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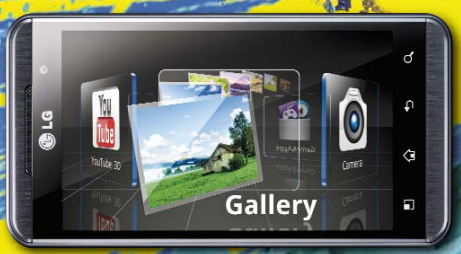

Internet Security

The best protection packages explored

THE SECURITY ISSUE

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ISSUE 97 October 2011 ISSN 1726-3358

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The Security Issue ›› October 2011

The rise of the smartphone

As I was playing around with a number of new entry-level smartphones that graced our office last month, it struck me how powerful these devices have become. Only a few years ago, you would have being hard pressed to find any phone with everything from Wi-Fi, 3G, aGPS, push email and a decent camera onboard, not to mention even the ever-growing amount of apps. Now they retail for between R2000 and R3000, carrying almost all the functionality of the higher priced device, only with a slower processor and lower resolution screen. I would like to believe that tablets will soon be heading towards better prices too, and if Amazon's recent announcement of the 7" Kindle Fire, retailing for a mere $200, is anything to go by, there are some difficult decisions for a number of tablet manufacturers lying ahead.

Enjoy the issue,

Mike (michael@techsmart.co.za)

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» Features

Security anti-virus round-up 9
A number of internet security packages have recently been released. We check out the important ones here.

» Regulars

Big Issue: Windows 8 13
Microsoft last month gave the world a sneak peak at how Windows 8 will look like. This month's Big Issue reveals more about what lies ahead for the world's most important operating system.

» Hardware

Lenovo ThinkPad X1 15
At long last we got our hands on Lenovo's thin-and-light ThinkPad X1. It is their thinnest notebook yet, complete with a next-gen Intel processor.

» Smartphones

BlackBerry Bold 9900 17
The ability to use both the touchscreen and a physical keyboard as input methods is pretty hot right now. BlackBerry's Bold 9900 epitomises this in a thin new body.

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Top Tech Titbits ››

Kindle lights the way for Amazon's Fire tablet

This month, after much speculation, Amazon unveiled its new Kindle tablet, confirming many of the rumours to be true. Amazon's Kindle Fire tablet sports a 7" IPS display, similar to that found on the iPad. It is already being hailed as being exceptionally fast, due to its dual-core CPU. The Kindle Fire has 8 GB of storage space, and while Wi-Fi is catered for, 3G is not. The Kindle Fire's biggest surprise though, was its announced price – a mere $200 (R1600). Oh, it also strangely enough does not have access to Android Market, although it runs on a customised version of Android. With their own online store behind them, Amazon is expected to make a killing.

Nikon now also mirrorless

Nikon this month introduced its new digital camera system, the Nikon 1, calling it their biggest announcement since moving to digital. This makes it the latest company to adopt the mirrorless standard, which combine compact form camera bodies with the flexibility of interchangeable lenses. It also introduced new cameras that take advantage of the system, the Nikon J1 aimed at the casual photographer and the flagship Nikon V1. Standout features include Motion Snapshot, which simultaneously records a slow motion movie and a still image, and Smart Photo Selector, which records 20 high resolution images at high speed and automatically selects the five best shots. The big question is, what will Canon do?

iPhone 5 rumours proved true?

By the time you are reading this, Apple's latest iPhone announcement event has come and gone. At the time of writing, it was speculated that two phones will be delivered – one the long awaited iPhone 5 and another a potentially lower priced model. But if one thing is for certain though, that there would have been a massive media frenzy about what was (and was not), delivered. So how far off are predictions about the new iPhone 5? These includes an edge-to-edge screen, an eight megapixel camera, the ability to accommodate a mini micro SIM card and a voice reminder feature. Read all about the next iPhone in our next issue.

Hot New Products ››

Nike Air Mag shoes

Remember the Back to the Future movie series? Remember Marty McFly's self-lacing Nike Air Mag shoes from Back to the Future II? Well Nike has now actually produced the "greatest shoe never made", but only a limited edition 1500 pairs. Why? Well they went on sale exclusively on eBay, with all proceeds going to star of the movies Michael J Fox's foundation for Parkinson's Disease Research. Good money was made, seeing that the very first pair sold (to British rapper Tinie Tempah) fetched a walloping $37 500 (± R284 000).

Sony HMZ-T1 Personal 3D Viewer

Think 3D glasses are too geeky? Well, you haven't seen anything yet. Sony's newly unveiled HMZ-T1 Personal 3D Viewer is a head mounted display that enables users to view 2D and 3D content. Thanks to two newly-developed 0.7" (diagonal) ultra-small high-definition colour OLED panels it delivers 1280 x 720 picture quality, and due to virtual surround signal processing technology, it provides the acoustical equivalent of a 5.1 channel surround-sound system. This device will allow users to create a cinema-like virtual screen and surround sound experience when it arrives Stateside in November for a $799 (just under R5700).

HTC Sensation XE

HTC and Beats Electronics have revealed the first smartphone offering a Beats Audio experience, the HTC Sensation XE. This device sports a 4.3" qHD (540 x 960) Super LCD capacitive touch-screen and is powered by an upgraded 1.5 GHz dual-core processor (compared to the standard Sensation's 1.2 GHz dual-core chip). Besides the desirable specs, the HTC Sensation Limited Edition will also boast an enhanced audio experience thanks to Beats Audio, as well as an included pair of Beats headphones.

Canon PowerShot S100

We are big fans of Canon's S-series compact cameras, so the release of the new S100 came as very good news. The S100 seems like a significant step up from the S95, with Canon now including a faster processor, more pixels, better shooting speed and 1080p full HD video recording. Its minute frame also includes a GPS to geotag photos, perfect for globetrotting. We can't wait to actually test it. R4299, coming in November.

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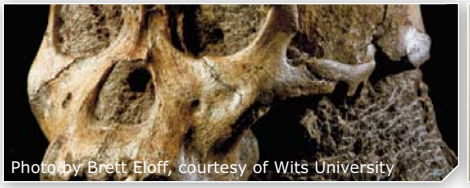
Photo by Brett Eloff, courtesy of Wits University

The hand that rocked the Cradle

The world of human evolution has been turned upside down, thanks to bones found at the Cradle of Humankind towards the end of 2008. In an early September issue of the journal *Science*, a team of scientists describe features that suggest *Au. sediba* may be the oldest ancestor of us modern humans' genus Homo. Reconstruction of an almost complete hand shows that *Au. sediba* had long thumbs and fairly short fingers, and possibly strong hand muscles. This suggests that although able to deftly clamber around in trees, *Au. sediba* likely also handled tools with skill. *Au. sediba* lived about 77 000 years earlier than the "Handy man", *Homo habilis*, which was previously thought to be the start of the distinctly human line of hominins. Learn more about *Au. sediba's* striking features at www.wits.ac.za/sediba.

Mirror, mirror on the wall

According to a recent report in the science journal *Angewandte Chemie*, the surface of flat mirrors can be manipulated to reflect weird images. Conventional physics laws predict the change in the path of a light ray when it hits a new optical medium. Usually the surface of the new medium is only the boundary. But when a team of physicists shone light onto a silicon surface etched with gold nanostructures, they found that the surface itself also acts as a medium in which the light travels. And depending on the specific pattern on the surface, light reflected in unpredictable ways. This led them to adapt the general equations that describe the path of travelling light. And you thought things never change in physics.

Smart foam

Imagine foam that doesn't fizzle out to soapy strands in the tub after a while. It's possible, say scientists in a recent article in *Science*. Studying the properties of a molecule derived from castor oil, called 12-hydroxystearic fatty acid, the team found that mixing it with a specific salt and then adding a little water created foam that lasts for almost six months! By changing the temperature of the water they could manipulate the stability of the foam bubbles. Microscopic analysis showed that at temperatures below 60 °C, the salt–fatty acid mix produces rigid tube-like structures in the soapy film of a foam bubble, which keeps the bubble stable. Above 60 °C, though, the tubes merge into tiny spheres, causing the film to collapse. The finding could be very useful for cosmetics and detergents. [LP]

» Weird Science

The most vital scientific lessons that need to be communicated: bit.ly/mostnbq

Scientists on trial for not predicting earthquake: bit.ly/trialshake

Black hole jets gone wild: bit.ly/blackholejets

Eco News ››

Google shines spotlight on its energy footprint

Google is working hard to reduce the amount of energy that their services employ. The company stated that in order to provide a user with Google products for an entire month, including search, Google+, Gmail, YouTube and every other Google product, their servers use less energy than a light left on for three hours. Additionally, as Google has been a carbon-neutral company since 2007, even that amount of energy is offset completely, so the carbon footprint of a user's time spent using Google's products and services is zero. The company also makes extensive use of renewable energy, such as seawater cooling systems at one of their data centres, and solar panels at their Mountain View campus.

World's 1st electric, manned helicopter takes flight

Frenchman Pascal Chretien, an electrical/aerospace engineer and helicopter pilot, last month took to the air in the world's first untethered, fully electric manned helicopter flight. Chretien did so in a prototype machine that he designed and built almost completely by himself within a year long development period.

During his historical two minute and ten seconds long test flight, he only managed a height of one meter. But he did so beating overwhelming odds against adequate power generation, also pipping aviation behemoth Sikorsky to this milestone, as that company has also been working on its own project to become the first to achieve a manned electric helicopter flight.

MTN scoops coveted GSCA award

MTN Business' Corporate Transport and Logistics Solution won Best Project in the over R10 million category, at the Annual Green Supply Chain Awards (GSCA). These awards reward companies making a sustained effort to minimise the environmental impact of their supply chain processes. "Our cost effective solution is a first for Africa. It enables totally paperless processes by providing an enterprise mobility platform – bundled with cellular data contract, providing all businesses requirements in terms of software, hardware, data, support and services. This system will literally save businesses millions in upfront hardware and software costs while increasing efficiency and productivity, creating paperless processes and reducing waste," explains Nomalanga Nkosi, GM of MTN Business Marketing.

» Other interesting eco news

Electric car driver's range fear subsides after three months. tiny.cc/rangefearover

US military putting solar panels at 160 000 base locations. tiny.cc/USarmygoesgreen

Switch from coal to natural gas no boon to climate. tiny.cc/gasnobetter

20 December & 22 December. The US and EU release dates for Star Wars: The Old Republic.

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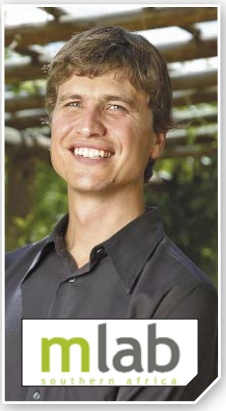
Interview: Steve Vosloo, Mobile Impact Evangelist,

mLab

With smartphones everywhere, the market for apps is exploding. mLab SA, a new regional lab for mobile technology entrepreneurs, application developers and innovators, was recently launched at The Innovation Hub, Pretoria. TechSmart talks to Steve Vosloo, mobile impact evangelist at mLab to discuss this excellent new initiative.



TechSmart (TS): Why the need to start an mLab here in SA?
Steve Vosloo (SV): While there exists an enormous mobile opportunity in the Southern Africa region, there are still challenges to creating a sustainable business in mobile and often the business model is not clear, thus requiring the services and support to be provided by an mLab.

TS: Who is providing the funding for this initiative?
SV: mLab SA and the recently opened mLab East Africa, in Nairobi, are the first of a number of mLabs to be launched around the world as part of the Creating Sustainable Businesses in the Knowledge Economy programme. This is supported by infoDev (World Bank), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Finland and Nokia. mLab SA is also generously supported by the South African Department of Science and Technology.

TS: What are the benefits of mLab for companies that form part of the project?
SV: Here are a few major benefits:

- Subsidised office space with meeting rooms and excellent internet connectivity.
- Training and accreditation on mobile technologies and entrepreneurship.
- Business mentoring and coaching, e.g. assistance with a business plan or mobile app monetisation strategy.
- Business intelligence, such as privileged access to market research information and knowledge repositories.
- Testing of mobile apps and services in dedicated test bays, which include handsets and virtual emulators, SDKs, training materials, etc.
- Certification of applications on key app stores.
- Access to finance: Linkages with funding instruments such as grants and seed capital, angel investors and venture capitalists.
- Shared services including reception, internet, test laboratories, etc.

TS: I am a developer, how do I sign up to become part of mLab?
SV: Go to www.mlab.co.za/membership. The mLab SA offers three types of membership: Community, which is free and which anyone can join, and Silver and Gold, for which members pay a fee to access the core services of the mLab SA facilities, and receive more structured support from the mLab SA team and its partners.

TS: Why the choice of the Innovation Hub in Pretoria? Would Johannesburg not be better suited?
SV: Last year organisations had to go through a bidding process to host the mLab Southern Africa. The successful bidding consortium consists of four organisations – CSIR Meraka Institute, the Innovation Hub, InnovationLab and Ungana-Afrika. Being based at the Innovation Hub was favourable for winning the bid as it supports the building of an ICT cluster in that space. Having said that, we know that the mobile community is distributed across South Africa and so we will have satellite offices in major centres, including Johannesburg.

Interview: Paulo Ferreira, Head of Mobile Product and Business Solutions, Samsung

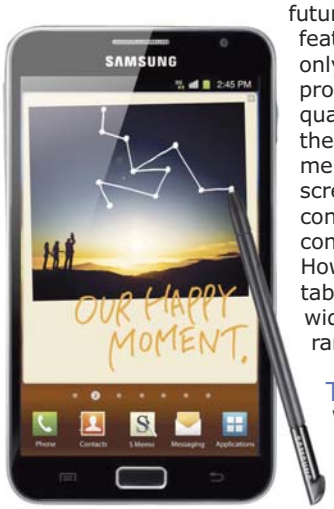
Samsung lifts lid on tablet strategy

We sat down with Paulo Ferreira, the head of Mobile Product and Business Solutions at Samsung South Africa, to chat about the tablet and smartphone space and what we can expect for the foreseeable future.

The first question often asked about tablets, is how will it affect notebook and netbook sales? According to Ferreira, the success of tablets had not yet eroded the market for either, but he conceded that it could in future, as tablet adoption continued to accelerate. This seems rather inevitable, as the company had witnessed less resistance from customers towards adopting tablets, particularly as cellular operators were introducing attractive deals that reduced the cost of tablets and smartphones, also accompanying them with competitive data packages. "While South Africa is slightly behind the US and UK in terms of tablet purchases, it is certainly accelerating at a pace we didn't expect, so a slow initial uptake has been superseded by a more aggressive, more informed adoption," he added.

Many sizes to fit all

Ferreira explained that because of the portable nature of tablets, users gravitate towards devices that are as light as possible, which meant that competition was driving greater innovation around reducing a device's weight as well as increasing its feature set. He continued that the company wanted to offer users as much choice as possible. To this end, Samsung's strategy was to create a portfolio of products that addressed a range of needs and preferences rather than a one-size-fits-all approach. Additionally, they aimed to differentiate their tablets from the competition by striving to produce increasingly more innovative products.



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In the future

Whether for corporate use or for general users, Ferreira anticipates that in the future we can expect the features on offer in tablets to only improve. Dual-core processors would give way to quad-core processors, and the inclusion of more memory, higher quality screens, improved battery consumption and faster connectivity are a given. However, Ferreira expects tablets to become more widely available to a broader range of income groups.

To the point

While the debate rages on whether we are entering a post PC era, and whether it is the end of the road for netbooks and notebooks, one thing seems abundantly clear: phones will only get smarter, tablet computers will continue to become more powerful (and thinner) and the technology industry seems destined to become a whole lot more exciting. [RN]

Four. Number of fingers Samsung has in various mobile OS pies, with Windows Phone, Android, Tizen and bada.

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The best new internet security packages

To protect and serve online

Internet security software usually includes all the protection of an anti-virus package combined with functionality to enable a safer web browsing and web transaction experience. A number of manufacturers have already released their 2012 editions, and we take a look at the best of them.

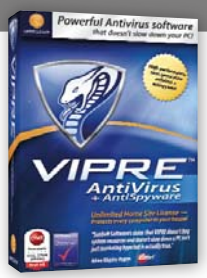
Trend Micro Titanium Internet Security 2012

R199 for one user, for one year

Trend Micro Titanium Internet Security 2012 offers an intuitive interface that is aimed at being easy to install, along with 'set-and-forget security' which has cut down on alerts and pop-ups. Additional features include data theft protection, which prevents protected data from going into web pages, email messages or instant messaging, spam blocking and customisable parental controls to keep kids safe online.
www.sahara.co.za

VIPRE Antivirus Premium lifetime edition

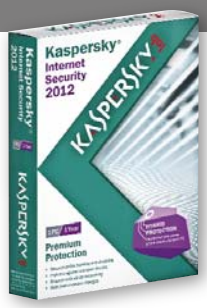
R450 for one user, for a lifetime version



VIPRE distinguishes itself by offering lifetime licenses, meaning you buy it once and it will keep on updating your software under that license. Others include a year long license, which means the software will keep on protecting the PC, but will no longer update its database. The Premium edition combines anti-virus and anti-spyware features into a single tool, while a web filter blocks annoying online ads and email scanning ensures clean and clear email. A firewall is included, which can be set up in either the Simple or Learning mode, depending on your tech-savviness. www.vipreantivirus.com

Kaspersky Internet Security 2012

R399 for one user, for one year



Kaspersky's 2012 edition includes their hybrid approach to PC security, which brings together the latest information about malware threats from the cloud with the security capabilities provided by KIS 2012 installed on the PC. Improvements to parental control ensures safe searches and can also restrict the amount of time kids spend online, while File Adviser checks the safety of a file with one click.
www.kaspersky.co.za

Read our full review: bit.ly/kasp12

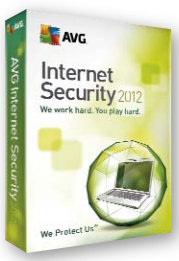
Bitdefender Internet Security 2012

R363 for one user, for one year

The latest Bitdefender version keeps your conversations on Yahoo! and MSN Messenger private, while it also filters social-networking specific e-threats by scanning links you receive from your Facebook and Twitter stream. Also onboard is the new Rescue Mode that re-boots your PC in a trusted environment when e-threats can't be removed in the regular Windows environment.
www.bitdefender.co.za

AVG Internet Security 2012

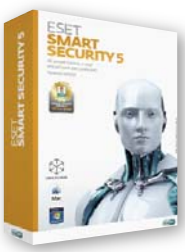
R299 for two users, for one year



AVG Internet Security 2012 offers new protection technologies, computer performance enhancements and content download acceleration. It boasts multi-layered protection, utilising signature-based antivirus, heuristics and behavior-based threats detection, while being the lightest, fastest and smallest AVG product to date. An internet security package well worth considering.
www.avg.com/za

ESET Smart Security 5

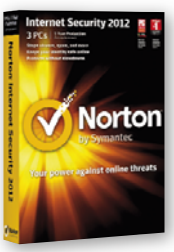
R538 for one user, for one year



ESET Smart Security 5 provides real-time protection against internet threats and social media exploits via Live Grid, advanced heuristic detection technology which flags never-before-seen malware, an improved firewall and antispam. The software also scans all USB flash drives, memory cards and CDs/DVDs for malware and features a gamer mode, which postpones all pop-up windows, updates or other activities to conserve resources. www.eset.co.za

Norton Internet Security 2012

R520 for three users, for one year



Key features and usability improvements in the new version include Norton Identity Safe in the Cloud, which protects personal and financial information from cybercriminals, a streamlined interface and a simplified login experience. New Norton Management functionality enables users to manage their Norton products from anywhere, and fix issues remotely, while Norton Insight automatically identifies and blocks never before seen malicious software.
http://za.norton.com

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- Delivered the fastest boot time of all products tested
- Delivered the fastest network file copy of all products tested
- Demonstrated the lowest memory and CPU usage when performing a full scan of the C:drive
- Showed the lowest combined impact on installing and uninstalling programs

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What you need to know:

Trend Micro Titanium Internet Security 2012

The easy to use Trend Micro Titanium Internet Security web security software package enables you to safely and securely connect to the internet.

As with a variety of other popular internet security packages, Titanium Internet Security 2012 offers all the benefits of an anti-virus solution, along with additional functionality. These added extras ensure that your family can navigate the world wide web in a secure fashion, with the help, for example, of parental control functionality to ensure that children cannot access inappropriate websites or spend the entire day online.

New features

Besides the features usually included with this Internet Security suite, such as a top-notch spam blocker, the updated 2012 package also boasts some new functionality. This includes the Fake antivirus cleaner, that acts as a potent defence against malware posing as antivirus software, while at the same time enhancing overall malware detection and clean-up.

A feature that will come in very handy for those with lots of sensitive data on their PCs, is Secure Erase. This enables you to overwrite deleted files with random data. What many users may not realise is that merely deleting files on your PC simply results in the removal of the directory information used to find the file, while the actual data remains. With Secure Erase you can rest assured that these files have truly been permanently erased. For those doing lots of downloading from the net, the Trend Micro behavioural monitoring module provides proactive protection by checking running processes for unauthorised and potentially malicious changes.

Also interesting is the fact that Titanium Internet Security features 2 GB worth of SafeSync online storage. This, like Dropbox, allows you to securely store all of your work documents and multimedia files online, or share it with users that have web-enabled devices. Another new feature not found in many internet security packages is the new system tuner. This improves PC performance by helping users to free up disk space and enabling Windows to start faster.

Conclusion

Trend Micro Titanium Internet Security 2012 offers users a comprehensive security solution with a number of extras not found on other internet security packages. A one PC, one year license edition goes for R199 (incl VAT), which also gives you access to free 24/7 local email and telephonic support.

65%. Year-on-year increase in financial transactions made via Absa's cellphone banking offerings.

Norton Mobile Security ›› Your Android protected

With the proliferation of smartphones and tablets, the value of the data contained on these devices makes a compelling argument for mobile protection. To this end, Symantec recently introduced its Norton Mobile Security software that is aimed at stopping mobile threats in their insidious tracks.

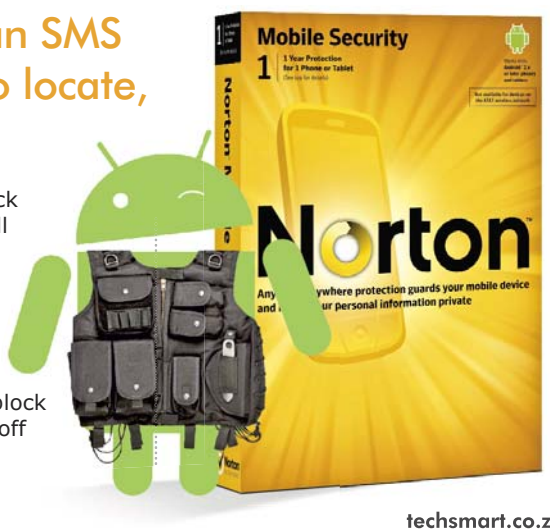
Installation of the application was a breeze, while downloading the software took a few seconds, after which it prompted us for our license key. Additionally, the software, which is compatible with Android 2.0 and above, worked without any issues on our later version of Android. The clean and uncluttered interface then presented us with several options in a list form, namely Anti-theft, Anti-Malware, Call and SMS blocking, and Web Protection.

Feature set

Anti-theft enables one to send a text message to your device, in the event of it being lost or stolen, with a password of your choosing, to locate your device via its GPS, lock it or wipe it of all its information. Additionally, this feature further give the option to add 'trusted buddies' who could similarly perform the same functions on your behalf, while you can also choose to wipe the device of its data after ten unsuccessful password attempts.

Anti-malware does a background scan of your smartphone or tablet for any malicious code, and we found no discernible impact on device performance when running a scan, taking an impressive 17 seconds to scan 197 files. The Call and SMS blocking feature was similarly uncomplicated and enabled you to create a block list, using your contacts, call logs, SMS logs or personal input, as the basis for whom would be blocked. The final feature on offer, Web Protection, was equally as straightforward, since you can turn it on to block fraudulent sites, or leave it off and browse without the software's protection.

"You can send an SMS to your device to locate, lock or wipe it."



Performance

Our biggest concern was how installing a security suite on our device would affect its performance, which luckily remained unaffected, with no discernible slowdown in web browsing or general navigation. While 16 MB is not small for a mobile app, we found Norton Mobile Security to be a wise investment in protecting the integrity of one's data. It retails though for a pricey R400.

Full review:
bit.ly/norsecmob

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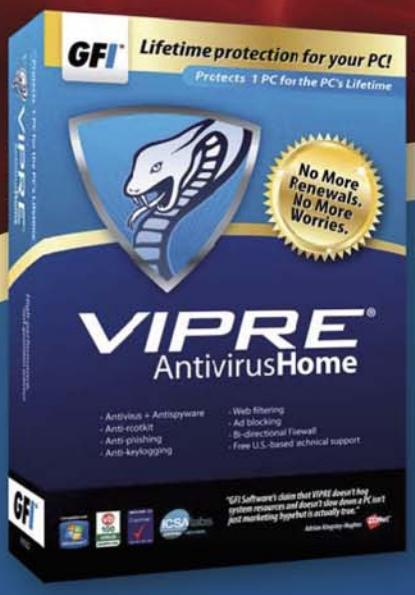

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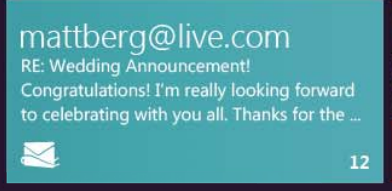


THE BIG ISSUE Windows 8

At Microsoft's Build developers conference, held last month in Anaheim, California, the world got its first glimpse of the next iteration of the planet's number one operating system – Windows 8.

It gave a good idea of what Windows 8 will look like, but more importantly, it showed that the OS will be more touch-friendly in order to support the increased importance of tablets, a computing category that completely passed Microsoft by.

Metro Style user interface

Microsoft's Windows 8 operating system (OS) introduces their new Metro style user interface (UI) as found on their Windows Phone smartphone. Sleek, stylish and refreshingly modern, Metro is better suited to touch, but can be just as easily navigated with mouse and keyboard. Live tiles form the epicentre of the user experience, with tiles able to include anything from different apps, files, media players to links to RSS feeds. These tiles are able to provide certain information without having to open it, for example a weather app will show the weather forecast for the next three days directly from the desktop.

As with Windows Phone, apps don't run in isolation, as they are able to communicate with each other within Windows 8. For instance, whilst composing an email, users can simply select photos that they wish to attach to the email from different places, the likes of Facebook, Flickr or on their PC's own hard drive. In terms of web browsing, Internet Explorer 10 is said to deliver a fast and fluid touch-optimised browsing experience to Windows 8 users, while just as Apple did with their Mac App Store, the OS will also enable users to quench their app-appetites via the Windows Store.

One OS to rule all form factors

By offering support for ARM-based chipsets, x86 (as well as x32 and x64) devices, touch and sensors, Microsoft has ensured that Windows 8 will operate on a wider range of devices than ever before. These include the usual suspects, but now also welcoming new devices the likes of 10" tablets as well as all-in-one PCs with 27" HD displays.

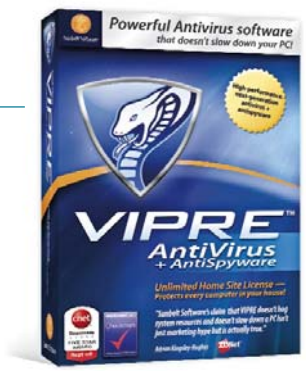
If anything, Windows 8 acknowledges the massive influence of smartphones and tablets in the way people want to interact with computers. For Microsoft, Windows 8 will be more of a giant leap than the usual one small step. [HD]

VIPRE Antivirus Premium lifetime edition
›› Antivirus for the lifetime of your PC

VIPRE anti-virus is one of the newcomers in the field, but this hasn't stopped the tenacious software package from taking on the big boys, and living to tell about it.

One of the most annoying aspects of modern anti-virus software is the recurring annual licenses, and this is where VIPRE truly stands out from the crowd. It is one of the only mainstream services offering lifetime licenses, meaning you buy it once and never again.

VIPRE describes itself as being a light-weight, highly efficient anti-virus program that supplies users with all the security features they may need, in addition to not hogging system resources. The software optimises overall performance by combining anti-virus and anti-spyware features into a single tool. A firewall is included, sporting a myriad of different options which can be set up in either the Simple or Learning mode, depending on your tech-savviness. A web filter also helps block annoying online ads while email scanning will ensure clean mail at all times.



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LG Optimus Black P970
bit.ly/blacklg

Huawei IDEOS X5
bit.ly/x5huawei

10 million sold. Global channel sales milestone for Samsung's Galaxy SII smartphone.

Netshield NVIROMON-1U monitoring system

Access control, environmental control and power management at your fingertips

If protection of a specific room is a priority, the versatile NVIROMON-1U monitoring system should be number one on your list. We delve into its access control, fire smothering and environmental monitoring features.

By now TechSmart readers must be familiar with the NVIROMON-1U, a device used to monitor and control the conditions inside a room, detecting whether it is too cold, too hot, too wet or if there are any unwanted gasses or fire. What readers might not know is that this versatile product can also provide full access control, with complete command over who enters the room, when and for what reason. There is even an option of a full security alarm system that can capture images of people entering. Users will be able to see and hear if anything is out of the ordinary; but best of all, it will alert you via SMS if you are not close by.

CONTROLLING ACCESS AND SECURITY

In order to restrict access to rooms where sensitive, dangerous or expensive equipment is housed, the NVIROMON unit can be enhanced via certain key equipment:

- The MULIODCBPSU controls access through the main door. It allows the user to enter with WIEGAND-based technology such as fingerprint readers, WIEGAND interface keypads or Normally Open/Normally Close contacts. This product is installed inside the room above the door, so that it is tamper proof from the outside.
- The NIPC930 is an Internet Protocol (IP) Camera that can take photos or videos on demand, for instance every time the push button is pressed or the infrared sensor picks up movement. It has the option of being installed as a wired or a wireless device.
- The NKPPCR1 device can be installed to read an access card, or an access code can be typed in on the keypad, in order to allow access to the room.
- For more sophisticated technology the SGMOPTO device scans and reads fingerprints in order to allow certain people access to the room. This Sagem device is installed next to the door to also allow access through fingerprint scanning. With its sophisticated software, SGMINT4, it allows personal record management, image capture, finger registration, reports, etc.
- Door latching mechanisms, such as the NVMAGLOC300KG with its Z-bracket, NMAGLOCZ300, is used to determine if a door is open or not.
- The break glass switches and fireman's switches allow entry into the access-controlled area during or after an emergency.

CONTROLLING THE ENVIRONMENT

In some rooms it is important to manage and control the conditions inside the room such as detecting gasses, managing temperature and managing humidity, because fluctuations in these may be harmful to equipment/products/people. To this end, Netshield offers the following:

- In most cases there are a minimum of two air conditioners in such a room. The NACCU can be used on its own or in conjunction with the NVIROMON-1U. Since it monitors the working and cycles of the air conditioners in the room, it allows certain advantages such as controlling fire by being able to cut off the air flow from the air conditioner remotely.
- The NAM-SW is mounted on the air conditioner to monitor the airflow. It will alert you with an SMS when the air conditioner doesn't operate anymore.
- The NTEMPRS485 is a sensor that is connected to the NVIROMON-1U that can measure temperature in the room. In some circumstances it is very important to control temperature, for example in medicine storage rooms or abattoirs. By connecting this product to the NVIROMON-1U the user will be able to receive SMSes on a regular basis regarding temperature change.
- Furthermore there are also the NBARRS485 measuring humidity, the NH20RS485 that notices floods, and the NPWRRELAY sensor that detects when the power is off.

For enquiries on any of these products, contact Netshield on 086-111-4428 or 012-841-0320, or visit www.netshieldsa.com.

70 million. Global milestone for BlackBerry subscribers that Research In Motion surpassed last month.

Lenovo ThinkPad X1 ›› For serious business

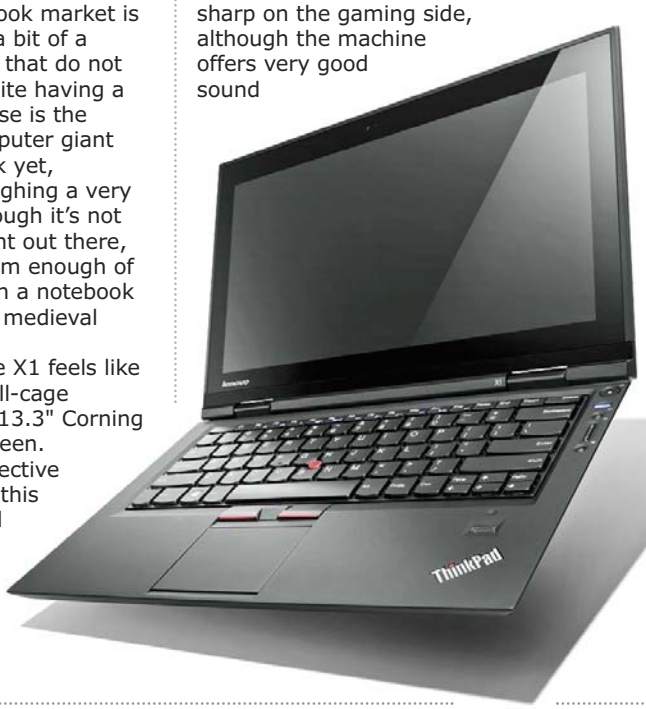
Thin and light, but with a definite business edge. That's a pretty good description of the new Lenovo ThinkPad X1.

The thin-and-light notebook market is currently experiencing a bit of a boom, thanks to machines that do not sacrifice performance despite having a skinnier frame. Joining these is the ThinkPad X1, Chinese computer giant Lenovo's thinnest notebook yet, measuring 17 mm and weighing a very manageable 1.72 kg. Although it's not the lightest of thin-and-light out there, Lenovo has managed to trim enough of the excess fat that can turn a notebook bag on the shoulder into a medieval torture device.

Despite its thin frame the X1 feels like a solid device, featuring roll-cage protection and now also a 13.3" Corning Gorilla Glass protective screen. Although slightly more reflective than we would have liked, this scratch-resistant enhanced glass does make one feel a bit more relaxed about those bumps and bruises that can often lead to a very expensive to replace cracked screen.

Core i5 means business

In the engine room of our test machine is the Intel Core i5 2520M dual-core processor running at 2.5 GHz. This processor is very suitable for multi-tasking and a broad range of high performance tasks. That said, it's not as sharp on the gaming side, although the machine offers very good sound thanks to Dolby Home Theatre V4 onboard. One of the strong points of any ThinkPad is some of the best keyboards you'll ever have the priviledge to type on. Exactly the same is true of the new redesigned chiclet-style keyboard, which is not only a joy to make use of, but is spill-proof and now also backlit.



Despite a solid offering of ports, Lenovo opted to include the majority of them on the back of the machine, making it very difficult to quickly access these when needed. The company's decision to go for a built-in battery instead of a removable one also hinders, since in our experience a battery is one of the first things to be replaced on a notebook.

Conclusion

Despite these shortcomings, we would feel more than comfortable with the ThinkPad X1 in our notebook bag. It might not be the lightest thin-and-light on the market, but with a very solid feel, uncompromising performance, a damage-resistant screen and one of the best keyboards on market, the X1 did much to impress us. Our version with Intel Core i5 processor retails for R14 999.

Full review:
bit.ly/x1lenovo

Asus K53SC ›› Medium weight all rounder

The aluminium styled K53SC brings a touch of distinction to Asus' mid-range offerings.

The first aspect of the K53SC that caught our eye was the solidity of its aluminum frame, which immediately lends the notebook a sense of durable quality. Beyond this, some subtle patterning on the lid and discrete splashes of brown and silver give the notebook a somewhat formal but nonetheless attractive appearance.

Specifications

Our K53SC review unit sported Intel's second generation Core i7, running at 2.0 GHz, 4 GB of memory and a 500 GB hard drive. The notebook offered general all round admirable performance, proving fast and responsive in our use of it. Also worth mentioning is its bright and sharp 15.6" screen, with a resolution of 1366 x 768 as well as a Nvidia Geforce GT 540 M graphics card, which has 1 GB dedicated video memory for moderate gaming.

Features

However, as the old Cremora ad goes, the notebook's charm is not (just) inside, it's (also) on top.

The K53SC boasts a full chicklet keyboard with a numeric pad that proved a pleasure to type on. Despite not being backlit, which would have been immensely welcome, our fingers nonetheless found the keys easily, to be met by a firm but satisfying press.

> "Neither the keyboard, the ideally placed large trackpad, nor the base of the computer showed any sign of heating up."

The company makes a big deal of its IceCool palmrest feature, in which the internal components of the notebook have been positioned to keep heat away from the palmrest. It certainly works well, since even as we engaged high performance mode for hours on end, neither the keyboard, the ideally placed large trackpad, nor the base of the computer showed any sign of heating up.

Power suitable

Another noteworthy feature on the K53SC is Asus' Power4 Gear software, which enables one to readily switch between one of four modes – high performance, entertainment, quiet office and battery saving, in which the notebook varies the maximum processor state, screen brightness and camera devices accordingly. Altec Lansing speakers, two USB 2.0, one USB 3.0 and an HDMI port are along for the ride, along with a DVD drive.

Conclusion

While weighing in at 2.6 kg, the notebook was not unbearably heavy to carry in our notebook backpack, and at R10 499 the K53SC won't break the bank or your back, while proving to offer an all-round enjoyable computing experience. [RN]

1.13 kg. Weight of Toshiba's Portege Z830 Series ultrabook, the world's lightest 13.3" notebook.

LG Optimus 3D P920 ›› 3D everywhere

It was surely only ever a question of time before 3D made the move towards our smartphones, with LG's Optimus 3D being the first 3D devices to land on SA's shores.

As LG's flagship device, the Android running Optimus 3D boasts a glasses-free 3D display and can capture and display 3D images and video. With a bright and sharp 4.3" 3D LCD capacitive touchscreen (480 x 800), it is one of the bigger smartphones you'll come across this year.

On to the 3D

It's clear that the 3D functionality is the phone's predominant "wow factor" and also an impressive conversation starter. It certainly made us eager to play around with the phone and see what it could offer, which turned out to be quite a lot. The phone boasts a 2D and 3D mode, enabling one to view images and play games in 2D or 3D, both of which certainly looked compelling.

Two five megapixel cameras situated next to each other make it possible to capture both 3D videos and images. And this worked extremely well, especially 3D video recording, which enables video capture at full HD 1080p at 24 fps when capturing in 2D, or 720 at 30 fps when recording in 3D. Once a 3D video has been captured, it can be uploaded directly to a dedicated YouTube 3D channel from the phone's 'Share' menu.

"It's clear that the 3D functionality is the phone's predominant 'wow factor' and also an impressive conversation starter."

Features

It further boasts a dual-core 1 GHz ARM Cortex-A9 processor and 512 MB memory, which accounted for a faultless responsiveness when navigating the interface. Internal storage of 8 GB is also included, but this can be expanded by 32 GB with a microSD card. The phone further features a Micro HDMI port (to connect it to an HDTV), Wi-Fi and aGPS. The only weakness of what is yet another solid phone in LG's stable, is the LG 3D's battery life, which ran down faster than we would have liked.

Conclusion

The LG Optimus 3D will retail for R5499, which while expensive, is a fair price in our opinion, considering the quality of the phone and the range of features on offer. The fact that it enables users to view, capture and share their own content, all in 3D, makes it an awesome offering.[RN]

Full review:
bit.ly/lgop3d

Sony Ericsson Xperia Play ›› The Clark Kent of smartphones

The Sony Ericsson Xperia Play, otherwise known as the PlayStation phone, is the first PlayStation Certified device and looks like the lovechild of a smartphone and PSP Go.

Donning a stylish ivory and silver Clark Kent business suit, the Play fits in neatly with the rest of Sony Ericsson's (SE) Xperia Android devices. It measures 119 x 62 x 16 mm and weighs a noticeably chubby 175 g, but this bulky exterior hints at the fact that there's more to this device, becoming evident when you slide out its hidden PSP Go-esque gamepad from underneath the display to reveal its Superman gaming persona.

"This bulky exterior hints at the fact that there's more to this device, becoming evident when you slide out its hidden PSP Go-esque gamepad."

Keeping the performance Kryptonite (aka lag) at bay and delivering a super-smooth gaming performance, is the Play's optimised Qualcomm Snapdragon MSM8255 system-on-a-chip, sporting a 1 GHz CPU and embedded Adreno 205 GPU graphics processor. Together with 512 MB of RAM, this SoC duo delivers 60 frames per second 3D mobile gaming (although not viewable in 3D like the LG 3D), via the Play's excellent 4" (480 x 854 pixels, 245 ppi pixel density) touchscreen.

We go gaming

The Play will have access to PlayStation game content provided through the PlayStation Suite, which will be launched by Sony Computer Entertainment later this year. Six preloaded games ensure that you keep your gaming fingers occupied until then, including Crash Bandicoot, Bruce Lee: Dragon Warrior and FIFA 10, with more games downloadable via Google's Android Market.

The graphics can be compared to PS One titles, and we found the gaming experience smooth and the controls intuitive, as expected from a devices with a PS pedigree. However, we also found ourselves wishing that Sony squeezed in a mini analogue stick, which would've enabled better 360° movement within games such as FIFA 10, instead there are touchpads included.

Other features

Also onboard is an auto-focus 5.1 MP camera that captures gorgeous looking photos, but strangely doesn't record HD-Ready videos. It also features aGPS, Bluetooth 2.1 with A2DP, 802.11n Wi-Fi and only about 400 MB of internal storage space, with an 8 GB card included in the box.

Conclusion

The SE Xperia Play is a really capable smartphone and delivers an improved mobile gaming experience thanks to its dedicated controls. This smartphone will enable you to replace your old smartphone and PSP with just one device, but for a pricey R6000. [HD]

2nd. Vodacom Tanzania is the 2nd largest operation outside South Africa for the local mobile operator, with over nine million customers.

BlackBerry Bold 9900 ›› Best Bold ever

In contrast to the small step from the BlackBerry Bold 9700 to the Bold 9780, RIM took a more dramatic leap forward with the Bold 9900.

As we've come to expect from the Bold series, the 9900 offers one of the best QWERTY keyboards available, but now also offers a responsive 2.8" LCD capacitive touchscreen to go along with it. Much like the BlackBerry Torch, this allows you to use the keyboard, trackpad or touchscreen to easily navigate your way round the menus.

"This allows you to use the keyboard, trackpad or touchscreen to easily navigate your way round the menus."

RIM's Bold 9900 sports the familiar iconic BB design, enhanced by a brushed stainless steel frame that's nicely contrasted by the black glossy plastic body. It incorporates a stylish high-gloss glass-weave backplate, covering the battery and slots for the SIM and non-hotswoppable microSD memory card (supports cards up to 32 GB). Measuring 115 x 66 x 10.5 mm and weighing 130 g, the 9900 is extremely comfortable to hold and pocket-friendly seeing that its the thinnest BB model available. This high pixel density (pixel per inch count) of the touchscreen (640 x 480, 287 ppi) still doesn't match that of the Nokia E6 (328 ppi) or the iPhone 4 (326 ppi) though.

BlackBerry 7 OS and features

Despite foregoing the current dual-core processor trend, this BB is no slow-poke. It's powered by a single-core 1.2 GHz QC 8655 processor and sports 768 MB of RAM, keeping any hint of lag at bay. Also onboard is 8 GB of internal storage space, Wi-Fi 802.11 n, Bluetooth 2.1 with A2DP, and a 5 MP camera that can record HD-Ready (720p) videos.

RIM's new BlackBerry 7 OS debuts on the 9900, with RIM proclaiming a 40% increase in speed to the previous OS due to Liquid Graphics technology. This new OS also enables some additional features including a faster browser, Near Field Communication and a voice-activated search. We found it noticeably quicker to utilise compared to BlackBerry 6-operating smartphones, although it looks virtually identical to the previous OS.

Conclusion

The Bold 9900 sports some excellent specs, while being RIM's thinnest BlackBerry handset and the best looking Bold device to boot. It goes for an RRP of R7694, making it a lot more expensive than the outgoing Bold 9780 and other touch-and-type devices such as Nokia's E6 (R4499) and HTC's ChaCha (R2350). [HD]

Full review:
bit.ly/newBoldreview

HTC Wildfire S ›› S is for souped-up Wildfire

Smartphone buyers looking for a budget-friendly mobile device no longer have to settle for underpowered devices with unimpressive displays, as this price category is inhabited by some capable performers.

The sturdily constructed and robust HTC Wildfire S is extremely comfortable to hold and almost unnoticeable in your pocket, as it measures in at a 101.3 x 59.4 x 12.4 mm, and weighs a mere 105 g. Its white back-cover is nicely contrasted by a silver plastic finish around the smartphone's edges and camera, much like HTC's Flyer tablet. This allows it to come across as a more stylish and upmarket device than the rather plain black design of the Samsung Galaxy Gio. The Wildfire S's screen is also much better than the previous Wildfire, now boasting 320 x 480 pixels instead of 240 x 320, while also impressively sporting the more resistant Gorilla Glass, an excellent addition to what is basically an entry-level device.

"Every time we use one of these entry-level devices it amazes us that most of the functionality on higher-end devices also features on here."

Sensible Skin

As a boon to users, Google's latest Android 2.3 (Gingerbread) OS features, as well as HTC's Sense 2.1 skin running atop of it (same as on the Desire S). We are avid fans of the HTC Sense interface that flies between integrated social feeds, the best apps arrangement in the business and intuitive accessibility to numerous functions, all while still retaining Android's familiarity. Our only real gripe with the device is that HTC has opted to power it with a 600 MHz Snapdragon processor, unlike for example the ChaCha or Samsung Gio that includes speedier 800 MHz processors. It unfortunately resulted in the interface becoming noticeably laggy on occasion, detracting from the coolness factor that this fantastic skin brings to this budget smartphone.

Every time we use one of these entry-level devices it amazes us that most of the functionality on higher-end devices also features here. This includes Wi-Fi, aGPS with voice guided navigation thanks to Google Navigation, HSDPA connectivity, Bluetooth 3.0 and the ability to include microSD cards (2 GB card included in box). A few years ago this would never have been the case.

Final word

HTC's Wildfire S features a stylish look and feel and a gorgeous, user-friendly interface, but does unfortunately suffer from some lag. It comes with an RRP of R2888, slightly more than some of the competition. [HD]

Full review:
bit.ly/htcwilds

Q2's biggest smartphone makers: 1. Apple 2. Samsung 3. Nokia. Q2's largest mobile phone makers: 1. Nokia 2. Samsung 3. LG.

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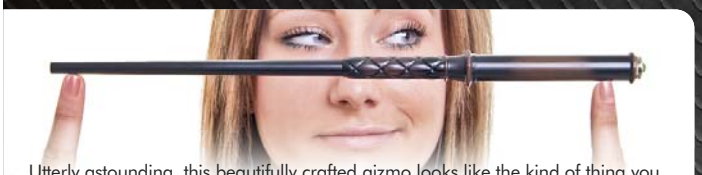
Magic Wand Remote Control



Utterly astounding, this beautifully crafted gizmo looks like the kind of thing you might find in Diagon Alley. The difference is you use it to control your telly, DSTV, stereo or any other infra-red device via various abracadabra-ish gestures. There are no buttons, so to change the channel or the volume you'll have to wave it around in the air, like a wizard.

Boogie Board

The Boogie Board tablet is more than just a memo pad. Keep one by the home phone and by your computer at work to jot down memos, make to do lists, leave messages for others, capture your next big idea, and much much more.

NSD Power Balls

Originally designed to improve wrist strength through its gyroscopic forces, the NSD Power Ball is actually a fiendishly addictive, one-more-go competitive device. The increased centrifugal force makes it harder to keep the Powerball spinning at faster speeds

Kandela Candle

There's always been something rather enchanting and Hogwarts-esque about candles. So it's no surprise boffins have finally created one that is activated by a magic wand. Abraca-flickin'-dabra!

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15.6" HD Ready (1366X768), 1.0GB Intel HD Graphics , Wireless LAN, Bluetooth, Windows 7 Pro, 2 Year Fetch & Return Warranty

R6195

Acer TM5742

Intel Core i5-460M (2.53GHz), 15.6" HD LED + Web Cam, ATI Radeon 5470, (512MB) , 3GB DDR3 Memory, 500GB HDD,
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5 cores. Nvidia's Project Kal-El (Tegra 3) system-on-a-chip might be touted as the world's 1st mobile quad-core processor, but it actually sports a fifth companion core.

Canon EOS 1100D ›› A good start

As their low-cost entry-level model, Canon's EOS 1100D will do a lot to make amateur shooters love photography.

The Canon EOS 1100D is aimed at those starting out on their photographic journey, or simply the mom-dad looking to capture high quality pictures of the kids. Granted, it does not contain as much functionality as the larger cameras, but depending on where you want to go with your photography, you might never feel the need to step up.

Easy to use

When you first look at the back of this 12.2 megapixel camera, the amount of buttons can be confusing. It's not necessary to hit the manual right away (but recommended), since on the top of the camera you'll find your mode dial. Many people, even on higher-end cameras, never move away from the simple options provided by this, with the different scene modes (portrait, sport, macro, etc.) almost ensuring you get a good quality picture. Canon has also introduced a Creative Auto mode where some manual adjustments can be made to your picture, explained in an easy to understand fashion. For example, the camera does not ask you if you want to adjust your aperture; instead it will give you the option to select your background blur – from a sharp background, ideal for landscapes, to a blurred background that is most suited for portraits.

Also manual

If you want to go into more detail, then the Manual setting allows for full control over different settings, including ISO (in the 1100D's case a very good 6400, allowing you to shoot indoors without flash for example), shutter speed (up to a very high 1/4000 of a second), aperture and more. The camera will also, by way of a short description, explain what each of the functions mean – a good way to learn about photography. Although the 1100D has a lovely viewfinder, its LCD screen at the back is smaller than the competition, measuring 2.7". You can also record high quality video, in the 1100D's case the HD-ready 720p and not the higher quality 1080p full HD.

> "Depending on where you want to go with your photography, you might never feel the need to step up."

If the photography bug has bit you either via your compact camera or your smartphone, the Canon EOS 1100D will provide a massive improvement in picture quality. It's a step in the right direction, thanks to a whole ecosystem of lenses and accessories available, and of course the benefits involved of a larger sensor, interchangeable lenses and faster processor. It retails for R6080 with 18-55 IS II Lens Kit. [MJ]

Wireless networking the Huawei way ›› Different strokes for different folks

In terms of computing peripherals, routers are much like printers in that they aren't the most alluring of devices, but they are essential to general connectivity, which means their reliability is crucial.

However, like with most pieces of technology, a little bit of thought goes a long way, and users are encouraged to identify their personal home networking needs before buying a router.

Hooked up via ADSL

An option always worth considering is an Wi-Fi ADSL router, such as Huawei HG520c ADSL Router router, which plugs into one's ADSL line and offers four LAN ports, a built-in antenna, wireless 802.11b/g/n and a Wi-Fi rate up to 150 Mbit/s. This is valuable for users who tend to do a lot of their internet and online browsing on their wireless devices, such as tablets and smartphones, and require fast wireless speeds that can transfer data efficiently rather than sending them running back to their PC.

3G at home

Another option, of course, are 3G modems. These are particularly relevant in the South African market in areas where fixed line access is limited or impossible. It is here that pairing of wireless technology and 3G coverage come into their own, and can be a boon for those who want connectivity wherever their 3G provider grants coverage. Instead of plugging into an ADSL line, these rely on a SIM card for connectivity.

Huawei's stylish white B660 3G wireless gateway is one of the best looking routers available. Unlike 3G dongles one plug into a notebook, the B660 provides internet access to anyone connected via Wi-Fi to this device, thanks to the strong 802.11b/g/n signal. It further features a circular panel on its top, which lights up to indicate power, signal strength and which of the four wired Ethernet ports are in use. With four Ethernet ports available, it's also possible to connect via LAN to the device.

Huawei E5830 Portable Router

Huawei B660 3G Wireless Gateway

3G On the Go

For a truly mobile connectivity option though, a 3G mobile Wi-Fi router is ideal. Case in point Huawei's Mobile Wi-Fi E5830, which is not only a pocket friendly portable solution, but also forms a mobile hotspot which anyone with the correct password can use to connect to the internet. At a miniscule weight of 90 g, it is ideally suited for road warriors who want to travel light as much as they need to stay connected.

For more information on any of these products, or where to buy them, call Huawei SA on 011-517-9800.

3200. Fake laser print cartridges seized locally by a coordinated strike by local law enforcement officials and HP.

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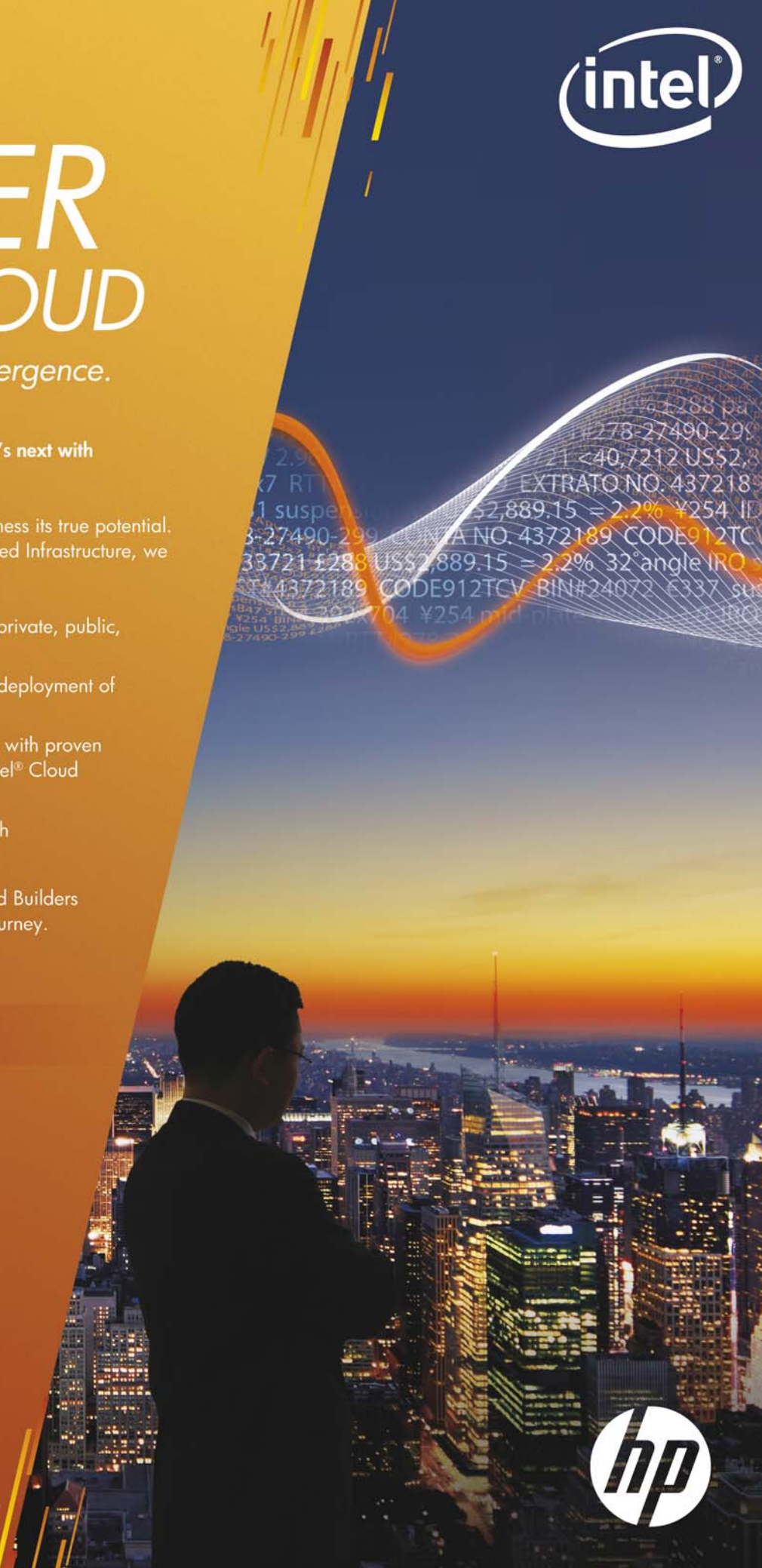

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Advertorial

What are the TOP CYBER RISKS to your enterprise security?

invent

About HP Enterprise Security Solutions

Security is a front-and-centre concern for an Instant-On Enterprise. When you consider the changing workforce, business model evolution and increasing reliance on the cloud, having the right level of visibility and control is more important than ever. Cyber threats are getting more sophisticated and unpredictable than ever before — so now is the time to ensure that you have the right security and risk management strategy in place.

HP Enterprise Security Solutions combines:

- an end-to-end approach to governing,
- operating and optimising security practices
- the most advanced technology to automate remediation and proactively protect against the onslaught of modern security threats.

Working in conjunction with a wide spectrum of technology and service partners, HP's Enterprise Security Solutions are designed to reduce risk associated with financial loss, reputation damage, and audit/compliance requirements.

HP Enterprise Security Solutions provide a layered system of defence for the enterprise. HP can help you assess, transform, manage, and optimise across your risk strategy and security operations.

Web applications are a necessary tool for conducting business in today's connected world – common examples include online banking or retail websites. At the same time, these applications can be a significant liability to enterprise security. Using just one vulnerability in the public facing interface of a web application, an attacker can devastate a business.

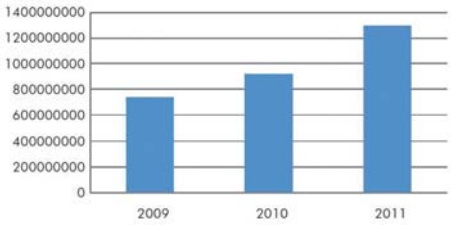
Not only can an attack on a web application affect the back end systems and impact your organisation's compliance posture, it can also put your customer data at risk which can in turn cause a public relations nightmare.

Newly released mid-year Cyber Security Risks Report 2011 offers insights The HP 2011 mid-year edition of the bi-annual Top Cyber Security Risks report (bit.ly/hpentersec) features in-depth analysis on web application vulnerabilities and attacks using data from HP DVLabs, Application Security Center and Fortify security units as well as vulnerability disclosure data garnered from the Open Source Vulnerability Database (OSVDB). Key findings from this report include:

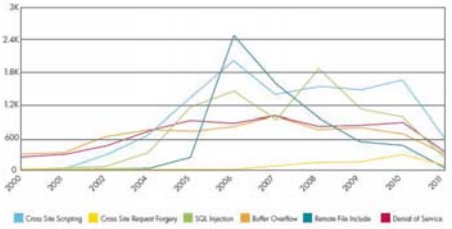
- The numbers of new vulnerabilities being reported is declining. There was a time when zero day attacks – exploits that leverage newly discovered vulnerabilities before they can be patched – were at an all-time high. However, this report shows an interesting and disturbing trend: the number of new vulnerabilities being discovered in commercial web applications is declining rapidly. OSVDB data reports just over 3000 new vulnerabilities disclosed from January – June 2011, which is down about 25% from the same time period last year.

- The number of vulnerabilities found in actual, production web applications is extremely high. At the same time, data from customer web application scans has shown the number of vulnerabilities found in these applications is still extremely high. For example, the Application Security Center Web Security Research Group (WSRG) conducted scans on 236 static web applications and found that 69% of these contained at least one SQL Injection vulnerability. What's more, 42% contained persistent cross-site scripting vulnerabilities. But if the numbers of new vulnerabilities disclosed is declining, where are these vulnerabilities coming from?

1. Organisations aren't patching pre-existing vulnerabilities in commercial web apps leaving low hanging fruit for attackers to exploit; and/or
2. There are a growing number of custom-developed web apps that are rife with vulnerabilities that can't be protected with commercially available security products.



Web App attacks at the mid year



Disclosed vunerabilities

- The number of attacks on web applications is growing exponentially. HP DVLabs compiled attack data from its network of HP TippingPoint Intrusion Prevention Systems (IPS) to determine the danger these web applications vulnerabilities pose to information security. For 2011, attacks on web applications have increased by 26% over the same time period in 2010. Looking at all these data points together, it's clear that attackers simply do not need to rely on new web app vulnerabilities to launch their exploits. They are able to execute successful and profitable attacks using older information and techniques. This report is intended for IT, network and/or security administrators that are responsible for securing the public facing communication with an organisation's customers, partners and employees. In addition to data on vulnerabilities and attacks, the report offers mitigation and risk management strategies for helping organisations address key business objectives including customer privacy concerns, service levels and compliance.

Download the full report here: bit.ly/hpentersec

What's your next enterprise security move?

Now that you've read about all of the most current risks and vulnerabilities, what do you need to do to protect your organisation from them? Get acquainted with HP's Enterprise Security Solutions here: bit.ly/hpesecsol

By Jennifer Lake, Security Product Marketing Manager, HP Networking

\$114 billion. Cost of cyber crime to the global economy annually, plus an another \$274 billion due to lost time.

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70 million. Predicted 2011 tablet sales according to Gartner Research Group. 62.5 million. Predicted 2011 tablet sales according to IDC.

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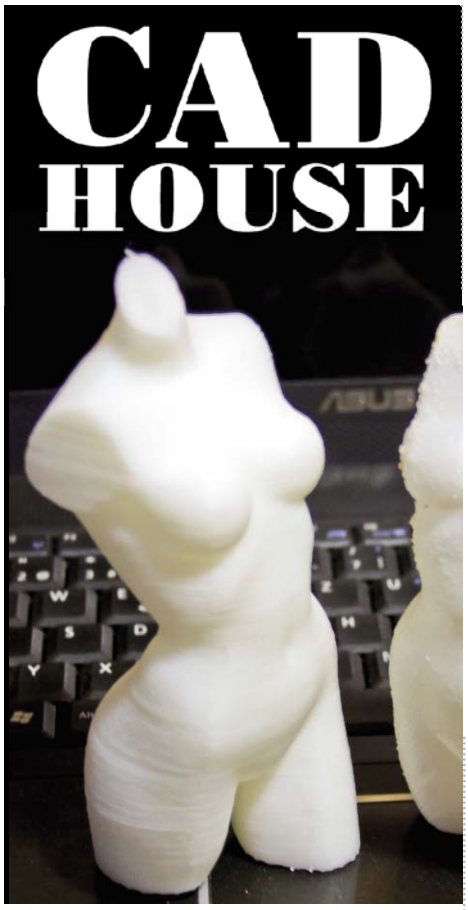

Image courtesy of www.3dsystems.com

Printing ink on paper is a common enough occurrence in many homes and offices around the world. But how about printing a 3D architectural scale model, or a spare part for a machine, or simply a new-fangled 3D sculpture?

3D printing is not a technology destined for the future, in fact you don't need to travel further than Centurion to come across CAD House, a company specialising in 3D printers. Best of all – you can actually build one yourself.

The company is an authorised importer of UK company Bits From Bytes' RapMan 3.1 3D printer (see ad below), and as far as keeping the TechSmart crew enthralled, this printer was up there with any of this year's best gadgets.

Meet the RapMan

The RapMan 3.1 3D printer looks a bit like an oversized Meccano project. With four motors, a controller board and the print head, the RapMan prints whatever CAD (computer-aided design) drawing it's provided with via the SD card slot.

For the RapMan the actual "printing" is done via plastic filament that gets fed and melted into malleable "strings" through the 0.5 mm heater nozzle, working much like a glue gun. Once the machine has constructed a "raft" at the base (a flat sheet of plastic filament that can be torn off once done), work on the actual product can start. The machine "prints" via an adaptive layering process, building the 3D product layer for layer starting from the bottom up.

It's an extremely interesting procedure to witness, and for TechSmart's visit, the RapMan was busy with a blowable whistle. It deftly constructed the whistle layer upon layer, taking close to 45 minutes to "print" the unit.

Print in 3D

The RapMan 3.1 3D printer can print projects 275 x 275 x 210 mm in size, with some of CAD House's clients using 3D printers to construct concept architectural models, engineering parts, parts for model airplanes and toys. Demonstrating its versatility, a Pretoria-based artist also creates amazing sculptures and jewellery with it.

For those looking to build the RapMan 3.1 3D printer from scratch, the device costs R9900, which includes a detailed set of instructions as well as a one year warranty on the product. Call CAD House for more information on the RapMan (or a fully constructed version), on 087-944-2072/3, or visit www.3d-printer.co.za.

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8.429 GHz. Guinness World Record for the "Highest Frequency of a Computer Processor," set by AMD, surpassing the former record of 8.308 GHz.

Efergy Showertime ›› Every drop counts

On average, some 40% of a household's water usage stems from the bathroom, with an average five-minute shower using more water than a person from an impoverished community uses in an entire day.

Monitoring your showering times more strictly makes for a useful and easy first step into curbing a much wider problem. The Efergy Showertime is a handy monitor that can curb excessive time spent under the shower.

Once the device is calibrated after a simple enough process, users can start monitoring their water usage and take controlled showers. Simply press the 'tick' button as you enter the shower to start the timer and once you have reached the set amount of water the alarm on the Showertime will sound. The alarm can be cancelled by pressing the button again if you so wish.

The device is powered by a standard Lithium battery and is (quite obviously) water resistant. The Efergy Showertime retails for a recommended R135 from Efergy Technologies. Visit www.efergy.co.za or contact Mark Corry on 011-367-0626.

P14 LED Lenser flashlight ›› Time to lighten up

Not all flashlights are created equal. Some offer average illumination, others are heavy, bulky and frequently a nuisance to transport. The P14 LED Lenser suffers from none of these deficiencies

The P14 is exceptionally bright, offering a light output of 210 lumens, easily illuminating a large garden at night and even handling complete darkness of Hartbeespoort with aplomb. Additionally, the P14 offers the benefits associated with LED light, namely of a longer life of the bulb as well as improved power consumption, which means having to replace the batteries less frequently. The flashlight also provides a telescopic design and focusing prism, which enables one to open it to its full extent to illuminate a wide area, or narrow the beam down to a small spotlight with one hand. Either way, the beam's range encompasses 280 m.

But what about Maglite?

While the Maglite flashlights are solid and durable enough to seemingly withstand any fall, we found our three battery model to have a dark spot in the centre, which only magnified when the telescopic feature was used, which produced a 'ring' of dimmer light. Additionally, the P14 offers two settings, a high and low beam, which is activated by pressing the power button once and twice respectively. Rather than the expensive large A size batteries, the flashlight requires four penlight (AA) batteries, but generously comes with two sets (eight batteries) included. However, the LED Lenser does not have the same heft as a Maglite, nor can it double up as a baton in a pinch in the same way the Maglite can.

At 205 mm in length and 383.5 g in weight, the P14 is also pleasingly transportable, while an included strap further ensures the flashlight won't be accidentally dropped. The P14 also comes with a nifty nylon pouch that can be strapped to one's belt and which keeps the light protected when not in use.

To the point

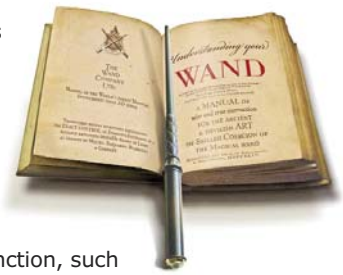
The P14 LED Lenser is possibly the best, and the brightest LED flashlight we have used to date. It cleaves it way through darkness, shines with a pleasingly 'clean' white light, and is one gadget that has earned its place in our arsenal of gear. The P14 LED Lenser has an RRP of R600. For more info contact Drew on 082-871-9488 or visit wwwledlenser.co.za. [RN]

Philips ActionFit Sports in ear earphones ›› Sound on the move

Going jogging and need music? Try these on for size.

We're not big fans of in-ear earphones when it comes to exercising, mainly because they have tendency to drop out as soon as we hit the road. The Philips ActionFit Sports in ear earphones actually sticks and no matter the distance, they are still in at the end of the run. There are a number of very nice features to these earphones – the most important being that the silicone covers that fit over the earphones are washable and contains an anti-bacterial agent. Sweat associated with exercising has a tendency to creep into the earphones, so it's excellent that you can clean these. The earphones also comes with a clip so that the cable does not get in the way, while a handy travel pouch made from breathable material is also included. Three sizes of the silicone caps are include, and while the sound could have done with a little more bass, the Philips ActionFits Sports earphones come highly recommended. It retails for R199.

Kymera Wand Remote Control



The Kymera Wand is a TV remote that Harry Potter fans in particular will no doubt appreciate. Shaped like a magical wand, the 355 mm Kymera enables one to control the TV, DStv, stereo system or any other infra-red device via one of 13 gestures. Additionally, various moves can each be assigned a particular function, such as upward and downward flicks to change channels, while 'pulses' confirm gesture recognition. RRP: R799.

Boogie Board Writing Tablet

The Boogie Board 10.5" LCD Writing Tablet is a paperless, electronic alternative to memo pads, sticky notes, sketch books, dry erase boards and other writing or drawing mediums. The board, which is powered by two AAAA batteries, enables users to write and draw on the LCD screen with the included stylus, while varying the thickness of the lines drawn according to the pressure applied. It is also available in 8.5" models. RRP: R599 (10.5") and R399 (8.5").

Both these products are available from The G.A.D.G.E.T. Shop on 012-346-2726.

IR-60M Infrared Camera

Looking to enhance your security surveillance in the dark? The Phase 2 IR-60M infrared security camera is capable of capturing video in the dark up to 60 m in light levels of 0 LUX (pitch dark), while its smaller brother, the IR-40M's infrared range is 40 m. Furthermore the IR-50M can also withstand the elements thanks to being able to operate in temperatures from -10 degrees centigrade up to a blistering 50 degrees centigrade. The IR-40M's price is R625, while the IR-60M goes for R853.

16 Channel Embedded DVR

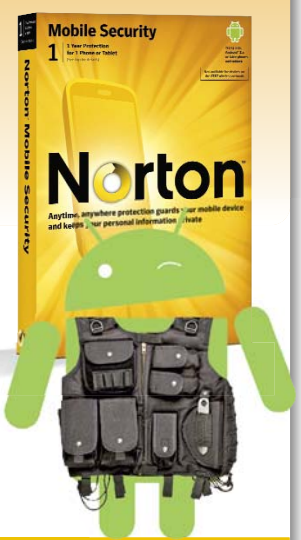
The 16 Channel Embedded DVR (R2844) builds on the eight channel (R1599) DVR's ability to do real time surveillance and record from multiple surveillance cameras. It converts analogue video (NTSC or PAL) received from surveillance cameras and microphones into digital video and records them onto a hard-disk 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.

All these products are available from Phase 2 Direct on 011-444-5956.

Win with TechSmart and Norton Mobile Security for Android!

You can now protect your stuff with Norton Mobile Security. If your mobile device is lost, stolen, or its SIM card removed, you can remotely disable your mobile device to prevent thieves from using it or accessing your private information.

3 x copies of Norton Mobile Security are up for grabs, worth R399 each!



What we said: *"Norton Mobile Security is one of those apps that we consider a wise investment in protecting the integrity of one's data."*

*Go to **www.techsmart.co.za** and click on the Norton competition on the right hand side to enter. The competition runs from 1 to 31 October 2011. Terms and conditions apply.*

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Sahara and TechSmart are giving away 5 x full copies of Trend Micro Titanium Internet Security 2012!

Trend Micro Titanium Internet Security provides advanced protection for your family so you can connect with confidence. Titanium uses cloud technology to proactively stop viruses and spyware before they reach your computer, so it won't slow you down.

*Not one, not three, but **five copies** up for grabs!*

Titanium protection for a virus-free PC!

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100 million. Twitter has grown its user base to this number, with half accessing the social networking site on a daily basis.

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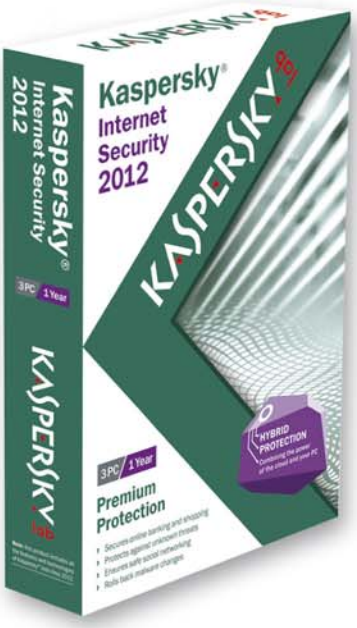

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The CompTIA / Incredible Connection relationship

Computing tips for the laymen

We talk to Basil Arundel, regional technical supervisor (Cape Town region) at Incredible Connection, about computer security and staff training received from CompTIA.

When it comes to computer security, what should the end-user keep in mind?
The internet is a vile place full of shady characters that can't wait to penetrate your beloved PC. You can't just sit back and relax thinking that because you have some anti-virus software of sorts loaded on your unit that all will be ok because a "buddy" or "neighbour" said that it will work fine. Some anti-virus packages actually provide very little protection.

What kind of anti-virus / internet security protection is recommended?
If you want to take the protection of your unit seriously, then stick to the tried and tested anti-virus / internet security software out there. These include Kaspersky, Bitdefender, Norton, F-Secure, Panda, McAfee, Trend Micro, CA and Zone Alarm. Which one do you choose? The answer is entirely up to you. These days as far as the removal and protection capability is concerned, there is little to no difference between these and it comes down to which interface you find more pleasing to use.

What are the risks of having no protection?
The cost may be far greater than the physical loss of your cherished pictures and all other data, which in most cases cannot be recovered. These days the criminals are after your banking details, even if you have not physically saved those details on your unit. They have means and ways of getting those details by you simply doing a transaction online.

Any other advice with regards to computer security?
To move forward, you must backup. Backing up your data to an external device should be your number one priority if the data on that unit is of any value to you. If you don't do this, then you only have yourself to blame if the unit crashes and the data is lost.

Which CompTIA certifications have been selected to up skill your technical and sales staff?
CompTIA certifications such as the CompTIA A+, Network+ and STRATA IT for Sales meet all our needs for our staff employed to provide in-store and on-site technical support and services to our customers.

How has CompTIA certification benefited your technical staff?
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Incredible Connection started partnering with CompTIA two years ago, and what started off as a partnership to improve the skills of their technical workforce through CompTIA certifications, such as the CompTIA A+ and Network+, soon evolved into a longer-term vision. It includes improving sales and service, but more importantly, enhancing Incredible Connection's offering to their customers.

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1280 x 720, 316. The display resolution and pixels per inch of the 4.65" Super AMOLED touchscreen for Samsung's Korea-only Galaxy SII HD LTE.

PC Medic ›› October issue

Some say he can buy iPhone apps from Android Market, while other believe his Twitter handle contains no @. We call him the PC Medic and he's here to answer your PC related queries.

Q Hi PC Medic. On Facebook there is one annoying person that keeps sending me spam and posts rude comments. Is it possible to block them as opposed to simply just unfriending them? Lionel

A Hi there. You can indeed block that person on FB, preventing them from viewing your profile or your page from appearing in their search results or friend lists. All you have to do is to go to the "Account" dropdown menu, and select "Privacy Settings" and next to "Blocked People and Apps" click on "Manage Blocking". Enter the name or email address of the person you wish to block in the appropriate field and click "Block". And don't worry, people won't be notified that you've blocked them.

Q Hi PC Medic. Is it possible to download from PC and upload the TechSmart Mag to my iPhone 3GS and read it on the go? I would like to do that, but don't know which app to use to read the Mag on the go. TO Nevhulamba

A Hello TO. You can download the free and easy to use PDF Reader Lite app from Apple's App Store. It will enable you to download (almost 10 MB) the latest magazine from our site and then read it on the go at your leisure.

» Tips for Windows 7: Reducing eye strain via ClearType

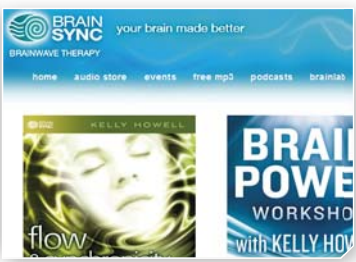
Reading through all your emails, websites and documents can place unwanted stress on your eyes. Other than eating a bunch of carrots, you can also turn on the ClearType tool to improve the readability of the text on your PC's LCD display. Open the ClearType Text Tuner by clicking on the "Start" button and then typing "cleartype" in the search box. Click on "Adjust ClearType text" and then on "Next". On the first page of the tuner, select the "Turn on ClearType" check box, click "Next" and on the next four screens pick the most legible text box and click "Next" each time until the final page. After clicking "Finish", you'll get to read text that is a lot more legible.

Web Time Wasters ›› Selected sites to spend some quality time with

bit.ly/interwebnow

The Internet Worldwide

This site can easily be filed under fascinating. It shows a variety of information about the all-pervasive and ubiquitous internet as a whole, and graphically displays facts that you have probably never considered. These include the social networks that are racing against each other for internet domination, the hot spots in the world that are both friendly to and enemies of the web, random facts relating to the net and how many tweets are being published in a day. It is, in short, eye-opening, and gives a staggering view of how much the internet has become part of our lives.



www.brainsync.com

Brainsync

Home to brain wave synchronisation technology, the site explains that it uses sound to guide one's brain into one of a variety of frequencies – Gamma (to heighten alertness for studying, for example), Alpha (for stress reduction and increasing creativity), Theta (for meditation) or Delta (for facilitating deep sleep). While the site has several recordings available for purchase, it also has some free recordings on stress reduction and experiencing total relaxation, for example, to download and try out at your leisure.

www.worldofinspiration.com

World of Inspiration

World of Inspiration is a simple enough site at first glance. But spending some time with it can be thought provoking and dare we say it, inspirational. The site is a collection of quotes from people both famous and less well known, organised by categories, such as Attitude and Outlook, Character, Enthusiasm, Friendship, Happiness, Hopes and Dreams, Leadership, Success, Life and Love. Additionally, its front page highlights the most recent additions. If quotes offer food for thought, then this is one site that could well be likened to a buffet.

www.earthcam.com

EarthCam

If you have ever wondered what life on the other side of the world looks like, or simply dream of faraway places, EarthCam is a fantastic site to visit to answer your curiosity or foster your yearning. The site offers live city views from webcams around the world, and at particular landmarks like the Eiffel Tower and the Statue of Liberty. It further groups webcams by editor's choice, most popular, and the top ten webcams, as well as within categories such as weather, animals and zoos and entertainment.

750 million+ & 375 million. Number or active users of Facebook, with 50% of these logging on to the social network daily.

Android Apps of the month

With over 100 000 apps available for Android smartphones at the Android Market, TechSmart would like to help you get to the good ones first. Here are our top Android Apps of the month.

DC Comics

How about having Batman, Superman, Lobo and a number of other heroes from the DC Comics conveniently on your Android handset? DC Universe is an awesome app allowing for a new comic reading experience on your smartphone or tablet. There are enough comics to download for free, while a number can be purchased for as low as $1. This is a must have for superhero fans.

Wikidroid

Wikidroid is the best Wikipedia app available for Android at the moment, allowing for the power of Wikipedia in your pocket. It is cleverly formatted for small devices by making the various headings in an article expandable on demand, allowing you to take in either the summary of a subject or the whole article, without needing to zoom or scroll all over the page. Unfortunately it does not support adding or editing content.

Vlingo Virtual Assistant

The Vlingo voice control app makes it possible to do almost anything on your phone with only your voice. Using the large "Speak it" button, you can send messages, call people and search the web using only your voice. If you say "Reply", for instance, it will reply to a text message with anything you say after the keyword. Also included is an InCar option that helps you manage calls and navigation while driving.

Robo Defence FREE

Tower defence games have been around since the days of Atari and it was only a matter of time before they made it onto Android. Robo Defence is arguably one of the best examples, and the free version is crammed with enough gameplay to keep casual gamers happy. A mixture of gun, missile and slow-down towers are there to kill the enemy before they manage to reach your base. [QvR]

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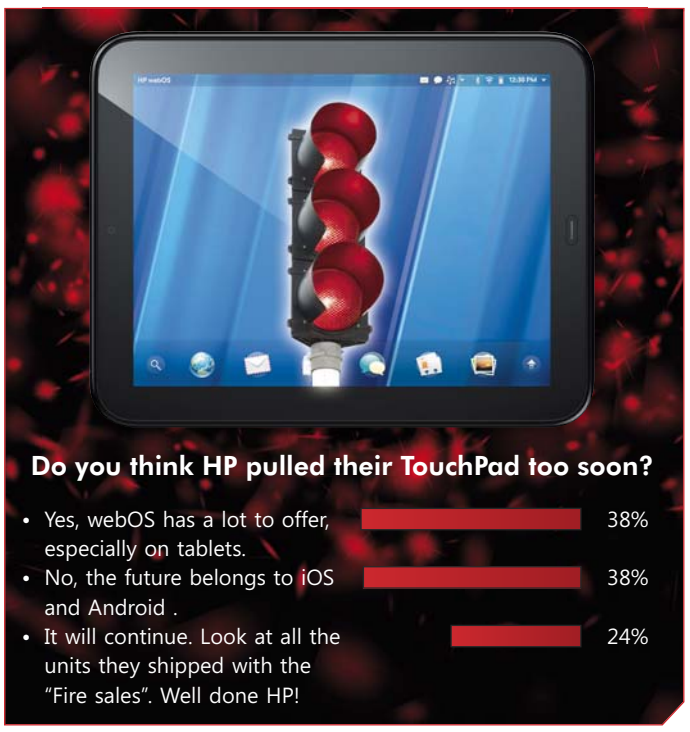
TechSmart.co.za online poll results



Do you think HP pulled their TouchPad too soon?

- Yes, webOS has a lot to offer, especially on tablets. 38%
- No, the future belongs to iOS and Android . 38%
- It will continue. Look at all the units they shipped with the "Fire sales". Well done HP! 24%

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2013. Expected date for online game sales to surpass physical retail sales.

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March 2012. Shooter fans mark your calendars, as this is when Max Payne 3 will be released.

Resistance 3 ›› Killing the alien

As one of the most anticipated PS3 titles of the year, Resistance 3 does not disappoint.

Resistance 3 begins with a world that is teetering on the brink of its own end. After the events of the first two games (skillfully depicted on the game's installation screen), Joseph Capelli is trying to rebuild his life. He wants nothing more than to stay with his wife and child, but instead he's asked to cross the ravaged country to New York to stop the parasitic invading aliens, the Chimera, from opening a wormhole that is freezing the planet and, if left unchecked, will spell humanity's end.

Always outnumbered, never outgunned

Apart from a whispered urgency and building suspense there's always the growing sense of danger just around the next corner. This familiar element of the Resistance franchise quickly erupts into an equally well-known frantic battle for survival, and immediately drew us further into the game's bleak but arresting world.

Although the Chimera is still a force to be reckoned with, players have more than a few deadly toys to deal with them. The trusty Bullseye features the familiar tagging alternative fire as before, while the Magnum's alternative fire consists of explosive rounds that can be detonated at opportune moments to deadly effect. These are quickly supplanted with EMP grenades to handle enemy shields, scrap metal grenades to deal with groups of the enemies and the Chimeran Hedgehog, which we hated running into but loved deploying. All these are but a taste of weapons on offer, as half the fun is progressing through the game and finding the next best way to deal damage.

Production Values

The game boasts crisp, hyper-real graphics, as well as top-notch sound and smooth gameplay. Resistance 3's storytelling was further enhanced with audio logs of survivors and those fighting against the Chimera, as well as several poignant letters scattered through the game's world, which, along with an addictive multiplayer component, kept our hands firmly glued to our controller.

Conclusion

Resistance 3 is one of those games that begs to be played if you have the slightest interest in sci-fi, action or top-notch entertainment. [RN]

Full review:
bit.ly/resis3

Warhammer 40 000: Space Marine ›› Giant footsteps of a super-soldier

Take two staple ingredients of fantasy and science fiction, namely Orks and space, mix in a three meter super soldier named Titus and some bone-crushing, brutally satisfying combat with both melee weapons and guns, and you have Warhammer 40 000: Space Marine.

The game begins with a rather simple premise – the Ultramarines are tasked with quelling an Ork invasion against Graia, an Imperium Forge World, and preventing the Orks from taking control of the world's weaponry.

Built to blast

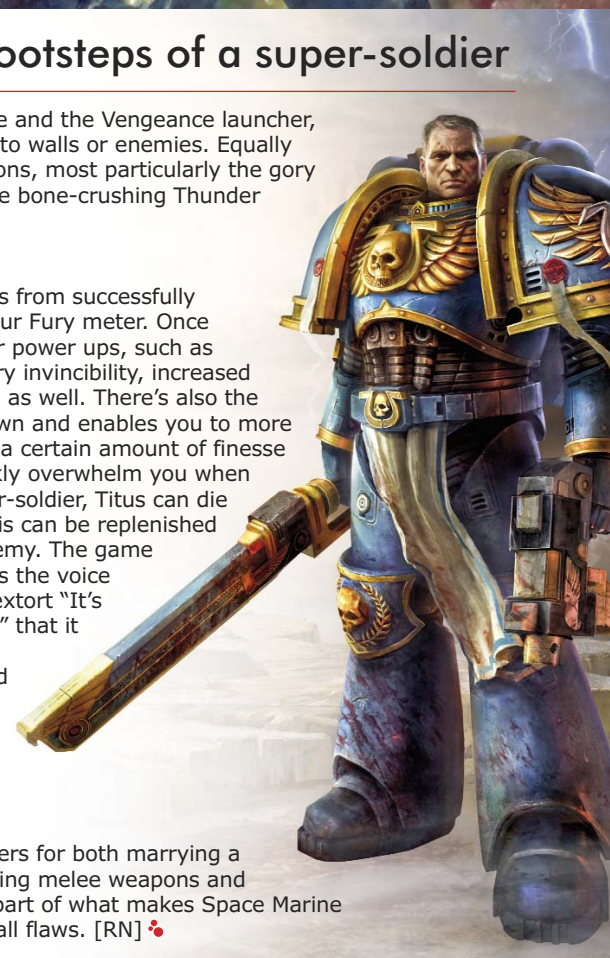
Space Marine effectively mixes up melee combat with guns, while the game's appeal is heightened by the fact that a new weapon or piece of gear always seems to be around the next corner. Although you start the game with the Bolt Pistol, you quickly discover the Bolter, or equivalent of an assault rifle; the Stalker Bolter, which is a long range sniper rifle and the Vengeance launcher, which shoots fusion charges that stick to walls or enemies. Equally worth mentioning are the melee weapons, most particularly the gory but highly effective Chainsword and the bone-crushing Thunder hammer.

Power up!

Another nifty addition to combat comes from successfully dispatching your foes, which fills up your Fury meter. Once full, you can activate special abilities or power ups, such as Fury mode, which grants you temporary invincibility, increased strength and has regenerative benefits as well. There's also the Marksman mode, which slows time down and enables you to more accurately place your shots. This adds a certain amount of finesse to combat, because the Orks can quickly overwhelm you when in vast numbers. Despite being a super-soldier, Titus can die and he does take hits to his health. This can be replenished by stunning and then executing an enemy. The game does have one Achilles heel, and that is the voice acting of the Orks, who so frequently extort "It's Space Marines! Kill the Space Marines!" that it becomes tiresome. Luckily the environments are often sumptuous and occasionally grandiose, and on the whole, were more than good enough to make us want to continue cleaving our way through them.

Conclusion

Kudos have to be given to the developers for both marrying a space and fantasy setting, and combining melee weapons and guns together so artfully. It is a large part of what makes Space Marine such a pleasure to play, despite its small flaws. [RN]



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