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The Business Issue » March 2011



Nosoft or Mikrokia?

Many were surprised to hear that Nokia will be adopting the Windows Phone operating system (OS) as the primary OS on Nokia phones in future (see p5). While this move angered many and sent Nokia stock crashing, I'm really excited about what's happening.

BlackBerry and Apple are doing very well on their own, and Google's Android platform doesn't need any extra support (they're already activating 300 000 Android phones a day), so it's good to see a strong bond between Nokia and Microsoft. Let's face it, Nokia was responsible for some groundbreaking phones in the past, but they have not really set the world alight with their new devices or S^3 OS. In today's cut-throat smartphone jungle, software is just as important as hardware, and that's why a big partner like Microsoft, with their decent Windows Phone OS, can only bring good things to the table.

Mazel Tov Nokia and Microsoft, I'm looking forward to some cool devices later this year.

Enjoy the issue,
Mike (michael@techsmart.co.za)



» Features

MWC Smartphones and Tablets
All the top tablets and sultry smartphones from the halls of MWC. **9**

» Reviews

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PC Medic
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TechSmart exclusively uses the **LG W2794V** monitor for all reviews.

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TOP TECH TITBITS

Intel Sandy Bridge headache



At the beginning of the year Intel introduced to market their new zippy Sandy Bridge processors, the second generation Core CPUs. Celebrations didn't last long though, since they've recently announced that the Cougar Point chipsets that support the new CPUs contains a flaw. SATA devices (storage or optical drives usually), connected to the motherboard's SATA II data inputs could experience problems and over time eventually slow down to a crawl. Intel has issued a recall, with *The New York Times* reporting that this mistake, luckily caught at the beginning of the Sandy Bridge lifecycle, could cost the company as much as \$1 billion.

Nokia and Microsoft sitting in a tree



In a move equal to BMW agreeing to run Mercedes engines, Nokia has adopted Microsoft's Windows Phone operating system as the primary platform on future devices. The Finnish phone maker in the past stuck very closely with the Symbian operating system, with their new S^3 OS designed specifically with the smartphone market in mind. Alas, this was not enough to stop Nokia jumping from "a burning platform". Both companies feel that the move should give them more clout in a very aggressive market. For more details on the Nokia/-Microsoft love story, see p5.

iPhone mini on the way. Not.



They will and then they won't – that is the story about Apple's supposed new addition to the iPhone family. Rumours about a new iPhone mini started when *The Wall Street Journal* reported about a well-priced iPhone half the size than the regular models in the pipeline, quoting "people familiar with the matter". But then *The New York Times* talked to "people briefed on Apple's plans", saying that this is definitely not the case, seeing that Apple is working hard to get the next, regular, iPhone ready. Who to trust? We can only hope that another Apple engineer forgets his prototype in a bar soon. ❖

» Hot new products

1. Canon EOS 600D and 1100D

Canon recently launched a ton of new devices, with the entry-level **EOS 600D** and 1100D DSLRs in particular grabbing our attention. The 18 megapixel 600D is now the top dog in Canon's entry-level line-up and offers full HD (1080p) video recording – a feature usually found on more expensive cameras. The EOS 1100D, a step down in the rung from the 600D, can capture 720p HD-ready video and 12.2 megapixel pictures. Both should be released at the end of the month, although no retail prices are known yet.



2. Vodacom WebBox

Internet on your phone is nothing new, but how about internet on your TV? Vodacom has unveiled their new **WebBox**, a sleek keyboard with SIM card and built-in modem. Connecting to your TV in order to browse the web without the need for a PC. The system runs on the Opera Mini browser and will also include SMS, email and FM Radio services. The WebBox is available right now for **R749** from participating Vodashops.



3. Samsung Galaxy S WiFi 4.0 smart player

Sure it might not have as catchy a name as "iPod", but **Samsung's Galaxy S WiFi 4.0** smart player is set to challenge Apple in the media player segment nonetheless. The device sports a 4" 800 x 480 pixel LCD display, a 1 GHz CPU and will run on Android 2.2 (Froyo). Wi-Fi 802.11n and Bluetooth 3.0 are also promised as well as dual cameras and app support.

4. GeForce GTX 560 Ti

Nvidia recently unveiled its new **GTX 560 Ti GPU**, a midrange card that should deliver oodles of performance. Clocked at 822 MHz with eight tessellation engines and 384 CUDA cores, the DirectX 11 card is claimed to be 65% faster than its closest competition in DX11 gaming. The card also boasts full Nvidia 3D Vision support. ❖

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Sci News



Walk like an Egyptian

When it comes to medical know-how, the ancient Egyptians were a step ahead of the rest. In a recent article in the journal *Lancet*, scientists describe two artificial big toes found on mummies as the earliest prosthetic body parts. Both designs – one a three-part wood-and-leather device and the other made of a kind of maché of linen, glue and plaster. Two volunteers who have lost their right big toes were asked to wear replicas of the artificial toes during gait analysis. Both walked extremely comfortably with the toes, which, coupled with wear and tear patterns on the original artefacts, suggests that they were indeed used as functional prosthetics and not simply attached to the feet as part of mummification.

» Other interesting stuff

Genetically modified mice help unravel stuttering.
<http://bit.ly/stutmice>



Fading memories

Time is taking its toll on some of Vincent van Gogh's masterpieces. And now scientists write in *Analytical Chemistry* that they know why. The bright yellow paint used by Van Gogh and his artist mates of the late nineteenth century contained chrome. When the researchers subjected samples of leftover paint from old tubes to UV light, the bright yellow swatches gradually darkened. After three weeks one had turned chocolate brown. Further tests showed that a chemical reaction during which chromium (VI) is reduced to a lower oxidation state is to blame. X-ray analyses of parts of Van Gogh's paintings confirmed that in darkened yellow areas the chrome was of the reduced oxidation state, while in unaffected areas it was in its original state. Who said science is dull?

Data from the Large Hadron Collider converted to sound (remix).
<http://bit.ly/hadrondance>



Bear-ly alive

Bears are the Rip van Winkles of nature. And now it seems that the puzzle of their winter sleep may have been solved. A study published in a recent issue of the journal *Science*, showed that by regulating their body temperature between 30 °C and 36 °C through cycles of shivering, hibernating Alaskan black bears slow their metabolism to almost a quarter of the summertime rate. Yet, despite the metabolic go-slow, they emerge from their slumber in almost the same physical condition as before the winter. This was surprising because hibernating animals usually need a drop of at least 10 °C in body temperature to slow down their metabolism to half its normal rate. The findings may be useful in efforts to prevent muscle wasting during long periods of disuse. [LP] 🌟

Does the skeleton play a role in reproduction.
<http://bit.ly/skeletonrepro>

THE BIG ISSUE
 NOKIA LOVES MICROSOFT

Earlier last month Nokia's CEO, Stephen Elop, sent out a memo to his staff warning them that the company is standing on a "burning platform". A few days later and Nokia jumps into bed with Microsoft's Windows Phone operating system (OS). Is this a match made in heaven or an unholy alliance?

In a press conference held with Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer in tow, Nokia CEO Stephen Elop stated that the Finnish cell-phone giant will be adopting Windows Phone (WP) as the primary operating system for Nokia phones. This means Nokia's first love, the Symbian OS, as well as MeeGo (co-developed with Intel), will be playing second fiddle to the WP OS on future Nokia smartphones.

But why?

Elop made it clear that competition from Apple's iPhone and the range of Android devices, didn't bode well for the future in the high-end market, while increased competition from China is making life difficult in the emerging markets. Nokia's new enhanced Symbian OS, S^3, designed specifically for smartphones, didn't exactly set the world alight, plus there was only one phone scheduled for release this year on the MeeGo OS. In short, Nokia had to jump to keep up.

The choice is made

And jumped they did, straight into the arms of the big giant from Redmond – Microsoft. But was this the right choice? Research company Gartner pegs worldwide sales of Windows-based devices to end-users in 2010 at only 4.2% of the total market. So why go with Microsoft instead of Google with Android? It's a



case of you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours. Apart from an expectant rise in sales of Nokia phones, the Finnish company's Maps navigational platform will be integrated into Microsoft's Bing search engine. Microsoft is set to benefit since Nokia, with their trusted set of hardware and excellent distribution channels, will help "drive and define" the future of Windows Phone.

Redmond's much flaunted search engine, Bing, looks set to appear across Nokia devices and services, while adCenter will provide search advertising services on Nokia's line of devices and services – a potential big money spinner for the company.

Will it work?

Initial reaction to the news was harsh. Nokia's shares took a 25% knock, while Elop, a former head of the Business Division at Microsoft, was labelled a Trojan Horse. Some of their workers staged a walk-out in protest to the move, while Finnish trade union Pro demanded €100 000 plus severance for each Nokia employee to be laid off in the move. But we believe the Nokia/Microsoft alliance should be given a fair chance. Microsoft might just rejuvenate a flailing Nokia, which we've seen in the past always seems to bounce back with a bang. With talk of a WP7 Nokia device hitting the shops before the end of the year, we can't wait to get our hands on it. [MJ] 🌟

Geeks only. Mobile phone manufacturer INQ's CEO said pretty girls don't use Android smartphones, as these are too complicated and a geek's device.

Microsoft

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This is Markus; he's an IT consultant and has had his own company for a number of years now. His customers trust him because of his great service. It's just Markus for now, but one day he will become an entrepreneurial success story.

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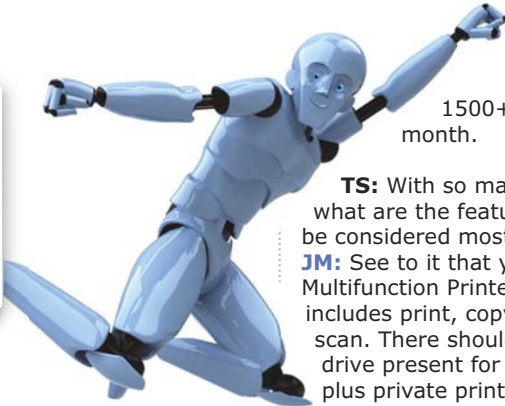


Jayson Mac Gregor, Sales Manager, Toshiba SA

The move to a total Multifunction Printer (MFP) solution can be a confusing one. Jayson Mac Gregor, sales manager at Toshiba SA, gives us some hints and tips to help SMEs chose the right options.

TechSmart: When should an SME start looking at an MFP to replace their laser/inkjet printer?

Jayson Mac Gregor: An SME should consider changing over if volume starts exceeding 500 – 1000 colour copies and



1500+ black copies per month.

TS: With so many models available, what are the features of a MFP that can be considered most important?

JM: See to it that you're getting a total Multifunction Printer (MFP) solution that includes print, copy, fax and colour scan. There should also be 80 GB hard drive present for document storage, plus private print or secure print functionality for confidential printing. If you want to keep your costs under control then also see if a department and user management standard is included for staff monitoring.

TS: Should they rather buy or rent?

JM: If an SME is looking at expansion, keeping up with the latest in technology and getting full tax rebates, rental would be the best option.

TS: What should customers look out for when renting?

JM: Of foremost importance is to find out the escalation rate and for what period the contract runs. Also check what happens to the equipment when the contract expires, and if the contract renews itself and for what period. Make sure



Sean Owen-Jones, CEO of NCSolutions

With today's powerful PCs it is a very viable option to deploy virtual desktops in your company without having to fork out for an individual desktop for each employee.



TechSmart talks to Sean Owen-Jones, CEO of NCSolutions, about their new Kaviza Virtual Desktop Infrastructure.

Techsmart: Can you give a quick description of Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI)?

Sean Owen-Jones: VDI allows for the migration of users operating systems and applications to be stored on a single and secure server in the data centre providing centralised management; lower support costs; less risk of end user tampering and a longer life span of the hardware. Ie the end points (PC's or terminals) are just



used to access the users, files over a LAN / WAN or via the "cloud" so companies can use existing hardware infrastructure like repurposed PCs to get a full VDI solution.

TS: What is the benefit of VDI?

SO: Lowering hardware costs as the users "virtual desktops /end points" can be used for a lot longer than they would if you were upgrading operating systems and hardware every couple of years. The other benefit is that you can deploy it a lot faster than you could a physical operating system because of the centralised operating system management and you have less support costs associated with end-user tinkering and tampering.

TS: Why should a company consider Kaviza's turnkey VDI solution?

SO: Out of the many VDI solutions we have surveyed and tested, Kaviza's VDI solution offers the easiest to implement, most cost effective and best user experience.

TS: Is there a limit on the amount of users this can be deployed for?

SO: The ceiling would be around the 1500 seats per physical location.

TS: What's needed to run Kaviza?

SO: You can start really small by using a Core i3/i5/i7 built-up server with a free Hypervisor installed and your operating

your service contracts runs in conjunction with your rental contracts and ensure that, should you upgrade your rental contract, the settlement is outstanding rental x period. Don't get penalised with a service settlement.

TS: What constitutes good after sales support?

JM: Good after sales callout time should be between four and eight hours. The majority of automation companies should offer the SME a CPC (cost per copy rate), while an additional rate can ensure faster response time. When phoning in a problem the call centre should be able to identify the problem and advise on the down time. ♣

Should an SME look at full blown MFP, Mac Gregor suggests:

- 1: Rental for 36/48 months at a fixed rate for expansion and technology.
- 2: Take an all-inclusive Cost per Copy contract.
- 3: Make sure all the rental options are given to you at the end of the contract – get this in writing.
- 4: Make sure the upgrade options are explained in full.
- 5: Before leaping into any contracts make sure a proper analysis has been done.

system installed for every user. If you want or need HA (High Availability) then simply add another server to the Kaviza network grid and Kaviza will automatically share the resources of this server and use it as a backup server.

TS: Is an IT specialist needed to deploy this?

SO: That's the nice thing about Kaviza, it's a really high end VDI solution but really simple and easy to setup with a Wizard-based installation.

TS: Are there any types of jobs that Kaviza won't work for (graphic intensive maybe)?

SO: Kaviza has the ability to run graphic intensive applications and can perform very well under full-motion multimedia.

TS:What's the typical cost of deployment, and how long does it take to set this up?

SO: Costs can vary according to users requirements but you are looking at about R1199 per user as a starting point and it only takes 40 minutes to install the Kaviza server and then it's a matter of replicating the golden image that has been setup to be used as a template for the users' virtual desktops. ♣



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MOBILE WORLD CONGRESS 2011

THE AGE OF THE SMARTPHONE

Last month Barcelona, Spain, once again played host to the largest annual gathering in the mobile industry – the Mobile World Congress (MWC). If you needed any more confirmation that smartphones are ruling the roost, MWC provided it in bucket-loads.

1. Samsung's Galaxy S II not so far, far away

Korean tech giant, Samsung, kicked things off with the announcement of the **Galaxy S II** (pictured), follow-up to the wildly popular Galaxy S. At a mere 8.9 mm thick, it's billed as the world's thinnest smartphone. Powered by a 1 GHz dual-core processor, it sports a huge 4.27" Super AMOLED Plus display with a resolution of 480 x 800. It's also heavy on the features, with full HD 1080p video recording, Wi-Fi Direct and optional Near Field Communication (NFC). Samsung's Galaxy range is now also targeted at the mid-range, with four models – the Ace, Fit, Gio and mini, bringing Android goodness at a more affordable price.

We really liked last year's Wave, Samsung's smartphone running on their own bada operating system. Bada is now back in the form of the Wave 578, a mid-level offering sporting a 3.2" capacitive touch-screen, Bluetooth 3.0 and more impressively, NFC connectivity.

2. Sony Ericsson pro and neo comes out to Play

It wasn't only Samsung that showed off its beautiful new Android-powered smartphone, as SE also unveiled two Android 2.3-running members of its Xperia family. The Xperia neo sports a 3.7" capacitive Reality display with a slightly higher (480 x 854 pixels) resolution than the much bigger screen of the Galaxy S II. The pocket-friendly (116 x 57 x 13 mm) neo also packs a 1 GHz Qualcomm Snapdragon MSM8255 CPU and built-in HDMI, enabling users to showcase their high-definition still images and HD videos on their HDTV. SE's other device, the Xperia pro features the same specs as the neo, but also packs in a slide-out QWERTY keyboard.

SE also showcased the mythical PlayStation phone, now dubbed the **Xperia Play** (pictured). Featuring slide-out PlayStation controls and shoulder buttons, SE claims the phone is capable of "silky smooth" 60 fps 3D gaming. This in no small way is thanks to a 1 Ghz Scorpio CPU and embedded Adreno GPU. Games should also look stunning on the 4" screen with its 480 x 854 resolution.

3. S makes HTC even smarter

Taiwanese smartphone maker HTC re-worked some of its most popular devices, designating them with what can only be a Superman-inspired S. The first of the company's new Android trinity is the Desire S, boasting a new aluminium design, 1 GHz Snapdragon processor and a 3.7" WVGA touch-enabled display. The 4" HTC Incredible S can record HD video and you can share multimedia content from the handset direct to a TV using DLNA technology. Users will be able to view videos in HD on this smartphone's 4" WVGA Super LCD display. Completing the trinity is the more affordable and compact (measures 10.13 cm long and 5.94 cm wide) HTC Wildfire S.

HTC also unveiled two Facebook branded 'socially inclined' devices – **ChaCha** and **Salsa** (pictured). Both on Android Gingerbread and integrates Facebook functionality via the HTC Sense user interface. This enables some exciting new social functionality such as, upon making/receiving a call to/from a Facebook friend, the dialler screen displays that friend's latest status and photos and even reminds you if their birthday is around the corner.



4. LG goes 3D

Not content with 3D only on its TVs, LG introduced the **Optimus 3D** (pictured), an Android running smartphone with a 3D enabled screen (4.3" 480 x 800 pixels) that does not need stereoscopic glasses to display properly. Powered by a dual-core OMAP4 chipset it also has the ability to take 3D movies courtesy of a dual five megapixel camera on the back. And what to do with your 3D movies? Upload them to the specially created YouTube 3D channel of course. Of all the phones featured here, the Optimus 3D is the only one we have an official SA release date for – June 2011. [HD] ❖



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MOBILE WORLD CONGRESS 2011

THE TABLETS ARE COMING

As we saw at CES last month, the consumer electronics industry seems to be firmly fixed upon the tablet craze at the moment, with avalanches of these devices being brought to market by an increasing number of manufacturers. Now a slew of new tablets have stepped forth for their shot at fame at the Mobile World Congress recently held in Barcelona, Spain.

1. LG Optimus Pad

First up is LG's new Optimus Pad, already glimpsed at CES but now finally receiving a full reveal. The 8.9" tablet will sport a roomy 1280 x 720 pixel WXGA resolution wide-screen display, which is sure to equal in some outstanding display quality. This is further enhanced by 1080p HD video decoding and an HDMI port, meaning you can view HD content on your TV display. The tablet will support native 3D content, although users will need to be wearing 3D glasses to see it. That said, it is able to record in 3D thanks to a dual camera at the back.

Nvidia's powerful Tegra 2 1 GHz dual-core processor will be doing duty on the CPU side, while it also runs on Android 3.0 (Honeycomb), built from the ground up specifically for tablets.

2. Toshiba Tablet

Toshiba also announced a new tablet device, with a 10.1" 1280 x 800 pixel capacitive touch-screen doing duty in addition to running on Android 3.0 Honeycomb. The tablet is at this stage only known as the "Toshiba Tablet" and will be powered by a dual-core Nvidia Tegra 2 processor. Toshiba's Resolution+ technology promises to increase display quality on the HD (720p) screen, while a gyroscope, accelerometer, GPS and two cameras (two megapixel front, five megapixel rear) is also included. An HDMI port is available for viewing HD content on other devices and a USB 2.0 port and SD card reader are also called into service. As far as connectivity goes the Toshiba Tablet is slated to support 802.11n Wi-Fi.

3. HTC Flyer

Taiwanese manufacturer HTC finally jumped aboard the tablet bandwagon with its HTC Flyer. The Flyer will be powered by a 1 GHz Qualcomm processor and will feature 1 GB worth of RAM and 32 GB of onboard storage space. In addition, a 7" 1024 x 600 capacitive touch-screen will be doing display duties with Wi-Fi, Bluetooth and HSPA+ support also said to be included, with 3G rumoured. HTC also saw fit to do some extra work in the stylus department, with users not receiving just a plain sliver of plastic, but instead a pen that can sync with apps such as Evernote to enable users to write, draw pictures, serve as highlighter while you read or even link audio content to your work so it can be read back to you.

4. Samsung Galaxy Tab 10.1

Samsung, first to market here in SA with their Galaxy Tab tablet, introduced a beefed-up new version, the Galaxy Tab 10.1. The name simply refers to the new 10.1" WXGA display with which the tablet is imbued, much bigger than the previous version's 7" one. The tablet will also be powered by a dual-core Nvidia Tegra 2 processor and will feature 1080p HD video recording, an eight megapixel camera at the back and another two megapixel snapper at the front. In addition it will be available with either 16 GB or 32 GB of data storage space and will come with onboard Wi-Fi and HSPA+ support.[JK] ❖





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The Mobility issue

The ability to easily travel with your IT equipment in tow is an essential aspect of modern living. In the April issue of TechSmart we will be looking at the fine balance on has to strike when sacrificing power for mobility. What are the best portable scanners, printers and notebooks currently available for the modern road warrior? Plus - is the future of mobility in tablets or ultraportable notebooks? We also check out 3G offerings from the different cellular operators, while doing a round-up of the best smartphones on offer.

Material deadline: 15 March 2011

The Digital Imaging issue

In this issue of TechSmart we take a look at have-to-have camera and digital video recording equipment. From the latest dSRLs and compact cameras, straight through to the latest HD video cameras and HD recording on smartphones. We don't stop there, since we also delve into the world of camera accessories (tripods, camera bags, grips, SD cards, portable storage), while also investigating the best methods of printing your marvellous pictures (photo printers, all-in-ones).

Material deadline: 11 April 2011

The Fun and Entertainment issue

All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy, right? In this issue of TechSmart we check out the latest graphic cards, while also taking an in-depth look at the Nintendo 3DS and Sony's Next Generation Portable, currently setting the portable gaming world alight. We also scope out the best big-screen televisions currently on market, while we round-up the best gaming notebooks. Finally, there are some amazing titles gamers can look forward to up until Xmas - we go searching for the best of them.

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Toshiba Qosmio X500

» HD gaming beaut

Like Lexus is for Toyota, Qosmio is the premium brand product wing of Toshiba. We recently had the opportunity to put the luscious Qosmio X500 gaming machine through its paces.

The Qosmio X500 features quite an aggressive design, and it's clear that it's been made to appeal to gamers. Glossy black and red plastic covers the device, but although it looks good it attracts a whole lot of fingerprints. The keyboard on the X500 looks very beautiful and offers decent comfort, although the flat keys were prone to some finger overlapping. In addition to the standard keys, the keyboard also includes a numpad and some satellite media controls situated to the left of the keyboard.

Display

Perhaps the most impressive aspect of the Qosmio X500 was its display, in all its 18.4", 1080p, full HD splendour, it really blew us away. Already substantially larger than a standard notebook display, the LCD features TruBrite technology, has

a 16:9 aspect ratio and sports a maximum resolution of 1920 x 1080 pixels.

Coupled with the included Blu-ray drive, you'll never have to use that HD TV again. We watched a couple of Blu-ray movies on the device, and the display definitely lived up to the hype, showcasing wonderfully bright and colourful images time and again with no lag present during playback.

Features

Internally the X500 is also a very capable machine. Doing duty on the processor side is a quad-core Intel Core i7-720QM CPU clocked at 1.6 GHz, while a massive 8 GB of DDR3-SDRAM and an included Nvidia GeForce GTS 360M GPU finishes out the main performance indicators.

As far as data storage is concerned, our test model was equipped with two 640 GB hard disk drives, but the X500 is also available with a 64 GB SSD if you want some real performance. Three USB 2.0 ports, one eSATA/USB combo port,

one HDMI port, a VGA port, SD card reader and 5-in-1 bridge media port with FireWire completes the connectivity options. Our test version ran Windows 7 Home Premium 64-bit.

Additional features

A fingerprint reader and facial

recognition via the HD webcam is also available if you need some additional security options.

The notebook is also blessed with a pair of Harman Kardon stereo speakers which provides audio quality far above that of an ordinary notebook.

Conclusion

The Toshiba Qosmio X500 is a very powerful machine, with impressive specs and an aggressive design. If you're looking for a decent gaming machine and an exceptional notebook for movie enjoyment, the X500 is it. **R21 999.** [JK] 🍌

» Quick specs

- Core i7-720QM CPU, 1.6 GHz
- 8 GB RAM
- 2 x 640 GB HDD
- 18.4", 1920 x 1080

🍌 Full review: <http://bit.ly/n43sl>



Dell Latitude XT2 notebook/tablet » A tablet as Bill Gates intended

Dell's XT2 is a tablet PC in the historic sense of the term, meaning it's a fully-fledged notebook with a screen that can rotate to fold back onto the keyboard, just as Bill Gates intended tablets to be.

As a notebook the 12.1" XT2 touches on the thin-and-light segment of the market, weighing a very manageable 1.64 kg and is no more than 25 mm thick. It needs to be though, since you can feel the grams add up as soon as you start using the device as a tablet.



with Windows it's almost impossible to scroll down webpages using just your finger. The well-lit

RAM and about 160 GB of hard disk space – not a lot in today's world of ripped Blu-ray movies. Also disappointing is battery life, with the four cell battery our model had barely managing two hours with minimal programs running. Best be to opt for the six cell version.

As with most thin-and-lights there is some kind of payoff to shed some weight. In the XT2's case Dell had to jettison a DVD drive, although our package included a portable DVD-drive and an excellent carry case for the tablet. Also missing is a webcam – frustrating if you're one to call with Skype.

"It handles the Windows-based tablet experience a lot better than its keyboard-less brethren."

There is no difference between the touch-screen experience on this tablet and other Windows-based tablets, except that the XT2 is faster. Windows remains a frustrating touch-based experience if you intend to work with just your index finger. We were glad to see though that Dell mitigates this by including a digitiser pen (which includes two buttons on the side for some extra touch options), while also presenting a scroll lever at the bottom of the screen to help with scrolling through webpages. This comes in very handy since

display is also multi-touch enabled, so you can pinch-to-zoom in pictures or documents.

Performance

As far as performance goes, the XT2 runs on an Intel Core 2 Duo U960 CPU @ 1.6 GHz. It's not the world's most powerful processor but it does handle the switches in screen orientation well. As long as you're not a hardcore multitasker or deal with graphic intensive software it should do the job. Our model came with 2 GB of

Conclusion

Dell's XT2 might not be the most powerful notebook available, but it handles the Windows-based tablet experience a lot better than its keyboard-less brethren thanks to some valuable extras. It's well built, has a bright screen and comes equipped with some decent connectivity options. It's just a shame about its battery life. It retails for a steep **R25 335.** [MJ] 🍌

» Quick specs

- Intel Core 2 Duo U960, 1.6 GHz
- 2 GB RAM
- 160 GB HDD
- 12.1" LED Display, 1280 x 800



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Edimax AR-7284WnA/B is a high performance router that provides a full rate of ADSL2+ standard with superb reliability. This cost-effective solution for home and small business, is compatible with 802.11n, the next generation wireless standard. With advanced MIMO technology, it provides an up to 6 times better data transmission rate (up to 150 Mbps) and 3 times better coverage than a standard 802.11g/b router.

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EW-7811Un

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- Supports 64/128-bit WEP, WPA, WPA2 encryption and WPS-compatible.
- Supports QoS-WMM, WMM-Power Save mode.



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Pano Logic, the leader in zero client desktop virtualization (VDI)

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At less than three watts per user, zero clients consume 97 per cent less than even the most energy efficient PCs and weigh less than 0.5 kg, and lasts seven to 10 years, compared to the average 7 kg PC that lasts three to five years, resulting in a dramatic reduction in e-waste.

Applications

Middle market organisations in health care, education, law, government, manufacturing, banking and more are achieving dramatic savings and benefits without the need for specialized IT competencies and staff. Leveraging their existing virtualization infrastructures, IT managers are able to deliver end users a familiar Windows experience while providing them with greater uptime and mobility to access their desktops from any zero client on the network.



"Our customers are looking for ways to reduce their carbon footprint by reducing energy bills and IT maintenance costs and are finding that desktop virtualization with the Pano Logic zero client is simplest and most cost-effective way to provide end user computing," said Shaun van Wyngaard, joint MD of Pano Logic Africa.



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HTC Desire Z

» QWERTY desired

HTC's stable is packed with some very well-bred horses. The Android Desire Z with its excellent QWERTY keyboard is no exception.

The first thing that strikes you about the Desire Z is its size. No waif-like figure here, instead you are greeted by quite a hefty creature – 180 grams (compared to the iPhone 4's 137 g), while measuring a thick 14 mm. The

“The Desire Z is the go-to device if you're looking for a QWERTY keyboard.”

reason for this is a slide-out QWERTY keyboard, which we believe is definitely worth the bigger size. Touch-screen input is not for everyone, especially if you've got slightly bigger digits. With the Desire Z's keyboard typing is a breeze, and it's definitely one of the best, if not the best, keyboards we've come across. It sports four rows of nicely spaced chiclet-styled keys, two programmable shortcut keys and the Android menu key. Of course you can always just stick with the HTC



onscreen keyboard, which functions without hassles.

The Desire Z does not provide the massive sized screens that the HTC HD2 or Samsung's Galaxy S does, instead opting for a solid 3.7" with a very good resolution of 480 x 800. Images and web-sites display really well, with the touch-screen making it easy to pinch-to-zoom and scroll through pages. We did experience slight lag when dealing with big media files and opening apps. It's not

because its 800 MHz Scorpion processor is particularly slow, but you just don't get the same performance as from the faster ones (1 GHz and up) currently available.

Android onboard

The Desire Z runs Android 2.2 (Froyo) which makes aspects like voice search and voice to text possible. Although it's a bit of a hit-or-miss affair, when it works it's a lot easier than typing what you're looking for. Facebook integration is possible but it's not the smoothest we've experienced seeing that Facebook friends do not automatically link to corresponding phonebook contacts.

There are a lot of location services pre-installed on the Desire Z including Google's Maps as well as Car Panel, offering voice navigation, but with only a one year license (come now Google, release Maps' voice navigation in SA!). Like other Android devices, a portable Wi-Fi hotspot is present and is certainly one of the easiest ways to get on the net via your PC. Just beware, it sucks your battery dry within minutes so it's best to keep the phone connected to a charger.

Conclusion

HTC has done a brilliant job on the Desire Z, making it the go-to device if you're looking for a QWERTY keyboard. Apart from the bulk it carries from the keyboard and a bit of lag, there's nothing major to complain about. [M] ♦

> \$40 million. The figure HTC invested in cloud gaming experts OnLive to boost its smartphone's gaming capabilities.



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Asus RT-N56U wireless router » Network beauty

The new Asus RT-N56U takes the world of wireless routers into a completely new realm, that of aesthetically pleasing design. Yes, the RT-N56U is a router and it looks good, so good in fact that it will be contending for the most feng-shui device on your desk.



The device isn't only a pretty face though, since it also includes the latest technologies to ensure you have access to the best possible internet and wireless connections. This dual-band 802.11n router provides a complete wireless solution to your existing wired network and is available in both the 2.4 GHz and 5 GHz wireless ranges, ensuring optimal speed for basic internet

functions as well as more advanced multimedia ones such as streaming HD movies. Full Gigabit internet performance is promised by hardware NAT acceleration and Gigabit Ethernet capabilities. The Asus EZ UI explains the router's secrets without the need for lengthy manuals and two USB ports enables the connection of AIO printers and external hard drives to the router. This also allows the device to continue downloading FTTP, FTP and BitTorrent files to a USB drive even while your PC is turned off. It is available for **R1499** from www.asus.co.za/shop.

NZXT Phantom PC case » The mothership has landed

The NZXT Phantom is an attractive new option for the ambitious case modder, available in white, black or red, with a sleek design ensuring it stands out at the next LAN.

As cooling is the holy grail of any case modder, the Phantom is equipped with seven fan cooling options, with dual 200 mm, single side 200 mm, triple 120 mm and front 140 mm fans available for duty. Dual radiator support, quad

watercooling cutouts and an integrated fan controller ensures you have control to the last fraction of a degree.

Large spaces are available to work with, ensuring neat wire management, while new 5.25" screwless rails makes swapping hard drives easy and allows for a whopping seven HDDs or SSDs to be fitted. The case has been designed to accommodate all of today's hottest hardware, from gargantuan new GPUs to E-ATX motherboards. Panels are also easy to remove and top mounted USB, Audio and E-SATA ports will keep you connected without breaking your back.

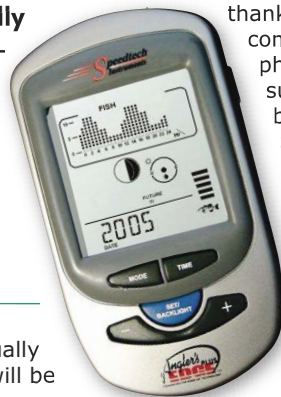
With its stylish design and large amounts of room to work with, the NZXT Phantom is a case any enthusiast can really get behind. Recommended retail price of **R1149** from Evetech.co.za.



Angler's EDGE fishing calculator » Give a man a fishing rod ...

In the past one didn't really need much to go fishing – a rod and reel with some earthworms were enough to spend a brilliant day next to the water. But as times have changed, so has fishing technology.

Take the Angler's EDGE for example. This gadget actually predicts how active the fish will be



thanks to an algorithm that combines the current moon phases, the position of the sun/moon as well as local barometric pressure. Speedtech, the company behind the device, says they've worked with meteorologists, fish biologists and professional anglers to get all the input needed to make the

Angler's EDGE as accurate as possible. With a current fish feeding report and a four hour activity forecast present, we suppose it makes it all the more frustrating if you don't catch anything when all indications are there that you should actually be making a

ling. Also onboard the device is

4-hr barometric pressure history ar graph and an alarm that's aised if severe weather is detected. It's available from The J.A.D.G.E.T. Shop on 012-346-2726 or 011-792-4912 for **R899**.



XDSL VPN QOS services » Keeping your network under wraps

Controlling a company's network, even with relatively few employees, can become quite a tricky affair. Now XDSL is offering their Virtual Private Network (VPN) QOS services to connect all the branches of your company efficiently and intelligently.

The system allows users to seamlessly share data, email, accounting applications and even live video streams while allowing your sales team to

connect to the network from anywhere in the world. The offering also introduces an advanced firewall to protect from outside attacks such as hacking, port scanning and DDoS attacks. In addition to this, XDSL's proactive monitoring system sends out automatic notifications whenever a problem is detected, enabling them to fix it before you even realise something was wrong. Business owners can rest assured knowing that virus detection and blocking services are also included.

With all these safeguards and improvements in place, your business

network should be running perfectly before you know it. The package is available from XDSL for **R513** per month. For more details call them on 087-980-0101 or www.xdsl.co.za.



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HP Officejet 6500A Plus all-in-one » Just email to print

TechSmart printed out enough pages to fill an encyclopaedia on HP's latest all-in-one, in order to find out if it's worthy of becoming your next small office or home network printer.

New to this AIO is HP's ePrint technology, enabling you to print from virtually anywhere thanks to the printer's assigned email address to which you can send documents. Once you've gone through the process to set it up (a relatively stress free experience with HP doing most of the work for you), you can simply send an email from a PC or smartphone, with the attached document or picture to the 6500A and you'll have a printout as soon as the message is received. This can be done with Word, Excel and PowerPoint documents, PDFs, or photos that need to be printed. Obviously your printer needs to be connected to the web for this to happen.

We talked to HP about whom ePrint is exactly aimed at, and they claim it has both social and business implementations. Socially they reckon an ePrint enabled printer can be installed at the grandparents' house, where the family can then send pictures or letters to as they please. We're keener on the practical business side, since visitors to your company can quickly email-to-print documents, while employees struggling to connect to a printer should never be a problem again. A hotel or bed-and-breakfast can also offer such a printing service as a value add.

You are limited in the size (5 MB including attachments) of the email you can send, as well as to the number of attachments (maximum of ten that can be sent with a single email). Of course you don't need to only print via email, since the HP is also conveniently Wi-Fi enabled.

Printing workhorse

Apart from the handiness of ePrint, HP's 6500A Plus offers excellent printing speed and quality. You also won't have to worry too much about refilling the printer as there is a 250 sheet input tray at the front that can be adjusted for various paper sizes, as well as a 35 sheet automatic document feeder (ADF) at the top of the printer for scanning or copying. Automatic duplex printing is also conveniently included.

Final Word

HP one ups the rest of the competition with the HP Officejet 6500A Plus' ePrint functionality, which lets users simply mail documents to the printer's email address. You might find a lot of use for it, or none at all, but it's still a valuable extra. You can pick this machine up for a recommended retail price of **R1999**. [HD] 🌱

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>100 million. Number of times classic puzzle game Tetris has been downloaded.

PC Medic » First aid for your PC

Some say he has the release schedule of every major tech product up until 2020, and that he quietly whispers into the ear of Mark Zuckerberg. All we know is he's called the PC Medic and he's here to answer your PC related queries.

Q Hello PC Medic. I am still using a 17" CRT monitor and want to make the leap to an HD LCD or LED screen. I am also tired of waiting for everyone to go to bed before I can play my PlayStation 3 games on the TV, so my monitor has to be able to double up as a gaming screen. I only have a budget of sub R2200. Joseph September.

A Hey Joe. For that price you can get a 23" full HD (1080p) LCD display (make sure that it has built-in speakers), which you can connect to your PS3 via an HDMI (high definition multimedia interface) cable. The beauty

of HDMI is that it also carries sound, so you won't have to bother with connecting sound cables. The size of the display sounds small, but it's almost 60 cm across so it should do just fine.

Q Hiya PC Medic. I want to upgrade my gaming PC and I am aware that before doing anything else, I should purchase a new power supply since I currently use a generic 300 Watt one. What size should be sufficient? Paul van Rooyen.

A Ola Paul. You should get a 650 W PSU (at least) from a reputable maker such as Coolermaster or Antec, which should cost you less than R900. ❄️



» Tips for Windows 7:

Ever been frustrated by having the annoying sticky keys and filter keys dialog message pop up at an inopportune moment when playing games? It's possible to turn it off for good, here's how: Open the "Control Panel", select the "Ease of Access

Center" and click on "Change how your keyboard works". Make sure that the "Turn on Sticky Keys" box as well as the "Turn on Filter Keys" box are deselected, which temporarily deactivates these features. To permanently deactivate them, first click on the "Set up Sticky

Keys" link and deselect the "Turn on Sticky Keys when SHIFT is pressed five times" box and press "OK". Then click on the "Set up Filter Keys" link and deselect "Turn on Filter Keys when right SHIFT is pressed for 8 seconds" box and press "OK", then press "OK" again.

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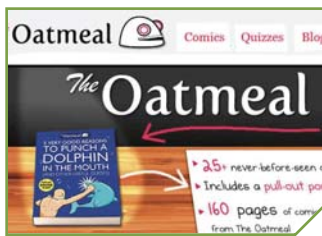
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<http://theoatmeal.com/> The Oatmeal

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<http://bit.ly/gopherws> Gopherwood studios

Todd Lewis and Derek Detweiler runs the fledgling site, offering two highly enjoyable browser based games for people to try. The first is called Entanglement and the aim of the game is to get as entangled as possible, with players rotating different tiles to ensure they stay in the maze for as long as possible. The second is called Sand Trap and confronts players with the intricacies of gravity as they attempt to pour sand into a bucket from a revolving maze. Both games have their roots solidly embedded in the puzzle genre, and makes for a relaxing break from the office mayhem.



www.juggernautgame.com/ Juggernaut

Juggernaut is a free-to-play browser-based MMORPG enabling players to jump into massively multiplayer action by simply opening their web browser. The game can be played after free registration and is available completely online or by downloading a client (around 265 MB for the full version). The game introduces an ambitious storyline, with players battling as either of two factions, the Steel Cohort or the Free League, in the aggressive world of Haradan. The game also breaks away from traditional browser titles by introducing vivid 3D graphics thanks to the innovative Unity engine.



www.wordcount.org/ Wordcount

Wordcount is an artistic experiment which showcases the 86 800 most frequently used words in the English language, displayed in order of commonness. More common words are displayed in larger text while less common words enjoy smaller representation. The site's data is derived from the British National Corpus, a 100 million word collection of written and spoken language, designed to represent a cross-section of modern English usage. Give Querycount a once over as well, which tracks the way Wordcount is used. No surprise which word came up first for the most queries. 🌟

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GAMES

Dead Space 2 » A (dead) space odyssey

The original *Dead Space* made its name as the sleeper hit of 2008, introducing players to an exciting new way of disposing of enemies while raising the fear factor of survival horror titles exponentially. Now it's time for Isaac to don his iconic suit and helmet once more in *Dead Space 2*.

After losing his girlfriend and witnessing more than a handful of horrible sights in the first game, it's no surprise that our protagonist, Isaac Clarke, finds himself talking to a psychiatrist at the start of *Dead Space 2*. Actually he's imprisoned in a mental ward on the Sprawl, a massive colony constructed out of the remnants of Saturn's largest moon, Titan. But things

shoulder camera vantage point. As far as combat goes, you have the ability to melee attack as well as head stomp enemies. In addition to this, players gain access to a huge variety of futuristic weaponry, with the limb slicing plasma cutters forming the bread and butter of your offensive capabilities. Telekinesis is also back, but is much easier to use this time around.

doesn't sound like something you'd enjoy, then *Dead Space 2* is probably not the game for you.

Conclusion

The game plays perfectly for a survival horror shooter, with no lack of sheer terror, some awesome future technology and a compelling and disturbing storyline. [JK] ❖

“Dead Space 2 takes the fear factor of its predecessor and more than doubles it.”

quickly descends into bloody chaos as the Necromorph infestation descends upon it, with mental patients murdered in their cells, guards sliced in half and the entire station erupting in a panicked frenzy.

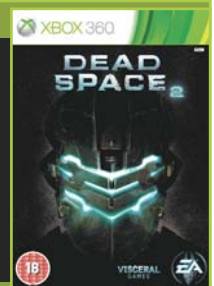
Gameplay

Basic game mechanics remain largely the same, with players once again controlling Clarke via an over the

The game sticks to its haunted house premise in that players are guided through a terrifying, yet very linear experience. Throughout the game players are treated to a myriad of extremely scary, violent and well set-up sequences. During the first thirty seconds we were viciously accosted by a Necromorph that had been playing dead in a wheelchair, forced to the floor, and stabbed repeatedly in the head. If this

» The Good

Slicing off a Necromorph limb, picking it up with telekinesis and then impaling the monster with it brings a feeling of content that's hard to recreate.



» The Bad

Linear storyline keeps you on one path.

Killzone 3 » Beautiful violence

Killzone 3 attempts to revitalise the exclusive PS3 shooter genre in a heady mixture of stunning graphics, solid action and some Helghast killing mayhem.

Killzone 3's story picks up right after that of *Killzone 2*, in which you've succeeded in killing the leader of the Helghast army, Sclar Visari. Now Rico, Sev and the small group of ISA soldiers left on the Helghan home-world have to hold out against a brutal retaliation from enemy forces, hoping for a miraculous rescue. The story in *Killzone 3*, ambitious as it is, was a disappointment at the end of the day. We've seen the characters a thousand times, with all the stereotypes of evil scarred generals, traitorous industrialists and a band of meatheads (that's you) fighting for justice... or something.

Gameplay

The title definitely makes up for its storyline shortcomings in gameplay though, with tight and responsive controls, a snappy aiming system and weapons which looked and felt good to use. *Killzone 3* is also a much faster

paced game than its predecessors, with Call of Duty-esque sprinting combat seen throughout. The campaign is action packed, but it's also very linear, feeling restrictive at times. Luckily it includes a couple of vehicle segments to break the monotony of the fire-fights, but unfortunately these mostly see the player taking on the gunner role, meaning whether you're in a futuristic APC or a spaceship, you'll be holding R1 while watching the fireworks.

Presentation and multiplayer

Killzone 3 is an exquisitely beautiful game, one of the best looking we've seen on the PS3. With gorgeous shading, colouring and lighting and realistic physics, the simple act of shooting an enemy soldier is turned into a vibrant ballet of graphical beauty. The multiplayer aspect of the game has been much refined this time around, proving to be the most enjoyable facet of the title. Class-based combat returns, with all five classes available for play right off the bat. Interesting game modes in the form of Guerrilla Warfare, Warzone and Operations also adds a lot to the standard team deathmatch recipe.

Conclusion

Killzone 3 is an exciting and visually remarkable title, definitely worth checking out if you're a PS3 shooter fan. As a bonus the game also supports PlayStation Move controls and 3D visuals. [JK] ❖

» The Good

Watching enemies realistically tumble over railings, with blood spurting out as you apply a lead injection.



» The Bad

Boring storyline and overly linear gameplay.

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