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*4 things that might change  
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## HOME LIVING ISSUE

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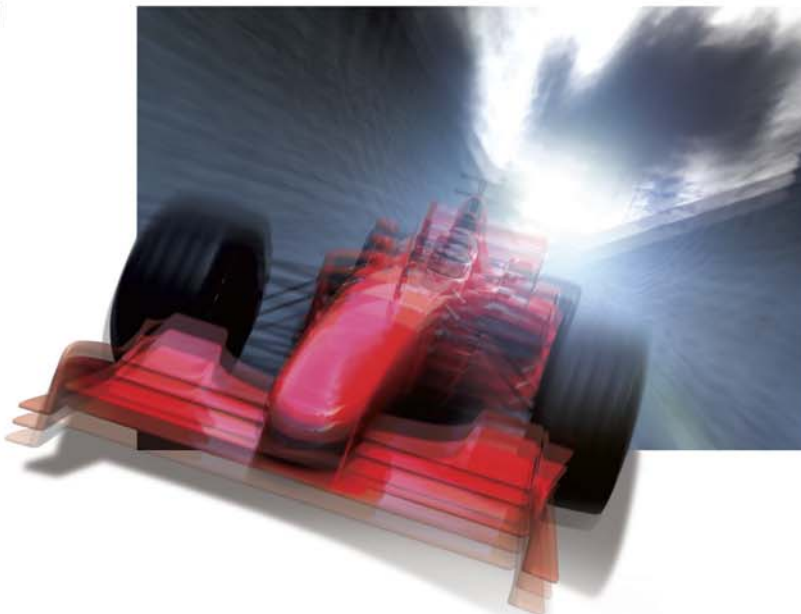




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## The Home Living Issue » July 2011



## 8ta 1, Data cost 0

Telkom's cellular arm 8ta's recent announcement of a R199 per month offer for a 10 GB data bundle comes as a pleasant, and much needed surprise. Despite the fact that this limited offer doesn't include a modem, plus there is a R200 SIM and connection fee, I still give it the thumbs up. It compares very favourably to Cell C's packages, which already did a lot to bring down cellular data prices.

But while 8ta's R199 offer is commendable (just check that you are covered by their network before you buy), it does not reflect well on Telkom's tough line rental fees for ADSL. Starting at R152 per month for a slower 384 kbps line, it continues to be a barrier to entry for many families and small companies, despite the fact that the price for the actual data has dropped considerably.

I doubt this will change soon, and it's a shame, since the change that the internet can bring can never be undervalued.

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



## » Features

## The House of the Future

ZEBs, Android@Home, the internet of things and an increase in telecommuting. We check out four important happenings that might just influence the way we live in future.

9

## The best of E3

E3 is marked on every serious gamer's calendar, since it's here that the best new releases and products get revealed. We've included a few choice ones for your reading pleasure.

26

## » Tablets

## BlackBerry PlayBook

The PlayBook left us cold when it was introduced earlier this year. That is until we got our hands on this easy-to-use 7" tablet, powered by an impressive new operating system.

13

## » Games

## L.A. Noire

L.A. Noire pits you against the worst scum 1940s L.A. can offer. It's one of the most impressive games this year, stringing along some excellent stories and fantastic gameplay.

28

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## TOP TECH TITBITS

### Who is LulzSec?



Website attacks on the CIA, the US Senate and an FBI affiliate called InfraGard – all in a month's work for brazen hacking group LulzSec. With their only apparent motivation being "for the lulz", internet slang meaning "for laughs", not much else is known about this merry band of hackers, although their trail of compromised sites continues to grow. Attacks claimed by them also include Sony Entertainment, Nintendo in the US, gaming company Bethesda Softworks and the Fox network. After 50 days of indiscriminate hacking, the group has apparently called it a day and disbanded. Whether these hackers will ever be caught remains to be seen, although Scotland Yard claims to have arrested a member of the group.

### Search by voice and pictures



Never one to rest on its laurels, Google has introduced two new features to its searching repertoire. As seen on certain Android smartphones, users are now able to search via voice input. If your PC or notebook has a microphone you can click on the microphone next to the search box and simply speak the words you're looking for. Unfortunately this feature is, at least for now, only available on google.com while using Google's Chrome web browser. South Africans though can try out the new image search capabilities. When searching for images you can either upload your image or website URL, with Google then magically spitting out similar results or identifying the object in question.

### Apple heads to the cloud



Apple recently announced a move to the cloud with their new iCloud service. Users of Apple devices will be able to sync their applications between their iPhone, iPad, iPod touch, Mac or PC, allowing them to update content simultaneously across all devices. More impressively is the fact that App Store and iBookstore purchases will now be downloaded to all your devices simultaneously, not just to the one you purchased it on. With iCloud, Apple users will also be able to wave goodbye to annoying backups, with iCloud Backup automatically backing up data, such as photos, documents, app data and video on a daily basis. The iCloud service will be available this spring, concurrent with the release of iOS 5. Android users look on in envy. ☘

## HOT NEW PRODUCTS



### Samsung Series 9 notebook PC

Samsung's Series 9 notebook has finally landed in SA. Weighing a mere 1.31 kg, whilst measuring 16.3 mm when closed, it incorporates duralumin in its design. Its stylish bark is matched by a solid spec bite, seeing that the Series 9 notebook is powered by Intel's second generation Core i5 CPU and features a 128 GB Solid State Drive to deliver a speedier start up time of just 15 seconds. Pricing starts at **R13 999**.

### K Computer

The world's most powerful supercomputer can be found in the land of the rising sun, at the RIKEN Advanced Institute for Computational Science (AICS) in Kobe, Japan. The "K Computer" is owned by Fujitsu and currently sports some 68 544 central processing units (CPUs), each with eight cores. This enables it to perform over

eight quadrillion calculation per second (8 petaflops), but engineers are planning to add an additional 100 000 cores within the next year and are optimistic that the K will then deliver a boosted performance of ten petaflops. (K Computer photo Source: RIKEN).

### Nokia N9

Although Nokia shackled up with Microsoft to have the Windows Phone 7 (WP7) OS lead its smartphone charge, it doesn't mean that it completely abandoned its Linux-based mobile MeeGo OS. The Finnish company has unveiled the sleek N9 smartphone, and besides running MeeGo 1.2 Harmattan, this device also sports some impressive specs – a 1 GHz ARM Cortex-A8 processor, 16 GB or 64 GB internal storage and a 3.9" curved glass AMOLED (480 x 854 pixels) touch-screen. Now what happens if MeeGo is actually better than WP7?



### 2011 KICHERER SLS 63 Supersport GT

We are all fans of sport cars in the office, so when a company makes a hotter version of what was a pretty exciting sports car to begin with, there's a good chance it'll grab our attention. German tuner KICHERER employed carbon fiber to customise the cabin components of Mercedes' SLS 63 AMG, including a custom handmade front grill. The changes weren't all cosmetic though as KICHERER also tinkered away under the hood of this monster, upping the already crazy amount of available torque on offer by another 50 Nm to 700 Nm. It also boosted the power from 425 kW to 469 kW, resulting in a 0-100 km/h sprint of just 3.5 seconds and a sustained top speed of 320 km/h. This baby just parked itself on the top of our winning R100 million lotto ticket. ☘

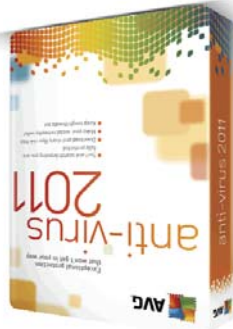
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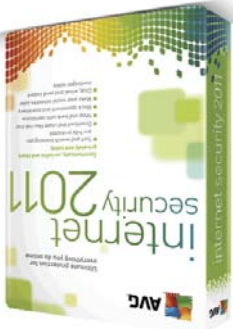
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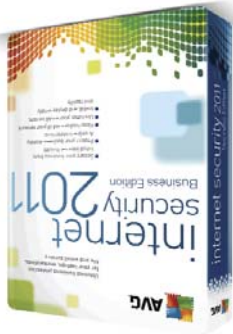
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- Shop and bank with confidence
- Block spammers and scammers
- Make your social networks safer
- Chat, email and send instant messages safely



### AVG internet-security Business Edition 2011

- Ultimate endpoint security for your employees' Laptops and PCs
- File Server protection to prevent malware from spreading across your network
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## Sci News



### Cycle challenge

Too much of a good thing can be, indeed, not good for you. According to a recent report in the *Journal of Applied Physiology*, too strenuous warm-ups before sport events can counteract the good intentions. In a study, cyclists were asked to perform two warm-ups. One entailed an initial ride during which the athletes pushed their heart rates to 95% of the max, followed by four intense sprints. The alternative session was only about a third as long and consisted of an initial ride during which heart rates were upped only to 70% of the max, followed by a single intense sprint. Although both routines caused some muscle fatigue, much less was experienced with the shorter warm-up and cyclists' peak performance was significantly better than after the longer warm-up.

#### » More hot science

Evolution's Wedges: Finding the genes that drive one species into two.  
<http://bit.ly/evegenes>



### Defending the caveman

South African guys used to be local Syokels – at least those who lived a few million years ago. A recent article in the journal *Nature*, showed that among our early ancestors, girls were the intrepid explorers while the guys were happy closer to home. Researchers used laser to analyse the strontium content of hominid teeth from the Cradle of Humankind. Strontium is found naturally in rock and soil, gets absorbed by plants and eventually gets locked into the enamel of teeth. The specific strontium patterns in more than half the female teeth examined showed strontium patterns different from the local conditions, while only about 10% of male teeth had foreign strontium signatures. The researchers say the findings will help us to understand the social structure of our early ancestors; we say girls are curious beings.

Scientists turn memories off and on with the flip of a switch.  
<http://bit.ly/memoryswitch>



### Winter warmer

If ever there was strength in unity, the Emperor penguins of Antarctica have got it down to a tee. These penguins have long been known to form tightly packed groups to survive the freezing temperatures of the winter far down-under. And now scientists report in the journal *PLoS ONE*, that they think they know what the trick is to letting each penguin share in the collective warmth. Video footage showed that every minute or so the group moves – en masse – a few centimetres in an S-like wave pattern.

This way they keep the tight packing so that they don't lose the warmth of the huddle, but simultaneously allow penguins from the outside positions to cycle through the warm, inner circle every few hours to warm up. Birds of a feather really do flock together. Check out a cool video here: <http://bit.ly/penguinshuffle> [LP]

Did climate change cause Greenland's ancient Viking community to collapse?  
<http://bit.ly/greenviking>

## Eco News



### Google's green power investment portfolio grows

Search giant Google seems not only interested in ruling the online world, but is also making huge investments in green energy. The latest of these being a \$280 million investment in SolarCity, a solar power provider for American homeowners, businesses and government organisations. According to Rick Needham, director of Google's Green Business Operations, this is the company's biggest clean energy project investment to date, bringing the total invested in the clean energy sector to over \$680 million. Another of Google's numerous other investments in this sector includes a \$168 million investment in BrightSource Energy's Ivanpah solar power plant in the Mojave Desert in California, one of the world's largest solar energy projects.

#### » Other interesting eco news

Artificial meat could slice emissions:  
<http://bit.ly/meatgas>



### Eco-friendly Merc's go around the world in 70 (driving) days

Mercedes-Benz cars are renowned for insulating their owners in a bubble of luxury, protecting them from the harsh realities of the outside world. Now they're also becoming famous for their eco-friendliness. Three of the German car maker's B-Class F-CELL vehicles have successfully completed a round-the-world driving trip, all whilst pumping out no local emissions into the atmosphere. This trip concluded with three cars having driven over 30 000 km each, crossing 14 countries and four continents in the 70+ driving days. Most of the refuelling was done via a mobile refuelling unit, as there is currently only a network of 200 hydrogen fuelling stations around the globe. With this performance, Mercedes-Benz hopes to boost hydrogen refilling-station infrastructure growth.

Green roofs are changing architecture and planning: <http://bit.ly/greenroof>



### Green power German plane has successful test flight

Continuing our theme of German eco-efficiency is the "e-Genius", a two-seater electrically powered aircraft from the Faculty of Aerospace and Geodesy at the University of Stuttgart. Last month this new electric rising star of the aviation world successfully completed a two and a half hour trip, flying at speeds of 160 km/h (it is capable of flying at speeds of up to 235 km/h). This plane, designed by a team headed by prof. Rudolf Voit-Nitschmann, is powered by a 60 kW motor, weighs 850 kg and is able to achieve flying distances of around 400 km. Based on the latter it only uses 4.75 kW hours of electric energy, corresponding to 0.6 l fuel per 100 km and per passenger. If only some of our public officials were as proficient as the German engineers behind this plane, Mzansi would be the greatest country in the world. [HD]

Engineers convert car exhaust gas into energy. <http://bit.ly/exhaustpower>

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# THE HOUSE OF THE FUTURE

Seeing that it's our Home Living issue, we check out four concepts that might just change the way we live in the future.

## » Working from home

With high petrol prices, congested streets and soon to be implemented toll fees on the N1, the house of the future looks increasingly likely to incorporate space for a home office. And why not? Thanks to a number of submarine cables, the likes of Eassy and the Western Africa Cable System, SA's broadband capacity has increased exponentially, while internet prices, especially on uncapped services, have dropped.

For companies that can allow employees to work from home, it might mean cost saving on office space and petrol allowances, but importantly it will require a paradigm shift relating to measurable work output instead of the outdated attendance model. While some employers think that productivity might suffer, this is not necessarily the case. A report from Asia found that 81% of managers believe telecommuting actually improves productivity, up from 61% in 2005. There's also the finding that at work, you're interrupted once every three minutes, which is certainly not good for concentration.

Working from home comes with its own set of challenges. For one, finding a separate space can be a problem, especially when husband and wife both telecommute. Mental barriers can also arise, with work-from-home employees complaining that they find it difficult to separate work and personal time, while cabin fever can also set in.

## » Android@Home changing home automation

Apart from running the internet (at least it feels like that sometimes) and having the most used smartphone operating system in Android, Google is now also looking to make a mark in your home. At a recent developer conference they unveiled Android@Home, a home automation system based on the Android platform.

Home automation makes life easy by allowing you to control your house's electronic components from a centralised system. For example the activation of the alarm, the heating in certain rooms, irrigation in the garden

or the lighting can be controlled from a central panel or remotely via the net. The Android@Home system would allow you to command all these directly via Android running smartphones or tablets.

The first product to work on this new platform is an LED light bulb manufactured by Lighting Science (pictured), which should be available in the US before the end of the year for about \$35. It's doubtful if full scale adoption of Android@Home by manufacturers will take place soon, but with 400 000 Android smartphones being activated daily, the potential market is definitely out there.

## » Internet of things

Connected devices won't just stop at home if the "Internet of Things" becomes a reality. According to companies such as IBM, pretty soon, more "things" will be connected to the internet than humans. This thanks to sensors transmitting information from anywhere – dams, polar ice caps, sea levels, all relaying a constant stream of data via the net. And this is good, because it means that we'll be able to start seeing patterns of data emerging from which we will be able to make better decisions relating to the environment and pollution.

But how does this relate to the home? Homes of the future will have sensors monitoring your security, water usage and electricity consumption. More importantly, these will be able to interact with the local and national grid which should help to prevent power failures and over consumption. So for example, when you are boiling the kettle, running a warm bath, cooking dinner and trying to do the washing all at the same time, the interactive sensors will communicate with the electricity supplier to see if the grid can handle the strain. If not, it would rather opt to start the washing at a later stage.

Photo: Tom Chance under a Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 Generic licence

## » Zero Energy Buildings

While home automation or the "Internet of Things" might be utilised for a more energy efficient home, what's becoming increasingly clear in light of energy shortages, is that we need to rethink the "house" and all the processes that go along with it. For many the ultimate goal that goes along with this is net-zero energy buildings (ZEB).

Karl van Eck, regional general manager Africa at Johnson Controls Global Energy Solutions, describes a ZEB as a residential or commercial building that consumes a net total of zero energy from non-renewable sources, including utility electricity, natural gas and oil, all of which are created using unsustainable fossil fuels. Not only can these buildings sustain themselves via onsite renewable energy production, sometimes called harvesting, but some can actually produce excess energy to be exported back into the grid.

In the UK there's a commitment that by 2016 all new homes will be zero energy buildings, with housing developments such as BedZEB in Hackbridge, London (pictured), being a frontrunner in this regard. Unfortunately South Africa is lacking behind even though solar energy is so abundant. Van Eck believes the reason for this is that renewable energy technologies themselves may not yet have the financial payback periods that building owners require. This will change however, as technology continues to evolve, while Eskom is also investigating smart metering that relays consumption information directly to the central system for better monitoring. [MJ]

Windows Life without Walls™. Dell recommends Windows 7.

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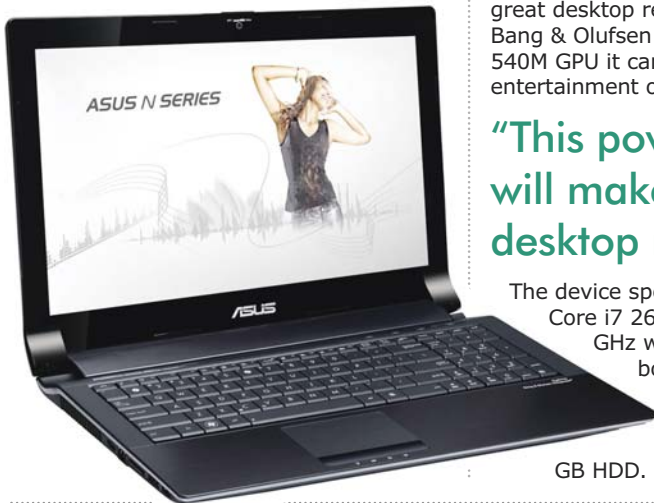
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## Asus N53SV » The sound and the fury

**Asus is pushing the Sandy Bridge envelope even further with the new N53 range, of which the Core i7 N53SV offers a very impressive solution.**

The notebook sports Asus' trademark sleek design, with a silver finish present on the lid and a black layout bordering the display and palmrest. This gives the notebook an aura of style and sophistication that makes it the perfect business companion. The multi-touch



enabled touchpad on the device worked wonders, and the keyboard didn't fare too badly either, with the addition of a numpad also welcomed. We felt that a chiclet style layout with some more spacing between the keys would've been preferable though, while luckily the touchpad is positioned in such a way as to not impede the typing experience.

### Performance

Just because the N53SV sports sleek business looks, doesn't mean it's a machine only aimed at the serious. Indeed this powerful beast will make a great desktop replacement and thanks to Bang & Olufsen sound and an Nvidia GT 540M GPU it can even be used as an entertainment or gaming hub.

**"This powerful beast will make a great desktop replacement."**

The device sports a Sandy Bridge Intel Core i7 2630QM CPU rated at 2.0 GHz which enables the notebook to pump out oodles of processor performance. Also on board is 4 GB of DDR3 RAM and a 500 GB HDD. During benchmarking the

N53SV stood up to its Sandy Bridge (Intel's 2nd generation Core-I processors) reputation, scoring an excellent 9433 on 3DMark06, a score surpassed only by dedicated performance notebooks such as the Toshiba Qosmio X500 and the Alienware MX17, which scored 9590 and 10874 respectively. This allows the device to support a reasonably high level of gaming, and during testing, Starcraft II ran smoothly with graphics set to 'ultra'.

### Display

The N53SV sports a 15.6" backlit LCD display with a native resolution of 1366 x 768 pixels. This is the standard in 15" notebooks at the moment, but we would have preferred a full HD resolution of 1920 x 1080 being supported since it also includes a Blu-ray drive. The notebook sports an HDMI out so it can display full HD content on an attached display. Audio on the device definitely impressed, with the Bang & Olufsen speakers blasting out considerable decibels. This allows the notebook to be comfortably used for enjoying movies and other content.

It's not difficult to see that the N53SV's speedy i7 processor and excellent sound combines to make this stylish Asus as comfortable in the office as it is at home. It retails for **R10 999**. [JK] ♡

**Full review:** <http://bit.ly/asusn53>

## Dell Inspiron N5110

# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

**While notebook aesthetics today have definitely improved over the drab and dreary machines of yesteryear, users are still confined to a single look once they purchase their device, with little customisation options available.**

Dell is aiming to change this with its new Inspiron range, giving owners the ability to mix and match their notebook's outer appearance based on their day to day preferences. The new notebooks feature the Switch lids, created by Design Studio, which should retail starting at R299. These interchangeable lids are available in a wide range of colours, from blue to red to pink polka dots, and are sure to be a hit with colour starved tech junkies.

### What's inside

The Inspiron R is available with a 15" display with a native resolution of 1366 x 768 pixels, and sports second generation Intel Sandy Bridge processors. A Core i7-2630M CPU @ 2.0 GHz resides in the top model, but other options are offered.



RAM options are available ranging up to 8 GB of DDR3 memory, while a SATA HDD up to 640 GB can also be added. As far as graphics are concerned, an Intel HD 3000 option is available for smaller tasks, while an Nvidia GeForce GT 525M will take care of some gaming needs. Users also have access to DVD or Blu-ray

drive combos for the device, while a 1.0 MP webcam will ensure crystal clear video communication with friends and family. As far as ports are concerned the Inspiron looks impressive, featuring two USB 3.0 ports, one USB 2.0 and a USB 2.0 with E-SATA and Power Share capabilities.



Additionally an HDMI port is available for viewing HD content on an attached display, and thanks to Intel WiDi technology users can wirelessly stream movies to certain TVs as well. Last but not least, the notebook includes built-in 802.11n Wi-Fi for painlessly connecting to wireless networks. The Inspiron 15R starts at a recommended retail price of **R9999**, available at Incredible Connection. ♡

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## Acer Iconia Tab A500 » 10" powered by Tegra 2

**Acer joins the 10" tablet crowd with its A500 that's powered by a Tegra 2 chipset while running on Android Honeycomb. In theory it should be a good device, but does reality care to differ?**

L ooks-wise the Acer cannot be faulted thanks to a very solid and attractive brushed aluminium body that frames the screen on the top and bottom. This Wi-Fi only device offers 10.1" of screen size with a resolution of 800 x 1280 pixels, which might not offer the same pixels per inch as we're seeing on smartphones, but still offers a very good display experience. That said, hopefully manufacturers can come up with a smudge proof screen solution soon, since fingerprints accumulate everywhere.

### Tegra 2 inside

As far as processing power is concerned the Acer is equipped with Nvidia's award winning Tegra 2 chipset that includes a dual-core ARM processor running at 1 GHz. It's the weapon of choice for a number of new tablets, including the Motorola Xoom, LG Optimus Pad and Asus Transformer. The Acer also has a solid 1 GB of SSD2 RAM, which secures decent performance, with the included Need for

Speed: SHIFT really showcasing the device's power.

The Acer Iconia Tab runs on Android Honeycomb (3.0.1), a new OS built by Google specifically for the new, larger interfaces provided by tablets. Now at least your tablet does not simply feel like an oversized Android smartphone, thanks to a smart interface, easy access to your settings as well as animated notifications on the bottom right corner.

**"Also present is a very handy USB port, a nice addition to the tablet and certainly a differentiator."**

Also present is a very handy USB port, a nice addition to the tablet and certainly a differentiator. Plug a USB flash drive into the slot and you'll be able to copy or open files off the drive. While it can also charge devices, it cannot read files from portable hard disks, nor did it include a



file manager (but the down-loadable Astro File Manager did just fine).

### Conclusion

The Acer Iconia Tab A500 is a solidly built tablet that looks good and performs well thanks to its Tegra 2 processor. A USB port on the side makes for a nice addition, with file transfer now a lot easier. It retails for **R5999** which is less expensive than the HTC 7" Flyer, but unfortunately still more than the iPad 2's 32 GB Wi-Fi version which retails for R5399. [MJ] ♦

**Full review:**  
<http://bit.ly/acer500>



## BlackBerry PlayBook » Come out and Play

**When first announced the BlackBerry PlayBook left us cold, that is until we got our hands on one.**

W e definitely can't complain about the smooth performance of the PlayBook – scrolling through pictures was a breeze, the apps menu was fast and responsive and even when doing some serious multitasking we never felt that it offered less than its best. The powerful 1 GHz dual-core Cortex-A9 CPU is to blame for this, while 1 GB of RAM also helps.

But it's the device's user-friendliness that deserves some serious kudos. Based not on BlackBerry's regular smartphone operating system, RIM opted to develop BlackBerry Tablet OS based on the QNX open-source system, it acquired in 2010. This new OS can compare in the looks department to anything Apple or Android can offer, while it also functions a treat thanks to an innovative "sweep up and sweep down" system of control. This worked amazingly well and we can't wait to see what QNX does to BlackBerry smartphones once adopted.

### Bridge over troubled waters

One thing we always liked about BlackBerry phones is how well they notify you about events. This is not the case with the PlayBook, to be blamed on two

problems. Firstly the PlayBook does not integrate with your BlackBerry services such as email, contacts or calendar natively, instead it has to pair to your BlackBerry smartphone via an application called Bridge (already installed on the PlayBook, but to be downloaded on your phone). Secondly, a number of services such as Twitter, Skype and email clients are not supported (yet) via dedicated services that can notify you on device. Although not an ideal solution,

**"It's the device's user-friendliness that deserves some serious kudos."**

connecting via BlackBerry Bridge is an easy enough process, requiring Bluetooth on your phone to be switched on and then a few seconds of pairing.

While taking photos and videos on the PlayBook is satisfactory, its ability to play video, especially its support of the popular DivX files, is complimentary.

### We like

Despite all its shortcomings – lack of apps, proper support for Facebook and Twitter, no BBM and having to use Bridge



to connect your BlackBerry services, we really enjoyed our time with the PlayBook. Much more so than on any of their smartphones and a number of Android tablets. It does a heck of a job with multitasking while also offering a very user friendly and intuitive interface thanks to the new BlackBerry Tablet operating system. We tested the 16 GB model, with no word yet on a price. [MJ] ♦

**Full review:** <http://bit.ly/blackplay>





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## Samsung Galaxy SII » Galaxy Yes! Part 2

**Give the Galaxy SII, Samsung's latest Android flagship, to anyone to play with and they'll come back with one of two responses – either "My, it's thin!" or "My, the screen's big!"** These two design concepts are part and parcel to the SII smartphone's appeal, but more importantly, it's backed up by some very solid performance.

**4**.27" is really a lot of screen real-estate, so much so that it makes the original Galaxy S' 4" look rather ordinary. Just like its fore-runner, this Super AMOLED Plus capacitive touch-screen is also made of Gorilla Glass, with Samsung unfortunately deciding not to up the pixel count – it remains 480 x 800, a standard kept by many of today's mid-to-high range smartphones. This massive screen will find love from users who do a lot of web surfing, offering one of the best browsing experiences this side of switching over to a tablet, while also remaining king for capturing and playback of photos and video.

### Thin body and processor

At 8.5 mm the SII is also one of the thinnest devices currently on market,

although marginally so. Sony Ericsson's excellent Xperia arc runs it close with 8.7 mm, and while the iPhone 4's 9.3 mm is not far off, when lining up



**The three million customers who placed pre-orders for the SII won't be disappointed.**

the two devices next to each other, the differences are minute. But while the iPhone 4 feels like a solid device, we were under the impression that if one does not handle the SII with care it might just snap in two. A touch of more metal, especially on the back cover, could have done a lot to not only toughen it up a bit but also spruce up the design.

The Galaxy SII's looks are backed up by very solid performance emanating from the dual-core 1.2 GHz ARM Cortex-A9 processor, helped along with a full scoop of 1 GB of RAM. This allows video-playback that is smooth, while also making scrolling through images a breeze.

### Conclusion

The three million customers who placed pre-orders for the Samsung Galaxy SII certainly won't be disappointed. It is one of the best smartphones currently available thanks to not only a wafer-thin design (8.5 mm), but also a 4.27" touch-screen that can easily be mistaken for a serving platter, all supported by one of the fastest dual-core processors in circulation. It will retail for between **R6699** and **R6999**. [MJ] ♡

**Full review:**  
<http://bit.ly/samgal>



## Swiss Charger iPower for iPhone 4 » More battery, more protection

**Swiss Charger's iPower cover for the iPhone 4 is a protective cover/battery pack, enabling demanding users to almost double the device's battery life.**

**T**his rubberised plastic cover fits snugly around the iPhone 4, with a separate screen protector film provided to protect the iPhone's display from scratches. The bottom part of this iPower cover clips into your iPhone 4's proprietary connector and you have to employ a micro USB cable to



USB cord to charge your device once the cover is on. Luckily Swiss Power provides a nice retractable cord, which you can also use to sync content via iTunes.

The inclusion of a battery in the cover means that the cover adds 53.5 g to the 137 g weight of the iPhone, but we feel that the extra talk time provided by this built-in battery far outweighs the additional weight. It extended our iPhone 4's battery life by another 20 hours and 45 minutes, and will charge your iPhone's battery back to 100% when flat. The iPower for iPhone 4 cover is available from the Gadget Shop on 011-346-2726 for **R399**. ♡

## Phase2 16 Channel Digital Video Recorder » Surveillance made easy

**Digital video recording is not limited to the realms of your DSTV PVR, with a number of companies using Digital Video Recorders (DVRs) for security surveillance purposes.**

**P**hase 2's embedded DVR looks like a DSTV decoder but works like an advanced VCR. It converts analogue video (NTSC or PAL) received from

surveillance cameras and microphones into digital video and records them onto a hard-disk drive, with this being done either manually, timed, or via motion detection. There are 16 channels

available for input purposes, which should be able to take care of many office surveillance needs. The device can of course be accessed from a PC over the network or the internet.

Digital video can be indexed by time, date or events, and like CSI investigators users will be able to freeze frames, forward or rewind without image streaking or tearing. Users can also back-up footage either via a network backup, USB backup or onto a SATA DVD writer. It is available for **R2 845** from Phase2 on 011-444-5956. (Actual product might differ from one used in picture). ♡





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## Nikolay Grebennikov, Chief Technological Officer Kaspersky Lab

**TechSmart recently visited Kaspersky Lab in Moscow for the prelaunch of its Kaspersky Internet Security 2012. We chatted to Nikolay Grebennikov, their chief technological officer, about malware and the future of security.**

# KASPERSKY



**TechSmart (TS):** Last month we saw certain American state officials' Gmail accounts being hacked. Could these types of attacks have been avoided if the people used internet security packages?

**Nikolay Grebennikov (NG):** I cannot say if antivirus/internet security solutions could have helped – it's also a problem of how you behave on the internet, how you communicate and with

whom. You can get a security notification from your security package, but you can click allow, because you think you can trust it. You should consider online security as you do in real life.

**TS:** Are we right in saying that China, Brazil and Russian speaking countries are the main centres of malware attacks?

**NG:** Yes, these are the three groups of countries. But where the main malware is located on servers, is in the US and Canada according to our statistics. There are different vectors of attack – it's not just from China to US for example, Chinese people are also victims of their own countries' attacks.

**TS:** Who is creating the malware?

**NG:** There are companies that fight against bad guys, and then there are companies that fight against us to get money in illegal ways. According to our estimation, in the world currently there are around 2000 groups of people who work on malware creation. And they sell their creations to other people who can just download these to create their own

type of malware without technical knowledge.

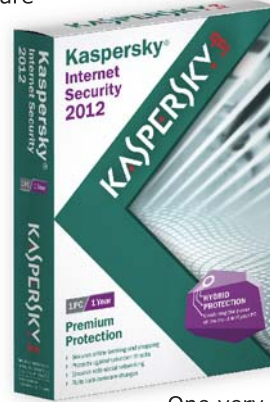
**TS:** CEO of Kaspersky Lab, Eugene Kaspersky, said that there should be an internet Interpol of sorts created to deal with online crime. Do you agree?

**NG:** Currently we don't have enough protection from governments and police for the internet. It should not be so easy for criminals to work as easily as they do. I think we really need some international police and more strict rules. There should be an understanding from governments that this is a really big threat.

**TS:** Where do you see malware protection going in the future?

**NG:** I think in future many other types of devices would require protection.

One very good example is the monitors used to protect people's health. Currently it's possible to monitor and influence the device using external tools and a Wi-Fi type of connection. Imagine a situation where criminals can penetrate and influence this type of device. Also think about cars with the amount of IT included. These are included in our long strategic plans. ✨



## PC Medic » First aid for your PC

**Some say that he can copy and paste using only his mind, while it's believed that George Lucas created Yoda entirely based on him. We call him the PC Medic, and he's here answering your PC questions.**

**Q** Hello PC Medic. I am still a computer novice, but I am enjoying the learning journey and not doing too badly (at 73 years old). Within Microsoft Outlook, I would like to delete a lot of my son's old contacts. How do I go about this? Marianne Geissmar.

**A** Hey Marianne. This is quite easy. If you want to delete your son's (or any other) Outlook contacts, just click on the "Contacts" tab within

Outlook. Then you simply click on the names of the contacts you want to delete and press the "Delete" key.

**Q** Hi PC Medic. A lot of my friends' updates on Facebook are frustratingly mundane or about Farmville. How can I stop this without "unfriending" them? Jack Kerouac.

**A** Hello Jack. When hovering your cursor above their status update, you'll see an X appearing in the top right hand corner. It will give you the option to "Hide this post" or "Hide all". Select the second option – you won't receive updates anymore while you keep relationships up by remaining on their friends list. ✨

**Send your questions to [info@techsmart.co.za](mailto:info@techsmart.co.za)**



### » Tips for Windows 7: Outlook

Within Microsoft Outlook there are two types – those contacts you save in your Outlook address book and the auto-complete contacts, which is stored on your PC's memory and not to Outlook. The latter is made up of people who have corresponded with you before via email, but whose addresses you have

yet to save. These addresses are useful in that you merely have to type a letter and Outlook will automatically list the email addresses. What PC users normally forget is that these contacts are not automatically saved in your Outlook address book, meaning when you move to a new PC, install Outlook and set up your email

those addresses will no longer appear. You can download a tiny (47.01k) application called NK2View from <http://cnet.co/getNK2View>.

This app will enable you, amongst other things, to delete these items in the list or import them to your Outlook address book.

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# THE RIGHT TO INTERNET ACCESS

Last month the United Nations released a report which counts internet access as a human right, instead of a privilege.



## THE BIG ISSUE

The UN report comes on the back of several internet-aided revolutions in the Middle East, as well as renewed outcries over state internet censorship in China and elsewhere. It's clear that the broad, near-instantaneous communication which the internet

allows, is a very powerful tool in resisting oppressive regimes.

The report by UN Special Rapporteur Frank La Rue, underscores the, "unique and transformative nature of the Internet not only to enable individuals to exercise their right to freedom of opinion and expression, but also a range of other human rights, and to promote the progress of society as a whole."

It emphasised the ability of internet communications to aid the populace during times of unrest, to combat inequality and to accelerate the development of human progress. The report notes that in certain cases internet access needs to be limited, for example in the event of large scale cyber attacks. However, it argues that states often misuse this power to cut access for its own agendas, with La Rue saying governments should rather strive, "to make the Internet widely available, accessible and affordable to all."

While the UN unfortunately does not have the power to individually enforce this ruling, disconnecting people from the internet is now banned under international law. "In many instances, states restrict, control, manipulate and censor content disseminated via the Internet without any legal basis, or on the basis of broad and ambiguous laws, without justifying the purpose of such actions. [...] Such actions are clearly incompatible with states' obligations under international human rights law, and often create a broader 'chilling effect' on the right to freedom of opinion and expression," the report said.

While most people can agree that internet access should be something everyone has a right to, the ruling clashes with certain countries who disconnect people from the internet for online piracy. France for example enforces this anti-piracy measure, something which the report considers to be in violation of international civil and political rights.

The issue is also affected by recent international hacking attacks (see p5), with some arguing that perpetrators must be stripped of their online rights, whether they be "hacktivists" or not. And while the report allows for the right to internet access, it unfortunately did not call for the right to affordable internet access. [JK] 🌐

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CompTIA  
Women in IT  
COMMUNITY

As the world's largest association representing the IT industry, CompTIA recently launched the **Women in IT Community** in an effort to provide a platform where female executives can meet, discuss common interests and work towards solutions for the advancement of the industry as a whole.

The Women in IT Communities first aim is to encourage female scholars to consider a career in IT, and through our efforts, support women who already have careers in the IT industry. If you're interested in learning more or joining the community, please get in touch with CompTIA's Regional Director for Africa; Loraine Vorster at [loraine@comptia.co.za](mailto:loraine@comptia.co.za).



CompTIA is the voice of the world's information technology (IT) industry. As a non-profit trade association advancing the global interests of IT professionals and companies, we focus our programs on four main areas:

- **Educate the IT channel:** Our educational resources, market research, communities and networking events, help our members grow their businesses and become "best in class"
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TechSmart managed to track down Nancy Hammervik, senior vice president industry relations at training company CompTIA's head office in the US, to talk about woman in IT.



**TechSmart (TS):** Why is there such a big difference between the amount of males and females in the IT industry?

**Nancy Hammervik (NH):** I think it comes down to lack of familiarity, lack of

education and deep rooted stereotypes. In the States, there are still too many assumptions like "girls are better nurses" and "boys are better mechanics." I believe there is a perception that girls are not "wired" for technology and those sort of "engineering" jobs are best left to the brains of the men. There are still many separate vocational schools for technical careers where the majority of students are male. It is an intimidating environment for girls to join, being the minority.

**TS:** What can be done to bring this figure into balance?

**NH:** At CompTIA, we feel strongly that technology education and opportunities must start in the primary schools and carry through to the university. Schools are missing the boat not upgrading their curriculum and making IT "cool" in school. As more students are given strong foundations in understanding

technology, more women will identify opportunities for themselves, in any industry, leveraging IT. Mentoring and internship programs are key at the high school and university level to give the young women support in pursuing these careers. We need to break through the dated stereotypes, realising that all our children are growing up in a world of technology and have equal ability and skill to share.

**TS:** You have a very successful career in IT, can you offer any advice to our female readers?

**NH:** Know yourself and be yourself. Understand what your strengths, skills and interests are and leverage them. Understand what your weaknesses and dislikes are and manage them. Many times our greatest strength is also our greatest weakness – so be aware of what that is and control it.

It is important to build your "brand" or your reputation. When you are out of the room, what would you want people to say about you? Carry yourself in a way that you are always a wonderful representative for your company and a person that others want to know and do business with. I am a big believer in positive energy. Make eye contact, share a big smile, have a firm handshake and be expressive. Treat others as you would be treated yourself. This philosophy pays off over and over again in the course of

your career. So many times I have come across someone I worked with years ago, and they remember a positive working experience.

Finally, make sure to give back to the community and the industry. Leverage your success and relationships to do good and help others. Be a mentor to others. Strive to make a difference and leave a positive legacy.

**TS:** In your opinion, what are the main challenges faced by woman in the IT industry?

**NH:** If the woman has a technical position, they still need to break through those stereotypes and prove themselves and their abilities. If the woman has any other position in high tech – sales, marketing, management, etc, their main challenge is getting along in a male dominated industry. It is a fast paced, competitive, even somewhat aggressive industry.

Women in IT need to be strong and assertive. There is a fine line between being assertive and aggressive. I have found, for women, knowing that difference is key. Also, many times I've seen women keep their heads down, work hard and hope someone notices as a strategy to get ahead. That does not work in the high tech environment. I do feel women need to prove more, speak up more and in general do more to get noticed and promoted in IT. 🍀

For more information about CompTIA's Woman in IT meet-ups, presenting a networking opportunity for ladies in the IT industry, contact Loraine Vorster on 011-787-4846 or [loraine@comptia.co.za](mailto:loraine@comptia.co.za).

So how are woman faring in the SA IT industry? The following is taken from a recent survey from ITWeb (courtesy [www.itweb.co.za](http://www.itweb.co.za)).

- 80% Male vs. 20% Female split in employment.
- Average salary for women is around 16% lower.
  - Male average: R401,432.83
  - Female average: R335,391.84
- Females have lower salaries and this gap increases dramatically for top management positions.
  - Staff: R273,385.12 – F vs. R315,449.04 – M (13% lower)
  - Operational: R445,566.67 – F vs. R506,060.25 – M (12% lower)
  - Strategic: R588,407.41 – F vs. R803,806.72 – M (27% lower)
- Top three areas of expertise for Females:
  - Business analysis
  - Software development / Programming – All technologies and levels
  - Business intelligence / Decision support / Reporting tools



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## Kickstarter

Getting funding for a creative project is seldom an easy affair, but now an ingenious new service called Kickstarter, may change the landscape for creative thinkers forever. The intuitive website allows anyone, from writers to filmmakers, explorers and performers, to create a project and ask users for donations utilising a unique reward system. For example, let's say someone is looking for funds to create a short film: donating \$25 might bag you a signed copy of the film when it's released, and a \$50 contribution might even see you honoured in the end credits, and so on. It's truly astounding how quickly many of them have received funding.



<http://flattr.com>

## Flattr

Flattr is promising to be the future of social micropayments, enabling internet users to reward the content creators they want, be it a blogger, musician or whomever. This site allows users to make small, quick transaction online as easily as "liking" something on Facebook. When joining the site, a Flattr user sets a monthly fee they want to pay. Now every time they visit a site sporting a Flattr button, the user can click it and automatically donate to that person. If you clicked 20 Flattr buttons in a month and pay \$20 a month to the site, each click will net \$1 for whoever is on the other end. How much content creators will benefit is yet to be seen.



<http://bit.ly/punczero>

## Zero Punctuation

If you're looking for some video game reviews interspersed with hilarious commentary and nerdy humour, look no further than the world renowned Zero Punctuation, a series of comedy video game reviews on The Escapist website. Starring resident angry gamer Ben "Yahtzee" Croshaw, the series gives today's newest games a humorous and sometimes scathing overview, and can make for some good entertainment when you're bored and surfing the net. Despite the comedic bite, Zero Punctuation delivers some of the most honest game reviews available – a must click for all video game fanatics.



<http://unbound.co.uk/>

## Unbound

Finding your feet as a writer is never an easy thing, and the chances of a breakout hit actually being noticed by a major publishing house are astronomically small. Unbound gives writers an objective ear to pitch your writing ideas to, with budding authors submitting their work on the site and other users pledging to support it if it's popular enough. The idea is very similar to Kickstarter, but is wholly aimed at writers. Users can pledge any amount they feel comfortable with, with larger donations receiving larger rewards. Once the book has been finished, Unbound will also send the final book to donors, either as an e-book or limited edition hardback. 🍀



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# UNDERINSURING YOUR TECHNOLOGY VALUABLES: A BIG MISTAKE



**Santam believes one of the biggest mistakes business owners can make is to underinsure their valuables.**



**Louise Pharo**  
Santam head of commercial business

**S**outh Africa's leading commercial insurer, Santam, has over 93 years experience in protecting companies against risks and the insurer believes that to underinsure valuables is one of the worst mistakes that companies can make.

"Policyholders often fall into a trap of underinsurance because they are unaware of the repercussions. If your equipment is worth R500 000 and you only insure it

for R400 000, only 80% of your loss will be paid out if you have a legitimate claim in terms of your policy wording. The last thing you need is to have to find additional funds following a loss to make up any shortfall, so it is critical to ensure that the value of your possessions is updated regularly," says Louise Pharo, Santam's head of commercial business.

Santam urges business owners to take time to appropriately determine the real value of their investments to guard against underinsurance dangers, or to use a broker to assist in the process. The company has also developed online risk calculators and methods that will help you and your broker correctly insure your business.

## **Santam offers the following tips to eliminate the risk of underinsurance:**

1. Work with a broker to determine your business needs and to help you appropriately value your possessions.
2. Review your insurance at least once a year to add or remove items that you may have acquired or disposed of.
3. Take depreciation into account and adjust your sums insured to reflect

the appropriate amount. In the first seven years electronic equipment should be insured for the new replacement value (i.e. cost to replace the equipment with the same performance and capacity) and thereafter for the reasonable market value.

4. Remove items if they are stolen or lost and replace these on the policy contract with the new items, provide a full description of the items, including make, model and serial number, where applicable.
5. Keep invoices for equipment and valuables bought so that the claims process can be managed easily in the case you need to claim.
6. Provide detailed specifications of hardware and software when insuring computers and mobile equipment.
7. Draw up a detailed inventory yourself or request the assistance of your broker, who will be able to assist you in valuing your valuables.
8. Cover is available for the reinstatement of your data as well as increased cost of working following a loss or damage to your electronic equipment. Kindly enquire with your broker to ensure you are adequately covered. ☺

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2 x Front USB & Audio  
12cm side color fan with shell type cover  
8cm Front(Optional) & 8cm Rear fan

## Interior View



Face Case



Terminator Case

0.6mm SECC structure with black coating interior  
No PSU (Bottom placement power supply with removable filter)  
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2 x Front USB 2.0 & Audio  
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# E3: THE BEST GAMING HAS TO OFFER

Earlier last month Los Angeles played host to the annual Electronic Entertainment Expo, or E3 for short. It's marked on every serious gamer's calendar, since it's here that the best new releases and products get revealed. We've included a few choice ones for your reading pleasure.



## Nintendo reveals the Wii U

At E3 this year Nintendo unveiled its new Wii U console, the successor to the device which reintroduced gaming to motion control, the Nintendo Wii. The Wii U will be made up of a nondescript white console (with HD capabilities), with an iPad-like tablet controller certainly being the most interesting aspect of the device. This controller will allow players to play games on their TV or on the controller's display itself, and the controller will also be used within games, for example displaying your inventory or a game map.

**"If anything can be taken from this year's E3, it's that the remainder of 2011 will be a blockbuster year for the video gamer."**

Nintendo also demonstrated capabilities that saw a person watching TV and using a motion gesture to drag TV content from the box and onto the controller's 6.2" display. The device includes an accelerometer, gyroscope and camera, and comes with a stylus which will allow users to draw fully-fledged art pieces on the controller. The Wii U is expected to launch sometime next year, and while solid information on a price hasn't been announced yet, it was hinted that it would probably be more than \$250.



## Sony unveils PlayStation Vita

Alongside Nintendo, Sony was one of the only major manufacturers to unveil a new gaming device at E3 this year (no Xbox 720 or PS4, sorry), showcasing its

new PlayStation Vita handheld. Previously known as the NGP (next-generation portable), the PS Vita will sport a powerful ARM Cortex-A9 CPU and a GPU offering 128 MB of graphics memory – huge for a handheld. The device will also sport a touch-screen and a multi-touch pad on the back, and a small flash memory card will take over for the UDM discs of the original PSP.

A couple of Vita titles were demonstrated at the show, including Naughty Dog's new mobile Uncharted title as well as the popular Mod Nation Racers. Capcom is also said to be working on a Street Fighter title for the new device, and Irrational Games are busy with a Bioshock one.

Sony gave no specific release dates at the show, but it was revealed that the handheld will be priced at \$249 for a Wi-Fi only version, with a 3G and Wi-Fi version retailing for **\$299**. Whether the Vita will be coveted in the age of smartphones and tablets remains to be seen.



## Xbox 360 titles to embrace Kinect

It seems Microsoft's Kinect motion-sensing peripheral for its Xbox 360 console is facing somewhat of a revival. The peripheral launched last year to record breaking sales, but the number of games that supported it wasn't really something to write home about.

That seems set to change though, as Microsoft Game Studios head Phil Spencer, recently told Gamespot: "It's not a mandate that everything we do in first-party has to support Kinect right now. But I will say, specifically with voice, that there are some things that just seem to make navigating and playing games so much easier, that I would guess the answer will be yes in the end, that you'll see all first-party games using some form of Kinect functionality."

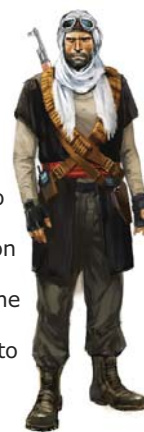
Microsoft revealed Kinect features for Forza 4 and Gears of War 3 at E3, as well as announcing Fable: The Journey, a

brand new Fable title where players can use the power of Kinect to, "craft and control magic in a way that can't be done with a controller."

## More games

A number of other upcoming titles also received reveals including Uncharted 3: Drake's Deception, Bioshock Infinite, Dust 514, Gears of War 3 and Mass Effect 3. Microsoft's 343 Industries also wowed the crowd by announcing that it's working on Halo 4 for the Xbox 360.

If anything, it's clear that the end of the year and ensuing Christmas holidays are going to be exciting times for gaming. First off the ultimate battle of the shooters is set to commence as both COD: Modern Warfare 3 and Battlefield 3 will be released mere weeks apart, both vying to be crowned as the new FPS king. In addition, one of the industry's most beloved RPG franchises will be making a comeback in the form of the Elder Scrolls V: Skyrim. [JK] ♡



\$1 billion. Rumoured asking price for mobile game developers PopCap Games.



## Dirt 3 » Fasten those safety belts

In **Dirt 3** Codemasters throws driving courtesy out the window to make way for some adrenalin fuelled, mud-splattered racing action.



Starting up **Dirt 3** for the first time and diving into its comprehensive career mode, the thing which impressed us most wasn't the spectacular graphics or cars, but simply the driving experience itself. **Dirt 3** is all about precision driving, although it may not look it. Guiding your rally car through dirt

flecked Kenyan back roads, or the snow filled Finnish countryside, delivers a remarkably different response, and each location requires tremendous amounts of concentration.

Lean on the accelerator too aggressively and you might spin out viciously on your next turn, steer through that particularly deep puddle and your wind-shield might learn what it feels like to be maced.

### Dirty racing

**Dirt 3** includes more than a hundred stages in total and can keep gamers busy for a long time coming. And while some events requires you to race a certain stage twice, the game spices things up by presenting the stage backwards, or having the second race occur in pouring rain or even in the black of night. Making a return from **Dirt 2** is the game's famous flashback mode, allowing players to briefly manipulate time to get out of tight spots. The flashback function can be used up to five times during a race, but players will sacrifice reputation points

every time they utilise it.

Unlike other racers, earning cars takes on a different form in the game as no money mechanic is involved. Instead teams will send you new rides as you level up, a fresh new setting, although some may lament the death of "earning your car". The game also features a new Gymkhana mode in which players are charged with navigating various obstacle courses whilst performing tricks to win the adherence of the audience. A comprehensive tutorial will teach you the tricks of the trade and before you know it players will be sliding, drifting and jumping like madmen.

Online gameplay over Xbox LIVE, splitscreen multiplayer and system link racing are supported for all the modes. Multiplayer also includes unique game modes such as the aggressive Transporter and zombie-styled Outbreak.

### Conclusion

Codemasters have always been known for successfully injecting realism into their games, and **Dirt 3** is no exception, proving to be the most authentic virtual rally experience yet. [JK] ❖

Full review: <http://bit.ly/3dirt>

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## L.A. Noire » Playing the good cop

**Rockstar and Team Bondi's L.A. Noire puts players on the side of justice as they attempt to solve some of the most mysterious crimes that shaped 1947 L.A.**



Beginning your newfound career with the L.A.P.D., players take on the role of patrol-man Cole Phelps, a war veteran and regular cop doing his part. Soon, some lazy detective work presents us the chance to prove ourselves, and after demonstrating our Sherlock Holmes knack on yet another occasion the department saw it fit to promote us to traffic detective. Donning our suit and fedora we set out with our new partner to take on the ugly face of vehicular manslaughter – our detective career had begun.

### Gameplay

With somewhat of a de-emphasis on combat, players will find they spend a lot of game time investigating scenes, interrogating suspects and tracing leads. While to some this may sound a bit dreary, it was actually shocking how quickly the game pulled us into this immersive mechanic. That isn't to say that L.A. Noire is without action though.

Early on we're called in to help stop a bank robbery, engaging in a dramatic shootout with the suspects, shotgun in hand. On numerous cases a frightened witness or suspect will also bolt from the scene, culminating in some of the most authentic 'cops vs. robbers' gameplay we've experienced.

### An eye for detail

Before we can get to any action though, players will have to comb the scene of the crime, looking for clues, interrogating witnesses, and slowly putting the puzzle pieces together. These crime scenes will take you on a journey from hobo camps to the exotic mansions of the Hollywood elite. At each scene players are tasked with finding clues, from a suspicious family photo to mud-caked work boots. Additional details, like inspecting a victim's wallet and even surveying deceased bodies by investigating entry wounds and rope burns, add a grisly level of detail to the game.

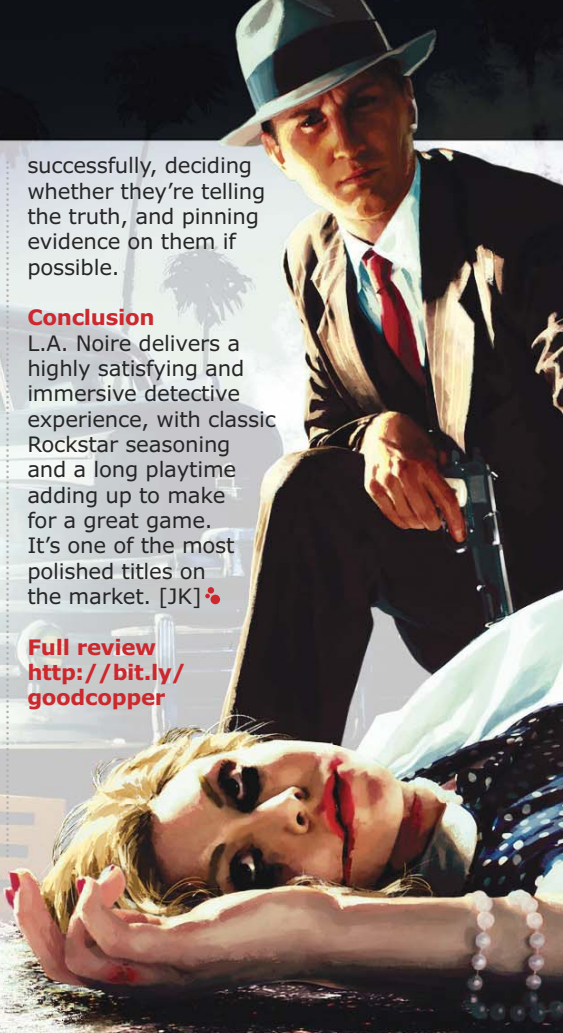
Just gathering evidence is never enough though, players need to find a perpetrator and connect him or her with the facts. To aid in this the game utilises motion scan technology to capture the subtle changes in a person's facial expression, from a shifty look to a sneer or an all-knowing grin. This enables players to interrogate suspects

successfully, deciding whether they're telling the truth, and pinning evidence on them if possible.

### Conclusion

L.A. Noire delivers a highly satisfying and immersive detective experience, with classic Rockstar seasoning and a long playtime adding up to make for a great game. It's one of the most polished titles on the market. [JK] 🍷

**Full review**  
<http://bit.ly/goodcopper>



## SBK 2011 » Two-wheel racing reaches new heights

**SBK X impressed us with its impressive simulation mode physics and now its successor lines-up on the starting grid. Does SBK 2011 provide an authentic racing experience or get a flat in terms of entertainment value?**



For most players the action lies in championship mode, where you race to obtain the title of World Champion. Your journey to the top starts in the bottom category of SBK racing, called STK (Superstock) FIM Cup 1000. You create a rider in your likeness,

which can be challenging since the rider creation toolkit is unbelievably Spartan. During some of the calendar races you'll get to complete challenges, like going faster than a target speed whilst completing a timed quick lap, which nets you an upgraded engine. This makes for a nice break from the regular racing action. Setting the racing world on fire will get you job offers from teams within the two higher categories, namely WSS Super-sport FIM World Championship and SBK Superbike FIM World Championship.

### Gameplay

Within championship mode you have to stay on the track, as cutting corners leads to penalties ranging from a warning to a premature race exit. Being too heavy on the accelerator causes your bike to slide and braking too hard results in your

metallic stallion tipping forward. So you have to practice a lot before you'll manage to keep your bike on pace to finish on the podium, culminating in a really involved racing experience and providing you with a real sense of achievement when you win.

### Graphics & sound

Besides the realistic racing dynamics, the game's graphics for the most part are excellent. All the riders and bike models look amazing, but the scenery tends to become rather bland. We really loved the brilliant soundtrack of the game and we don't mean the rock music playing in the background. We're referring to the immaculately captured acoustics of 200 horses galloping to almost 300 km/h down the straight, before throwing you off its back because you missed the braking zone to listen to the high-revving howl of the BMW or the unmistakable low pitched grunt of your Ducati.

### Conclusion

SBK 2011 presents you with a true-to-life motorcycle racing simulator, sporting the graphics and engine notes to back its authentic handling up. You can add it to your racing game garage for **R469**. [HD] 🍷

**Full review:** <http://bit.ly/SBK2011>



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**SAY GOODBYE TO CABLES AND COMPLICATIONS!!!**

# **Simplify with WiFi**

## **Business WiFi**

**Uncapped Starting from**

# **R650pm**

**No ADSL and Telkom lines, No Contracts**

**Special  
installation  
price**

~~**R1750**~~

**R1450.00**

## **Home WiFi**

**Uncapped Starting from**

# **R450pm**

**No ADSL and Telkom lines, No Contracts**

**Special  
installation  
price**

~~**R1050**~~

**R850.00**

- Fixed IP address • Fixed monthly costs • Special installation price valid till 1 August 2011

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