch the car from standstill to 100 km/h in under 5 seconds at sea-level. Its limiter only cuts in at a glorious 8500 RPM. Terminal velocity is an illegal 250 km/h, but that is only due to the car being reigned in by its electronic speed limiter.

Audi claims that drivers should see a combined-cycle (town and highway driving) fuel consumption figure of around 10.7 litres per 100 km, which is actually quite decent for this class of performance car.

To the point

Unfortunately, the joy of working on your tan at excessive speeds costs an exclusive R986 000 including all taxes and a five-year or 100 000 km Audi Freeway Plan. Two more RS models will arrive before the end of this year in the form of the RS 7 Sportback and RS Q3. ❖

Sci News



A river runs through it

Water is life. And according to a recent report in the journal *Science*, the former was definitely present on Mars. Upon examining Curiosity rover's pictures of an area in Gale Crater, scientists found a scattering of smooth,

round pebbles. The pebble trail is a tell-tale sign of running water, as they can form only when water carries stones over long distances. The shapes and sizes of the pebbles further suggest that the water may have run up to one metre deep and flowed at about one metre per second. And if Mars once was wet and warm, it may be just a matter of time before finding signs of life. Image courtesy NASA/JPL-Caltech.



Fast forward

Cheetahs like to get their food fast. According to an article in a recent issue of the journal *Nature*, a cheetah can chase down its prey at a top speed of 93 km/h over more than 170 m. Using tracking collars fitted with GPS and motion sensors, researchers measured

sprint patterns of five wild cheetahs over the course of 17 months. During a sprint, the cheetahs accelerated twice as fast as racing greyhounds and four times faster than Usain Bolt during his 100 m world record dash. But speed alone didn't bring home the bacon; clever manoeuvres and grip were as important. The data showed that during a successful hunt, the cheetahs would sprint, then rapidly hit the brakes and quickly change direction before setting off on another dash. Fast and smart. Image courtesy of Flickr user Vark1.



Double jeopardy

HIV is a callous killer. But scientists report in the journal *Nature* that they may be able to thwart some of its plans. The study showed that the enzyme DNA-PK, which in normal

conditions coordinates the repair of broken DNA strands, switches sides upon HIV infection. When HIV invades our immune cells, it breaks a DNA strand to fuse its own genetic material with that of the host cell. Surprisingly, DNA-PK then tells the immune cell to die rather than repair itself, which means the very cells meant to fight the infection are destroyed. The good news, though, is that knowing how the virus manages its destructive feat can help us to develop drugs to stop viral replication early on. [LP]

Green News



Paperless Parliament on the eco horizon

National Assembly speaker, Max Sisulu, revealed that an application dubbed 'My Parliament' is in its final testing phase and will be launched soon. The app will enable Members of

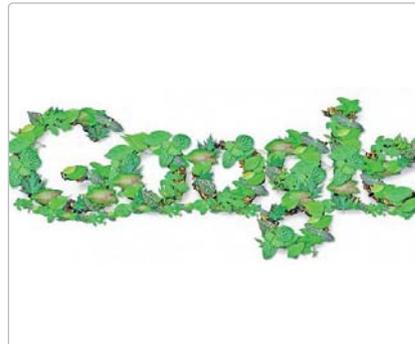
Parliament (MPs) to receive their Parliamentary papers and schedules digitally. This move cuts down on the governmental body's need for paper pages, whilst also significantly reducing the amount of paper waste generated by the institution. We hope that, from now on bored Parliamentarians will not enjoy tweeting or playing Angry Birds on their smartphone or tablet, under the guise of utilising the My Parliament app.



Fiat scoops eco-friendly engine award

Fiat's 900 cc TwinAir Turbo bi-fuel methane-powered engine has scooped the title of Best Green Engine of the Year 2013 at the recently held International Engine of the Year Awards. This compact two-cylinder powerplant made its international debut last

year in the new Fiat Panda (pictured above), combining the environmental benefits of a methane fuel supply with the power and performance of Fiat's Turbo TwinAir technology. It delivers 59 kW at 5500 RPM and 140 Nm of torque at a low 2500 RPM, whilst consuming just 3.1 kg of methane for every 100 km driven on a combined cycle.



Google's first eco investment in Africa

Tech giant, Google, has announced its first renewable energy investment in Africa, which totals around R103 million. This investment was made in the Jasper Power Project, a 96

megawatt solar photovoltaic plant in the Northern Cape. Upon completion, Jasper will be one of the largest solar installations on the continent, capable of generating enough electricity to power 30 000 South African homes. According to Google, the project will bring economic and social benefits to the local community, since Jasper will create approximately 300 construction and 50 permanent jobs in a region experiencing high rates of unemployment.

27 billion. New record for messages sent over a 24 hour period via popular instant messaging platform WhatsApp.



To watch

With a number of blockbuster movies heading to local shores this month, there is no shortage of good movies to watch.



World War Z

19 July 2013

From the wealth of good movies still lying ahead, *World War Z* is without a doubt the one we're most excited about. Loosely based on Max Brooks' awesome novel, *World War Z* stars Brad Pitt as UN employee Garry Lane. He's tasked with scouring the globe for solutions in turning the tide against an ever increasing number of undead, which, unlike traditional zombies, have Usain Bolt sprinting abilities. If the trailers are anything to go by, we should as least have as much fun as 2002's *28 Days Later*.



Die Laaste Tango

5 July 2013

For something as local as Karoo lamb, the Afrikaans flavours of *Die Laaste Tango* should be on your menu. Firstly, no it's not a musical; this thriller is penned and directed by acclaimed crime writer Deon Meyer, whose novels have been translated into 20 languages. A workaholic detective (Louw Venter, Corne from *The Most Amazing Show*) brutally assaults a serial killer, and is sent to Loxton in the Karoo for his sins. He meets a woman with cancer (Antoinette Louw) who wants to dance one last tango before her death, but the killer is also plotting revenge. It should be riveting stuff.



The Lone Ranger

12 July 2013

As much as we love Johnny Depp, we can't help but think that his characters are becoming much of a muchness. *The Lone Ranger* does not look to prove us wrong, with Depp playing crazy/weird Indian Tonto, alongside Armie Hammer (*The Social Network*) as The Lone Ranger. It might not be a western in the traditional sense, but much like Will Smith's *Wild Wild West*, it should be good enough to accompany some kernel crunching.



The Wolverine

26 July 2013

This is the second solo outing for Logan (Hugh Jackman) and this time round he finds himself in Japan after the events of *X-Men: The Last Stand*. Stripped of his normal power, Wolverine has to face an enemy from his past, while a bit of growling and bulging muscles are sure to be present. Local director Gavin Wood is unfortunately not at the helm again (he's busy with the exciting sci-fi *Ender's Game*), with duties being taken over by the talented James Mangold (*Walk the Line*). 

TechSmart's top tweets



Here are the tweets that struck our fancy last month.



Jerm @mynameisjerm

Apple's keynote was an elaborate presentation showing the world, with nice icons, that Apple has almost caught up to Google and Android.
Expand



GlynnRyan™ @Glynnryan

#ThatAwkwardMomentWhen your dad gets hold of your Facebook status
...



Deep Fried Man @DeepFriedMan

Game of Thrones: Popular US fantasy. Game of Drones: Unpopular US reality.



Tom Holland @holland_tom

There is no sight in world cricket more redolent of an ancient Near Eastern warrior king than Hashim Amla in his batting helmet. #SAvPak



Jayce @Stevechingwaru

@techsmartmag makes the tech world go round #AWESOME



Notebook of Love @Notebook

Relationships are harder now because conversations becomes texting, arguments become phone calls, and feelings become tweets



Trevor Noah @Trevornoah

The closure law- if any tv show gets cancelled, they should have to make one last episode to end the story.



Max du Preez @MaxduPreez

I wonder how Chinese tourists feel when they take 'Made in China' souvenirs home after visiting South Africa



Chester Missing @chestermissing

In comedy using someone else idea is stealing. In journalism it's plagiarism. In music it's DJing.



kuberkoos @kuberkoos

i can confirm the stereotype. my beard wants to buy a bakkie.



Dang @Busocco

"Dude what does the FEARL tattoo on your back mean?"
"Oh it was supposed to say FEARLESS but it started to hurt too much."



Grumpy Cat @GrumpyCat

May your life someday be as interesting as you make it out to be on Facebook.

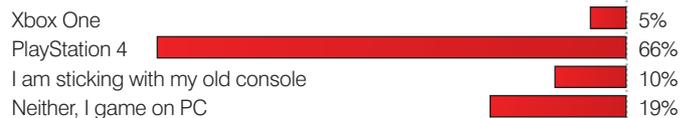


Not Will Ferrell @itsWillyFerrell

He broke her heart. She broke his Xbox. I think we all know who cried harder.

TechSmart.co.za online poll results

Which next-gen console will you be buying?



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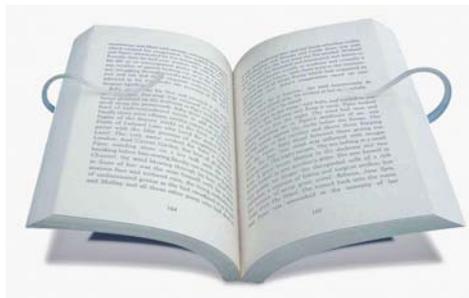
BBQ Sword

What do you buy for the braaimaster who seems to have everything? How about the BBQ Sword which takes a job at being both useful as well as swashbucklingly entertaining. The BBQ Sword is designed in the style of a musketeer sword, complete with sword handle grip, but remains every bit as practical as a conventional braai fork. R330 to play D'Artagnan next to the fire with the rest of the beer musketeers.



Gimble Book Holder

Looking to free up your hands when crawling under the covers with a good book, or to hold your place when cooking? The Gimble Book Holder



enables bookworms to do just that, having been designed to keep books open at the most reading-friendly angle, while still allowing users to turn the pages easily. It retails for R95 which nets buyers a set of two book holders that fit the most popular paperback sizes with a spine of up to 40 mm.

RazorPit Teneo Razor Sharpener

If coughing up the dosh to buy expensive new razor blade heads leaves you with skin irritation, put a stop to it with the RazorPit Teneo Razor Sharpener. This product not only sharpens dull blades, but it also removes organic material that accumulates on the edge of the blades while shaving, delivering a more hygienic shaving experience. It works with all razor blades and cartridges, disposable as well as double edge blades. R200 for a cheek so smooth that babies will be jealous.



Web Time Wasters



Narratively

<http://narrative.ly/>

With journalism in general, and long form stories in particular, being challenged by the seemingly unending trend towards instantaneous information and the need for speed

overtaking depth, Narratively is a breath of fresh air. The site is dedicated to slowing down the news cycle and instead telling in-depth and untold stories, about New York to start with. Thus, it delivers one story a day and this could range from a longform article to a photo essay or short documentary. Irrespective of your interest in New York itself, this experiment in storytelling is well worth your time.



Curious

<http://curious.com/>

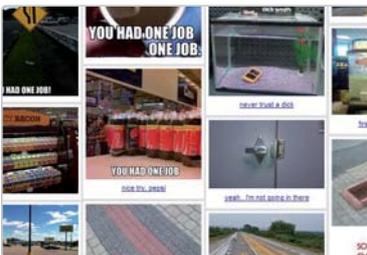
It has been said the surest way to stave off aging is to keep learning. If true, then Curious may be amongst the sites that could be considered a modern day version of the Fountain of Youth. The site enables people to teach others about a topic or activity which they know, through short instructional videos, as well as encouraging viewers to share their own expertise. A small sample of lessons on offer include everything from building a shelter and planting a garden, to writing HTML code and tiling your floor. While many of the lessons are free, teachers can also elect to charge a nominal fee.



Upworthy

<http://www.upworthy.com/>

Upworthy is another site that aggregates content for your viewing pleasure. However, it is considerably more, to put it delicately, intelligent and thought provoking than some other sites that do the same. One look at the categories under which videos are aggregated affirms this. These include diversity, economy, environment, immigration, politics, science and technology and inspirational. While many of the videos offer social and political commentary, a number are amusing and several are profound. Well worth a visit or ten.



Had one job

<http://hadonejob.com/>

From the serious to the laughable, Had One Job offers up photos of various 'fails' for your amusement. These include a picture of an iPhone placed in a Samsung display frame, an arrow drawn on the road that points cars directly into a pole, misspelt STOP signs (or is that SOPT signs?) and poorly planned carpentry, amongst others. For a quick and amusing glance at how signage and product design can go very wrong, this site does its job very well.

Six million+. Number of Facebook users' personal details which were inadvertently exposed by a bug in the Facebook machine.

Apple iOS Apps of the month



Poetreat

Poetreat's primary intention is to enable users to craft quick poems on their iOS device. To this end, users can customise their own rhyming scheme for each poem, and heed suggestions for potential rhyming words as they type. The

app's single biggest accomplishment though is its propensity to get out of your way creatively, while still providing some welcome assistance. Poetreat is free to use, although unlocking saving does require an in-app purchase of R8.



ColorSnap Studio

For anyone contemplating painting, or repainting a room, ColorSnap Studio is a must-download. The app enables you to select from some 1500 colours and add them to your palette. Additionally, you can capture a colour from a photo. These can then be used to paint a photo of both exteriors or interiors and thus get a good idea of how that colour would work on the wall before you pick up a paintbrush and crack open a can of paint. The app also offers up a means of calculating how much paint you will need per wall. Genius.



Star Wars: Knights Of The Old Republic

Few role playing games have made an indelible impact in quite the same way as Star Wars: Knights Of The Old Republic, and now BioWare's masterpiece has come to the iPad.

The game is most notable for beautifully distinct characters and story with a gasp-inducing twist. More importantly though, all that made it a hit some ten years ago is faithfully recreated here. At 1.8 GB it's a hefty download, and it does not come cheap either at R100. However, it's well worth it. ❖

Android Apps of the month



Vine

Vine may not be a new app, but thanks to Twitter ending the iOS exclusivity for this application, it certainly is new on Google Play. This app allows users to create and share looping videos of up to six seconds long. Users are also able to view

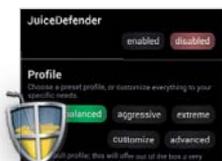
the Vines of other users for inspiration and follow their friends or accounts they like. It is available if you have a mobile device using Android 4.0 (ICS) and up.



Sheep Up!

If you are suffering from virtual rope burn thanks to the addictive nature of Cut the Rope and crave a new galaxy of entertainment after Angry Birds Space, then Sheep Up! may just be the ticket.

Within this puzzle title, tiny toy sheep have been stored in a cardboard box together with other old toys. Players are tasked with helping them escape by employing motion-based controls (tilting your mobile device) so that the sheep can reach the top of the box.



JuiceDefender

Smartphones are powerful devices, but they share a common problem which is single-day battery life. JuiceDefender enables users to conserve their devices' battery life by disabling the most draining features. For instance, the

app can automatically turn off LTE connectivity, when your smartphone's battery runs low. Opting for the paid version (R26, JuiceDefender Plus) adds more features like location-aware Wi-Fi control, enabling users to set the app to turn Wi-Fi on while you are at work and disable it as soon as you leave work. ❖

BlackBerry Apps of the month



Memory Booster – Free Device Memory

This free application by AppsForBB enables you to increase the performance of your BlackBerry device. Besides allowing one to clean up or recover lost or unused memory, users can also schedule the clean-up process

to run at their convenience. To its credit, for a system utility app, Memory Booster boasts an easy to use interface. However, users do need to keep in mind that the performance increase may differ for different BlackBerry devices.



theScore

If you are seeking an application that allows you to view the results of sporting events, then theScore is worth a look. This sport application provides access to coverage of a range of sporting results, including the likes of cricket, soccer and F1 as well as the Tour de France. The app's detailed user interface also lets users follow their favourite teams. The only problem we had with this application was that it seemed to take some time to refresh results. Working in its favour though is the fact that it is free.



Alien Quarantine

Fans of the *Alien* series should have a look at this free game by Gameloft. Alien Quarantine borrows elements from these popular movies the likes of *Aliens*, evident in the main story and gameplay. Thankfully, it boasts decent sound

effects and good graphics along with a lengthy campaign. However this game does suffer from performance issues, such as freezing and a slow responsive menu. Need something to take your mind off Aliens Colonial Marines? Have a look at Alien Quarantine. [IF] ❖

Smartphone top tips

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

Apple iOS tip

If you want to know at a glance just how much space each individual app is currently occupying, and what you can delete in order to free up space, click on 'Settings' and then under the 'General' tab, select 'Manage Storage'. After a little while of number crunching, your iOS device will give you the option to show all apps. This will then list the apps that take up the most space in descending order.



BlackBerry tip

In order to access safe mode on your BlackBerry you will have to perform a hard reboot, which necessitates extracting your battery from the device. When your BlackBerry is busy booting up (with a white loading bar) hold down the Escape key until your device starts. If done correctly you will now have enabled safe mode.

Android tip

If there is a number that you need to dial frequently, such as your complex's security gate, why not add a 'direct dial' to one of your home screens? A 'direct dial' option can be found under your widgets. Long press to add it, while it will also ask you to select the number/contact to link to. ❖

Gear in the office

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

Drift HD Ghost camera

The action cam market is hotting up with quite a few new entries.

Drift's HD Ghost camera surprised us with its onboard 2" LCD screen to compose shots and playback video. Also added is a wearable remote control which came in handy recording on the fly. It retails for R4 650, with the waterproof case going for R600. www.driftcameras.co.za.



LG Optimus G

Although the look of the LG Optimus G won't make it stand out in a smartphone line-up, having glass covering both the front and back of the device does enable it to feel more premium in hand than Samsung's all plastic Galaxy smartphones. Spec- and price wise (R7 000) this mobile competes against the Galaxy S3 rather than the S4, adding additional value via its 13 MP rear-facing snapper and LTE connectivity.



Epson L550 multifunction printer

What sets the Epson L550 apart from a sea of multifunction printers, is its integrated ultra-high-capacity ink tank system that employs four 70 ml individual ink bottles (cyan, magenta, yellow and black). Via this system the printer churns out up to 4000 printed black and white pages or up to 6500 colour pages. RRP: A pricey R4 860, with each of the high yield 70 ml refill bottles going for R110 a pop.



Genius Pen Mouse

Genius' Pen Mouse seeks to blend the best of two worlds, offering a pen shaped mouse that sits comfortably in the hand, while enabling one to navigate a PC or notebook using the familiar cursor. Clicking on objects is accomplished by pressing down on the nib, while the mouse has another set of buttons that enable one to right click and scroll through documents at a press. In short, it's rather nifty, particularly ergonomic, and very suitable for Windows 8 tablets. It has a RRP of R400.



Monster NCredible NTune headset

Monster and Beats by Dr Dre may have parted ways, but that doesn't mean that the company has stopped delivering desirable headphones that produce distortion-free sound at virtually any volume level. The NCredible NTune over-ear headset is an example of this. We liked its lightweight, yet comfortable design and tangle-free connection cable that sports built-in music playback controls and mic. RRP is an exclusive (but cheaper than Beats) R2 000. Contact Phoenix Distribution on 011-592-9200.



SanDisk Extreme USB 3.0 flash drive 32 GB

SanDisk's Extreme USB 3.0 packs a handy 32 GB worth of portable storage and delivers blistering transfer speeds via USB 3.0 connections of up to 190 MB/s. We like the fact that SanDisk included a copy of its SecureAccess software, which enables users to encrypt their data (128-bit AES) and password protect the flash drive. RRP is an expensive R700.



Grid 2 (Xbox 360)

Out of the current crop of newly released racing games, Grid 2 races its way to the top of the entertainment podium. This is due to excellent graphics, authentic engine sounds, realistic car damage, and a LiveRoutes feature which changes the layout of tracks on the fly to keep players on their toes. Just don't expect hundreds of gameplay hours as return on your R600 investment, due to a lack of course and car variety. We also missed the in-car cockpit view. Full review: bit.ly/grid2review.



Nikon Coolpix A camera

With its small body size, you might be mistaken for thinking the Coolpix A is yet another compact camera. Big mistake. It contains an APS-C sized sensor that is usually found in DSLR cameras, making for very good image quality. Its fixed lens (18.5 mm, f2, 28 mm equivalent) harks back to the old rangefinder cameras, while no optical viewfinder might be a problem for some. The Coolpix A retails for an expensive R10 800.



Virtual gender change. Apple's Siri, which will have a male voice option under the company's upcoming iOS 7 operating system.

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120 000 and 145 000. Respective BlackBerry World and Windows Phone Store app tallies.

E3 2013: THE TOP 5 GAMES

This year's Electronic Entertainment Expo (E3) certainly made its mark, bringing two forthcoming next gen consoles and a slew of tasty looking games to Los Angeles. With regards to games that were showcased, it looks like players will be spoilt for choice in the year ahead, as Microsoft, Sony and third party publishers all brought their best. Here though, are our top 5 picks to watch out for in the year ahead.



Watch Dogs

One of the mostly highly anticipated games that we have been waiting for, Watch Dogs, got fleshed out a bit more at this year's E3. The innovative open-world action game, which is being developed by Ubisoft Montreal, will apparently take place in a cyberpunk future. Players will be able to step into the shoes of Aiden Pearce, who can hack into an alternate Chicago's central operating system.

The game will apparently blend free-running elements with stealth and third person shooter components, as players take control of technology to meet various objectives. Watch Dogs is set to explore technology's impact on society, and it is slated for release at the end of this year across all platforms.



inFamous: Second Son

After the events of InFamous 2, many wondered what Sucker Punch had in store for its franchise. This PS4 exclusive, inFamous: Second Son, appears to be its answer, with a young brash superhuman, Delsin Rowe, taking over from Cole MacGrath. It seems that having superpowers has become a crime, as 'supers' are hunted by the oppressive Department of Unified Protection.

Rowe therefore ends up on the run and in search of others like him. Whereas his predecessor could travel the path of the reluctant hero, Rowe appears to revel in his abilities, wielding smoke and fire to devastating effect with gleeful abandon. Additionally rather than a fictional New Orleans inspired setting, as was the case in inFamous 2, Rowe's antics will be set in the beautiful Pacific Northwest.



Battlefield 4

Apart from Call of Duty: Ghosts, that other doyen of unrelenting first person shooter action also turned a few heads. With Battlefield 4, developers DICE not only blew us away with new trailers for both its single-player and multiplayer offerings, it also, in a first, announced that the game will accommodate five player squads.

Additionally, the game will apparently offer greater freedom to play to your strengths and give squad members orders accordingly.

Along with infantry, also on offer will be more vehicular gameplay and Michael Bay levels of destruction. The game will be available on both current gen consoles – the PS3 and Xbox 360 – as well as the Xbox One and PS4. A PC version will also be on offer this November.



Super Mario 3D World

The Wii U was not without its contenders as well, with the console exclusive, Bayonetta 2, marking a major scoop for Nintendo's latest, and similarly catching our eye. It was, however, Super Mario 3D World that really showed Nintendo going back to its roots and doing what it does best. Super Mario 3D World on the Wii U is a four-player Mario platforming game set in a 3D world.

Each of the playable characters – Mario, Luigi, Toad and Princess Peach – will have their own unique strengths. Luigi, for example, can jump higher, Toad has greater speed, while Princess Peach can float. Additionally, a new cat transformation will enable players to scratch enemies and scamper up obstacles as well as the flagpole at the end of levels.



The Witcher 3: Wild Hunt

Also capturing its fair share of attention was CD Projekt's third entry in the Witcher series. The role playing game's world has been expanded, to be some thirty times larger than its predecessor, great news considering the level of detail and obvious care that has gone into creating the previous game's settings. One such example is the fact that the game boasts its own weather system, which players will need to consider when setting out on quests.

Making a welcome return is Gerald, essentially a magic-wielding assassin for hire, who it seems will have no shortage of impressively fearsome monsters with which to deal. The game will be released on PS4, Xbox One and PC next year.

Honourable mentions: *Destiny*, *Quantum Break*, *Bayonetta 2*, *The Order: 1886*, *Thief* and *The Division*. [RN]



Remember Me



Is Remember Me a gem worth reminding yourself to pick up and play, or mostly a forgettable entry?

Remember Me takes place in 2084 in a futuristic neo-Paris, where human memories have become commodities, to be acquired and sold.

You step into the shoes and mind of Nilin, one of the most gifted memory hunters, who can not only scavenge memories but also remix them. However Nilin is also a card carrying member of the Errorist movement, which is dedicated to ensuring no company gains a monopoly on human memories.

Pain and gain

Suffice to say, you start off the game in a sticky situation, about to have all your memories wiped in what looks like an excruciating procedure, almost as painful being forced to watch all the *Twilight* movies.

Memorize – your former employer and the cause of your predicament – apparently didn't get Google's 'Don't Be Evil' advice.

Remember Me is a welcome and intriguing new IP brimming with potential

After escaping Memorize, Nilin finds other foes to deal with, a good thing since Remember Me's combat system is pretty decent. As Nilin unlocks memories of fighting moves, called Pressens, she can string together a series of combos to various effect, such as regaining portions of her own health. Furthermore, the more you fight, the more Procedural Mastering Points you earn, which in turn can unlock further, forgotten Pressens with which to create more elaborate combos.

Freedom and confinement

Additionally, Remember Me has high production values, particularly the music which is excellent, while the environs of Neo Paris are certainly alluring and well rendered.

Add to this Nilin's quest to regain her memory and the unfoldment of the game's solid story, and there is plenty reason to start, and keep, playing. Unfortunately though, the game doesn't give as much free reign to explore as we would have liked, instead leading the player on a more linear path.

To the point

Despite this, Remember Me is a welcome and intriguing new IP brimming with potential, a game well worth experiencing and one that merits reminding yourself to pick up. It has a RRP of R600. [RN] 🍷



The Last Of Us



The latest from Naughty Dog may differ wholly from the developer's acclaimed Uncharted franchise, but one similarity shines brightly: this too is a genre defining game in a class of its own.

While Naughty Dog's Uncharted franchise was breezy, adventurous and a jet setting romp, The Last of Us could not differ more, oozing with gravitas and suspense, evoking *The Walking Dead* rather than *Indiana Jones* in tone.

In short, a sudden outbreak of fungal spores causes your average next door neighbour to become decidedly less friendly and considerably more hungry. Alas, for the infected, dietary requirements are no longer a concern, leaving you doing your utmost to stay off some mutated freak's impromptu menu.

The end of the world

Fast forward twenty years from the game's heart-rending opening sequence and survivors endure living in quarantined zones under martial law. You step into the shoes of one such survivor, Joel, now a hardened smuggler, who finds himself tasked with escorting a young girl, Ellie, out of the quarantine zone. Watching the bond between these two strangers gradually develop shows that Naughty Dog's mastery of telling a gripping story and creating believable characters about which you grow to care, has never been stronger.

Combat is visceral, no holds barred, and very often, brutal. While you do have a gun, you have to be picky about when and under what circumstances you use it, as ammo is often in short supply, being hard won or only occasionally found. Instead, stealth elements come into play, and melee weapons range from the 'sophisticated' of shivs and baseball bats, to the gritty of bricks and bottles.

The Last Of US shows that Naughty Dog's mastery of telling a gripping story has never been stronger.

Indeed, everything in The Last Of Us ensures you have a close and personal experience of the game, none more so than the characters themselves, who are so well drawn and believably voiced, that it is all too easy to forget that you are experiencing fiction at its finest.

To the point

For us the toughest thing about playing The Last Of Us was tearing ourselves away from it. It is so wholly absorbing and spellbinding, that we dare say, irrespective of your views of survival-horror titles, you really must play this superlative game. It has a RRP of R600. [RN] 🍷

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* 4-way scroll wheel

* 6000 dpi

R699

Skiller

Gaming Keyboard

* 10 different profiles

* 8 swappable gaming keys

* 20 additional multimedia keys



R299

Tactix

Gaming Keyboard

* fully programmable keys

* 8 swappable gaming keys



R319



STK-8901

21 Piece pc basic tool kit

* this kit is specifically designed to service and maintain a wide variety of computer related peripherals and components

R199



STK-8930

65 Piece Computer Tool Kit

* essential tools for upgrading and repairing

R599

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PC MAINTENANCE TOOLS

ZIXAA



C-197

360 Degree rotation webcam

* up to 480kp, 1.3mp image capture

* Built in Snapshot and Microphone

R99



C-213

360 Degree rotation webcam

* up to 480kp, 1.3mp image capture

* Built in Snapshot and Microphone

R109



C-186A

180 Degree rotation webcam

* Real HD720p

* up to 5mp, 12mp image capture

R199

Aero
Cool



En52450

Hi-tech 7

* front metal mesh bay covers for optimal air flow

R629

Fans

Shark Fan

* 12cm

* available in white, black, evil black, evil green

R79



EN55635

Aerocool strike x gaming mouse pad

* 400x280x3mm

R99



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