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TOP 10 TECH

What wowed us in 09

3D SPECTACULAR

Acer's amazing
3D notebook

WIN WIN WIN

- R15 000 travel and 3 Navigator handsets from Nokia and OVI Maps
- 90 days free subscription to BitDefender 2010
- 5 copies of AVG Anti-Virus 9.0
- Lexmark INTERACT 3-in-1 Printer



ISSUE 75 December 2009

ISSN 1726-3358



Acer's 3D notebook



Nokia Navigator



Samsung Lapfit monitor

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Computer Corporation Recommends Genuine Microsoft Vista Business
R11999
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75 and going strong

Six years ago in March 2003 the first issue of *TechSmart* hit the streets. It was printed on A3 newspaper, folded to A4, and boasted the proud headline "ADSL coming to South Africa". 7.5 million copies later, the magazine is stronger than ever. While we can go on celebrating the past, it's the future that's of more importance.

The redesigned www.techsmart.co.za is growing at a phenomenal rate, with an average of 1400 people visiting the site per day. If you like the mag, you'll love the site, seeing as all the content is fresh and the reviews are more in-depth.

Our distribution network is also expanding and this year we've received ABC certification validating distribution of a massive 99 091 copies per month.

To all our advertisers, and most of all, you our readers, thanks for your support during 75 awesome issues. Enjoy this jam-packed Xmas edition.

Mike Joubert <michael@techsmart.co.za>

I'm standing in Lenovo HQ in Beijing, China. More on that in the Jan Issue.

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Features

10 Top Tech 2009

Regulars

- 6 Letters
- 7 Smart Celeb: Jesse Clegg
- 8 Tech News
- 9 Sci News
- 32 The Big Issue: HD Video on DSLRs
- 36 Web Time Wasters
- 38 Industry Expert: James Carroll

Mobiles

- 14 HTC Touch2
- 15 Nokia 6710 Navigator
- 16 Sony Ericsson Aino
- 16 Sony Ericsson W205

PC Hardware

- 17 Lenovo X301 notebook
- 18 Acer Aspire 5738G 3D notebook
- 22 Mecer Convertible Classmate
- 22 Samsung LD220G Lapfit monitor
- 23 NComputing Desktop Virtualisation
- 24 Multifunction Printers
- 25 Plustek Best Buys
- 26 MiFi 2352 wireless router
- 27 HP Print station

Security

- 25 EDP Communications

Gadgets

- 26 Sony Speaker Dock ICF-C1iP MK2
- 28 Best Buys for Xmas
- 30 Advertorial > Duel Black Piece pepper pistol

Data Recovery

- 34 Keeping notebook data safe and sound

Software

- 34 Consilia Consult
- 35 MAGIX Xtreme Web Designer 5

Internet

- 35 A fresh look at Google Maps SA

Books

- 37 *The Future of the Internet* by Jonathan Zittrain

Gaming

- 38 PSP Go
- 38 Uncharted 2: Among Thieves

Competitions and Giveaways

- 12 R15000 travel and 3 Navigator handsets
- 37 90 days free subscription to BitDefender 2010

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10



28



18



22

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AKI ANASTASIOU'S N97 JUST GOT BRAND NEW APPS.

Aki just discovered the Vlingo app for his Nokia N97. It's a really handy mobile application that lets you do things on your phone just by talking to it. Say words like 'Call Jenny' or 'Sms Ben' to your phone, and it will call that person or send an sms. You can also dictate an email and send it immediately, search the internet or even update your Facebook status verbally. The Ovi Store from Nokia has thousands of games, applications, wallpapers and ringtones ready to be loaded to your phone. Download new stuff for your phone at store.ovi.com.

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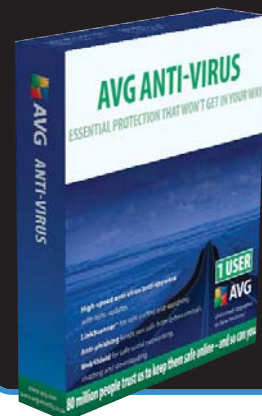
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To enter this competition go to
www.techsmart.co.za

Competition runs from 1 - 31 December 2009

Last month we asked you: **We're looking for your favourite tech product of 2009. Let us know what deserves our top 10 tech awards.**

Letter of the Month

Hi TechSmart,

For me the SEACOM cable definitely makes the list this year. It is a great achievement and a technological boost for our country, looking at South African social networking, computing and cellphone technologies. The SEACOM cable puts us right at the cutting edge of technology.

I hope SEACOM can help to improve the communication industry's efficiency and reliability, service delivery, online conferences, remote computing, file sharing broadcasting and advertising. And I think general data and line usage costs (in the long run though) will come down.

Emanuel M Nchabeleng

Hi Emanuel,

I agree, I think SEACOM is a big leap forward, not just for us, but also for Africa. I am looking forward to the launching of other underwater data cables on our shores. Enjoy your Lexmark printer! Mike



Hi Ed,

Like every other sector effected by the global economic downturn, the gaming industry was stuck in a rut this year. Gaming console sales stagnated and games sales didn't fair much better either. The effect of which were job cuts, most notably at Electronic Arts (EA) who cut 1500 jobs globally.

Enter Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2 and it didn't only rejuvenate the gaming industry, it broke all previous records for a video game release generating about \$550 million (approx. R4 125 billion) in sales in the first five days of its release. Definitely my product of 2009.

Alexander

TechSmart.co.za online poll results

Which phone gets your vote as handset of the year?

Apple iPhone 3GS	40%
HTC Hero	31%
Nokia 5800 XpressMusic	29%



LEXMARK

GREEN Fast Fact

Cradle-to-cradle design philosophy means at the end of the device's usable life, it can be completely recycled into a new product of equivalent quality.



Question:

What do you expect the biggest technological trend to be for 2010? Let us know by emailing us on info@techsmart.co.za.

The Letter of the Month wins the incredible Lexmark INTERACT 3-in-1 printer, scanner and copier with touch-screen. It includes paper saving Eco Mode and a three-year guarantee with lifetime phone support.

\$711 million. The fine Sanford Wallace has to pay Facebook for spamming people.

Since his debut single, *Today*, reached the top of the charts, Jesse Clegg has been a busy man. He was nominated for two SAMA awards and performed at the Mandela Day concert in New York City. We caught up with him to talk tech.



What's that gadget that you just can't live without?
My iPod touch!

How do you keep yourself occupied on your way to your next gig during a road trip?

I try to read a lot. I bring a few books with me wherever I go. I'm always listening to my iPod as well.

So which local artists are you currently listening to? Is your dad present?

I've got all my dad's albums! I've also got some Nude Girls, Just Jinjer and Arno Carstens.

And the most shocking act on your iPod?

I listen to all kinds of music so I do have a lot of random stuff like West African music and traditional Southern Blues. I also have Imogen Heap, which I suppose is kind of girly...ha ha.

Do you still buy CDs or do you do your music shopping online?

I still buy CDs, but if it's an overseas artist that hasn't been released in SA yet then I go through iTunes.

How is your Facebook presence working out for you?

It's going really well. Online presence is so important these days as the music industry is moving towards the internet as a primary platform for artists. For this reason I've tried to focus on maintaining frequent online interactions with fans to keep people in tune with gigs and new releases etc. I also have the fan-club on my website to keep people informed about what I'm up to.

PC/ Xbox 360/ PS3/ Nintendo Wii?
Xbox.

PC or Mac?
PC.

What's next for Jesse Clegg?

I'm performing solidly till the end of the year and doing promo for this album, we still have two more singles to go so there's still a long road ahead. I'm also working on new material and will begin recording middle of next year.

50 km. High-speed fibre-optic connections still need to be connected to the Southern African Large Telescope (SALT) in the Karoo.

How does Santa get his letters from here...



to here?



By scanning them, of course!

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No more free news?

According to Jonathan Miller, News Corp's chief digital officer, media mogul Rupert Murdoch is ready to block Google's access to News Corp websites in the next year. He commented that the move will see the company lead the media industry in a new direction away from free news content to paid, high-end news products. The step to block Google will take place over "months and quarters - not weeks" though.

Free Google sat-nav on your Android 2.0 device

The first phone to offer free Google Maps Navigation is the **Motorola Droid**, running on the Android 2.0 platform. Google Maps Navigation will initially be available in the United States only. Google Maps Navigation features 3D map views, turn-by-turn voice guidance and automatic rerouting. Garmin and Nokia Maps beware!



Interconnectivity rates on South African networks to drop from 2010

Interconnect fees are to be reduced by 36 cents from early next year, this according to Communications Minister Sipiwe Nyanda. He said the newly agreed upon reduced mobile termination rates (MTR) by Cell C, Vodacom and MTN would be 89 cents in peak times, down from R1.25. Off peak rates will remain at 77 cents however. MTR is the fee one network charges another for receiving calls on its network.

Hot New Tech

Casio Exilim EX-FS10S Golfing assist camera
The **Exilim Casio EX-FS10** is a new compact camera designed to assist golfers with their swing. The EX-FS10 analyses your posture and based on the data it collects, it provides tips on improving your swing. Small and stylish, it features a 9 megapixel sensor and supports up to 3x optical zoom.



Sony Ericsson Xperia X10
Sony Ericsson unveiled their first Android-phone, the **Xperia X10**, last month. It features a large 4" touch-screen, 8 megapixel camera, HSDPA, Wi-Fi and up to 1 GB of memory. The phone is powered by the 1 GHz Qualcomm Snapdragon processor.



Motorola Droid
There's massive hype surrounding the Motorola Droid (pic above), which runs on Android 2.0, comes equipped with a 3.7" capacitive touch-screen and boasts an Arm Cortex A8 processor clocked at 550 MHz, a 5 megapixel camera, DVD-quality video capabilities and 16 GB of on-board storage space. Typing is a breeze because of the side-sliding, full QWERTY keyboard.

Ricoh GXR compact with interchangeable lenses system. It features two separate components: 1) a body with LCD display and 2) different lens with integrated sensors. The first two lenses are a 24-70 mm lens on top of a 10 megapixel CCD sensor that can shoot VGA videos and a more expensive 50 mm macro lens with a CMOS sensor which supports HD video capturing.



Why the pretty face

Guys, face it: women are the fairer sex - and science has just confirmed it. According to a study recently published in the journal *Perception*, the difference between human male and female facial features is skin-deep. Irrespective of race, women's facial skin tends to be lighter than men's. However, eye and lip colour seem to be equally hued among both sexes. This means that there is a bigger contrast between the eyes and lips, and the surrounding skin in women's faces, than in those of men. When scientists created pictures of androgynous faces and increased the facial contrast, the faces appeared distinctly more feminine - and were also judged more attractive.* The results support what cosmetics companies have been saying all along: a little eye shadow and a dash of extra lip colour make us gals even more beautiful.

* Have a look at the faces at <http://tinyurl.com/ylzcm9>



Fast feet

Sprinters' bodies are built for speed - right down to their feet. A study recently published in the *Journal of Experimental Biology*, showed that foot anatomy may help to shave another few milliseconds off winning sprints. Scientists measured the distance between the heel and the end of the toes of 12 top sprinters and 12 slowpokes of the same height, while also calculating the leverage generated by each runner's Achilles tendon. For sprinters, the distance between the tendon and the centre of rotation of the ankle was about 25% shorter than for non-sprinters. Acceleration simulations based on the measurements showed that a combination of short tendon-ankle distance and long toes was a sure winner. A shorter tendon-ankle distance means the calve

\$600 million (almost R4.7 billion). The planned cost of Russia's new spaceship with a nuclear engine.

muscle has to shorten less, which creates more muscle force; longer toes mean contact time between foot and ground is slightly longer. With the stronger downward force, the counter force from the ground thus generates just that extra little push to the finish line.



Listening on the fly

If you thought butterflies' delicate wings are just for show, think again. A study, published in the *Journal of Experimental Biology*, recently showed that South American Blue Morpho butterflies (*Morpho peleides*) have 'ears' on their wings. The structures look like stretched elastic with an odd oval dome in the middle and are attached directly to a sensory organ that turns sound waves into neural signals. Low-pitch sounds cause only the protruding part of the membrane to vibrate, while sounds of higher pitches make the entire membrane vibrate. These butterflies may thus detect sounds over a wider pitch range than other insects with wing-ears, which the scientists believe creates a superior early warning system to escape from predators. Sensitivity to low pitch sounds may warn of an approaching bird's wing beats, while sensitivity to higher pitches may pick up on its song, allowing the butterflies to deftly dodge a bird's dinner plate. [LP]

Extra Extra Extra!

Seven questions that keep physicists up at night:
<http://tinyurl.com/yjjup7j>
A cool introduction to the human brain:
<http://tinyurl.com/lt9d4m>
Why the aliens won't be bipedal:
<http://tinyurl.com/yh2794g>
Evolution. What it is and how it works:
<http://tinyurl.com/ykocr3t>

Keeping Problems from Becoming Disasters

The Zenith Advanced Recovery and Continuity Appliance (ARCA) is a network-attached storage device for Windows Servers that comes preloaded with all backup, recovery and virtualization software it needs to protect your business. It's a perfect complement or replacement to existing tape backups because of its ability to provide near-term, near-line recovery from a single file, database or mail message, up to a full production server, in minutes. When compared to other backup or storage solutions, the Zenith ARCA offers a unique set of features that sets it apart:

- Block Level Transfer for More Efficient, Reliable Backups.
- 15 Minute Incremental Snapshots for More Frequent Recovery Point Objectives.
- Total Windows Server Backup Preserves OS and Applications, not just Data.
- Restore systems in a fraction of the time of conventional backups.
- Automatic and Non-Disruptive with No Backup Windows Needed.
- Exchange Granular Recovery, restore down to the message level.
- Rapid Failover Server Virtualization, right on the ARCA.
- Bare Metal Restore, even to dissimilar hardware.
- Industry Standard Encryption to keep your backups safe.
- Multiple Replication Schemes.
- Integrated Management and Reporting.

The ARCA meets the RPO standards of higher priced continuity solutions by storing 48 hours of backups at 15-minute intervals, 14 daily backups, 5 weekly backups and 30 Day backups forever!

Backup & Application Recovery

For file and database recovery, the Zenith ARCA brings simplicity, speed and reliability to an often painful task. By taking 15 minute snapshots of each server, the ARCA eliminates the time-wasting tasks of tape recovery with added protection against corrupted open files or databases that block level replication provides.

After the initial full backup, all future backups are incrementals. Backups taken by the ARCA are taken at the block level. This is below the file and folder level, and is more efficient. An incremental chain is created and only the changes are backed up, reducing backup windows.

Should you need additional info or a demo, please do not hesitate to contact us at:
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Year end 2010. Date by which Nokia will shut down its N-Cage gaming platform.



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TOP TECH 2009

Our annual list of the 10 products or technologies that achieved benchmark status holds few surprises this year. In a tough economic year it was the big boys that stood out, often substituting revolutionary product development for innovation and enhancement of existing products or value adding services. Without further ado we present our Top Tech for 2009.

10 >>> MiFi 2352

The MiFi 2352 is a personal, mobile Wi-Fi hotspot and is one of the most impressive gadgets we've reviewed all year. As a battery operated wireless router with an HSPA modem you can pop a SIM card with data minutes into the device and instantly setup a Wi-Fi connection for up to five users with coverage of up to 10 m. You can even use it as a basic, portable NAS device and it features built-in A-GPS, allowing you to use location based services from your netbook. The only issue we took with the device is that it costs a cool **R2000**. (See p26 for review.)



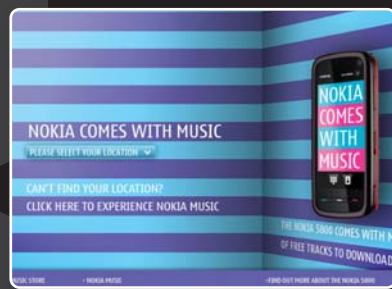
9 >>> Nokia 5800 XpressMusic

Nokia's first touch-screen, the 5800 XpressMusic, enjoyed a very friendly reception in the TechSmart office. It included A-GPS, HSDPA, Wi-Fi and had a lovely 3.2" resistive touch-screen. Although it lacked the smooth style of the iPhone, it also lacked the price-tag; available on a weekender contract. When we reviewed it, we named it the best mid-range phone on the market, and we stand by it.



8 >>> Nokia Comes with Music service

In 2002 the legendary David Bowie said, "Music itself is going to become like running water or electricity." Nokia's Comes with Music service made all the latest tunes as freely available as water, as long as your data bundle didn't buckle underneath the pressure. Comes with Music gives you access to the five million tunes on Nokia's Music Store, yours to download and keep if you bought the XpressMusic 5130, 5530 or 5630 on contract.



7 >>> mibli, powered by Microsoft OneApp

Officially launched in South Africa, mibli is an ingenious phone application. It works on basic handsets, is network agnostic and light on data, making it the ideal app for the developing world. Twittering, updating a Facebook status, reading RSS feeds and performing basic transactions are services now open to millions – for free. mibli, powered by Microsoft OneApp could literally reach the next billion people. Available to download from www.mibli.com.



6 >>> Google Maps SA

In October Google SA announced a whole range of new functionality on Google Maps South Africa. This included support for finding local businesses; driving directions to locations in South Africa and the ability to create personalised maps using My Maps. It makes the service amazingly useful and for business owners it's a must to list their location online for free (see p35 for more info). Google are currently snapping our streets, and their Street View service, which shows street-level pictures of cities, should be up and running just in time for the 2010 World Cup.



5 >>> HTC Hero

The Hero was the third HTC Android smartphone to land in South Africa this year; and in our opinion the best. It's the first Android device that focuses more on usability than on the technology behind Android. The fact that the Android Market was available when the phone was launched added greatly to its appeal. It stands out as a second generation Android device and points the way forward for great things on the platform.



cont... p12

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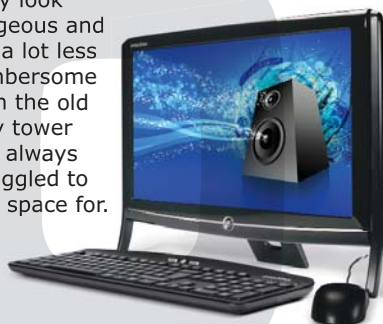


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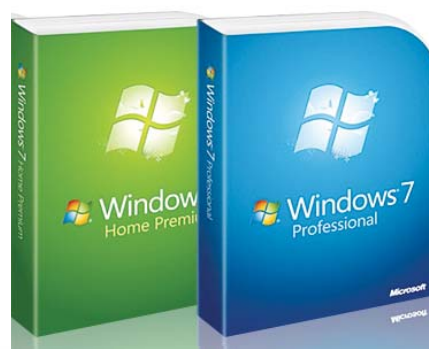
4>>> Nettops

The little Atom processor was featured on our 2008 Top 10 list thanks to it being the catalyst for the netbook revolution. This year we saw it powering a number of small, low-wattage desktop PCs, dubbed nettops. Desktop sales have been dwindling for a while now, mostly due to the affordability of laptops, these small form factor nettops, basically a whole PC stuck in a box about half the size of a six-pack, are clawing back some market share. Nettop all-in-ones such as the Acer eMachines EZ1601 and Asus EeeTop ET1602 feature integrated displays. They look gorgeous and are a lot less cumbersome than the old ugly tower you always struggled to find space for.



3>>> Windows 7

To be perfectly honest Windows 7 is what Vista should have been. Less resource intensive and cumbersome, 7 offers a far friendlier and faster Windows experience than Vista ever did. A number of small but impressive additions such as Snap and Jump Lists make life on Windows 7 a lot more pleasant. Good feedback on the beta release ensured that first week unit sales of 7 in the US were 234% higher than that of Vista. If you're still stuck on XP you can feel comfortable moving to 7.



2>>> Apple iPhone 3GS

It's no longer good enough for smartphones to simply be smart, they also need to be fast. That's why Samsung went on about the 800 MHz processor in the Jet and why Qualcomm recently unleashed the Snapdragon 1 GHz smartphone processor. Unsurprisingly, Apple kicked off the speed war earlier this year by announcing the iPhone 3GS, with the S representing speed.

Apparently twice as fast as its predecessor, the 3GS is still the slickest device around with 256 MB of RAM, a 600 MHz CPU and the iPhone 3.0 OS, which finally brought copy, cut and paste and MMS to the phone.



1>>> The Android Platform

The three Android smartphones we got our hands on this year, all from HTC, left us more than a bit excited about the future of this platform. Developed by Google, it has awesome integration with their services such as Gmail, Google Maps and Calendar and an easy-to-use interface.

Android has been well received in the market and their apps store over at android.com/market will only grow. At the rate it has been picked up by other manufacturers, and the lackluster performance of other platforms (read Windows Mobile 6.5), Android has an exciting future ahead of it.

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HTC Touch2

Resistive to change

The HTC Touch2 is the first handset sporting the new Windows Mobile (WM) 6.5 OS we've had the chance to review. The new mobile platform was designed to replace the incredibly frustrating WM 6.1 OS, with a greater focus on creating an easy-to-use touch interface for users.

Hardware

We expected the first HTC to carry WM 6.5 to really fly the flag for the platform, instead we found the Touch2 to be a fairly average smartphone, featuring a 528 MHz Qualcomm processor, 512 MB of internal memory, a 3.2 megapixel fixed focus camera and a 2.8" resistive touch-screen. The QVGA display resolution is the first thing to let the device down. As a full touch device, the Touch2 would have really benefited from a little more screen real estate. The lack of an accelerometer is another shortcoming as you are unable to rotate the device 90-degrees to expand the onscreen QWERTY keyboard. Lastly the phone's 3.2 megapixel camera is near useless as it cannot auto-focus.

On a more positive note the device features all the connectivity options you could want, built-in GPS, really solid build quality, a microSD slot that can be accessed without having to remove the back case and a 3.5 mm jack. Its battery life is also rather good, offering a couple of days of life with reasonable use.

Windows Mobile 6.5

WM 6.5 really fails to impress on the Touch2. It's easier to use than WM 6.1, especially noticeable when using its honeycomb Start menu which offers a staggered layout of icons for all your applications. The trouble however is that it isn't easier to use, by a long shot, than a number of its competitors. While there is far less need to pull out the old stylus, there are still times when it's necessary, closing applications is an example of such.

Two additions to WM 6.5 we did enjoy were the Windows Marketplace which is fairly straightforward to use, despite being under under-"stocked" by apps, and the My Phone online backup service for your images, contacts and messages.

Conclusion

The HTC Touch2 is a rather average smartphone, offering very little that's unique or competitive. WM 6.5 does make the WM platform easier to use but it's still behind the curve. The price of the HTC Touch2 does however place it close to the entry-level smartphone category, at **R4999**, perhaps explaining its deficiency of standout features. [TM]

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710 million. Mobile phone subscribers in China.

The X-ray machine. Voted as the most important modern discovery by participants in a UK Science Museum poll.

Nokia 6710 Navigator

Go that way

Devices like the Nokia 6710 Navigator make the choice between a dedicated GPS device and a converged GPS-cellphone a bit more difficult, since it comes with a dedicated car kit, and a device-lifetime subscription to Nokia's Drive Navigation. It's also an excellent travel companion for journeys overseas, as navigation isn't only limited to South Africa, but also includes international maps.

The phone

A few quick words on the phone are necessary, since it includes a number of good features, such as a radio, MP3 player, RealPlayer for videos, the ability to set-up email, and a five megapixel camera. It is also HSDPA and Wi-Fi enabled, and runs on the Symbian S60 platform, so not bad at all. We did feel, however, that the 6710 could have done with an extra inch added to its 2.6" screen, to make navigation easier. When mounted in the car it takes a bit of strain to follow what's going on on the smallish screen, fortunately sound quality was good enough for commands to be heard with little difficulty. You should remember



that the device uses data during operation for its mapping.

Maps 3.0

Nokia's Maps 3.0 software is quite extensive and now includes satellite imagery, 3D landmarks as well as weather updates for certain cities, and pedestrian navigation, which comes in handy for exploring cities on foot. The 6710 includes a dedicated Maps button, a compass, as well as a zoom-in and -out slider which works well on not only on the mapping, but also when browsing webpages.

Search

Searching for a road can become a hassle as the software is very particular about the area you want to go to. Searching for Arcadia Street under Pretoria will bring no results, while looking underneath the specific suburb, Hatfield, will. It makes searching for a road without knowing the suburb or region it falls under a big headache.

Conclusion

The lifelong subscription to the Maps Drive navigation service you receive with the Nokia 6710 is excellent, and so too is the availability of maps for overseas destinations. Even though the functionality of Nokia's Maps 3.0 is extensive, it doesn't make up for the hassles of searching for a street without knowing the area and the fact that the Navigator feels just too small to use comfortably for in-car navigation. It comes with an RRP of **R5499 - R5999**. [MJ]



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Sony Ericsson Aino

Ain't no smartphone

At this stage the Sony Ericsson Aino is the closest thing you'll get to the much rumoured PSP phone, since it can stream media content from your PS3 over Wi-Fi or HSDPA. This is done with hassle we might add, and only media, no games.

This Aino turns into a media powerhouse once closed, morphing into a touch-screen that gives you access to all your videos, music and photos at the touch of a finger. With 3" of screen to play with, we can't quite understand why SE didn't extend the touch-screen experience across all of the phone's operations.

Also included is a Bluetooth headphone adaptor and stand. We're in two minds on the adaptor since having a wireless connection with a 3.5 mm jack is great, but you don't have a 3.5 mm jack on the device itself, which means the headphone adaptor becomes one more thing to remember when going out if you want to use your own headphones.

The Aino also includes Wi-fi, personal navigation software and a so-so eight megapixel camera, so it really is stacked full of features. We do feel that its **R6999** price tag is a bit expensive.



Sony Ericsson W205

A good music phone for the masses

Not all of us can afford to get the latest and greatest cellphones out there, but this doesn't mean there are not affordable phones available with some sharp features such as a decent music player.

The W205's features include a very capable MP3 player, FM radio and TrackID music recognition technology. While the W205's speakers and provided earphones offer adequate sound we missed a 3.5 mm jack for our own headphones.

Onboard you have a boring 1.3 megapixel camera and a paltry 5 MB of memory, which can be expanded up to 2 GB. No memory card or data cable is included. Battery life is good since there's no Wi-Fi and 3G draining the phone's juice, with a decent nine hours of talk time and standby up to 425 hours.

At **R999**, the W205 offers a good music experience and a capable phone for anyone constrained by a budget, but it would have been nice to see a memory card and data cable included.



>100,000. Apps available for download for the iPhone

Lenovo X301 notebook

Object of Desire

When Chinese computer manufacturer Lenovo purchased IBM's computing division in 2005 they put a lot of effort into maintaining the respectability of the ThinkPad brand and taking it forward. This has culminated in the ThinkPad X301, an ultra-portable laptop so scrumptious that it will undoubtedly become the object of desire for many ThinkPad fans.

Size and weight

It's wonderful to see a ThinkPad squeezed into such a small body. This ultra-portable laptop comes with a 13.3" screen with LED backlight, it weights just 1.42 kg and at 23 mm thick it's the thinnest ThinkPad ever.

The weight of the laptop is partly due to the solid-state drive (SSD) technology on offer which replaces the regular hard disk drive. SSD technology is dead quiet, boots up really quickly and it's less prone to damage on impact, but at this stage it's still expensive, increasing with bigger capacity. The model we tested only had 128 GB worth of space, which for business purposes should be sufficient.

Intel inside

Lenovo didn't skimp on the technology inside the X301. It runs on the Intel Core2 Duo SU9400 processor (1.40 GHz, 3 MB L2



cache, 800 MHz), with the Intel Graphics Media Accelerator 4500MHD also present. Our model contained 2 GB worth of RAM, which we thought might struggle to cope with Vista Business, but handled it without hassle. Overall the machine gave a wonderful Vista experience, and we're quite sure that it will handle Windows 7 even better.

Connectivity

As far as connectivity options are concerned the X301 offers the whole gamut, since it includes not only Wi-Fi but also 3G connectivity via a SIM card and of course Bluetooth and a LAN port. Included on the side and back are three USB ports, a VGA connection and a DisplayPort to connect to other monitors or displays. We would've loved to see a SD card reader, but alas, one wasn't included.

The DVD-burner on the side came as a bit of a surprise, since a lot of the ultra-portable laptops don't include one. It, of course, also includes Lenovo's ThinkVantage software which allows you to manage your wireless settings, configure battery life, rejuvenate your system as well as back-up your data.

While the Lenovo ThinkPad X301 should get any ThinkPad fan's heart racing with its ultra-portable design, processing power and SSD, its price puts it in the range where selling one of your kidneys might just cover it. Get the X301 for a whopping **R21 500** (incl VAT) from Laptop City on 012-663-1155. [MJ]



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Acer Aspire 5738G

Alternative dimension

3D movies have made a big splash at the box offices this year with releases like *UP 3D* and *Final Destination 3D*. They've excited fans and brought new life to an ailing industry. So when are we going to see 3D in our homes? Well, the Acer Aspire 5738G is a 3D notebook that is already available in South Africa.

When we first encountered the Acer Aspire 5738G we were rather sceptical. Two problems immediately sprang to mind: 1) it's going to be expensive and 2) near pointless to buy as there is a lack of readily available 3D content.

Hardware

We were surprised to find our suspicions were, for the most part, unfounded. Although the Aspire 5738G isn't cheap, it's well priced for what you're getting. It offers a 15.6" display, 2.0 GHz Intel Core 2 Duo P7350 CPU, 4 GB of RAM, a 500 GB hard drive, and an ATI Radeon Mobility HD 4570 GPU. This on top of its 3D capabilities. A super multi-drive, Dolby optimised sound, full keyboard and HDMI port complete the 5738G's solid hardware offering.

3D Mode

Acer uses a rather novel 3D technology that requires clear

3D glasses, a polarised display, and TriDef software. The use of TriDef software is the most interesting bit about the notebook since, this cleverly allows you to view standard 2D content in 3D mode. While viewing original 3D games and movies (some came preloaded) is more impressive, your old library is given a new, 3D lease on life. However, we did find viewing 2D content in 3D mode a case of trail and error.

To play games on the notebook in 3D mode it is advisable to first visit the TriDef forum to find information on where to download drivers to get your game content popping off your screen, but only content supporting DirectX 9 and up can be converted to 3D. Keep in mind that the notebook is not a gaming rig, so performance won't be phenomenal.

Conclusion

The Aspire 5738G didn't fail to impress us, but we did encounter a few issues. Viewing the display from even a slight angle will distort the picture. The glasses felt plasticky; a drop or accidental collision with a bum would send them into a state of disrepair. We did find that the novelty of a 3D notebook wears off rather quickly with having to put on glasses whenever you want to switch over to 3D mode a schlep. The battery life of the Acer was also disappointing. We enjoyed no more than two hours of normal use. These issues aside, the Aspire 5738G is a really cool notebook, representing another technological hurdle that's been crossed. Buying one for **R10 000** was unimaginable until now. [TM]



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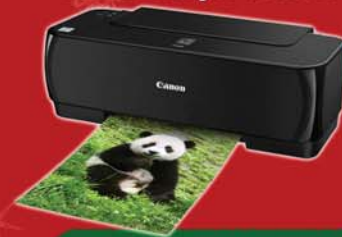
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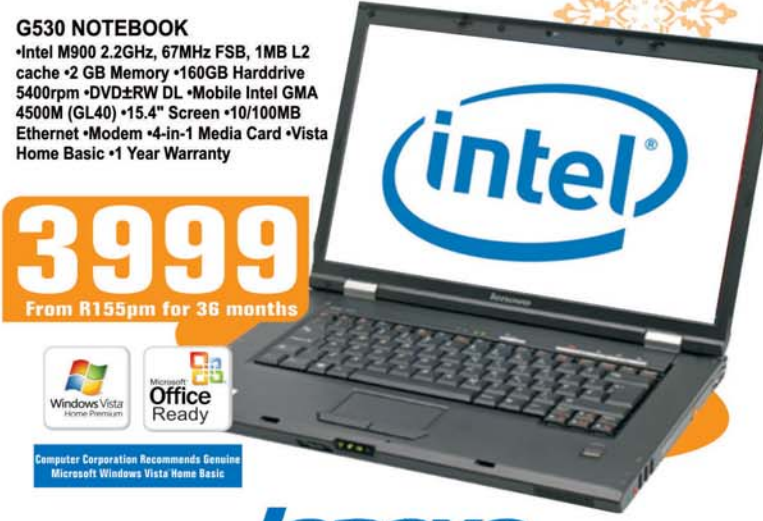
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339



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Mecer Convertible Classmate Netbook takes a Tablet

The Mecer Convertible Classmate isn't your run of the mill netbook.

Not just because of its child-targeted styling, but also its 9" touch-screen which can be flipped over to offer tablet PC functionality.

The tablet touch functionality provided a bit of a conundrum. Although you can open and close programs with the provided stylus, no virtual keyboard pops up when you want to enter text, like a web address for instance. There's also no hand-writing recognition or note-taking programs. This severely hampers the tablet functionality.

That said, the Mecer has a very competent spec. It weighs only 1.2 kg and runs on Intel's Atom 1.6 GHz processor with 1 GB of RAM and a 60 GB hard drive. It also includes two USB slots, a memory card slot, webcam plus wireless LAN – quite impressive for such a small fellow. As can be expected though, there's no DVD-drive.

Even though the Mecer is aimed at kids, if it had better touch-screen functionality and a bigger keyboard, we would have bought one. At **R5499** from Computer Corporation (08616-08616) it's not the cheapest netbook around.



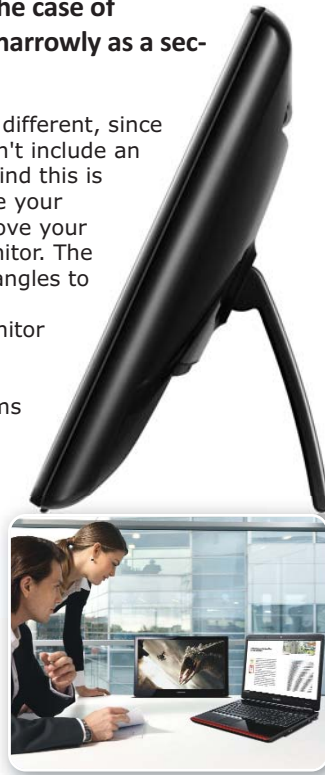
Samsung LD220G Lapfit monitor First rate secondary display

It's interesting to see a monitor being punted specifically as a secondary monitor, and in the case of Samsung's 21.5" LD220G, more narrowly as a secondary notebook monitor.

As such the LD220G looks a little different, since it sits flat on the table and doesn't include an adjustable neck. The reasoning behind this is that the Lapfit can be put along side your notebook with you not having to move your head from screen to secondary monitor. The LD200 can also be tilted at similar angles to your laptop's screen.

The Samsung LD220G Lapfit monitor looks extremely stylish and was an absolute pleasure to work on. As a secondary notebook monitor it seems a bit specialised, and with no HD ports it's hampered in its usability. If you want to hook it up to your Xbox 360, and we do believe the device lends itself to this with its 4 ms response time and 20 000:1 dynamic-contrast ratio, you can only connect via low-def VGA.

Whether the Lapfit is really that much easier to work on than just a regular LCD monitor is also debatable. Get it for **R1899** (incl VAT) from Computer Corporation on 08616-08616.



Advertorial NComputing Desktop Virtualisation How desktop Virtualisation works

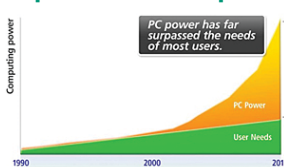
The new reality of desktop computing

Winner of the Wall Street Journal's Technology Innovation Award, NComputing, Inc. was founded with the goal of making desktop computing affordable for everyone. They are transforming corporate IT and helping companies of all sizes to survive and thrive, bringing affordable computing to emerging markets for the very first time.

Many approaches to virtualisation

Most virtualisation technologies are expensive to acquire, implement, and maintain. NComputing is different because they save you money from day one. Their desktop virtualisation technology allows up to 30 users to simultaneously use a single computer – at a very low cost.

Up to 95% of PC power is wasted



This is possible since the average PC user only needs about 5% of the computer's capacity. So you can cut your costs (significantly), with products that are extremely easy to use, simple to set up and maintain, and incredibly eco-friendly too. Plus, NComputing solutions can integrate with other machine virtualisation technologies to put hundreds of users on a single server. You can even give each user their own virtual machine in a one-to-one VDI configuration. This flexibility makes it easy for NComputing to solve your toughest IT challenges whether you're deploying five seats or over 100,000 seats.

NComputing solutions can integrate with other machine virtualisation technologies to put hundreds of users on a single server. You can even give each user their own virtual machine in a one-to-one VDI configuration. This flexibility makes it easy for NComputing to solve your toughest IT challenges whether you're deploying five seats or over 100,000 seats.

From one, many

Do you have more than one user account on your computer? Maybe there's a user account for you, a guest, and an administrator. While each person gets their own software, settings, screen colours, and so on, it is still only one person that can use the PC at a time. Until now. NComputing vSpace desktop virtualisation software allows multiple user accounts to be used at the same time by efficiently dividing the computer's resources into independent sessions.

How it works

There are three parts to the NComputing solution.

First is the vSpace software, which allows standard Linux and Windows PCs to be shared by multiple users simultaneously. With vSpace each person runs their own applications, just as if they have their own PC.



Second is the UXP communications protocol. UXP is the method by which the desktop images and audio are sent to the access device and how the keyboard and mouse data is sent back to the PC. UXP is highly efficient and excels at multimedia and audio/video synchronisation.



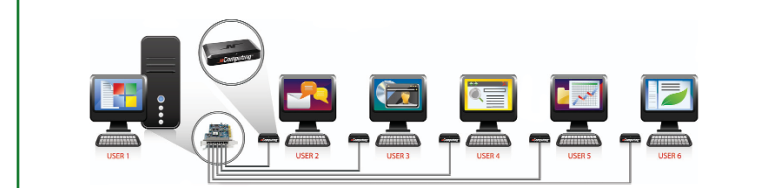
Third are the access devices. They are inexpensive, small, low-power, reliable, durable boxes. On one side they plug into the users' peripherals (such as the keyboard, monitor and mouse), on the other side, they connect via cables to the shared PC.



Because NComputing designs all three parts of the solution – the virtualisation software, the communications protocol, and the access devices – they are able to deliver the lowest cost and best performance available.

For a low cost multi-user solution, phone NC Solutions on 011-465-7952 or visit www.ncs.co.za.

About 6 min. Length of the test flight of the Ares I-X rocket, a future replacement of the Space Shuttle.



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Advertorial Multifunction Printers The benefits for SMEs

Jaco Joubert, from GNC Holdings, looks at some of the features of MFPs that can benefit your company.



It can be difficult for an SME to decide between a centralised Multifunction Printer (MFP) and an individual desktop printer. The choice between colour and black & white further complicates things for cost-conscious business owners. It is advisable to look at your company's unique operation and structure when making these decisions. Sometimes it merely boils down to the comfort of printing from your desk versus the cost efficiency of a centralised MFP. MFPs of course offer other benefits including better printing speed, better workflow and security features.

MFP workflow
Every business can benefit from the latest available MFP technology in order to reduce costs, improve efficiency and productivity, whilst enhancing document flow and quality of printed documents. Some of the cost cutting features available on MFPs include duplex printing, electronic filing systems, network / electronic faxing and of course scan-to-email functionality – all of which lower costs and speed-up the document flow.

It is advisable to keep your desk printer for convenience and back-up, but to channel the high volume documents to a centralised MFP. For example you can print a draft document on your desk printer, review it and send the actual high volume print job to the MFP. An MFP has a lower cost-per-page and also comes with various finishing options, which include electronic sorting, stapling, hole punching and saddle stitching.

Security
If security or confidentiality is of concern, rest at ease as most new MFP's boast an array of security features. Private print for example allows a user to assign a PIN to a document prior to printing it. The print job will be spooled to the MFP and stored in memory until such time as the user 'releases' the print job at the machine by entering the assigned PIN. Another interesting feature is called scheduled print where an exact date or time can be allocated to a print job. The job will remain in memory until the scheduled date or time and then automatically print.

USB printing and scanning
Most MFPs today also include a USB port which turns your flash disk into a digital passport to printing freedom. By using this port, you open up an array of options such as scanning documents directly to USB, printing documents stored on flash disks, and even emailing documents directly from the MFP.

If you have any queries on MFPs and their cost saving benefits contact Jaco Joubert from GNC Holdings on 0861-462-782.

Plustek Best Buys Scanning for compliments

Plustek SmartOffice PS281 Scanner

The Plustek SmartOffice PS281 is a sheetfed scanner that incorporates a 50 page automatic document feeder and scans about 20 pages per minute. It can also handle full colour documents, albeit at a slower speed, as well as different document sizes, ranging from A4 size down to business card sized docs. The scanner comes bundled with some handy software including Abbyy FineReader Sprint Plus to assist it with in optical character recognition (OCR) and DICapture to help with document management. **R2399.**



Plustek Smart Office PL2546

Whether it's for a single department in a large corporation or for a small to medium enterprise, if you're considering getting years of old documents digitised or going paperless, the Plustek Smart Office PL2546 is a good way to go. It's not limited to normal copy paper either and can accompany a variety of document sizes, including ID cards, credit cards and drivers licenses. **R4245.**



Get both these scanners from ImageTEK on 011-608-1964 (ask for Andrew).

Advertorial EDP Communications Server Room protection for the holidays

The importance of having your server room protected against power failures and high temperatures this December will only be realised when something goes wrong over the holiday period.

Returning from vacation only to find your servers with data and back-ups gone can be a horrifying experience.

The AVTECH Room Alert 11ER provides an affordable solution to assist with monitoring computer room temperature, humidity and environmental monitoring in multiple locations. It sends out alert notifications via email and SNMP, allowing you to respond before something goes drastically wrong. The 11ER can also be accessed via a web browser interface to view real-time sensor status from any internet connected device. Together with PageR Enterprise, it provides a network wide monitoring solution that can inform IT personnel of any outages or failures of systems via SMS and email.

With the current strong Rand, EDP Communications have the devices and software at very good prices. Contact them on 012-811-0931 or visit www.avtech.co.za.



Lo, Message sent between two PCs at different research centres, birthing the internet 40 years ago.

98. Age at which Qian Xuesen, the father of China's space technology program, died at last month.

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MiFi 2352 wireless router

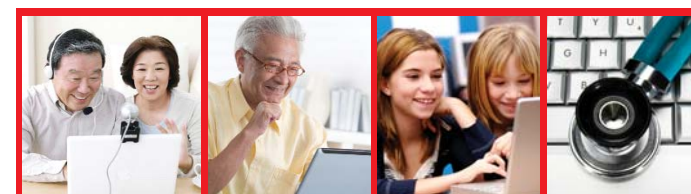
Personal hotspot

The MiFi 2352 is one of the smartest gadgets we've seen all year

It's a battery operated, wireless router with an HSPA modem. What this means is that it's a portable, personal hotspot that can support access to the internet via 3G connectivity for up to five devices, connected to it via Wi-Fi.

Light (81 g) and compact (62 x 98 x 15.3 mm) you can carry the MiFi with you anywhere. It's also incredibly simple to setup, only requiring that you insert a SIM card to access data, as you would in a cellphone, switch it on and manage your setting via its locally hosted homepage. You can change its SSID settings, manage port filtering, port forwarding and mac address filtering and use WEP, WPA or WPA2 to prevent unauthorised connections to your network.

It's also rather versatile as it can be used as a wireless router, a USB modem and a basic but portable NAS device with its 16 GB microSD slot. The MiFi even comes with A-GPS built-in, making it useful for using location based services via your notebook. It's rather pricey though at **R2000**, available from Altech Autopage Cellular outlets.



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Sony Speaker Dock ICF-C1iP MK2

Waking up to sweet sounds

If you've been looking for a remedy for the Monday morning blues or just need a good docking station for your music, then Sony's ICF-C1iP Speaker Dock/Clock Radio for the iPod and iPhone may be a good solution.

The quality of the sound is excellent and the volume that the speakers produce is good enough to use in the living room to play music at a house party or braai. The dock also charges your iPhone or iPod while it's plugged in.

On top of the Sony ICF-C1iP there is a superfluity of controls, which in our opinion detracts from the slick design we are used to coming from Sony.

We found that the Sony ICF-C1iP is easy to set up and use and although the sound quality is good, it could do with improved bass. There's also an auxiliary line input at the back of the device if you want to blast music through another MP3 player. It comes with an RRP of **R999**. Phone Sony Client Services on 011-690-3200 for more info.



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How HP Print station helps small businesses grow

When Hewlett Packard developed the HP Print station concept, they had one objective in mind: to serve an industry which had been neglected and forgotten. The small SME could never compete with the giant corporate who could afford high volume, professional quality prints. HP wanted to change this, and so the HP Print station was born.

HP created store-in-store concepts and standalone service offerings which would cater for the market. These HP co-branded stores operated by HP partners, offer high quality digital printing services primarily to business customers in the small business and small office segments.

The surprise

HP standalone stores offered a new kind of service to the market, a market which has grown from SME to corporate clientele within months. The first successful example of this market penetration is RFM Design and Print, a Cape Town based store which operates within a retail space in the Parow Centre, Parow. Owners, Rowan and Ferial Michaels, were the first partners which were approached by Advanced Channel Technologies and HP for the deployment of the HP Print station concept. Using the widest range of HP technology, RFM Design and Print fills a unique position as the flagship store. They offer a complete range of branding solutions for all

clientele, no matter the size. What makes this so unique is the clientele which has opted for the full use of their services. RFM Design and Print is a preferred supplier of Old Mutual – servicing their marketing, branding and printing in selected regions. The service offerings range from business cards, wallpaper printing, calendars, diaries, posters, light boxes, point of purchase material and even specialised corporate gifting and vehicle branding.



From strength to strength

Another store which is inspiring a market shift is Colourworks Cape Town, based at the Foundry Cape Town. Lesley Waterkeyn, owner of the Colourworks Cape Town store explains that the store-in-store Print station allowed her to further craft her business model around the creation and opportunities which have been presented through the HP Print station. Colourworks offers clientele services ranging from



marketing and events, design and printing. They too have had many successes since their HP Print station inception in May. Clients which were part of their business before the Print station creation have stuck with them and have found added value in the use of the HP Print station. Corporate clients like KPMG, Saeco and Coffitaly find that by using the design and printing services quantity versus quality is not undermined.

Never forgetting the little guy

HP Print stations around the country still strive to service the SME market who needs smaller and more defined print runs, the business traveller who can't load twenty documents on a plane when travelling long distances, the entrepreneur wanting to hand in one tender document and now even the corporate enterprise looking for defined and concise delivery and professionalism.

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

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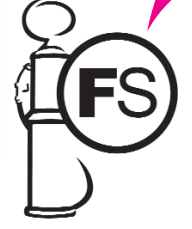
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BEST BUYS FOR XMAS

Looking for that special something, for that special someone, who loves gadgets? Here are some of our Best Buys for Xmas suggestions.

Samsung ST500 compact camera

If you've ever tried to capture yourself with your own camera you know it can be a hit and miss affair. For this reason Samsung's 12 megapixel ST500 includes a 1.5" LCD on its face, as well as the main 3" touch sensitive display at the back. **R3595** from Computer Corporation on 08616-08616.



Toshiba Camileo S10

Summer holidays are the best time to work on all those YouTube videos you conceptualised during the year. Toshiba's Camileo S10 will get your YouTube channel stocked to the brim, since it's small enough to carry around anywhere, plus it can record 1080p HD video. Not bad for **R1495**. From Computer Corporation on 08616-08616.



MiniDV video camera

MiniDV offer two distinct advantages – the first being that it's relatively cheap when compared to the other formats. The other is that it's more durable than them as well. You can experience the difference for just **R290** From Cameratron on 011-622-0556.



MAGIX Video Easy

Gone are the days of shooting video you can't edit. MAGIX Video Easy is one of the easiest ways for amateurs to start editing movies without fuss. Buy it for **R660** and get PC Check and Tuning to the value of **R450** free. Available from Edusphere on 011-450-4578 or www.edusphere.co.za.



Plustek OpticSlim M12 Plus Scanner

Scanning on the fly, powered directly off your laptop – that's the luxury the Plustek M12 portable scanner affords. It scans papers sized A4 down to business card size and comes with a handy travel pouch. **R999** form ImageTEK on 011-608-1964.



cont... p30

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Advertorial **Duel Black Piece Pepper Pistol** Protect yourself

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The Black Piece is easy to handle, and shoots accurately over a distance of 15 to 20 meters, at an average speed of ±380 feet (±116 meter) per second, giving you a fighting chance against would-be attackers. The magazine can hold ten pepper-balls – Foray Security's Counterforce Pepper-ball is one of the most potent pepper-balls available on the market.

The pistol can also be converted into a full paintball marker by adding a bottom line and hopper adapter at an affordable price. The Duel Black Piece pistol kit retails for R1900 but for a limited period this Christmas Kit which includes a Duel Black Piece pistol, 10 Duel Counterforce Pepper-balls, 50 rubber training rounds and 10 gas canisters costs only **R1799**. Free delivery anywhere in South Africa.

Contact Breyten at Foray Security on 082-877-9851 or 012-756-1278.



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BEST BUYS FOR XMAS

Lips Number One Hits Combo Pack



If you've once again failed miserably to get past the first Idols audition, it's time to give up and try the next best thing – Karaoke. Lips for the Xbox 360 is certainly one of the most entertaining singing titles available. The Lips combo pack includes the Number One Hits game plus two wireless mics – one for you with the golden voice, and a back-up one just in case the other one breaks under the strain of your voice. **R699** from Computer Corporation on 08616-08616.

The Jolt Bug Zapper

Mozzies and flies can be the scourge of any vacation. Luckily you have the Jolt bug zapping racquet to not only hit bugs with, but also to zap them with a charge of electricity on impact. Killing bugs was never this much fun. **R130** from The G.A.D.G.E.T. Shop on 012-346-2726.



Mecer USB Modem

So how will you be connecting to the net this vacation? Mecer's WM81 3.75G HSUPA USB Modem gives you instant, high-speed access to the net, with a download rate of 7.2 Mbps, SMS capability, a phonebook and even a micro SD card reader. It's available for **R1200** from Laptop City on 012-663-1155.



Jabra SP700 Bluetooth speaker phone

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HD Video on dSLRs

On 27 August 2008 Japanese camera manufacturer Nikon dropped a bombshell on an unsuspecting camera world. Their latest digital single lens reflex (dSLR) camera, the 12 megapixel D90, included a feature that no DSLR had before – the ability to record video in high definition (HD).



For dSLRs this ability was truly revolutionary. The mirrored construction of dSLRs does not allow for the long exposure on the image sensor needed to shoot video, plus for video the camera also needs vast processing power to deal with the amount of data coming from a 12 megapixel sensor. As with most limitations placed on technology it was always only a question of time before a breakthrough was made.

The D90 did it in style. True, it could not autofocus when shooting video, and the video was recorded in 720p, not full HD, but the market loved it. Canon followed and one-upped Nikon with their EOS 5D Mk II that included the ability to record full 1080p video at 30fps. The floodgates opened and now you'll even find HD video capabilities on entry level models such as the Canon EOS 500D and compact cameras.

For film-makers HD video on dSLR brought with it a revolution in the way movies could be shot. No more expensive hiring of a myriad of video cameras with different types of lenses – just buy a dSLR with HD shooting capabilities, and change from wide-angle to zoom lens on the fly (see our interview with movie producer James Carroll on p37).



Another recent development in dSLR technology has caused a lot of excitement. On their D3S Nikon upped the ISO range to a massive 102,400 (the standard having been about 3200). This means the ability to shoot in extremely low levels of ambient light, which from a cost perspective benefits film makers even more since no expensive lighting rigs need be hired.

It didn't take long for the usefulness of this technology to become apparent. Just search for HD video on **Flickr.com** and browse through the thousands of results. There is also more professional content out there. Documentary film maker Danfung Dennis shot his Afghanistan documentary, *Battle for Hearts and Minds*

(<http://battleforheartsandminds.com/>), on an HD dSLR, while the honour of the first complete feature film shot on HD dSLR belongs to *Searching for Sonny* (<http://searchingforsonny.com>). The work of Pulitzer Prize winning photographer Vincent Laforet is also a must, just to see how good these dSLR really are. His commercial shorts for the Canon EOS 5D Mark II (<http://tinyurl.com/n5njvz>) and his recent effort on the EOS 1D Mark IV (<http://tinyurl.com/yh7ssfo>) are astounding. [MJ]

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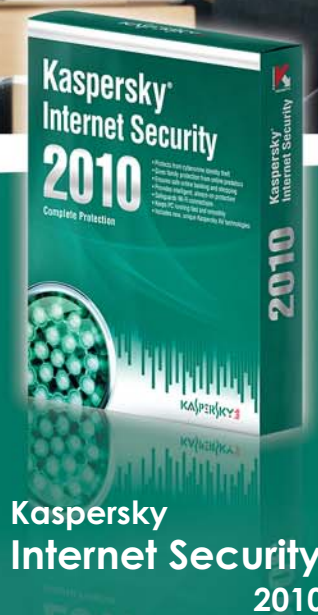
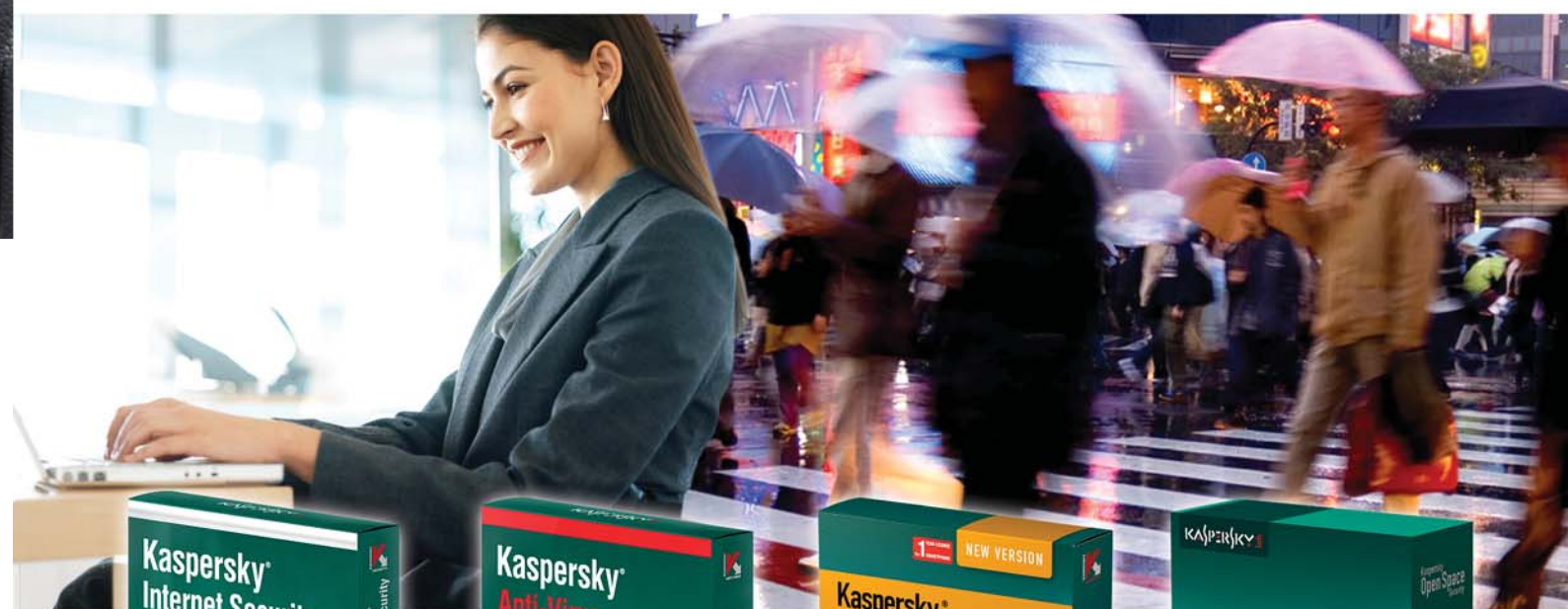
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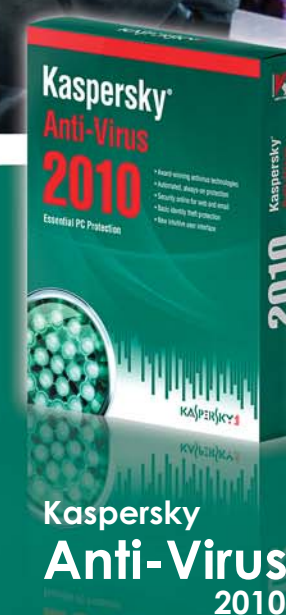
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Tecleo Data Recovery Keeping notebook data safe and sound

Henk Smit, from Tecleo Data Recovery Lab, gives some quick tips on how to minimise exposure to data loss when using a notebook.

- Avoid moving the notebook while it's switched on.
- Don't use the hibernate mode when travelling with your notebook, rather use sleep mode or preferably a shut down.
- When working, ensure stability on a firm, even surface with all cables tucked away.
- Carry your notebook in a well padded bag and when travelling in the car ensure that it can't move around.
- Ensure that all air vents are unobstructed when switched on, this ensures proper cooling.
- Replace the battery as soon as possible should the battery life fall below 10 minutes.
- Install surge arrestors on all power and data cables.
- Do not leave power and data cables plugged in during thunder storms or when expecting any power failures or spikes.
- Do not use the keyboard as a resting place for your fist when expressing your frustrations.

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A big part of QlikView's success can be accredited to its intuitive interface and its ease of use. Training users for QlikView takes just two hours, but users generally grasp the basics within the first 30 minutes.

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33. Median age for Facebook. 31. Median age for Twitter.

Google Maps SA Fresh look at Google Maps SA

If you've always enjoyed Google Maps, but found the South African maps a bit limited in functionality, you'll love Google's latest additions to their service.

Browse over to www.google.co.za/maps and you'll not only find updated maps of the big cities like Pretoria, Durban, Johannesburg and Cape Town, but also the ability to generate driving directions, a My Maps facility to create maps with your own places of interest, as well as support for finding, and listing local businesses.

Local Business Centre

For business owners the addition of Google Maps' Local Business Centre (www.maps.google.com/lbc) creates an opportunity to not only list their businesses on Maps, but also to provide details such as opening hours, credit cards accepted, telephone numbers and photos.

Users of Maps are then able to access this info online via their PCs or cellphones when searching for the appropriate service. Since Google is dependent on user generated content for the growth of Local Business Centre, this listing is completely free of charge, and a must-do for all businesses.

Driving Directions

Driving directions to and from places in South Africa has also been enhanced. Turn by turn directions are available as well

as estimated travel times, with the ability to reroute simply by dragging and dropping the route suggested by Google Maps. It's not only drivers that will benefit from this, but also people who walk, since walking directions within certain cities can also be requested.

My Maps

Users of the Google Maps South Africa beta can also create their own personalised maps, with the ability to make it public or keep it private. A number of South African celebrities including the band Freshlyground and singer Thandiswa Mazwai have already created their own maps. These maps include their favourite places to eat and drink, nice walks to take and places to see in and around the cities they live in.

There is a certain sense of urgency driving the Google South Africa team to get Maps ready for the FIFA World Cup. At the launch of the new service Steven Newton, country manager for Google South Africa, discussed their plans for Google Maps with Street View for South Africa to be up and running before the 2010 FIFA World Cup. This will bring Google Maps South Africa on par with the best on offer overseas. [M]

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5000 years. The age of the oldest submerged town.

1974. The word "Internet" is first used.

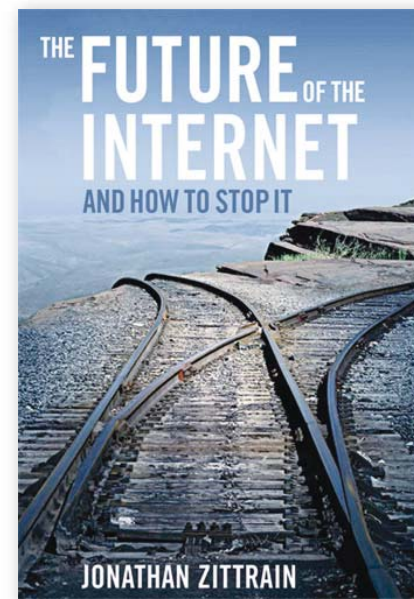
The future of the internet by Jonathan Zittrain

The internet as we know it – open, free and unchecked – is in peril, so claims Jonathan Zittrain, professor of internet governance at Oxford University.

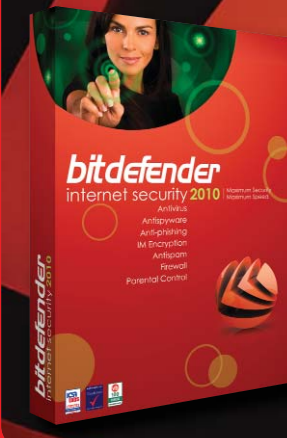
He claims that the creative anarchy of the internet is in danger because people are embracing appliances – connected device with proprietary, closed systems like the iPhone and Kindle. People are abandoning the "generative" internet because of the security issues associated with it. As appliances are closed systems, they are far less vulnerable to threats and consequently are growing in popularity.

The future of the internet is a gripping exploration of the development of the internet and a dystopian examination of where it is going. Exploring the legal and social implications that moving to a closed system includes, Zittrain attempts to point the way forward to an internet that can retain its generative spirit while offering more security.

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Industry Expert

INTERVIEW

Night Drive is a locally produced horror movie, starring amongst others Chris Beasley from *Isidingo*. What makes the movie interesting is that it was shot entirely on dSLR cameras using onboard HD video functionality. We spoke to the film's producer James Carroll about how this differed from shooting on regular video cameras.



On which dSLR cameras did you shoot the movie?
Night Drive was shot on two Canon 5D Mark II cameras with various lenses.

How did shooting on digital cameras differ from shooting on regular video cameras?
In recent months these little still cameras have become the darlings of the local film industry. Essentially they are high-end still cameras which also have the ability to shoot 2K (higher than HD) picture at 30 frames per second (fps).

What challenges did you encounter?
It was necessary to run separate sound as the cameras have only a rudimentary microphone – but we shot on multiple cameras so it made sense to slate every shot for sync later. Conversion from 30 fps to 25 fps is very time-consuming but no more than RED or other HD formats.

But the benefit to cost was significant?
By using Canon 5Ds, we could get away by using far less lights and generators, and it proved to be cheaper than other 2K or 4K digital video systems. Due to the size of the cameras we were able to build body-mount and camera rigs to get into places that few films on our budget level have

managed to do. It's insane to think that we are producing footage that can compete against high-end rigs on a digital video budget!

How many GB worth of data did you shoot per day?
We shot roughly 50 GB of data a day. This data was backed up onto separate drives. The 5D shoots a compressed H.264 video file which has to be converted from 30 fps to 25 fps. Altogether we shot roughly 5 TB of footage which increased to 8 TB after conversions to ProRes QuickTime.

So would you say that HD functionality on dSLRs is changing the game?
Absolutely. Once firmware upgrades come out that will allow different frame rates, I think the more established camera platforms are going to be given a run for their money.

Tell us a bit about *Night Drive* and when will it open in SA?
The movie is a gritty South African thriller/horror where an eclectic mix of tourists is left stranded during a night drive. It is only when they realise that they are being hunted by a group of poachers that the terror truly begins. We are looking at releasing country wide in theatres around May 2010.

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PSP Go

PSP Go(es) for a Workout

It would appear that Sony hired Rocky's trainer to give their PSP a much needed workout, since it shed some weight, and Sony's propriety UMD-drive, to take on the champion – Nintendo's DS range.

Hardware

The PSP Go with its sliding screen isn't just better looking than the conventional PSP, it's smaller and lighter too, making it the most "pocket friendly" PSP available. The 3.8" LCD screen is a little smaller than the previous PSPs, but the difference really isn't noticeable when playing games.

Software

The Go also offers solid multimedia portability since you can playback video, digital music, and view your photos. Web surfing and data entry on the Go is a little unpleasant because of the amount of button-bashing you have to do while entering information. All gaming and multimedia content is accessible on the 16 GB of internal memory or a memory card. You can either download software off the PlayStation Store directly to the PSP Go or transfer data from your PC or PlayStation 3. The Go has a built-in microphone and comes with Skype pre-installed, so you are able to chat with your friends via the built-in Wi-Fi.

User-interface

Another improvement over the other PSPs is the pause game



feature, which is selected by hitting the PS button during gameplay in the bottom left corner of the screen. This will bring up a menu in which you can select Pause Game to essentially freeze your game. It takes almost ten seconds to pause, but it remains a very useful feature when taking a break while accessing some of your other media files.

The PSP Go retails for **R3299**, making it more expensive than the PSP 3000 and not much cheaper than the PS3 Slim. If you have a PSP already you probably won't want to upgrade to the Go, since you won't be able to use your current PSP's games on it. But if you are looking for a portable gaming device with plenty of multimedia functionality, then the Go is definitely worth considering, if you can afford it that is. [HD]

The Tale of the Tape

PSP go

128 x 69 x 16.5 mm
158 g



PSP 3000

169 x 71 x 19 mm
189 g



Nintendo DS Lite

133 x 73.9 x 21.5 mm
218 g



Uncharted 2: Among Thieves

One to watch

Games are perhaps the only entertainment media in which sequels are routinely superior to the original, with **Uncharted 2: Among Thieves** a prime example. While the first received critical acclaim, **Among Thieves** betters it in every way possible.

The witty but daring Nathan Drake is back as the main protagonist. Along with the other characters in the game, like Flynn the smarmy Brit, sexy Chloe with a hidden agenda and "a spade is a spade" Sully, he adds life to the game. The voice acting is second to none and the game's cut scenes get you caught up in the narrative in a way we've rarely experienced.

Treasure hunting

The fact that the storyline is solid "treasure hunting" stuff; part history lesson, part fantasy adds further to its appeal. The look of the whole game brings the presentation together superbly with some of the best graphics we've seen on the platform, the snow and foliage for instance are outstanding.

Gameplay

There's little point to a game that has a good story line and looks good if the gameplay doesn't match. Uncharted 2 delivers on this front as well. You get to face goons of every sort, and take them down with stealth; engage in a little hand-to-hand combat; or shoot 'em up with everything from a tranquiliser to a

mini-gun. The game even features a decent cover system with Drake able to manoeuvre round corners while keeping cover or flip over tables to create his own.

Environments and puzzles

Beyond the combat there are the environmental challenges of scaling walls, trains and sewers to contend with. Moving through numerous and varied environments from snow capped mountains to urban jungles is great fun, with the environments often offering a number of ways to go about completing your objectives. The game is also loaded with puzzles of the more challenging kind. Clues to solving puzzles are accessed via Drake's notebook, often spanning a number of doodle covered pages. We found the puzzles to be some of the best we've come across.

Uncharted 2 is the PS3 game to watch in coming months. Beyond the rather full story mode, there's the multiplayer offering which could have been a standalone release. It's fun to play, has a solid storyline and offers a variety of action and adventure. [TM]

93%. Bigger screen for the Nintendo DSi LL over that of the current DS Lite.

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