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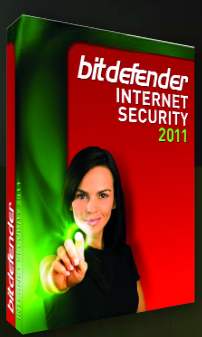

THE INTERNET ISSUE

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ISSUE 86 November 2010 ISSN 1726-3358

POCKET SCIE

As a descendant of the first communication device on the moon, a Motorola is always going to be born smart.

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The Internet issue ›› November 2010

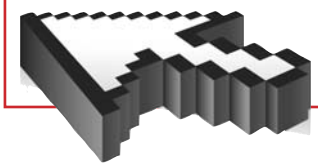
Heita my 8ta

Last month's birth of 8ta, Telkom's play for the cellular market, is cause for reserved celebration. At the launch of the new network Telkom talked tough and promised to deliver aggressive pricing. We can only hope that this contributes to an overall drop in cellular costs, especially on the data side, seeing that cellular connection is the only way to access the net for a big percentage of our population.

There are however reasons to be sceptical. The launch of Cell C back in 2001 did little to lower costs, plus the fact that Telkom is trying to enter a pretty mature market means that it will take time before 8ta makes an impact, if at all. Still, I am curious to see what this new cat will do amongst the cellular pigeons. And let's face it – we need some new advertising to compete against the ubiquitous Trevor Noah.

Enjoy the issue,

Mike <michael@techsmart.co.za>



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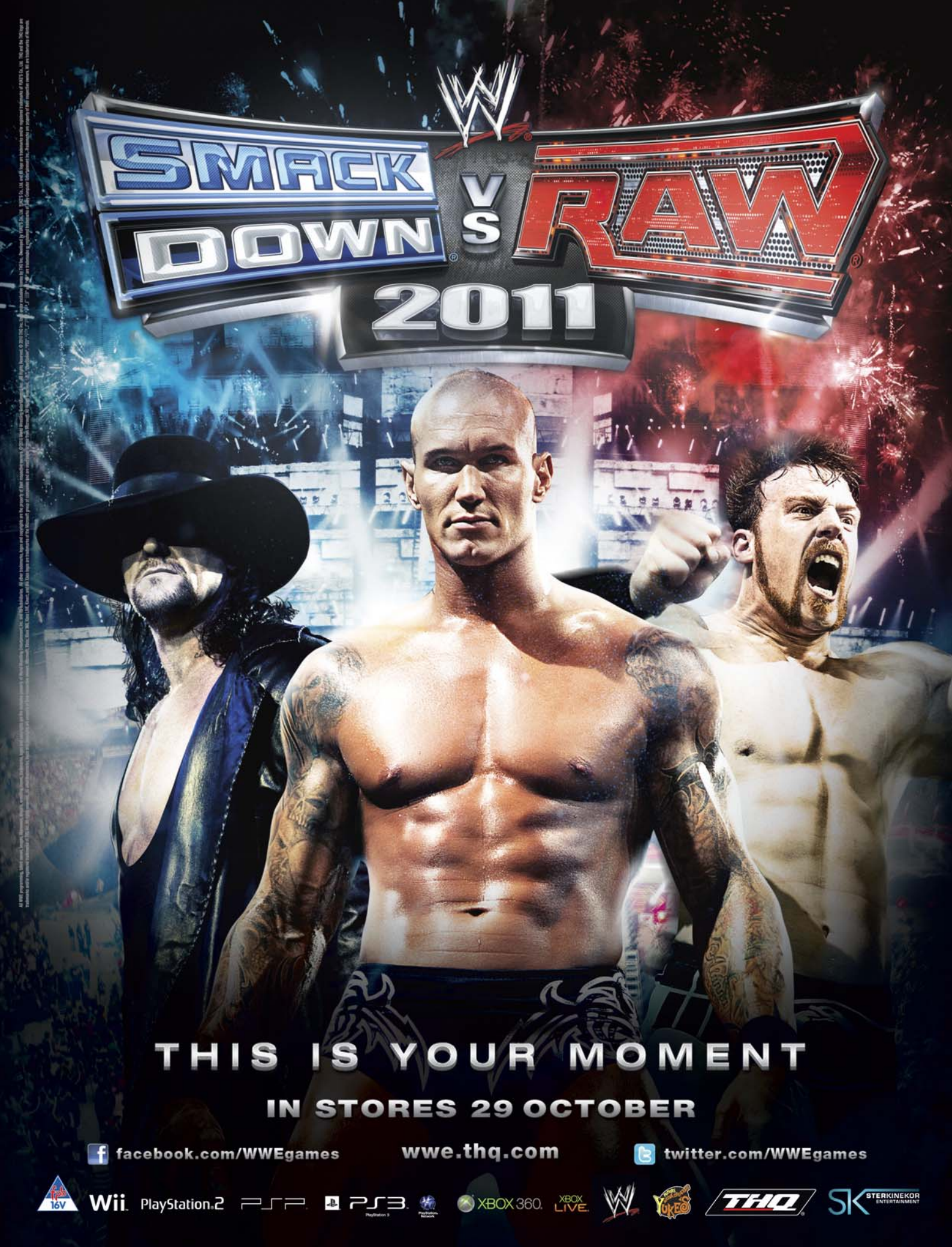
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Xbox LIVE at long last landing in SA

Good news for SA's Xbox gamers – Xbox LIVE is making its long awaited entrance to the SA market. Upon joining Xbox LIVE users will be able to play live online, interact with the Xbox LIVE community, download games and demo's from the service as well as additional content such as new maps, levels, characters and songs. The launch is set for 10 November.

Telkom 8ta sees the mobile light

After years of rumours surrounding Telkom's intentions to enter the cellular arena the company has announced the launch of its 8ta platform, signalling the entrance of a fourth mobile operator in the local sphere. 8ta has hit hard at competitors Vodacom, MTN and Cell C by offering considerably lower rates with regards to mobile data and voice calls. Prepaid packages are currently available. Let the cellular wars commence!

Lucky Windows Phone 7 appears

Microsoft has long been criticised for its poor mobile operating systems. Fortunately, the company swears it has the formula right this time with the recent release of Windows Phone 7, which is supposedly set to revolutionise the Windows Mobile brand completely. Packing a new user interface and Xbox Live support, the first phones to feature the updated OS are due to hit SA shores within this month.

›› Hot new products

BlackBerry Style 9670

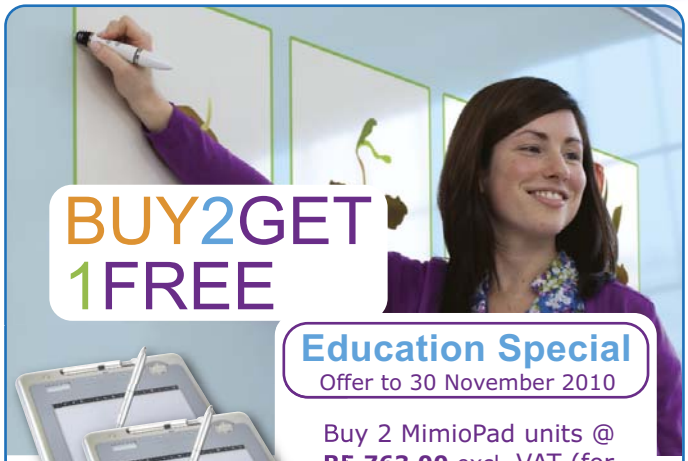
And who says clamshells are dead? Definitely not BlackBerry, who recently announced the Style 9670 with its flip-open screen. You'll also find a secondary screen at the front and a full QWERTY keyboard, plus it runs on their new 6 operating system. Unfortunately for SA fans the phone does not look set to grace our shores.

Nokia C7

Nokia has announced the C7, joining the highly anticipated N8 in the Symbian^3 stable. A 3.5" AMOLED touch-screen, Bluetooth 3.0 and a 8 megapixel camera with 720p video recording will make the Nokia faithful lick their lips. No local release date is available yet.

Office for Mac 2011

For those Apple fans who can't do without Office, Office for Mac 2011 has landed in SA, the first major revision for the productivity suite since 2008. For the first time it also includes Outlook as its email client, replacing Entourage. Two versions are available – Home and Student (**R999 - R1299**) and Home and Business (**R2499 - R2699**).



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>2 million. Mobile users of Dropbox who access their online files via their phones.

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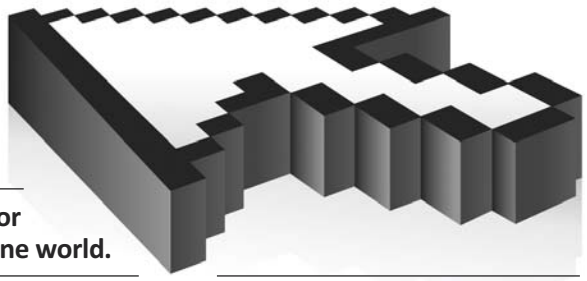
THE FUTURE
OF CONNECTIVITY IN SA



The constant improvement to connectivity technology is great news for consumers looking for fast and more reliable means to access the online world.

TechSmart have compiled a short description of three of the most promising connectivity technologies on the horizon, and how they might benefit you in the future.

LTE

LTE, or 'Long Term Evolution', is the buzzword for fourth generation mobile networking services which are designed to offer far greater bandwidth capacities than the 3G counterparts we are used to.

At present, the world is beginning to make the leap towards LTE connectivity (which is typically associated with download capacities of anything from 50 Mbps to 350 Mbps. In South Africa the vast majority of our mobile networks are taking steps towards the next evolution by providing aptly named '3.75G' services which offer up to 21 Mbps connectivity throughout the country.

The latest to join the race is Cell C, which is currently offering its prepaid '4G' USB dongle option to users in selected cities such as Port Elizabeth and Cape Town.

Fibre

Although the ADSL network which we are used to is relatively stable and reliable, there is a limited amount of bandwidth capacity which can be fed through a copper cable (which makes up the majority of the network). As a result, fibre optic systems, which incorporate thin glass fibres through which information is passed by means of light, are beginning to find prevalence in the fixed line market.

Industry players such as Vodacom Business and Neotel have been hard at work recently laying fibre optic networks around the country's primary metropolitan districts. These services are now beginning to come online, providing businesses with a much improved (and more costly) bandwidth alternative to ADSL.

WiMAX

WiMAX, or Wordwide Interoperability for Microwave Access, is essentially a technology which utilises wireless spectrum (or microwaves) to deliver internet connectivity to homes and businesses. This option is fairly common in South Africa, with providers such as iBurst, Neotel and Telkom providing service to the market. WiMAX technology operates independently to that of cellular networks and so requires its own infrastructure. For this reason, coverage is primarily limited to major metropolitan areas. Unfortunately WiMAX has been criticised for losing operability during poor weather and is very dependent on efficient spectrum allocation in order to offer a reliable service.

South African users can typically expect to pay roughly **R599** for a 5 GB per month WiMAX option. [TM]

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Tivit Mobile TV streamer

Tivit is a mobile TV receiver that enables you to view mobile broadcast via a notebook, netbook, personal mobile device or smartphone, which doesn't have a built-in mobile TV receiver. By installing dedicated application software \"Tivit Mobile TV Viewer\" on your smartphone or PC, you can watch digital mobile TV (DVB-H) channels which are transmitted from the Tivit through the Wi-Fi connection on your smartphone or PC.

What TechSmart said about the Tivit:
"If you're looking to test out DTV locally, the Tivit is a good choice. We can see ourselves using this device at the rugby, soccer or cricket to check out replays of on-field action."

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.

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>5 billion. Amount of pictures that have been uploaded to photo-sharing site Flickr.

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INTERNET SECURITY ROUND-UP

The end of the year usually sees anti-virus companies releasing their new updated packages. For this, our internet issue, we decided to take a quick look at some of the best internet security software available today.

AVG Internet Security 2011

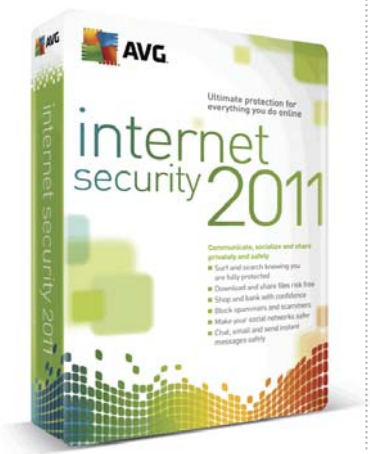
AVG's new Internet Security 2011 suite provides multiple layers of protection for all your web surfing adventures, from downloads to online banking to social networking.

AVG's Protective Cloud technology alongside its Community Protection Network means data is constantly collected on the latest threats and shared with the AVG user base.

The software also features protection for sensitive online transactions in the form of AVG Firewall, Anti-Spam and Identity Protection, which helps keep you safe on social networks.

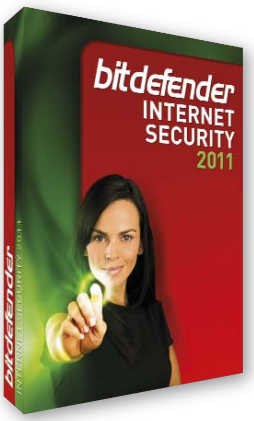
Scanning speed has also been increased, with AVG claiming it to be up to three times faster than previous versions.

It is available for **R299** for one license.



BitDefender Internet Security 2011

The BitDefender Internet Security 2011 package offers the latest protection against unwanted attacks including antivirus, firewall and network management tools, file encryption, online back-up as well as hourly updates to keep your system one step ahead of the herd. A unique Adaptive Design interface allows users to customise their experience, creating shortcuts to different functions and optimising how BitDefender works alongside the rest of your system. BitDefender also makes the user experience as easy as possible, with streamlined installation, user tips, video tutorials on top of free 24-hour technical support. Enhancements have also been made to threat detection and scan speed. It sells for **R399** for one license and **R449** for three licenses. **Full review: http://tiny.cc/bitdefender2011**



Kaspersky Internet Security 2011

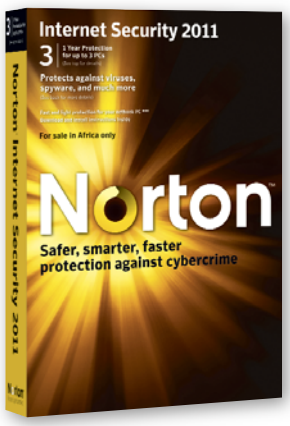
Kaspersky Labs' new security offering comes in the form of Kaspersky Internet Security 2011. KIS 2011 keeps users safe online by providing constant internet protection, whether you bank, game or Facebook.

The new Safe Surf feature ensures you're never exposed to harmful websites, with regular database updates from Kaspersky keeping track of and blocking unsafe sites. Smart anti-phishing and an easy-to-use virtual keyboard also ensures your online identity and passwords are kept safe while Parental Control protects the young ones by limiting access to certain sites. The user interface and scanning procedures have also been updated for increased ease-of-use. KIS 2011 is available at **R399** for one license and **R499** for three licenses.

Norton Internet Security 2011

The new Norton Internet Security 2011 from Symantec aims to give users the fastest and lightest internet security available. With System Insight 2.0 the software goes beyond simple security alerts, letting users know when applications have a significant impact on their system resources.

And no more fretting about suspicious downloads as Download Insight 2.0 applies protection to any file you're downloading, regardless of what email client, web browser or IM program you're using. Add to that Norton 2011's trustworthiness reports which lets users know if their download habits are risky or not compared to the 53 million other Norton Community Watch members today, and you have a very robust protection system on your hands. A three PC license is available for **R899**.



Almost 32 million. Kaspersky Lab detected that many vulnerable apps and files on users' PC during Q3 of 2010.

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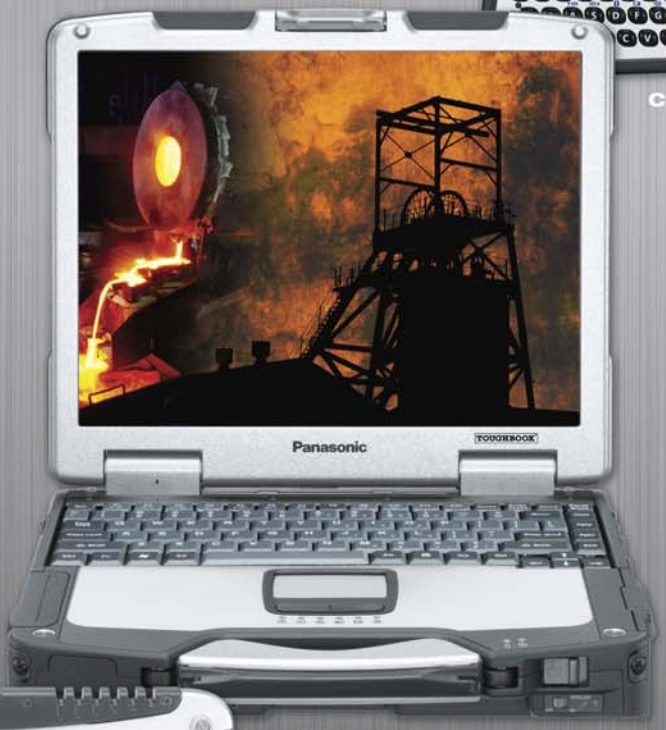
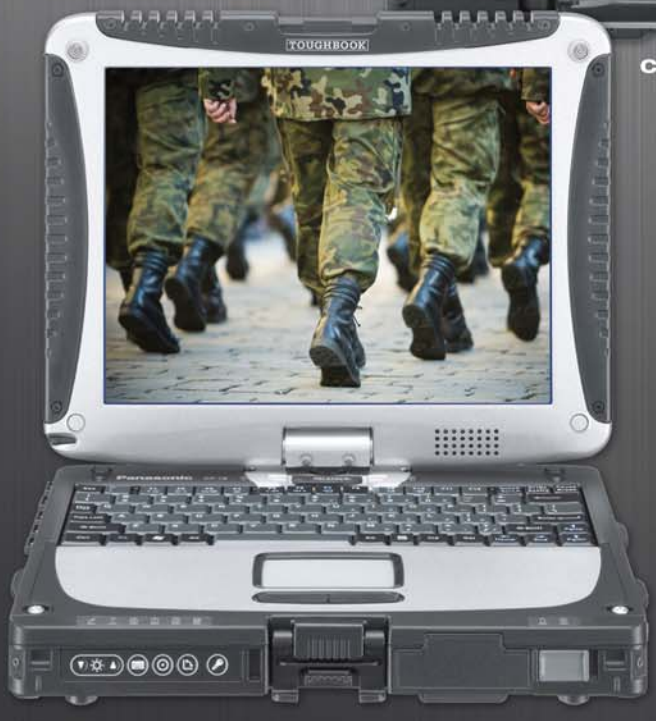


CF-31



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HUAWEI E5830 CONNECTIVITY ON THE GO

Mobile internet connectivity has come to play a large role in the modern world as everyone and their uncle wants to connect to the internet no matter where they are. To satisfy this demand, Huawei introduced the E5830 new generation mobile broadband modem.

E5 series

The Huawei E5 line is a growing series of compact HSDPA 3G modems that also doubles up as Wi-Fi hotspots, also referred to as MiFi. The aspect that distinguishes the E5 products is their ability to connect to various devices simultaneously.

More than one device?

Instead of simply hooking up to a single device, such as your notebook, the E5830 with its built-in access point has the ability to share a 3G link among all your toys including mobile phones, tablets, desktops and of course notebooks. If you don't have additional devices it can also connect directly to a computer to function as a standard 3G dongle.

Connectivity in your pocket

Thanks to this wireless access, users are able to connect to the internet via the E5830 without ever needing to take it out of their bag or plug it in, since it functions as its very own mobile hotspot.

Wires, what wires?

The E5830 features 802.11b/g Wi-Fi support alongside a 3G radio that can operate in 900 MHz or 2100 MHz UMTS bands. It also has quad-band GSM/ GPRS/ Edge support under the hood for added connectivity if you're far from a major centre.

So what is MiFi?

Have you ever found yourself in an awkward position trying to balance a notebook in one hand and a 3G dongle in the other as you try and eek out that last bit of connectivity? Well those days are over thanks to MiFi, the combination of Mobile broadband and Wi-Fi into a single device. This means one device functions as a portable wireless router and 3G dongle all in one.

Lightweight power

The Huawei E5830 features an extremely compact design for what it's capable of. Smaller than a mobile phone it can comfortably fit into any pocket or handbag. It measures 86 x 46 x 10 mm and weighs a barely registrable 90 grams.

Battery

The E5830 is powered by a removable 1500 mAh lithium-ion battery, similar to that of a mobile phone except that it can be charged via your computer's USB port. It does this not only when connected to your PC but also when connected to the data network.

Speed

The device supports a theoretical maximum speed of 5.76 Mbps for upload and 7.2 Mbps for download. In reality you'll be dealing with less than this with the speeds hovering around a suitable 4.7 Mbps for downloads and 1.7 Mbps for uploads.

Range

The E5830 is an impressive device, but due to its compact size it won't be able to provide the same reach as a standalone home or office wireless router, so don't expect to turn it on and have internet access throughout the entire building. We'd recommend keeping the E5830 close to the device you're connecting, preferably not farther away than two or three metres, lest the signal starts to drop.

Availability

The modem is available from MTN and Vodacom shops.

Contact

For more info visit
www.huaweidevice.com

HUAWEI

Huawei company profile ››

Huawei Technologies was established in 1988 by Chinese businessman, Ren Zhengfei. The company specialises in high-tech communications and networking equipment and has gone on to become the largest supplier of such technologies in China, as well as the second largest in the world, second only to Ericsson.

The company's headquarters are situated in Longgang District, Shenzhen, China and today serves 45 of the world's top 50 telecoms operators.

It also provides network services for telecom carriers and has a huge research and development (R&D) department working on developing new communications technologies throughout the year. The company spends 10 percent of its entire revenue each year in R&D, putting them at the forefront of emerging communications technologies.

The company has research centres in China, the United States, Sweden, India, Ireland, Russia, Indonesia and the Netherlands.

150 million. The number of Facebook users that access the social networking site via their mobiles.

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Kaspersky Open Space

Why Kaspersky Open Space Security?

Kaspersky Open Space Security meets and exceeds core requirements for comprehensive protection of corporate networks:

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- Customer-focused technical support
- Proactive technologies backed by traditional signature-based protection
- Innovative technologies and new antivirus engine speed up performance
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- Centralized management
- Provides security for remote users
- Compatibility with third-party solutions
- Efficient use of network resources

Kaspersky 2011 Internet-Security

Complete PC & Notebook Protection

- Real-time proactive protection against all Internet threats ***Improved***
- New Safe Surf feature for unparalleled online security ***New***
- Protection for your digital identity at all times ***Improved***
- Feature-rich and effective Parental Control ***Improved***
- Application Control prevents dangerous software from harming your system ***Improved***
- System Watcher technology ***New***
- Unique Safe Run mode for apps & websites ***Improved***
- Special tools to treat even the most complex infections ***Improved***
- Easy-Access Desktop gadget ***New***

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R499.00 – 3 Users

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- Real-time protection against viruses and spyware ***Improved***
- Scanning of websites and emails for malicious code ***Improved***
- Protection for your digital identity at all times ***Improved***
- Vulnerability scan and treatment advice
- Easy-access Desktop gadget ***New***

R299.00 – 1 User
R399.00 – 3 Users

Kaspersky PURE

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- Password Manager
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The BIG Issue ›› Mobile TV

Despite numerous delays, Mobile TV now looks set to finally make its debut on a commercial level after the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA) issued broadcasting licenses to two industry players this year.

With this in mind, we took a closer look at the big issues behind mobile television in South Africa.

What is Mobile TV?

Mobile TV essentially offers users the ability to watch live television content on their cellular handsets. In South Africa, this is achieved using two technologies namely 3G and DVB-H.

3G TV streaming

3G mobile TV streaming sends content to users' phones over the operator's data networks. This means that users are essentially streaming live video over the network to their handsets much in the same way that they would watch live video on a PC using a broadband connection.

Presently, this service is available through Vodacom using TV: On Demand or DStv mobile, allowing users to request and download content at will.

DVB-H

Digital Video Broadcasting – Handheld (DVB-H) is a type of broadcast technology that utilises its own network of transmitters. This means that it is independent from television and cellular networks. This technology, like television, is a one way broadcast based technology which requires a DVB-H receiver to view video.

At present, only Multichoice and etv are licensed to offer DVB-H based services in South Africa. DStv Mobile, an arm of Multichoice, has been trialing this technology countrywide since 2005.

After numerous delays, both Multichoice and etv were granted licenses to broadcast Digital Video Broadcasting – Handheld content.

Why has it taken so long?

DVB-H is not a new technology, in fact, it has been successfully implemented the world over for some time now. Why then has it taken South Africa so long to jump on the mobile TV bandwagon?

The answer involves a mixture of complex bureaucracy wherein ICASA's licensing for the spectrum (radio waves) required to broadcast using DVB-H technology, and its issuance of licenses, took much longer than expected.

After numerous delays, both Multichoice and etv were granted licenses to broadcast DVB-H content in September 2010. No official launch dates have yet been given for their services.

Many argue that the usage of 3G streaming has acted as a stop-gap technology until DVB-H arrives. Multichoice has however denied this. [TM]

Tivit Mobile TV streamer ›› TV now on your smartphone

With MultiChoice and etv recently awarded licences for Digital Video Broadcasting – Handheld (DVB-H) spectrum by the Independent Communications Authority of SA (ICASA), live television looks set to make an appearance on our phones soon.

The Tivit Mobile TV streamer is a DVB-H tuner able to receive this digital broadcast signal and stream it to not just certain cellphones but notebooks too.

"In short, there is no internet access required, just a handset and the Tivit"

How it works

At the moment the Tivit works on iPhones and the iPad and certain Nokia and Blackberry models, if you install the correct app. It also connects to Windows notebooks and PCs via Tivizen software, while Android functionality is reportedly on its way. Not many phones currently have DVB-H receivers built in, making the Tivit an appealing choice.

All a user needs to do is extend the small Tivit's aerial and connect your phone to it via a Tivit application (a cable can be used to connect it to a PC). The user will have access to digital television for the remainder of the device's battery life, which is typically three hours. It does so via the mini Wi-Fi network created by the Tivit, within which applicable devices can access the signal. In short, there is no internet access required, just a Wi-Fi enabled handset and the Tivit.

Until recently Tivit users had access to DStv's mobile bouquet which included SuperSport 1 & 2 & 3 & Blitz; Channel O; CNN; Big Brother Africa; Africa Magic and Cartoon Network for free. This is now set to change as DSTV will make certain channels in their bouquet available with a monthly subscription. At the time of going to press the subscription information was not available from DSTV.

No support

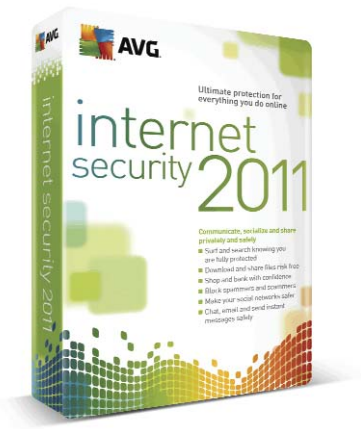
Although the Tivit is well made and functions perfectly, we had issues tracking down the BlackBerry application, although the Tivit app is easy to find on Apple's App Store. We would also have liked to be able to connect multiple devices at a time, but the Tivit only supports one device at a time.

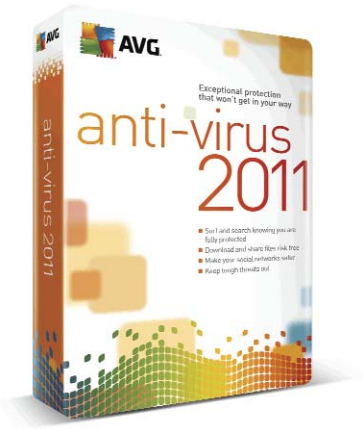
Conclusion

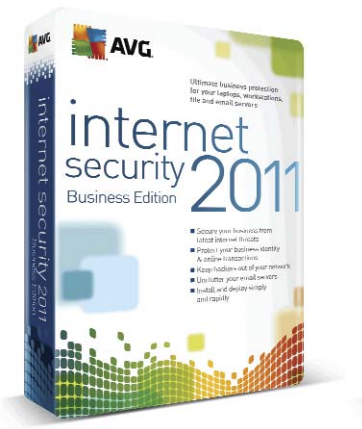
If you're looking to test out DTV locally, the Tivit is a good choice. We can see ourselves using this device at the rugby, soccer or cricket to check out replays of on-field action. Available from NAVIX on 087-820-7220. [TM]

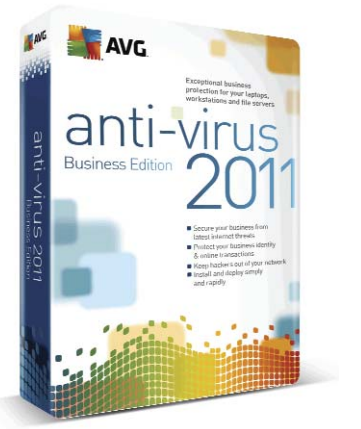
16 months. The time it can actually take for that embarrassing photo on Facebook to finally be deleted.

AVG









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MOTOROLA BACKFLIP
WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

Motorola made a successful move to Google's Android operating system with their popular Droid (known locally as the Milestone) phone. They are now pushing new Android devices, with the BACKFLIP adding an innovative twist to smartphone design. We give you the low-down on this interesting device.

Backflipping keyboard
Not content with a QWERTY keyboard that simply slides out or flips open, the BACKFLIP's keyboard literally does, as the name states, a backflip. Since when closed the keyboard is on the outside of the device, it flips backward to align with the screen.

Backtracking trackpad
At the back of the screen the BACKTRACK navigation tool makes an appearance. It performs the same function as a trackpad does on a notebook and this can be used to scroll through pictures and help with on-screen navigation.

Touch-screen
The 320 x 480 pixels 3.1" capacitive touch-screen might not be the largest or pixel packed in the business, but is decent for its price.

Camera
The camera has a decent 5 megapixel sensor with autofocus and an LED flash, but is missing 720p video recording that a number of new smartphones include.

MOTOBLUR
Motorola's MOTOBLUR functionality incorporates all your contacts across all social networks, including Facebook and Twitter, into your phonebook. This includes their pictures as well as recent status updates. You can customise your homepage with MOTOBLUR's Happenings, Status and Messaging widgets.

Also onboard
Wi-Fi 802.11 b,g; HSDPA; aGPS.

So what is Android?
Android is Google's operating system for smartphones, competing against the likes of Symbian, Apple iOS, Windows Mobile and BlackBerry OS. Unlike the other solutions Android can be used free of charge by manufacturers and many of them have successfully adopted Android for their smartphones including Sony Ericsson (X10), HTC (Legend) and Motorola (Milestone).

Almost 20% of all smartphones sold in the US runs on Android, and it is expected that Android will power the majority of the tablet PC market in the future.

Android Market is the place to head to if you're looking for free (and paid for) apps. It is well populated with over 100 000 apps, second only to Apple's App Store in quantity.

15 million. Clients refunded by Verizon Wireless for wrongly billed data sessions, amounting to $90 million.

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intel i7 CORE™ inside™
Faster. Smarter.
★★★★★
Processor Rating

ALIENWARE M17X
THE KING MAKES CONTACT

Alienware, arguably the top customised gaming PC brand in the world, has finally expanded to SA as the company's out-of-this-world products finally start invading the country.

We were fortunate enough to get our hands on the new Alienware M17X, a notebook which Alienware totes as "the most powerful 17" gaming notebook in the universe."

Looks to die for

One of the first things that strikes you when looking at this notebook is its amazing aggressive design philosophy. The M17X sports Alienware's 'industrial design' concept, making it appear as mean on the outside as it is powerful on the inside.

The notebook's visual presence is further enhanced by Alienware's signature custom lighting options, with which you can change the backlighting on the device (keyboard, logos, etc.) with a whopping 150 000 different combinations available.

Locked and loaded

The M17X's looks are great but it's the machine's internal armaments that really allows it to stand out from the crowd.

Our test unit was equipped with the powerful Intel Core i7 Q720 CPU running at 1.6 GHz alongside a whopping 8 GB of DDR3 RAM and an insane two ATI HD 4870 GPUs running in a CrossFireX configuration. This enables the M17X to give users desktop level gaming performance wrapped in a stylish, robust and compact package.

Another aspect of the M17X which really impressed us was the display quality. The device features a 17" wide-screen WUXGA display with a native resolution of 1920 x 1200. The dual CCFL back-lit LCD display sports a high level of brightness and clarity and the display is perfectly viewable from almost any angle.

Conclusion

We don't have enough space here to give the M17X a proper run-down, but the bottom line is that this is one of the biggest, prettiest and craziest notebooks that we've ever come across and it will satisfy any enthusiasts appetite. This little big bundle of joy does come at a price though, retailing for **R32 999** from Incredible Connection. [JK]

Full review:
http://tiny.cc/alienwarem17x

» Quick specs

- Intel Core i7 Q720 @ 1.6 GHz
- 8 GB DDR3 RAM
- 2 x ATI Radeon HD4870 GPUs
- 17" LCD screen

Customise your ship

The Alienware M17X is equipped, like the rest of the Alienware fleet, with premium customisation software and capabilities. It ships with the Alienware Command Centre pre-installed, which provides user-friendly access to all the exclusive options. The unique lighting system allows users to choose from an array of colours spread over six distinct zones including the keyboard, touchpad and even the Alienware logo. Whether you want a mean looking red layout, a cool blue look or a cheerier multi-coloured layout, anything is possible.

Phoning home

So from what corner of the galaxy did the Alienware brand originate? Alienware was started in 1996 by hard-core gaming fans Nelson Gonzalez and Alex Aguila. The brand's emphasis on Alien design themes comes from the founders' fondness for the X-Files TV series, with many of their products sporting names inspired by the show. In 2006 the company became a wholly owned subsidiary of the mighty Dell. Alienware caters to the niche high performance gaming market, designing both desktops and notebooks sporting the highest settings and standards in the industry.

38 million. 62 million. Global sales figures for Sony's PS3 and PlayStation Portable respectively.

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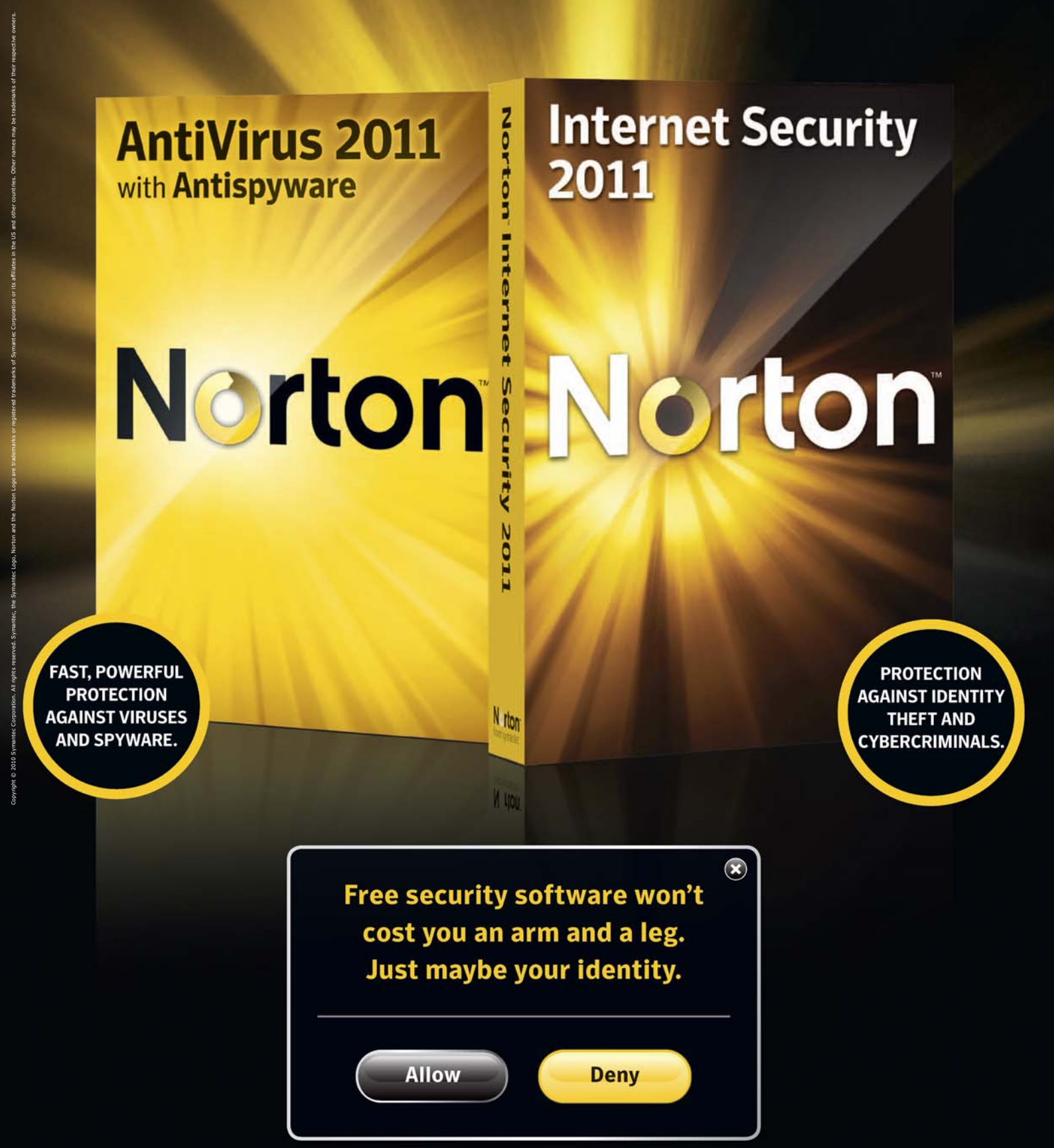

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Billion 6200NXL broadband router and 3300NX Mobile Server

›› United or apart, these are fantastic networking devices

There are many more glamorous technologies out there than routers. The truth is that this sector is vibrant and constantly changing with new innovations. This is why when Billion's BiPac 3.75G Wireless-N Broadband Router and Mobile Server landed on our desks, we paid special attention.

Billion 6200NXL Router

As routers go, the Billion 6200NXL (**R1199**) is relatively standard, but offers a few additional options.

For one, it features two integrated USB hubs which allow users to connect to 3G networks via a dongle. This offers a great redundancy option in the event that your wired broadband fails to function. As such, it offers support for HSDPA, HSUPA, HSPA+, UMTS, EDGE and GPRS networks.

In addition, the router also offers 802.11n wireless, which delivers almost three times the coverage of the older 802.11b/g standards and is also perfect for high-definition video streaming. WPS (Wi-Fi protected setup) support is also included.

In terms of structure the Billion 6200NXL also features four Gigabit Ethernet connections for wired units, a reset button, power adaptor, on/off switch and aerial ports for WiMax connectivity.

3300NX Mobile Server

The Billion BiPac 3300NX Wireless-N Mobile Server/ Router (**R1099**) is a complimentary device to the 6200NXL in the respect that it can function independently or as a repeater slave to a larger router.

Featuring a unibody design based on a 'twin prong' plug point, the 3300NX also supports HSDPA, HSUPA, HSPA+, UMTS, EDGE and GPRS networks via two USB 2.0 inputs.

In addition, it features a single LAN and a single LAN/WAN Ethernet port (which would be used to deliver wireless connectivity to a PC without this ability), and a WPS button.

When testing we used it both as a standalone router and an AP client (essentially a Wi-Fi repeater) to the 6200NXL and found the set up to be quick and simple. We were able to achieve a wireless distance of roughly 80 metres using both devices together.

Conclusion

Although it may not be particularly interesting, it's technology like this that can change users day to day lives and online habits. Overall the 6200NXL and 3300NX are great devices which, when used separately or together, can certainly offer a dependable solution to any customer. For more information visit **www.webAntics.co.za** [TM]

Advertorial

Intel Core i7 Overclocked Extreme Gaming PC

›› PC gaming to the max

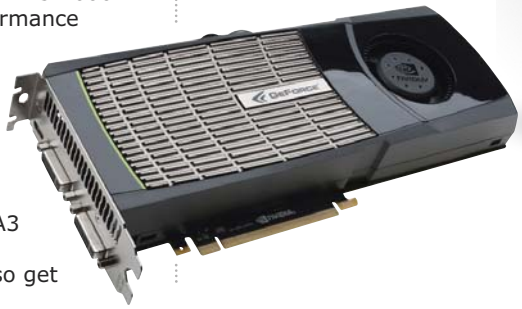
The hardware specialists at Evetech have come up with another ultra gaming rig in the form of the Intel Core i7 Overclocked GTX 480 Extreme Gaming PC

Powering this beast is Intel's Core i7 950, usually running at 3.06 GHz but now overclocked to a powerful 3.8 GHz. The blistering Nvidia GeForce GTX 480 DirectX 11 GPU with 1.5 GB DDR5 should ensure that gamers can enjoy all the latest titles at the highest possible settings.

The rig also boasts 6 GB of triple channel DDR3 1600 MHz high performance gaming RAM with a heat spreader, as well as a one terabyte Western Digital Caviar Black 7200 RPM SATA3 hard-drive.

Users will also get to choose between two motherboards to employ as the foundation of their systems and both of these features compatibility with USB 3.0.

If you have **R16 299** to spare call the friendly folks at Evetech on 011-653-0033. Visit **http://tiny.cc/evetechgtx480** for more information.



Advertorial

MAGIX Xara Web Designer 6

›› Websites made easy

MAGIX Xara Web Designer 6 is an all-in-one software solution that will enable budding web designers to create their own websites and enhance existing ones. All this without the need to know HTML programming.

Web Designer 6 allows users to easily design their own websites using the software's flexible templates.

The latest iteration of the software now also includes 25 complete websites with five subpages, as well as 300 objects such as photo galleries, speech bubbles and icons to use in the design of the webpages. It also sports 'Stretching Buttons' which are buttons and frames that will automatically adjust to the text length.

Web Designer 6 comes with a free website hosting offer from MAGIX, allowing users to publish their websites as part of Magix-Online world. This offer includes 500 MB of storage as well as the user's own web address. You can get it for **R595** from Edumall (**www.edusphere.co.za**).

547. The number of robots residing on the Carnegie Mellon University campus, tallied in the CMU robot census 2010.

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Windows 7

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Asus VG236 LCD monitor ›› 3 dimensional perfection

Motion control is so 2007, it's clear to us living in 2010 that 3D technologies is the next big craze in the entertainment and gaming industry.

To coincide with this bold statement, Asus recently jumped on-board the 3D bandwagon releasing the gorgeous Asus VG236 3D enabled LCD monitor.

Features

The VG236 is a 23" 120 Hz Full HD display featuring a super-fast trace-free 2 ms (millisecond) response time. From the get-go one gets the feeling that this is a very high quality monitor – little things like the instantly adjustable screen height, tilt and swivel settings and the attractive overall design adds to the monitor's appeal.

1920 x 1080, making for a full HD and a perfect wide-screen display experience.

Nvidia 3D vision

When purchasing the Asus VG236, users will not only get a great display, they will also find the full Nvidia 3D vision kit bundled with the display. This includes one pair of Nvidia 3D vision active shutter glasses, 3D vision USB controller, all the cables you'll need and even adjustable nose pieces for the glasses.

Users require a 3D supporting Nvidia graphics card to use the 3D glasses, most new Nvidia cards support this feature. The 3D effect works very well and increases game immersion tenfold, although at the start we experienced a little discomfort as we got used to the effect. As far as gaming content goes, users can be assured that more 3D enabled titles are on the way. There already exists a wide range of 3D enabled games such as Left 4 Dead 2, Battlefield Bad Company 2 and R.U.S.E. to name but a few.

> "Thanks to vibrant Colour Shine technology the display is one of the clearest and most crisp we've ever come across"

Thanks to vibrant Colour Shine technology the display is one of the clearest and most crisp we've ever come across. Connecting the display up to our test PC for the first time we were seriously impressed with the overall colour quality and clarity.

The display has a native resolution of

Conclusion

The Asus VG236 LCD monitor is a stand-out product thanks to its high level of quality and 3D capabilities. It retails for **R5999**, contact ASUS SA on 011-783-5450. [JK]

» Quick specs

- 23" LCD display
- 2 ms response time
- Nvidia 3D vision enabled
- Full HD 1080p

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$11.1 billion. Intel reported its best quarter results in its 42 year history.

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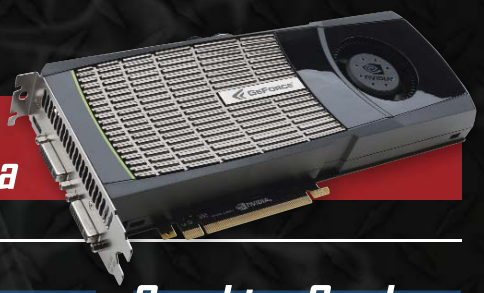

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HP Compaq Notebook 620

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WT020ES
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CPU: Intel Celeron T3000 1.80 GHz
RAM: 2GB DDR3 1 DIMM
Optical: DVD +/-RW DL Supermulti Lightscribe
Screen size: 15.6"
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Fujitsu ESPRIMO Mobile V6555

Celeron 900
CPU: Celeron 900 (2.2GHz 1MB 800MHz)
HDD: 250GB HDD
RAM: 2GB DDR2-800
Graphics: Nvidia GeForce 8200M G Graphics
Screen size: 15,4" WXGA Bright Display
Other: DVD Super Multi, Gigabit LAN, WLAN, 802.11b/g, Integrated Webcam, Windows 7 Home Basic + OfficeReady
R3999

Pentium T4400
CPU: Pentium T4400 (2.2GHz 1MB 800MHz)
HDD: 250GB HDD
RAM: 2GB DDR2-800
Graphics: Nvidia GeForce 8200M G Graphics
Screen size: 15,4" WXGA Bright Display
Other: Integrated Webcam, Gigabit LAN, WLAN 802.11b/g, DVD Super Multi, Windows 7 Home Basic + OfficeReady
R4399

Gigabyte Notebook

Q1580L
HDD: 250GB
CPU: 1.9GHz, Intel® Celeron® T3100
RAM: 1GB DDR2-800
Optical: DVD writer
Screen size: 15.4" WSVGA HD(1280x800)
Other: 0.3 Mega Pixel Webcam, FREE DOS
R3499

Peripherals

8x DVD Writer Trancend Slim Portable USB Black	R449
Tv Tuner – with FM + Remote	R189
USB TV Box + Remote	R189
USB Internet TV + Radio Player	R129
USB TV Stick with Remote	R249
USB TV Stick + FM And Remote	R269
PCI: 10/100 LAN Card	R55
PCI: 2 Channel S-ATA Card + 1	R175
PCI: 2 Serial + 1 Parallel	R159
PCI: 5 USB Ports (4ext/1int)	R132
PCI: Add On :E-Sata Card	R175
PCI: ATA 133 Controller Card	R156
PCI: PCMCIA Port Card (G3)	R199
PCI: Wireless LAN Card 54MBPS	R137
PCMCIA To Express Card/34	R879
PCMCIA: 10/100 LAN Card	R169
PCMCIA: 4 Port USB Card	R179
PCMCIA: Serial Port Card	R239
PCMCIA: TV Card with FM + Remote	R375
PCMCIA: Wireless LAN Card 54mb	R189
Metallic Body Web Camera + mic	R75
Microsoft Lifecam Vx800	R189
USB Webcam	R45

Genius Products

Genius USB Keyboard	R49
Genius Combo PS2 Keyboard, Mouse & Speakers	R145
Genius Keyboard & Mouse Kb-C Ps2 K/Board + Ps2 Optical Mouse Bundle	R74
Genius Keyboard & Mouse Kb-C USB Keyboard And USB Optical Mouse I Black	R87
Genius Keyboard & Mouse And Kms110 (USB, Netscroll 120 Mouse, Keyboard + Sp-S110 Speaker	R149
Genius Speakers Sp-S115 100w	R52
Genius Speakers Sw-5.1 3005 P.M.P.O,75watt Rms,6 Piece Speaker System,1 X Subwoofer (25watt), Speakers (9watt),1 X Center Speaker (14watt),2 X Rear Speakers (9watt),Black And Metallic Silver	R539
Genius Photoframe DPF800, 8" Screen – Black Frame	R1089
Genius Camera G-Shot HD520, 5MP HD	R1089
Genius Camera G-Shot HD550 HD Handy Camcorder (5MP Record and Output to HD TV,3" Panel Display,3x Digital Zoom, Detection,Li-Ion Battery Or 4 Alkaline,Led Light,32mb Built 32gb HCSD)	R1249
Genius Camera G-Shot 501 V2 12MP, Motion-Jpeg Format For Video, Microphone, SD Cards Up To 16g TFT LCD Display, 5x Digital Zoom, Sensor Type Cmos	R625

Graphics Cards

5200AGP-256MB DDR1 128B-ZOTAC	R469
8400GS-256MB 64B DDR2-GALAXY VGA+DVI PCI-E low profile	R309
8400GS-512MB 64B-GALAXY PCI-E LOW PROFILE	R359
8600GT-512MB 128B-INNO3D	R959
GEFORCE 210 512MB DDR3-GALAXY, /CRT/DVI/ HDMI/Cooling Fan/PCI	R449
GEFORCE 9800GT 512MB DDR3-GALA, W/HDMI/VGA /DVI/Cooling Fan/PCI	R1089
GEFORCE GT220 1GB DDR2-GALAXY, W/CRT/DVI/ HDMI/Cooling Fan/PCI	R749
GEFORCE 8400GS 1GB DDR2-GALAXY, 64bit	R445
GEFORCE 9500GT 1GB DDR2 W/CRT/DVI/C, PCI-E	R559
GEFORCE 9800GT 1GB DDR3 GALAXY WCRT/DVI/HDMI PCI-E	R1239
GEFORCE FX5500 256MB DDR 128BIT, GALAXY W/TV/DVI, Cooling Fan AGP8X	R549
GEFORCE GT220 1GB DDR3 W/CRT/DVI/HD, Cooling Fan/PCI-E	R789
GEFORCE GTS250 1GB DDR3 GALAXY, WCRT/DVI/HDMI/PCI-E	R1799
GEFORCE GTX465 1024MB DDR5 256BIT W Mini HDMI/ Cooling Fan/PCI-E, FLI	R2849
GEFORCE GTX470 1280MB DDR5 320BIT W Mini HDMI/Cooling Fan/PCI-E	R3249
GEFORCE GTX480 1536MB DDR5 384BIT W Mini HDMI/ COOLING FAN/PCI-E	R4999
HD 4650 FAN HDMI 1GB Dual LINK-DVI/ VGA/HDMI PCLE, with game	R639
HD 4850 ATI RADEON Hightech ICEQ 4 FULL HD 1080P GDDR3 DUA LINK-DVI/VGA/HDMI (HDCP) PCLE with game	R1249
HD 4870 ATI RADEON Hightech , ICEQ 4+ FULL HD 1080P HDMI 1GBDUAL DL-DVI&TV PCIE, with game	R2619
HD 4890 ATI RADEON GR. Card Hightech, fan turbo 900MHZ full HD 1080P 3.9 GBPS GDDR5 dual DL-DVI & TV with game	R2219
HD 5970 HDMI 2GB GDDR5 DIRECT X 11/EYEFINITY/full HD DL-DVI/MINI DISPLAY PORT PCIE	R6769
HIS HD 5830 GR. CARD 1GB DDR5 ICooler native HDMI 1GB GDDR5 DL-DVI/display port/HDMI/PCIE modern warfare limited edition of duty games	R2659
HIS HD 5850 iCooler V Turbo Native HDMI 1GB (256bit) GDDR5 Dual DL-DVI / Display Port / HDMI / PCIe with game MW2	R3099

Edimax 3G-6200n Router

›› Wireless convenience inside

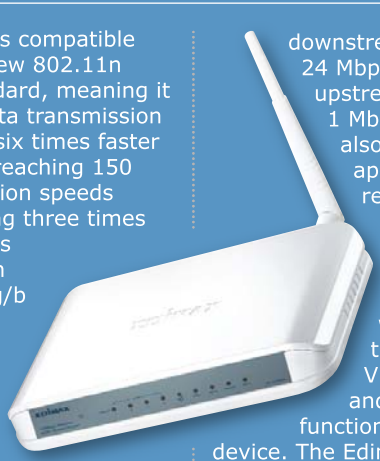
The 3G-6200n from Edimax is a multi-function wireless broadband router that aims to connect you and those around you to your required internet sources in record time.

The '3G' in the name of the product isn't only there for show either. With the 3G-6200n users will be able to connect either a 3G or 3.5G USB modem to the router after which all users on the network, wired or wireless, will be able to share the 3G internet connection. The router can support 3G/3.5G speeds of up to 7.2 Mbps and includes a built-in Ethernet WAN port that can support cable and xDSL modems. And with the 3G-6200n there's no need for multiple routers any more thanks to its built-in NAT (Network Address Translation) function that enables it to support a whopping 253 wired or wireless clients simultaneously. In addition to this the router's USB port can also function as a print server. Available for **R613**. For more info contact Miro distribution on 086-123-6476.

Edimax AR-7284WnA Router

›› Connect on your terms

Edimax is keeping its router offering strong with the AR-7284WnA, a high performance router that is able to provide full rate ADSL2+ access while sporting great reliability alongside a budget friendly price tag.



The router is compatible with the new 802.11n wireless standard, meaning it provides a data transmission rate of up to six times faster than before, reaching 150 Mbps connection speeds while providing three times better wireless coverage than older 802.11g/b routers.

The AR-7284WnA also supports up to 253 clients who can all benefit from ADSL, ADSL2 or ADSL2+ internet connections with a downstream speed of 24 Mbps and an upstream speed of 1 Mbps. The router also supports applications that require open ports, such as online games, VoIP phones and web servers through the Virtual Server and DMZ function found on the device. The Edimax AR-7284WnA retails for **R479**. For more info contact Miro distribution on 086-123-6476.

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Edimax BR-6641Router

›› Network management simplified

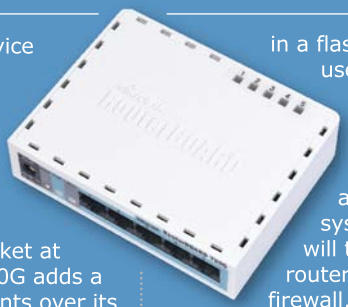
The Edimax BR-6641's intelligent routing engine with real-time load sharing and balancing will direct each session or connection to the best available link, ensuring you have the best possible connection at any one time.

The BR-6641 can aggregate multiple connections and increases total bandwidth by trunking various connection types, such as fixed line, xDSL and cable modem, to form a single virtual WAN (wide area network). The load balancing router provides users with 4 WAN ports for internet connections. The Edimax features outbound fault tolerance technology which not only increases total bandwidth but also serves to backup your connections. If one connection fails or becomes unstable, traffic will be automatically redirected to other available networks to ensure uninterrupted connectivity. Thanks to the auto load balancing feature the BR-6641 also supports policy-based routing, persistent routing and traffic scheduling. The Edimax BR-6641 is available for **R5275**. For more info contact Miro distribution on 086-123-6476.

Mikrotik RouterBoard 750G

›› Compact connectivity

The RouterBoard 750G from Mikrotik is a small SOHO (small office/home office) router encased in stylish white plastic. The device features a generous helping of five independent Gigabit ethernet ports, with optional Switch Clip functionality providing cable speed Gigabit throughput.



This compact device is the perfect fit for any home or small office environment and one of the most affordable MPLS capable Gigabit routers on the market at present. The RB750G adds a slew of improvements over its predecessor, including Gigabit capable ports and a new 680 MHz Atheros 7161 CPU for increased throughput. This enables the device to reach speeds of up to 580 Mbps when dealing with large packets and up to 91500 bps to take care of small packets in a flash. MikroTik users also gain access to the MikroTik RouterOS, an operating system which will turn it into a router with firewall, wireless access point, hotspot gateway, VPN server and more. The device also features 32 MB of DDR SDRAM memory and 64 MB of onboard NAND storage space. It retails for **R719**. For more info contact Miro distribution on 086-123-6476.

29. Average number of friends Japanese users on social networks have, the least worldwide. Malaysians are the most popular with an average of 233 friends.

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Eskom

Eskom increases rebates as part of an improved solar water heating programme

A substantial increase in the solar water heater rebates offered by Eskom, in some cases up to 120%, is set to bring environment-friendly solar heated geysers within the financial reach of thousands of South Africans wishing to reduce their home energy costs.

Advertorial

The major advantage of the increased rebates is that solar systems now become more affordable for consumers. The claim process still involves paying for the full cost of the system upfront, and then claiming the rebate back. Consumers are guaranteed that once a complete rebate application has been lodged, money will be deposited into their accounts within eight weeks of the paperwork being received.

"The payback period for the costs of the installations has been significantly reduced, enabling consumers to pay for systems in less than five years," says Cedric Worthmann, Eskom Renewable Energy Portfolio Manager.

"Our improved scheme, which will provide purchasing assistance for systems supplied by Eskom-approved suppliers accredited by the SABS, will offer more South Africans access to solar water heating. This could result in an increased number of households having their energy costs being cut by between 30 and 50%," says Worthmann.

"The increase of up to 120% in the rebate offered is a response to present market conditions, and will not be available for an indefinite period," Worthmann says. The value of the rebate will be evaluated and decreased according to market drivers and energy costs on an annual basis for the next five years.

"Our aim is to encourage as many South Africans as possible to move away from electric geysers, and replace them with solar heated systems. We estimate that there are currently about 4.2 million electric geysers in the country, and only 76 873 installed solar water heating units."

Making significant inroads in this market could see huge benefits for the country as electric geysers presently account for between 30 and 50% of all electricity used by the domestic market.

The levels of rebate will now see consumers receiving cash rebates of between **R2 100** and **R12 500**.

"We believe our new, increased rebate scheme will make the acquisition of solar heating more attractive than it has ever been at any time in a country where solar energy is an obvious alternative to electricity. The widespread adoption of solar water geysers could also contribute significantly to achieving the government's objective of having 10 000-gigawatt hours of final energy consumption emanating from renewable resources," Worthmann concludes.

People wishing to know more about the Eskom rebate scheme and approved suppliers can obtain more information on the internet through the Eskom website www.eskom.co.za/dsm, or by telephoning Eskom's solar help desk on 011-800-4744.

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Eco News ›› November

Hot new method to charging your phone

Can heat mean more talk time? The Nokia E-Cu (E for environment, Cu for Copper) concept phone, developed by British designer Patrick Hyland, utilises a copper exterior and a thermo-generator integrated interior to convert heat energy into electric energy.

Its back casing is made from copper and sports engraved heat-sinks that look like dried earth. This allows the charger-free mobile phone to be powered by any source of heat such as a radiator or even the inside of your jean pocket.

Planet-friendly turbines kill planet's inhabitants

According to a recent study in the *European Journal of Wildlife Research*, the colour which eco-friendly wind turbines are painted directly affects how many insects they attract. This has given scientists fresh insight into why these turbines habitually kill bats and birds.

The study reveals that the most common colour of paint utilised on these turbines, white and grey, also draws the most insects. More insects means that more bats and birds are drawn to the vicinity of the devices and ends up being killed by their powerful turbine blades.

Eskom looking to grow its usage of green power

According to *Business Day*, Eskom may receive $1 billion in funding from the World Bank, to be used for renewable energy projects. The parastatal is seeking to fall in line with government's proposals contained in the draft integrated resource plan, whereby it aims to reduce investment in coal-fired plants.

This funding should give Eskom's research and development into renewable energy a major boost, with upcoming renewable projects to include a 100 MW concentrated solar power project with storage in Upington in the Northern Cape, as well as a 100 MW wind project. [HD]

» Other interesting stuff

Scientists tap one megajoule of power using the world's largest laser.
http://tiny.cc/lazerenergy

Green highlights from the 2010 Paris Motor Show.
http://tiny.cc/greencarsparis

GE Hitachi is aiming to turn toxic nuclear waste into fuel.
http://tiny.cc/newfuel

12. Planned number of Blink EV electric vehicle charging stations to be set up in several American cities by March next year.

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- OS: Windows 7 Premium Home
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Sci News ›› November

The cuckoo's nest

The early bird catches the worm – especially if it's a cuckoo. According to an article in a recent issue of the *Proceedings of the Royal Society of London (Series B)* cuckoo eggs, laid in a hijacked nest of another species, hatch almost a day and a half earlier than the rightful occupants. The researchers found that cuckoo moms incubate their eggs internally for around 24 hours before laying them in a surrogate bird's nest.

Because a cuckoo's body temperature is about 4°C higher than the incubation temperature in the nest, the internal incubation gives the developing embryo a distinct advantage. By the time the other eggs hatch, the day-old cuckoo chicks can deftly kick them out of the nest and monopolise the food the foster parents bring.

Grunt stunt

Some tennis players make quite a racket. And intentionally it seems. According to a study published in an issue of *PLoS ONE* last month, a tennis player's grunt may serve to distract the opponent.

Researchers showed 33 viewers videos of tennis players hitting a ball, with the shots accompanied by either a grunt-like sound or silence. Using keyboard buttons, the viewers had to indicate the direction of the shot as quickly and accurately as possible. On shots that came with a grunt participants responded much slower and made more mistakes than when viewing silent shots. Although the results still need to be verified in real life, the preliminary findings suggest that grunting may distract an opponent during response preparation.

A long stretch

A connection is just as strong as its weakest link. And scientists write in a recent issue of the *Biophysical Journal* that it's true about tendons too. Tendons, which connect bones to muscles, consist of bundles of collagen fibres held together by a biological type of "cement". This is made of proteoglycans.

The researchers found that collagen fibres can stretch to double their original length before breaking, yet a bundled tendon snaps when drawn out to only an extra fifth of its original length. Further investigation showed that tendons toughen in watery surroundings and since the proteoglycans control the degree of hydration of the tissue, they are likely responsible for reducing collagen's elasticity. The findings may be useful for developing drugs that could help to control tendon strength. [LP]

» Other interesting stuff

Cooking brain tumours with lazers: **http://tiny.cc/donteatthat**

For when the Nobel Prize is just too clever: **http://tiny.cc/laughandthink**

There is no such thing as free will: **http://tiny.cc/wearerobots**

86. Number of moves it took for the Akara 2010 to beat top Shogi player, Ichiyo Shimizu, the first time a computer had beaten a human in Japanese chess.

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Eletricity Monitor

This wireless electricity monitor solution gives detailed analysis of electricity use, stored in the monitor,ready to be uploaded to a computer

Echo Pulse Pen

The Pulse Pen entirely records sound (200-hour audio) and your hand written notes by the built-in computer and infrared camera.

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12 million. Amount of iPads Apple is aiming to sell during Q4.

Gadgets & Goodies

Top 101 1500VA Back Up UPS

Apart from reminding you to frequently save, power interruptions can also damage your electronic equipment. You may want to opt for an uninterruptable power supply (UPS), which will protect your business PCs from suffering any damage or data loss, while adding some extra backup power. It is available for **R1109** from Timeline Computer on 011-791-2468.

Skypix handyscan TSN410 Scanner

This handy scanner enables users to scan a variety of A4-sized documents and save them to a microSD card (supports cards up to 32 GB). It is completely portable, being powered by two AA batteries and sports a real-time scanning detector to ensure that images aren't distorted while being scanned. Get it from Cameratron on 011-622-0556 for **R890**.

Philips SHK1030 children headset

If you don't want your kids deaf before the first set of batteries on their MP3 player runs out, the Philips SHK1030 children headset is a good option. Apart from a smaller headband fit, the headset features a volume control embedded in the cable of which parents can set the maximum volume level. It retails for about **R249** from Game and Musica stores nationwide.

ZTE S306 Granny Phone

Simple and straightforward, the ZTE S306 can indeed be seen as the ideal phone for grannies. Unless grannie uses Facebook and Twitter, she should be content with this easy to use phone with its enlarged keys, torch and FM radio. A handy SOS button sets of an alarm and sends a SMS to allocated people. Call Vodacom's Specific Needs Contact Centre on 082-12580.

Mecanno

In the world of MXit, Facebook and the PS3, toys for kids look a lot different. But how about going for some retro playthings in the form of old-school Meccano? Nothing about these construction kits is virtual and the nuts and bolts don't need an internet connection to work. Get the different sets from The G.A.D.G.E.T. Shop on 012-346-2726 for between **R105** and **R769**.

iRiver Cover Story

As November comes round we're sure to hear the first Xmas ads soon. Treat yourself to an early Xmas present with the iRiver Cover Story. This Wi-Fi enabled ebook reader has a 6" 8-grayscale e-ink display (also touch-enabled) and the ability to read a whole host of files, including PowerPoint and Excel. Surprisingly email is also supported. Get it from The G.A.D.G.E.T. Shop on 012-346-2726 for **R3199**.

Follow TechSmart on Twitter in November and WIN!

To stand a chance to win an amazing Sony Ericsson Vivaz™ pro with HD recording and QWERTY keyboard, simply follow TechSmart on Twitter (www.twitter.com/techsmartmag) and either tweet or retweet one of our articles. One random Tweeter will score the remarkable Vivaz™ pro.

What we said about the Vivaz™ pro:
"SE's Vivaz™ pro offers users a stylish, grip-friendly, auto-focus 720p video recording and great photo capturing together with the company's user-friendly media playback interface."

Read our full review on: http://tiny.cc/708ks

Competition runs from 1 - 30 November 2010.

Early 2011. Suspected availability date for a rumoured tablet from HTC running on Android 3.0.

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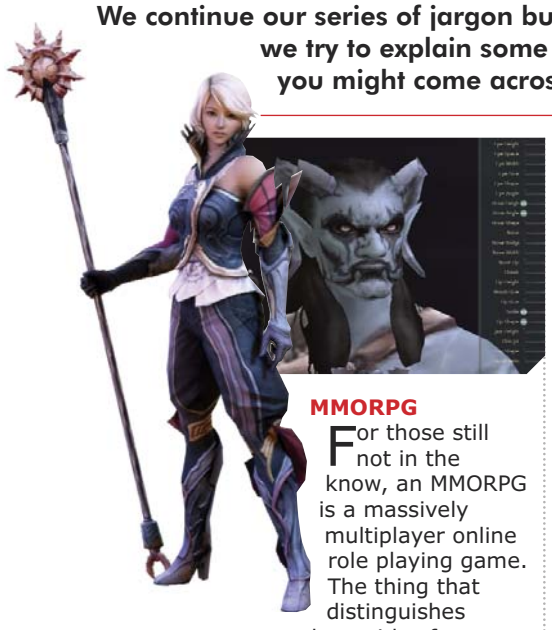
First half of 2011. When the first smartphones running on Intel and Nokia's MeeGo OS will drop.

Jargon Busters ›› Fighting tech jargon so you don't have to

We continue our series of jargon busting explanations this month as we try to explain some of the more confusing tech terms you might come across.



MMORPG

For those still not in the know, an MMORPG is a massively multiplayer online role playing game. The thing that distinguishes these titles from other games is that they take place entirely online, with the player interacting with thousands (or even millions) of other players in the virtual game world. In MMORPG games the player takes on the role of a character or hero in the world and they can then form parties to fight with or against the games monsters and each other. Popular MMORPG's include World of Warcraft (with 12 million players), Guild Wars and Aion Online.

4G

4G refers to fourth-generation wireless networks, acting as successor to the previous 3G standard. 4G aims to dramatically improve on the speeds of the current 3G enabled networks, providing users with high-speed connections fast enough to seamlessly stream high-definition video. 4G on the other hand will make use of all-IP packet-switched networks gaining an ultra-broadband data rate in excess of 1 Gigabit. All the layman needs to really understand is that 4G will be significantly faster than current 3G networks.

VoIP

Voice Over Internet Protocol is the technology that enables us to make voice calls over an internet connection. It does not define any particular standard for transferring voice data, it simply refers to the act of transferring the data over an internet connection. Common examples of VoIP technology include Skype and VoIPBuster.

NAS server

A NAS (network-attached storage) server is a unit connected to a computer network that provides file-based data storage services to other devices on the network. This type of server usually doesn't feature a keyboard or display of their own. Rather, NAS servers are accessed and controlled over the network, usually via a browser-based software solution. NAS servers contain one or more hard disk drives (HDD's), usually arranged into logical, redundant storage containers. Usually reserved for the workplace NAS servers are becoming more popular at home with products like Iomega's StorCenter making an appearance.

2013. Release date for a horror game that film director Guillermo del Toro (Hellboy, Pan's Labyrinth) is working on.

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PC Medic ›› First aid for your PC

It is rumoured that he controls PCs with just his mind and that he advised Steve Jobs not to call his company Pear. PC Medic is here to answer your computer related questions.

Q Hello PC Medic. Is there a way for me to link the search function in Windows 7 with my web browser so that I can access info quicker? Adriana De Bettencourt.

A PC Medic (PCM): Hi Adriana. You can search the internet from your Start Menu in Windows 7. Go to the Start menu search box, enter "gpedit.msc" and press enter, which will open the Group Policy Editor (GPE). Go to "User Configuration", then "Administrative Templates" and "Start Menu and Taskbar". Double click "Add search Internet link to Start Menu", select "Enabled", click "OK" and close the GPE.

Now when you type something you are searching for into the search box, a "Search the Internet" link will appear. When you click on that link it will launch the search in your web browser.

Q Hey PCM. Every time I dare to switch off the firewall in Windows 7 I am notified of that fact. Can I switch these annoying notifications off? Nkosingphile Maseko.

A Hello Nkosingphile. You can easily turn off alerts on certain topics. If you no longer want to see warnings, then go to the Control Panel, select "System and Security". Click on "Action Centre" and select "Change Action Centre settings", clear the Network Firewall box and finally click "OK".

Q What's up PC Medic. I have a huge collection of music stored on my PC and have recently started listening to them via Windows 7 Media Centre instead of Media Player. How can I get the Windows 7 Media Center to play a wider range of tracks because only certain ones keep popping up? Heinrich Pieterse.

A PCM: Heita Heinrich. By default Windows 7 Media Center plays a list of songs based on various things such as your ratings of the songs, how often you play them and how recent these are (when they were added). If you want more control over the song selection go to "Tasks", then "Settings", "Music" and select "Favorite Music". You'll be able to configure the program to suit your needs.

49. Microsoft fixed a record 49 vulnerabilities in a patch last month, involving Windows, Internet Explorer, Office and the .NET framework.

Web Time Wasters ›› November

1 ZumoDrive www.zumodrive.com

Looking for a way to access all your work files from home without having to store them on a flash drive or mail them to yourself? ZumoDrive is your answer. This simple-to-use service enables users to sync and store their files in the cloud (2 GB of free storage), creating a type of online repository that is accessible from a multitude of devices. Download the application (9.2 MB), select your files and upload them to ZumoDrive to access them from a netbook, notebook, iPhone or Android-powered smartphone. Also check out Dropbox.com for a similar option.

2 Red Ice Creations www.redicecreations.com

Ancient civilisations, geopolitics, conspiracy, secret societies, parallel universes – Red Ice Creations covers it all. With their motto of "We present, you decide" RIC brings a different perspective to some commonly held beliefs. Also check out their twice a week podcasts (Red Ice Radio) where they talk to interesting characters such as author Graham Hancock, researcher Rick Strassman and Egyptologist Robert Bauval.

3 Quake Live www.quakelive.com

Looking for some old school gaming action? The classic FPS game Quake is available on the net as the free-to-play title, Quake Live, directly in your browser. Before you're able to fire up that Railgun, your skills will be assessed and you have to undergo a training session in order to be matched up with opponents that are on a similar level.
Now bring me my Lightning Gun.

4 Rolling Stone www.rollingstone.com

Rolling Stone magazine is probably one of the most famous popular culture magazines out there, covering not only music but also politics, movies and social issues since 1967. Their website aims to keep the stone rolling (we couldn't resist) by giving users in-depth coverage of the greatest musicians, the most iconic movies and of course the most relevant social issues of our time (a recent article for example lead to the firing of US General Stanley McChrystal, and let's not forget the late great Hunter S. Thompson's Gonzo articles).
For a more music focused site you can point your browser to the absurdly hip **www.pitchfork.com**.

On www.techsmart.co.za this month

As per usual there is a lot more to find over at www.techsmart.co.za, SA's top tech site.

Sony equips their new small Alpha NEX-3 digital cameras with full APS-C sensors, the same size sensor found in most dSLRs. The NEX-3 is small but felt good in hand, captured good quality pictures and was a breeze to shoot 720p movies with. Read our full review:
http://tiny.cc/nex3

TechSmart.co.za online poll results

Are you going to buy the new iPhone 4?

Yes at MTN.	33%
Couldn't care less about iPhone hype.	25%
No way, too expensive.	17%
Nope, I prefer another handset.	15%
Yes at Vodacom.	10%

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\$600 million. Amount Netflix spends on postage each year.

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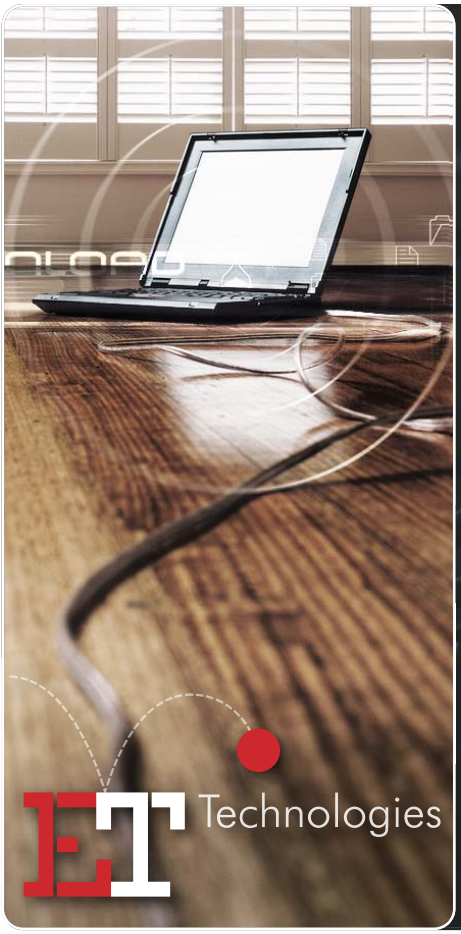
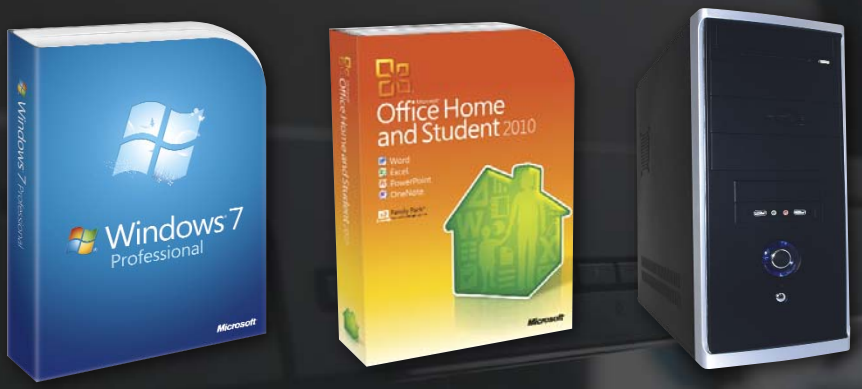
60 million. Units sold of Lenovo's ThinkPad notebooks after 18 years on the market.





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3.42. The new version of PlayStation 3 firmware which prohibits pirates using PSJailbreak devices from using the system.

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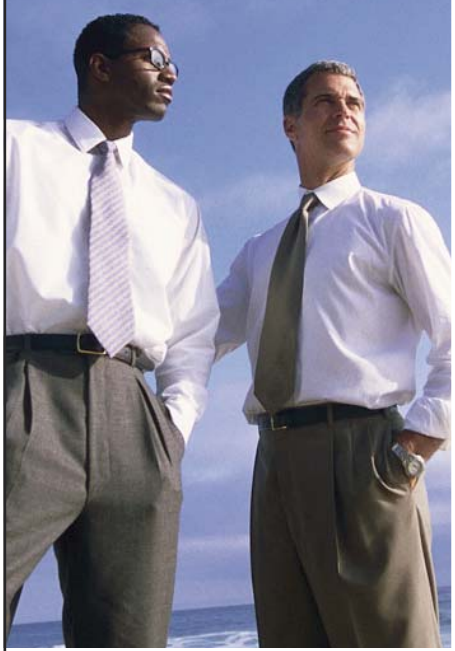

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>5 million. Global sales milestone for the Samsung Galaxy S smartphone, including two million in the US and a million in South Korea.

FIFA 11 VS. PES 2011: FOOTBALL RIVALRY

Manchester United vs. Manchester City, England vs. Germany or Kaizer Chiefs vs. Orlando Pirates – football has always been dotted with bitter rivalries, but none compares to the virtual dual between EA Sports' FIFA series and Konami's Pro Evolution Soccer. TechSmart traversed the playing field to bring you FIFA 11 vs. PES 2011.

FIFA 11

Graphics
FIFA 11's graphics boast a few improvements in terms of player models, stadiums and crowds, which help to make the beautiful game look, well, even more beautiful.

Atmosphere
There are some nice touches like the stadium announcer giving a run-down of your teams roster while the players take to the field.

Licensing
FIFA 11 features nearly every conceivable league, cup tournament and stadiums. No team or player is amiss.

Gameplay
The game sports numerous enhancements including Pro Passing, which enables you to time your passes better. Opposition players will also do a lot more jostling for the ball, making it generally more difficult. There is also Be A Goalie mode, which enables you to don the jersey of your team's number 1.

What we said online
"It's not perfect with the commentating becoming predictable, but it's the most authentic virtual football experience thus far."

Full review
http://tinyurl.com/FIFA-11-on-PS3

» The Good

A bit more challenging than before, plus the new goalie mode.

» The Bad

Graphics are only slightly better than FIFA 10's and the commentating can become repetitive.

PES 2011

Graphics
PES 2011 features excellent player models and stadiums while developers Konami employs a menu system that is as uncluttered as the interior of a luxury Swedish sedan.

Atmosphere
Matches FIFA's with your team's players staring down their opponents whilst coming onto the pitch. The team rosters however aren't as up to date as FIFA 11's, which counters its realistic feel.

Licensing
A lack of licensing hinders its authenticity as many teams play under a different identity – Liverpool for example is called Merseyside Red.

Gameplay
Spain's charismatic playing system known as "tiki-taka", helped to make them the world's best team and PES 2011's control scheme makes it the best in terms of gameplay, allowing for really slick and fluid passing. When you get the timing right, passing can become a magically orchestrated affair.

What we said online
"PES 2011 recreates the look and atmosphere of real life football and is more entertaining to play than FIFA 11, but it isn't as authentic when it comes to its stadiums, teams and competitions."

Full review
http://tinyurl.com/PES-2011-on-PS3

» The Good

Enthralling gameplay.

» The Bad

Lack of licensing plus team rosters not as up to date as FIFA 11. [HD]

> 4 million. Number of copies the new Pokemon Black and White games have sold in Japan, enough for a copy each for the entire population of New Zealand.

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4 million and 15 million. Nintendo's 3DS and 3DS software sales expectations for the first month of its new portable console's availability.

Name Aneesha Jennings
Age: 18 (oldest)
Handle: clubhottie447
Future Occupation: Fashion Designer
Favourite Quote: But the colours clash

Name Samantha Jennings
Age: 18 (middle child)
Handle: businesswoman01
Future Occupation: Business Executive
Favourite Quote: A+ again... sot

Name Vanessa Jennings
Age: 18 (the baby)
Handle: tohottotrot
Future Occupation: Physical instructor
Favourite Quote: You 2 need to exercise more

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