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Holiday Best Buys ›› December 2010

Best Tech, Less Tech

Coming to the end of the year it's always a treat compiling the best products for our "Best of 2010" lists. If you've had your finger on the technology pulse (or even if not) you would have to agree that no other tech company made the headlines in 2010 as often as Apple did. Not only did they release the superb iPhone 4 but they've also managed to create a whole new product category with the iPad. Their 2010 dominance reflects in our compilations. Talking of which, all the products featured in our Top 5 spent time in our office and their full reviews can be found on **www.techsmart.co.za**.

As I'm writing there's a poll running on our website asking what you want for Xmas. "Lower data prices" is in the lead, ahead of, not surprisingly the iPad and iPhone. While MWEB did us all a favour by slashing uncapped data, there is still a long way to go to make data truly affordable, especially on the cellular side. So I hope Cell C's unveiling of their "whoooosh" HSPA+ network for PTA and JHB and their new data rates are steps in the right direction.

I'm actually looking to get as far away from tech as possible this Xmas. No Facebook, no Twitter, no News24, no email, no BlackBerry and no games. Even reception should be a distant memory.

Hope your Xmas will be as peaceful as mine.

Mike <michael@techsmart.co.za>

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TOP TECH TITBITS

The Beatles loves iTunes, yeah, yeah, yeah.

Apple last month announced that The Beatles, one of the most popular bands in history, would be coming to its iTunes store. After years of legal wrangling the deal was finally sealed, enabling millions of people around the world to finally be able to pay to download classic Beatles songs instead of simply torrenting them.

Call of Duty: Black Ops breaks record.

Activision Blizzard's new Call of Duty: Black Ops video game generated a massive $650 million worth of sales in its first five days. It shattered not only the previous video game record for that period (coincidentally held by the previous Call of Duty game), but also theatrical box office and book sales. The title's sales success did not necessarily translate to player satisfaction though as a slew of bugs were reported in especially the PC version.

yourname@facebook.com

Facebook (FB) is taking on the likes of Gmail by offering its over half a billion users an @facebook.com email address.

It will also be combining email with texts, as well as online chats and bring these together into one centralised location (FB messages).

All messages will be socially ranked and sorted according to how important the sender is. Just another step we suppose in taking over the world.

›› Hot new products

1 Acer Aspire One AOD255 dual-booting netbook

Acer recently launched a dual-booting netbook, the Aspire One AOD255, in its country of origin Taiwan. This dual-core netbook runs not only Windows XP but also Google's Android OS that provides a quick boot up time. By the time you read this, the company would have also unveiled its range of Android and Windows tablet PCs to compete with the likes of Apple's iPad and Samsung's Galaxy Tab.

2 Nvidia GeForce GTX 580

Every PC gamer's dream involves the world's ultimate DirectX11 graphics processing unit (GPU) and this baby is it. Boasting 512 CUDA cores, 1536 MB of GDDR5 memory, a processor speed of 1544 MHz and a graphics clock of 772 MHz, Nvidia's GeForce GTX 580 is the numero uno GPU. At least for now, seeing that AMD is set to do battle with their Radeon HD 6970.

3 Gran Turismo 5

After being stuck in the pits for ages, the new Gran Turismo 5 in all its high-definition glory has finally received the green light. GT5 sports the most prestigious virtual racing pedigree in gaming and features well over 950 cars, more than 20 visually stunning locations as well as upwards of 70 track variations to master – all this in HD of course.

4 Michael Jackson: The Experience (limited glove edition)

Michael Jackson is making his video game return in Michael Jackson: The Experience, to be released for the motion-based gaming consoles. Now a limited edition version for the Wii will include a replica of the King of Pop's famous white glove. Putting it on might make you feel like the great MJ, but will definitely not ensure moonwalking greatness.

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3 339. Number of text messages that the average US teenager sends per month.

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TOP 5 TECH NEWS OF 2010

To describe 2010 as a stellar year for Steve Jobs and Apple would be an understatement. There was Apple's iPad (see below), Apple's iPhone 4 (p13) and Apple's Macbook Air (p15), basically ensuring it is Apple's 2010. Luckily there was also other important tech news – here is our top 5 tech news stories of 2010.

5 3D'S WHIMPER

After the success of *Avatar* all expectations were that 2010 would be the year of 3D. Not really. Most of the major television manufacturers released 3D models, but these were hindered not only by high prices but also by a severe lack of 3D content. Plus those silly-looking glasses are still a prerequisite.

It was not all gloom, seeing that a few 3D notebooks saw the light of day and some even got it right (see p11), while we also saw an interesting 3D camera from Fujifilm. There are massive expectations resting on the 3D enabled Nintendo 3DS handheld gaming system to be released next year, while manufacturers like Toshiba are already talking about 3D telly without the glasses. But for 2010 3D eventually turned out to be more a whimper than a bang.

4 IPHONE 4 TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS

If only more products were accompanied by such intrigue as Apple's iPhone 4. First a protoype of the phone gets left behind in a bar by Apple engineer Gray Powell. Tech blog Gizmodo paid good money to get hold of it and exposed the phone way before the official announcement. Apple wanted it back and eventually Gizmodo's editor's house gets raided by police.

When the iPhone 4 is eventually released complaints start surfacing about reception problems. Apple responds by claiming "you're holding it wrong". Antennagate is born and Apple is later forced to release special casings for the phone to counter problems. Back here in SA the big news was that the iPhone will be carried by both Vodacom and MTN. Queue both cellular providers promptly organising launch parties on the same day. Oh yes, and the iPhone 4 turned out to be quite nice actually (see p13).

3 TELKOM 8TA COMES TO TOWN

Strange billboards started appearing around about September this year, shouting quite cryptically "Heita!". Heita transmuted into 8ta, South Africa's fourth cellular network courtesy of none other than Telkom Mobile.

At its launch, 8ta was heralded as "the start of a new era in mobile phone communication in South Africa" by Amith Maharaj, Telkom Mobile's managing executive. We would love for him to be right, hoping for a voice and data price drop similar to that which MWEB (see below) brought about on the uncapped internet scene. It seems highly unlikely at this stage, but here's to holding thumbs that maybe in a few years the situation has changed.

2 MWEB GOES UNCAPPED

In March something happened that brought a lot of good to South Africa's overcharged broadband users – MWEB slashed their uncapped broadband prices. All of a sudden an uncapped account was priced cheaper than a capped one, with rates starting as low as R219 for a 384 Kbps line. Consumers flocked in droves to take up MWEB's latest offers, forcing other ISPs to see how low they could go on uncapped accounts. But while uncapped prices might be better priced, South Africans are still burdened by Telkom's very restrictive monthly line-rental charges and ADSL set-up fees.

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1 THE IPAD VENI, VEDI, VECI

When the Apple iPad was released on the 3rd of April this year, people didn't quite know what to make of it. There were tablet PCs before but these Windows-based machines did not really set the market alight, so why would the iPad differ? Soon the sales figures started coming in – 1 million sold in 28 days (the iPhone took double the time), 2 million sold in less than 2 months, 3 million sold in 80 days.

It became apparent that the iPad, with its sleek 9.7" multi-touch display and iPhone-like body, was changing the game. Some joked that it's nothing more than a big iPhone that can't make calls, but the iPad heralded a new era of devices that enhances media consumption (surfing, reading, games and apps) instead of creation.

PC manufacturers scrambled (and are still scrambling) to get their own tablet devices out, leading us to believe that 2011 will be all about the tablet. Now if only the iPad can grace our shores … [MJ]

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TOP 5 NOTEBOOKS OF 2010

5 APPLE MACBOOK AIR

The new Apple Macbook Air is so thin and light that if we were its parents we would be seriously concerned. At 1.7 cm at its thickest point it's actually thinner than some smartphones, an incredible feat achieved in part by Apple swopping the regular hard disk drive for a solid state one. Its 2 GB RAM was a bit restrictive and it will cost you a pretty penny, but Apple has a way to design products that makes it really difficult not to want them.
We said online: "If you have the iPad and use the iPhone 4 you might as well make the jump and get the whole shebang by ordering the new Air."
Full review: http://bit.ly/top5air

4 ACER ASPIRE TIMELINEX 5820TG

Although Acer's 5820TG is one of the heavier thin-and-light machines out there, it still cracks a nod for good battery life, included number pad and really solid performance. It easily matched the specs of midrange notebooks we tested, even performing amicably on the gaming front – all in a 2.4 kg body without a price tag that gives the giggles.
We said online: "So while it might not be the thinnest or lightest out there, compared to notebooks matching its processing power and screen size the Acer is a more manageable machine."
Full review: http://bit.ly/aat5820tg

3 ASUS G51J GAMING NOTEBOOK

Although some might say this whole 3D thing is all hype we would like to invite them to a round of Call of Duty on the Asus G51J 3D notebook. Thanks to Nvidia's 3D capable GeForce GTX260 graphics card, gaming was a smooth experience, made even more engrossing in 3D thanks to the wireless 3D emitter and glasses. A solid design coupled with top of the range specs, rounded off this excellent gaming machine from Asus.
We said online: "What is most striking about this machine is its ability to demonstrate just how far 3D technology has come in a very short time."
Full review: http://bit.ly/g51jgame

2 HP ELITEBOOK 2540P

HP took business seriously with their excellent EliteBook 2540p thin-and-light. Not only was it fast, carrying Intel's speedy (but battery friendly) Core I7 640LM processor, but our model also sported a lovely 160 GB SSD drive providing faster boot-up speed. All presented in a military grade body ready for on-the-road business thrills-and-spills.
We said online: "We wouldn't hesitate for a second to buy one ourselves."
Full review: http://bit.ly/hp2540p

1 ALIENWARE M17X

We waited long to see the Alienware brand in SA, and when it landed we were blown away. Their M17X gaming laptop's performance simply obliterated every notebook we've ever tested. No wonder since it carries the powerful Intel Core i7 Q720 CPU, a crazy 8 GB of RAM and two, yes two ATI HD 4870 GPUs. Combine this with an aggressive design and what feels like unlimited lighting customisation, and it's no wonder that the Alienware M17X mothership easily captures the no. 1 spot in our notebooks of the year.
We said online: "If we lived in a perfect world the entire office would be outfitted with these babies."
Full review: http://bit.ly/alienm17x

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TOP 5 SMARTPHONES OF 2010

5 SAMSUNG WAVE

When Samsung announced that they were creating a new operating system called bada we were, to say the least, sceptical. Along comes the Wave, a nicely priced mid-range phone containing all the elements of its higher priced brethren including a speedy 1 GHz processor, 720p video recording and one of the best screens ever to grace a cellphone (until the iPhone 4 arrived). While it still has a few growing pains, bada worked surprisingly well.

We said online: "Samsung has managed to create one of their most impressive phones yet."

Full review: **http://bit.ly/samwave**

SONY ERICSSON X10

4

A number of manufacturers got their groove back by installing Android on their devices this year. None more so than Sony Ericsson getting back into the swing of things with the X10. With a very sleek design, better than average battery life and a 4" touch-screen, it propelled Sony Ericsson to the top of the smartphone market. The X10's by no means flawless, we mentioned lack of multi-touch and call quality as two sticky points, but it hailed a welcome return to a brand that was losing its lustre.

We said online: "The X10 puts Sony Ericsson squarely back amongst the big guns of the smartphone market."

Full review: **http://bit.ly/top10x10i**

3 HTC LEGEND

The HTC Hero, which scooped last year's best mobile device at the Global Mobile Awards, was followed up by the Android 2.1 powered Legend. While it might not be the fastest phone out there (528 MHz), boy did we like its unibody aluminium design. Crafted from a single block of aluminium it is solid and sleek and felt good in hand, while HTC's Sense user interface skin for the Android OS continues to impress. Legend by name, legend by nature we suppose.

We said online: "HTC is really doing some great things for the Android platform."

Full review: **http://bit.ly/legendhtc**

2 RIM BLACKBERRY TORCH 9800

Featuring a slide-out QWERTY keyboard, a very decent capacitive touch-screen and the usual dependable BlackBerry messaging goodness, the BlackBerry Torch left us very impressed.

It's also the first BB with out of the box support for the new BlackBerry 6 operating system. While the new OS is more evolution than revolution, the Torch is the best specked BB available, while the touch-screen showed that there is life beyond their optical trackpad.

We said online: "The Torch is a step in the right direction and certainly opens up an exciting new chapter for the BlackBerry brand."

Full review: **http://bit.ly/rimtorch**

Win the Torch courtesy of BlackBerry. See p22 for details.

1 APPLE IPHONE 4

With such a lot of hype behind it, could the iPhone 4 live up to it? The short answer is yes, making Steve Jobs' Superphone the obvious choice for our no. 1 position. Featuring an excellent Retina display (how did they squeeze that many pixels in there?), a lustful design and superb multimedia capabilities, the iPhone 4 is a number of steps ahead of its competition.

And the fact that two network operators are now selling it, makes it just that tad bit more affordable for the rest of us. Well done Mr Jobs, well done.

We said online: "The iPhone 4 is without question, the best smartphone currently on the market."

Full review: **http://bit.ly/iphone4is1**

432 Million. Nokia devices sold in 2009, more than top three competitors combined.

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TOP 5 SMALL CAMERAS OF 2010

5 CANON IXUS 210

Small, stylish and with an extremely functional 3.5" touch-screen, we've had more than a good time with Canon's Ixus 210. Canon's second foray into the world of touch-screens showed how to really implement a touch-screen well, making browsing through the menu structure an intuitive affair and helping with playback. It had us wishing Canon would implement touch on all of its snappers.

We said online: "The 210 feels like a mature product; it's not only stylish but its touch-screen functionality is fantastic."

Full review:
http://bit.ly/ixus210

4 OLYMPUS PEN E-PL1

Olympus bought some retro coolness to the photography world with their E-PL1 PEN camera. Far less bulky than a regular dSLR, it employs the micro four-thirds standard which ensures sensor size bigger than compact cameras' but smaller than dSLR's. This time around it also included a flash (the previous version didn't) while including one-touch 720p video recording. The white version should appeal to the hipster in everyone.

We said online: "Olympus has created a great camera for entry-level users who don't want to struggle with DSLR complexities."

Full review:
http://bit.ly/penepl1

3 SAMSUNG EX1

Samsung took on some tough competition when they released their advance EX1 compact. The Ace up its sleeve? A super fast f1.8 Schneider KREUZNACH lens that brings decent depth of field to the compact market. It helps make decent portrait photography possible; is decently wide at 24 mm; and also assisted in some of the best low-light performance we've seen from a compact so far.

It might not have the amount of features of the Canon G12, but we're already looking forward to the EX1's next incarnation.

We said online: "With good low-light abilities, strong build quality and a gorgeous 3" AMOLED display, Samsung enters the high-end compact arena guns ablazing."

Full review:
http://bit.ly/samex1

2 SONY ALPHA NEX-3

Because of its diminutive size it's easy to think the NEX-3 contains either a small compact or a micro four-thirds sensor. Don't be fooled, since you'll find the same APS-C sensor commonly located inside in most full-size dSLRs. Apart from very decent pictures and excellent 720p HD-ready video, the NEX-3 blew us away with its 3" tilt-able screen containing a massive 920 000 pixels. Our only qualms were its lack of flash and that this made-for-amateur camera made you dig through the menu system for its different settings. (Also see p29)

We said online: "Sony deserves a round of applause for their superb 3" screen with a delicious 920 000 pixels."

Full review: http://bit.ly/alphan3

1 CANON G12

As far as manual shooting options and attention to detail are concerned, the Canon G12 was in a different class to any of the cameras we tested this year. The G12 improves on its predecessor with the long overdue inclusion of 720p HD video with stereo sound, while now also sporting a scroll wheel at the front for even better control of your settings. It's far from perfect, since Canon can take a sniff in Samsung's direction to learn from their EX1's speedy and wide-angle lens, but with shooting options surpassing entry-level dSLR cameras, the G12 can indeed be crowned king.

We said online: "If you're looking for a compact with some serious shooting capabilities, you won't find better than the G12."

Full review: www.bit.ly/g12review

8. Hours you would have to sit still to have your picture taken by the first camera.

TomTom™

GO LIVE 1000

NEW MODERN USER INTERFACE
New modern user interface with sharper view, richer colours and graphics

EASY CLICK MAGNETIC MOUNT
The mount is easily fixed and locked on the windscreen with one hand with a simple suction, twist & click. A unique magnetic dock makes docking and undocking your device very easy. The cable is inserted through the mount and is magnetically attached to the device.

Hint – the mount is no longer an active mount i.e. the power cable is directly plugged into the mount, for GO LIVE 1000 the cable is plugged into the device through the mount.

INTUITIVE DESIGN WITH FLUID TOUCH SCREEN
An intuitive interface gives you the sharpest navigation experience in rich, deep colours. Pinch to zoom in and out of maps, or scroll through menus with the tip of your finger – the screen responds intelligently and sensitively to your touch.

Hint: As the screen is capacitive it is highly sensitive to the touch, requiring only a light tap – and a split second hold. No need to tap twice.

LIVE AND HD TRAFFIC SERVICES
Under the services tab, can be found:

- HD Traffic (minimise delays, show home-work traffic, show traffic on route, view map, traffic settings, read aloud traffic info)
- Speed Cameras (report speed camera, alert settings, disable alerts, enable report button)
- Local search with Google™ (find any business, restaurant or any other point of interest) Simply search and start navigation.
- Weather (near you, near your destination and near another location)

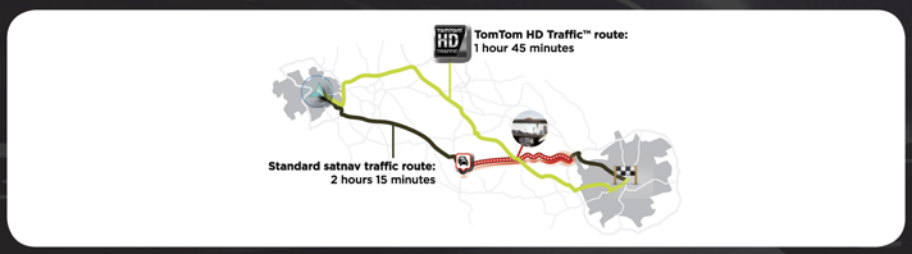
1YEAR FREE LIVE SERVICES
In addition to the best, real-time traffic updates, you know where the mobile speed cameras are. You can find any locations via Local Search with Google™ and more. It's all free for a year.

*1 year Free trial with purchase, subscription thereafter, see www.tomtom.com/liveservices for full details.

RICHER MAPS
You are ready to go with the most intelligent maps, covering more roads. More graphical details and IQ Routes™ speed profiles give you the fastest route any time of day. And with rich POI data, such as phone numbers and opening times, you have even more information at your fingertips.

FASTER ROUTE PLANNING
- From main menu, choose Navigate to and input destination.
- Instead of tapping the screen to plan a route, you can use your voice to plan a route.

In touch with the *fast lane*



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BIG TREK GPS ROUND-UP

Before you take the big trek down to the coast this holiday, check out these hot new GPS units.

TomTom GO 1000

TomTom has been out and about this year releasing several new products onto the hotly contested in-car GPS market. The company's latest offering, the GO 1000 LIVE, introduces a string of new functionalities.

One of the most flaunted new features on the device is its capacitive Fluid Touch screen. With this new technology drivers can pinch to zoom in and out of maps or scroll through menus with the tips of their fingers. A new Easy Click magnetic mount takes the chore out of docking as the GPS now simply glides into place. TomTom LIVE services are also available with the device including speed camera warnings, local search with Google, weather forecasts and most importantly live traffic updates. It retails for **R3999** with one year free LIVE services included.

Navigon 40 Premium

The Navigon 40 Premium was hands down the best GPS device from Navigon we tested this year. This 4.3" device sports the updated One Click Menu while and Point of Interest (POI) interface also impressed, with interactive POI's strewn across the display, showing the names and addresses of POI's with the tap of a finger. The device is also equipped with Bluetooth technology for hands-free calling, supporting up to two phones and storing phonebook entries on the device itself. We were also suitably informed of the traffic situation with live updates provided to the GPS via a RDS-TMC FM radio system. No subscriptions or registrations are needed, and the traffic system worked well. The Navigon 40 Premium retails for a recommended **R2199**.

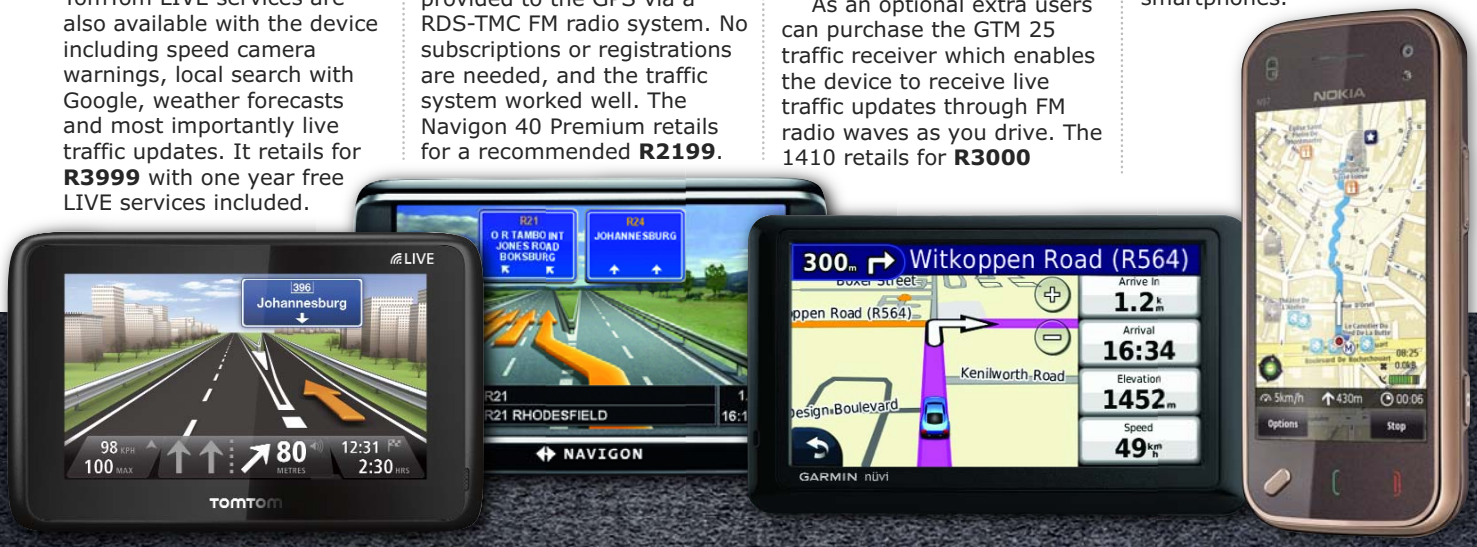
Garmin nüvi 1410

The Garmin nüvi 1410 is one of the latest GPS solutions from Garmin. Although general navigation worked well, we weren't too impressed with the touch-screen on this model, being glitchy a number of times. Additional features fared better however and these include ecoRoute functionality which calculates the most fuel efficient routes, as well as a trip log function to track where you've been. Bluetooth technology and a built-in microphone and speaker also makes an appearance for convenient hands-free calling.

As an optional extra users can purchase the GTM 25 traffic receiver which enables the device to receive live traffic updates through FM radio waves as you drive. The 1410 retails for **R3000**

Nokia Ovi maps

We all like to know where we're going, but not everyone can afford to buy an additional device in the form of an in-car GPS. Luckily users of Nokia smartphones can gain access to a free navigation service straight from their phone in the form of Nokia Ovi maps. The surprisingly effective Ovi maps can be used almost like an in-car GPS, giving you turn-by-turn voice and visual guidance supported in over 75 countries. This includes lane assistance, speed limit warnings and real-time traffic information. Nokia Ovi maps is pre-installed on new Nokia smartphones.



GPS: Stand-alone unit or Smartphone?

With a number of smartphones now sporting onboard GPS, do you really want to drop a few grand on a stand-alone GPS? There are pros and cons to consider for each option.

When using GPS functionalities on your smartphone, you have to remember that for one it's going to be taxing on the battery life and secondly, the data charges when downloading maps might start getting uncomfortable, depending on how often you use it. Some makes' local maps are not that good, while others provide you with a limited usage license.

With a stand-alone in-car unit there is no battery worries and additional charges are an optional affair. These devices have also been specifically designed for navigation so they will often sport much more advanced features in addition to generally having larger and clearer touch-screens. At the office we prefer made-for-purpose GPS units, while smartphones are reserved for in-case-of-emergency moments.[JK]

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TechSmart talks to ...
›› Sonja Shear, Market Unit Head, Sony Ericsson

Google's Android operating system has breathed new life into Sony Ericsson, with their new Xperia handsets sporting Android goodness. TechSmart talked to Sony Ericsson's Market Unit Head, Sonja Shear to discuss Android, Timescape and their new phones.

X10 | X10 mini | X10 mini pro | X8

How was Android incorporated into Sony Ericsson's devices?
Sonja Shear (SS): Android is an open operating system that really enables personalisation of devices and Sony Ericsson has worked on building a unique user experience. The Android operating system is one of the best platforms for Sony Ericsson to deliver on our strategy of being the leader in Communication Entertainment, with Xperia being the most entertaining smartphone range. Through our UX (user experience) rich graphic user interface, unrivalled service plug-ins and content from external partners we believe we have a unique consumer proposition.

What new devices do you have on offer with the Android OS?
SS: We have a range of Android devices

Sony Ericsson
make.believe

Xperia X10, X10 mini, X10 mini pro and X8 coming early 2011.

Are there any exclusive applications on SE's Android devices?
SS: Apps on Android market place are growing at a tremendous rate, but apart from these Sony Ericsson has developed two unique applications – Timescape and Mediascape. Timescape is a chronological account of all the activities that take place on your phone or on the net as they happen, for example Facebook and Twitter updates or calls and SMSs from contacts. Mediascape is an application to manage all your media at a touch of a button – the Infinite button, allowing you to see (for example) information about the latest music you put on your device, the last tracks played and similar music that is available.

SE have recently abandoned Symbian, does this mean you might have your own OS in the pipeline like Samsung did with bada?
SS: We are still part of the Open Handset Alliance which includes Symbian but at present our focus is indeed on Android. This does not mean we are abandoning all other platforms, while at this stage there is no intention to develop our own platform.

Can you divulge some info about the much rumoured PSP phone?
SS: Sony Ericsson does not comment on rumours or speculative articles.

Fans of Sony Ericsson's Android range will be happy to know that the long awaited upgrade to Android 2.1 is now available:

Xperia X10
- 720p HD video recording with continuous auto-focus for high quality videos.
- 5 homescreens for apps, widgets, shortcuts and folders.
- Social phonebook which automatically syncs contact pictures from Facebook and shows when your friends are online.

Xperia X10 mini and X10 mini pro
- Improved Bluetooth functionality with support for sending and receiving pictures, contacts and more.
- Automatic synchronization of your contact pictures between Facebook and your phone book.
- Improved ways of handling pictures, audio, text and numbers in your messages.

Go to **www.sonyericsson.co.za**.

30 days. Time took for Sony to sell 1 million Moves. 10 days. Time took for Microsoft to sell 1 million Kinects.

9039

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blackberry.com/za/torch

BlackBerry Torch 9800 » More evolution than revolution

Over the past few years BlackBerry has found itself evolving from a business centric brand to a 'hip' platform. In response, the company recently released its most up to date consumer centric device so far – the 9800 Torch.

The BlackBerry Torch is in many ways a step up for the BlackBerry range in terms of features. It incorporates a 3.2" TFT capacitive touch-screen with a resolution of 360 x 480, 4 GB of onboard storage with MicroSD support for up to 32 GB, a 624 MHz processor, HSDPA and HSUPA support, a 5 megapixel camera with autofocus and LED flash and standard Wi-Fi and Bluetooth support.

The most noticeable change however is the implementation of its slide-based design which incorporates a touch-screen as well as the standard trackpad and QWERTY keyboard. Unfortunately, the screen just isn't up to scratch in terms of resolution. A resolution of 360 x 480 doesn't match up against the likes of the iPhone 4 (640 x 960), Samsung's Galaxy S (480 x 800) or HTC's HD2 (480 x 800).

Design

Surprisingly enough, BlackBerry was able to keep the dimensions down in the Torch. Overall, the handset (111 x 62 x 14.6 mm) is fractionally larger than the BlackBerry Bold 9700 (109 x 60 x 14 mm). The real difference comes in with regards to weight. The Torch weighs in at a hefty 161 grams, compared to the Bold's 122 grams.

> "The new WebKit browser, featuring tabbed browsing, vastly improved our online experience compared to older BlackBerry models..."

BlackBerry 6

The Torch is the first among RIM's stable of handsets to ship with the newly developed BlackBerry 6 mobile operating system. The OS features a completely redesigned User Interface (UI) which incorporates features such as multiple pages, universal search and integrated social feeds from a number of networks including Twitter, Facebook and BlackBerry Messenger. In addition, the new platform also integrates a WebKit browser, featuring tabbed browsing amongst other features, which we found vastly improved our online experience compared to older BlackBerry models.

Conclusion

While the Torch is certainly an impressive piece of equipment it represents more of a evolution than a revolution. In short, the Torch is simply not an iPhone killer. Nonetheless, it's a step in the right direction for RIM. [TM]

Win the Torch courtesy of BlackBerry. **See p22 for details.**

LG Optimus One » Optimal entry-level smartphone

LG's Optimus One smartphone, aims to pop the Android cherry of new smartphone users. So is it cheap and nasty or a good phone for a good price?

The LG Optimus One is one of the first smartphones in SA to come standard with the latest edition of the Android (2.2 aka Froyo) operating system. Considering it's a phone targeting users on a tight budget (sub R2500), this is pretty impressive. Froyo brings with it some new functionality, such as up to three times faster internet browsing and the ability to peek into gallery picture stacks by using a zoom gesture.

Hardware

Things are equally impressive on the hardware front, with this pocket-friendly (113.5 x 59 x 13.3 mm, 129 g) phone being powered by a 600 MHz Qualcomm MSM7227 CPU, helping to keep lag at bay, although auto-rotate was slightly sluggish. Its three megapixel snapper with face tracking and smile shot takes good-looking pics, and images display crisp and clear on the device's 3.2" HVGA (320 x 480 pixels) capacitive touch-screen. This screen also allows for useful multi-touch gesturing, such as pinch-to-zoom, to effortlessly zoom in and out of photos and webpages. The display isn't as responsive as on other costlier devices, but for such a low-cost solution it's really decent. It comes with 170 MB of onboard memory, boosted to 2 GB with the inclusion of a microSD card.

Also featured is GPS, a 3.5 mm audio jack, a microSD card slot supporting cards up to 32 GB in size, HSDPA, Wi-Fi 802.11 b/g and push email – basically everything you'll find on more expensive phones. Both the email and Wi-Fi are easy to set up and utilise, but when all the snazzy features were turned on we only received half a day's battery life.

> "LG's Optimus One brings all the advantages of Android to the novice smartphone user, minus the potent price tag..."

Final Word

LG's Optimus One brings all the advantages of Android to the novice smartphone user, minus the potent price tag. It's not perfect due to its paltry battery life, but for an RRP of **R2499** you get Android 2.2 plus Wi-Fi and HSDPA – everything you expect from more expensive handsets. [HD]

» Quick specs

- 3.2" Capacitive touch-screen
- 600 MHz Qualcomm MSM7227 CPU
- Wi-Fi, HSDPA
- 170 MB onboard memory
- 2 GB microSD card included

1 million. Units sold by LG's fastest selling smartphone, the Optimus One, within 40 days.

Win the coolest BlackBerry® smartphone currently available!

The BlackBerry® Torch™ 9800 smartphone is designed to take your breath away. Onboard this marvellous creature you'll find: *Slide-out QWERTY keyboard, Wi-Fi®, 3G, built-in GPS, 3.2" touch-screen and the new BlackBerry® 6 OS.*

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Huawei D105 wireless router

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The D105 is a mobile wireless router that gives users the freedom to roam while still remaining connected online. The device even lets you share 3G services with any wireless enabled desktop, notebook or printer, allowing users to seamlessly connect multiple devices whilst eliminating the need for more than one 3G subscriptions.

Simply plug a 3G USB dongle into the router and the D105 will set you on your way to creating a new wireless hotspot.

Interface

The D105 uses a web-based interface enabling users to access the device from any computer and from any browser, with no annoying drivers or software needing to be installed.

Ports

As far as ports are concerned the Huawei D105 is equipped with a USB 2.0 port to be used to connect a 3G USB dongle, a LAN (10/100 Mbps) port for ethernet connections and of course an adapter socket for the power adapter.

Connection

Connecting the device to the internet is very easy, simply start up the device and connect it to a PC via the included ethernet cable, enter the address "http://192.168.1.1" into the browser address bar and then use your password to log into the D105. From there network and wireless settings can be configured to your heart's content.

Features

The D105 is chock full of advanced features that help propel the device above the realm of simple wireless routers. A Wireless Distribution System (WDS) is included which enables the wireless interconnection of access points in an IEEE 802.11 network. This allows for a wireless network to be expanded using multiple access points without the need of a wired backbone to link them, as is usually required.

The D105 also supports the universal plug and play (UPnP) service which allows other network users to control the device's network functionalities for true interconnection.

Availability

Available from Cell C

17 Billion. Estimated amount of devices that will be connected to the Internet by 2012.

PERMANENT FIXED FRAMES

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GRANDVIEW

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Bundle includes:
- 92" Grandview permanent fixed frame screen
- BW7 SONY projector
- Projector bracket with 600mm pole
- 15 meters HDMI cable

HD Ready Home Cinema Projector

This HD Ready 3LCD home cinema projector has been designed for use in brightly lit environments, so you don't need to dim the lights for a home cinema experience. The BW7 incorporates BrightEra™ technology invented by Sony which minimises degradation of colours over time, achieves higher brightness and sharper images in even well-lit rooms – and delivers exceptional reliability and longevity.

GRANDVIEW

TAB-TENSION MOTORIZED

Deriving from the classic and sturdy design of the Elegant series screen, Tab-tension motorized screen takes it further. A unique adjustable tensional system ensures an image that's perfectly flat at all time. The enhanced cinema material is specifically designed for all high definition needs. Suitable for venues that range from home theatres to media rooms.

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email: capetown@avc.co.za

AVC
Audio Visual Centre

Asus Lamborghini Eee PC VX6 » Supercar performance in a netbook

» Quick specs

- High-range netbook
- Intel Atom D525 @ 1.8 GHz
- 4 GB DDR3 RAM
- 512 MB Nvidia Ion 2 GPU
- 12.1" 1366 x 768 LCD display

Start your engines with the new Asus Lamborghini VX6 netbook, a high-end device which combines performance with a compact netbook form factor.

Not just Lamborghini in name but also in nature, the VX6 is in a league of its own when it comes to netbook performance. With a dual-core Intel Atom D525 CPU @ 1.8 GHz plus 4 GB of DDR3 RAM and even a 512 MB Nvidia Ion 2 graphics solution, it quickly secured our record for fastest netbook yet, even trampling on the toes of some regular notebooks. It's also equipped with high quality Bang & Olufsen speakers providing good quality audio playback, something you don't often see in netbooks.

Design

Co-designed by Lamborghini itself and inspired by the monstrous Murcielago LP640 Roadster, the netbook features a compact yet sleek design that is very pleasing to the eye. With an exterior available in black or white adorned with a beautiful Lamborghini badge, this device comes out on top as far as aesthetics are concerned. Seeing that the VX6 isn't the most fingerprint resistive netbook we've come across, you will be struggling with visible smudges on the base and touch-pad.

Usability

Asus adorned the VX60 with an excellent chiclet-style keyboard with slightly separated keys making for a comfortable typing experience. The touchpad features an attractive design slightly different from your normal square layout touchpads and supports multi-touch. The amount of ports though blew us away, with VGA, USB 2.0 and a SD card reader present, while more impressively incorporating two USB 3.0 ports for super fast data transfer and an HDMI port also makes an appearance.

Conclusion

The Asus Lamborghini VX6 proves the power of netbooks, challenging even some full-sized notebooks head on. It even plays an audio clip of a revving Murcielago when it's turned on, adding a nice novelty feature to the branded device. But you are paying for performance, with the VX6 retailing for about **R6999**. [JK]

Sony BW7 projector » Go big in your home

We've always had a soft spot for projectors here in the office. They are usually a lower-cost solution for a really large screen, ideal for movies or gaming. Sony's BW7 is no exception.

With the BW7's high brightness of 2000 ANSI Lumens we did not find it difficult to watch movies even with a decent amount of ambient light present, while in a dark area it's more than perfect. The BW7's 1000:1 contrast ratio isn't the best in the business but we were satisfied with sufficiently dark blacks. This 3LCD projector makes use of LCD technology with one of the benefits being that you won't pick up the rainbow artifact some people can detect on Digital Light Processing (DLP) projectors. backlighting. The projector also ran as quiet as a mouse, which is a big difference between this projector and entry-level models.

One of the aspects where the Sony falls short is full HD capabilities. As it stands it has a native resolution of 1280 x 800 pixels, making it HD ready (720p) rather than full HD, but this is also reflected in the price tag. The BW7 comes with an HDMI port, but only one, while also including an S-video, composite and RGB port.

> "You won't have any setup problems thanks to the BW7's automatic keystone correction"

Going large

So while LCD televisions might stretch to 55", the Sony can project up to 300". We did not test it to this max, but did achieve sizes that really pushed the limits of what an average room can handle. You won't have any setup problems thanks to the BW7's automatic keystone correction, and if you need to adjust something it can be handled through the included remote with

You also get ...

The Sony VPLBW7 is available as a bundle from AVC for **R12 999**, which also include a 15 m HDMI cable and the clincher – a 92" Grandview permanent fix frame screen. It's an absolute treat to view movies on this BIG screen, pretty much like having your own cinema at home. We especially like the black velvet finish on the bevelling which added an old school movie house feel. According to Grandview, manufacturer of this 16:9 screen, the fabric used contains "miniature and fine diamond veins" which helps to remove purple light while helping to display colour more correctly. All we know is that movies looked crisp and clear and much better than the usual white wall we project against. Contact AVC on 011-462-1435 for more details. [MJ]

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Advertorial Buffalo WZR-HP-G300NH AirStation router ›› Feature heavy router solution

The Buffalo AirStation Nfiniti Wireless-N High Power Router & Access Point offers a wide array of new enterprise level features perfect for the small home office environment.

The WZR-HP-G300NH is the perfect companion for everything from streaming HD movies and music to emailing from multiple PCs at once to, of course, providing wireless internet and network access. Unique new features makes an appearance such as MovieEngine, a built-in Quality of Service that optimises throughput for multimedia content, perfect for streaming movies and music.

One of the biggest problems that plague wireless access points is dead spots within a home or office where it's difficult to pick up a signal. Buffalo has outfitted its new range with optimised and tuned antennae to provide maximum performance and range in addition to an adjustable high power antenna to extend and almost double signal range.

At the end of day it's fast network speeds that you want when buying this product though, and Buffalo isn't letting customers down in that regard either. With a 1 Gbps Ethernet connection, lighting fast data speeds are ensured enabling users to move large files across the network in the blink of an eye. Gigabit LAN and WAN ports also make an appearance on the device.

Features

Taking control has also never been easier thanks to open-source firmware equipped with robust features to help you fine tune that perfect custom configuration. With an intuitive interface that speeds up connection time, customisable features for optimising wireless performance, security and routing options and advanced features which includes VPN endpoints, hot-spot sign in and VLAN, the AirStation Nfiniti is yours to control.

A built-in USB 2.0 port allows any USB storage device to be connected to the network while a BitTorrent downloader allows you to download content from the web without your PC having to be on throughout the night. Users can also access data on the storage device through a web browser from anywhere in the world. Security concerns are also addressed thanks to a secondary wireless guest network, with which you can limit guests to having internet access only, keeping files on the network safe from unauthorised access. The Buffalo G300NH comes with a RRP of **R1407 ex VAT**. For more information contact Miro distribution on 086-123-6476.

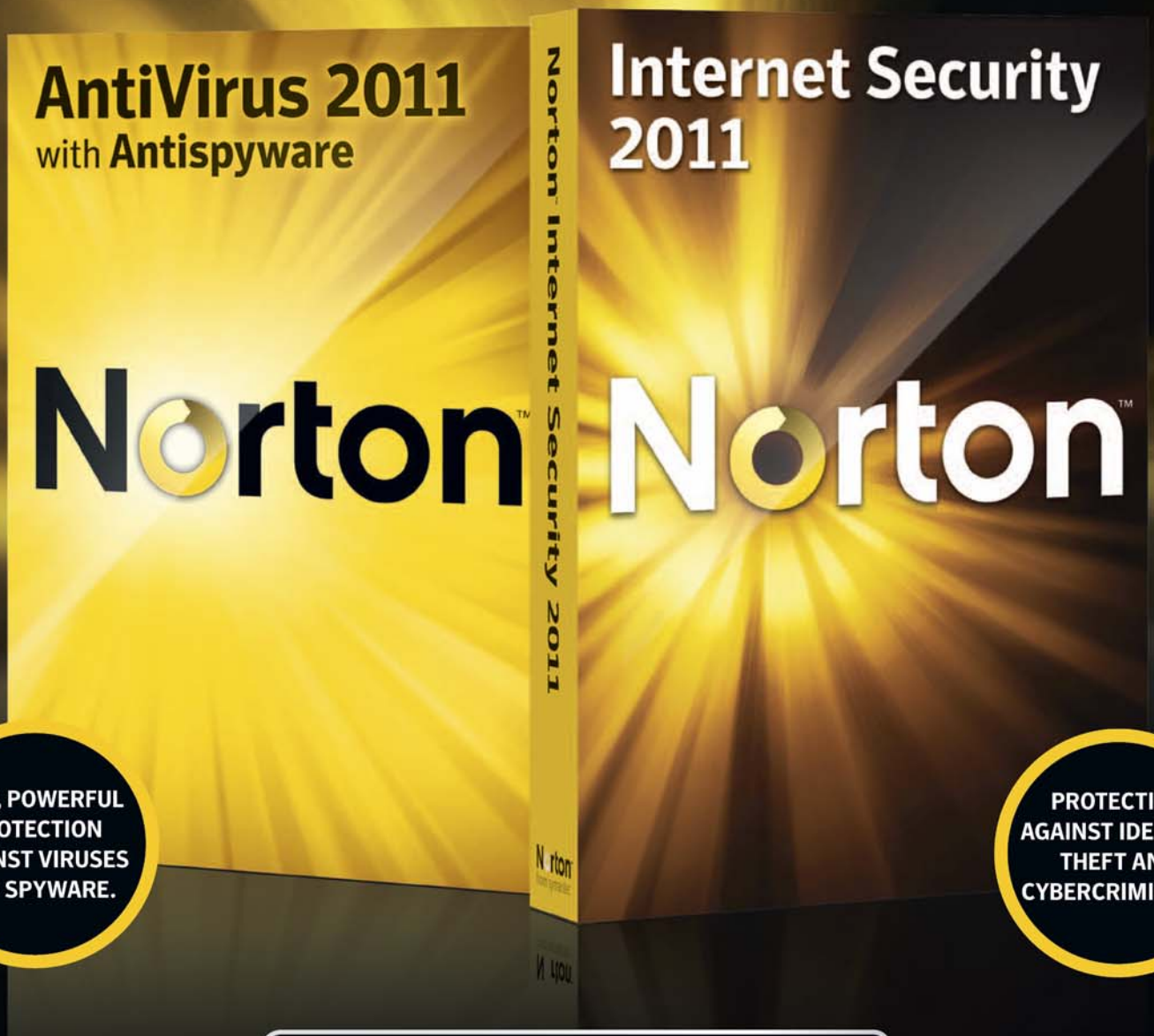
Advertorial AMD Phenom Six Core HD 6870 DX11 Gaming PC ›› Power to the gaming people

AMD unveiled its second generation of DirectX 11 GPUs (the AMD Radeon HD 6800 series) last month, which the guys from Evetech have now put to use in their AMD Phenom Six Core HD 6870 DX11 Gaming PC.

AMD's Phenom II X6 1055T 2.8 GHz CPU with its massive six cores handles the processing, whilst a latest generation SAPPHIRE Radeon HD 6870 1 GB DDR5 DX11 GPU takes care of the graphic side of things. It also sports 4 GB DDR3 1600 MHz high performance gaming RAM with a heat spreader, a Seagate 1 TB (1 000 GB) SATA 2 7200 rpm hard drive as well as a 24x dual layer DVD writer.

All this comes in a Cooler Master Elite 430 Clear side panel case enabling gamers to show off the hardware that makes their gaming monster tick. From Evetech.co.za (012-653-0033) for a good **R9999**, LCD display and OS are optional.

1985. The year Microsoft introduced the Windows operating system to the PC world.



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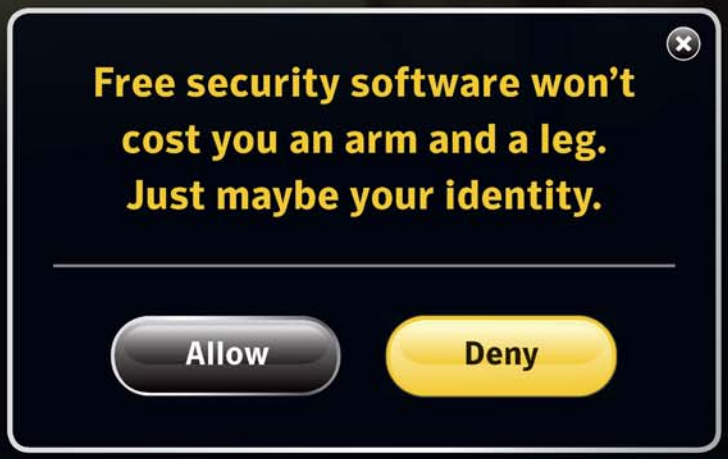

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Norton by Symantec

Sony Alpha NEX-3 ›› Very small, very capable

Recently we've seen great strides being made by Olympus and Panasonic with the Micro Four Thirds system, but they are not the only kids on the block with small form factor cameras with high quality sensors.

Sony equips their new Alpha NEX range of digital cameras with full Advanced Photo System type-C (APS-C) sensors, the same size sensor found in most DSLRs. This sensor is bigger (between 30% – 50% depending who you listen to) than the Micro Four Thirds standard, already a big benefit the Sony has over its Olympus and Panasonic rivals.

"If you can live with constant visits to the menu and no flash, the Sony Alpha NEX-3 deserve some serious attention."

Size

The first thing you notice about the Sony NEX-3 is its diminutive size. In fact the 14 megapixel NEX-3 is so small it makes other compact cameras look big.

Compared to regular sized DSLRs the NEX is minute, with Sony claiming that it's the smallest interchangeable lens camera in its class.

Design

Sony managed to keep the camera design nice and clean without too many buttons, but the problem this creates is that you have to constantly keep digging through the menu system to change settings. Even a simple mode dial is omitted, so if you want to switch from your current mode to say for example portrait mode, you have to press the soft button three times to make a simple selection. There is also no on-board flash, but an accessory is available. Sony deserves a round of applause for their superb 3" screen with a delicious 920 000 pixels though, while the 720p video recording is up there with the best.

Conclusion

We really liked the Sony Alpha NEX-3, more so than its competition from the Micro Four Thirds stable, the Olympus PEN E-PL1, with the larger Exmor APS HD CMOS sensor kicking dust in the face of the PEN's smaller Micro Four Thirds sensor. But the constant digging through the menu structure was seriously limiting and frustrating, lessening its appeal for more serious photographers.

It comes with a recommended retail price of **R6499** and that's with the 18-55 mm lens. Visit **www.sony.co.za** for more info. [MJ]

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Gadgets & Goodies

Oregan Scientific Advanced Rainbow Clock

Oregan Scientific's Advanced Rainbow Clock sports a translucent backdrop which changes colour, adding to the atmosphere of any room. The clock has a large LCD display with eight high quality soothing sounds, built in FM radio, and a jack for your MP3 player. At **R899** it is available from The G.A.D.G.E.T. Shop on 012-346-2726.

ATC9K HD Action Camera

For those with an adventurous heart this item is a must have. The Action Cam has 1080 HD video capabilities and a 5 megapixel camera, and can be hooked up to your bike, canoe, headgear or fishing rod if you like. It's also shock resistant and water-proof up to 20 meters, making it perfect for all your outdoor thrills and spills.

It retails at **R2999** and is available from The G.A.D.G.E.T. Shop on 012-346-2726.

>240 million. Windows 7 licences Microsoft sold in the first year of the OS' availability.

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The NSD Power Ball just unpackd!

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Oregon Rainbow Clock

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Neuro Cube Puzzle

Is an entertainment device like no other in the world. It is composed of 216 individual high-energy, rare-earth magnets.

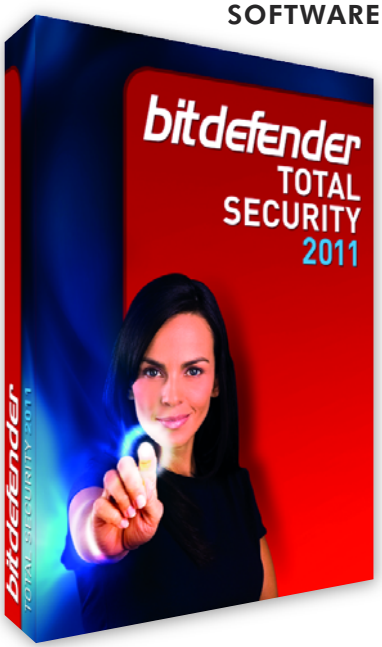
Solar Clima Control

This weather station is completely powered by the sun. The Eco Clima Control allows you to monitor the current temperature and humidity in up to 4 locations

763ºC. Temperature required to make a diamond completely disappear.

BitDefender Total Security 2011 »
Kicking malware (and more) to the curb

BitDefender Total Security 2011 is a security suite that gives you the power of antivirus, internet security and even a couple of handy tools to keep your PC clean.



Interface
Total Security 2011 is very easy to use, offering users three different user interface options; basic, intermediate and expert.

In basic mode a clean and clear cut layout guides users, while the intermediate and advanced levels opens up more options. The software is highly user-friendly, especially to novice users as you can set it to display hints and tips, tips on safe internet behaviour and video tutorials covering the basics of the software.

Protection
The program boasts a wide range of protection options and scans your system beforehand to make sure no pre-existing threats prohibits its workings.

The software can run a wide variety of virus scans and users can schedule scans to take place whenever they please. Scanning wasn't too resource intensive, as we were able to continue browsing and working while the software did its job.

BitDefender has also introduced the Search Advisor function this year, displaying ratings next to Google, Bing and Yahoo search results based on how safe the site is.

Features
Parents have access to comprehensive parental control options to set the level of protection for their child's Windows account. Simply select the age of your young one from the Parental Control menu and BitDefender will take care of the rest.

Laptop and gaming modes also make a comeback, with laptop mode disabling scans when running off battery power, while gaming mode limits resource intensiveness while you get your game on.

A set of efficiency enhancing tune-up programs are also included, consisting of a disk defragmenter, PC clean-up utility, duplicate finder, registry cleaner, registry recovery and file shredder.

Conclusion
With its slew of extra features BitDefender Total Security 2011 goes beyond the call of duty as far as antivirus is concerned. With detailed instructions, simplified menu's and even video tutorials, this is an antivirus program even grandpa should be able to use.

One user license costs **R499**, three for **R599** and five for **R699**.
Visit **www.holton.co.za** for more info or call them on 011-789-6181.[JK]

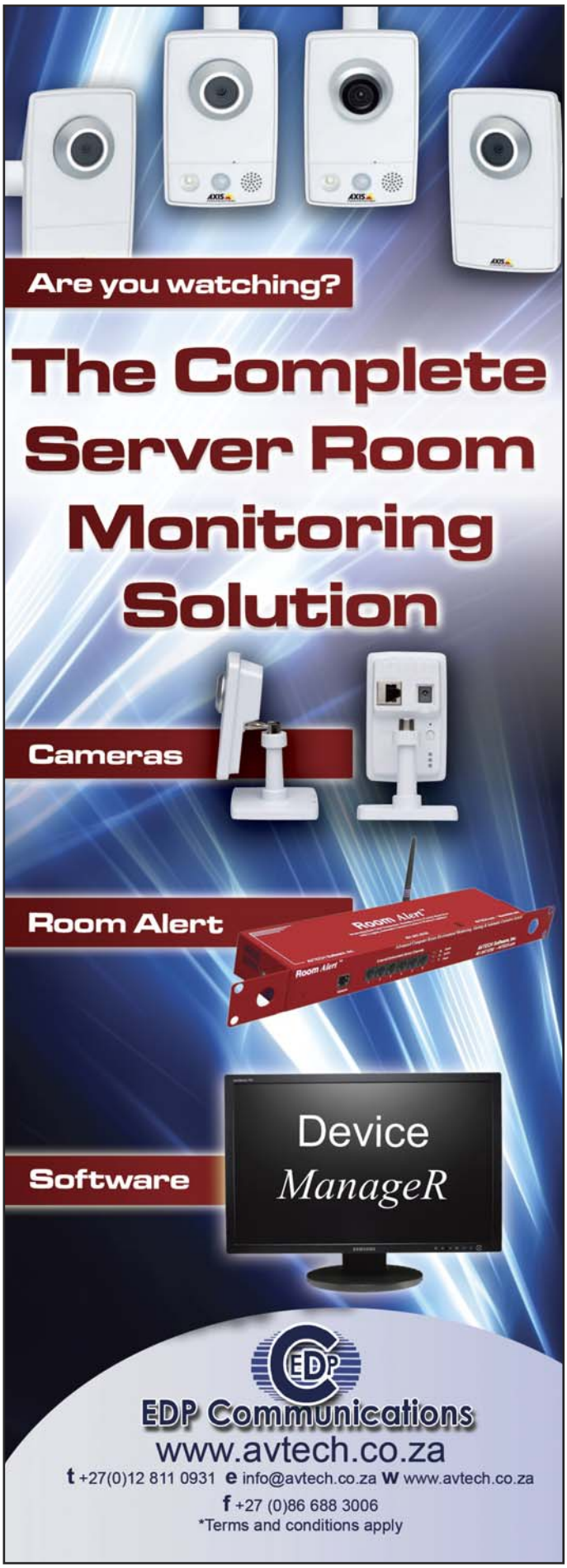
Advertorial Magix Digital DJ (PC and Mac) » Hey Mr DJ

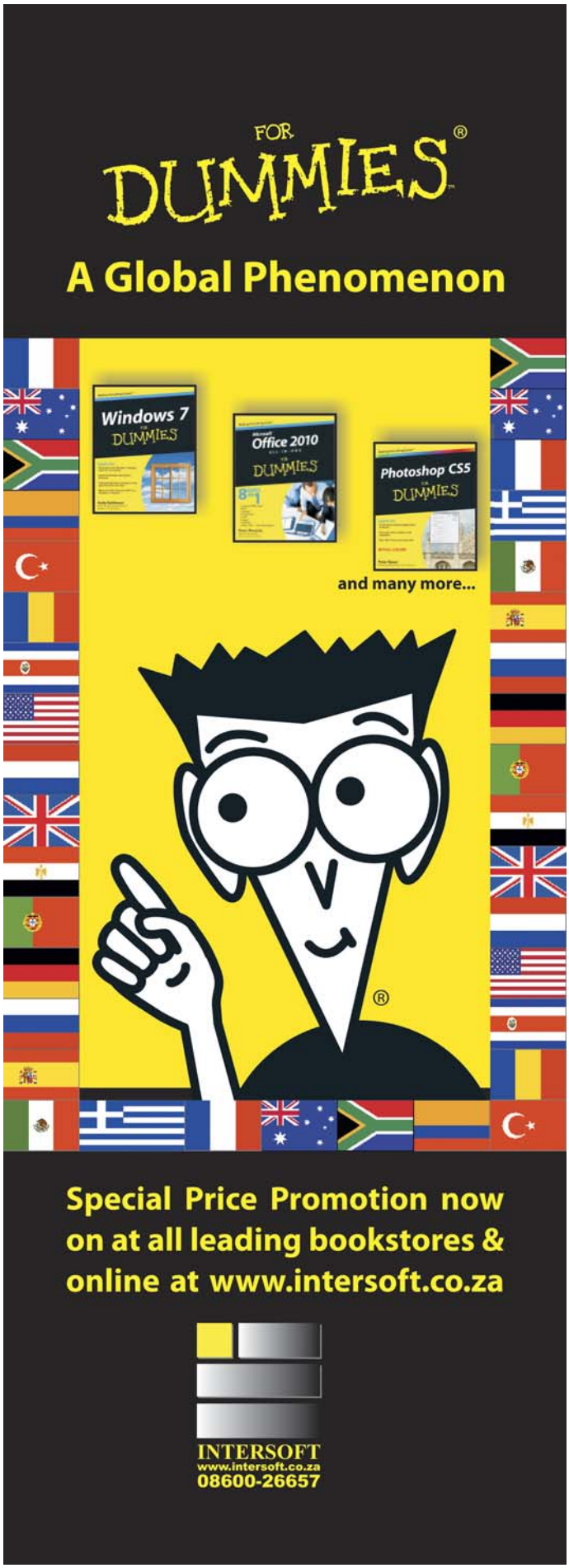
Ever wondered how DJs manage to effortlessly blend one track into another without a change in tempo or pitch? Some with skill, others with software such as Magix's Digital DJ.

Digital DJ takes music directly from your hard-drive or iTunes library (even iTunes' playlists if you've compiled some already) and gets it ready for mixing. Boasting an easy to use virtual mixing desk as well as tricks of the trade such as an 8-slot sampler, bass fade, equalizer and cue marker, this software provides an edge for DJs in the making.

One of Digital DJ's strongest features is the inclusion of the Mufin engine which scans tracks stored on your playlist to determine which songs will work best together. This allows the DJ to easily create playlists without combing through every song beforehand, while also providing on the spot assistance in picking a song that will keep the mood. Another feature which we found useful was the Automix Mode, enabling the busy DJ to set the playlist to autopilot while he takes a break . Magix Digital DJ is available from Edumall **(www.edumall.co.za)** for **R549**.

6.4%. Percentage of all international internet traffic presented by Google.



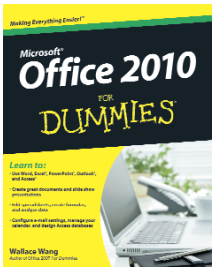


4 TB. Storage the human brain is capable of.

Books from Intersoft

Office 2010 for Dummies - 4th edition

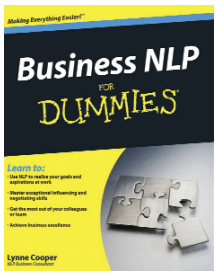
Wiley Publishing



If you are still a bit "rusty" with the new Office 2010 office suite, the 4th edition of *Office 2010 for Dummies* will get you up to speed on all the new facets, allowing you to use the software to its full extent. The book teaches you the basics of Word, Excel, Powerpoint, Outlook and Access, progressing to the more advanced features once you've mastered them. True to the Dummies series it is written in plain language, making hay of technological jargon. RRP: **R240**

Business NLP for Dummies-1st Edition

Wiley Publishing



With a winning mindset anything is possible and *Business NLP for Dummies* teaches you how to achieve just that. With the use of Neuro-linguistic Programming in the business environment you will learn how to establish and build rapport, make positive changes to your life and accomplish all the goals you have set for yourself. The book will teach you in easy and clear language how to transform your team's performance for a better and more driven business environment. RRP: **R195**.

Both these titles are available from Intersoft on 08600-26657 or 08600-BOOKS.

TechSmart.co.za online poll results

Do you think Telkom's 8ta service will lead to overall lower cellular bills?

Not likely – it did not happen when Cell C entered the market.	30%
No ways – we will still be charged over our heads!	30%
We will have to wait and see.	21%
For sure, just watch the next couple of months!	14%
8ta? That is Trevor Noah's new show right?	5%

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On www.techsmart.co.za this month

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

Should sport/lifestyle brands get involved with tech? Read our review of the PUMA phone to find out: **http://bit.ly/pumareview**

How small can projectors go? We check out Acer's smartphone sized C20 LED Projector: **http://bit.ly/acerpico**

Remember: All the products in our Top 5 features are reviewed in full online!

12 Million. E-mails a spammer will send before they get a response.

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CPU: Intel Atom 270N 1.6Ghz
RAM: 1024MB DDR2 Memory
HDD: 160GB SATA 5400RPM Harddrive
Screen Size: 10.1" LED TFT
Other: Intel 802.11 b/g Wireless LAN Bluetooth, Windows XP Home, 1.3MP Webcam w/ Mic, 3 in 1 Card Reader
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MINIX 10" M1100 Netbook
RAM: 2GB DDR2
HDD: 160GB 5400RPM
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Output: HDMI, AV

FULL HD Media Player R449
Full HD: 1080p
Input: USB Flash, SD, USB External
Output: HDMI, AV

Media Player Compact R349
Definition: 720p
Input: USB Flash, SD, USB External
HDD Output: AV and YPbPr

2.5" HDD Enclosure Media Player R279
Definition: 720p
Input: USB Flash, SD, USB External
HDD Output: VGA, AV, 5.1Ch Sound

Media Player R249
Definition: 576p
Input: USB Flash, SD, USB External
HDD Output: AV and YPbPr

Microsoft Products

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Microsoft Compact Optical Mouse	R109
Microsoft LifeCam VX800	R149

Notebooks

HP Compaq Notebook 620

WK335EA
HDD: 160GB 7200RPM
CPU: Intel Celeron T3000 2.20 GHz
RAM: 1GB DDR3 1 DIMM
Screen size: 15.6" Brightview HD LCD
Other: DVD +/-RW DL Supermulti Lightscribe, MS Windows 7 Home Basic Edition, Bluetooth is built in, Built-in Webcam & Carry Case included.
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CPU: Intel Celeron T3000 1.80 GHz
RAM: 2GB DDR3 1 DIMM
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PCI: ATA 133 Controller Card	R156
PCI: PCMCIA Port Card (G3)	R199
PCI: Wireless LAN Card 54MBPS	R137
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GEFORCE 9800GT 512MB R1089
DDR3-GALA, W/HDMI/VGA /DVI/Cooling Fan/PCI

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DDR2-GALAXY, W/CRT/DVI/HDMI/Cooling Fan/PCI

GEFORCE 8400GS 1GB R445
DDR2-GALAXY, 64bit

GEFORCE 9500GT 1GB R559
DDR2 W/CRT/DVI/C, PCI-E

GEFORCE 9800GT 1GB R1239
DDR3 GALAXY WCRT/DVI/HDMI PCI-E

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DDR 128BIT, GALAXY W/TV/DVI, Cooling Fan AGP8X

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DDR3 GALAXY, WCRT/DVI/HDMI/PCI-E

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DDR5 256BIT W Mini HDMI/Cooling Fan/PCI-E, FLI

GEFORCE GTX470 1280MB R3249
DDR5 320BIT W Mini HDMI/Cooling Fan/PCI-E

GEFORCE GTX480 1536MB R4999
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HD 4650 FAN R639
HDMI 1GB Dual LINK-DVI/VGA/HDMI PCLE, with game

HD 4850 ATI RADEON R1249
Hightech ICEQ 4 FULL HD 1080P GDDR3 DUA LINK-DVI/VGA/HDMI (HDCP) PCLE with game

HD 4870 ATI RADEON R2619
Hightech , ICEQ 4+ FULL HD 1080P HDMI 1GBDUAL DL-DVI&TV PCIE, with game

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GDDR5 DIRECT X 11/EYEFINITY/full HD DL-DVI/MINI DISPLAY PORT PCIE

HIS HD 5830 GR. CARD 1GB R2659
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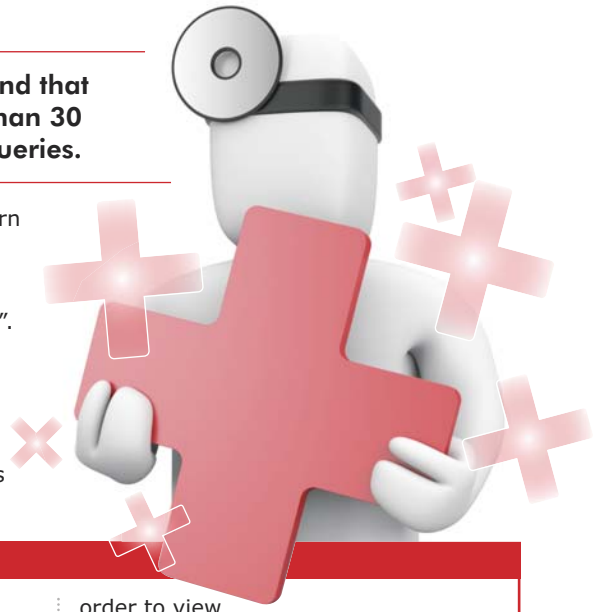
PC Medic ›› First aid for your PC

It is said that he persuaded the Beatles to put their music on iTunes and that he did all the IT planning for the International Space Station in less than 30 minutes. The PC Medic is here to answer some of your tech related queries.



Q Heya PC Medic. I recently bought a new laptop and use prepaid cellular internet at home via a USB modem to connect. Problem is my data bundle gets chewed up extremely quickly. I'm really not even surfing that much and mostly doing email. Any advice? Eugene Rayners

A PC Medic (PCM): Hey Eugene. My guess is that your PC is still downloading automatic updates for Windows 7. You can click on the "Start" button, and then on "All Programs". Next click on "Windows Update" and in the left pane click on "Change settings". Select "Turn off Automatic Updates" and click "OK". This will prevent large updates being downloaded automatically, but remember these updates can be very important for security, so if youcan update somewhere where it's less costly, best to do so.

Q Hi PCM. I have heard that Windows 7 utilises a portion of one's hard drive space with its hibernation file. Since I never use sleep, I was wondering how I can turn this off? Ryan van Wyk

A PCM: Heita Ryan. Click on the "Start" button and select "Run". Then type REGEDIT and press enter. Under "HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE" select "SYSTEM", then "CurrentControlSet", then "Control" and lastly "Power". Under "Power" set both HibernateEnabled as well as HiberFileSizePerfect to zero.

» Tips for Windows 7:

Creating a new folder shortcut
While you are working within Windows 7 Explorer, you do not need to use your mouse in order to create a new folder by right clicking as you would normally do. You can simply press Ctrl+Shift+N to create the folder in the active Explorer window, then type its name as usual.

Browse your tasks
You can browse the open taskbar by pressing the Windows key and T, in order to view and switch between active windows and programs. You can just employ the arrow keys to switch between them.

Quick search
If you want to quickly search for info on something within a Windows Explorer window, just press F3 to open the search box. Then type in the term(s) you're looking for and press Enter to run the search.

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

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

ANSI Lumen
ANSI Lumen is a standardised method of measuring the brightness level of data projectors. ANSI simply stands for the American National Standards Institute, similar to our SABS. The rating system uses several measurements taken across the face of the light source to calculate the projector's brightness level. A small room will typically require a 200 or 300 ANSI Lumen projector whereas a large room may require between 400 and 600. Projectors used for large halls require a brightness level of 2000 ANSI lumen or more.

Cloud computing
Cloud computing roughly refers to web-based processing, in other words, processing tasks are handled over the internet rather than relying on local processing on your PC or servers. Cloud computing networks are usually large groups of servers using specialised connections to spread data processing chores between them. In other words, large pools of systems linked together. It is expected that in a connected future all local processes currently handled by your PC, such as storage and processing, will be handled by the cloud.

DRM
DRM stands for digital rights management and it's a term for access control technologies used by copyright holders to limit the usage of certain digital content or devices. It is used mainly as a counter-piracy initiative. DRM started to appear in PC games a few years ago with titles such as Spore and Red Alert 3 utilising it. In gaming DRM usually limits the number of times a game can be installed through online authentication. Some MP3's downloaded from legitimate sites also come with DRM protection, meaning the person that has paid for the track will only be able to play it on a limited number of devices. The use of DRM has been a contentious issue with some consumers claiming that if you've bought something there should be no restrictions on how you are able to use it. Nokia Music Store has recently gone DRM free.

Nanometre (nm)
A nanometre is a unit of length in the metric system equal to one billionth of a metre. In tech it is a measurement commonly used in semiconductor manufacturing. As technological advancement increases, so components in computer systems become smaller and smaller, enabling designers to make more powerful components of the same size. Currently the most advanced process available on the market is the 32 nm design process, which came into being in 2009. The Intel Core i3, i5 and i7 processors are built on the 32 nm process. The next technological step will be progressing to 22 nm, and it is expected to happen sometime during 2011.

1 125 899 906 842 624 bytes = 1 petabyte = 1 024 terabytes.

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- **Radius Server:** Local and remote.
- **Watchdog:** Maintain stability of router.
- **Netwatch:** Monitor specific port or IP address on the network.
- **VPN (Virtual Private Network) Server: Supports:** VLAN, 6to4 (IPv6 over IPv4 network), Point to Point, IPsec, IPIP, EoIP (Secure tunnel – Proprietary to GloZone routers).
- **Routing Services**
- **Web Proxy Services**
- **Firewalling Services**
- **Wireless Services:** Simply add a wireless card to turn GloZone into a wireless APN or bridge.
  Bands: 802.11 a/b/g/n Quarter and Half Band (Proprietary).
  Frequencies: 2.4 and 5.8 Ghz (11, 54, 108 Mbps).
  Licenses: ICASA approved (Level 3-6).

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Use your current ADSL line and get 2 landlines

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- Mobile calls from R1.40 per second billing (Incl)
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- Replace your outdated costly premicells
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- IVR (press 1 for Joe ..)
- Or work from home with your office number!

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- Free delivery in Pretoria

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Timeline Computer

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sales@timeline.za.net
Tel: 011 7912468
Fax: 011 7912268

16.8 million. "Likes" by Facebook users for Starbucks Coffee, the most popular brand on FB.

Web Time Wasters

1 Incredibox www.incredibox.fr

This quirky site allows you to create customised music by mixing different sound effects, voices and instruments together. The catch being that sounds are visually represented as slightly bored guys standing in line to make the different sounds assigned to them. Through adding new instruments, sounds and vocals to your tune the number of guys on screen will increase, later creating a chorus line of sound effect spewing individuals.

2 ADrive www.adrive.com

ADrive.com is a site similar to DropBox in that it allows users to save and access their personal data online. The site claims to offer one of the largest free storage and backup spaces on the internet, with users getting a whopping 50 GB of space to do with as they please. Through ADrive users can upload and share files online while all your files will be stored in the cloud, meaning they can be accessed from any computer with an internet connection. Documents can be edited online – a handy feature to have in case of a document editing emergency.

3 Regretsy www.regretsy.com

Regretsy.com is a blog that focuses on exposing all the funniest, weirdest and outright creepiest wares that people try to hawk over at **Etsy.com**. Etsy is a well-known site where people can sell their own creations to others, be it a painting, novelty clock, or basically anything they can think of. Regretsy archives the strangest wares on the site in a humorous collection that will leave you suspended in disbelief at the stupid things people will try to (and often do) sell over the internet. [Contains some profanities)]

4 Eyes on the solar system http://bit.ly/8Xtca3

Eyes on the solar system is a 3D representation of the solar system filled with information on NASA mission data. The program was developed by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and Caltech and, after a quick download (3.1 MB), enables users to explore the solar system in a myriad of interesting ways. You can fly alongside the Voyager 2 space probe, replay EPOXI's closest approach to comet Hartley 2 or even go back in time to watch the launch and flight of the Cassini spacecraft on its epic seven year journey to Saturn. Truly a wonderful website for astronomy buffs.

New!!! XDSL has developed a state of the art **VPN firewall**

Business owners: Tired of sluggish speeds on fast internet connections?
Tired of having no control?

XDSL's firewall features

the same technology that corporate businesses and ISPs use in their core network.
This technology is now also available for small/medium businesses at a **fraction of the cost.**
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To learn more about this fantastic product please visit **http://tiny.cc/nology_giveaway**

BILLION

NOLOGY DISTRIBUTION

Competition runs from 1 – 31 December 2010

Want to win Lexmark's excellent INTERACT 3-in-1 printer?

How? Join our Facebook page (http://tiny.cc/tsfb) and comment on any of our daily postings. The best comment wins the Lexmark!

This month's winner is Porcha Jacobs who commented on Telkom 8ta's new contract packages:

"Don't be so quick to feel dis 8ta, it might just surprise us!!!!! (Thumbs up) go for it 8ta!!!!"

The Lexmark INTERACT is a 3-in-1 printer, scanner and copier with touch-screen. It includes paper saving Eco Mode and a three year guarantee with lifetime phone support.

Lexmark Green Fact

Did you know? 1 in 6 pages printed in the workplace are never used! Let's protect the planet together. Let's stop printing waste!

12 **Print only the pages you need, not the whole document**

Tips from Lexmark for those of us looking to improve our printing practices, for the benefit of the environment.

Courtesy of: LEXMARK

Competition runs from 1 – 31 December 2010

24. Hours of video uploaded to YouTube every minute. 1700. Years you will spend watching every single video.

Sci News

Low pressure system

Definitive proof: chocolate is good for you (as if you could ever have wondered). Scientists write in a recent issue of the *Journal of Cardiovascular Pharmacology* that eating a chunk of dark, cocoa-rich chocolate can markedly reduce blood pressure. Sixteen healthy, non-smoking volunteers were asked to each eat 75 g of unsweetened chocolate with a 72% cocoa content. Blood samples were taken half an hour before they started nibbling, and then half an hour, an hour and three hours after they had eaten. Activity of the enzyme acetylcholine, which is involved in raising blood pressure, was markedly lower three hours after having eaten the chocolate. The results show that lifestyle diseases may adequately be controlled by food choices.

Spot check

A spotty coat can be a handy thing – especially for a leopard. According to an article in a recent issue of the Proceedings of the *Royal Society B*, some wild cats' patterns help to keep them camouflaged. Researchers analysed the markings on the bodies of 35 cat species using a mathematical model. The results showed that those who roam in dense habitats or hide in trees usually have detailed and irregular patterns such as spots to keep them from being seen. But this is usually the case for cats with a very specific hunting ground. Others, like panthers and jaguars, which can hunt equally well in various environments, tend to be a single colour to give them camouflage advantage against as many backgrounds as possible. That's what we call spot on research.

The spirit of giving

Giving is in your genes it seems. According to a recent study in *Social, Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience*, a difference in a single component of a gene involved in regulating the brain's response to dopamine may direct your willingness to give. Scientists took cheek swabs from 100 volunteers, asked them to participate in a difficult memorising task and then paid each €5 for their efforts. Volunteers could then either take their earnings home or donate as much as they wanted to a charity. People with a specific variant of the gene for an enzyme that significantly inactivates the feel-good brain messenger dopamine gave twice as much of their money away. The findings support the idea that true charity does not feel good because it makes the giver feel good. What better way to start the festive season? [LP]

» Other interesting stuff

Cats use cunning physics to lap milk:
http://bit.ly/catdrinking

A journey into Dark Matter:
http://bit.ly/darkjourney

How reading rewires the brain:
http://bit.ly/brainonbooks

Eco News

Facebook goes green

The world's most popular social network has unveiled its Green on Facebook page, through which it is aiming to educate its users around issues of environmental awareness. The company also revealed that it has joined the likes of Microsoft, Sony, AMD and HP in becoming a member of the Digital Energy Solutions Campaign (DESC). The latter is a non-profit coalition of ICT companies and trade groups, aiming to drive sustainable economic growth via energy efficiency and the use of clean energy innovations across every sector of the economy.

Woolworths ops for greener trucks

Local retailer Woolworths is one of a handful of global companies that is piloting the ecoFridge refrigeration system on its trucks. This solution utilises no moving parts and thus is a much quieter transport refrigeration system, operating at zero decibels. It also allows for multiple temperature zones to be accurately maintained within the same truck. More importantly, it makes use of naturally occurring nitrogen instead of diesel, meaning the units can eliminate between 24 – 30 tons of CO_2 for every Woolworths truck each year.

Panasonic invests in green

Japanese electronics manufacturer Panasonic has announced that it will be investing $30 million (around R203 million) in Tesla Motors, an American car manufacturer best known for its electric luxury sports cars (started by South African Elon Musk who also made a brief cameo in *Iron Man 2*).This agreement will see Panasonic purchasing Tesla common stock at $21.15 per share, amounting to a stake of approximately. 2% in the company. Panasonic, which also makes battery cells and packs for a range of electric vehicles, is aiming to become the number one Green Innovation Company in the electronics sector by 2018 to coincide with its centenary. [HD]

» Other interesting stuff

The promotion of biofuels to Europe's farmers will accelerate climate change:
http://tiny.cc/fuel4thought

Worm poop fertilises companies' profits:
http://tiny.cc/wormprofits

Nutrients and clean drinkable water from sewage waste streams:
http://tiny.cc/sewage2H20

$1 billion. Amount Google is on track to generate from mobile revenue this year.

Valid till 31/12/2010. E&OE.

VISION TECHNOLOGIES

IMPORTERS/EXPORTERS OF COMPUTER HARDWARE

HOT DECEMBER SPECIALS

COMPUTER SPECIALS

VISION BASIC COMPUTER SPECIA — R2850
VISION ATX CASE 4 BAY WITH 400W PSU
INTEL G41 MOTHERBOARD SUPPORT DDR2/ DDR3 MEMORY
2 GIG DDR2 MEMORY
LG DVD WRITER 22X SATA
INTEL CELERON 2.5 GHZ CPU
500 GIG HARD DRIVE
18.5 INCH LG LCD MONITOR
PS2 KEYBOARD
PS2 MOUSE
SPEAKERS

VISION HOME OFFICE COMPUTER — R3050
VISION ATX CASE 4 BAY WITH 500W POWER SUPPLY
INTEL G41 MOTHERBOARD SUPPORT DDR2/ DDR3 MEMORY
2GIG DDR3 MEMORY 1333 MHZ
LG DVD WRITER 22X SATA
INTEL DUAL CORE E5500 2.8 GHZ CPU
500 GIG HARD DRIVE SATA
18.5 INCH LG LCD MONITOR
PS2 KEYBOARD
PS2 MOUSE
SPEAKERS

VISION INTEL BUDGET GAMING COMPUTER — R3999
VISION ATX 4 BAY WITH 500W POWER SUPPLY
INTEL G41 MOTHERBOARD SUPPORT DDR2/ DDR3 MEMORY
LG DVD WRITER 22X SATA
INTEL E7500 CORE 2 DUO 2.93 GHZ CPU
2GIG DDR3 MEMORY 1333 MHZ
500 GIG SATA HARD DRIVE
GEFORCE GT210 1GB DDR3 PCI EXPRESS
18.5 INCH LG LCD MONITOR
PS2 KEYBOARD
PS2 MOUSE
SPEAKERS

VISION I3 HOME/ OFFICE COMPUTER — R5680
AEROCOOL VXR CASE WITH 430W POWER SUPPLY
INTEL H55H-M LGA1156 I3 MOTHERBOARD
LG DVD WRITER 22X SATA
INTEL I3 540 3.06 GHZ CPU LGA1156
2GB DDR3 1333 MHZ MEMORY
1TB HARD DRIVE SATA
GEFORCE NVIDIA 9800GT 1GB DDR3 PCI EXPRESS
21.5 INCH LG LCD MONITOR
PS2 KEYBOARD
PS2 MOUSE
SPEAKERS

VISION I5 HOME/ OFFICE COMPUTER — R7499
AEROCOOL VXR CASE WITH 430W POWER SUPPLY
INTEL P55 MOTHERBOARD LGA1156
LG DVD WRITER 22X SATA
INTEL I5 760 2.8 GHZ CPU LGA1156
2X2GB DDR3 1333 MHZ MEMORY
1TB HARD DRIVE SATA
GEFORCE GTS250 1GB DDR3 VGA CARD
SAMSUNG 23 INCH LCD MONITOR
LOGITECH WIRELESS KEYBOARD/MOUSE
LOGITECH 2.1 SPEAKERS

THE ABOVE WITH PS2 KEYBOARD, PS2 MOUSE, GEFORCE GT240 1GB DDR3 1X 2GB DDR3 1333 MHZ MEMORY, ENTRY LEVEL SPEAKERS — **R6500**

VISION I7 HOME/ OFFICE COMPUTER — R12750
AEROCOOL VX9 PRO ATX CASE WITH 700W POWER SUPPLY
INTEL X58 MOTHERBOARD LGA1366
INTEL I7 950 3.06 GHZ CPU LGA1366
2X 2GB DDR3 1333 MHZ MEMORY
SEAGATE 2TB HARD DRIVE SATA
SAMSUNG 24 INCH LCD MONITOR
GEFORCE GTX460 1GB DDR5 GRAPHICS CARD
LG BLU RAY DVD WRITER LIGHTSCRIBE
LOGITECH WIRELESS KEYBOARD AND MOUSE
LOGITECH 2.1 SPEAKERS

THE ABOVE COMPUTER WITHOUT MONITOR, LOGITECH WIRELESS KEYBOARD AND MOUSE, LOGITECH 2.1 SPEAKERS — **R10300**

AMD STUDENT GAMING COMPUTER SPECIAL — R3970
VISION ATX CASE WITH 430W POWER SUPPLY
MSI AMD AM3 MOTHERBOARD SUPPORT DDR3
AMD X3 445 3.1 GHZ CPU
500 GIG HARD DRIVE SATA
LG DVD WRITER 22X SATA
2GB DDR3 1333 MHZ MEMORY
GEFORCE GT210 1GB DDR3 PCI EXPRESS
LG 18.5 INCH LCD MONITOR
PS2 KEYBOARD
PS2 MOUSE
SPEAKERS

THE ABOVE COMPUTER WITH A GEFORCE GT240 1GB DDR3 — **R4090**

VISION AMD PERFORMANCE GAMING COMPUTER — R10600
AEROCOOL GAMING CASE VXR WITH 700W POWER SUPPLY
AMD AM3 890GX MOTHERBOARD
AMD X6 1055T 2.8 GHZ CPU
2X2GB DDR3 MEMORY
1TB HARD DRIVE SATA
LG BLU RAY DVD WRITER
GEFORCE GTX460 1GB DDR5 PCI EXPRESS VGA CARD
SAMSUNG 23 INCH LCD MONITOR
LOGITECH WIRELESS KEYBOARD/MOUSE
LOGITECH 2.1 SPEAKERS

VISION COMBO SPECIALS WITH NO MONITOR, KEYBOARD, MOUSE

VISION ATX CASE 4 BAY WITH 400W PSU
INTEL G41 MOTHERBOARD
INTEL CELERON 2.5 GHZ CPU
2GB DDR2 MEMORY
500 GIG HARD DRIVE SATA
LG DVD WRITER — **R1780**

VISION ATX CASE 4 BAY WITH 500W PSU
INTEL G41 MOTHERBOARD
INTEL DUAL CORE E5500 CPU
2GB DDR3 MEMORY
500 GIG HARD DRIVE SATA
LG DVD WRITER — **R1999**

AEROCOOL VXR ATX CASE WITH 430W POWER SUPPLY
INTEL LGA1156 H55 MOTHERBOARD
INTEL I3 540 3.06 GHZ CPU
2GB DDR3 MEMORY
500 GIG HARD DRIVE SATA
LG DVD WRITER SATA
GEFORCE 9800GT 1GB DDR3 VGA CARD — **R3999**

AEROCOOL VXR ATX CASE WITH 700W POWER SUPPLY
INTEL X58 LGA1366 MOTHERBOARD
INTEL I7 950 3.06 GHZ CPU
2X2GB DDR3 MEMORY
1TB HARD DRIVE SATA
LG BLU RAY DVD WRITER
GEFORCE GTS 250 1GB DDR3 VGA CARD — **R8799**

WITHOUT LG BLU RAY DVD WRITER , WITH GT240 1GB DDR3 WITH LG DVD WRITER 22X SATA — **R7400**

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1TB 3.5 INCH	R740
1.5TB 3.5 INCH	R860
2TB 3.5 INCH	R1060
2.5 INCH 320 GIG	R440
2.5 INCH 500 GIG	R570
2.5 INCH 640.GIG	R640
1TB 2.5 INCH	R960

Twintech™ GRAPHICS

TWINTECH GEFORCE SPECIALS NOW ON

GT240 1GB DDR3 PCI EXPRESS	R699
9800GT 512MB DDR3 PCI EXPRESS	R799
9800GT 1GB DDR3 PCI EXPRESS	R899
GTS250 1GB DDR3 PCI EXPRESS	R999
GTX460 768MB PCI EXPRESS	R1699
GTX460 1GB DDR5 PCI EXPRESS	R1999
GTX480 1768MB PCI EXPRESS	R4399

SAMSUNG

SAMSUNG HARD DRIVE SPECIALS (FOR DESKTOP HARD DRIVES)

500 GIG HARD DRIVE SATA	R330
1TB HARD DRIVE SATA	R479
1.5TB HARD DRIVE SATA	R675

Seagate
We turn on ideas

SEAGATE HARD DRIVE SPECIALS (FOR DESKTOP HARD DRIVES)

500 GIG HARD DRIVE SATA	R349
1TB HARD DRIVE SATA	R599
1.5TB HARD DRIVE SATA	R720
2TB HARD DRIVE SATA	R899

intel Core i7 inside

INTEL CPU SPECIALS

PENTIUM CELERON 2.5 GHZ	R395
PENTIUM E5500 2.8 GHZ	R540
CORE 2 DUO E7500 2.93 GHZ	R1050
QUAD CORE Q8400 3 GHZ	R1440
PENTIUM CORE I3 540 3.06 GHZ	R940
PENTIUM CORE I5 750 2.66 GHZ	R1660
PENTIUM CORE I7 950 3.06 GHZ	R2460

VISION EXTERNAL HARD DRIVE SPECIALS 3.5 INCH

1TB HARD DRIVE 3.5 INCH	R730
1.5TB HARD DRIVE 3.5 INCH	R899
2TB HARD DRIVE 3.5 INCH	R1150
500GB HARD DRIVE 3.5 INCH	R590

VISION USB FLASH DRIVES

4GB	R55
8GB	R92
16GB	R211
32GB	R470
64GB	R980

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PIXELVIEW XCAPTURE USB (TURN HOME VIDEO TO PERSONAL DVD MOVIES)	R230
PIXELVIEW PLAY TV USB ULTRA (TURN LAPTOP AND DESKTOP INTO A LCD TV)	R230
PIXELVIEW PLAY TV PRO 4 (DIGITAL HOME ENTERTAINMENT)	R149
PIXELVIEW PLAY TV EXPRESS (TURN YOUR LAPTOP INTO A LCD TV)	R165

AMD CPU PRICES (AM3)

Phenom II X6 1090T	R2399
Phenom II X6 1075T	R2030
Phenom II X6 1055T	R1880
Phenom II X4 965-125watt	R1550
Phenom II X2 560	R999
Athlon II X4 645	R1190
Athlon II X4 640	R999
Athlon II X3 450	R870
Athlon II X3 445	R788
Athlon II X2 265	R799
Athlon II X2 260	R750
Athlon II X2 255	R720
Athlon II X2 250-65watt, 2MB, 3000MHz	R680
Sempron 145	R399

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HOT DECEMBER SPECIALS

NEW STOCK HAS ARRIVED

GEFORCE GTS250 1GB DDR5 PCI EXPRESS
GEFORCE GT220 2GB DDR2 PCI EXPRESS
GEFORCE 9300GS 1GB DDR2 PCI EXPRESS
GEFORCE 9500GT 1GB DDR2 PCI EXPRESS
GEFORCE GT240 1GB DDR5 PCI EXPRESS
GEFORCE 9500GT 2GB DDR2 PCI EXPRESS
GEFORCE 7950GT 512MB AGP GRAPHICS CARD
GEFORCE 7900GS AGP 512MB DDR3 GRAPHICS CARD
GEFORCE 7600GT AGP 512MB GRAPHICS CARD
ATI RADEON 6870 1GB DDR5 256BIT PCI EXPRESS

AXLE NOW IN SOUTH AFRICA

VISION SURVEILANCE SYSTEM SPECIAL

AEROCOOL M40 CASE WITH 430W PSU
INTEL G41 MOTHERBOARD
2X2GB DDR3 MEMORY
INTEL CORE 2 DUO E7500 2.93 GHZ CPU
LG DVD WRITER 22X SATA
SAMSUNG 23 INCH LCD MONITOR
2TB SEAGATE HARD DRIVE SATA
GEOVISION 16CH SURVEILANCE CARD
GEFORCE GT240 1GB DDR3 GRAPHICS CARD
PS2 KEYBOARD
PS2 MOUSE **R9200**

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4X 1/3 CCD 420TVL COLOUR DOME CAMERA WITH 4.0MM LENS, 1X MILSPEC STANDARD CO-AX RG59 CABLE BLACK 100M, 2X 12V REGULATED POWER SUPPLY WITH AC/DC LEAD ONLY 1.5AMP.

Protect your home or business this December

NOTEBOOK MEMORY SPECIALS

1GB DDR2 800 MHZ MEMORY	R186
2GB DDR2 800 MHZ MEMORY	R315
1GB DDR3 MEMORY	R149
2GB DDR3 MEMORY	R285

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VISION QS120 MEDIA CENTRE WITH A 1TB HARD DRIVE INCLUDED (SUPPORTS DIVX, MPEG, DVD, VOB, MP3, WMA, SATA/IDE SUPPORT HIGH DEFINITION VIDEO OUTPUT, PORTABLE STORAGE, VI PORT LCD DISPLAY, EASY FIRMWARE UPGRADING) **R1150**

VISION QZ120 MEDIA CENTRE WITH A 1TB HARD DRIVE INCLUDED (SUPPORT OF DIGITAL VIDEO DIVX, MP3, WMA, MKV HIGH DEFINITION DIGITAL VIDEO OUTPUT, FULL HD 1080P, PORTABLE HDD STORAGE, HDMI, WITH LCD DISPLAY, EASY FIRMWARE UPGRADING, LAN PORT, WIRELESS LAN **R1480**

VISION QS120 MEDIA CENTRE WITHOUT HARD DRIVE **R670**

VISION QZ120 MEDIA CENTRE WITHOUT HARD DRIVE **R980**

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V12 CARBON FIBER GAMING CASE	R699
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E78 430W POWER SUPPLY	R299
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TOP GUN GAMING CASE W/25CM FAN	R660
V12XT 1000W GAMING POWER SUPPLY	R1550
V12XT 600W GAMING POWER SUPPLY	R799
VX-9 PRO GAMING CASE	R490
VX-E GAMING CASE	R440
VX-E PRO GAMING CASE	R499
VX-R GAMING CASE WITH 430W POWER SUPPLY	R580
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HI-TECH PRO GAMING CASE WITH 40CM FAN	R699
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2GB DDR2 800 MHZ MEMORY	R299
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Prices include assembly. Prices include VAT at 14%. Full warranty on all products. Stocks are limited.

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HOLIDAY BEST BUYS

Chinese handset and modem manufacturer Huawei is poised to provide the SA cellphone market with a number of well-priced devices. Here are some of their best buys for the holiday season

R2619

Huawei U8230

Quick specs:

- 3.5" capacitive touch-screen
- Android V2.1 Éclair
- HSDPA 7.2 Mbps connectivity
- 3.2 MP auto-focus Camera
- 3G video calling
- Trackball for easy, quick navigation

Get it from:

8•ta
powered by Telkom

R799

Huawei G6600

Quick specs:

- Stylish & slim candybar design
- QWERTY keyboard
- Instant Messenger & email
- Social networking integration with Facebook, Twitter
- FM Radio with FM Radio Record

Get it from:

8•ta
powered by Telkom

Huawei E2010 Soccer 2010 Modem

Quick specs:

HSPA Downlink 7.2Mbps/ Uplink 5.76Mbps, Plug n Play Send, Receive & Edit SMSs from the dashboard, Expandable MicroSD card slot

Get it from:

MTN

Limited Stock Available

R499

R599

Huawei G6620

Quick specs:

- Vibrant Candybar Design
- QWERTY keyboard
- Instant Messenger & email
- Social networking integration with Facebook, Twitter
- FM Radio with FM Radio Record

Get it from:

MTN

R429

Huawei U3100

Quick specs:

- Affordable 3G connectivity
- Candybar design
- Large 2" display for better browsing
- Long battery life – 1000 mAh
- Large phonebook memory
- Camera & JAVA support

Get it from:

CELL C™

50%. Percentage of the world's population who have never made or received a phone call.

* Prices include the purchase of a starter pack from the relevant network and are subject to instore activation.

HOLIDAY BEST BUYS

Apple Macbook

Love your iPhone so much you want to make the jump to another Apple product? The MacBook should be a safe bet. With NVIDIA GeForce 9400M graphics, a fast Intel Core 2 Duo processor and access to Apple's iLife award-winning suite of digital lifestyle applications, you can't go wrong with this 13" beauty.

Canyon Kickflip notebook bag

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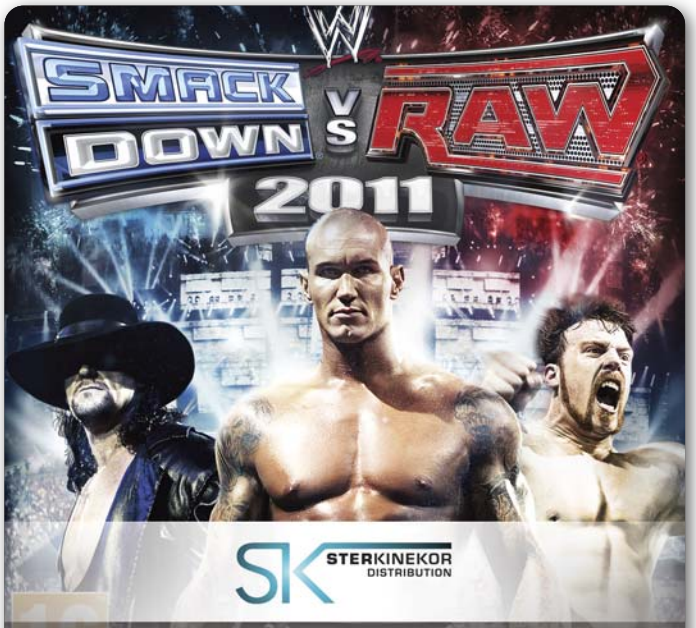

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Call of Duty: Black Ops ›› There's a soldier in all of us

Call of Duty (COD) is the undisputed king of the first person shooter (FPS) genre, evident by the fact that the sales records the franchise keeps on breaking tend to be the ones the previous COD set the year before.

Story

The campaign in Black Ops continues the COD style of in-your-face blood, action, guts, glory and explosions. The story this time around moves away from the modern battleground, instead taking a gander back into the murky past of Cold War secret operations.

And Black Ops doesn't mess around, players are thrown head-first into the game's electrifying campaign and once it starts there's no letting up. The campaign takes players on a veritable world tour from assassination missions in Cuba to Russian prison camps to the bug infested jungles of Vietnam.

Throughout the missions players are greeted with over-the-top action, brutal one-on-one encounters and an intense storyline filled with the kind of intrigue conspiracy theorist's dreams are made of.

> "Players are greeted with over-the-top action, brutal encounters and an intense storyline..."

Presentation

Treyarch really went all out for Black Ops. With beautifully detailed maps and weapons, realistic character models and all manner of bells and whistles, it's definitely a looker. The game performs well on the audio side as well, delivering a heart pounding soundtrack and Hollywood voice talent.

Multiplayer

As with all COD games, multiplayer is what stands out most at the end of the day. With new wager matches that lets players gamble COD points to see who'll finish in the top three to fun new game modes in the form of Gun Game, One in the Chamber, Sharp Shooter and Sticks and Stones, every COD fan will have something to play. Standard multiplayer modes also remain, with Black Ops adding a bunch of new kill-streaks from exploding RC cars to vicious packs of attack dogs, one of the most fun ways to dispatch of your friends.

Conclusion

Black Ops sticks to its guns for the most part, delivering a prime COD experience. In addition it adds so much on top – from new multiplayer modes to the insane zombie modes – it feels like you're buying three games in one, definitely the shooter of the year in our books. [JK]

» The Good

Single-handedly shooting down a Russian Soyuz rocket.

» The Bad

Still bugs Treyarch needs to exterminate.

WWE Smackdown vs. Raw 2011 ›› The other fight club

WWE is one of the most watched shows on television and the game franchise is no exception, having sold in excess of 50 million units globally. Smackdown vs. Raw 2011 enters the ring looking to become arcade fighting games world champ.

The latest game boasts one of the largest rosters yet, featuring over 70 WWE Superstars (both past and present), with the character models all looking superb and as close to their real life counterparts as possible. Adding to the realistic feel is the top notch presentation mimicking the TV shows' antics. During the Road to WrestleMania story mode for example, you can strut round the locker area, talk trash with fellow wrestlers or more importantly start the odd spontaneous locker room brawl.

> "you can strut round the locker area, talk trash with fellow wrestlers or more importantly start the odd spontaneous locker room brawl"

Controls and gameplay

When you actually do enter the ring, you'll find that the control scheme is easy to pick up, enabling you to easily bash, taunt or throw your opponent over the top ropes at the flick of the analogue stick or press of a button.

All the various match types from the WWE 2 universe are on offer within the game including Hell in a Cell, TLC (tables, ladders and chairs) as well as the ever popular Royal Rumble. A new addition to this series sees the gameplay scenario change based on your decisions while playing. You will get to form alliances/ rivalries with other wrestlers, allowing for frequent match-ups with/against them, both inside as well as outside the ring. This adds a nice dynamic to the game and allows for a welcome departure from the usual straightforward fighting.

Those dreaming of becoming a WWE wrestler can also construct their own Nacho Libre virtually, with WWE 2011 sporting new creation upgrades such as the ability to Create-a-Finisher move from off the turnbuckle.

Final Word

WWE Smackdown vs. Raw 2011 might not be as challenging to play as fighting simulators such as EA Sports MMA, but it is a lot more entertaining and better presented. Teaming up with other wrestlers also adds an interesting new dimension to the usual rough and tumble action. [HD]

» The Good

Matching up WWE legend Bret Hart and current WWE superstar Batista.

» The Bad

Story mode camera angles and dubbing effect on vocals aren't the best.

$5.51 billion. Estimated value of social game developer Zynga (Farmville), meaning its worth more than EA.

TOP 5 GAMES OF 2010

5 FABLE III

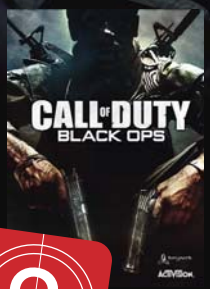
While Fable III's basic layout and play-style uses a lot of role-playing game (RPG) staples, it's the game's story and continuity that sets it apart from the rest. With an immersive (and humorous) storyline brilliantly acted out by top British actors alongside a timeline that sees you actually becoming King or Queen of Albion, Fable III offers a lot more than is apparent at first glance.
We said online: "A highly enjoyable new fantasy adventure through the kingdom of Albion."
Full review: **http://bit.ly/fabiii**

4 HALO: REACH

The swansong of the Halo series, Halo: Reach was Bungie's final adventure in the Sci-Fi world which inspired an entire gaming culture. As players took on the role of Spartan warrior Noble Six, they experienced something different from the lone cowboy gun-slinging of Master Chief. In Reach teamwork played a much bigger role, and we were treated to some amazing scenes of Spartan teamwork (and butt kicking). With a memorable campaign that showed us the darker side of Halo, to a multiplayer experience as addictive as ever, Halo: Reach impressed throughout.
We said online: "Halo Reach is a worthy end to the legendary series."
Full review: **http://bit.ly/lasthalo**

3 BATTLEFIELD: BAD COMPANY 2

DICE's Battlefield: Bad Company 2 had its share of niggles, but it got the most crucial part of the equation right, that is, being fun. It's hard to convey in words the enjoyment one gets from blasting a tank with an RPG, conducting crazy flying shenanigans in Apache gunships or ploughing over your enemies in a Russian T72 main battle tank. Bad Company 2 offered gamers what they wanted – awe inspiring destruction. Utilising a revised Frostbite engine the title sported almost fully destructible environments, creating a great sense of fear and realism as that wall you were just hiding behind gets blown to smithereens.
We said online: "One of the best FPS games we've played thus far. Highly recommended."
Full review: **http://bit.ly/batbc2**



2 CALL OF DUTY: BLACK OPS

The Call of Duty franchise is the first-person shooter series of today. The games continually set and break its own sales records as the COD juggernaut keeps steaming forward. Black Ops largely continued the series' winning streak by giving players an immersive new single player experience, hugely updated multiplayer capabilities and of course, new Nazi zombie modes. The game was beset by some technical issues at launch, especially on the PC version, but once the dust settles Black Ops is sure to come out as the FPS game of the year.
We said online: "Black Ops continues the COD series' wave of destruction bringing new battles, weapons and missions to an already overflowing shooter experience."
Full review: **http://bit.ly/blackopsistops**

1 STARCRAFT II

Roaches, infesters, stalkers and marines, these are just a few of the units doing battle online right now in Blizzard's latest real-time strategy (RTS) masterpiece, Starcraft II. After having gamers wait twelve years for a sequel, Blizzard had a lot to live up to with Starcraft II but somehow the game managed to improve on almost every conceivable front. With an awe-inspiring single player campaign, a ton of custom maps and a multiplayer mode that makes crack addiction look like child's play, Starcraft II is set to stay at the top of the RTS scene for a long time to come. For Aiur!
We said online: "Starcraft II gives RTS fans more of what they love, ensuring the game's place in the annals of video game history."
Full review: **http://bit.ly/starcii**

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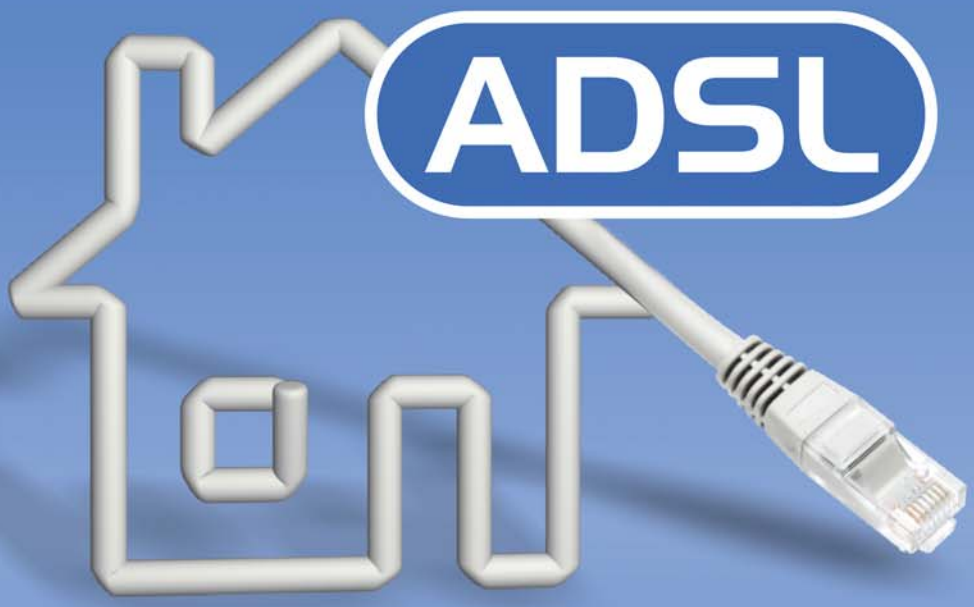

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