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SAMSUNG WAVE

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Apple's iPad

TECH IN THE CLASSROOM

Gadgets for making
learning easier



Samsung Wave



Apple iPad



EDIMAX Wi-Fi Nano Adapter

THE EDUCATION ISSUE

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Schadenfreude 2.0

Apple's competitors must be filled with a sense of delight at the current reception problems the iPhone 4 is experiencing. As they say the highest trees catch the most wind and even though Apple is pointing fingers to similar problems on other manufacturers' phones, it will be the iPhone 4 that goes down in history as the one with the "holding it wrong" problems. Despite this the iPhone 4 has and will continue to sell millions, which is a massive feather in Apple's cap.

The Times in the UK though seems to have a much bigger problem. After introducing a pay for content scheme for their website last month, the *Guardian*, one of their closest rivals, recently reported that *The Times'* website has lost almost 90% of its online readership since implementing their payroll in June. In this case I'm also suffering from a delightful amount of schadenfreude, since I, like most other people these days, want my information here and now, without paying. May *The Times'* scheme fail miserably.

Mike Joubert <michael@techsmart.co.za>

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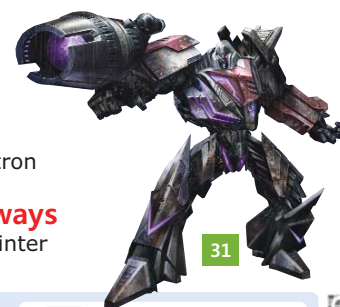
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Editor TechSmart & TechSmart.co.za

Mike Joubert > 083-290-2889
michael@techsmart.co.za

Business manager
George Grobler > 083-460-0402

Publishing manager
Suzanne Grobler > 083-742-6370
suzanne@smartpublishing.co.za

Advertising: Sales Manager
Anneke Kirchner > 083-301-9134
anneke@smartpublishing.co.za

Head designer Brett Wilson
Contributors Tom Manners [TM]
Mike Joubert [MJ], Hanleigh Daniels [HD],
Johan Keyter [JK], Linda Pretorius [LP],
MJ Stephenson [MS]

Accounts & subscriptions

Ronel Keet > 012-362-2732
accounts@techsmart.co.za

Distribution

Renier van Vuuren > 073-166-1515
renier@smartpublishing.co.za



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TECHSMART FEEDBACK

Winning comment on the release of Starcraft 2 (see p. 6)

"Piracy Incoming" on TechSmart.co.za says: This game is going to be pirated heavily. They want to release the game in three instalments @ roughly R495 each. That is R1485 for the complete single player experience. It is madness! This game will no doubt top the "most pirated game of 2010" list.

Hi Mr PI. It is indeed a lot of money to spend, even for a hotly anticipated title such as Starcraft II. There's no doubt though that the game would have been in the pirates' targets anyway. Enjoy the Lexmark INTERACT 3-in-1.

FEEDBACK FROM THE NET

Comments on Mind controlled robotic limbs to be tested (<http://bit.ly/atOocc>)

Wan-ting says: Wow, technology is advancing so quickly!! Its amazing!
E Mmampheg says: And threatening also.

Comment on Phonak's anti-vuvuzela device (<http://bit.ly/9GyvRp>)

Hendrik says: It would be great if Noise

cancelling earphone technology can be expanded to enable the user to adjust the blocked frequencies, so it can have more uses!

Comment on Final Fantasy XIV coming in September (<http://bit.ly/bya5PP>)

ipghost says: Argh, and I was just getting into Guild Wars. I hope there's some sort of trial - always been a fan of FF, and would probably switch in a heartbeat...



Comment on Lion of Judah, SA's first 3D movie (see p. 8)

Benedict Moeti on Facebook says: Big ups SA. Just hope the money we will be spending to watch it will be worth it. 3D TV sets don't come cheap, neither does watching it at a cinema.

Oscar Nevhulamba on Facebook says: Can't wait to set my eyes on it. I want to know how SA copes with the most evolving technology of the moment.

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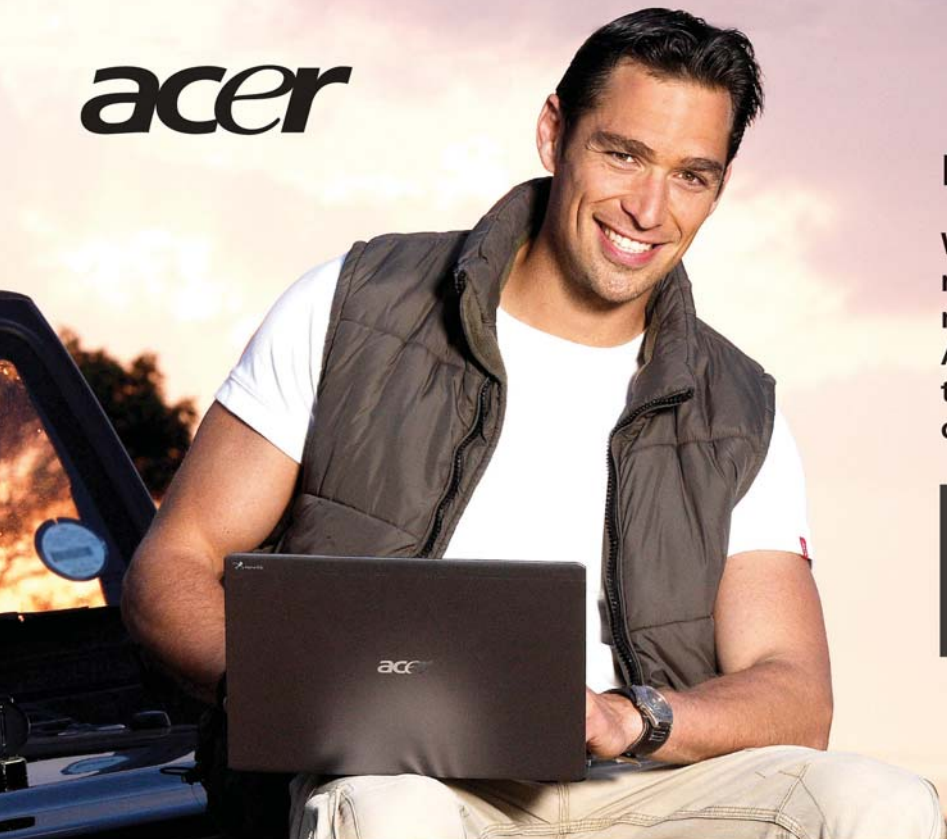
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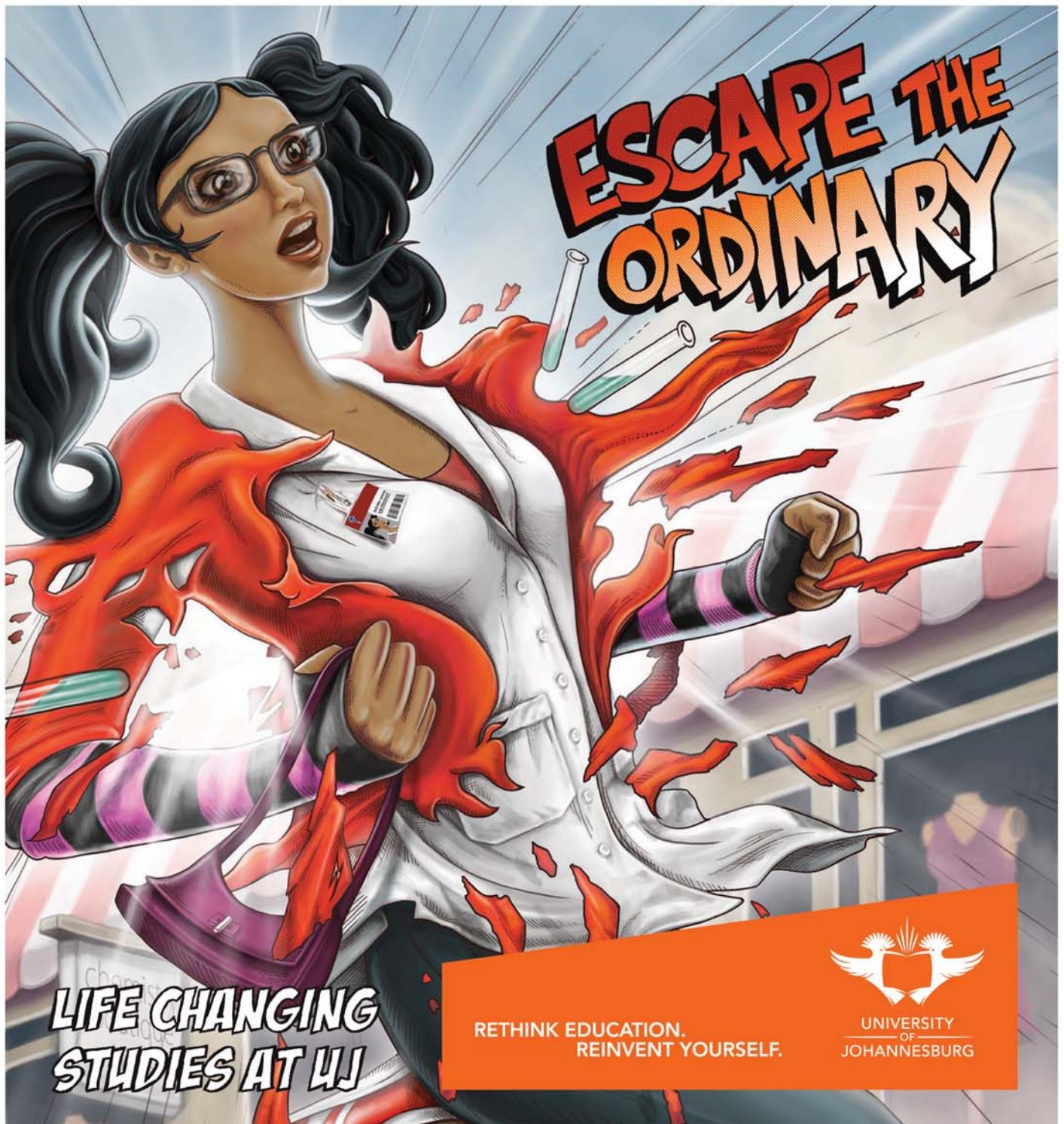
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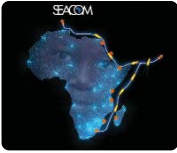
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500 000 000 friends for Facebook

facebook Social networking site Facebook has hit the magic half a billion user mark, surpassing this figure in a mere six years of existence. The last 100 million users were added in just five months, in no doubt helped by a number of older users also signing up to use the service. This has brought forth an unprecedented crisis amongst younger users whether or not to accept their mom as friend.



SEACOM cable causes crises

SA's broadband capacity took a massive knock when a fault in the SEACOM submarine fibre optic cable, which links SA to London via Africa's east coast, created connectivity problems for a number of SA businesses and households. The fault lay at one of the deepest points along its route, some 4700 m deep, with a specialised ship having to be sent to do the repairs.



EASSy is coming

Commercial services for the Eastern African Submarine Cable System (EASSy) are expected to go live this month, bringing with them broadband capacity of 1.4 Tbps, even larger than the 1.27 Tbps offered by SEACOM. EASSy might lead to a further decrease in broadband prices and should minimise any international connectivity issues in the future.

Xbox 360 slim and Kinect pricing announced

Microsoft SA's announcement of the local pricing for the Kinect motion sensor was met with more than a few grumbles. The Kinect sensor bundled with the "Kinect Adventures" game will retail for **R1999** although it sells for only

\$150 (about R1125) in the States. The new Xbox 360 4 GB console, which begins shipping from August 20 in Africa, will be available for a more acceptable **R2399**



Hot new Products

Graphite Kindle DX available

Following a drop in price for their regular Kindle eReader by \$90, from \$279 to \$189 (roughly **R1400**), Amazon has announced their premium graphite based Kindle DX. It retails for \$379 (roughly R2800) minus shipping costs and brings with it improved contrast ratio, PDF support, Twitter and Facebook compatibility and the ability to display in both portrait and landscape mode.



Starcraft 2

One of the most anticipated titles in gaming history should be in the shops right now. Starcraft 2 is set to break gaming records, with fans eagerly anticipating its release since the first instalment launched way back in 1998.



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3x. Increase in sales for Amazon's Kindle eReader after its price drop from \$259 to \$189.

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Running in heels



Shoes are many girls' Achilles' heel. High-heeled shoes that is. Women who regularly wear high heels for long hours

complain of trouble walking flat-footed, which, according to a recent study in the *Journal of Experimental Biology*, is because of changes to their calf muscles. Using MRI scans and ultrasound, scientists compared the structure of regular high-heeled calves to those of women who usually wear flat shoes. The women all had similarly sized calf muscles, but those who preferred high heels had markedly shorter muscles and thicker, stiffer tendons attaching the muscle to the heel. Although the thicker tendon makes walking on heels effortless, it can't stretch enough to allow easy flat-footed walking. But hey, if the shoe fits...

A flash of love light



Some guys really light up when trying to get girls' attention. Especially if they're fireflies. But according to a recent report in

the journal *Science*, males of the *Photinus carolinus* species have upped their game. Rather than each flashing separately, a swarm all flash together to improve their chances of getting female attention. When scientists exposed female fireflies of the species to LED signals that mimicked males' signals, females responded best to flashes that were perfectly synced, while those that were totally out of sync received only a 10% response rate. The scientists believe that flashing en masse, well, outshines other species' signals and so sends females a clear message that their male mates are around. This probably gives the species an evolutionary advantage. Unity is strength they say.

Good mood food



Science has confirmed what we've suspected for a long time: chocolate is comfort food. In a study recently reported in the

Archives of Internal Medicine, about 1000 volunteers, who were not taking any antidepressants at the time, were asked to describe their choc habits and then complete a survey to assess their general mood. The results showed that people who regularly feel down eat more than twice as much chocolate as people with lighter moods. Although it's not yet sure whether the chocolate helps to lift your mood or actually makes you feel worse and so drives your craving even more, it seems that the association is due to something specifically chocolaty, rather than a general increase of caffeine, carbohydrates or fat that comes with eating the good stuff. It's the upside to feeling down. [LP]

OTHER COOL READS

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<http://tinyurl.com/paulisdumb>

- The chicken came first, not the egg:
<http://tinyurl.com/chickenvseggs>

- Compare the size of BP's oil spill to your own city:
<http://paulrademacher.com/oilspill/>

\$800 million. Amount the White House pledged to spend on broadband stimulus.

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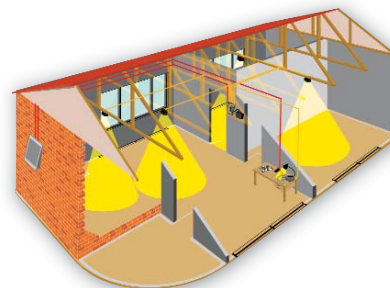
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Interview with Chris Schoultz, technical director of Lion of Judah

Another SA First

TechSmart caught up with Chris Schoultz, owner of Character Matters and stereoscopic and technical director on *Lion Of Judah*, South Africa's first full length CG animated feature which will also be screened in 3D

When did you start work on *Lion of Judah*, and was it always going to be in 3D?

Chris Schoultz (CS): Pre-production started in March 2007 and it took only twenty months to complete 80 minutes of 3D animation. A unique opportunity for the movie and studio alike presented itself when release for the film was set for September 2010.

The delayed release date brought about the opportunity to re-render the movie for a 3D stereoscopic (S3D) release. The current trend of all animated movies to be produced in stereoscopic 3D has been widely accepted by audiences around the world. S3D Production started at the end of November 2009 and final stereoscopic rendering was completed at the end of April 2010. This completion of the 86-minute S3D format was not only a South

African first, but also a first for Africa!

How does creating an animated feature in 3D differ from 2D?

CS: Stereoscopic production (S3D) in many cases requires throwing out the filmmaker's rule books of the past. In many cases traditional treatments of cameras are problematic in a stereoscopic environment. Because S3D is a utility to the storytelling process, care has to be taken to allow it to support the story and not to overwhelm it. From a technical perspective S3D consumes double the hardware resources, requiring full resolution renders for both the left and right eyes. Whilst traditional 2D rendering has been

an enormous challenge from a technical perspective, S3D is likely to double or even treble requirements, in many cases consuming far more CPU cycles to produce than is available.

How does the technical director and the director of the movie link up?

CS: The director has the story at heart, often not being aware of the technical challenges involved in realising his vision. The technical director is responsible for communicating limitations and wherever possible finding solutions that will enable creative production within any given constraints, either financial or technical.

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

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Apple iPad 16 GB Wi-Fi

Too hip for South Africa?

Apple's iPad may be a stellar device, but the company's compatibility philosophy is letting it down.

The hype surrounding Apple's iPad tablet PC recently reached a fever pitch after the company reported record sales numbers for the device. Unfortunately the iPad is still unavailable in South Africa, but despite this, several online retailers are currently importing the device. Have2Have (www.have2have.co.za) recently gave us the opportunity to take a closer look at the 16 GB Wi-Fi version of the device.

Specifications

The device itself features a 9.7" LED backlit multi-touch display with an admirable resolution of 1024 x 768 pixel at 132 pixels per inch (ppi). In our opinion this is the most impressive feature the iPad has going for it; the display achieves both functionality and crystal clear image reproduction which users would be hard pressed to find on



other products in this market segment.

Taking care of the processing is Apple's A4 system on chip, which delivers 1 GHz of CPU power, which is more than ample during everyday usage. A few other helpful additions to the device are a digital compass, assisted GPS via Google Maps, a built-in speaker, a microphone, a 3.5 mm headphone jack, accelerometer as well as support for a variety of document, video and audio formats.

One of the iPad's strongest attributes is the apps available at the Apple iStore. At present, there are roughly 3000 applications on the iStore designed specifically for the iPad, with 20% of these for free.

Compatibility

We found though that one of the iPad's greatest drawbacks is Apple's philosophy towards device compatibility. The process

associated with dropping media onto the tablet PC is so complex and convoluted that we feel it may not be worth the hassle.

The device we tested simply refused to integrate with Windows PCs, regardless of their operating system or the latest version of iTunes. When we connected it to a Mac we also had to ensure that it was outfitted with iTunes version 9.1, always on internet access and an iTunes Account.

Conclusion

Although the iPad is a truly stellar device, compatibility issues caused us headaches and prevented us from really buying into Apple's device. The iPad 16 GB Wi-Fi is currently available from www.have2have.co.za for **R6412**. The official release date of the iPad in SA is still unknown. [TM]

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Samsung Wave

A Wave hello to bada

When Samsung announced that they would drop the Symbian platform last year, opting instead to create their own called bada, the move was met with a lot of scepticism. Now at last the Wave, the Korean manufacturer's first bada driven smartphone, has arrived on our shores, and although it lacks in the apps department, the Wave looks very comfortable in its new skin.

As far as looks are concerned, the Wave can take on any of its smartphone competitors. It's just the right size to sit pretty both in hand and pockets, measuring in at 10.9 mm thick and 116 g in weight (Sony Ericsson's X10i weighs 135 g). It's also very fast, being one of the first phones in the SA market stocked with the ARM Cortex A8 1 GHz processor (a competitor to Qualcomm's

Snapdragon), which allows for some serious multitasking.

Screen

The big talking point is the Wave's 3.3" Super AMOLED (Super Active-Matrix Organic Light-Emitting Diode) capacitive display. AMOLED integrates the touch-panel into the screen and not on top such as others, plus also displays better in daylight than regular LED displays. It looks truly spectacular and the 480 x 800 screen resolution does a great job of rendering webpages and displaying wallpaper and pictures.

For pleasure

It goes without saying that the Wave includes everything you would want from a smartphone, including 3G, aGPS and Wi-Fi. The 5 megapixel camera is one of the better ones we've come across, while the Wave surprised us with excellent sound quality, at least when you activate the 5.1 channel boost on the music player. Thanks to the speedy 1 GHz processor games such as the pre-installed Asphalt 5 and downloaded NFS: Shift looked excellent and played without a glitch or screen stutter.

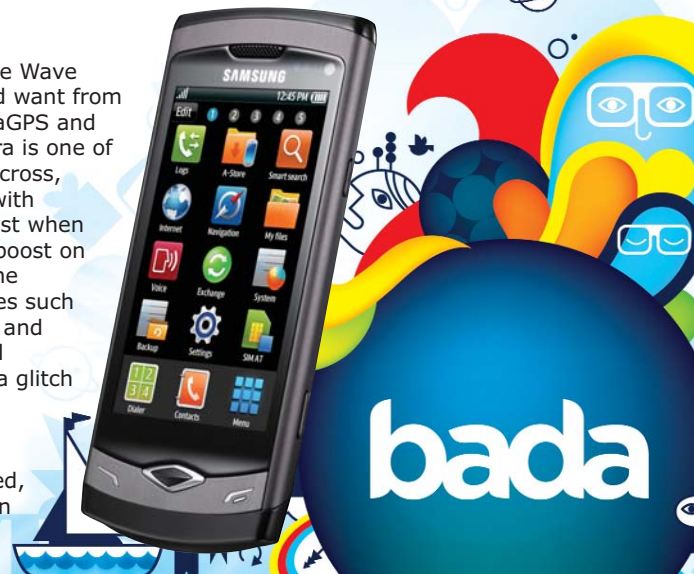
bada's interface

As far as interface is concerned, Samsung seems to have taken the best from the iPhone's

menu system and combined it with Android's use of home screens. Little things like simply moving your finger left or right across a contact to SMS or call makes life with the Samsung Wave a pleasure.

Final thoughts

The Wave is a solid piece of hardware and a true competitor to what is currently out there. At **R4199** we think this Wave might just become a tsunami. [MJ]



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Sony Ericsson X10 mini pro

Good things in small packages

Sony Ericsson recently made its intentions for Google's Android platform very clear with the release of its impressive Xperia X10 smartphone.

They're following it up with two compact smartphones, the X10 mini and the mini pro, which take a leaf out of the X10's book with regards to their overall makeup, but without the hefty price tag.

The physical department is where the X10 mini pro really shines. It is arguably one of the smallest, most compact smartphones on the market and rests comfortably in the palm of the hand.

We also found its slide out QWERTY keyboard to be one of the best we've used. Its raised and divided keys and small form factor achieve what the vast majority of 3.2" plus smartphones are unable to. This is one of the phone's strongest features overall.



What's inside

In terms of hardware the X10 mini pro features a 600 MHz Qualcomm processor with 128 MB of RAM, which is somewhat behind the Xperia X10's 1 GHz Snapdragon unit. Nonetheless we found the X10 Mini Pro to be blisteringly fast.

Screen

The X10 mini pro features a 2.55" TFT capacitive touch-screen with a resolution of 240 x 320. We found this to be more than adequate during daily use, although its resolution is a bit of a let down. This is complimented by Sony Ericsson's

Timescape UI which integrates well with Android and links contact details across a number of social networks. The X10 Mini Pro also incorporates 3G, an accelerometer, 2 GB MicroSD included, Wi-Fi 802.11 b/g, Bluetooth 2.1 with A2DP and a 5 megapixel camera with autofocus and an LED flash.

Software

Although Sony Ericsson South Africa has assured us that the device, and its sibling the X10 Mini, will soon have access to the Android 2.1 upgrade, version 1.6 it ships with is very disappointing.

Another drawback is that the X10 Mini Pro's small display limits the amount of compatible applications on the Android Marketplace. This means that several popular Android applications such as WeatherBug and PdaNet are not available on the device.

Conclusion

At an expected retail price of **R3500** the Sony Ericsson X10 Mini Pro is one of the strongest contenders in the mid smartphone market. Its miniscule form factor and attractive features certainly make it a striking option for consumers who are looking for a lightweight yet smart device. [TM]

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Acer Aspire TimelineX 5820TG

More than just thin

The Aspire 5820TG is part of Acer's TimelineX range of notebooks that combines thin-and-light computing with a decent battery life plus very solid performance. As an extra benefit the 5820TG also includes a number pad, making this the ideal solution for on-the-road number crunchers.



We've knocked Acer now and again for the lacklustre design on some of their models. But the 5820 however is a classy machine. Its stylish black brushed metallic exterior is matched by brushed grey on the inside, but unfortunately the plain black keyboard is its weakest design link.

Size and weight

At 2.4 kg it weighs in at the top of the thin-and-light spectrum, with others in this category usually dropping in at 1.5 kg. So while it might not be the thinnest or lightest out there, compared to notebooks matching its processing power and screen size, the Acer is a more manageable machine.

What's inside

Getting down to the nitty gritty the Acer comes with the Intel Core i5 450M processor, one of the best performing mid-range notebook CPUs we've come across. We've found this processor to be very stable, providing more than adequate power overall, with Intel's Turbo Boost technology giving the extra kick when needed. Like most new notebooks it comes equipped with 4 GB of RAM, while Acer provides a spacious 640 GB hard disk.

To top this off Acer mixes business with pleasure, throwing in the ATI HD 5650 graphics card as found on their 7740G machine. It provides the TimelineX with a very capable gaming performance and its 3DMark06 score of 7633 outclassed most other notebooks we've tested.

Battery life

While it's stated that the 5820 can handle a full day's work with an eight hour battery life, this needs to be qualified since this decreases as soon as you take the machine out of power saving mode. Still, battery life compared to other notebooks is impressive, with five hours and more not uncommon when doing regular office work.

Conclusion

A solid processor, an excellent graphics card and a lovely battery life – what more can you ask for in a thin-and-light body? And at **R10 999** we think the Acer Aspire TimelineX 5820TG makes for a very good deal. [MJ]

Quick Specs

- Thin-and-light
- 15.6" LED Screen
- ATI HD 5650 GPU
- Intel Core i5 450M @ 2.53 GHz
- 640 GB hard disk
- 4 GB RAM

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Asus NX90 Preview

The sound and the fury

Most notebooks have one thing in common – paltry sound. So when Asus announced a partnership with the audiophiles over at Bang & Olufsen we were all ears. The result; the dashing handsome silver Asus NX90.

TechSmart was treated to a display of the NX90's sound in a fairly noisy restaurant environment. Despite a decent amount of ambient noise, we had no trouble at all hearing the music loudly and clearly. The sound on the lower levels is clear with a richness not experienced on other notebooks, plus the tinny sound we've come to expect from notebook speakers is noticeably absent, with bass that is rich and without the horrible distortion on higher levels. Quite simply the Asus NX90's sound quality is in a league of its own.

There are a number of reasons for this, with most of them lying with the 2 x 32 mm speakers, an 11 Watt amplifier and 108 cc chamber, all between 60% and 300% larger than standard notebook equipment.

Looks

Although the NX90 sounds wonderful it does not skimp in the looks department. In fact David Lewis, chief designer over at B&O, was responsible for its solid silver look. Lewis is arguably one of the biggest names in the industry, with three of his creations for B&O part of the permanent collection of design at the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York. The NX90 is the first notebook designed with polished aluminium, with the effect that closed it looks like a shiny solid block of mercury – a stylish effect in anyone's language.

Powerful too

Although we did not work on the machine it does seem like a powerful creature, with Intel's i7 processor doing duty and a massive 12 GB of RAM providing an abundance of memory (the usual amount allotted to new machines is 4 GB).

The 18" screen is full HD with its 1080p resolution and a Blu-ray burner is also present, leaving no stone unturned in the multimedia department.

The Asus NX90 is a big piece of equipment – not just physically but also when it comes to sound and looks. At **R25000** it's also big on price, but then again quality never comes cheaply.

Quick Specs

- Multimedia notebook
- 12 GB RAM
- 18" 1080p screen
- Intel Core i7 processor

DirectX 11 gaming on a budget

It's no secret that we at TechSmart are big fans of what local gaming PC builders Evetech are all about.

This time around the team introduced us to its AMD Dual Core Budget gaming rig, which it describes as ideal for the gamer on a tight budget who still wants to be able to play the latest titles.

It features an AMD Athlon II X2 250 CPU which clocks in at a respectable 3.0 GHz, complimented by a AMD 790GX Chipset Black Series CrossFire Motherboard and 2 GB of DDR3 RAM (1333 MHz). In terms of additional features the rig includes a 250 GB SATA hard drive, a Cooler Master 550W PSU and it ships in an attractive Cooler Master Elite 310 case.

The system also includes an HIS ATI HD4850 graphics processor, which we found to be more than capable of supporting most titles at respectable settings. In addition to this it also offers DirectX 11 support.

At a price of **R5122** incl VAT this may be one of Evetech's most attractive systems for the budget gamer. Visit <http://tinyurl.com/eveamd> for more info or call 012-653-0033.



Tiny Wi-Fi dancer

If your PC or notebook does not have Wi-Fi, then the EDIMAX wireless 802.11b/g/n nano USB adapter is just the dongle you need. Just plug this little bugger in your notebook or PC and you have instant Wi-Fi.



It's the world's smallest 802.11n USB adapter, which isn't hard to believe considering its minuscule 7.1 x 14.9 x 18.5 mm size. It is small enough to "plug and forget" since it does not stick out like bigger dongles. The EDIMAX also supports higher data rates of up to 150 Mbps when connecting with wireless 802.11n devices, three times faster than your normal 11g connection.

With support for green WLAN technology the nano adapter will assist you in reducing your system's power consumption by up to 20-50%, plus it also supports Wi-Fi Protected Setup (WPS) to assist users in securing their wireless network.

It comes with a RRP of **R153** (excl VAT). Call Miro distribution (www.miro.co.za) on 086-123-6476 for more details.



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Edutain Convertible Classmate tablet PC

For kids but not kids' stuff

Edutain's Convertible Classmate isn't just a plaything. It's a fully functional netbook aimed at the younger generation featuring a 9" touch-screen which can be flipped over to offer tablet PC functionality.

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, on par with what you receive in a regular netbook. It also includes two USB ports, a memory card slot, webcam and wireless LAN – quite impressive for such a small fellow.

The keyboard is slightly smaller which makes it just about right for smaller hands, while it's also thankfully water resistant. The Classmate seems durable and we thought the carry-handle incorporated in the design is a nice touch.

Edutain also offers a number of educational software packages that can run on the Classmate including the 2 Simple titles (including 2 Type to learn to type and 2 Animate for simple animations) and the Big Boet math series retailing for **R280** each.

The Classmate tablet PC sells for **R4995** from Edumall (www.edumall.co.za) on **011-450-4578**.



DYMO I Mimio Interactive Whiteboard system

Cool tech for the classroom and boardroom



DYMO I Mimio's Interactive Whiteboard system turns a normal whiteboard into a professional presentation tool. By simply clipping the portable DYMO I Mimio bar onto your whiteboard using its magnetic brackets or

suction cups, a 2.5 x 1.5 m area across the whiteboard becomes an interactive display system thanks to the interaction between Mimio bar and a projector.

The DYMO system allows you to record everything written on the whiteboard, flipchart or glass panel directly to your PC via the provided Mimio Studio software. The activated area also lets you interact with certain elements from your PC directly on the whiteboard such as importing audio and video clips, pics, Office files etc., into a presentation.

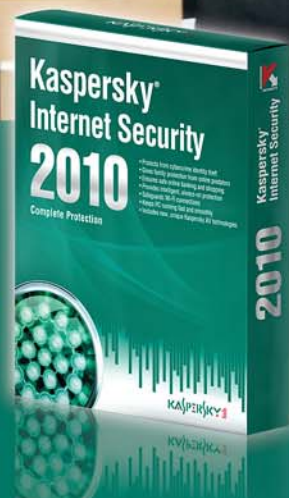
Presenters are able for example to play video or PowerPoint presentations by clicking on the whiteboard. When a discussion about a certain slide ensues, notes can be written on the slide with all details saved to PC.

This system is an excellent interactive presentation tool for business people and educators and is available for between **R9999** and **R16 000** (excl. VAT) from DYMO I Mimio. Call them on **082-859-1984** or visit www.mimio-dymo.co.za.

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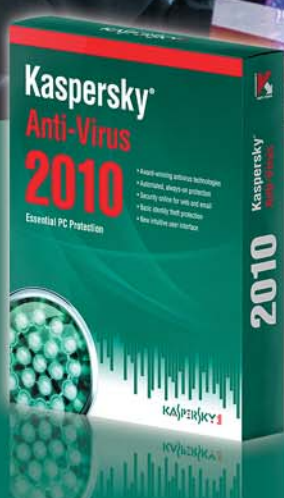
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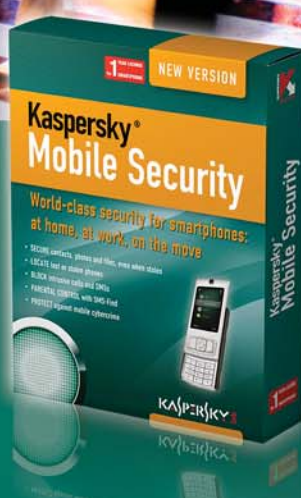
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Gadgets and Goodies

Nanny Cam Clock

Cameratron's Nanny Cam Clock will help to keep an eye on things when you're not there and can be set to record video as soon as it detects motion.

It can also capture two megapixel pictures and comes with its own remote control. Data is conveniently recorded on SD card (sold separately) Get it from Cameratron (011-622-0556) for **R780**.



PremiumSun Face Case

This PC tower delivers a reprieve from the boring standard issue white and black PC tower boxes with its colourfully designed and customisable front cover, with three interchangeable covers going for **R15**. The case costs **R258** from Timeline Computer on 011-791-2468 or www.timeline.za.net.



PremiumSun 2.1 speaker system

Perfect for your desktop if you need more sound for gaming or movies, PremiumSun's 2.1 speaker system (2x speakers and subwoofer) kicks out powerful sound plus comes with a handy volume dial. **R351** from Timeline Computer on 011-791-2468.



Kanvas Artist 127 pen tablet

Graphic artists looking for a pen tablet should definitely sniff around the Kanvas Artist 127. With a 1024 pressure sensitivity level and a 14" working area you'll be creating digital masterpieces in no time. **R2150** from PC Pro Shop on 012-348-4000.



\$15.7 billion. Apple's reported revenue during the third quarter of 2010.

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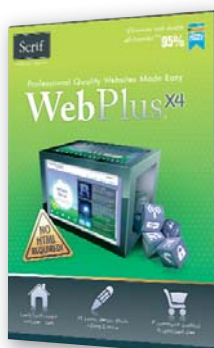
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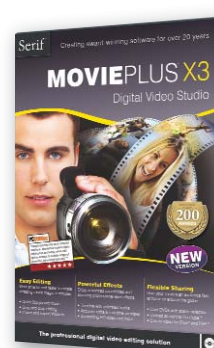
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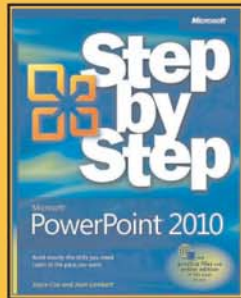
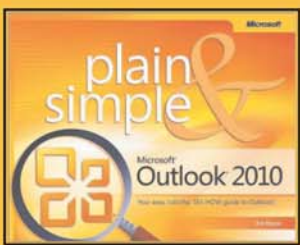
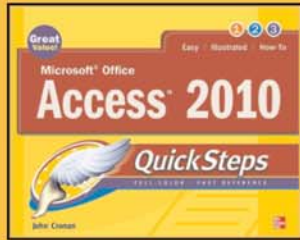
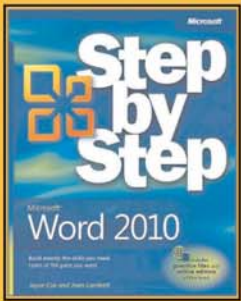
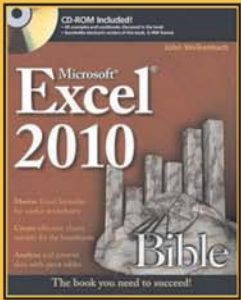
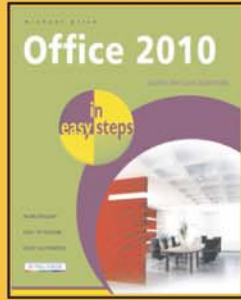


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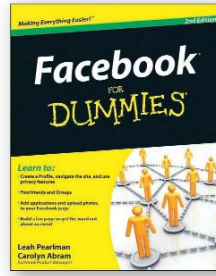


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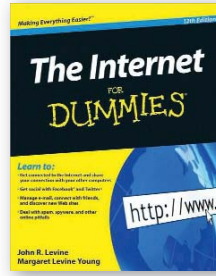
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Staying safe while you do your banking online



Online banking may be safe, but users still need to maintain a vigilant attitude says Jonathan Holton, general manager at Holton & Associates, distributors of BitDefender.

Although online banking has been available to South Africans for a number of years now, some are still reluctant to make use of the service.

The truth is that, if you maintain a vigilant attitude, making transactions within your browser is just as safe as doing so in person.

Local banking groups spend millions of Rands each year on ensuring the safety of their online banking platforms. This goes towards developing and updating systems, employing top notch staff and rolling out new security measures such as verification SMSs.

A recent trend locally speaking is the roll out of free anti malware programs for all online banking users. First National Bank announced in July that it would be making PrevX anti malware software available to all of its users via its online banking portal. Programs such as these are designed to work with the users anti-virus program to ensure additional safety while browsing.

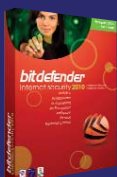
Despite this, Phishing and Malware attacks are becoming more sophisticated. In order to ensure that you are kept safe while using internet banking never give your details out via email and always check that the URL in the browser is that of your bank's before logging in.

Security Question

Q I have a PC that is running Vista which has become slow and sluggish in a short time, even though I thought I had enough memory available when I purchased it. I am running a free edition of AVG anti-virus, that I update regularly and I have been looking into a registry cleaner, but have heard that these generally don't do what they claim. How can I sort out my PC?
– Michelle Maré

A Hi Michelle,
Even 2 GB of memory can be too little to run Vista effectively, so simply purchasing more RAM could rectify your problem. Also, get a second opinion on whether you have a virus by visiting www.bitdefender.com and run the free virus scanner – you might be surprised at what you find. A registry cleaner can help, but a good idea is to look at anti-virus programs that come with registry cleaners. Hope this helps.

For this question Michelle receives BitDefender Internet Security 2010.



Send your Security related questions to info@techsmart.co.za. The best question will win BitDefender Internet Security 2010 for one year, courtesy of Holton & Associates.



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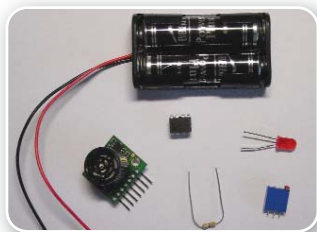
26%. Number of users who use three words in their search engine queries, the most common number.



How to: Build a proximity parking sensor



Parking in the tight garage can be stressful for experienced drivers, never mind for learners. Adding a stationary proximity sensor at the front of the garage is an easy solution to what can be an expensive problem.



You'll need:

- A two cell AA or AAA battery holder
- A 47 Ohm resistor and LED
- A LM358 Op-Amp
- A 10K Potentiometer
- A soldering iron and some glue

Distance sensors are pretty expensive ranging between **R200** and **R300** each, but the two I bought have found themselves in more projects than I care to count (you only need one for this project). I'll be using the LV-EZ0 which can be picked up locally at www.netram.co.za. You can find all the rest of the parts at your local electronics store for under **R20** or buy them online from www.communica.co.za.

The 8 pin Op-Amp has a little notch on one side. Hold it with the pins pointing down and the notch at the top. The pins are numbered anticlockwise starting with pin 1 at the top left (ending with pin 8 at the top right). Connect pin 8 to the red wire of your battery holder, and pin 4 to the black one. Also connect the longer leg of your LED to the red wire and the other leg to the resistor. Connect the other leg of the resistor to pin 1 of the Op-Amp.

Connect one outer pin of the Potentiometer to the red wire and the other outer pin to the black one, the remaining center pin is connected to pin 2 of the Op-Amp. Finally connect the pin labelled "+5" on the sensor to the red wire, "GND" to the black one and "AN" to pin 3 of the Op-Amp. I simply glued all the components together and soldered the connections in place.

To install the unit, stick it to the front wall of your garage while your car is inside, now slowly turn the screw on the Potentiometer till the LED just turns on. If your car moves further away the LED will turn off giving you an indication of how far you are from the wall.

In fairness you could always just stick with hanging a rubber ball from the ceiling but this isn't nearly as interesting. [MS]



August Web Time Wasters

1. BBC Comedy

www.bbc.co.uk/comedy

If you dig the dry British humour found in TV classics such as *Fawlty Towers* and *Blackadder*, you'll love this page. The BBC's site features a large collection of video clips including scenes from popular shows, stand-up routines and satirical sketches. You can browse through them alphabetically or check out the collections section, in which the BBC and a few comedians have selected clips that they like most, sorting them in themed collections.

2. HubbleSite

<http://www.hubblesite.org/>

The question about whether we are alone in the universe has been on man's mind all through the ages. While not quite answering that question yet, the HubbleSite will provide you with the latest news on the Hubble telescope and some really awesome photos of the cosmos. You'll be able to find info from the latest discoveries through to the earliest observations.

3. Frengly.com

www.frengly.com

Sometimes you need to find out what a particular phrase means in English and will not get the correct results after you Google it or use Google Translate. Help is at hand with Frengly, an online translate tool that boasts support for an incredible 38 languages ranging from Arabic through to Vietnamese.

4. KidsClick

www.kidsclick.org

Parents who have kids in primary school will no doubt be familiar with the amount of research children need to do for projects and assignments, a lot of which is web based. Enter KidsClick which has been designed by librarians with those kids in mind, and enables them to do web searches on any of the 600+ subjects like Grammar and Rock Music.

5. Full Text Archive

<http://fulltextarchive.com>

If you are a lover of literature and are on the lookout for a one-stop online library for the books by all your favourite authors, then Full Text Archive is a good option. It contains a venerable archive of books, poems as well as plays by authors such as Oscar Wilde and William Shakespeare.

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\$388 million. Amount Naspers invested in Digital Sky Technologies which in turn owns shares in Facebook, Zynga and Groupon.

Dell Vostro V13 notebook
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<http://bit.ly/aTnaOz>



AirLive 3G Traveller portable router
AirLive's 3G Traveller offers all the functionality of a wireless router with the added benefits of portability and 3G.
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HP Probook 4520s notebook
The HP Probook 4520s is the latest in HP's business notebook range sporting competitive pricing and solid performance.
<http://bit.ly/aYQ8DC>



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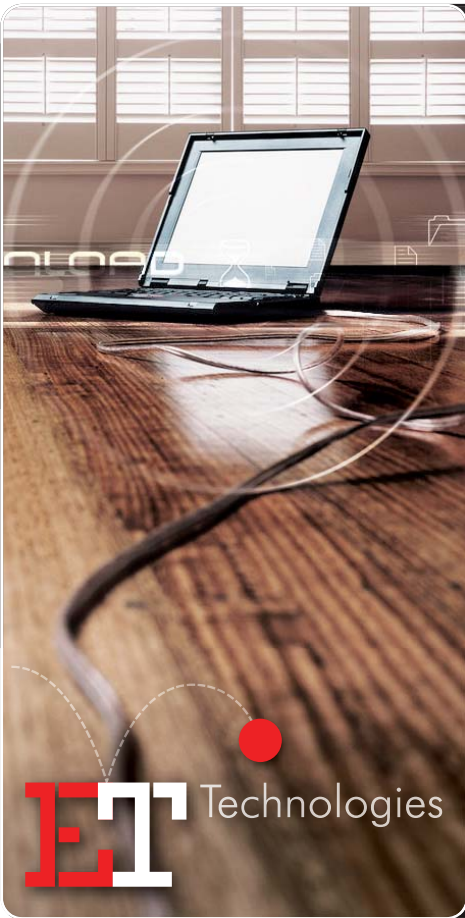
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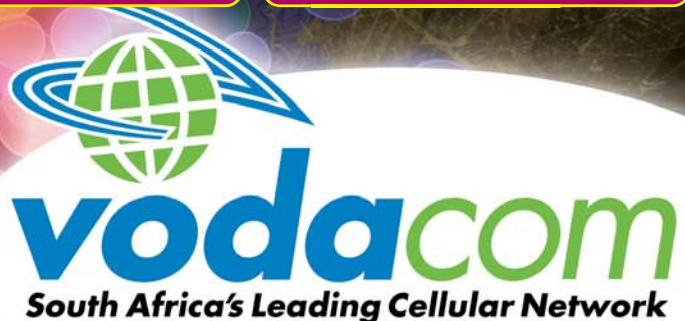


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Tiger Woods PGA Tour 11

Wiimote, or the golf club of legends?



The most recent instalment in the wildly popular Tiger Woods PGA Tour franchise brings an unparalleled virtual golfing experience to the Wii, with the ability to play the Ryder Cup, mini golf and an improved online mode but a few of the improvements.

Getting into the swing of things proved quick and painless and before we knew it we were staring down at a perfectly recreated virtual golf ball, wondering how best to hit it. This is where the new first person 'True View' camera comes in. In this mode the players' point of view is just like that of a real golfer, looking down at the pin. Players are then able to swing the controller as though it's a real golf club. After surveying the course, simply point the Wiimote at the ground, tap the B button, hope for the best and swing for gold.

Game modes

The game features a variety of difficulty settings, allowing everyone from complete amateurs to pro armchair golfers to find it challenging. The 'All Play' option is recommended for the beginner while the 'Advanced Plus' and 'Tour Pro' modes will keep experts happy. Players can also battle it out on online leaderboards or enter one of the many EA sponsored online tournaments available.

The ability to play the Ryder Cup has also been introduced, with you being able to choose either the US or Europe and pick eight players to take on the opposite team. The Ryder Cup is also playable by you and three friends offline.

Mini Games

If you're looking for a more casual golfing experience, PGA Tour 11 obliges with the new minigolf mode. Four courses make an appearance in this mode including an ice course and racetrack and provide a welcome break after some nerve-wracking holes in the main game. The Disc Golf mode, now sporting an online component is also back.

Conclusion

In our opinion, Tiger Woods PGA Tour 11 is a fitting sequel to one of the greatest golf games ever and with motion control the game has transcended some impressive boundaries. [JK]

The Good

The 'True View' mechanic, along with the courses, players and overall atmosphere of the game cements this title as one of the golfing greats.

The Bad

The Wii's graphics leave much to be desired.

Transformers: War for Cybertron

Their planet, their war

Games that are based on movies are usually rather disappointing as they rarely live up to the original big screen counterpart.



Transformers: War for Cybertron changes this gaming stereotype by not only being a good game but also by employing a unique and absorbing storyline that fills us in on how things went down before the mighty and sophisticated alien creatures landed on our planet.

Story

The game's storyline doesn't follow any of the movies and even predates the TV series kicking off during the final days of

the Autobot's and Decepticon's epic civil war on the surface of their home planet Cybertron. This choice of the developer High Moon Studios has made it possible to fill fans in on some of the back stories to the popular series, such as Optimus' rise in the ranks of the Autobots to become Optimus Prime as well as Starscream's defection to the Autobots.

Game modes

You can choose to play the Decepticon or Autobots campaign either by yourself or with friends in co-op mode. Furthermore, you can also choose to tackle different bots for example as Megatron or one of his robotic henchman, like the soldier Brawl or the scout Barnicle.

The world of Cybertron and all its colourful robotic inhabitants is really well designed and looks great thanks to High Moon Studios' use of the Unreal Engine. The voices of the various characters will also let gamers hark back to the original TV series.

The game sports several multiplayer modes, allowing players to complete missions with or against their friends via familiar options like Deathmatch and Team Deathmatch and newer ones such as Escalation, which is a four-player online co-op mode that allows gamers to

Action

PS3 GAMING

fight together as Autobots or Decepticons versus seemingly countless amounts of enemies. The game also fulfils a fantasy by letting you create your own Transformer for the head-to-head multiplayer modes.

Final Word

Transformers: War for Cybertron will satisfy fans, but will also get newcomers hooked or at least more interested in the series. Thanks to its well scripted storyline it transforms the bland movie-based game stereotype into an interactive homage to the popular Transformers universe. [HD]

The Good

Changing between vehicle and robot remains cool.

The Bad

A relatively short campaign with long loading times.



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