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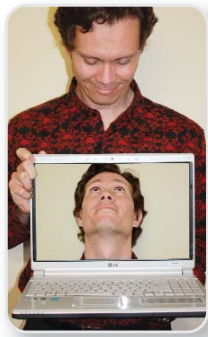


NFS: SHIFT

FUN AND ENTERTAINMENT ISSUE

SA's LARGEST TECH MAGAZINE

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Mibli: not just a silly name. The concept behind the mibli application for cellphones (see our feature on p12) is pretty simple. Create a platform that can work on most phones worldwide, that is neither dependent on the brand of cellphone nor the service provider. Make the app easy to download, and provide users who've installed mibli with access to a whole host of useful services such as a mobile wallet; social networking such as Twitter and Facebook; instant messaging and the latest news headlines. Release it to the masses of people who can't afford smartphones and then wait to take over the world.

The mibli platform heralds something massive, and will shortly give South African developers the chance to create apps that can literally touch the lives of millions of people, worldwide. Since SA has been chosen as the launching ground for this Microsoft and Blue Label Telecoms project, we have the chance to be part of something unique.

This month also sees the return of our annual survey (see p 26). We need your feedback to make the mag better, and we're offering some excellent prizes in return. I'm looking forward to your response.

Mike Joubert <michael@techsmart.co.za>
I'm holding the LG R510 (see p 18).

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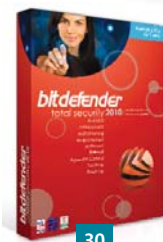
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SEARCH Google: Map Updates and see what people say

Last month we asked you: **What can we change on www.techsmart.co.za to make it better? We received some very insightful replies.**

Letter of the Month

Dear TechSmart,

Thank you for a magazine that is just about perfect. What I would like to see is a "TechSmart dictionary" for people like me (45+) and who did not grow up with computers. It is not just the younger generation who likes to read *TS* and find it informative, so please help us out. Just a short explanation of what the abbreviation or word stands for, what it means, how it is, used and by whom, would do.

Mariaan de Kock



Hi Mariaan,

Great idea for both the website and magazine, and worth the Lexmark X6675 wireless printer courtesy of Lexmark. We are so involved with tech jargon on a daily basis that it's easy to forget that some of our readers might not know what we are talking about. We'll incorporate it from next month's issue, thanks. -Mike

Hi Guys,

Since I'm a computer science student, I mostly read your mag to keep up to date with the latest happenings.

Just a small concern, your magazine caters mostly for the average computer user, but what about your readers who are interested in some specialised fields in information technology? Reason being, I'm currently doing my honours degree and I can not find a magazine that will keep me up to date with the latest in biometrics/ graphics/ AI etc, without having to pay an enormous price. Who knows, *TechSmart* can be the first to offer this feature.

I think it will be great if you publish an article a month, if possible, on some specialised technology (biometrics, graphics, AI). These articles can also interest people who are going into an IT career or just to keep people informed about technology around them. You might even expand your target market. Thanks for a great mag.

Hemant Vallabh

Hi Hemant. All I can say is keep on visiting www.techsmart.co.za on a regular basis. We have some big ideas for the future. -Mike

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Question:

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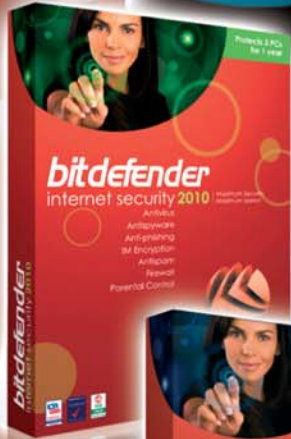
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Since its release last year, *Collected Memories*, the debut album from Zebra & Giraffe, has produced five hit singles.

Greg Carlin, the driving force behind the band, speaks to us about his love for Napster, spam on MySpace, and he gives his prediction for vinyl.

How do you feel about people illegally copying your music?

I go through phases really. Sometimes I get really p*ssed thinking about it, but then I realise it's a reality in the time we live in. You just have to make the best of the other avenues you have available as a musician, like live shows, merchandise and so forth.

Have you ever copied music illegally?

Yip, when the whole Napster thing came out I was totally into it. Then I started making my own music and realised that it maybe wasn't such a clever idea! Now I make a point of buying albums, even if I have to order them from the US/UK...

How is your Facebook presence working out for you?

Facebook has turned into the primary way we communicate with our fans, MySpace has died out and is full of spam... hopefully FB doesn't take the same route!

Is there still a place for vinyl in a world of MP3s?

There's definitely still is a small market for vinyl. A lot of bands are releasing their albums on vinyl as a special edition feature, allowing devoted fans to have a more 'exclusive' version of the music. Who knows, maybe it'll come back into fashion like Ray-Ban Wayfarers!

What's on high rotate on your MP3 player?

The new Mew album and the Incubus best of called *Monuments and Melodies*.

Favourite gadget of all time?

My iPhone – it really is the best thing I have ever bought.

PC or console gaming?

I am not really a gamer, but if I do play it's on PlayStation and it's usually a snowboarding game or golf.

Favourite game of all time?

SSX3.

So, what's next for Zebra & Giraffe?

Lots of touring till the end of the year, and then hopefully start work on a new album.

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50%. The number of worldwide iPhone sales attributed to the US. <http://tinyurl.com/techoct>

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Pigeon Power

Winston the Pigeon proved that it is faster to transmit 4 GB of data via carrier pigeon than to use Telkom DSL. KZN-based company, Unlimited IT, strapped an SD card to Winston and sent him on his way from Howick to Hillcrest. At the same time they started uploading the same file over a Telkom DSL line, but when Winston arrived at his destination, only 4% of the file had been sent. Winston was not submitted to any steroid testing.

Interconnect going down

Interconnect rates came under the spotlight with the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Communications passing a resolution that stated it wanted interconnection rates cut from the current peak tariff of 125c per minute to 60c.

Wii cum laude

The University of Houston in the US, will include Wii Fit as part of their physical education curriculum. There is no word yet on whether *Call of Duty: World at War* will make it into their Department of History undergraduate program.

News in Very Short

- **Skype:** The sale of Skype by owners eBay is delayed by a copyright infringement lawsuit filed by the original creators of Skype. Skype was sold to eBay in 2005 with a price tag in excess of \$3 billion.
- **Bing Boom:** Microsoft's Bing search engine has increased its share of the US search market to 9.3%.



Hot New Tech

Pioneer CDJ-2000:

DJs are drooling at the sight of the new Pioneer CDJ-2000 pro-grade DJ player. It not only plays CDs, but also DVDs and MP3s off USB flash disks and SD memory cards. There is no truth to the rumour that it automatically rejects songs from Britney Spears and Miley Cyrus.



HP ENVY 15 Beats limited edition:

HP is bringing out a notebook designed by Andre Young, better known to the public as Dr. Dre. The good doctor is lending some street cred to HP's upcoming Envy 15 Beats limited edition. The Envy 15 will be HP's fastest consumer notebook, but the Beats limited edition will not be released in SA.

Pentax K-x:

Photography is all about colour, so why are dSLR cameras always so drab? Pentax is correcting this with a limited number of red-and-navy saturated K-x cameras. This 12 megapixel shooter also includes HD video and live-view.



Windows 7:

22 October sees the release of Windows 7 internationally. TechSmart believes Microsoft should release it as a free download in compensation for the pain and misery inflicted by Vista. See our article on p28.

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Too close for comfort

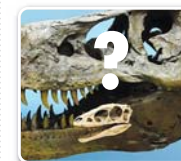
Sometimes people just need some space – and that's not necessarily a lame break-up line. According to a study recently published in the journal *Nature Neuroscience*, the amygdala – a brain structure important for processing emotions, especially negative ones – is involved in regulating personal space. Scientists asked a group of 20 healthy volunteers, including males and females of different age, race and education level, to approach an experimenter and then stop at the most comfortable distance. When they repeated the experiment with a patient with a dysfunctional amygdala, her stopping distance was almost half that of the healthy volunteers. Brain scans of healthy volunteers later showed that the amygdala responds to verbal information about the proximity of another person even when no specific sensory signals such as smells, sights or sounds are available. Scientists hope that the findings will give them more insight into the role of the amygdala in social interaction disorders such as autism, which are often associated with violating personal space.



A twist in the tail

It seems lizards' tails have a mind of their own. Literally. Scientists write in the journal *Biology Letters*, that tails shed by lizards fleeing from a potential threat often perform quite impressive lunges, jumps and flips – sometimes as high as three centimetres. The findings show that movement patterns of severed tails aren't merely the result of the shedding action; rather, they are likely controlled by an independent neural centre. The researchers propose that sensors on the surface of the tail may respond to environmental cues and then activate a part of the spinal cord

located at the end of the tail. While attached to the body, higher neural centres override this tail "brain". However, as soon as the tail is shed, this centre takes over muscular control of the tail. The findings may help to improve the understanding of spontaneous muscular activity that sometimes follows spinal injuries.



T is for tiny

When we hear the words "Tyrannosaurus rex" the image of a massive, scary-looking carnivore with razor-sharp teeth comes to mind. But now it seems the king of the dinosaurs was really just a blown-up version of a tyrannosaur ancestor which lived almost 60 million years earlier. According to a report in the journal *Science*, palaeontologists recently discovered the skeleton of a dinosaur with all the same features as the formidable T. rex, at about a hundredth of its size. Just like T. rex the miniature version, called Raptorex, had a massive head compared to its upper body, tiny arms, feet and hind legs well suited for running, and a well-developed sense of smell. Tyrannosaurs dominated the predatory ecological niche in Asia and North America during the Cretaceous period. The palaeontologists believe that when earlier meat-eating dinosaur predators, the Allosaurs, went extinct in these regions, it created an evolutionary opportunity for Raptorex to upsize into the fear-inducing T. rex. [LP]

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Reaching the next billion

In late 2007 a group of men in Redmond, Washington, sat round a table cluttered with technological wizardry discussing world domination. They weren't sinister characters plotting global dominance in the way secret organisations from a Dan Brown book would. Rather the domination of markets was foremost on their agenda. The big question for these men from Microsoft was, "How can we reach the next billion?"

Having distributed more than a billion operating systems in a little under two decades Microsoft was left with a problem; the number of new users able to access and afford their platform was dwindling despite the fact that the world's population was growing.

Halfway around the world, South African firm, Blue Label Telecoms (BLT) was providing roughly 80% of SA pre-paid customers with airtime and growing their footprint in India, setting up commuter ticketing services. On the verge of listing BLT specialised, as Dr. David Fraser their chief technology officer put it, in "prepaid developing world customers". BLT also faced a problem; people needed more convenient and secure ways of accessing services and performing transactions.

Shortly before BLT's listing, Microsoft bought a 12% stake in the company and approached them with an idea that could solve both their problems.



The launch of mibli
Fast forward 18 months and mibli, powered by Microsoft OneApp, a platform that enables basic handsets to run mobile apps like Twitter, Facebook and MSN Messenger, is officially launched in South Africa. Introduced by the Mobile Services Company (MSC), a wholly owned BLT firm, the platform is a world first, with a focus on developing markets. The fact that South Africa was "ground zero" for the development of OneApp, as Ian Puttergill of Microsoft SA puts it, is a reason for great pride as well.

South Africa is rather unique in that cellphone penetration is in excess of 80%, making it the ideal developing world mobile test market, with companies like Google also interested. The trouble with the majority of phones in SA is that they're not smartphones, but basic handsets or "feature" phones.

The thing about mibli though is that it's network and device agnostic. As long as the phone has a GPRS connection to the Internet and Java support, mibli will work on it. It's consequently the users that are at the centre of the mibli service. Users can simply download mibli, at 151 Kb from www.mibli.com, to whatever handset there are using and sign-in with a username and password.

The beauty of this is that everything, including processing, happens in the cloud. This means that a handset is no longer the centre of a user's mobile experience, but a gateway. It also means that the number of potential users is dependent only upon how many phones there are on the market; 4 billion worldwide according to the UN's last estimate. Dr. Fraser estimates that approximately 80% of cellphones in our own country are currently capable of running mibli. To say that the platform has reach would be an understatement.

mibli is: mibli powered by Microsoft OneApp, is a new software application that enables conventional cellphones to run mobile apps. Microsoft OneApp powers mibli by enabling a robust environment for building, deploying and publishing mobile apps and making them available to mibli users.

It's about access
Before the concept of digital was even invented, Thomas Jefferson said that, "Information is the currency of democracy". While a powerful thought, Jefferson never had the opportunity to understand what access in a digital age could really mean. Going further than just accessing information, it's about freely sharing information and even information creation.

Cheap communication via instant messaging, secure transactions via a mobile wallet, social networking and access to information in the form of news, educational, health and environmental apps, all from a cheap, basic handset has the potential to create a situation in which the next billion do have the opportunity to understand what information access, sharing and creation really means.

The news from MSC that an apps market for mibli is in the wings is even more exciting. An apps market with the scale to reach millions of people could create an entire mobile economy, empowering developers who can create vehicles for sharing information. As OneApp is powered in the cloud, and developers don't have to develop across different platforms, development time and computing power needed to create apps are dramatically reduced.

"We're confident that mibli will open up a world of opportunity and possibility for local consumers, advertisers, marketers and developers alike. We expect to create a wave of entrepreneurial opportunities and new businesses in South Africa, where mobile applications will ultimately become a viable industry all of its own," says JJ Botha, CEO of MSC.

Today BLT is South Africa's fastest-growing telecoms company, a position it may well retain for some time to come if mibli lives up to even a fraction of its potential locally, never mind internationally. As far as what OneApp means for Microsoft's domination of the ICT market, who can tell? What we do know is that the guys in Redmond have a very impressive plan to reach more than just the next billion. [TM]

My experience: Accessing mibli on an old Sony Ericsson K700i, I could post and follow tweets, update my Facebook status and check out a few friend's pics from the weekend. I backed-up all my contacts, IM-ed our editor about this story, sent some airtime to my girlfriend and read a few RSS news feeds to keep abreast of happenings. Doing all this off what I previously considered a redundant device seriously altered my thinking.

Do you realize if it weren't for Edison we'd be watching TV by candlelight? ~Al Boliska http://tinyurl.com/techoct



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Samsung Jet

More genius than smart

'She's A Genius' by Jet has been blaring in the office all spring, it's just so catchy. Also remarkable is just how genius the Samsung Jet turns out to be, with cool features like its gesture initiated shortcuts, multitasking and auto-switching to speakerphone.



Processing

Samsung is marketing the Jet as "smarter than a smartphone". We don't know if that is necessarily the case, but it is definitely faster. The powerful 800 MHz processor is the fastest we've come across yet. This excellent processing power ensures that apps open near instantaneously and that you can navigate through menus at a blistering pace.

All this is housed in a small 110 g body that also sports a 3.5 mm jack and micro USB port. The Jet, with a red prism type effect on its back, looks ridiculously attractive, despite feeling a little plasticity.

Interface

The only trouble is that Samsung decided to use their proprietary TouchWiz interface with its widget driven focus. Our previous experiences of TouchWiz haven't been fantastic since navigation felt less than intuitive.

This isn't a train smash though as Samsung have updated the interface to make it more user-friendly. It has three home screens that you can customise with widgets, a three screen grid menu and a cute multimedia cube. Flipping through these various screens via the Jet's responsive resistive touch-screen actually turned out to be a dream. Although a capacitive screen would still have been a nice touch, as things like scrolling through contact lists was a little frustrating.

Almost everything else

The Jet's 3.1" AMOLED display with WVGA (480 x 800) resolution is remarkable, and watching video on the go is a real treat with excellent colour and contrast. Wi-Fi, 3G HSDPA and A-GPS are all there and even Microsoft Exchange Active Sync for good measure.

The Jet's Dolfin browser now features a one-touch zoom function making it far easier to browse pages, which in conjunction with the ability to view up to five pages simultaneously makes browsing a treat.

A decent five megapixel camera and video camera complete with editing apps onboard, rounds things off nicely.

But is it smart?

Faster than a smartphone the Jet may be, but whether it's as smart is debatable. Without an apps store or a dedicated music service available, the Jet is dumbed down. While the Jet can multi-task and features some satisfactory apps, it has a very limited number of apps currently available to customise it. [TM]

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BlackBerry Curve 8520

Straight Shooter

Over the past few months we've received a number of entry-level smartphones for testing. The recent BlackBerry Curve 8520 was the most surprising of the lot, since we didn't expect a BlackBerry that would be available on a R150 weekender package, which by the way includes unlimited Internet browsing and email.

No 3G

The BlackBerry devices are certainly some of the easiest to set-up email on, and the new Curve is no exception. You should have your email up and running in minutes.

The main criticism that can be leveled against the Curve is its lack of 3G connectivity, which makes browsing on the device more of a chore than a pleasure. If you are lucky enough to have a wireless network, rather switch on the Curve's Wi-Fi and surf through your network. For regular emailing the slow, EDGE connection isn't too much of a problem though.

Handling

One of the biggest changes to the Curve is the replacement of the usual trackball with a trackpad. We had no trouble using it, as it was fast and responsive and worked without hassle. It might have been a tad too quick, but fortunately its sensitivity can be adjusted.

Although the slight slant on the keys helped for more accurate typing, the QWERTY keypad is still spaced a bit too close for comfort, causing typos when doing a bit of fast typing.



Media capabilities

All work and no play will make Jack envious of the Curve's cool media functionality. The three dedicated media buttons on top of the Curve make it dead easy to control your tunes without having to mess about on the trackpad. Top this off with a 3.5 mm jack to plug in your own headphones, with decent enough onboard speakers, and you have yourself quite the media phone. That said, while the music player is sweet, the bland two megapixel camera left us sour.

A bit of a let down is the lack of onboard GPS on the Curve, and the fact that the BlackBerry App World is also not yet available in SA. But if you're in the market for a phone with excellent email capabilities while also offering some lovely media functionality, the BlackBerry Curve 8520 should be your weapon of choice. RRP: **R3500**. [MJ]

42.2%. The amount of Internet users that are Asian. 3.9% is African. <http://tinyurl.com/techoct>

Nokia E52

Bringing back the Power

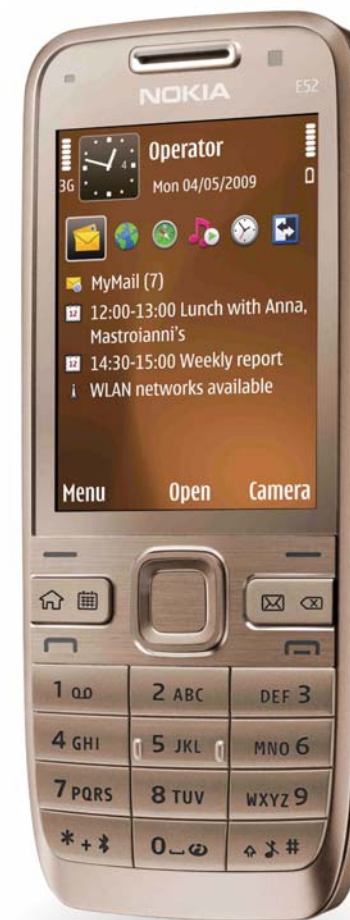
Most smartphones have one thing in common – poor battery life. On most of the devices that we test we're lucky if we get two days worth of talk and browsing out of them.

Nokia's E52 has no new features to really get excited about, but it does feature something that we know a lot of businesspeople will be hungry for – decent battery life.

Style

The E52 is a classic Nokia E-series device running on the Series 60 platform. With a thickness of just under 1 cm ours was dressed in Nokia's regular business silver, so it's both functional and elegant. We didn't have any problems with the keypad, although the call-accept and -reject buttons are a bit small. At 2.4" the screen is also adequate.

As a business device the E52 pretty much covers all the bases since it includes A-GPS, Wi-Fi connectivity, HSDPA and push-email capabilities. That said it doesn't include a QWERTY keyboard or touch-screen. If you can live with using the regular alpha-numeric keypad to type emails then you should be fine.



Fast

A speedy 600 MHz processor makes the E52 run nice and smoothly. This is especially noticeable when dealing with the S60 interface and viewing media files. Once again we had no trouble setting up our Gmail, but struggled getting our usual POP3 mail working properly. The lack of QWERTY keyboard is noticeable when dealing with mail, and if you are looking to deal with email a lot, rather stick with something like a BlackBerry.

Excellent Battery Life

While the E52 makes all the right noises in regards to features, the device's battery life was the one we enjoyed most. Not having to plug in a smartphone to charge overnight is a luxury that's fairly uncommon these days. With fair usage of the web, email, a bit of GPS and talk we managed about three and a half days without going for a recharge. Nokia reckons one should get six hours of talk time out of the device in 3G.

With a decent RRP of **R3699** the E52 falls squarely in the entry-level smartphone range. For business-people looking for a return to longer battery life, without having to sacrifice on good looks and decent business features, the E52 should come as a blessing. [MJ]



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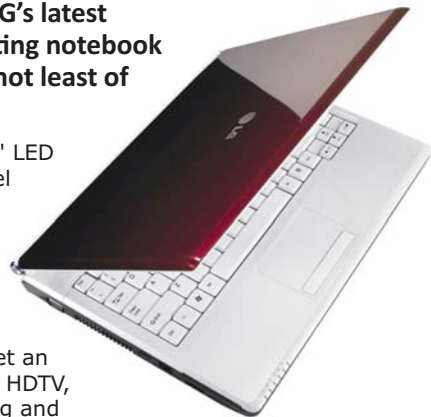
The price is right

The R510, while not LG's latest offering, is an interesting notebook for a host of reasons not least of which is its price.

It offers a sizable 15.4" LED WXGA Display, an Intel Pentium Dual Core T3400 2.16 GHz processor, a 250 GB hard drive and 2 GB of RAM for a rather reasonable **R6499**. For your money you even get an HDMI port to connect to HDTV, built-in WLAN 802.11 b/g and Bluetooth. In fact the only fault we could find is that it's battery life is rather average, as you get maybe 2 hours of normal use out of it.

It's no slouch in the looks department either with a high-gloss piano black lid that fades to a deep red. Beneath this dramatic case is an off-white full-keyboard and trackpad. While the white looks great, it will be a magnet for dirt.

LG have also thrown in a few quite clever features, such as its Smart Recovery program which automatically creates a backup of your operating system on a separate partition when you first boot the system. Their intelligent dual use of the e-SATA port as a USB port is great as well. The R510 is a good machine at a good price, and you can't ask for more than that. For more info call Computer Corporation on 08616-08616.



Advertorial Plustek MiniStation MFA500 Server Email in your own hands

If you have constant email trouble and generally end up losing important mail, then it might be time to say goodbye to your Internet hosting company and hello to your own onsite email server.

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With a built-in firewall as well as an antivirus engine and anti-spam engine your mail is also secure. The MFA500 can even host your website and provides an FTP site to upload files to and download from.

Plustek's mail server offers support for POP3, POP3s, IMAP and IMAPs, and also caters for mail downloaded from Outlook, Outlook Express as well as webmail access. Your mail can be kept safe via the onboard back-up system while it also supports NAS and remote back-ups.

The Plustek MiniStation MFA500 is serviced and maintained by ServiceTEK (0800-REPAIR). **R10 499** (incl VAT). Call ImageTEK on 011-608-1964 for more info.



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New printing trends encourage SMEs to manage business costs

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A new era of digital printing

The HP business concept gave birth to what is known today as the HP Print Station programme (HP PSP). The creation of the HP PSP in South Africa marked a new era in digital printing.

This store-in store and standalone concept is an easy one to comprehend. A short example: Joe Soap on the street wants to start a business and has no clue where to go and what to do. He discovers a local HP Print Station; inside he is assisted with the creation of a business logo, the design of all his marketing collateral – from business card, brochure, banner, to poster creation. He conceptualises his business brand, creates it and prints it on the spot, best of all he prints only what he needs to get started. Once Joe needs more, he returns to the HP Print Station and opens up his file, saved on their server, and prints a quantity suited to his budget and his needs.

Simple and efficient savings of time and money.

The HP PSP stores, which are situated

nationwide, aim to eliminate the waste factor for businesses of all sizes. Eliminating waste associated with printing is the first of many steps businesses should take to manage costs.

Managing your print waste could save your bottom-line

The first step is to avoid unnecessary prints in the first place. In the real world, though, 100 percent efficiency is hard to achieve, this is where recycling comes in.

All businesses, no matter what size, should be able to contribute to curbing their carbon footprint, so why not start with something that has no impact on your bottom-line.

When it comes to supporting the recycling programmes, you can actively choose channel partners that support programmes to recycle materials, be it packaging, supplies or hardware. Not only does this ensure that all materials are recycled or disposed of legally and in a sound environmental manner, but also frees the company from any costs previously associated with the process.

An additional way to curb wastage is printing the amount you desire, not the prescribed amount when placing your print order. The services offered at the HP Print Stations ensure that all material is designed and specified to the creator's needs and requirements. Should an SME require only fifty copies of a business card, a poster or flyers, the HP Print Station can perform the task without running up unnecessary bills for the client. Why print what you don't need?

Another question stems from the first: why print more than you need? Choosing the most efficient way of presenting information can help you reduce paper consumption and have an impact on your audience, which may prefer to receive less paper. Technology offers massive potential, but it's rarely realised.

We are all determined to create a strong bottom-line, but why not nurture the environment while growing your business? By curbing your own print waste you could save the environment from hazardous damage, grow your profits and get what you want.

For more information on the HP Print Station programme contact HP's partner ACT on 011-695-1600 or HPPrintStation@ACT3.co.za. Visit www.hpprintstation.com to find out about your nearest HP PSP store.



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Sony VPL-DX11 Projector The Three P's

Finding a powerful data projector with the right mix of price, portability and performance is no easy task. Sony's VPL-DX11 data projector consequently surprised us a little when we received it for review.

While not a portable projector per se, the device weighs just 2.1 kg and boasts dimensions of 295 x 74 x 204 mm, which makes it easy enough to cart about especially in the provided carry case.



The DX11's standout feature is undoubtedly its 3000 ANSI lumens of light output. This makes it possible to project in conference rooms that can accommodate between 100 and 200 people under normal light conditions.

In terms of resolution the projector supports XGA (1024 x 768) which is pretty much standard and offers a contrast ratio of 700:1. Presenting slides with graphics and numerical values is not a problem then, as there is more than enough detail.

Our only concerns are that it is a little noisy and lacks enough input connections with just an S-Video and composite video input. The DX11 is a solid data projector, however, with an acceptable compromise between performance and portability. The third P, or price, is a little steep though as it costs a cool RRP: **R15 999**. Visit www.sonybiz.net for more info.

Advertorial Ink Inc / The Ink Place In the Pink about Ink

While nobody can dispute the convenience of being able to print in full colour from home, the cost of replacing ink cartridges can be devastating on the budget.

Over the years many people have come to depend on ink refills and remanufactured cartridges. Ink Inc was one of the first companies in South Africa to provide services on this front, and they are still the go-to guys for any type of cartridge requirements – inkjet as well as laser.

Whether it's refill kits, remanufactured cartridges, onsite refilling of company inkjets or original cartridges, Ink Inc can make it happen, all while providing the best customer service in the business.

Ink Inc puts a warranty on their remanufactured cartridges which states that if it damages your printer they will carry the cost of the replacement. These cartridges should also give you the same quality and number of prints as an original.

With their seven branches in Pretoria and Joburg offering a delivery service and also printer repair work, Ink Inc should be your first port of call for any ink requirements.

Call Ink Inc, also known as The Ink Place, today on 0860-Refill (733455) or email sales@inkinc.co.za.

ink inc
the ink place

September 1998, Menlo Park, California. Google.com opens in a garage. <http://tinyurl.com/techoct>

Foxit eSlick eReader Ebooks made easy

The Foxit eSlick is one of the first ebook readers to be made locally available. The device makes reading PDFs a far more relaxing and entertaining experience than reading them on your PC.

How does it work? You download PDFs on the provided 2 GB HSD card (or save them to the 512 MB internal memory), stick it in the eSlick and then open your book of choice up on screen. Meant to imitate a book, the actual size of the eSlick is no more than a very thin paperback, and at 180 g it doesn't weigh much more either.

E Ink Screen

The 6" screen is not a regular LCD, instead its made from E Ink technology and doesn't emit any light of its own. The interesting thing about this is that it doesn't use electricity when displaying PDFs, rather it discharges when you "turn" a page. That's why its battery life is measured in page turns, and in the eSlick's case, it takes in excess of 8000 of these before recharge is necessary. The screen is readable in the same amount of light as regular paper and doesn't strain your eyes.

The E Ink screen doesn't display in colour, but rather in four level gray-scale. This is the case with all the ebook readers currently available, including Amazon's Kindle (16 levels) and the Sony Reader (also 16 levels). Getting the PDF to display in the correct reading size was never a problem since you do have zoom capabilities, font resizing, and also "reflow" which changes the layout to fit the screen. These settings are saved, so when you start reading your book again, not only will it open to the last page you were on, but with all the correct display settings.



What's not to like?

So what's there not to like about the eSlick? Well not a lot really. It takes its time to start-up, and this is also the case when accessing the menu and

scrolling through the options. We would have preferred if it opened up directly to the novel that was last read, instead it opts for the main menu. It doesn't include 3G wireless, as with the Kindle, to access online bookshops, but it does offer an MP3 player to listen to music while reading. At this stage the eSlick can only read PDF and .txt files and not the EPUB standard. This will supposedly be added by a future firmware upgrade.

The eSlick is extremely convenient and it was a painful goodbye when we had to return it. The fact that you can store a whole library on this portable device makes it a joy for travelling. But at **R2999** the convenience definitely doesn't come cheap. For more info on the Foxit eSlick call 011-784-9167, 083-702-8991 or visit www.eslick.co.za.

Electric ovens consume the most amount of electricity, followed by microwaves and central air conditioning. <http://tinyurl.com/techoct>

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www.eslick.co.za**

Samsung WB500 Compact Camera The Zoom is in the Room



Samsung's 10 megapixel WB500 might not be the world's most stylish camera, but its plain black body hides some very interesting features.

For one it contains a Schneider-Kreuznach lens with a super 10x optical zoom. The lens can also go wider than average starting at 24 mm. So not only is your closely cropped zoom shots covered, but also your wide-angle landscape pics. A feature that will go down well with female subjects is Beauty Mode. This feature proves that the camera can lie, since it removes blemishes from subjects' faces and give an overall smoother skin tone. It worked well and left our photo model more than impressed.



Although image quality was good and the zoom worked like a charm, we never really felt comfortable using the WB500. Little things like the positioning of the flash where it can be obscured by fingers niggled, and ditto for user-friendliness. The WB500 is an above average compact, but with a bit more attention to detail Samsung could have made it an excellent one.

Get the WB500 for **R3817** from www.webantics.co.za.

Nova AVR 1250 UPS Managing Interference



Power spikes, brownouts and power cuts are quite as insidious as they sound, wreaking havoc on hard drives, destroying CPUs and damaging

any other component you can think of. The pain that any one of these phenomena can dish out is most acutely felt on your pocket.

Having been through the ordeal of losing good hardware, we highly recommend that you invest in an uninterruptible power supply (UPS). We recently looked at the Nova AVR 1250 which is a rugged UPS, and rather reasonably priced. The device features automatic voltage regulation and offers four AC outs and data line protection. It's capable of providing 660 W of power, which in power cut situations can provide you with up to 15 minutes of power to two PCs.

One of the more impressive features of the device is that it took just 8 hours to fully charge, which means you can start protecting your hardware within a day of purchasing the device. You are even able to manage your power in real-time via Eaton's Personal Solution-Pac software which you can download free from the Eaton site.

The AVR 1250 is available for **R1881** from Axiz on 011-237-7007.



Gizmo Guide: Have to have Gadgets and Gear



Livescribe Pulse Smartpen

Notetaking is serious business with the Livescribe Pulse Smartpen. It's the next step for digital pens since it allows you to not just capture what you write digitally, but also record what was said during your meetings via a built-in microphone. The best part is that you can link the voice recording to certain parts of your notes, allowing you to simply click a part of your scribbles to hear what was said during that exact moment. The Pulse pen works by tracking your writing via a built-in infra red camera on the special Livescribe Dot Paper. The special privileges the Pulse Smartpen affords comes at a price though, **R2399** from The G.A.D.G.E.T. Shop on 012-346-2726.



Asus EeeTop ET1602

Intel's little Atom processor has done a lot to change the computing landscape. Not only is it responsible for powering most netbooks, but recently we've seen it moving to the desktop PC space. Small form-factor PCs like the Acer's Veriton is changing perception on what desktops should look like. The diminutive Intel Atom N270 is also the processor behind Asus's interesting EeeTop ET1602 all-in-one desktop. Instead of having a separate PC box and screen, the EeeTop combines both into one slim 15.6" LCD panel. The fact that this screen is touch capable makes it even more appealing. Available now from PC Pro Shop for **R6000** on 012-348-4000.

Seagate FreeAgent Theatre

So you have a nice external hard disk that you keep all your music and movies on. Seagate's FreeAgent Theatre enables you to play those files on a TV. It's actually a docking station for Seagate's slim FreeAgent Go portable hard disks, but since it includes a USB port you can hook it up to any hard disk or USB flash drive. Plug the FreeAgent to your TV, connect your hard disk, and choose what you want to watch with the included remote. Available for **R1085** from PC Pro Shop on 012-348-4000.



Verbatim Multimedia Headphones

Verbatim's Multimedia Headphones aren't dressed up as anything fancy. Instead they are nothing more and nothing less than a set of headphones that will get you through your VoIP conversations without any hassle. With an RRP of **R149** the Verbatim V41820 Multimedia Headphones won't exactly break the bank. Call GJ van Rensburg from Drive Control Corporation on 011-201-8927 for sales info.



Harald Bluetooth. 10th century king of Denmark and Norway who united various tribes. Taking his name, Bluetooth today should unite technologies. <http://tinyurl.com/techoot>



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tech smart 2009 Reader Survey



We need your help to make TechSmart better! Fill out this Survey and stand a chance to win these prizes worth over R30 000! Go to www.techsmart.co.za to enter and for more info on our prizes. Alternatively fax to 012-362-2732 or post to PO Box 32123, Glenstantia, 0010.



1x HP LaserJet P2055dn Printer courtesy of



2x Nova AVR UPS units courtesy of



2x TomTom XL Safety Bundles

(includes a TomTom XL GPS unit, 12 months' free AA Advantage membership plus a First Aid Kit for on the road)

1x TomTom One GPS courtesy of



5x Iomega eGO Portable Hard Drives, 500GB, USB 2.0 courtesy of



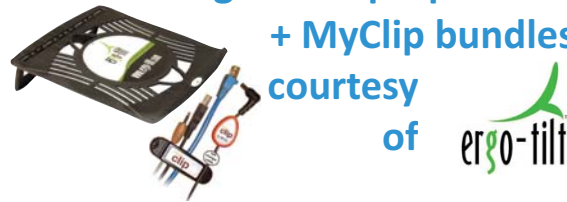
2x Serif PhotoPlus packages courtesy of



2x Business Websites courtesy of



5x Ergo-Tilt laptop stands + MyClip bundles courtesy of



Tell us about yourself:

All personal data is treated as strictly confidential and you are under no obligation to provide it. However, if you want to enter our survey competition we will need this information to enter you into the prize draw.

Name & Surname:
 Contact number:
 Postal Address:
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I give permission that TechSmart may use this information to communicate with me in future:
 [1] Yes – please send me information
 [2] No – just use it to enter me into the competition

Gender: [1] Male [2] Female

Age: [1] <17 yrs [2] 18 – 24 yrs
 [3] 25 – 34 yrs [4] 35 – 44 yrs [5] 45 – 54 yrs
 [6] 55 – 64 yrs [7] >65 yrs

Home Language: [1] Afrikaans [2] English
 [3] IsiXhosa [4] IsiZulu [5] Sesotho
 [6] Other (Please specify)

Highest level of Education: [1] Still in school [2] Matric (Grade12) [3] Diploma/certificate [4] Degree [5] Postgraduate

Occupation: [1] Business Owner [2] Senior Manager [3] Mid-level Manager [4] Staff Member [5] Student/Scholar [6] Retired [7] Unemployed

Industry: [1] Engineering/Construction [2] IT/Telecoms [3] Finance/Accounting [4] Public Sector [5] Manufacturing [6] Retail/Wholesale [7] Education/Training [8] Health/Medical [9] Tourism/Hospitality [10] Other (Please specify)

Gross Income: [1] Less than R4999 p/m [2] R5000 – R9 999 p/m [3] R10 000 – R19 999 p/m [4] R20 000 – R29 999 p/m [5] More than R30 000 p/m

Where do you normally find your TechSmart Magazine? [1] A free stand at my local shopping centre [2] At my office [3] At my school or varsity [4] Unaddressed in my post box [5] I am a subscriber [6] I read it on the Internet only [7] From friends/family [8] Other (Please specify)

How often do you obtain a TechSmart Magazine? [1] Every month (every issue) [2] Regularly [3] Irregularly [4] Only once or twice ever

How many other people in your group of friends/family also read YOUR copy of TechSmart?

Please indicate your level of agreement: I find value in reading TechSmart Magazine
 [1] Strongly Agree [2] Agree [3] Disagree [4] Strongly Disagree

Which of the following sections in TechSmart do you particularly enjoy? Please tick all that apply.
 [1] All – I read TechSmart from cover to cover [2] News Titbits [3] Science Titbits [4] Features [5] Smart Celeb Interview [6] DIY Dude [7] Industry Expert Interview [8] PC Hardware [9] Gadgets, Cameras, etc. [10] Software [11] Cellphones, Smartphones [12] Games [13] Web Time Wasters [14] The Big Issue [15] Competitions

Has TechSmart Magazine influenced a purchasing decision made by yourself? Please tick all that apply.
 [1] For your Home [2] For your Business [3] None

Do you regularly buy any other technology magazines? Please tick all that apply.
 [1] None – I only read TechSmart [2] DigitalLife [3] PC Format [4] Popular Mechanics [5] NAG [6] SACM [7] Stuff [8] Other (Please specify)

Do you currently own an External Hard Drive? If so, which brand? And what size?
 [1] Iomega [2] Seagate [3] LaCie [4] Western Digital [5] Other [1] Less than 250 GB [2] 250 GB [3] 500 GB [4] 1 TB [5] 2 TB

Which Internet connection do you have AT HOME? Please tick all that apply.
 [1] Dial-up [2] ISDN [4] Wireless (GPRS/EDGE/3G/iBurst) [3] ADSL [5] None

What brand of cellphone do you use?

Do you retrieve your email on your phone? [1] Yes [2] No

How often do you visit www.techsmart.co.za?
 [1] Daily [2] Weekly [3] Monthly [4] Less often [5] Never

What is your MAIN reason for visiting our website? Please choose only ONE option.
 [1] To read daily technology news [2] To read product reviews and compare specifications [3] To download the magazine (it's easier than getting a hard copy) [4] To enter competitions [5] Other (Please specify)

Do you regularly visit any other technology websites? If yes, please tell us which are your favourites.

How often do you make purchases online?
 [1] Monthly [2] Every other month [3] Yearly [4] Never

When purchasing online, do you generally tend to... (Please tick all that apply.)
 [1] Research products online before buying [2] View products instore before buying them online [3] Impulse buy without having done much research

Which of these products have you bought online? Please tick all that apply.
 [1] Computer hardware and electronics [2] Software and games [3] Books, music, DVDs [4] Holidays and travel

How important is a product's TECHNICAL SPECS in influencing your purchasing decision?
 [1] Very important [2] Somewhat important [3] Not important

How important is COMPARING PRODUCTS in influencing your purchasing decision?
 [1] Very important [2] Somewhat important [3] Not important

When reading product reviews, how important is it to you that PRICE is included in the review?
 [1] Very important [2] Somewhat important [3] Not important

Do you own a GPS device? If so, which brand?
 [1] Garmin [2] TomTom [3] None [4] Other (Please specify)

How long have you been using a GPS device?
 [1] 1–2 yrs [2] 3–5 yrs [3] More than 5 yrs

Which of the following are important in your purchasing decision when buying a GPS? Please tick all that apply.
 [1] Safety features (like TomTom's Help Me! Menu) [2] Pre-loaded Points of Interest (Restaurants, Hotels, etc) [3] Personalised features like voices, pictures and icons [4] Free new map updates

Which gaming platform(s) do you own? Please tick all that apply.
 [1] PC [2] PlayStation 2 [3] PlayStation 3 [4] Nintendo DS [5] Nintendo Wii [6] Sony PSP [7] Xbox 360 [8] I don't game

Further comments or remarks about TechSmart

Remember to enter before 30 Nov '09!

Release date:
22 October 2009

There are six editions available:
Starter
(not sold separately)
Home Basic
Home Premium
Professional
Enterprise
Ultimate

No specific prices were available when going to print, but Microsoft said that retail prices should be similar to Windows Vista, and in some cases even slightly cheaper.

If you buy a PC with Windows Vista installed, make sure to ask the shop assistant if an upgrade to Windows 7 is available.

Windows 7 is less resource intensive than Vista with a faster boot-up time.

If you've ever tried working in two windows simultaneously you know what a drag it can be to resize them to fit on the screen. Aero Snap can align both next to each other in, well, a snap.

Jump Lists let you not only access recent documents, but also programs you've used recently. You can also pin shortcuts, such as playing music, to it.

Windows 7 features new versions of Windows Media Player and Internet Explorer.

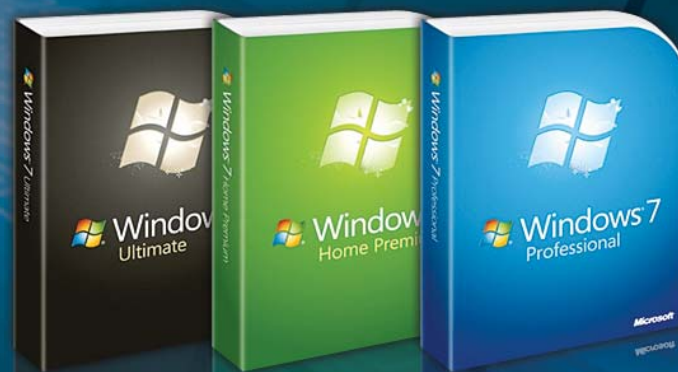
The Windows Vista gadget sidebar has been removed, although you can still stick gadgets on the desktop. There is also better taskbar functionality.

Windows Action Centre takes care of both the maintenance and the security of the system.

BitLocker Disk Encryption with USB flash disks encryption capabilities available on Enterprise and Ultimate.

Native support for reading and writing Blu-ray disks.

Better calculator and Paint. As if that's going to make you upgrade.

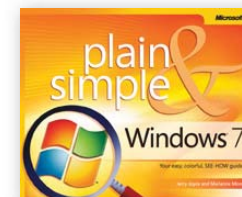


Helpful websites

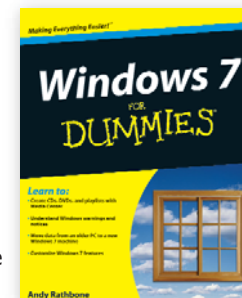
List of all the Windows 7 features available on each package:
<http://tinyurl.com/yajn4ta>
How to Make Windows 7 Installs Easy - <http://tinyurl.com/ybd2fpt>
News and Tips on Windows 7 - <http://windows7news.com>
Microsoft Website - www.microsoft.com/windows/

Books for Windows 7

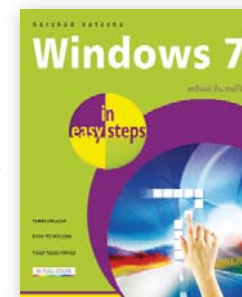
Windows 7 Plain & Simple, R225
As it says on the cover the idea of this book is to learn the ins-and-outs of Windows 7 (without the technical jargon), in a short, easy to understand fashion. It breaks things down in some easy-to-follow steps, while screenshots show you exactly what to.



Windows 7 For Dummies, R275
The Dummies series have become renowned for getting the basics across without dumbing it down too much. With *Windows 7 For Dummies* you are acquainted with all the new stuff featured in 7, while it also shows you how to avoid the most common headaches. In this book there's a whole host of tricks to make 7 lucky for you.

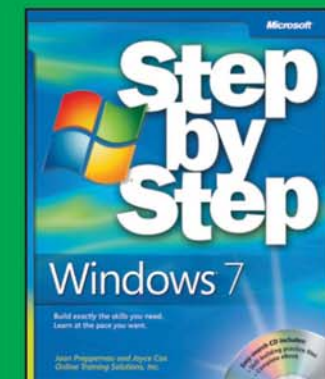
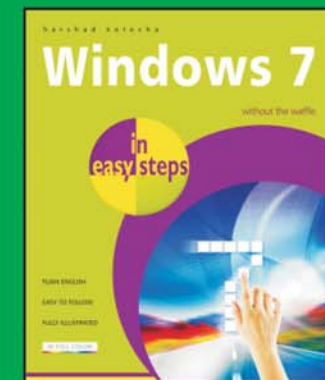
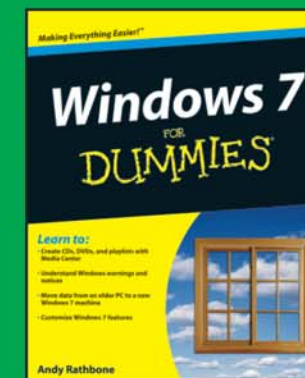


Windows 7 In Easy Steps, R150
Looking to find the Windows 7 version that is right for you? *Windows 7 in Easy Steps* takes you through the six Windows 7 versions available and then walks you through the key features of the latest edition. It also helps you through the new interface, while also dealing with networking and security.



Available from Intersoft on 011-325-2643 or www.intersoft.co.za.

Welcome to Windows 7



www.thegadgetshop.co.za

Rubik's Cube 360

The Rubik's 360 has arrived. The 360 is spherical as opposed to cube-shaped, transparent rather than solid, but it's very, very Rubik's.

R219



Mede8er

The Mede8er has been designed for good solid media playback from a hard drive, USB device, SD Card, Internet or Local Network source. The User Interface is neat and intuitive without being complicated.

from **R2899**



Bamboo Graphics Tablet

Bamboo Tablets by Wacom. The documents you create don't have to be like all the rest. With Bamboo, it's personal. You can add your own distinctive touches with handwritten notes, sketches, signatures and doodles.

from **R649**



Archos 3 8GB

The Archos 3 is by far better value at less than half the price of the iPod touch or any other competing MP3, Picture and Video playing device with a 3" touchscreen.

R1999

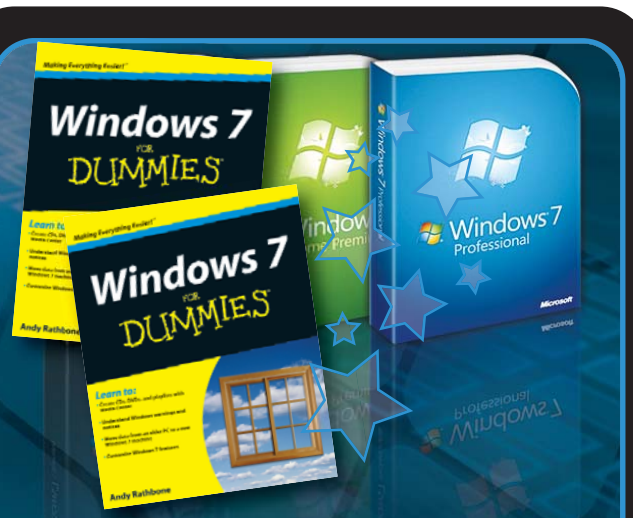


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17 billion. The estimated number of devices connected to the Internet by the year 2012. <http://tinyurl.com/techoot>



WIN 1 OF 2 WINDOWS 7 FOR DUMMIES BOOKS

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For more info contact sales@intersoft.co.za or (011) 325-2643



Kaspersky Internet Security 2010

The same but better

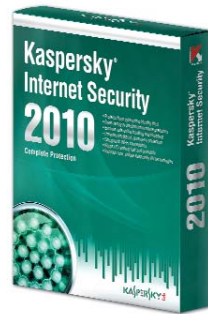
Although Kaspersky Internet Security 2010 (KIS10) doesn't offer any major changes to their 09 suite, there are a few noticeable tweaks.

For one KIS10's menu layout is a major improvement over the previous. It offers five self-explanatory tabs to navigate by, namely; My Protection, My Security Zone, Scan My Computer, My Update Centre and Security+. This reworked interface literally means that adjusting settings or running scans is never more than three or four clicks away.

Feature sets

There are three fundamental feature sets behind KIS10's protection package; File and Private Data Protection, System Security and Online Security. This offers a solid set of security tools, which by all accounts works well. It's Firewall and Anti-Spam functions are particularly good. KIS10's Safe Run mode is its most prominent new feature which allows you to run suspect applications in a virtual environment to ensure that the application is safe to run on your OS. This is great for user who download lots of apps, it's very resource hungry however.

While KIS10 is more an evolutionary package than a revolutionary bit of PC security, KIS09 was so comprehensive that the few tweaks and additions are worth the price of another year's license. **R299** for a single license. Call 012-665-2513 for more info.



BitDefender Total Security 2010

Protect, Tune and Backup

After installing the latest addition of the security suite, which should prove fairly straightforward, you are asked a few questions aimed at bracketing you as either a "Typical", "Parent", "Gamer" or "Custom" user. You are further bracketed as a "Novice", "Intermediate" or "Expert" user.

The interface and support for the average user, gamer and parent are consequently very different although the engine is the same. These differences are supposed to make it far easier for a user to maintain their security, and they do.

Security features

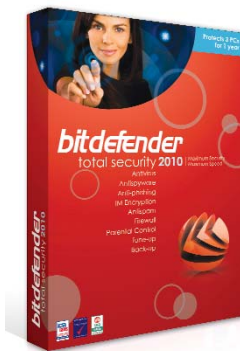
On the security front the suite is highly rated for its malware protection. A new feature, Active Virus Control, monitors the behaviour of files, looking out for suspicious file activity. In this way the suite continues to keep tabs on files and programs that make it past initial scans.

The package also features anti-phishing, antispam, IM encryption, antispyware and a typical firewall. This wide variety of tools makes it a great all-round security option.

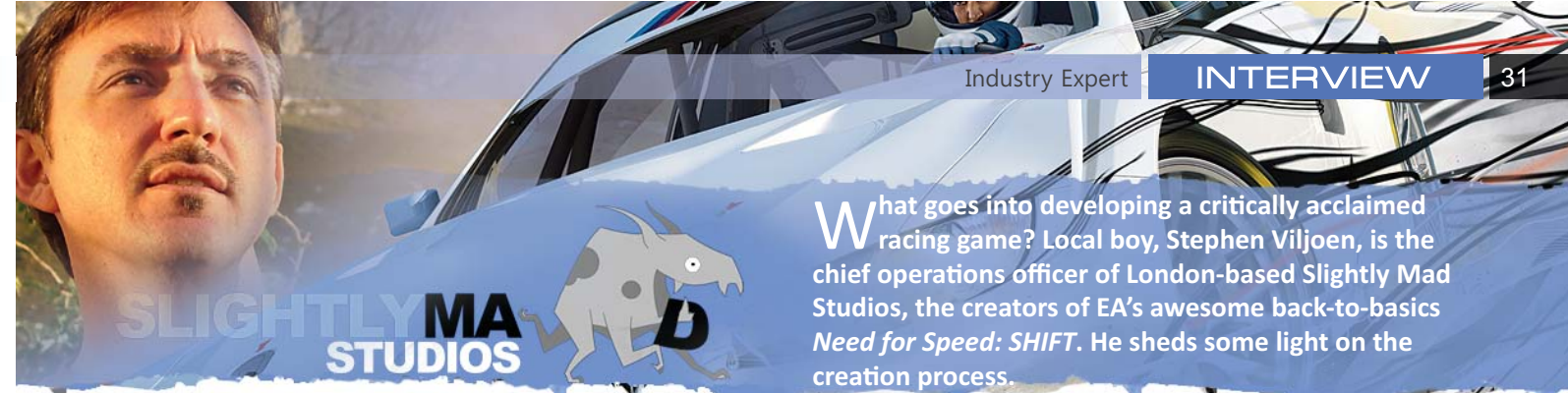
Final word

While BitDefender is primarily a security suite it also features PC Tuning, File Shredding, and Data Backups. These prove handy additions which round off the product offering nicely.

R599 for three licenses from www.holton.co.za. If you have a valid user-key for BitDefender Total Security 09, you can download 2010 for free.



5 MB. The capacity of the first Apple hard drive available in 1983. <http://tinyurl.com/techoct>



What goes into developing a critically acclaimed racing game? Local boy, Stephen Viljoen, is the chief operations officer of London-based Slightly Mad Studios, the creators of EA's awesome back-to-basics *Need for Speed: SHIFT*. He sheds some light on the creation process.

Were you surprised when EA asked for a return to basics on *Need for Speed: SHIFT*? No story just flat-out racing?

Not really, as the approach was to split the franchise into different games instead of trying to cater to all the demographics in a single game. The target demographic for *SHIFT* is the more grown-up racers who've had their fill of neon-lights under the cars and illegal street racing. The "story" in *SHIFT* is you. You are the main character and the game moulds itself around you in a number of ways.

Was it a deliberate choice to keep playability while sacrificing the authentic, but more difficult, steering?

Yes. This doesn't mean that the underlying physics engine is any less accurate though, quite the opposite. The physics engine in *SHIFT* is in many ways more accurate than what we had in *GTR2*. Realistic physics shouldn't mean it's hard. What is more important than claiming that the physics engine is accurate, is creating a convincing experience.

We like the realistic cockpit view that gives you more of the driver's experience and also gives the impression that things inside the car are moving as well. How did you manage to do this?

We modelled the cockpit to the same degree of accuracy as we did with the exterior of the car. We then placed a fully

articulated, physics-enabled driver model in the cockpit and attached the player's viewpoint camera to this model's head. The player's visual experience now matches what it would be like to really sit in the cockpit.

What part of the game did you enjoy working on the most?

Personally, I enjoyed the hands-on parts the most. Prototyping track and terrain layouts and seeing my vision of the track come to life and then seeing it in the final game with players driving around on something that started off as just an idea in my head is very rewarding.

How long did the project take start to finish?

More or less two years.

Any tips for readers that want to get into game creation?

Yeah, don't! Seriously though, it's a very rewarding career, but extremely demanding. You need to be very passionate about creating games, not just playing them. The rest is easy – work really hard, stick at it, get your work visible (we used to release our initial games for free just to get exposure), and don't give up, then it may just happen!

Visit www.techsmart.co.za for the full interview. Read our [NFS: SHIFT](#) review on p 38.

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How to: Make Floating Pool Speakers



Yes, it's that time of the year; the birds are a-singing, the sun is a-shining and the grass is a-greening. It's almost summer time and summer means long days lounging by the poolside. And what better way to spend your time than by relaxing on your lilo and listening to your favourite tunes as they gently float by?

Floating speakers are actually quite straight-forward to make – it's really just a matter of getting the right materials and measuring twice and cutting once.

You'll need:

- A pair of small speakers; I used speakers from an MP3 speaker set I got at a promotion somewhere and also recycled the mounting rings and speaker grills.
- A PVC inspection pipe. You can find this at any plumbing supplier.
- A male pipe cover and a female pipe cover
- PVC glue and a Glue gun
- A thick plastic bag and an MP3 Player



The housing for the speakers will be made of a PVC inspection pipe. This gives you a number of advantages over using some other plastic container (although you could if you wanted to), the inspection pipe is built to be waterproof and the two access points are both sealed with rubber seals.

The first thing to do is to cut away any plastic ridges on the front surface of the inspection cover of the pipe, so that you have a flat surface for the speakers to be mounted on. Now carefully measure and cut out two holes the same size as the front of the speakers. I used a hole-cutter that fits on a drill to do this.



Once you have the holes drilled, you will need to waterproof the speakers. This can be a fiddly job, so have all your materials ready and laid out as timing is important. Heat up the glue-gun and apply a thin bead of glue around the rim of the speaker. As the glue starts cooling, stretch over the plastic from a thick plastic bag over the speaker.



Trim the plastic around the edge of the speaker and glue them into place on the inspection cover, ensuring that no gaps, through which water can leak in, are present. Now just attach the speaker grills with the recycled mounting rings from the MP3 speaker set.

Optionally, you can attach a strap to your system so you can tie it off somewhere in the pool.

Once everything is assembled, glue on the female cover of the pipe, using PVC glue, plug in your MP3 player and screw on the speaker assembly. You can access the MP3 player via the round male cover, as it goes into the rubber-sealed end of the pipe.

Test out your speakers. If they tend to roll forward into the water, then just fill the pipe with ballast, like a 1 kg dumbbell, to keep the speakers pointing up at about a 45 degree angle. [AG]



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Massively Multiplayer Online Gaming



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.

The rapid uptake of broadband and a tremendous improvement in browser technology has led to an explosive growth in online gaming, specifically MMOGs, or massively multiplayer online games.

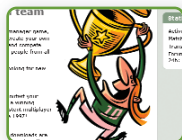
Many of these MMOGs are browser based with the game played (as you would guess) in a standard web browser without the need for any software to be installed other than the browser itself. MMOGs enable players to compete and cooperate with each other on a huge scale, and by necessity these games are played on the Internet.

If you join up with one of these games you can literally play from anywhere you have an Internet connection, and you don't have to use the same computer each time. This effectively makes your entertainment portable.

Check out some of these online games, all of which have a huge global following:

- **Hattrick** – <http://www.hattrick.org>

This is a strategic football management game. You trade players and coach your team in competition with thousands of opponents playing simultaneously from all over the world.



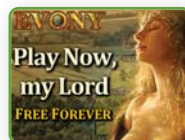
- **Travian** – <http://www.travian.com>

Travian is a strategy game featuring a world with thousands of other players. One begins the game acting as a chief of a tiny village. You then develop resources and build your village from there. There is an Afrikaans server at www.travian.co.za.



- **Evony** – <http://www.evony.com>

Playing Evony is very similar to Age of Empires. The objective of the game is to build up your civilization so that you can invade other towns and grow your empire. There is an excellent tutorial which should see you playing online in no time at all.



- **AdventureQuest Worlds** – <http://www.aq.com>

This is a fantasy game, which is rapidly becoming the most popular MMOG in the world. Giving you an excellent mix of strategy and real-time game play, this game is fun and easy to play. One of the better features is a child-friendly online chat option for those 13 and younger.



- **RuneScape** – <http://www.runescape.com>

RuneScape is an adventure game set in an evolving world of remarkable depth. You get to control a character and decide what path forward your character will take, be it fighting in close combat, learning magic or even working as a craftsman. The game is hugely popular.

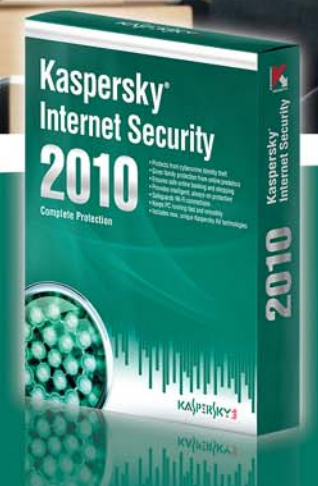
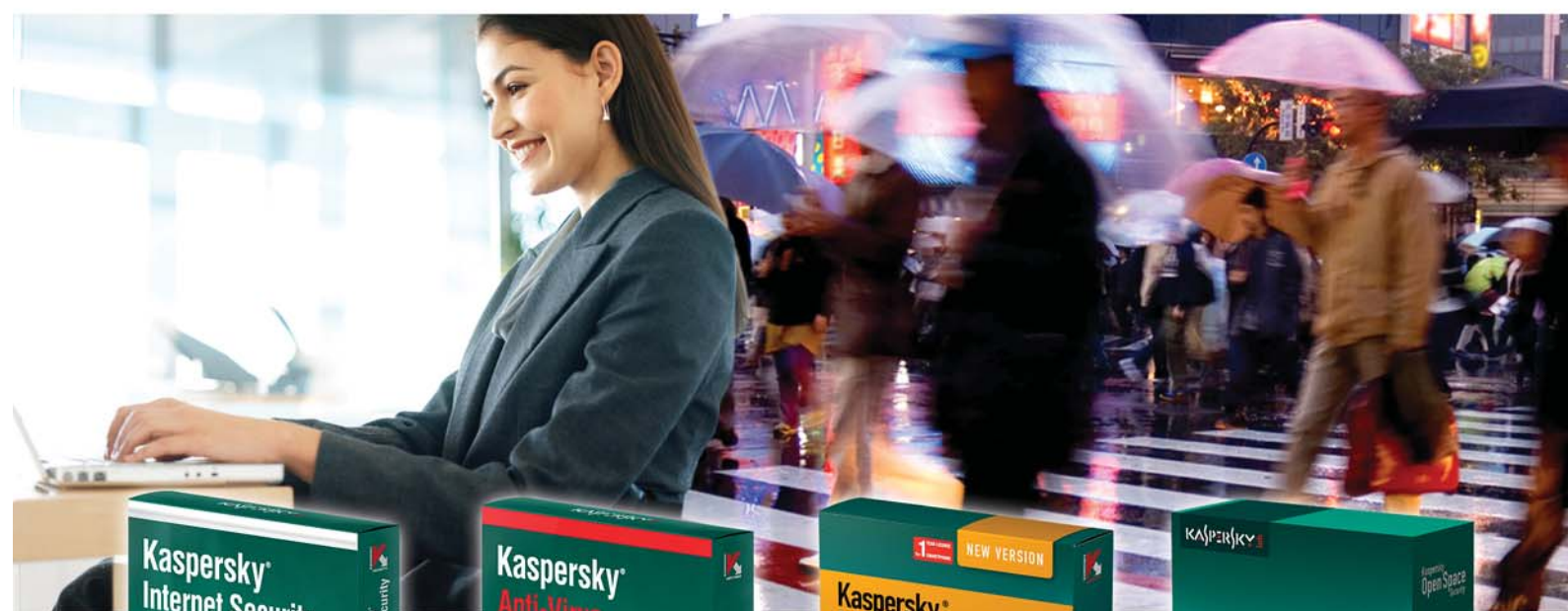


If you have any questions or queries drop me a mail, talk@brandedinternet.co.za.

1300%. Monthly growth of Twitter users in February 09. <http://tinyurl.com/techoct>

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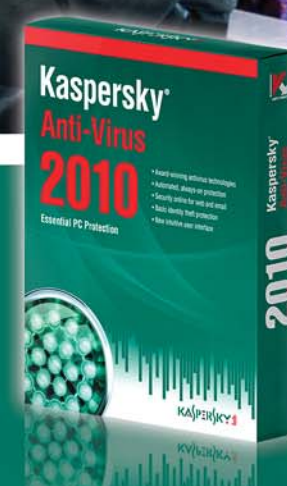
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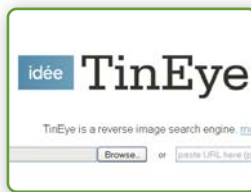
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September Web Time Wasters



TinEye Reverse Search
<http://tineye.com/>

So what exactly is a reverse image search engine? Well, in the case of TinEye you give it an image to search for, and it will find you similar images scattered across the web.

You can use the engine by either uploading a JPG or typing in the URL of the image on the web you want similar results for. Their search index isn't exactly that big right now, so don't expect excellent results. Still, an interesting concept.

transl8it!
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Lonely Planet
www.lonelyplanet.com

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My Parents Were Awesome
<http://myparentswereawesome.tumblr.com/>



Once upon a time, a long time ago, in a galaxy far far away, your parents were cool. This site proves it, with pics of, well, parents being cool. Admittedly with bands like The Beatles and Led Zep surely it couldn't have been very difficult?



5 Top Sites for the most Awesome Recipes Ever:

- whatsfordinner.co.za
- cookbook.co.za
- allrecipes.com
- simplyrecipes.com
- myrecipes.com

techsmart.co.za | October 09

Iceland. The country with the highest concentration of broadband users in the world. <http://tinyurl.com/techoct>

1 million tons. The weight of a pinhead-sized piece of a neutron star. <http://tinyurl.com/techoct>

THE TECHSMART CARROT

Our investigative reporter, better known to us as simply Carrot, searched the furthest-most regions of the Web to bring you all the latest tech stories. And if it's on the Internet then it must be true. Right?



AFFIRMATIVE FACEBOOK

Under the proposed Social Networking Affirmative Action Initiative (SNAAI), all South Africans on Facebook will have to have a minimum of 50% black friends before 2011. Past 2011 SNAAI will extend to also include "Following" on Twitter, as well as contact details on all RICA registered SIM cards.

AUTOMATIC TWITTER UPDATES

I am your updates (IAYU), a new app for the iPhone, is causing a stir in Europe. Making use of A-GPS to get physical location, the accelerometer to determine action, and the onboard camera for facial recognition, IAYU automatically updates the owner's Facebook and Twitter status four times a day. Updates from IAYU users includes "I am eating a hamburger. Yum!", "Stuck in traffic again :(" and "Oh no, Monday morning. Difficult week ahead."

NEW KEYBOARD INVENTED

SA inventor Will de Duim is hoping to cash in on the MXit generation's penchant for typing SMSs and instant messages. His latest invention is a next-gen keyboard for PCs, called the T9board, which looks a lot like the Nokia 5630. "Kids type so fast on their cellphones that the old keyboard is outdated. The T9board is more efficient because it only involves one hand, leaving the other hand free to perform other duties," de Duim stated.

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Need for Speed: SHIFT Shifting back to basics

It's hard to believe that the first *Need for Speed* was released 15 years ago. With only eight cars to choose from and seven tracks to race on, it pales in comparison to what's on offer in modern racing games

As the subsequent games in the series got more pimped out with neon lights, babes and the lure of illegal night racing, the *Need for Speed* franchise, one of the most popular in video gaming, lost its appeal for a lot of racers. Well we're glad to report that good, plain, honest racing is back with *Need for Speed: SHIFT*.

Coming from Slightly Mad Studios (see our interview with their COO Stephen Viljoen on p 31), the same developers responsible for the ultra-realistic *GTR2* and *GT Legends*, the focus is solidly back on the driving experience, with two aspects making the difference.

Firstly, playing from the driver's perspective you can actually feel the speed, and of course experience the chaos of crashing into a barrier. This definitely adds to the racing atmosphere of the game and is a facet that has never really been explored by other titles. The way *SHIFT* tracks your style, either as

precision racer, think Ayrton Senna, or aggressive paint-scraper, think Ricky Bobby, does a lot to draw you into the racing. That said, because you rack up profile points for basically everything, it loses its appeal after awhile.

There are loads of cars to buy, and yes you can mod your car, but not in the same details as for example in *NFS: Underground 2*. The game gets progressively harder as you go up in Tiers, a result of winning races and accomplishing certain tasks such as keeping a drift for long enough.

Although the variety of vehicles on offer isn't as wide as *Gran Turismo*, you're never left wanting, plus the eight different types of events do much to add spice to life.

Ultimately we believe a lot of old fans will return to the *NFS* franchise thanks to *SHIFT*'s emphasis on good old racing, instead of the pimping of rides. *SHIFT* proves that fun isn't only reserved for the backseat of a car. [MJ]



220 million. Tons of old PCs and other tech hardware trashed in the US each year. <http://tinyurl.com/techoct>

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