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A LEGEND IS BORN

HTC's super-smart Legend

TODAY'S NEWS

Lessons from
News24's Editor

IT'S ELEMENTARY

Watson checks your power



Acer Aspire 7740G

Edimax EW-7612HPn

HTC Legend

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South Korea's internet greatness

Six years have passed and it's finally here. During this South African World Cup, I can't help but think of the South Korean team playing in their own backyard during the 2002 Finals. Never given a chance by anyone, they played like men possessed from the get go. The Taegeuk Warriors, spurred on by their fanatical supporters, made it all the way through to the semi-finals, eventually succumbing to a determined Germany via a Michael Ballack goal.

South Korea took a lot from their 2002 performance. But what I would like to believe is that the country stood up and said: "If our football players can do it, so can our Internet!" And they were right. South Korea now has the fastest internet connections in the world, with a 97% broadband penetration rate.

With the success of both South Korea's football and internet alive in my heart, I can only say - Go Bafana!

Enjoy the issue and the festivities.
Mike Joubert <michael@techsmart.co.za>

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TECHSMART FEEDBACK

Hi TechSmart. Issue 80, May 2010 the best article for me is "The evolution of connectivity" by Martin van Dyk. It is indeed amazing the way connectivity has evolved in a few years. Who can forget the grinding noise of the 56 kb or a V90 modem if you could afford it. I got tired of modems because they got helplessly burned with lightning; I lost about 6 of them when I stayed in President Park (Midrand). Still it was an exciting era being able to join the global village. - Phillip Mamba

Indeed Phillip. Can you also remember the line disconnecting just when that final bit of data was coming through? We can laugh now, but it was frustrating stuff especially since it was so expensive. Enjoy your prize. - Mike

Hi TS. I recently introduced TechSmart to my girlfriend and now she has the nerve to argue me about computing trends that I often chat to her about. - James Matshubeng
Hi J. Glad we are "helping" your relationship. - Mike

Hi Guys I still fail to believe that TechSmart is free. I was never into technology because I thought it was way too complicated, but this magazine transformed my way of thinking. T.T. Mongwe

FEEDBACK FROM TECHSMART.CO.ZA

Comment on DStv's new competition
Benedict Moeti says: I think it was about time someone gave MultiChoice some competition. Let's just hope they provide a better, cheaper and more valuable service than Dstv does.

Comments on YouTube.co.za's launch
WC says: Big deal.
Chillas Ntuli says: Now that's AYOPA, great stuff.
Bongani Mazibuko says: Meh, hardly watch local vids anyway.

Comment on the Nokia N97
Jama says: I've been a Nokia fanatic since the 5110 was launched. I applaud it for the multimedia functionality, document handling, email messaging and that cut-above-the-rest touch-screen interface.

Comment on Samsung's 3D TVs
Werner says: Very awesome, a bit costly though.

Direct message from @eiketruter on Twitter
Awesome work TechSmart! Keep it up!

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Letters / Email shortened due to space restrictions.
9. Suspected suicides this year at the Chinese factory assembling Apple's iPhone.
85%. Percentage of SA members of parliament (MPs) that are not computer literate.



MTN unbottles 3G
After MWEB's sweet uncapped ADSL offering, MTN is the first cellular provider to offer uncapped broadband. MTN Broadband Uncapped Lite (R749) and MTN Broadband Uncapped Pro (R1 999) are available on a 24-month contract. A fair usage policy (3 GB on the former and 10 GB on the latter) means though that once the limit is reached, download speed is throttled to a horrible 128 kbps for the rest of the month. Not really what we expect from "uncapped".



Social networking sites unite families
Social networking isn't only an awesome way to waste office hours, but also a means to reunite family. A recent UK Facebook search helped Andy Spiers-Corbett track down his long lost dad, which he hadn't seen in 37 years. Not to be outdone, Twitter also united two American brothers, when Matthew Keys was sent a direct tweet by his half brother Adam Smith.



Facebook ups privacy
It seems like the age of privacy isn't quite over, after criticism of Facebook's privacy settings reached fever pitch recently. It resulted in Facebook introducing new simplified privacy controls, making it easier to control what information is known about you by others. "Unless you feel in control, then you won't be comfortable sharing and our service will be less useful for you," said Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg in a blog post. Damn right.

Hot new Products

Acer Timeline X
The Acer Aspire Timeline X range of notebooks should make road warriors very happy, since it offers up to a massive 12 hours of battery life. It's thin-and-light and also boasts Intel's new Core I range of processors while graphics are handled by ATI Mobility Radeon graphics cards.



LG Optimus
LG is jumping onboard the Android bandwagon with the practical Optimus smartphone, sporting a built-in video editor, aGPS, and auto face tagging. All this for below R3500, but only from July.



LG Infinia 3D TV
LG has also launched their very stylish Infinia range of full LED 3D televisions. Available in 55" and 47" models, they are bundled with two pairs of 3D shutter glasses. Unlike Samsung's 3D offerings, it doesn't contain 2D to 3D conversation.



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Working 9 to 5



Now here's some useful news: working overtime is bad for your heart. According to a study published recently in the European Heart Journal, people who spend three or more hours extra at the office have a significantly higher chance of suffering from heart problems. The study tracked indicators of occupational health over more than 6000 London civil servants for about a decade. The results showed that 6% of these workers had suffered heart problems over this period. Even when considering the possible effects of more than 20 other risk factors that could have influenced the results, the researchers found that regularly working three or four hours overtime upped the risk for heart problems among office workers by 60%. One or two hours were not a problem, though. Write your boss a memo.

Other cool reads

- Nanotubes – how man and machine can merge. <http://tinyurl.com/manmachines>
- The Laser – celebrating 50 years. <http://tinyurl.com/50lasers>

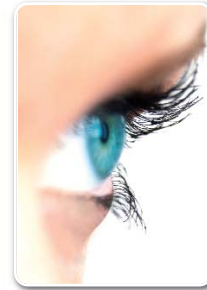
A web of clues



Little Miss Muffet wasn't the only one baffled by the qualities of spider silk. Two separate articles that recently appeared in the journal Nature shed light on the silky threads. Silk protein is usually stored as a liquid in the spider's body in a specific molecular arrangement that keeps the protein molecules soluble. But when it's time to spin, the liquid passes through a narrow duct with a different chemical environment. Because of the chemical change the structural controls that kept the protein molecule soluble are lifted and the protein becomes insoluble. The narrow duct further also forces the protein molecules to lie parallel to each other, which allows them to combine into a stable thread. The results may be helpful for creating artificial fibres with similar strength qualities as spider silk.

- A tiny, self-healing, molecular computer. <http://tinyurl.com/PChealthyself>

Old blue eyes



If you've always been mom's blue-eyed boy, thank them genes. Human eye colour falls roughly into the categories blue, green and brown, but according to a recent article in the journal PLoS Genetics, eye colour is decided by more than just one gene as was previously thought. Analyses of high-resolution photographs of 6000 people's eyes showed that human eye colour varies along a continuum in each of the three colour groups. When the scientists related the results to the participants' genetic profiles they found three new genes that have a say in the final colour mix, of which one has earlier been shown to play a role in pigmentation in other mammals. The results may be handy in forensic investigations if genetic profiles can be linked to specific observable traits. We'll keep our eyes open. [LP]

- The power of one: a common ancestor for all life. <http://tinyurl.com/itbeganin africa>

\$50 billion. Amount of losses tech companies incurred last year thanks to piracy.

> 1000. Techies from 28 countries attending Twitter's 1st Chirp developer conference.

News24 has become the first South African website and online news destination to reach more than two million domestic unique browsers in a month. TechSmart caught up with Jannie Momberg, editor of News24, to talk about user comments, Rupert Murdoch and the divide between print and digital.



Often the "My News24" User Articles are some of the best read and most commented upon stories on the site. Did you expect that this would grab so much attention?

Jannie Momberg (JM): Since the launch in 2007 of our user-generated section, MyNews24, we have placed great emphasis on growing our community. Many of the stories from our users are more interesting than the "traditional" media angles. It is not surprising therefore to see the popularity of user-generated content on News24. News24 now has more than 2 million South Africans visiting our site on a monthly basis. Over 220 000 people visited MyNews24 in April.

A while back you delayed uploading content to Sunday paper Rapport's website till later the day. What was

the impact on sales?

JM: There was no significant increase in newspaper sales during the month we changed our publishing times for Rapport's website. I believe there isn't a major overlap in audience between the various print products and their online versions in South Africa. The digital generation that is used to consume content online and on mobile devices, is not going to go back to buying a printed product. The cultural shift that has taken place over last 15 years is not reversible.

Internet-only news sources, such as The Daily Maverick, are adding to the mix. Do you think there is place in the market for them? Obviously there are many challenges?

JM: There is a significant place for an outlet prepared to analyse news events in the South African internet market.

Local newspapers and magazines are also not particularly strong in this area. The great thing about the internet is the choice available. The difficulty for the Daily Maverick for instance would be to build a sustainable business in such a crowded space.

What is your feeling in regards to Rupert Murdoch's move to ask for subscription to The Times website in the UK?

JM: The business model for charging for general online news hasn't worked anywhere and probably won't work for The Times either. Murdoch's plan to start charging for the content on The Times' website looks a bit desperate.

Interview edited, visit <http://tinyurl.com/news24editor> for full version.



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Motorola Milestone

Android Power Up

It seems like the Android OS is the way to go if you are a smartphone manufacturer looking to pull a Lazarus.

After seeing Sony Ericsson picking themselves up by the bootstraps with the Android loaded X10i, it's now the return of Motorola to SA with the Android loving Milestone.

A Milestone

The Motorola Milestone (MM) includes everything expected from a good smartphone, including HSDPA connectivity, aGPS and Wi-Fi. The thing that might make the MM more appealing for some is the slide-out QWERTY keyboard. We love physical QWERTY keyboards and this one is up there with the best of them.

Inside

Under the MM's hood you'll find the ARM Cortex A8 600 MHz processor, which does



the job without major hiccups. The sound on the MM was excellent with the speakers working marvellously for both calls and music. The battery lasts about a day before throwing in the towel, while the onboard 5 megapixel snapper is nothing spectacular.

Not much bulk

Contrary to what we expected, the keyboard doesn't add much to the size of the device, with the MM a very thin 13.7 mm, only .7 mm thicker than the keyboard-less X10i. Talking of which, the

X10i offered what we thought was a gorgeous 4" screen with a lovely 480 x 854 resolution. Although the Milestone cuts the screen size by .3", it contains the same amount of pixels, allowing for a beautiful, soft-on-the-eye screen resolution, most notable when displaying webpages.

Where is the UI?

The interesting thing about the MM is that there is no User Interface (UI) skin, such as Sense found on the HTC's and Timescape found on the X10i. We must say that the phone feels a bit naked compared to the richness that Sense brings to HTC's phones.

Making calls are less of a headache as with the X10i, but it does still feel if your phone is just another app built to run on the device, and not actually the "phone" they are talking about in smartphone.

Conclusion

The Motorola Milestone is a solid smartphone in most regards and the QWERTY keyboard might just be enough inspiration for some users to go for this instead of the X10i or the new HTC batch. It feels a bit bland though, bereft of any real personality thanks to a lack of a nice UI skin. We are hoping that Android will inspire Motorola to eventually come up with a phone to fill the void left by RAZR's overwhelming legacy. It's exclusive to MTN. [MJ]

1.69 million. iPhones sold in Japan within a 12 month period, giving Apple 72% of the smartphone market.

1.2 billion. People using a Nokia device everyday.

HTC Legend

The phone, The legend

With the announcement of HTC's new Android device s – the Legend and the Desire, we got all giddy with excitement. We've at long last managed to get our hands on the smaller Legend, and boy were we impressed.

The Legend can be summed up as an upgrade on the HTC Hero, which BTW was last year's best mobile device according to the Global Mobile Awards. It comes with the same Android goodness as the Hero, except it runs on Android 2.1 (like the Milestone on p8) which brings with it basic voice controls, additional privacy features, live wallpapers and a few more incremental firmware upgrades like added speed.

Hardware

On the hardware side incremental upgrades over the Hero include a stunning 3.2" AMOLED display, an optical

trackpad (instead of trackball) and a LED flash for its 5 megapixel camera.

Importantly, the Legend uses a slightly faster 600 MHz Qualcomm processor compared to the Hero's 528 MHz processor, which in combination with the upgraded firmware results in a far smoother operational experience. The most striking thing about the Legend is its unibody aluminium case, which is something we greatly admired on the MacBook Pro. Built from a single piece of aluminium the device is incredibly slick looking, but at the same time solid. While the case is prone to scratches, it can roll with the punches, protecting its innards incredibly well. The phone's antenna is housed in a removable rubberised plastic case located on the bottom of the phone's back; so there's no need to worry about the case messing with your connectivity either.

Sense UI

One of the best bits about the device is



HTC's upgrades on its Sense UI skin of the Android OS. We particularly enjoyed Leap View, which allows you to view a snapshot of all seven of your home screens by simply pinching to zoom on anyone of them. Typing on the keyboard is as good as ever and browsing the web is brilliant. In terms of usability, HTC are really doing some great things for the Android platform.

The one thing that did let us down was the phone's battery life. It was acceptable, but not impressive. We got a day of normal use out of it, with location based services in particular draining the battery incredibly quickly.

The HTC Legend lives up to its name. It's not as well-sped as its bigger brother the Desire, or even Sony Ericsson's X10i, but bang for your buck it certainly is. O yes, we bought one for the office, that's how much it impressed us. Available from Altec Autopage Cellular, see p31. [TM]

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Samsung Omnia Pro B7330

A little business on the side

Samsung's business savvy Omnia Pro B7330, sports Wi-Fi and 3G connectivity, aGPS and some useful features from the Microsoft stable, including Office Mobile to edit and view documents. It's probably the most complete business device from Samsung yet.

We're not big fans of Windows Mobile, but the Omnia has some tricks around the usual terrible Windows back-end, with WizPro being one of them. WizPro is not a complete User Interface, rather just a customised Windows layout with different screens. Pressing the Home button takes you to the main screen which provides notifications of new messages (SMS, MMS and emails), calendar events as well as missed calls. Scrolling either left or right takes you to screens such as the CNN, Yahoo! Search, Yahoo! Finance,

AccuWeather and Communities, which includes links to various social networking sites and the Facebook app. It's good enough but not as customisable as HTC's Sense on the HD2.

Keyboard

The compact QWERTY keyboard that is real easy to type on, although the gaps between the keys of the BlackBerry Curve 8520 make its keyboard slightly more finger friendly. The B7330's 5-way directional D-pad is also a little old school compared to the BlackBerry's fast and responsive trackpad.

Hardware

Under the hood of the B7330 you'll find Qualcomm's MSM7225 processor running at a speed of 528 MHz. Coupled with the 256 MB of RAM and 512 MB of ROM, it should in theory make for a decent operating speed. But in practice we dealt with frequent lags, especially when multi-tasking.



Browsing

The device's default browser is Microsoft's Internet Explorer 6. The problem is that the display is too small to comfortably fit most pages in, resulting in having to constantly zoom in and scroll your way through webpages. Samsung also doesn't include a 3.5 mm audio jack though, a big drawback in our eyes, so you have to make do with Samsung's rather average proprietary earphones.

Final Thoughts

The Samsung Omnia Pro B7330 makes the most of the difficult Windows 6.5, with the WizPro home screen layout keeping things, at least on the front end, a bit more user friendly. The QWERTY keyboard is also very good, helping to make the included Microsoft Office Mobile so much more relevant.

The UI's lack of real personalisation, the phone's lag and the absence of 3.5 mm jack are some valid concerns though. It comes at a good price of **R3680**. [HD]

Asus K50IJ notebook

Entry-level goodness

Speaking to people in the computer industry, it's pretty obvious that standard desktop PC sales have stagnated. A lot of people are replacing their traditional desktop with more portable notebooks, with entry-level models, like the Asus K50IJ retailing at about R5500, being the obvious choice.



What we really liked about the Asus is its 15.6" LED backlite screen. This HD-ready screen provides very decent colours and very little reflection, with the 16:9 aspect ratio making it ideal to watch movies on. Asus also kindly provides Altec Lansing speakers, which produced above average sound.

Size

Like most entry-level machines, the Asus is bulky, weighing in at a not-so-shoulder-friendly 2.6 kg. Asus does a great job of making the K50IJ look better than average though, with it covered in a unobtrusive glossy design.

Keyboard and ports

The full sized keypad was easy to work on, even though the keys were slightly larger than we prefer. A nice numerical keypad is thrown in, although the trackpad is nothing to write home about. Asus did a great job with the palm rest, being not only spacious but very cool to the touch. They call it "IceCool Palm Rest", stating that it's 25% cooler than body temperature.

A generous four USB ports grace the sides of the machine, with a SD card reader also present to transfer pictures from.

As expected there is no HDMI connection nor FireWire or eSATA for fast data transfers.

The difference

It's the Asus' innards that really explain the entry-level price tag. Firstly, the K50IJ computes on Intel's Celeron T3100 Dual Core processor running at 1.9 GHz. It's not that far from the Intel's latest entry-level i3's processing speed of 2.13 GHz, but the new Core i range does offer some other benefits that lift performance far beyond the Celeron's ability.

Another limiting factor is the 2 GB of RAM, incorporating the older DDR2 instead of faster data-handling DDR3 technology. The hard disk has place for a fair 250 GB worth of data. It does run Windows 7 Home Basic and includes Wi-Fi and a webcam.

Conclusion

In general we had a better-than-expected working experience on the machine. You will too as long as you don't expect to be gaming, watching HD movies or multi-tasking like you don't know where the close button is located.

Available from Computer Corporation (012-346-6720) for a reasonable **R5499**. [MJ]

Acer Aspire 7740G Notebook

The rise of the gaming machine

17" notebooks can be a lot of fun. The large screen size allows for easy document viewing and of course a much nicer gaming and movie experience. There's usually a full sized keyboard plus a keypad thrown in on the side. Finally, they're usually a bit more powerful, which is definitely the case with Acer's Aspire 7740G notebook.

Power

In fact, it is one of the most powerful notebooks we've ever tested, making all but a clean sweep of our benchmark scoresheets, with only Mecer's 17" M770CUH with its exciting Core i7 processor out-clocking it (but not on the graphics side). It chewed up 3DMark06, passing with a score of 7414, in no small part due to the ATI Mobility Radeon HD5650 graphics card packed underneath its hood. It's one of a few mobile GPUs that supports DirectX 11 and comes with 1 GB of dedicated video memory.

Onboard

The Acer runs on the dual-core Intel Core i5 430M processor, clocked at 2.27 GHz, which gives good bang for your buck. It includes Turbo Boost functionality which automatically overlocks the CPU if the system allows it, while switching off cores if not used. The machine also performed well when multi-tasking thanks to a generous helping of 4 GB of DDR3

RAM. A 640 GB hard disk offers a lot of storage space. These big beasts usually don't offer much mobility – both in regards to battery life and weight. We got about 2 hours on the battery with average use, with the extra long power cord Acer provides, coming in very handy. It also goes without saying that the 7740G, weighing in at 3.2 kg, isn't the easiest machine to lug around.

Ports

Acer included a generous four USB ports and an HDMI port to connect the machine to a HDTV, but we're missing a fast eSATA connection as found on HP's 17" ProBook. As much as we digged the specs of the 7740G, so yawn-inspiring is its design. If you ask for a picture of an average looking notebook, this would be it.

Conclusion

The 7740G is one of the most powerful machines we've tested yet, capable of handling both gaming at home and multi-tasking at the office. It comes with another noteworthy extra – a RRP of **R10 999**, which is not to be frowned upon at all. Visit www.acer.co.za for more info. Read the full review here: <http://tinyurl.com/acer7740>. [MJ]

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Intel Core i5 Overclocked Gaming PC Another monster

At first the latest Evetech PC we received for review struck us more as a PC suitable for graphic intensive work than for gaming.

Although it certainly can be used for this purpose, the Evetech quickly proved us wrong by flexing its serious gaming muscles. The combination of the newly released Nvidia Fermi card – the GTX 470 graphics card, and the Intel Core i5 750 CPU (2.66 GHz overclocked to 3.76 GHz), combines brilliantly to give an excellent gaming performance.

This is of course enhanced by the 4 GB worth of DDR3 1600 RAM, with Evetech supplying a very expandable MSI P55-GD65 motherboard to back it all up.

We tested the machine with the new Splinter Cell: Conviction and also Bad Company 2. Both games ran at a resolution of 1920 x 1080 at full graphics, with the results perfect since we experienced no stuttering at any point during gameplay.

A very large and efficient Thermalright Venomous X cooler keeps the CPU calm and relaxed, while any thoughts about excessive noise levels disappeared the longer we played. The entire system is encased in the light but solid CoolerMaster USP 100 professional gaming case.

Once again Evetech needs to be complimented on a job well and neatly done. It goes for **R12 999** without OS. Call 012-653-0033 or visit www.evetech.co.za for more.



Plustek OpticSlim 2600 scanner Lean and mean scanner

When you talk about low profile you can't quite beat Plustek's OpticSlim 2600 with its 3.3 cm height. It's so slim that you can pack it into your laptop bag alongside your notebook.

This USB powered device sports special hinges that allows for the scanning of larger objects like big books, product boxes, etc.

The 2600 can scan documents to PDF format, that'll be saved as Searchable PDF, meaning you can search for text within that saved PDF document. You also get ABBYY FineReader 9.0 Sprint on the provided software CD, allowing you to convert scanned documents and images into Microsoft Word, Excel, searchable PDF and other formats. NewSoft's Presto! PageManager 7.10 rounds off a good software package, and this document manager program can be used for touching-up your scanned images and sharing them over the net.

The device scans A4 docs at a standard optical resolution of 1200 dpi and a maximum resolution of 24 000 dpi (software enhanced). You can get it for a RRP of **R659** (incl VAT).

Phone Andrew from ImageTEK on 011-608-1964 for more info.



6 months. Time it took Windows 7 to run on 10% of the world's PC.

Iomega ScreenPlay TV Link Director

Digital movies easier than ever

Most video media players are restrictive since you have to buy a 2.5" hard disk alongside it. Iomega's sleek ScreenPlay TV Link Director edition works a bit differently.

It only provides the platform through which to connect to your TV (via HDMI or otherwise). You can then hook it up to any portable hard disk or USB drive to play movies, music and pictures directly.

It's a much more practical solution, since most movie collections are stored on portable hard disks anyway, with no media transfers having to

take place between units.

What struck us about Iomega's product is the ease of use. You connect it to your TV, plug in your hard disk and that's it. The interface is smooth and slick, and it handled most file formats we threw at it. The TV Link Director can handle full 1080p high-definition multimedia, with an ethernet connection also present to connect it to a home network.

Luckily Iomega provides a handy remote for you to remain comfortably seated on the couch.

Get it for **R1499**. Visit www.iomega.co.za for more info.



77. Countries covered by Nokia's Ovi Maps, available in 46 languages.

DIY Kyoto Wattson electricity monitor

Sleek elementary my dear

We love innovative green products, and the DIY Kyoto's sleek and stylish Wattson electricity monitor is up there with the best of them.

It monitors your house's power consumption, letting you know when you're being unkind to Eskom.

The amount of Watt (Wattson – get it?) your house is consuming, is displayed in big, bold numbers on top of the monitor, which Wattson can convert to the amount of Rands being used.

You're not always close enough to read the display, therefore the unit also glows in colour, with green being good, purple being so-so and red indicating a dent to your pocket if you don't switch off some

lights.

Unlike other monitoring solutions, the Wattson doesn't need an electrician to install. A sensor simply clips around the main cable that leads into your home's distribution box (circuit breaker panel). It transmits your power consumption wirelessly to the Wattson unit.

The Wattson can also be connected to your PC, to display totals, averages and comparisons on the included Holmes software. Get it for **R1499** including shipping. Call Larissa on 087-351-8110 for more info.



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Logitech Z205 Laptop Speaker

More practical notebook sound

Logitech's stylish and compact Z205 laptop speaker offers a practical solution to the meager sound droning from your notebook. It simply clips securely to the top of your notebook screen – much better than struggling with portable USB-powered speakers that usually end up all over the show when you move your notebook.

Once you've clipped it on to the notebook, you simply connect the cable to an available USB port and you'll be able to enjoy decent sound, without having to bother with installing any additional software; looking for an open power socket; or finding the 3.5 mm audio jack. The sound quality of the Z205 is much better than onboard notebook sound or that found on most of the tiny portable speaker systems, but ultimately not that clear.

Logitech's Laptop Speaker Z205 comes at a RRP of **R540**. This is more than for common portable speakers, but the Logitech is a lot more practical. Call PC Pro Shop on 012-348-4000 for more info or visit www.logitech.co.za.



Logitech Speaker Lapdesk N700

In the lap of luxury

Notebook stands are usually skeletal, plain-and-simple affairs, but nobody told that to Logitech when designing the opulent Speaker Lapdesk N700.

This N700 does more than simply tilt your notebook, it offers you two speakers on the side with 2 W of power, plus a fan at the bottom to keep your notebook cool. But, as they say in the ads, wait there's more. The N700 is padded out at the bottom with lovely soft sponge covered by air-mesh fabric, making it the ideal companion when working or watching movies on your lap, since it's not only comfortable, but also keeps the heat from your notebook at bay.

Granted the 2 W speakers don't exactly offer aural bliss and won't do your Beatles: Remastered collection proud, but it's a lot better than the speakers found on notebooks and actually quite loud.

With a RRP of **R799** this luxury isn't destined for everyone. Call PC Pro Shop on 012-348-4000 for more info.



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28. Days it took Apple to sell 1 million iPhones. 74. Days it took Apple to sell 1 million iPads.

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Edimax EW-7612HPn

When Wi-Fi is iffy

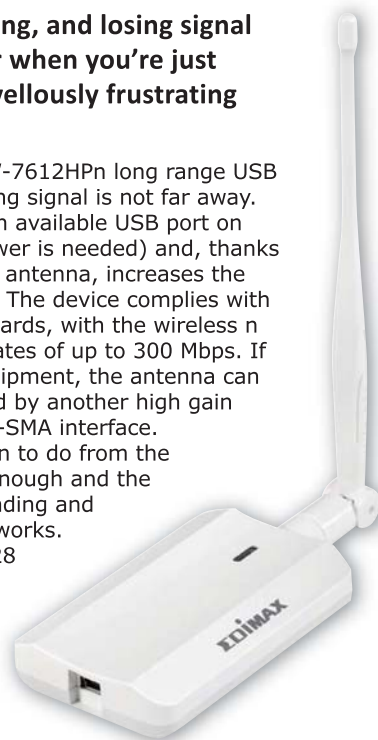
Getting good Wi-Fi signal can be a hassle if you work in a big building, and losing signal while surfing the net or when you're just about to print is a marvellously frustrating experience.

Thanks to the Edimax EW-7612HPn long range USB adapter, help in improving signal is not far away. The Edimax plugs into an available USB port on your PC (or two if more power is needed) and, thanks to a built-in 5 dBi high gain antenna, increases the Wi-Fi reception on your PC. The device complies with wireless 802.11b/g/n standards, with the wireless n standard supporting data rates of up to 300 Mbps. If you're into DIYing your equipment, the antenna can be screwed off and replaced by another high gain antenna working on the RP-SMA interface.

There is some installation to do from the included CD, but it's easy enough and the software will also help in finding and connecting to available networks.

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It comes with a RRP of **R491**. Phone Miro Distribution for more info on 012-657-0960.



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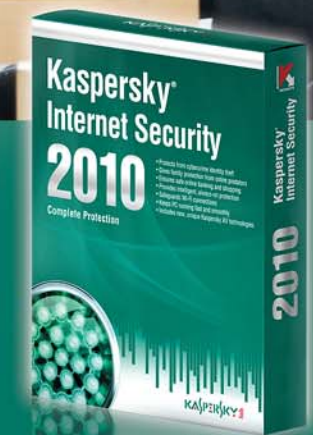


For something a lot smaller in size, the 8 GB Atom Flash Drive should be right up your alley. It's less than 5 mm thick and not even 3 cm in length, making it hassle-free to carry along on your keys since it also comes with a handy keyring. It retails for about **R340** (excl. VAT). Call Angie at Imation SA on 083-453-5451 for more info.



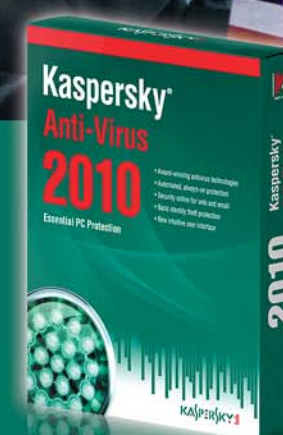
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About Botnets and their threats



Jonathan Holton, general manager at Holton and Associates, distributors of BitDefender, continues his series on PC security by taking a look at what to do to prevent your PC from being taken over by Botnets.

A Botnet can be described as a collection of PCs infected with a computer worm, which puts the system under the worm creator's control without the owner's knowledge.

The infected PC isn't destroyed as is the case with a malicious virus, instead the PC is used for criminal acts such as sending out spam, the launch of distributed denial-of-service attacks (DDoS) and hosting of illegal web content such as child pornography.

Again organised crime is behind this, with the control of a large network of compromised computers being a very valuable asset. It's scary to note that many users out there are unaware of being under a Botnet's control. One Botnet was found to have 1 500 000 computers under its control.

Botnets use spam and email to get their trojans, viruses, worms and vulnerabilities to spread, but instant messaging (MSN, Skype, Yahoo! Messenger) can be one of the fastest ways in which you can get infected. A link pops up on screen with a simple message saying something to the effect of "Here, look at these pictures of me". The link is actually an infected file, and once clicked it installs on your PC. Be very wary of just accepting anyone as a friend and especially on clicking on any of the links they send you. Also, don't install software off the internet unless you're 100% sure that its trusted. The Anti-virus software you have installed on your PC should also be kept up to date to protect against the latest infections, incase your PC does get infected.

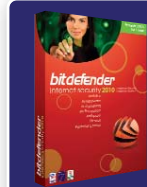
Fortunately, writing a Bot is an extremely tedious task that takes a lot of in-depth programming knowledge. This means not everyone can become a Botmaster overnight, despite the obvious financial advantages that they enjoy with their malware. However, more recently we saw one of the first attempts at creating an automated Bot creation tool to be used in conjunction with the popular social media service Twitter.

Security Question

Q How often should the computer be set to scan for viruses? – Jean

A Since there are 2500 viruses release everyday it's important to keep your virus database up to date by setting it to update everyday. The same applies to scanning your PC for viruses. Best practice would be to do a full scan everyday, or if that's not possible at least a fast scan to monitor your system.

For this question Jean will be receiving BitDefender Internet Security 2010.



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Numero Uno. Britney Spears has surpassed Ashton Kutcher as the Twitter user with the most followers.



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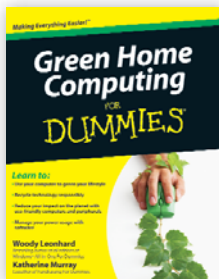
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For more info on Gogga Post Pay phone 08600-46442 or visit www.goggapostpay.co.za.



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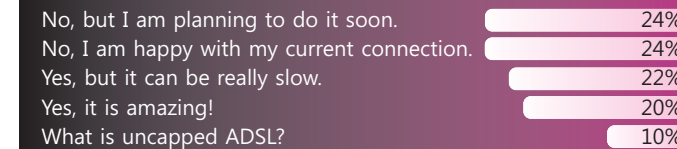
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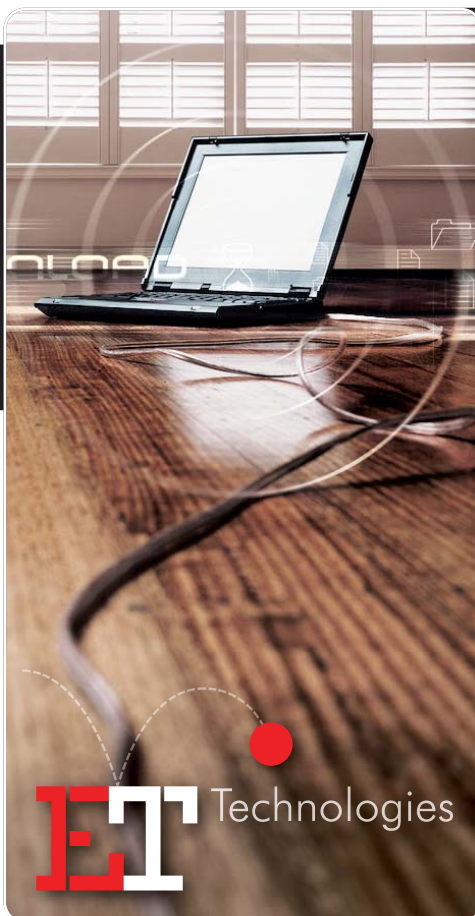
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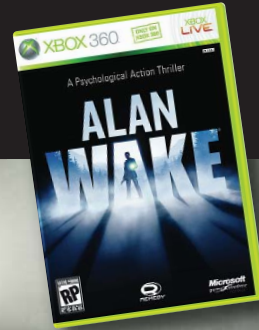
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38. Infinity Ward employees suing Activision over alleged unpaid bonuses and royalties.

> R11 billion. Amount to be spent by the UK government in 2012 on cloud computing, doubling the current amount.

Alan Wake The horrid Awakening

Alan Wake has been one of the most anticipated Xbox 360 titles since it was first announced at E3 way back in 2005. It's now here, delivering an intriguing plot, dramatic visuals and an immersive atmosphere, yielding more to the cerebral than skiet, skop en donner.



This psychological action thriller kicks off with the title character, gifted and published author Alan Wake, going on holiday in the Pacific Northwest town of Bright Falls with his wife Alice. Things soon take a turn for the worse as Alice disappears under mysterious and paranormal circumstances, sending Wake on a terrifying quest to find her.

Presentation

The sequence of events in Alan Wake is presented in six episodes of differing durations, which are as dramatic as television offerings like *Lost*. Just like its TV counterparts, Alan Wake's episodes have cliff hanger, edge-of-your-seat endings, urging you on to the next one. Later episodes even begin with a "Previously on Alan Wake" recap.

The game's developers have also taken inspiration from literary works, predominantly Steven King, complete with references to the works of King in the game.

Controls

The enemies, called the Taken (humans, birds and various machinery) have been infected and are being controlled by a dark force, which covers them in impenetrable darkness. Killing them involves constantly switch between gun and torch, while reloading your ammo and batteries as well. Luckily the controls make this easy and fluid.

Graphics

Being a game focused on the dichotomy of good (the light) and evil (darkness), the lighting techniques used in the game are brilliantly done. While walking about in the ominous forest that envelopes Bright Falls, the shadows cast by your torch are eerily realistic. Wind effects and the mist also look rather stunning. Considering how brilliantly designed and vast the environments on offer are, the character models are a bit of a let down, with especially facial expressions and lip-syncing just poorly executed.

Final Word

Alan Wake sports a stunning TV-series styled presentation, an engrossing storyline and dazzling graphics, all of which will keep you hooked to the very end. Unlike first person shooters where you just blast everything in sight, it leaves you feeling as if you've experienced a bit of Wake's surreal and gripping life, even becoming emotionally attached. [HD]

The Good

Gripping storyline and presentation. Excellent environments.

The Bad

Lip-syncing sometimes on the same level as dubbed kung-fu movies from the past.

EA Sports 2010 FIFA World Cup South Africa The beautiful Xbox game

As the FIFA World Cup is about to kick off, gamers around the globe can take to the field thanks to EA Sports' 2010 FIFA World Cup South Africa.



EA Sports has done a stellar job of capturing the excitement, look and feel of the World Cup. The stadiums are spectacularly rendered, while confetti cannons, vuvuzelas, Zakumi the mascot and all other manner of décor add to the exciting atmosphere. The styling of the menus has been given an "African" theme without it being overly kitsch, while the game's soundtrack is representative of the world's eclectic sounds. That said, why is SA's Gang of Instrumentals the only SA band featured on the soundtrack?



Graphics

The actual graphics aren't a major upgrade from FIFA 10, although certain elements do look better. Player as well as coach profiles are really well detailed, especially Carlos Alberto Parreira and Diego Maradona, while player physics are also improved. After tense moments on the field for example, the camera will cut to the anxious looking coach shouting instructions from the confetti strewn sideline.

Features

When playing in World Cup mode you only get to play with the teams that have actually qualified for this year's finals. Should you wish to play through the qualifying rounds however, you can lead any of the 199 teams who made it to glory in the finals.

A new two button control mode (pass and shoot) ensures newcomers to the FIFA scene can pick up and play the game, while the normal controller setup, which allow for much greater shot and movement control, is still available.

Penalty kicks are also more realistic, whereby you have to worry about placement, composure and power to ensure you don't blast the ball into the stratosphere. Also included is altitude effects, so now during games at altitude the ball goes further, while down by the coast players fatigue more slowly.

Final Word

2010 FIFA World Cup South Africa is the best FIFA game available, at least for gamers that are looking forward to the World Cup. For those who want to play in their favourite league and other tournaments such as the UEFA Champions League, best stay put until FIFA 11. [HD]

The Good

Stunning presentation and great graphics, plus the only way to ensure your team will win.

The Bad

With its focus on national teams and the 2010 FIFA World Cup tournament, it won't have the longevity of FIFA 10.

> 40 million. Xbox 360 consoles sold by Microsoft.

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