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TECH FIT

Gadgets to get you
back in shape

Nokia N8

Nokia's saviour?

HP and the Science of Ink



Nokia N8



Toshiba Satellite T110



Garmin FR60

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United under Tech

There's a famous *New Yorker* cartoon where one dog tells another "On the Internet, nobody knows you're a dog". This speaks not only of the cloak of anonymity the internet provides, but also of the fact that on the net everyone is equal.

I am seeing via the comments posted by users of www.techsmart.co.za and on our Facebook page, that when it comes to tech South

Africans are nicely united. We are getting just as many comments from our black readers as from our white ones, and here the discourse is not about things that differentiates us, but rather that which unites us. Such as the high prices we're paying for Apple products, if a new smartphone is really that good or whether a notebook is overpriced or not.

While certain political elements are doing their utmost to polarise the country, it's pretty clear to me that we are more alike than not.

Woof woof,
Mike Joubert <michael@techsmart.co.za>

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TECHSMART FEEDBACK

Comment on the Italian organisation that lashed out at video game Mafia II for being "racist nonsense that perpetuates stereotypes of Italian Americans as violent, murderous mobsters." (<http://tiny.cc/mafiamario>)

TechSmart.co.za user "Stupid people" says: [They need] to understand that it's not games that make people violent and make them believe certain things about other people. Games are fantasy unless otherwise stated.

Hi SP. We are quite sure that gamers can distinguish between that which is presented in-game and real-life, since it is not commonly believed that all Italians are pot bellied plumbers called Mario. Enjoy the Lexmark INTERACT 3-in-1. Mike

FEEDBACK FROM THE NET

We received a number of comments on our South African Apple pricing comparison (<http://tiny.cc/bw5c7>)

Ofentse Sello says: I love Apple products, they look great and work wonderfully, but every time I see the price tags, I get turned off and I look at a similar products on the

market. They really should consider dropping the prices.

PKILLEDTHEMAC says: If you know who to buy from on Ebay you can save at least R2000 on a Macbook, and that is AFTER paying 14% VAT to customs... go figure.

Comment on the Apple iPad 16 GB Wi-Fi (<http://tiny.cc/qytao>)

WVD says: This is an awesome device, I have the 64 GB 3G one. For web browsing and email it works great and there are thousands of apps/games available. I think my five year old son enjoys it even more than I do.

Comment on the 29th birthday of the PC (<http://tiny.cc/eydqq>)



Tshilidzi Oscar says:

This must have been eye-candy in its time and it still looks good even today. Thanks to IBM for introducing such a useful tool that in today's life is so hard to live without. Happy 29th.

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Use print preview to avoid layout mistakes and reprints due to small errors

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BlackBerry

RIM services almost banned

It was a tumultuous month for Canadian company RIM, manufacturers of BlackBerry, with Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates threatening to ban certain BlackBerry services including email, Messenger and web browsing. The basis for the dispute is that the countries were unable to monitor information sent before the data is rerouted to a RIM server in the United Kingdom. With India also talking about a ban RIM eventually relented, announcing that it will allow authorities to monitor encrypted messages on its networks.



Intel buys McAfee

In one of the biggest tech purchases of the year Intel Corporation, the world's largest manufacturer of semiconductors, have bought digital security company McAfee, Inc for a cool \$7.68 billion. Paul Otellini, Intel president and CEO, explains their purchase: "In the past, energy-efficient performance and connectivity have defined computing requirements. Looking forward, security will join those as a third pillar of what

people demand from all computing experiences."



Processing on the up

Mobile devices such as smartphones, netbooks and tablets are set to get faster with announcements from both Qualcomm and Intel in regards to processors. Qualcomm will be shipping their dual-core QSD8672 Snapdragon CPU, running at an impressive 1.5 GHz, later this year, while rival Intel announced upcoming Atom processors optimised for networked storage appliances, which include the 1.8 GHz D425 single-core and D525 dual-core processors.

Hot new Products

BlackBerry Torch

BlackBerry's problems overshadowed some major announcements from the company, including the debut of their new BlackBerry 6 OS, updates to App World, and a 3G version of the popular Curve 3G. The limelight



was stolen however by their **Torch 9800** which features a slide-out QWERTY keyboard as well as a 3.2" capacitive touch-screen. Read about our hands-on with the Torch here:

<http://tiny.cc/s3ite>.

Dell Streak

Fitting somewhere between a large smartphone and a small tablet PC, the **Dell Streak** was recently launched in the US. The Streak has a small 5" screen, and does not seem likely to trouble Apple's iPad except for the fact that it can also make calls and send text messages.



Star Wars Destined for HD

In good news for geeks everywhere, the **Star Wars** series is destined for Blu-ray disk, bringing HD quality to a galaxy near you soon. Currently there has been no official confirmation on pricing or release date. ♣



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\$548.3 million. The estimated total revenue for mobile video services in the US this year.

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A burning issue



Although eating chillies will set your mouth on fire, it probably won't leave you hot under the collar. Quite the opposite actually. According to a report in a recent issue of *Cell Metabolism*, capsaicin (the compound that

gives chillies their sting) lowered the blood pressure of hypertensive rats. The relaxing effect on blood vessels may be due to capsaicin activating a receptor in the vessels' lining that causes nitric oxide to be produced. Nitric oxide can protect blood vessels against inflammation and dysfunction. Although the effects still have to be confirmed clinically in humans, Chinese who regularly eat chilly-spiced foods seem to suffer less from high blood pressure than those whose diets do not include regular chilly dishes. Hot stuff.

- Artificial meat – will you eat it? <http://tinyurl.com/artmeatismurder>

Leapfrog



For some frogs jumping is no joy. Scientists report in a recent issue of the journal, *Naturwissenschaften*, that evolutionary primitive frogs belly flop when

they land, rather than landing deftly on the front legs as more advanced frogs do. Video footage showed that although the launch actions are similar the more primitive species don't pull in their hind legs in mid-air and then extend their front legs as landing gear. The results suggest that stretching out the hind legs may have developed first during the evolution of frog jumping, with landing on the front legs being a later refinement. The ability to land on the front legs may have helped frogs to jump further more comfortably and so improved their mobility and foraging success on land.

OTHER COOL READS

- The science behind better bodybuilding. <http://tinyurl.com/mybodyisatemple>

Break out the bubbly



There's more to enjoying champagne than just uncorking a bottle with a bang. According to a report in a recent issue of the *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry* it all comes down to pouring style. The fizz of

champagne comes from large amounts of dissolved carbon dioxide gas being released upon opening the bottle, which help to transfer the taste, flavour and mouth-feel of the champagne. Scientists compared the fizziness of champagne when poured straight down the middle of a glass or down the side of a tilted glass. Results showed that the champagne poured down the tilted glass contained twice as much fizz as that in the other glass, possibly because pouring down the side is a gentler method. Cheers! [LP] ♦

- Devices to port thoughts into digital memory. <http://tinyurl.com/mybraininflash>

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Sony Ericsson Vivaz pro

Stylish Symbian-powered slider

Sony Ericsson's (SE) Vivaz pro might be using a past-its-prime Symbian S60 operating system, but it boasts some fantastic features and a stylish design.



Camera and HD-ready recording

Using its 5.1 megapixel camera featuring auto-focus, LED flash, geo-tagging and image stabiliser, the phone captures excellent images. Besides the good quality stills, the Vivaz pro records 720p video at 24 fps with continuous auto-focus and a video light for darker conditions. These videos look great when recorded in normal light, but can be a little grainy when light conditions aren't optimal.

Grip-friendly design

The Vivaz pro fits neatly in your hand due to its stylishly curved back cover. It is compact measuring 109 x 52 x 15 mm and weighing a mere 117 g, but it still does not beat the miniature size of the X10 mini pro. This device's slide-out QWERTY keyboard is easy and convenient to use, although we prefer the raised keys on the Nokia N97 mini's keyboard. Images and videos display vividly on the phone's 3.2" TFT resistive touchscreen (360 x 640 pixels), but it's a bit of a fingerprint magnet. The one design aspect we didn't like is the power button positioned at the back of the phone, making it awkward to switch the phone on or off.

Symbian S60

SE has done an admirable job with S60, as the phone is easy to use, albeit with some noticeable lag once in a while, even though it boasts a 720 MHz Cortex A8 processor. There are five home-screens for favourite contacts, Twitter app, animation screen (featuring an accelerometer-enabled wave graphic), camera gallery and shortcuts. Only the latter is customisable, allowing you to put in shortcuts to apps.

Other features

Onboard you'll also find Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, high-speed HSDPA connectivity, stereo FM radio with RDS, a GPS and microSD support for cards up to 16 GB, with an appreciated 8 GB card included. We did not like using the phone's browser since the screen size isn't well optimised for webpages, meaning a lot of scrolling.

Conclusion

SE's Vivaz pro offers users a grip-friendly design, auto-focus 720p video recording and great photo capturing, but we would've loved to have seen Android running the OS show. We still recommend the Samsung Wave as the best mid-range smartphone. The Vivaz pro carries a RRP of **R4299**. [HD] 📶

Nokia N8 Preview

Back in charge?

The smartphone market is an aggressive one; several years ago Finnish mobile manufacturer Nokia was at the top of the pile with its lucrative Symbian S60 based E Series and N Series ranges, but recently they seem to struggle in the smartphone department.

In order to address this, the company has revamped its ageing OS and is launching the N8 which it hopes will rocket the Nokia label forward into the public consciousness once again.

Features

The N8 is certainly not lacking in features. It sports 16 GB of onboard storage, a 680 MHz ARM processor with an additional 3D graphics accelerator and A-GPS support with Ovi Maps and a 3.5" AMOLED capacitive touch-screen. All this while incorporating HSDPA, Wi-Fi and Bluetooth 3.0 options.

Where the N8 really stands out is its camera and video functionality. It features a 12 megapixel Carl Zeiss optics camera with auto-focus, plus video capture at 720p at 25 frames per second



(fps). Nokia also included a very handy micro USB to USB and a HDMI to mini HDMI adapter. Both these adapters along with a car charger ship in the box.

Symbian S^3

So does Nokia's new Symbian S^3 OS do the job? In terms of the basic interface, users are given three scrollable home

screens to choose from. Each of these can be populated with up to six widgets per screen. This however is nothing new and really just introduces run of the mill smartphone technology to the Nokia brand. It also sports Twitter and Facebook integration with contacts via the company's Ovi platform and a beautiful music and video interface; overall it is well constructed and attractive.

Our harshest criticism towards the S^3 platform is that it is almost exactly the same in terms of design to Symbian S60. While Nokia may argue that it didn't want to depart too strongly from what its customers are used to, we argue that this is exactly what the company should have done. The simple fact that the menu structure and even the fonts remain unchanged, which made for a very disappointed TechSmart crew.

Conclusion

Although we'd love to say the N8 and Symbian S^3 will rescue Nokia's dreams of smartphone market domination, the unfortunate reality is that Nokia didn't take a chance when it should have, what their smartphone needed was a desperately daring offering from the company, not a safe bet.

Nonetheless, at **R5500** it is very competitive in terms of overall features and will surely be a hit amongst Nokia fans. [TM] ♦

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Toshiba Satellite T110 Who says size doesn't matter?



The Toshiba Satellite T110 is blurring the line between netbooks and notebooks, offering users a compact and reasonably powerful machine in a single package. With its appealing design and beautiful metallic red paint job, the T110 is a looker as well as the perfect companion for the always-on-the-go individual.

The T110 stakes its claim in the market as being the size of a netbook with the specs of a notebook. This is true to an extent, but the machine couldn't always stand up to scrutiny on the technical side. So don't expect gaming and high definition playback, but for all other purposes the T110 offers a stellar package.

Size

The T110 barely tips the scales at a carry-friendly 1.76 kg with measurements of 286 x 211 x 24.9 mm. A sturdy design makes it easy to be carried around in a backpack day after day. The keyboard, touchpad and palm-rest areas are comfortable and responsive.

Battery life

The device's 6-cell Lithium-ion battery performed very well and lasted more than 10 hours when left standing with the energy savings settings turned on. With WLAN and an internet browser open, the T110 lasted for an impressive 7 hours and 45 minutes.

Features

Under the hood you'll find an Intel Pentium SU2700 CPU running at 1.3 GHz, 2 GB DDR3 RAM (upgradable to 4 GB), a 250 GB 5400 rpm HDD (500 GB also available) and an Intel GMA 4500 onboard GPU. Unfortunately no optical

drives are included with the machine, something which may not sit well with some users.

The 11.6" 1366 x 768 display is clear and bright in normal conditions but when using the device outside the glare can become a little annoying. We were sorely disappointed by the HD movie playback on the T110, experiencing noticeable lag during playback.

The T110 comes preloaded with the Windows 7 Home Premium OS, in either a 32-bit or 64-bit configuration.

Conclusion

The Toshiba Satellite T110 is the perfect device for the frequent traveller looking for a compact "almost-netbook" sized notebook.

With a recommended retail price of about **R5499** it proved itself to be a force to be reckoned with, although if you're serious about performance you might want to look a little further afield. [JK] 🍀

Quick Specs



- Thin-and-light
- 11.6" HD TFT LED screen
- Intel Pentium SU2700 CPU @ 1.3 GHz
- 2 GB RAM
- 250 GB hard disk
- Intel GMA 4500 GPU

ASUS CineVibe gaming headset

Feeling the beat



Taiwanese manufacturer ASUS has entered the audio entertainment segment and if their notebooks are anything to go by, it'll be a good idea to keep an eye on the ASUS CineVibe gaming headset.

The CineVibe gaming headset introduces rumble feedback, something which has been seen in similar devices for some time. But the CineVibe's vibration settings doesn't work on a force feedback system, instead it is tuned to interact with low frequency sounds. With a force feedback system audio elements in the games, such as gunshots or punches, trigger the vibration function. But the rumble settings on the CineVibe aren't strictly game related, they'll work in any situation. We tested this and to our delight, the rumble feedback responded perfectly even when playing music.

Plug and play

The plug and play headset requires no extra software installation and worked without problems. This can be seen as both a good and bad thing as some users will find this feature useful for saving time, although some gamers would prefer to have customisable software for unique settings.

Features and comfort

The headset features in-line volume and mic control for adjusting settings on the fly, the in-line controller is sturdy and the buttons are responsive and large. The

mic moves on a swivel arm allowing users to move it out of the way when needed, making it easier to transport to LANs. The earpieces also swivel 90° degrees allowing flat storage of the device. The mic itself features directional voice cancelling technology allowing clear and crisp voice commands to be issued while in-game.

The cushions are reasonably comfortable but the headset itself is a bit on the heavy side and presses against the ears which may cause discomfort after long hours of gaming. It's bundled with a 1.5 m long cable allowing the headset to be used with any kind of desktop configuration. The headset is available in white and black colouring and the overall build quality is good but not as solid as some of the larger gaming headsets.

Final thoughts

The sound of the headset, while very good, edges short of being spectacular but the low frequency transformation does aid it somewhat. The rumble feedback is a nice addition and all-in-all the Cinevibe stakes a good if not amazing initial claim for ASUS in the headset market. For more information contact Jack Chen on 083-393-6788. [JK] 🍀

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THE SCIENCE OF HP INK – WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU HIT “PRINT”

While the high cost of original ink cartridges might not sit well with many users, there's more to printing than meets the eye. On a recent trip to HP's Dublin Inkjet Manufacturing Operation in Ireland, TechSmart learnt a lot more about the science of ink.



Cups of coffee might have sustained many ideas, but it's the coffee percolator that's responsible for thermal ink-jet printing. In 1979 HP researcher John Vaught stared at water hissing off his percolator and wondered if the same principle cannot be applied to printing – using thermal energy to get ink onto paper. The idea for the thermal inkjet printer was born.

What happens when you print?

In today's inkjet printing world, the process behind getting ink to paper is truly amazing. When you click "Print" ink inside a firing chamber located on the printhead is heated up to 300° Celsius. This heated ink shoots through the microscopic nozzle, 1/3 the width of a human hair, and with speed of about 50 km/h hits the printing paper below. To do this accurately can be compared to dropping a grape from a 30-story building into a bucket on a moving pavement below. The fact that modern printers does this at over 30 million ink drops per second makes it a mind-blowing achievement.

Why original cartridges?

With the fine detail involved when printing, it is understandable that manufacturers like HP insist that only original cartridges are used to ensure quality and reliability. HP claims that impurities in the ink reservoir as small as 0.001% can clog print heads. Furthermore a recently conducted survey from QualityLogic revealed that more than 15% of all tested refilled ink cartridges streaked or failed. Another survey found that 45% of HP owners that have used non-original ink cartridges had a negative experience. Apart from this, HP original cartridges deliver 34% more pages than refilled cartridges.

Better value

While it might be true that refilled cartridges can cost considerably less than originals, we are seeing a drop in ink prices. HP is offering savings in the form of their high yield cartridges, marked with an XL, that provides more ink at a better price than smaller ones. Multi and combo ink packs also offer savings of up to 20%, while photo value packs that combine ink with photo paper cuts the costs associated with buying these separately.

While we're not quite convinced that ink isn't overpriced, it does seem that there are some viable reasons to stick with original cartridges. [MJ] ♦

What are your thoughts on ink? Mail info@techsmart.co.za.



TECH TO GET YOU INTO SHAPE

Too much Xbox makes Jack a plump boy, and with winter almost behind us TechSmart has compiled some of the best tech to get you back into shape, or there about at least.



adidas miCoach app
adidas' miCoach app for iPhone and BlackBerry devices will help you achieve your athletic goals via real-time voice coaching, while also tracking your distance and pace via GPS, calculating calories burned and recording your time. With a whole host of training

programmes online, you'll find one to suit your goal, whether that is to not look completely out of sorts at your company's annual 5 km fun-run or managing a sub-three hour marathon.

Garmin FR60 sports watch

Unlike some of the Garmin's Forerunner sports watches, their FR60 is small and light with a stylish design. This is mainly due to the fact that it does not include a GPS,



rather just opting to hook up with a heart rate sensor and a foot pod to track your distance and pace. All data is stored on the watch and can be downloaded wirelessly to your PC to keep a digital diary of your performance. The FR60 watch with heart rate sensor and foot pod retails for about **R2000**.

Oregon Scientific Pedometer with Pulse Meter

Maybe not best suited for a high speed run but more for a comfortable walk, Oregon Scientific's Pedometer not only tracks your steps and distance walked, but by placing your finger on the sensor also takes your blood pressure plus monitors calories burned. It goes for R298. Phone 021-508-4700 for more info.



Sennheiser sport headphones

Jogging with regular in-ear headphones is entertaining for about 10 steps before they pop out. The Sennheiser/adidas

PMX 680i sports headset contains an ergonomic neckband that secures the headphones in your ear almost nullifying movement while jogging or gyming.

Nike+

The Nike+ system is by far the most popular sports tracking system world wide, with more than a massive 432 000 000 kilos logged by athletes using it. By employing a sensor that can be placed inside Nike+ shoes, the system tracks your distance and pace while displaying it on a Nike Sportband that can be worn on the wrist. Part of this reason for the popularity of Nike+ is that the system can also integrate with iPhones and certain iPods to help you track your distance in real-time, while using iTunes to keep a history of your runs.



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TalkSwitch TS-350i Office Warrior

The TalkSwitch TS-350i is an easy-to-use business phone with enough features to turn it into the perfect workhorse for any office environment.

One of the leading providers of phone systems for small and multi-location businesses, TalkSwitch has sold over 37 000 systems worldwide and remains a good bet for business centered communication solutions. The TS-350i phone comes bundled with the TalkSwitch Management Software version 6.12, which gives users the ease of use of a new line optimisation tool as well as an automatic Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) service provider configuration.

The phone features six bright programmable multicoloured LED keys for one-touch access to lines, extensions, queues and features. The phone also sports crystal-clear sound and a full duplex speakerphone as well as dedicated headset support. The device can be integrated with any TalkSwitch phone system running version 6.12 or higher of the TalkSwitch software. Caller ID display, a phonebook with unique ringtone assignment, conference calling features and support for 80 two digit speed dial entries completes the TS-350i package.

Available for **R1620**, for more info contact Miro distribution.



TalkSwitch TS-550i One-touch caller

The big brother of the TS-350i, the TalkSwitch TS-550i incorporates the same outstanding business functionality, with lots of extras to beef up the offering.

This owner-friendly phone will give customers added choice, features and functionality and also comes bundled with version 6.12 of the TalkSwitch Management Software. The TS-550i IP phone is aimed at the premium business market and will offer power-users (those that work at large companies making lots of calls), 22 appearance keys as well as advanced expansion and connection options in the form of the TS-50e expansion module. This module, which is easily installed via two included screws, adds another 12 appearance keys, with a maximum of up to 46 different keys (recipients).

Like its little brother, it offers a phonebook and caller ID among other features as well as a clear 4-line backlit LCD display. There is also an optional Bluetooth attachment available which will add impressive wireless capabilities to the phone. With new management software, simplified VoIP service configuration and a best-in-class audio rating, customers will want to hear a whole lot more about the new TalkSwitch phones.

It retails for **R2422**, for more info contact Miro distribution.



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086 123 MIRO(6476) www.miro.co.za

Edimax AR-7266 WnA wireless router

Staying on the grid

The Edimax AR-7266 is a high quality wireless router providing full ADSL2+ compatibility along with superior reliability all in an affordable and easy-to-use package.

This Edimax is equipped with 300 Mbps wireless 802.11b/g/n and provides a full rate of ADSL2+ connectivity. The device is fully compliant with 802.11n, the next generation standard of wireless transmission. Advanced multiple-input multiple-output (MIMO) technology provides the router with up to nine times better data transmission rate and five times the coverage of a normal 802.11g/b router.

The device offers a myriad of features. Wi-Fi Protected Setup (WPS) allows users to secure their wireless network with the push of a button, simply press the WPS button and your network security will be setup in moments. ADSL broadband connection sharing allows you to share a single line between various users (253 users max), on both wired and wireless networks.

It retails for **R684**, for more info contact Miro distribution.



EnGenius M35 multi-function AP

All-in-one access

The EnGenius M35 wireless access point (AP) is a powerful product which supports seven multi-functional ways in which it can operate based on its current working environment.

The device supports a high data transmission rate allowing it to play the varied roles it was designed for, such as Access Point, Client Bridge, Repeater, WDS AP, WDS Bridge, Client Router, AP router and Mesh router. Enabled with 802.11b/g wireless capabilities and Mesh and NMS support it operates perfectly in the 2.4 GHz frequency. Support for different output power level settings, bandwidth selection and RSSI indicators enables the best transmitting and receiving of signals for traffic communications.

The device can easily be used to establish a mesh network, eliminating the need for expensive equipment. And if you need more stringent security the M35 can encrypt all wireless transmissions through WEP data encryption. Ease of use is also on the M35's agenda, the MAC address filter lets users select any stations that should have access to their network while the User isolation function can protect users on a private network from unauthorised access.

It retails for **R1333**, for more info contact Miro distribution.






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086 123 MIRO (6476) www.miro.co.za

NetComm MyZone Pocket
3G Router

Dynamite comes in small packages

NetComm's portable 3G router offering is certainly one of the best we've had the pleasure to encounter, making it easy to wirelessly connect PCs to the internet via SIM card.



In countries with low fixed line penetration rates, such as South Africa, portable 3G routers are often the answer for broadband users who wish to attach more than one device to a single connection.

More often than not, local broadband users primarily access the internet by means of wireless 3G interfaces provided for by South African mobile operators such as Vodacom and MTN. In such situations, a new wave of portable 3G routers offer the most simple solution.

Great size

Although we've had the benefit to review several of these units, NetComm's MyZone pocket 3G router certainly stands out for a number of reasons.

This pocket 3G router's strongest benefit is its size. Measuring in at just 97 x 80.6 x 9 mm it is little bigger than a business card and would fit comfortably into any notebook bag or suit pocket. Weighing in at just 75 g it is also the lightest 3G router we've ever encountered, which makes it perfect for usage on the road.

For this reason, we believe the MyZone would be most beneficial to the travelling executive who needs to connect several devices on the go but can not always be sure of access to ADSL Wi-Fi.

Getting started

Preparing the device for usage is also

extremely easy. Users are simply required to insert their SIM card into the router, turn the device on using the slider power switch, scan for wireless devices on a relevant device (notebook, smartphone) and connect to the MyZone using 'password' as the initial password. This can however be changed at a later stage to allow for greater security.

Like all routers, the MyZone has an administration portal which can be reached by typing an IP address (192.168.10.50) into your browser. From here a user can change password information, alter wireless settings and set up additional security protocols. It's a very friendly user interface which made changing settings a breeze.

Onboard

The device features UMTS, HSPA, HSUPA 5.76 Mbps, USB 2.0 and Wi-Fi 802.11 b/g support. It is also compatible with both Mac and Windows operating systems.

The MyZone also ships with a USB tethering cable which can be used to charge the router on the go directly from your PC, a quick start guide and a power adaptor.

Overall, the MyZone pocket 3G router is a solid offering and certainly proves that dynamite comes in small packages.

Available from Navix on 087-820-7220. Recommended Retail Selling Price R1999. [TM] 🌟



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- Tri-band (UMTS/HSDPA/HSUPA)



MyZone Mobile 3G Wifi Router

The Business class champion

If you have a mobile broadband SIM card, the MyZone is the perfect companion. It is just slightly bigger than a credit card and fits in your pocket. Slip your SIM card into the MyZone, and you are instantly connected. The MyZone will connect to the Internet using NetComm's convenient SmartConnect Technology.



Wacom Bamboo Pen & Touch

With the new Bamboo, Wacom is introducing the first tablet combining multi-touch functionality and pen tablet technology in a single device. The result: a totally new, simple and inspiring way to work with computers, for example, a simple tap of the finger will select an icon or open a menu. With two fingers you can easily flip through a presentation or scroll and zoom through a blog, websites or photos.

Rugged from the inside out

General Dynamics builds some of the most rugged equipment on the planet: destroyers, submarines, combat vehicles. And mobile computers.



MR1

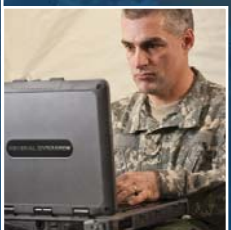
Ultra mobile PC

GD300



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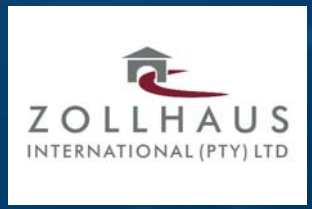
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Premiumsun Media Player MP8809

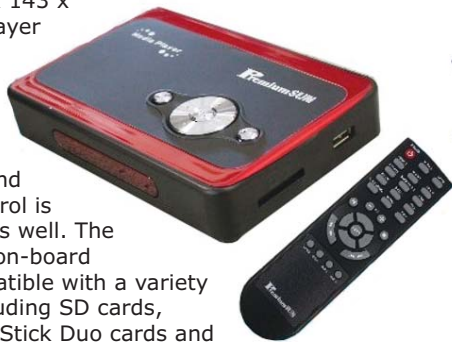
Media on the go

Premiumsun's Media Player MP8809 allows you to play the media (music, movies and photos), stored on your portable storage devices, via your TV.

This compact (24 x 143 x 96 mm) media player is easy to use thanks to its straight-forward user interface, featuring big icons for music, pictures and video. A remote control is included in the box as well. The device doesn't offer on-board storage, but is compatible with a variety of storage types including SD cards, MMC cards, Memory Stick Duo cards and USB 2.0 devices such as portable hard drives.

It supports many video file types including Mpeg, VCD, DIVX, XVID and AVI, whilst also supporting both JPEG and BMP for images and MP3, AAC as well as WMA audio files. HD content playback isn't offered as playback is limited to lower resolutions of 480i/p and 576i/p, so if you have XVID files (which the player supports) that are HD Blu-ray rips, they will not play.

Premiumsun isn't a household name locally, but at an affordable **R604** from Timeline Computer on 011-791-2468, this device should have its audience. ❁



Toshiba e-Studio 2330c

The copier that does it all

The Toshiba e-Studio 2330c is an impressive new all-in-one photo copier that can print colour and black and white pages at a blazing 23 copies per minute.



A colour touch-screen, with easy-to-use picture based menus makes using the 2330c a breeze. It features an 80 GB HDD and 1 GB of DDR RAM allowing it to scan at an amazing 57 pages per minute.

The device is fully networkable, meaning it's accessible from all PCs on the same network. This allows users to access the device through a web browser interface and check the status of the device, arrange files or check toner and paper availability without ever leaving their chairs.

It also supports user accounts and a private print function allowing the printing of sensitive documents without having to worry about them lying in the feeder for all to see.

This all-in-one device sports the features of higher-end models minus the price tag and should make a welcome addition to any office environment.

The e-Studio 2330c is available for **R1490** (excl VAT) per month. For more info contact Jayson on 011-796-4889 or 082-557-6490. Alternatively email him at jmacgregor@toshiba-sa.co.za. ❁

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3M Pocket Projector MPro 150

Is that a projector in your pocket?

3M's Pocket Projector MPro 150 brags with both size and features, and as the name implies, it's small enough to fit in your pocket. But the 3M MPro 150 has much more than size going for it, the device sports an interchangeable MicroSD card (2 GB included in the box), 1 GB internal memory and integrated speakers, meaning you can store and play your presentation quickly anytime, anywhere without the need for a PC.

The device is also very compatible, able to work with a standard PC/notebook, digital camera or DVD player. It supports a wide range of software including the entire Microsoft Office suite, Adobe PDF and loads of music and movie files. Although a handy machine to have, its 15 lumen picture on a 'screen' size of up to 50" might not provide the brightness you're looking for since it needs to operate in almost complete darkness without any ambient light. It comes included with a tripod to help this small device balance. It retails for **R4195** including VAT and is available from www.webantics.co.za.

Solar Flashlight

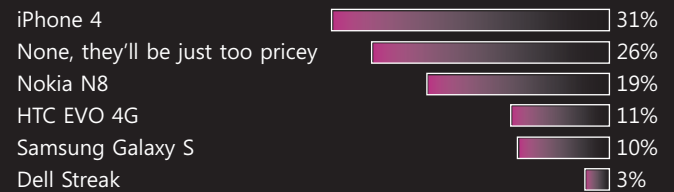
Just add sunlight

Solar flashlights have been around for a while, and these often forgotten pieces of technology can be the perfect tool when heading out camping. This specific solar flashlight from Cameratron features a 5.5 v / 90 mA solar panel and utilises 28 LED lights to provide it with a very bright beam of light. It can also be used to charge your mobile devices on the go via a USB cable and a number of adapters. Available from Cameratron (011-622-0556) for **R180**.



TechSmart.co.za online poll results

What upcoming smartphone are you looking forward to the most?



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<p>HP Compaq 620</p> <p>Intel 2.2GHz 1024 MB RAM 160 GB Hard Drive DVD-Writer Wireless LAN 15.6" LCD Display Built in Webcam Windows 7 Basic</p> <p>R4850</p>	<p>HP Compaq 620</p> <p>Core 2 Duo 2.1GHz 2048 MB RAM 320 GB Hard Drive DVD-Writer Wireless LAN Bluetooth 15.6" LCD Display Windows 7 Professional</p> <p>R6599</p>	<p>LCD Mini Cleaning Kit</p> <p>Alcohol-free Cleaning Solution Brush, Microfiber Cloth, Carrying Bag</p> <p>R50</p>	<p>3 Fan Cooling Pad</p> <p>R120</p>	<p>Laptop Chargers</p> <p>From R260</p>

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SpaceNavigator 3D Mouse



The 3D mouse allows anyone to discover the freedom of intuitive, accurate 3D navigation in over 100 3D applications (including Google Earth, SketchUp, and Adobe Photoshop). Simply push, pull, tilt or twist the controller cap to easily pan, zoom and rotate your models.

Solar Light Cap



The 2C Solar Light cap is an extremely useful gadget for all those who want to be protected from the sun during the day while lit up at night. This one-of-a-kind cap is an easily operated headdress which features a special solar panel, built-in on the top of the cap, Two powerful LED's provides ample light at night.

Celestron Digital Microscope

This innovative microscope design allows you to view specimens or objects on a computer screen and allows you to take snapshot images or short videos. A rugged, metal stand is included for holding the microscope steady at various positions for viewing and/or imaging.



The microscope is ideally suited for examining objects such as coins, stamps, rocks, relics, insects, plants, gems, circuit boards, various materials, skin, and many other objects.

Clocky Alarm Clock



Clocky gives you one chance to get up. But if you snooze, Clocky will jump off your nightstand and wheel around your room looking for a place to hide, beeping all the while. You'll have to get out of bed to silence his alarm!

Film 2 SD

Rediscover your long-lost 35mm slides and film negatives with FILM 2 SD. This high-quality scanner transfers your images directly onto an SD card so you can enjoy your old pictures with the latest technology.



Profile LP vinyl-to-mp3 Turntable

Step up to the elegant look of PROFILE LP. This advanced turntable transforms your LPs into MP3s, doubles as a home-stereo record player, and includes a hinged, protective dust cover.



Outdoor Bark Control

If your neighbour's dog is driving you bonkers with his barking, help is here! This ultrasonic outdoor bark control unit looks like any ordinary birdhouse that can hang in a tree, on a fence post or anywhere outside. It detects barking from up to 15 metres away and has 3 range settings. Whenever your dog - or your neighbour's dog - barks, he will hear a safe, high-pitched sound (inaudible to humans) that will cue him to stop his annoying habit.

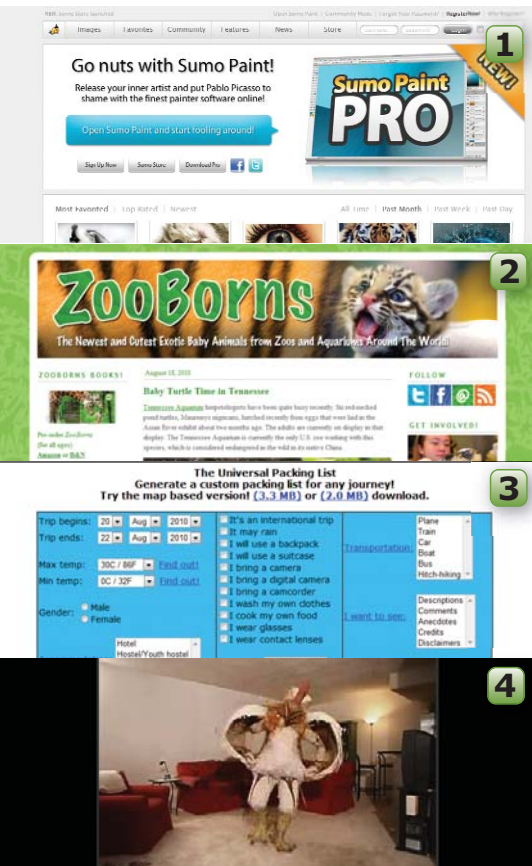


Davis Vantage Vue Weather Station

The latest Vantage Vue wireless weather station provides accurate, reliable weather monitoring in a self-contained, easy-to-install system. Vantage Vue gives you all the weather data you need for home use, education, boating and more. Excludes software.



September Web Time Wasters



1. Sumo Paint

www.sumopaint.com

Always wanted to create some digital Art but did not have the money for the software? **Sumo Paint** is a fully featured photo editing and painting application that works right from your web browser. There is nothing to download and it's compatible with all the major operating systems. Sumo Paint one of the best online digital design and art creation sites available and is a good filter for all your creative juices.

2. ZooBorns

www.zooborns.com

This site will make even Chuck Norris go "aaah cute" after ogling pics of all the newest baby animal additions to zoos and aquariums throughout the globe. You can browse the site for a particular animal, as they are listed alphabetically on the left side of the homepage or you can type in a name of an animal in the search bar.

3. The Universal Packing List

www.upl.codeq.info

Why is it that you always remember that extremely important item you

forgot to pack when it's just too late to turn back? With **The Universal Packing List** all you have to do is enter the details of your trip, including maximum and minimum forecasted temperatures, your gender and the activities you're going to perform, and a checklist of items will be suggested to you. The site even suggests a list of things to do before you leave on your trip (such as unplugging your electrical appliances).

4. The Subservient Chicken

www.tinyurl.com/youareachickenbra

Subservient Chicken has to be one of the most peculiar sites on the internet. Featuring a man in a chicken suit performing actions based on user's input. User's are invited to submit text based commands via a box at the bottom of the video feed. It's then time to sit back and enjoy the antics. ♣



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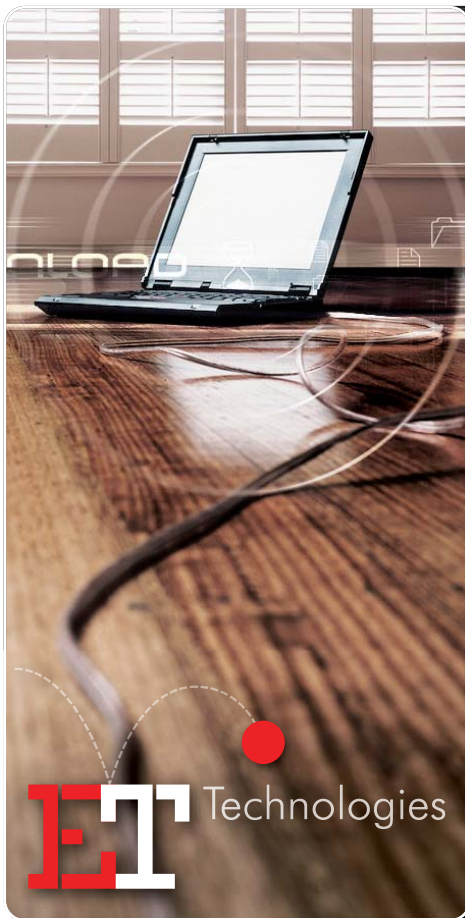
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Metal Gear Solid: Peace Walker

Snake slithers sneakily back onto the PSP



The Metal Gear Solid franchise returns to the PlayStation Portable (PSP) with a bang courtesy of Metal Gear Solid: Peace Walker.

Story

Snake and his military version of Doctors Without Borders, known as Militaires Sans Frontieres (under which soldiers have no national allegiance and can be hired by anyone), are hired to go to Costa Rica to investigate reports of an army that has been brought into Central

America by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). It's here where things take a turn for the worst.

Presentation

The in-depth storyline is complemented greatly by the excellent cut scenes that occasionally let you catch your breath in between all the stealthy action.

A lot of these comic book styled sequences are also interactive, whereby you need to press a button quickly or repeatedly to perform an action like zooming your gaze onto a character or firing a rocket launcher at a flying mechanised robot. The sequence will restart if you make a mistake, until you hit the correct button at the correct moment.

For a PSP title the graphics look amazing with detailed environments, good effects such as explosions and good character models. The voice acting is also top notch and helps to make the story more appealing.

Controls

At the start the control system takes some getting used to as you have to control the character's movements, actions as well as the in-game camera angle. This can become a bit hectic in certain situations, such as when a horde of enemies descend upon your location. Trying to run away while firing in the enemy's general direction and finding the right camera angle so you can see where you're going, is about as challenging as trying to beat the All-Blacks with 14 men.

The deeper you get into the game the less of a hassle the control system becomes, plus there are a few configuration options to assist in finding one that suits you best. You can also switch between these at any point.

Conclusion

If you've always been and MGS fan, then this instalment won't disappoint with its top notch plot, voice acting, graphics and interactive comic inspired cut sequences. Those new to the series will be left hooked, hotly anticipating the next Kojima Productions release. [HD] ❖

The Good

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The Bad

Very complicated control scheme to master.

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