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# THE DIY ISSUE



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ISSUE 67 April 2009

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- » Centurion Mall, Shop 271A, South Street, Centurion Tel: (012) 663 5157
- » Autopage Brooklyn, Shop 19A, Waterkloof Corner, Brooklyn Tel: (012) 460 10369
- » Brooklyn Mall, ahop 102, Fehrsen Street, Brooklyn Tel: (012) 460 9213/4
- » Glen Village Centre, cnr Hans Strydom & Olympus Drive, Faerie Glen Tel: (012) 991 3659
- » Brakpan, 41 Carnival Mall, c/o Airport & Heidelberg Road, Brakpan Tel: (011) 915 1363
- » Benoni, Northmead Square, c/o O'Reilly Merry Street & 14th Avenue Tel: (011) 425 6119



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Terms and conditions apply to all contract offers. All prices include VAT. You will be charged for the volume of data sent and received, and not the time you spend connected. Unused contract, Month-to-Month and Once-off packaged data expires at month end. Data, Voice and SMS Packages do not carry over. Once you have used your package, the applicable out-of-package rate will apply. The out-of-package data rates apply once the data package is exceeded. SMS messages are charged in accordance with prevailing tariff plan. Data transfer speeds are not guaranteed and are dependent on network availability and utilisation. Out-of-package pricing is rounded up to the nearest cent. Standard terms and conditions apply. Subject to credit approval and a new 24 month contract. Whilst savings/monthly subscriptions reflected above reflects a fixed monthly discount on the subscription charge, such charges (as well as call and other charges) are subject to increase in accordance with the tariff published by the Network from time to time. Free minutes as applies to each tariff are subject to the rules as determined by each of the Networks from time to time and are subject to change. Altech Autopage Cellular reserves the right to enforce a monthly credit limit on your account. Free data bundles, as applies to each tariff are subject to the rules as determined by each of the Networks from time to time and are subject to change. The subscriber is liable for any data usage that exceeds the included data bundles as applies to each tariff. Subscriptions to HSDPA / 3G packages are subject to HSDPA, 3G, EDGE, GPRS and WLAN Network coverage and availability. The subscriber shall be responsible for verifying the availability of HSDPA/3G coverage within the subscribers area. The download speeds indicated are merely indicative and are not guaranteed by Altech Autopage Cellular. Call 0861 227 222 and have your current account or credit card details and ID handy. Dial direct weekdays 08h30 - 17h00. All new contracts taken out via telephone or e-mail, will be enforced once the cellular package is delivered and signed for. Full terms and conditions are supplied with each offer on delivery of the package. Offers valid while stocks last. All prices incl V.A.T. E&OE Copyright © 2008 Neotel (Pty) Ltd



At the end of April the undersea Seacom cable, a fibre optic cable connecting SA with Europe and India, would have reached the beach at KZN. With it to be switched on at the

end of July, expect a broadband revolution. The Seacom cable increases SA's current international bandwidth more than five fold. This, coupled with the deregulation of the telecoms industry, will mean better broadband packages, and eventually prices, for us the consumers. It is exactly what SA needs to stay globally competitive.

So what can you expect from better and more ubiquitous broadband in SA? Well the best is YouTube videos that actually play straight through. Also expect more frequent Wi-Fi networks to connect from, the rise of torrenting (and the copyright issues related to it) and a hugely active online SA community connected to local sites with relevant local content (check out our interview with the founder of Muti - Neville Newey on p21). Who knows, you might even get a friend request from your Gran on Facebook.

Enjoy our DIY issue.

Mike Joubert <michael@techsmart.co.za>

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8: The number of patterns behind all humour. <http://tinyurl.com/d4bgw2>

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# HandyMAP

Still paying for GPS map updates?

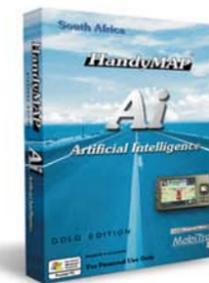
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**SEARCH Google: Map Updates and see what people say**

## Letter of the Month

Hi TechSmart,  
Please allow me to honour a company that uses your magazine as an advertising medium. The company I would like to highlight is the PDAShop in Pretoria.

I recently took advantage of their HandyMAP GPS software specials (as advertised) and, due to ignorance, needed to go back a few times to tweak my handset for optimum efficiency. Each time the owners really took the time to help me set my phone up properly. In addition to explaining everything thoroughly to make me more self-sufficient, they insisted I return for any further assistance required.

You walk out there as the recipient of great service, not just a product. Keep up the good work. Thanks for a great mag.

Sean French (Pretoria)



Hi Sean. Thanks for taking the time to highlight good service. There's a game in it for you thanks to Megarom Interactive.

Hi TechSmart,  
I recently saw you talking about A-GPS in cellphones. What is the difference between that and regular GPS?

Liz Fisher (Houghton)

Hi Liz. We contacted Tertius Fourie, Customer Care Manager at Nokia SA, who answered your question:

"When switching on a GPS receiver it will start searching for satellites from which to calculate its own current position. There are a total of 32 satellites orbiting the Earth but at any given time only a sub set of those cover the geographic area in which the GPS receiver is currently located. If the GPS receiver starts to search for all 32, it takes much longer than if it already knows the sub set or relevant constellation, that are most relevant to its current position.

Assisted-GPS, or A-GPS, is a feature which uses the Internet connection via the cellphone network to load the relevant GPS satellite information so that the first position fix is much faster resulting in a better user experience. Once the GPS receiver has calculated its position and starts tracking (green bars on the indicator) the assisted part is not used.

Normal GPS receivers will remember where they were last, so that they will start searching for Satellites based on the last known constellation. This works well if every time the GPS receiver moves it is switched on (warm start), such as in in-build car navigation units. If however the GPS receiver is moved or not used for a period of time (called cold start), then the last known constellation is of little use to it. Good examples are flying overseas or not using the receiver for a month or two. Then A-GPS is really helpful in getting a fast cold start fix. Just remember you will be charged for data."

Letters shortened due to space restrictions.

# LEXMARK

## Fast Fact

### What does 6 colour printing mean?

Colour and photo cartridges are used together to increase the colour range possibilities to produce crisp, clean colours and natural skin tones.



Tell us which technology (hardware, software, apps, website) you can't live without and why.

The Letter of the Month wins this incredible Lexmark X6675 wireless 4-in-1 with a 5-year guarantee. (Also available from IT retailers.)

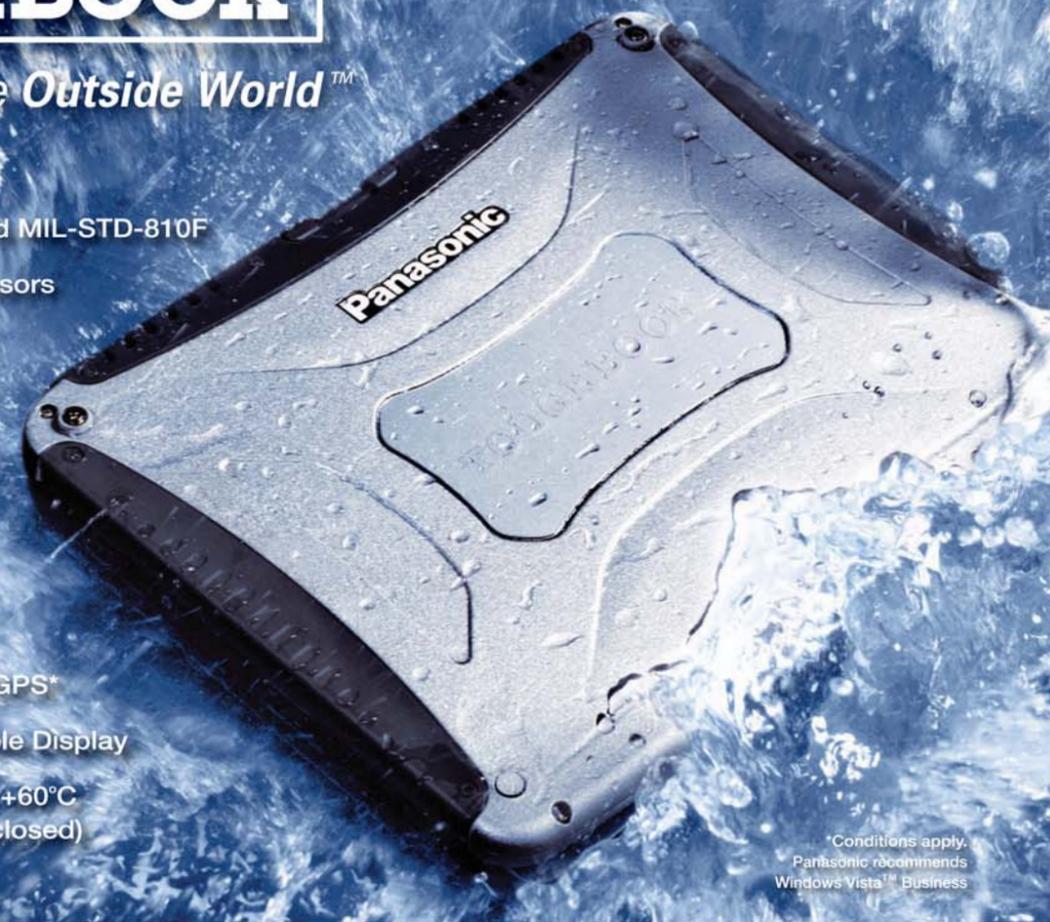
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11 hours: The amount of battery life claimed by the Samsung NC310. <http://tinyurl.com/d4bgw2>

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- Listen to your favourite FM radio stations • Time slip function with Windows Media Center
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- Watch DivX movies in 5.1 surround sound • Watch DVD in 5.1 surround sound
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Photo: Sean Metelerkamp

Their first album, Dutch Courage, was a massive success and with their new full-length CD due for release in May, we can hardly wait to see what aKing will come up with next. TechSmart caught up with aKing guitarist Hunter Kennedy (far right) to get his take on downloading his personality and Lionel Richie.

**Are you a technophobe or technophile?**  
In the middle actually.

**Mac or PC?**  
I'm a PC man myself. I only use OpenOffice and Google Chrome! But my girlfriend has a MacBook.

**Kurt Darren or Die Campbells?**  
Kurt Darren.

**If you could have one gadget to make your life easier what would it be?**  
I'd have my personality downloaded to a microchip.

**So what kind of tech gadgets do you have then?**  
I have a PSP and an Xbox that I never use 'cause we're too busy. And that's about it, really.

**What is the most amazing technology ever invented?**  
Mmm...tough one. I like the pavement plates that generate electricity by stepping on them. And the vaporiser.

**What are the tech gadgets that have made your day to day life just a little bit easier?**  
Cellphones obviously, even though I'd prefer satellite technology. Credit cards. I'd rather have a chip though.

**Do you still own vinyl records?**  
I don't. But our bassist Hennie owns quite a few. Lionel Richie's "Dancing on the Ceiling" cannot sound any better!

**What was the last big tech purchase you made?**  
Guitar Hero.

**What are some tech you just couldn't live without?**  
Guitar pick-up. Panic buttons. Torrent sites.

**What is your all-time favourite website?**  
Razorlight's site ([www.wearerazorlight.com/](http://www.wearerazorlight.com/)). It looked soooo pimp last time I checked it!

**We hear there's a new album on the way. How hard will it rock?**  
We're recording at Bellville Studios with Theo Crous at the moment. And...uhm...well you know, you'll have to wait and see!

For the full interview go to [www.techsmart.co.za](http://www.techsmart.co.za).  
techsmart.co.za | April 09

1200 hertz: The frequency at which the Aedes aegypti mosquito flap their wings during mating. <http://tinyurl.com/d4bgw2>

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# Recession BUSTERS!!!

Looking for tech bargains in these tough times? TechSmart found them for you...

### Toshiba eStudio 207

There are certain things that a company can't do without. A good multifunction is one of them. The eStudio 207 with its 20 pages per minute printing capability is available to rent from **R399** (excl VAT). Contact Global Network Corporation on 0861-456-638 (0861-GLONET). Terms and conditions apply.



### Microstar refurbished PC

If you're in a bit of a tight spot and need a PC now, the refurbished PC route might be a good option. On offer from Microstar is a Dell running an Intel P4 2.8 GHz processor, 1GB memory and an 80GB hard drive. A DVD writer and a Windows XP Pro Licence is also provided. All this including a 17" CRT monitor for **R2899** (incl VAT). For **R3999** you can opt for a slim 17" LCD screen. Call them on 011-444-8533.



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Alternatively email [sales@goingwireless.co.za](mailto:sales@goingwireless.co.za) for more info.

### Gogga GPRS modem

One of the cheapest ways to get online quickly and easily is to buy a refurbished GPRS modem from Gogga Connect. It costs a measly **R149** (incl VAT) once off. If you want a data package to go with it, their NETSURF150 data contract with 150MB of data will set you back **R119** per month. Call them on 08600-GOGGA (46442).



### Nokia 5000

Altech Autopage is running a deal on the Nokia 5000 with 100 free off-peak minutes per month on Casual Chat 100 from CellC. The total cost of the package is **R49.80pm** x24 and includes CLI, AutoSIM & itemised billing and subscription. There is a once-off SIM and connection cost of **R224** (incl VAT). Call Calvin at Autopage Faerie Glen on 012-991-7571.



### My Digital School Grade R to High School

For an enhanced learning experience the My Digital School computer based learning software is a good choice. It comes at a nice price - **R295** (incl VAT) from [www.edusphere.co.za](http://www.edusphere.co.za).



### Maraboe PC

As can be expected your PC will pick just the worst time to finally crash and burn. Economically it should not be a disaster. For **R2599** (incl VAT) you can pick up a PC from Maraboe IT that includes a 500GB hard disk, 2GB worth of RAM and an Intel Celeron 1.8 GHz processor. The deal includes keyboard, mouse and speakers, but does not include a monitor or Windows. Call them on 086-727-7899.



### Canyon Chat Pack

Voice over IP is certainly one of the most convenient ways to stay in touch with far off relations. To get you started PC Pro Shop offers the Canyon Chat Pack for only **R175** (incl VAT). It includes a 300K pixel video camera and a headset to make chatting easier. Call PC Pro Shop on 012-348-4000.



### EnGenius ECB-1220R Wireless Access Point / Router

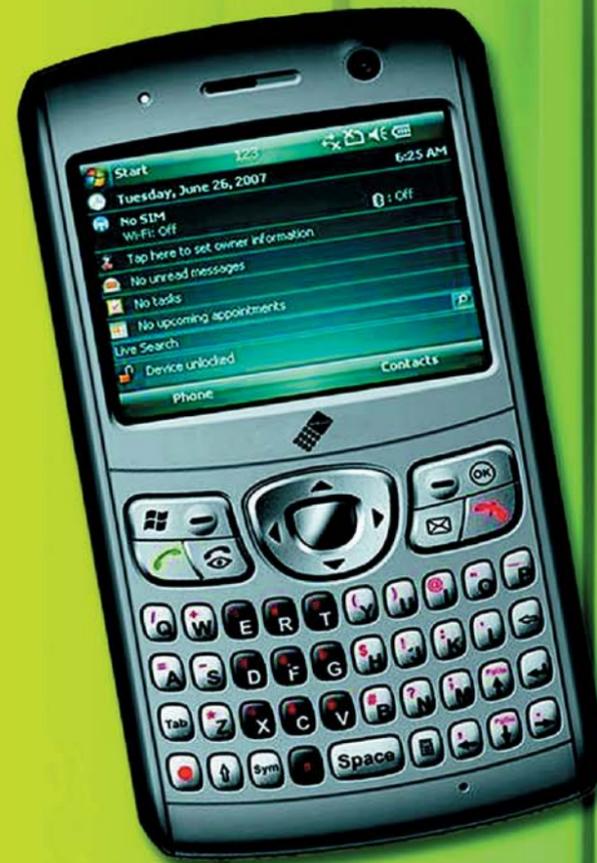
In the market for a wireless router? The ECB-1220R contains a built-in four port Ethernet switch for easy networking. It also has a multiple SSID feature able to create more than one wireless network with a single device. It was R1055 but now retails for **R665** (incl VAT). Call Miro Distribution on 012-657-0960.



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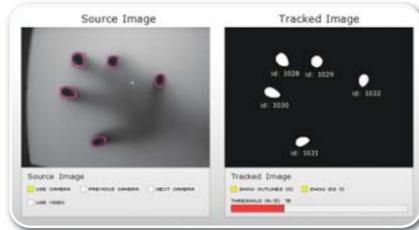
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## How To: Make a Multi-touch Screen



There has been a lot of hype around the concept of multi-touch technology. It started in 2006 when Jeff Han demonstrated his revolutionary multi-touch table at a TED (Technology, Entertainment, Design) conference ([www.ted.com](http://www.ted.com)).

The audience at the demonstration went absolutely nuts over what Jeff had to show them. Unlike conventional touch-screens, multi-touch gives the user the ability to use multiple fingers and strokes, for a variety of applications.



But the real question everyone started asking was: "Ok, but what can we use it for?". Microsoft and Apple answered the question, each developing different systems to make use of the new

technology. Microsoft came up with Microsoft Surface, a multi-touch table, and Apple introduced multi-touch into the iPhone and, more recently, the MacBook Pro.

It is amazing to see how far the technology has advanced in less than three years. It was inevitable then that the open source community would start producing software and hardware for multi-touch. So, from being awed by Jeff's table in 2006 to the pages of *TechSmart*, you can actually make a basic multi-touch screen for yourself. Seriously.

### You'll need:

- A piece of clear, flat sturdy material (glass, acrylic, plexiglass); a cardboard box, about the same size as the glass or acrylic; paper (printer paper, tracing paper, just about any paper will do); webcam and a PC.
- *tbeta* (<http://tbeta.nuigroup.com/>), the open source software that enables your multi-touch surface to work.



Making the table is pretty straight forward. First, using masking tape, attach the paper to the plexiglass, ensuring that you leave as much white paper showing as possible. Then make a hole in the side of the box for the webcam's cable to go through. Now tape the webcam down in the middle of the box, facing directly upwards. Place the plexiglass, paper side down, onto the box. All that is left is to unzip the *tbeta* folder and plug the webcam into your PC.



This multi-touch implementation works by recording an image of the shadows cast onto the glass or acrylic, by your finger-tips, using the webcam, and converting it into a signal that a multi-touch application can use. It is important to note that you have to have a room with fairly even lighting, otherwise your hands will cast longer shadows on the glass/ acrylic and the software won't work properly. So there you go, your own multi-touch screen in under 30 minutes. [AG]

1 billion: The number of transistors per person IBM foresees in existence by 2010. <http://tinyurl.com/d4bgw2>

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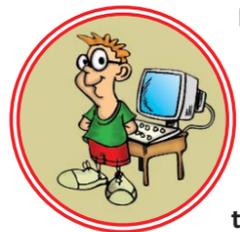
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## How To: Make a PC Chassis Braai



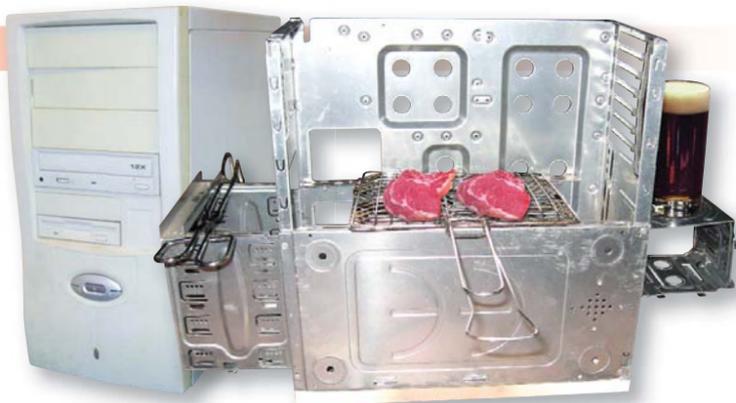
In the highly likely event of upgrading your PC sometime in your lifetime, you might be left with a PC chassis and its (mostly useless) contents. In our Christmas edition I showed you how you can turn those useless components into a festive, if somewhat gaudy, Christmas tree. But what do you do with the case? In typical South African fashion, why not have a braai?

**You'll need:**  
A PC Chassis and pop rivets.

The very first thing you need to do is strip down the PC. This means taking off the front and side panels and removing everything from the interior. You'll be surprised at just how many things there are to take out. And don't forget to remove the power supply.

Now you have to take apart the interior bits that hold all your hard drives, CD/ DVD drives, floppy disks, etc. The problem is that these compartments are not screwed onto the chassis, but riveted in place. This poses no problem, as you can simply drill them out using a 3.5 or 4 mm steel drill bit. You should now be left with the bare chassis and the interior compartments as two or three separate pieces.

At this point you will need to make some key design decisions, and these may vary, according to whatever you think is best really. Aesthetics aside, I went for a purely practical approach and decided that I needed the strongest possible braai I could build.



To achieve this I turned the chassis upside-down. The top of the PC became the bottom of the braai. I then drilled through the rivets holding the bottom (now the top) to the rest of the chassis, took off the plastic feet and riveted the old bottom to the one open side of chassis.

My braai then needed some supports for my braai grid. These were cunningly fashioned from the metal bits that hold your adaptor cards in place.

I then needed somewhere to put my braai tongs, salt and other paraphernalia on. The larger drive compartment was just the thing. I riveted it in place, exactly where it was, and through the same holes, but on the outside. The last thing to be done was to create a place to hold my brandy and Coke. The floppy compartment proved ideal. I then lit myself a fire and threw some boerie on the barbi. [AG]



## Dell Vostro A860 Basic Business Goodness

The Dell Vostro series of notebooks is aimed specifically at small business users and they are meant to be cheap, but effective. We tested the A860 with Ubuntu 8.04 Hardy Heron pre-installed, instead of Windows Vista.

Build quality is not great and the A860 feels a bit flimsy, everything seems to be able to bend a bit too much. On the plus side you do get a 15.6" screen that

most notebook owners would be proud to show off. You also get Wi-Fi, FireWire, and a card reader. Our A860 has 512MB of RAM and 2.13 GHz Intel Celeron processor. This type of performance is on the very entry-level end of the computing scale, so we'd recommend going for a version with at least 1GB of RAM. Despite the basic performance, *Hardy Heron* makes great use of what the A860 does have and has many advantages over having a performance sapping Windows installed. Another advantage is that you don't have to pay any extra for the Windows software. **R4999** from Computer Corporation on 08616-08616.



## Yealink T28 Enterprise IP Phone Make IP Your Business

Our IT infrastructure is improving steadily and we will soon have properly fast broadband. As a business it might be a good idea to leverage this technology and replace your business landlines with a VoIP system. There are number of factors that make VoIP viable for business use and one of the first you might want to look at is saving money.

The Yealink T28 IP phone can handle up to six individual lines, each with its own standalone configuration. Some people may consider VoIP inferior to normal landlines, as it is perceived that the voice quality won't be as good. But here you will get much higher definition voice quality. This

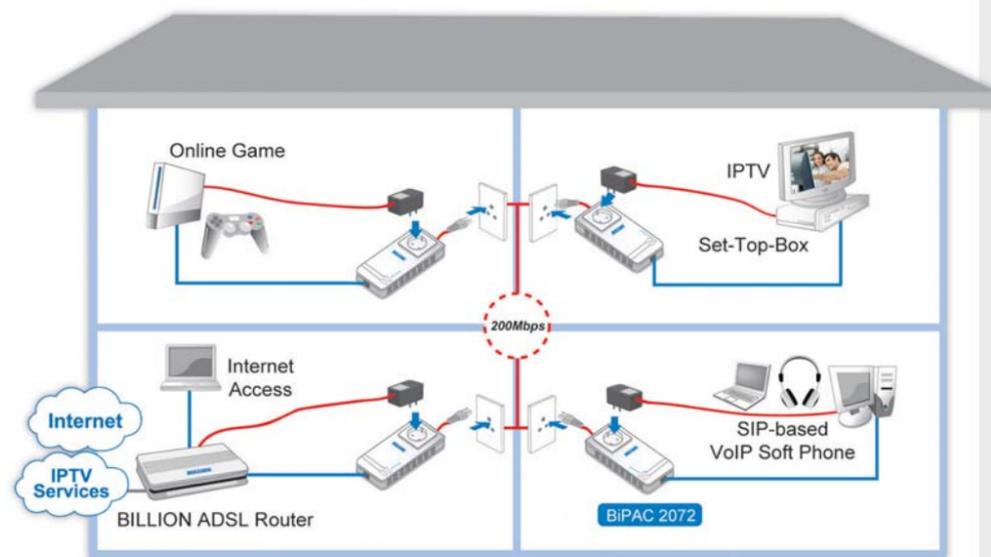


is thanks to the G.722 voice codec that allows for more of the frequencies in the voice to be heard over the handset and hands-free. Due to the fact that it's an IP phone, you are able to receive a host of extra features via the Internet. These include SMS, online advertisement, weather reports, real-time billing and more.

The Yealink comes with a RRP of **R1880** (incl VAT). Phone Nology for more info on 012-657-1317.

## Billion Homeplug 2072

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## Creative Xmod Audio Enhancer Lost in the Sound

Audiophiles are quick to push the sound quality of vinyl over CD, don't even get them started on MP3s. Compressing tracks to MP3 leads to a loss of quality, with sound sort of mashing together. Because MP3s have cornered the market, sound engineers are now recording artists differently, often touting loudness over fidelity (for a nice read on the death of high fidelity go here - <http://tinyurl.com/26d9la>).

Creative's Xmod audio enhancer makes some bold claims of bettering the audio quality of your MP3s. This stylish white module contains their X-Fi audio technology that enhances sound travelling through the unit. This is not a speaker system; rather you plug your stand-alone speakers or headphones into the device. It connects directly via USB port and surprisingly does not need any driver downloads to work. And work it surely does. Listening to music, it was easier for us to pick up the different instruments being used, and the sound was much fuller and rounder. A good buy, especially if you have a pair of decent headphones. Get it from Computer Corporation on 08616-08616 for R749.



## Toshiba e-STUDIO 2820c colour photocopier The new Face of Efficiency

Efficiency is the name of the game when it comes to Toshiba's e-STUDIO 2820c. Not only in fast printing speeds (28 ppm full colour) and lightning quick scanning (57ppm to HDD, USB flash disk, email or PC), but also in the utilisation of its 80GB hard disk that stores scanned pages or documents for printing at a later stage.

It is attention to the little things that makes the 2820c so appealing. For example, it has a customisable user menu interface for its 8.5" touch panel screen, with options that include hole punching and a Multi-Staple Finisher that can staple a myriad of ways including saddle stitching booklets. Because security is a concern it's good to see included encryption which protects the data on the HDD, Private print for password protected printing, as well as additional network security features.

But they say the proof is in the pudding, and from what we've seen of the colour printing this machine can accomplish, you won't find anything sweeter.

The 2820c is available to rent from under R2000 per month (full maintenance charged at 45c per colour copy and only 5c per black copy). Contact Global Network Corporation on 0861-456-638 for more info.



[techsmart.co.za](http://techsmart.co.za) | April 09

<http://muti.co.za/>

The man behind the **muti**

We've recently spent way too much time over at local social bookmarking site **muti.co.za**, which is basically a South African equivalent of Reddit. So we decided to get in touch with Neville Newey, the sangoma behind Muti. He talks about creating the site, the SA Web, and his favourite sites. [Full interview on [www.techsmart.co.za](http://www.techsmart.co.za)]



### How long did it take to create Muti?

Well the initial release which had fewer features (basically it was just submitting urls and voting) was churned out in less than a week back in Jan of 2006. Since then there have been many features added in fits and starts (e.g. tagging, following, hooks, moderation, comments etc). I never really regard it as complete so another answer to this question is forever.

### How did you manage to draw a community?

A catalyst to starting it was a blog article written by Ian Gilfillan. After I created it I informed Ian and he wrote about it on his blog, [www.greenman.co.za](http://www.greenman.co.za). Since the SA blogosphere is quite a tight community, from there news of it spread. It also spread through the greater African blogosphere as it was also picked up by Erik Hersman over at [WhiteAfrican.com](http://WhiteAfrican.com). At that time (early 06) there was no Amatomu, nor Afrigator so bloggers were really hungry for some type of tool that would allow them to aggregate and compare their work. For this reason it is sometimes mistakenly thought of Muti as being a blog aggregator.

### Are South Africa's Web 2.0 applications set for a boom?

I think the web in general (ducking the "web 2.0" term here) in SA is set for a slow but steady increase (so not an explosive boom) over the next 5 to 10 years as more people come online. I think I saw recently that only 5 million people in SA have access to some type of broadband. That's really small in comparison to other countries so there is definitely the potential for huge increases in the future.

### What sites can't you live without?

I still enjoy Reddit. Craigslist is fantastic. Wikipedia. I visit Amatomu, Afrigator, Zoopy, [mg.co.za](http://mg.co.za) at least a couple of times a week. Facebook to stay in touch with family members. And of course Google for search. I cannot imagine the web without Google.

### Three things you wished you had known before starting Muti.

The amount of effort it would take. The size of the online community in SA and Africa. A lot of finicky stuff about Apache, Linux, TCP, HTTP, CSS and so on that I never seem to commit to memory and always have to re-Google.

### Other social bookmarking sites:

Reddit.com, Digg.com, Delicious.com, the Afrikaans Blik.co.za, Propeller.com and Stumbleupon.com

[techsmart.co.za](http://techsmart.co.za) | April 09

R1.1 billion: The cost of building 18 proposed windfarms in SA. <http://tinyurl.com/d4bgw2>

40 megabits per second: The speed of fibre-based broadband to be installed in Wales. <http://tinyurl.com/d4bgw2>



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## Nokia N79 Active Sport Billy's Favourite



The Nokia N79 Active has three aspects that interact to create the perfect training and performance enhancer. It comes with a Bluetooth Polar heart rate monitor, A-GPS and an ingenious application called *Sports Tracker*.

What *Sports Tracker* does is give live feedback on your current performance directly

on the phone. While jogging you can track how far you've jogged, your heart-rate, pace, distance and position. Afterwards your training is saved and you can view additional data such as heart rate distribution, speed vs distance, etc.

*Sports Tracker* keeps a training diary which you can upload to Nokia's Sports Tracker beta website.

Here it will store all your info and also display, on *Google Maps*, the route you covered. Your routes can also be shared with the community.

It is an ingenious package and we can highly recommend it to anyone serious about their athletic performance. The only gripe we had was that the phone's layout isn't specifically designed with sports in mind, so it's a struggle pressing small buttons while jogging. [MJ]

## Nokia 5800 XpressMusic Feeling very Groovy

Every so often you come across a phone that just feels right. Nokia's 5800 XpressMusic is one of them. It is the company's first touch-screen, obviously in response to the frenzy over the iPhone. But the 5800 isn't an iPhone, it lacks the perceived glamour, but more importantly it also lacks the



price tag.

That's not to say that the 5800 is deficient in any way. It works, and works well. 3.2" worth of touch-screen goodness is a lot, and working on it is made a breeze thanks to tactile feedback and the included stylus or plectrum (although we had no problem using our thumbs). The touch-screen is put to good use with nice big icons, and the horizontal QWERTY keyboard was easier to use than, for example, the BlackBerry Storm's.

Music is of course a strong point of the XpressMusic thanks to sufficient quality stereo speakers. It is boosted by Nokia's music download services now available in SA (from 24 April). We were further impressed by the 5800's excellent web browsing and video display qualities. Throw in A-GPS, HSDPA and Wi-Fi and you have, without a doubt, the best mid-range phone currently available. [MJ]

10.7 grams: The weight of the new iPod shuffle. <http://tinyurl.com/d4bgwz>

R1.8 million: The cost of Africa's first wide arm manipulator at the CSIR. <http://tinyurl.com/d4bgwz>

## The Big Issue: Virtualisation

If you keep your ears open, especially round the IT guys, you might hear the term virtualisation being bandied about. What exactly does it mean?

Virtualisation is an umbrella term referring to creating a virtual environment that imitates and copies certain elements of the physical environment that it is created upon. If you think about your PC at home the software that runs on the hardware creates your desktop and the environment for you to work in. Virtualisation would imply that a second virtual PC can be run on the same hardware, complete, for example, with a different operating system and software.

### To do more

In the past your software was pretty much tied down to the hardware, meaning that one machine would only be able to run one operating system. Virtualisation has come about because of the processing power available on modern day computers, allowing one to do more with PCs and servers without sacrificing too much performance.

### How companies use it

Companies are adopting virtualisation especially regarding their servers. By installing virtualisation software different operating systems, such as *Linux* and *Windows*, can run off the same server, thereby making better use of resources and creating a more flexible infrastructure. Virtualisation is also used with regards to storage, allocating space across different servers into an easier manageable virtual central storage "pool".

### Money spinner

To give an indication of how important virtualisation has become Gartner, Inc., a leading information technology research and



advisory company, predicts that worldwide virtualisation software revenue will increase 43% from \$1.9 billion in 2008 to \$2.7 billion in 2009.

### The end of Windows?

For Microsoft, with their own range of virtualisation solution software, virtualisation is not only big business, but apparently closely linked to the company's future survival. According to reports Microsoft is working on a project called Midori, which is seen as an operating system solution for when Windows becomes obsolete. Informationweek.com speculates that Midori could be running in virtual environments across multiple computers, bringing rise to the idea that Midori can be a virtual operating system, facilitating cloud computing through the Internet.

### Download

VMware is one of the biggest names on the virtualisation software front. A free copy of their server virtualisation software for smaller companies, *VMware Server*, is available here - [www.vmware.com/products/server/](http://www.vmware.com/products/server/).

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- How many of these emails do justice to my brand, drives traffic to my website, allows me to intelligently market my products and services and automatically generate new business leads?
- With most of our business communication taking place by email can my business afford to not make every email we send work for us?

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You can also change, rotate or schedule different branding and marketing inserts depending on your own unique requirements. From promoting a new product or service or alerting customers about a special offer, the range of applications available to you is limitless.

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- Increase brand awareness
- Improve client retention and loyalty
- Cost-effectively market my products and services
- Drive more traffic to my website or blog
- Ensure all business email compliancy

Visit their website today on [www.thinklogic.co.za](http://www.thinklogic.co.za), or contact Anton on 083-376-2210 for more info.

[techsmart.co.za](http://techsmart.co.za) | April 09

20: The number of states at the World Water Forum which sought to make fresh drinking water a basic human right, not just a need. <http://tinyurl.com/d4bgw2>

### Advertorial [www.rate-it.co.za](http://www.rate-it.co.za)

## Love it? Hate it? Rate-It.



When it comes to accepting bad service, we South Africans can be a meek and mild bunch. Equally so, when we experience good service we are slow to commend. But now the Internet has come to our rescue to spread the word on your consumer experiences.

A simple rating system is available on [www.rate-it.co.za](http://www.rate-it.co.za). Rate-it allows you to be the constructive critic, rating restaurants, shops, hotels, in fact any service you can think of. This can be done either online as a registered user, or via cellphone at R2 per SMS.

When you rate a business you earn R-bucks which can be exchanged for discount either at certain restaurants or on selected getaways.

Rate-it is of course not only about rating service, it is also there for you to check where good service takes place in order to make your decision of where to spend your hard earned cash a bit easier.

On the flipside, Rate-it is also a gateway for business owners to get quality feedback from the public if they are subscribed to do so. Interaction with consumers is easy and customised reporting keeps business owners fully apprised of customer perceptions and trends.

Go online at [www.rate-it.co.za](http://www.rate-it.co.za) for more information.

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Advertorial Distance Education

## Brainline Distance School on Computer

In this day and age, where demands placed on schooling by industry and life itself are challenging to say the least, an alternative form of schooling, based on the latest technology, offers a refreshing new choice to the learner of the digital age.

### Brainline: Who are they?

The concept of Brainline as an educational system on computer, with assessment delivery via the Internet, started in 1987. From 1994 – 1996 it developed into an institution providing distance education on computer, at school level, with examinations in all grades. In 1999 the first matriculants wrote the SA grade 12 examination and Brainline was also accepted as a centre for Cambridge International Examinations.

Brainline is of the opinion that the education of learners is an exciting journey that includes the entire family, and most importantly, the learning environment should be made what it was supposed to have been all along: supportive, calm, exciting and adaptable to the needs of the learner.

Taking control of one's education places the responsibility in the hands of both parents and learners alike. High quality, standardised, bite-sized learning units – complete with assessment projects and memoranda attached – enables learners and their parents, guardians or tutors, to meet the minimum requirements of the national curriculum as set by the National Department of Education of South Africa.

### How does Brainline work?

Brainline is a complete school curriculum on compact disc, a unique schooling system with the personal computer as its delivery vehicle. But they are much more than that: they are a learning community – a large group of people learning together, discussing concerns in the learning environment, making friends and solving problems. The compact disc contains a full year's content in most of the subjects and learning areas at school level, from grade 1 to 12, in both English and Afrikaans.

### Study Material

All the study material required by the learner to complete his/her learning for the academic year, is provided on the compact disc. If it is not available on the CD, Brainline will provide the books (grade 10 – 12) and an accompanying work schedule. Should you wish to peruse the lesson material, you are most welcome to download demonstration lessons from the Brainline website. Alternatively, you can order a demonstration CD, which will provide you with an example of a course material CD. Simply SMS the words "Demo CD", accompanied by your complete postal details, to the number 082-882-4446.

### Accreditation

All certificates for school leavers are quality controlled by Umalusi (Council for Quality Assurance in General and Further Education and Training) as set out in [www.umalusi.org.za](http://www.umalusi.org.za).

Brainline meets the minimum requirements set by Umalusi and has been provisionally accredited, with reference number SCH00223PA. Brainline has been nominated as an "Accreditation Candidate".

### For more information

Please visit their website at [www.brainline.com](http://www.brainline.com) or phone the Customer Care Centre on 012-543-5000. Feel free to email them at [info@brainline.com](mailto:info@brainline.com).



Are you not of school going age and interested in completing your matriculation certificate?

Our online learning system is very adaptable, and is not only suitable for children. Adults can use our compact grade 10 - 12 system, to gain their grade 12 qualification easily.

You can complete grade 10 - 12 in only two years through Brainline.

### Year 1:

Complete your "compact" subjects for Grade 10. You need to complete seven subjects. Write the exams in June. Complete your "compact" subjects for Grade 11. You need to complete seven subjects. Write the exams in November.

### Year 2:

Enrol for Grade 12. Complete the assessment through [www.brainonline.com](http://www.brainonline.com). Write your final exam in October/November.

We have a range of subjects to choose from, with workshops for practical subjects. Our students communicate with teachers via our online learning system - brainONLINE.

Our younger students enjoy social activities hosted by us throughout the year. Our adventure camps are very popular, as well as our other events.

For more information, please visit [www.brainline.com](http://www.brainline.com)



Become part of our learning world!

Iolo System Mechanic 8.5

## A kick up your PC's backside



A good thing to do if your PC is slow and cumbersome is to install a system optimisation tool, and there are few as good as *System Mechanic 8.5*. Like other system tools, *System Mechanic* will remove temporary files, clean your registry and defragment your hard drive. But, there's a lot more in this new version.

Included is *ActiveCare 2.0*, which fixes faults and ups your running speed. The software will determine whether you're actually at the PC by detecting CPU usage, working only when

the PC is idle.

*DriveSense* will check your hard drive to detect any problems that may occur, so that you can copy over your files to a new hard drive before it crashes.

Some previous versions of the software received some very bad reviews and we were skeptical about 8.5 to start, but our fears were quickly allayed by a very good set of tools.

**P.S. It says version 7 on the box but it's a free upgrade to 8.5 upon registration of the product online, with a ±16MB download.**

*Iolo System Mechanic 7's* recommended price is **R299** and it's available at good retailers.

Visual Applications Imagine Pro 8 Home & Landscape Design Software

## Easy DIY on your PC



Ever had the inclination to do some re-modeling, but couldn't, because you have zero artistic abilities at all and probably wouldn't even know where to start?

*Imagine Pro 8*, Home & Landscape Design Software, should make the task considerably easier as no skill is required at all.

The process to completing the plan for the renovations to your house is made simple in *Imagine Pro 8*. Firstly, you take a good photo of the exterior of your house, or the area you wish to remodel. You then outline the areas you wish to change, renovate or replace. Then you can pick from hundreds of items from the image library. These can be anything from fences, plants or lighting to hot-tubs.

Once you've got your basic design you can check out a before and after view. You can then go back and make any final changes. Once you're sure that you have what you want you can view a shopping list of the stuff you'll need and calculate the costs.

*Imagine Pro 8* is not only limited to exteriors though. There are also a variety of indoor options to choose from. We really like the documentation that comes with the product, including an extensive product manual as well as video tutorials. **R495** (incl VAT) from Holton & Associates on 011-789-6181.

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## How to publish a personal webpage

Written by Lance Turner, a 12-year Internet industry veteran and Chief Executive of Branded Internet – listed as one of SA's Top 50 ICTe Companies 2005/6 + 2006/7.



Back when I studied engineering one of the most important things I learned was that there is almost always more than one way to do anything. I soon realised that the same applies to computers, and now the Internet. Nothing in this brave new technological world is done the same way by anyone, and that goes doubly for webpage design.

Getting a personal webpage up on the Internet is not as difficult as it may seem. There are lots of different types of webpage editors freely available. Some of them are online creation tools helping you to create webpages straight from your browser, while others are offline, which is not dependent on being connected all the time.

Designing your site online is probably the easiest way to create your website, seeing that there are a lot of easy-to-use website construction sites available. All you have to do is just sign up and start building.

Check out these website design tools. You will find them very friendly and easy to use:

- **Yola – www.yola.com**  
Yola, formerly known as SynthaSite, was originally developed in South Africa but is now based in the USA. This browser based builder has an incredible interface. I highly recommend this site for people who are into social networking.

- **Weebly – www.weebly.com**  
This product aims to make it easy to publish content-rich sites which can include elements such as videos and photo galleries. Weebly is particularly good for people wanting to publish a lot of personal content.
- **Google Sites – http://tinyurl.com/al3qtp**  
Google Sites is part of Google Apps and is recommended for small businesses wanting to publish a site. Handy features include the ability to share files very simply and unify content from different sources, including documents, pictures and videos.
- **CoffeeCup – www.coffeecup.com/html-editor/**  
This HTML Editor application is apparently one of the most downloaded on the Internet. The visual editor is a remarkable WYSIWYG (what you see is what you get) tool and makes creating a website as easy as dragging and dropping images and text onto a page. You can download a 30 day free trial.

- The following sites also come highly recommended:
- Wetpaint. [www.wetpaint.com](http://www.wetpaint.com)
  - Webs. <http://webs.com>

If you have any questions or queries drop me a mail, lance@brandedinternet.co.za.



3 hours: The legal limit for a gaming session for under 18s in China. <http://tinyurl.com/d4bgw2>

## April DIY Web Time Wasters

### www.instructables.com

Instructables is a web-based documentation platform where people share what they do and how they do it, learn from and collaborate with others.

Instructables is the combination of a number of things. Firstly, there are the Instructables themselves. These are step-by-step descriptions of things people want to share. They are educational, inspirational, and often replicable.

You are also given the opportunity to comment, ask questions, give praise, or offer improvements; this sets up a conversation between the project author and the community. Why not try and build the amazing Tesla CD Turbine. <http://tinyurl.com/yqyguv>

### www.makezine.com

MAKE is loaded with brilliant projects that help you uhm, make the most of technology. MAKE is the website of the very popular American magazine. It falls in line with the Hacks books and Hardware Hacking Projects for Geeks, but it takes a highly visual and personal approach.

In MAKE you can learn how to make a video camera



stabiliser, a do-it-yourself alternative to an expensive Steadicam and how to create a five-in-one cable adapter for connecting to networks. Some projects are strictly for fun, others are very practical, and still others are absolutely astounding.

If you are inclined towards a bit of pyromania why not check out these Diminutive Balls of Fire. <http://tinyurl.com/cvsxd6>

### www.hacknmod.com

HacknMod has grown to be one of the biggest hacking and modding communities on the web. At HacknMod you will find hundreds of tutorials, guides, and even step-by-step video lessons to learn to hack and modify common game consoles such as the Xbox 360, Wii, PSP and NES. Not only does HacknMod demonstrate game console hacking, but they also have loads of information on modding AirSoft guns, Windows, Mac, iPods, robotics, case mods and even coke machines.

HacknMod's step-by-step hack archive is updated daily, meaning there's always some fresh content. So when you decide to build a Giant Pedal Powered Tank, make a Paintball Machine Gun, add LED's to Your 360 Controller, or even build your own Segway, take a gander at what HacknMod.com has to offer.

We really liked these six really cool things you can do with a laser pointer. <http://tinyurl.com/6kd4sm>



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ASSET RECOVERY MANAGEMENT

# Dawn of War II Real-time Tactics?



The formula for real time strategy (RTS) games has pretty much been fixed for the last decade; build your base, churn out troops and order them about.

In a bold move Relic foregoes the base building and troop producing bits in Dawn of War II's campaign mode in favour of introducing more RPG elements to the game.

Rather than following the entrenched RTS formula in the campaign mode you accrue experience (xp), wargear and up to six squads. You can invest your xp in your squads, with each having different capabilities – it's your choice which squads you invest in. In a lot of ways this makes its campaign mode more about tactics than pure strategy.

The game's multiplayer skirmishes will be more warmly welcomed by RTS purists, with a more traditional formula. Its 1 vs. 1 and 3 vs. 3 matches offer an exciting, brutal, and highly competitive strategy experience. You have the option of choosing to play as Space Marines, Orks, Eldar, and Tyranid, rather than being tied to the Marines, as in the campaigns, but there is still no base building.

In all, the game looks good, plays well and is challenging, making it a welcome addition to any game collection. Dawn of War II is distributed by Ster-Kinekor Entertainment.



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189: The number of times the F-word is uttered in House of the Dead: Overkill. <http://tinyurl.com/d4bgw2>

## Free Applications We can't live without..



Want some useful free stuff? Here are some of the freebies we here at the TechSmart office can't live without.



**Andrew:** CCleaner (formerly Crap Cleaner) does exactly what the name says, well what the name used to say. CCleaner

gets rid of any data that doesn't need to be on your hard drive. It also allows you to delete all browsing history from your various browsers and it has a very powerful registry cleaner to boot. You will be amazed how much junk actually lurks behind the scenes in your PC. <http://www.ccleaner.com/> (4MB)

**Thomas:** GIMP (GNU Image Manipulation Program) is a great bit of free software. While I still prefer Photoshop, GIMP is a very useful digital graphics and photograph editor. It is also compatible on a number of operating systems. Download it here – <http://www.gimp.org/> (16MB)

**Mike:** I installed an add-on for my Firefox browser called ScrapBook. ScrapBook allows you to save webpages to read when you're offline. Just like your bookmarks it is easy to manage your pages into folders, plus as an added extra you can also highlight the info you find important and add comments to any page. Find it here – <http://tinyurl.com/2ftp58>

99: Bottles of beer on the wall. <http://tinyurl.com/d4bgw2>

## Gaming Industry Round-up Gaming front happenings

The curse/ boon of interesting times seems to rest heavily on the gaming industry.

The last month has seen the release of some highly anticipated titles including Halo Wars (reviewed on [techsmart.co.za](http://techsmart.co.za)), which has gone platinum in a month, and the highly regarded RTS, Dawn of War II (p30). This in the same month that Resident Evil 5 (also on [techsmart.co.za](http://techsmart.co.za)) outsold the new U2 album.

But is gaming making us fat? The UK's Campaign4Change ran an ad which suggested that gaming risks shortening children's lives. Naturally the industry responded in outrage.

Shortly thereafter it was revealed that the Chinese government's censorship on gaming, including national time limitations per session and the use of real identities online, resulted in a 7% drop in the number of under 18s playing MMOs in just a year. None of this has dented gaming sales however, making it the world fastest growing entertainment industry. South Africa is playing its part with the top title sold on Kalahari.net in March being Metal Gear Solid 4, followed by Empire: Total War, Resident Evil 5, Devil May Cry 4 and Race Driver GRID.



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- » 100 email redirects
- » Formmail script
- » PHP
- » SSI
- » FrontPage server extensions
- » 2 Databases (MySQL or Postgres)
- » Control panel
- » Virus scanning
- » Spam filtering (SpamAssassin)
- » Webstats (AWStats or Webalizer)
- » Webmail
- » Custom error documents
- » 50 Group mails
- » 2 Sub domains
- » Ruby On Rails Support **(New!)**

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- » 200 email redirects
- » Formmail script
- » PHP
- » SSI
- » CGI-BIN access
- » FrontPage server extensions
- » 5 Databases (MySQL or Postgres)
- » Control panel
- » Virus scanning
- » Spam filtering (SpamAssassin)
- » Webstats (AWStats or Webalizer)
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