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WHO'S MAKING
GAMES
IN SA?

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- NOBEL INFO
- TOP TWEETS
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- BOARD GAMES
- MIND-BENDERS

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SMORGASBORD!**

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DISCERNING STYLE AND INNOVATION!

Television has never enjoyed a more pivotal role in our lives than it does now – just look at the amount of social media that focuses on popular programming! And as television sets become design features, they're moving out of the cabinet and into our living space. Samsung's Curved UHD TV is the perfect example – the television is now a beautiful focal point in any room.

As home entertainment reaches new heights, state-of-the-art technology, design, picture quality and sound have become integral components of an incredible, unmatched broadcasting opportunity. The innovative Curved UHD TV offers the most realistic and true-to-life leisure experience available – the art of the cinema meets household comfort, in a spectacular fashion. It's the ultimate in functional design.

The lounge has become the centre of family downtime and the home cinema has replaced the TV of old. With this upgrade comes a spectacular shift in design attitude. The combination of the curve and Samsung's UHD expertise brings images to life, providing spectacular colour, breathtaking clarity and enhanced detail. The ability to automatically adjust the contrast for a greater sense of depth, and a 3D effect without the need for special glasses, adds to the

appeal of this luxury item. To maximise the advantages of curved TV, Samsung developed the optimal curvature which provides the best image excellence with a viewing distance of three to four metres. It turns your home cinema into an art gallery, a movie set or a television studio, and you feel part of the action.

When it comes to decor, colour tells a story – whether it's just a pop of colour in an otherwise neutral room, an unexpected show of statement wallpaper or a muted tone-on-tone layering of elements. Samsung's PurColour™ reproduces tones in more detail and expression – the number of shade adjustment points has been increased sevenfold.

Not only is this a statement of current leading-edge technology, it's an investment in tomorrow too. The Samsung UHD TV provides the very best in crisp picture quality; four times the resolution and pixels of Full HD, and all UHD televisions feature UHD Upscaling, which gives you greater image excellence regardless of the source material. The proprietary technology converts Full HD, HD and lower-resolution sources to near UHD picture quality. Samsung UHD TVs are the only TVs on the market that are future-ready, thanks to the Samsung UHD Evolution Kit.

Of course, it wouldn't be a Samsung TV if it didn't provide a 'smart' TV experience. The new Multilink screen allows you to split the screen in two, allowing you to review player stats, show search results or browse YouTube while catching the all-important match. And with an upgraded Quad Core processor, loading and navigation are twice as fast.

Life is all about experiences and the new Samsung Curved UHD TV is the perfect partner for a family entertainment system that delivers it all – in style.



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VINTAGE FOOL

It started off innocently enough. I sometimes scan Gumtree for second hand camera equipment and came across an ad for a vintage rangefinder camera. Shooting film, I thought, I haven't done that in a while. Like a mouse unknowingly reaching for that piece of cheese in the trap, I purchased, afterwards innocently asking Google, which are the best rangefinder cameras. As they say: Biggest. Mistake. Ever. The relatively cheap second hand value of old rangefinders soon led me to a horrible addiction. Now I pretty much know every vintage camera ad placed on Gumtree, OLX, bidorbuy and Junkmail, and have spent Saturdays rummaging through antique shops in Pretoria and Johannesburg.

Luckily I know I'm not the only one, since it seems like 35 mm film (and cameras) is alive and well in the age of digital. In fact, it's flourishing. The same holds true in the world of music, where there's a renewed interest in vinyl and record players. Why this harking back to analogue? Maybe instant gratification is not always needed. Maybe there's something to taking your time and savouring the moment. Maybe it's a personal experience we need and not another commodity. And maybe, just maybe, there is a mint condition 1969 Olympus 35 SP rangefinder (complete with box, instruction manual, lens cap and strap) out there with my name on it.

Enjoy the issue,

Mike Joubert
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Airbrush artist: Johann van Der Walt (079-128-7208)
Photographer: Basil Koufos (082-439-2022)

Quick Facts:

Rare among the Dark Side of The Force, Darth Talon forms part of a select brethren of Sith, reaching the rank of a Sith Lady when Darth Krays's One Sith faction came to prominence in the *Star Wars: Legacy* universe.

A female Lethan Twi'lek by birth, Talon chose the Dark Side and became a Sith apprentice. Later killing her mentor Darth Ruyn, which she did under Krays's command.

One of her most important roles in the *Star Wars: Legacy* universe is the capture of Jedi fugitive Cade Skywalker (a direct descendant of Anakin and Luke Skywalker), who she later trains and mentors in the Dark Side of The Force.

During the epic Battle of Coruscant, her master Darth Krays is killed, forcing Talon to flee and survive as a mercenary, waiting for a time when a new Sith Lord rises up to challenge the Jedi.

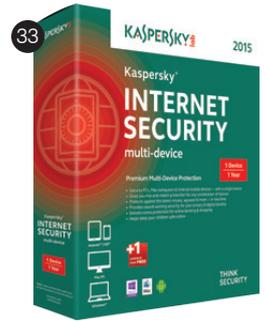
Famous Darth Talon quotes

Darth Talon to Wolf Sazen on Vendaxa: "I am Darth Talon...I am my master's hand...I am your death."

Darth Talon: "Darkness calls to darkness. It calls to you. You can feel it like a heart beating within this temple."

Darth Talon to Darth Stryfe: "We all live or die as Krays wills, Stryfe. At his word, I would cut out my own heart. Or yours."

Darth Krays to Darth Talon: "I am your life. I am your death. You have passed your final test without flinching. I name you Darth Talon and you will now be one of my hands. My own personal assassin." **ts**



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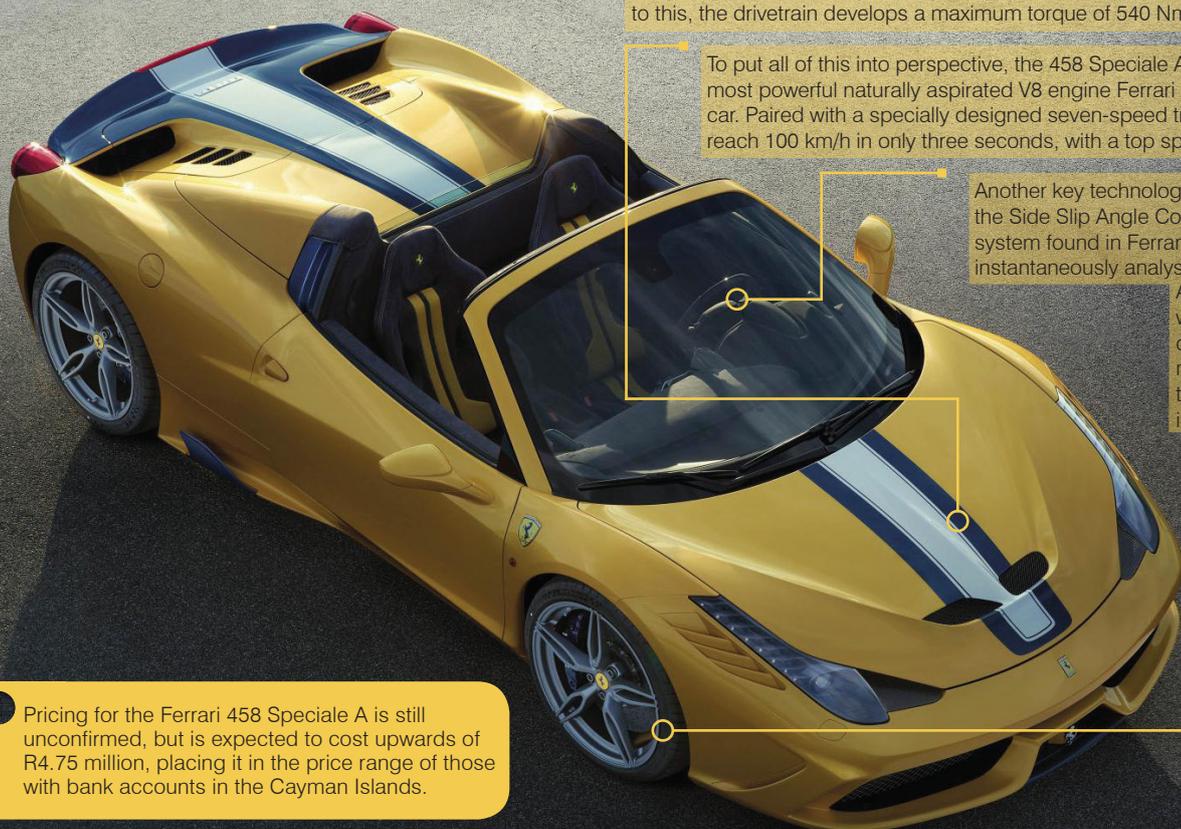
FERRARI 458 SPECIALE A

When Ferrari tries its hand at convertible supercars, they do it right. This time round, the house that the Prancing Horse built dropped the top to produce the 458 Speciale A.

Being the fastest spider that Ferrari has produced to date, the 458 Speciale A features a 4.5 litre V8 engine tuned to generate an epic 445 kW of power. Added to this, the drivetrain develops a maximum torque of 540 Nm at 9 000 rpm.

To put all of this into perspective, the 458 Speciale A's engine is the most powerful naturally aspirated V8 engine Ferrari has fitted to a road car. Paired with a specially designed seven-speed transmission, it can reach 100 km/h in only three seconds, with a top speed of 320 km/h.

Another key technology integration is the Side Slip Angle Control transmission system found in Ferrari's F1 cars, which instantaneously analyses the 458 Speciale A's movements while cornering and determines how much of the power to distribute between its wheels.



● Pricing for the Ferrari 458 Speciale A is still unconfirmed, but is expected to cost upwards of R4.75 million, placing it in the price range of those with bank accounts in the Cayman Islands.

LAMBORGHINI ASTERION LPI 910-4

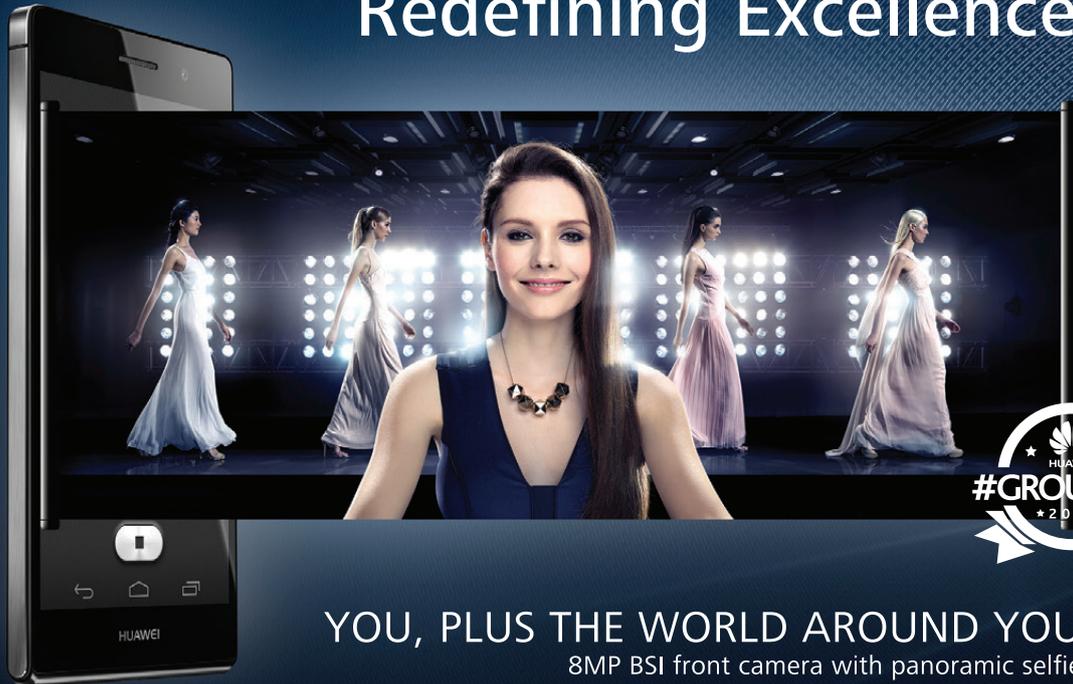
Still in the concept phase, the Asterion LPI 910-4 is not the most creatively named supercar, but it does serve as the Italian manufacturer's first hybrid supercar. Just because it features a plug in hybrid engine, the Asterion is not shy when it comes to power, incorporating an aspirated V10 power plant and three separate electric motors. This hybrid combination gives it a 0-100 km/h time of 3.0 seconds and top speed of 320 km/h, courtesy of a mammoth 670 kW. Added to this is a four wheel drive system, controlled via the electric motors to ensure power is distributed efficiently. **ts**



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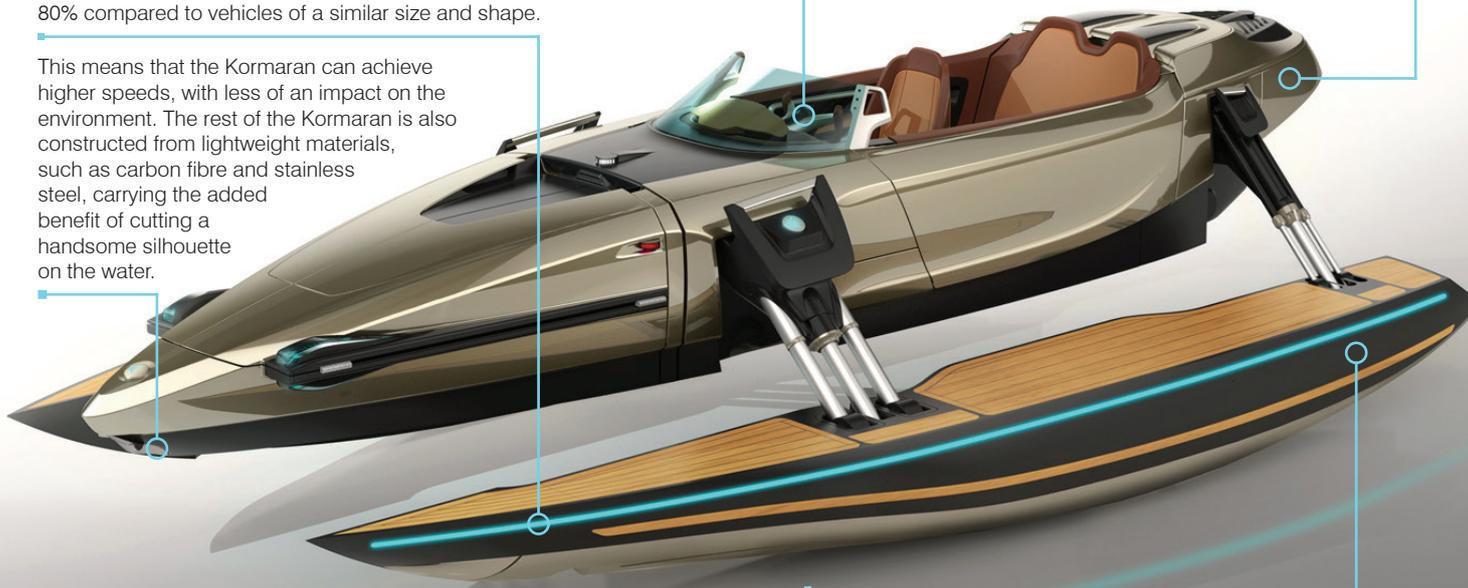
KORMARAN WATERCRAFT

Part katamaran, part monohull, the Kormaran is the kind of vehicle that Michael Bay might as well use in the next *Transformers* movie. Designed by an eponymously named Austrian firm, the Kormaran is the ultimate water sports vehicle.

Capable of hitting a top speed of 70 km/h and a range of roughly 200 km while travelling at that speed, the Kormaran is designed as the perfect accessory for your luxury yacht.

It's designed with the use of state-of-the-art hydrofoils (shaped boat vanes), reducing the Kormaran's overall water resistance down by up to 80% compared to vehicles of a similar size and shape.

This means that the Kormaran can achieve higher speeds, with less of an impact on the environment. The rest of the Kormaran is also constructed from lightweight materials, such as carbon fibre and stainless steel, carrying the added benefit of cutting a handsome silhouette on the water.

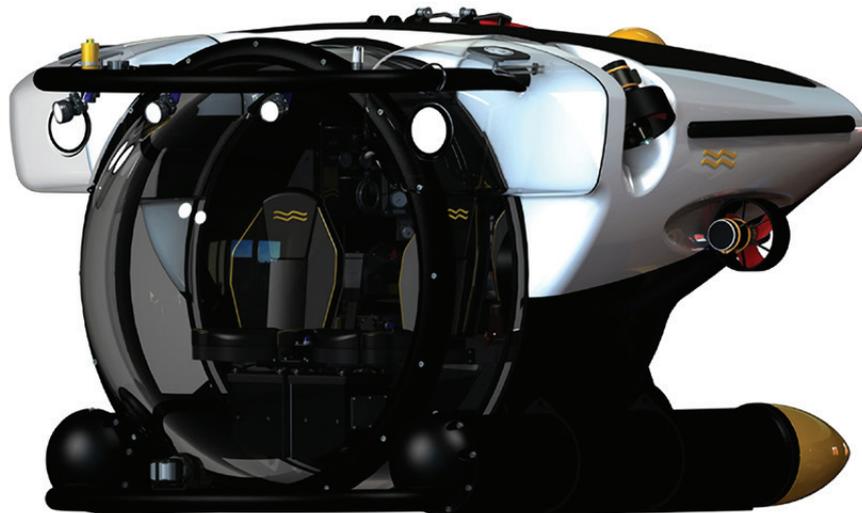


With pricing available on contact, the Kormaran seems like the type of vehicle that only royalty and drug lords can afford.

The Austrian design house behind this beautiful vehicle has incorporated six different modes within - Monohull, Katamaran, Trimaran, (Sun) Bathing, Night and Flight, each more dynamic than the next.

U-BOAT WORX SUPER YACHT SUB 3

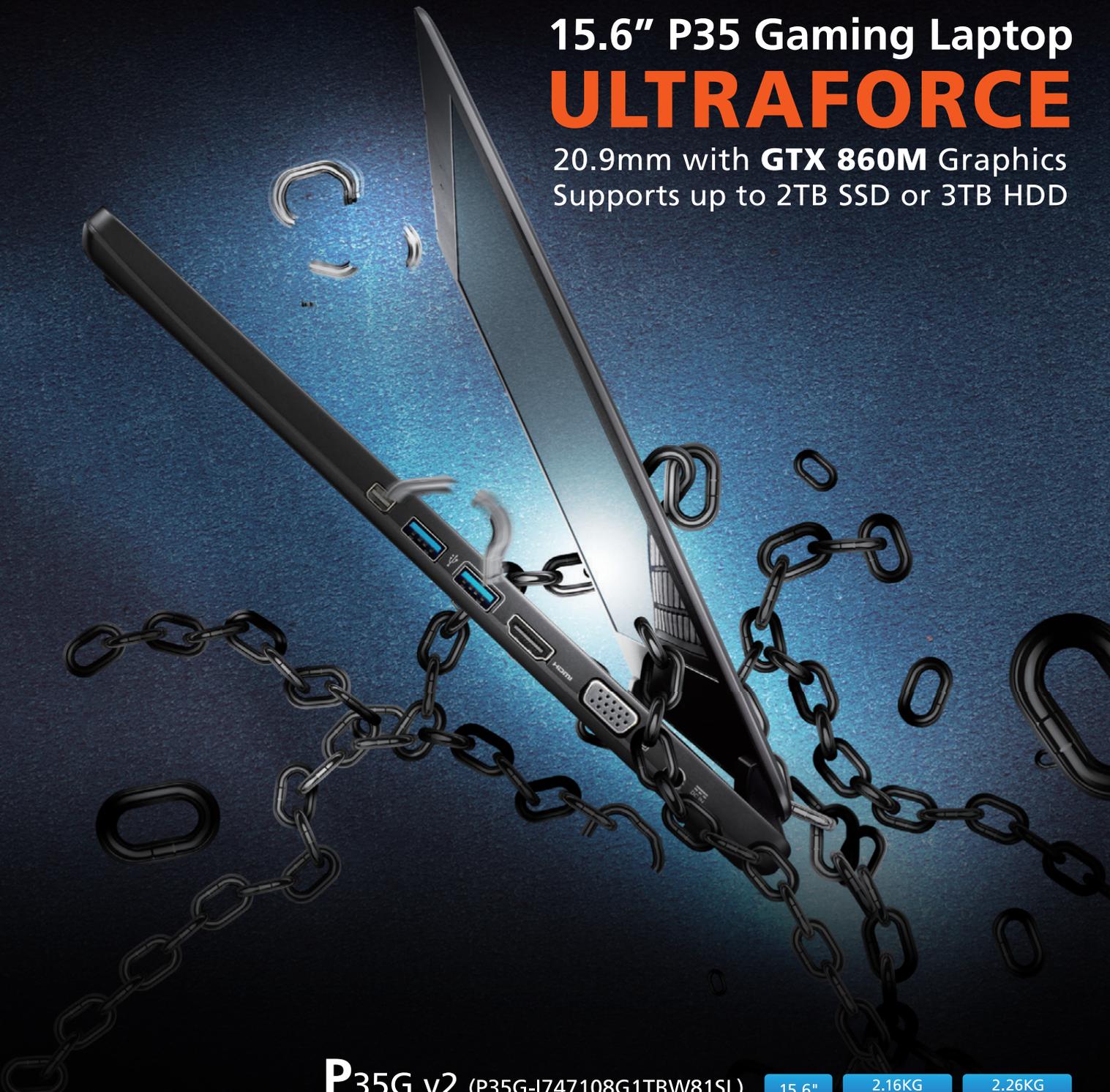
We'd strongly advise the guys at U-Boat Worx to work on snappier names for their water faring creations, but no one can fault them on ambition. Their latest work, the Super Yacht Sub 3 is designed for those for whom money is no concern, as evidenced by the price on enquiry tag attached to this particular min-sub. It allows the super-rich to unleash their inner Jacques Cousteau, and explore the ocean depths (up to 300 m), although they can't help when it comes to the French accent. Capable of housing up to three people, the Sub 3 can attach and detach relatively easy to the stern of one's yacht. **ts**



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WHO MAKES GAMES IN SA?

South African game development is starting to boom. James Francis finds out where the action is.

Many years ago I interviewed the team at I-Imagine, a local game development studio that opened its doors in a large mansion in Johannesburg. It was momentous - even mind-blowing - because back then the idea of local game development was little more than a pipe dream. But more than a decade later the scene is almost unrecognisable from its humble beginnings.

South Africa's game development world has matured significantly. A recent PWC report found that local game development is the fastest growing segment in the South African media market, expected to grow from R2.56 billion in 2014 to R3.6 billion by 2018. This is not altogether surprising - the country has long been incubating eager development talent. But it required the internet and mobile platforms to help break down barriers to entry. Funding is also easier to come by since it is substantially cheaper to fund game development here than abroad. As one developer told me, \$100 000 in the U.S. is nothing, but here it can sustain a team for a long time. As a result there has been an explosion in local studios. So who are the players in this fast-expanding world?

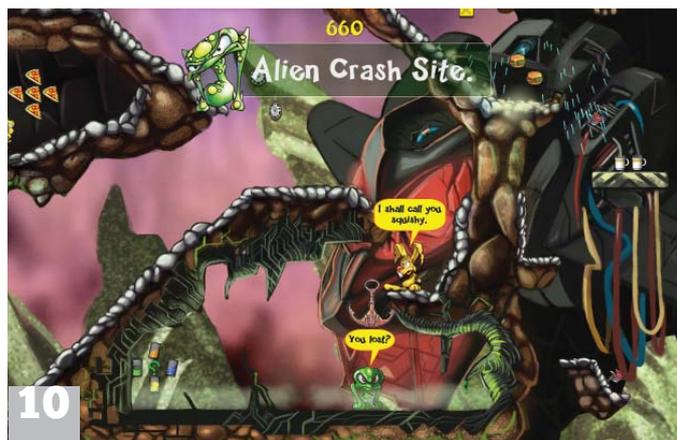
QCF DESIGN



Hands-down the country's biggest game development success story is QCF Design and its game Desktop Dungeons. The fun dungeon crawler has won numerous international awards and QCF is a regular fixture at game development conferences abroad. But it's not a one (big) hit wonder studio; it also produces games for companies, NGOs and other media. Find the studio at www.qcfdesign.com.

CELESTIAL

Celestial could lay claim to being South Africa's original game development studio, particularly because it released what many regard as the first official South African game: Toxic Bunny and later The Tainted. But Celestial also rode most of the rocky road of early local development and has the scars to show for it. As such the studio has been in semi-hibernation for most of the new century, waking up again a few years ago to produce an HD version of Toxic Bunny as well as two new projects. Visit Celestial at www.celestial-games.com.



SCREWY LIGHTBULB ENTERTAINMENT



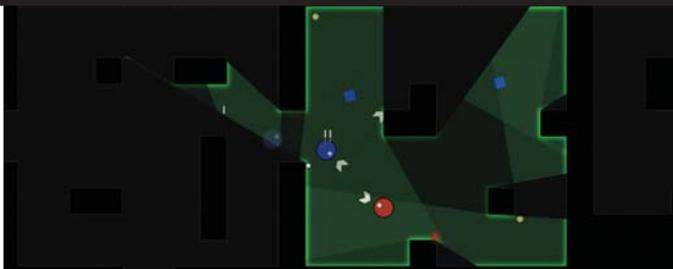
The efforts of Screwly Lightbulb have gone into The Maker's Eden, a motion comic game that stands out quite starkly from the mostly-mobile titles being made by other local studios. It has managed to garner sizable funding through crowdsourcing, another contrast with most local studios. The Maker's Eden has attracted heavyweight attention, selling on the Steam gaming service and also featuring in the popular Humble Indie Bundle sales. The studio's home is at www.screwlylightbulb.com.

RETROEPIC

One of the less visible local development studios, RetroEpic already has a slew of titles under its belt and does a lot of work for the education and corporate markets. But it also delivers traditional games, such as the abstract puzzle game A Day In The Woods. Despite its hard work, the company has maintained a low profile, but the recent addition of a dedicated marketing person should change that. Visit its website at www.retroepic.com.



CLOCKWORK ACORN



Hailing from Stellenbosch, this studio was founded at the start of 2014 with a focus on PC and smart devices. It has yet to release anything, but there are several prototypes of possible games. The stealthy title Agent Unseen has been causing some excitement, so this is a studio worth keeping tabs on. Find it on www.clockworkacorn.com.

I-IMAGINE

The first 'real' gaming studio in South Africa created several console games, most notably Chase: Hollywood Stunt Driver. But bad market conditions and other issues forced its ambitions to shrink considerably over the years. The studio appears to still be active, but it hasn't made any significant announcements since last year. Visit I-Imagine at www.i-imagine.com.

THOOPID



Formed in 2013, Thoopid focuses on mobile games and already released one called Snailboy. It has been a hit for the studio, topping charts locally as well as in China and the U.S. The team recently showed off their game at the rAge expo in Johannesburg, but has yet to announce its next project. Thoopid lives at www.thoopid.com.

THE BROTHERHOOD GAMES



This studio focuses on a single game called Stasis, but that narrow approach is paying dividends. Stasis has been able to collect serious funds through crowdfunding and accomplished green-lit status on the Steam gaming service. Check Brotherhood at www.stasisgame.com.

TASTY POISON GAMES

Cape Town is the hub of South African game development, so there is little surprise that this studio put its roots down there in 2010. Like many of the new breed, it focuses on mobile games for smartphone platforms and has amassed a nice portfolio of games. Its current project is the cyberpunk shooter Neon Shadow. Learn more at www.tastypoisongames.com.

SEA MONSTER

Sea Monster does not have a local site. Instead its entire brand is focused around Houzz-it, an online simulation about buying and selling homes. Commissioned by Property Junction, Houzz-it is a sterling example of how games can be used to push a larger agenda - in this case the pitfalls and benefits of the housing market, turning a drab topic into something fun. If this is the quality of the studio, hopefully Sea Monster is only getting started. Meanwhile, try some real estate action at www.houzz-it.co.za.

FREE LIVES



Retro insanity comes together beautifully in the side-scrolling action game Broforce, in development by Free Lives. The game has achieved green-lit status on massive gaming portal Steam and is collecting favourable press from all over the world. It may just be SA's next big gaming success story. Visit Free Lives at www.freelives.net. **ts**

SA'S GAME DEV HUBS

www.makegamessa.com

One of the country's largest game development communities.

devmag.org.za

This site has been a bit quiet in the past few months, but it remains a great source for local developers.

www.htxt.co.za

Not a community, but its gaming portal is a leading source for local development news.

www.amaze-johannesburg.co.za

The A.Maze festival is not a hub, but many local developers lurk around its social media channels.

www.sgisa.co.za

Games are about much more than just having fun, something that the local chapter of the Serious Games Institute is promoting.

A PHONE FOR ALL SEASONS

Every smartphone user is different and as such needs a device perfectly crafted for unique needs. We list three new smartphones for work, play, and a little of both.

BLACKBERRY PASSPORT

Featuring a unique form factor purpose built for the business-focused user, the Passport is BlackBerry's latest flagship, and a return to form by the once great manufacturer.

The Passport is a strange beast. When we first encountered it, it was quite perplexing since the unusual form factor, three-rowed QWERTY keyboard and square display are not really hallmarks of traditional smartphones. The same however can be said of the large Galaxy Note when it first debuted, now it has set the benchmark as far as phablets go. Whether or not the Passport can make the same impression remains to be seen, but BlackBerry's new flagship is undoubtedly a head turner.

One to One

As the name would indicate, the Passport gains its title from utilising the same dimensions as an international passport. The wider 128 mm size means the Passport is fitted with a 1:1 aspect ratio display. This 4.5" screen (1440x1440), is bright and vivid, and touts an impressive 453 ppi pixel density, especially important when viewing detailed emails or documents. This orientation does have one flaw, producing large black banners at the top and bottom of the screen when viewing videos or movies. This makes it less desirable for media consumption.



Typing on the Passport took some time to get used to, with the keys crammed a little too close together, but thanks to the keyboard's integrated touch sensitivity, swiping up on auto-predicted words made the task easier. The keyboard can also be used to scroll while browsing as well, when the Passport is held on its side.

The Passport is also a bit of a processing powerhouse, with BlackBerry incorporating a 2.26 GHz quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 801 chipset internally. Added to this is 3 GB of RAM, as well as 32 GB of internal storage, with a microSD slot for an additional 128 GB. Also thrown in is a 13 MP camera on the rear which captures bright images with plenty of detail. The front facing option is a 2 MP version, although given its business focus, we doubt many duck-faced selfies will be posed for.

Business priorities

When you add to the mix its sizeable 3450 mAh battery that delivers a solid two days of life under heavy use, the Passport is perfectly geared for those who demand high levels of productivity, and are less worried about who to follow on Instagram. Priced to retail for an estimated R11 000, the Passport could soon become the executive's favourite business tool.

AS A BUSINESS FOCUSED DEVICE, THE PASSPORT SHINES, WITH EACH ASPECT OF ITS DESIGN DRIVEN BY BEING MORE EFFICIENT.

QUICK SPECS:



DISPLAY:

4.5", 453 ppi



PROCESSOR:

Qualcomm Snapdragon 801, 2.26 GHz quad-core



MEMORY:

Qualcomm Snapdragon 801, 2.26 GHz quad-core



OS:

BlackBerry 10.3

As a business focused device however, the Passport shines, with each aspect of its design driven by the quest for efficiency. When browsing the web for example, the wider screen means more website content can be displayed without having to scroll. The same goes for emails, messages and other notifications and feeds found within the BlackBerry Hub.

QWERTY's back.

Glancing further down to the QWERTY keyboard, one becomes nostalgic of the feature phone days when the typing experience was far more tactile.

CAT B15Q

No frills, no fuss, just a hardwearing, rough and tumble Android smartphone that will probably last longer than your cellphone contract. The B15Q from CAT handles anything thrown at it.

We've all been in this position when a not too subtle move leads to a smartphone quickly falling to meet the ground. More often than not it results in an embarrassing and expensive visit to the repair centre. This however, is not the concern for anyone touting CAT's rugged new Android smartphone, the B15Q, which has proved more than capable of handling a little rough and tumble, no matter how adventurous or clumsy the wielder.

Strong and sturdy

Not simply designed to be thrown across the living room, the B15Q hits every mark a mid-range smartphone should, featuring a 4" WVGA

display (480x800), with the added benefit of wet finger tracking. Sticking with waterproofness, the B15Q is IP67 certified in this regard, as well as bearing the same certification for its dust resistance. One of the other key hard wearing aspects of the B15Q, is a military standard 810G shock and temperature rating, not to mention that it can handle drops from as high as 1.80 metres.

Focusing on the internal elements of this Android 4.4 (KitKat) smartphone, it has been fitted with quad-core Mediatek 6582M processor, clocking at a mid-range average 1.3 GHz. This is paired with 1 GB of RAM and 4 GB worth of internal memory, with the latter being the only aspect we found the device lacking. To assist in this regard,

there is a microSD slot, good for up to 32 GB of expandable storage. These specs may not blow flagship owners away, but certainly meet the needs of your average smartphone user, and during our time with it, the B15Q showed no signs of class underperformance.

Everything you'd need

If however, any criticism were to be levelled against the B15Q, it would be in the camera specs department, with CAT incorporating a 5 MP primary camera on the rear of the device, and VGA version up front. As expected, these cameras produced slightly grainy images in low light conditions, but should your shooting be done outdoors in the light of day, it will get the job done.

Priced locally at R4 750, the B15Q sits on the higher scale of mid-range smartphone price tags, down to its hard wearing characteristics, ensuring that damage to the phone's frame or screen are no longer concerns. If that aspect of the device appeals to you, then the B15Q is the go to choice for the wannabe Indiana Jones, or insanely clumsy alike.

NOT SIMPLY DESIGNED TO BE THROWN ACROSS THE LIVING ROOM, THE B15Q HITS EVERY MARK A MID-RANGE SMARTPHONE SHOULD.



QUICK SPECS:

	DISPLAY: 4", 233 ppi
	PROCESSOR: 6582M Mediatek, 1.3 GHz quad-core
	MEMORY: 1 GB RAM, 4 GB Internal Storage
	OS: Android 4.4 (KitKat)

NOKIA LUMIA 930 **Fitted with a class-leading display and newly improved OS, there's plenty to love about Nokia's new flagship, the Lumia 930. Android and iOS users take note.**

For a long time, Windows Phone has had to play third fiddle to the likes of Android and iOS, clamoring for some sort of recognition from users. A lot of that was down to a subpar OS that struggled when placed alongside its counterparts, not to mention a lacking App store. As far as the latter is concerned, that still remains a concern, but fans of Nokia's Lumia series now have a new champion in the form of the Lumia 930, which sports the vastly improved Windows Phone 8.1 OS.

Refreshed OS

Examples of this enhancement are littered throughout WP 8.1, but nowhere more so than the new drag-down notification centre, which brought up all our messages, mails, app store alerts and calendar reminders into one seamless view. WP8.1 feels far smoother and easier to navigate than previous iterations, with Nokia also adding greater degrees of customisation, such as using personal images for the main menu's Live Tile layout.

Making the experience for more pleasant is a class-leading display, serving up a beautifully vibrant 441 ppi pixel density on the Lumia 930's 5" (1920x1080) OLED screen. The Lumia 930's display is only bested by the 5.5" LG G3 with its mammoth 534 ppi, placing it in some pretty rarified air.

Up to the test

The internal specs too are impressive, with Nokia opting for a quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 800 processor, clocked at 2.2 GHz. There are flagship smartphones that clock higher, but during our entire time using the Lumia 930, it performed well while multitasking, web browsing or viewing media. Added to this is a sufficient 2 GB of RAM, as well as 32 GB of internal storage, although a microSD slot remains absent. The thinking behind this, is motivated by the 7 GB worth of free One Drive storage one receives, as Microsoft pushes for cross platform services adoption from users.

Flipping the Lumia 930 over will reveal a 20 megapixel primary camera capable of capturing 4922x3744 content and recording full HD 1080p video. As powerful as the camera may be, it often gets in the way of users who favour simple point and shoot functionality, taking a long time to focus before capturing

images. This factor can however be forgiven, when one takes the perfect image thanks to Nokia's PureView technology.

All in all, the Lumia 930 is a solid performing device with a high resolution camera and high quality display. Importantly, the newly improved Windows Phone 8.1 provides a robust and responsive experience. When you add to the mix its R8 000 price tag, it sits slightly below its flagship counterparts making it more enticing for cost-savvy users. **ts**

FANS OF NOKIA'S LUMIA SERIES NOW HAVE A NEW CHAMPION IN THE FORM OF THE LUMIA 930, SPORTING THE VASTLY IMPROVED WP 8.1 OS.

QUICK SPECS:

	DISPLAY: 5", 441 ppi
	PROCESSOR: Qualcomm Snapdragon 800, 2.2 GHz quad-core
	MEMORY: 2 GB RAM, 32 GB Internal Storage
	OS: Windows Phone 8.1



HANDS ON WITH CANON'S EOS 7D MARK II

Long awaited and much anticipated, Canon finally unveiled its EOS 7D Mark II to a small gathering ahead of the camera's entry into the market this month. Has it been worth the wait?

The EOS 7D Mark II has been the subject of the kind of fevered rumour and speculation over the past two years that is usually reserved for new iPhones or next-gen consoles. This is for good reason – the original top-of-the-range APS-C 7D was a much beloved entry in its day, but for wildlife and sports photographers in particular, it had already gotten long in the tooth. Thus, when we were given the opportunity to spend some hands-on time with a pre-production model of its successor, we jumped.

Hopes realised

We are happy to report that the 20.2 megapixel camera is everything we were hoping for both in tactile feel and range of functions. In the hand it feels much like the EOS 5D Mark III (and is actually practically the same size); exceedingly comfortable to hold and nowhere near as hefty or strain inducing as its bigger EOS 1D X counterpart. That being said, it is rugged, durable and solid, and with a built-in flash.

The camera's considerably more advanced (65 point) focusing system will be familiar to any photographer who has shot with Canon's EOS 5D Mark III and the EOS 1D X, and in our brief hands-on time, was a pleasure to use. However, the camera actually outdoes the former in regard to frames per second, and thrilled us with its blazingly fast bursts of up to 10 frames per second.

Surprises in store

Where Canon has really surprised us, in the best way possible, is in the 7D Mark II's pricing. The camera will be coming into the country well under R30 000 and even under R25 000, for an approximate R23 000 body only. This, along with the rich features that it brings to the fore, makes the long wait very much worthwhile. [RN] **ts**



THE 20.2 MEGAPIXEL CAMERA IS EVERYTHING WE WERE HOPING FOR BOTH IN TACTILE FEEL AND RANGE OF FUNCTIONS.

Q&A with Roger Machin, product manager EOS at Canon South Africa on the 7D Mark II

TS: What do you consider being its most notable feature (or two)?

RM: The astonishing 10 frames per second with 65 point AF system – pretty much unheard-of at this price point.

TS: Do you have any advice for those torn between acquiring a 7D Mark II or rather going for the EOS 70D or a full frame camera?

RM: We think that this model slots very nicely between the existing models in our lineup – it is a big upgrade from the 70D in almost all specifications. The full frame offerings on the 6D and 5D MkIII are aimed at a different segment altogether, where the 6D is fantastic for low light, studio and landscape shooters – and the 5D Mk III is an exceptional all-rounder for high image quality, low light and some speedier applications.

TS: Finally, when is it expected to be widely available and are you expecting any delays/stock shortages?

RM: Stock is arriving in early November, obviously demand will exceed supply for the first two batches during November, but should be a bit more readily available before Christmas 2014.



DELL PRECISION M3800

Looking for a notebook that is up to the rigors of demanding work or graphics but still need a machine that is legitimately mobile? The Dell Precision M3800 readily fits the bill.

Typically, PC users using graphics intensive applications - the likes of graphic artists, architects doing CAD work, and video editors - face a dilemma. If they wish to take their work or hobby with them on the go, then notebooks up to the rigours of demanding and intensive graphical work have been known to be chunky behemoths and hardly portable. The Dell Precision M3800 bucks this trend, packing high-end components into a solid but slim and quite light (1.8 kg) aluminium chassis.

Screen dreams

Granted, the M3800 is certainly an attractive and smart looking machine, but it is the 15.6" (ten point touch) screen that really impresses, boasting a superb 3200x1800-resolution (235 ppi). Suffice to say, images and graphics on it look superbly sharp and its colours are vivid and rich. We were alas, somewhat less enamoured by the fact that the screen is noticeably reflective, and would have preferred a good quality matte display instead.

That aside, the innards (and thus general performance) are faultless. The Precision M3800 boasts a no-compromise Core i7 processor (4702 HQ), clocked at 2.2 GHz; a

generous dollop of 16 GB of memory, which should be enough to keep Photoshop, Maya, Premier Pro and even Outlook happy. Serving up the graphics here is the heavy duty Nvidia Quadro card with 2 GB of dedicated memory. Also worth mentioning is the very comfortable backlit keyboard, a larger than average tracked centred in the middle of the base, and roomy palmrests.

(Re)porting for duty

Storage wise, on our review model we had two hard drives - a 256 GB SSD and a larger 512 GB offering for media storage. As for ports, there's no shortage - an HDMI port, mini DisplayPort and four USB ports with PowerShare (three of which are USB 3.0) are evenly spread across the notebook's sides. Ultimately though, the M3800 is a solid workstation offering that elegantly blends power with portability. It does have a price to match - R31 130. [RN] **ts**

THE M3800 IS CERTAINLY AN ATTRACTIVE AND SMART LOOKING MACHINE, BUT IT IS THE 15.6" TOUCHSCREEN THAT REALLY IMPRESSES



SAMSUNG 6200 SMART 3D LED TV

The TV often takes pride and place in many living rooms. To ensure it stays there, Samsung has littered its 6200 Smart 3D LED TV with a host of features to keep owners viewing.

Samsung has been in the Smart TV game for quite some time now, integrating social media and web browsing into their TVs to give them a foot up on the competition. Sitting among its mid-range offerings is the Series 6 6200 Smart 3D LED TV, which too features a range of enhancements to ensure it has an edge over other offerings.

Internet on the big screen

The 6200 is a sleekly styled TV that wins in the looks department, but it's Samsung's Smart Hub and 3D viewing capacity that are the real crowd pleasers. The latter however requires purchasing 3D compatible glasses separately. Moving back to the Smart Hub system, it allows users to integrate their social media and Skype accounts, as well as browse the web and view YouTube videos. In the mix too is the ability to access a number of applications from the Smart TV marketplace. Games however, are not up for grabs.

On the whole these enhancements worked well, but did not hold sway over

the smartphone or tablet alternative, and we'd struggle to see how users would revert to their TV for social media interaction over their smaller devices.

Keeping it simple

In terms of looks, the 6200 remains fairly innocuous, with a relatively thin black bezel around the top and sides of its frame, available in either a 40" or 48" LED display (1920x1080) touting versions. Added to this, is a faux chrome quad stand, offering 30 degrees of swivel in either direction.

Priced to retail for R7 000, the 6200's LED-based display performs well, whether you're viewing content on it via a dish, media player or online. When you add to the mix its social media integration and app compatibility, the 6200 can become the central hub that one's entire media library is built around. **ts**



AS SLEEK AND STYLISH AS THE 6200 MAY LOOK, IT'S SAMSUNG'S SMART HUB AND 3D VIEWING CAPACITY THAT ARE THE REAL CROWD PLEASERS

HANDS-ON WITH THE SAMSUNG GALAXY NOTE 4

The latest iteration from the reigning king of phablets has just landed on ZA shores. We went hands-on with the Galaxy Note 4 at its launch event to see whether it lives up to the billing.

The Galaxy Note 4 may not have changed much in terms of form factor, but certainly upped the specs to keep the competition in its wake. Touting a 5.7" Quad HD Amoled display (2560x1440) and a supreme 515 ppi pixel density, users would be hard pressed to find a better screen on any other mobile device, with the notable exception of the LG G3.

The beautiful screen

Turning on the Note 4, the screen itself seemed to bloom into life, displaying rich and nuanced detail, without any areas of dullness to be found on the screen, regardless of how hard we searched. The true advantage of the Quad HD display however, lies in the uncompromised viewing angles.

While checking out the Note 4's various new features and applications, the phablet seemed quick and responsive, showing no signs of lag while flipping through a number of tasks and functions. This snappy interface was thanks in large to the Qualcomm Snapdragon 805 processor, clocking a more than adequate 2.7 GHz. Added to this is a

sizeable 3 GB of RAM and 32 GB worth of internal memory, with a micro SD slot good for up to 128 GB. Samsung also fitted a new UV-based fingerprint scanner, which should improve the responsiveness and accuracy of the fingerprint reader. A heart rate sensor also finds its way onto the Note 4, which we first saw on the Galaxy S5, reaffirming Samsung's health focus in recent months.

The S Pen is mightier

As impressive as all these enhancements are, the real hero in all this is the Note 4's S Pen. Wielding the S Pen brings all the Note 4's multitasking functionality together, such as Air Command, Action Memo and Multi Window applications. Samsung has also increased the sensitivity within the S Pen's 'ball point', allowing for a far easier writing experience than previous iterations.

R11 500. [RLC] **ts**



TOUTING A 5.7" QUAD HD DISPLAY AND A SUPREME 515 PPI, USERS WOULD BE HARD PRESSED TO FIND A BETTER SCREEN ON ANY OTHER MOBILE DEVICE

DON'T FILM YOURSELF HAVING SEX — AND OTHER LEGAL ADVICE FOR THE AGE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

A book that teaches common sense, *Don't film yourself having sex* offers abundant advice — and real stories — that demonstrate why it is so sorely needed.

Have you heard the one about the burglar who inadvertently created his own wanted poster by posting a picture of himself, wearing a stolen jacket and holding a wad of cash to the Facebook account of his hapless victim, all by using the man's stolen notebook? Or how about the genius who tweeted the location of his planned drug drop — essentially telling the regional Canadian police exactly who he was and where to find him? These are not urban legends, but rather just a couple of examples found in what is both a highly entertaining and informative book. *Don't film yourself having sex* explores everything from how social media can be used for self-incrimination, defending one's privacy in a digital world, to what not to say on social media if you want to keep your job (hint: racism won't endear you to either current or future employers).

Bringing funny back

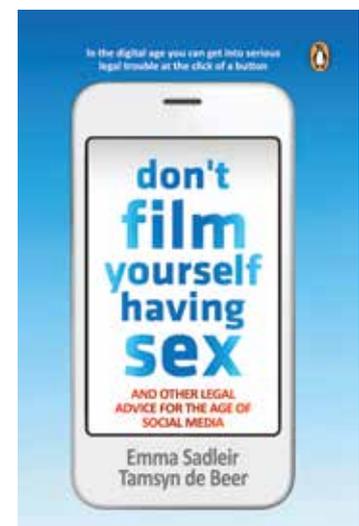
The book, though easy and accessible to read (some chapters are a page or two long), is packed with useful information and scattered with loads of useful tips. Clearly, the authors had fun writing this book as the

playful headlines and style indicate. Although *Don't film yourself having sex* ventures into some of the necessary legal aspects of being online (the Protection of Personal Information Act and copyright infringement to name two), even these chapters aren't weighed down by incomprehensible legalese, but are rather written in a straightforward, easy to understand style.

This is no small feat, considering the fact that the authors (self-confessed nerds) are also legal eagles. In essence whether you are a digital citizen who is online, engaged in social media, or just living in the modern world in the 21st century, we cannot recommend this one highly enough. R230 from Penguin Books. [RN] **ts**

Top reasons to never film yourself having sex

- The device on which it was recorded/stored could go AWOL
- The other party may take it on themselves to share it with their friends
- Your ex could use it as revenge porn



WHETHER YOU ARE A DIGITAL CITIZEN WHO IS ONLINE, ENGAGED IN SOCIAL MEDIA, A BUSINESS OR THE EMPLOYEE OF ONE, WE CANNOT RECOMMEND THIS ONE HIGHLY ENOUGH.

MONSTER DNA ON-EAR HEADPHONES

A solid pair of headphones is something any tech savvy individual can do with, and the DNA On-Ear range is certainly one of the more appealing options.

Over the past year, we've reviewed a number of on-ear headphones, many of which flaunt their wireless functionality as the key selling point. The DNA On-Ear range from Monster however cannot make that claim, and rather banks on offering nuanced sound quality and solid construction in order to win fans over.

Hitting every note

One overriding problem from a number of headphones tested was a slight tinny sound when the headphones were turned to louder end of the volume scale. We can happily say that the same does not apply to the DNA On-Ear, which easily handled having the volume put at full blast, with little or no distortion to speak of. Added to this was a headphone that was not purely designed to deliver tons of deep bass, but rather, a setup capable of delivering highly nuanced sound, should the wearer desire it.

Being wired headphones, the DNA On-Ears makes use of a flat cord, measuring close to 1.5 metres long, with an in-line audio control to boot. This in-line system is specifically designed to work in conjunction with Apple

products, including the iPhone, iPad and MacBook Pro.

On trend

In the looks department, the DNA On-Ears are certainly on trend and seem to draw some inspiration from the Beats by Dre offerings. The same goes for its folding mechanism, which features a split just above each cushioned ear piece, allowing it fold into either a half or crescent moon shape.

Priced to retail for an estimated R2 200, the DNAs are on the higher end of the On-Ear market and as such are only worth considering for those who listen to music during large portions of the day. In terms of value for money, Monster has ensured that the DNA delivers great sound, regardless of the genre of music you're listening to, as well as being solidly constructed and

lightweight without feeling fragile. If you're an audiophile on the go, with some money to burn, Monster's DNA On-Ear headphones are well worth a try. **ts**



MONSTER HAS ENSURED THAT THE DNA DELIVERS GREAT SOUND, REGARDLESS OF THE GENRE OF MUSIC YOU'RE LISTENING TO.

ACER LIQUID Z5

Priced at R2 600, Acer's Liquid Z5 gives users plenty of smartphone for a wallet friendly price tag. If value for money holds sway over your decision making, there are few better options.

When weighing up the pros and cons of any device, a few key aspects are always taken into account to surmise a product's true value. One of the primary concerns is value for money, which in real world terms often determines if a device sinks or flourishes. This is a factor that Acer's Liquid Z5 smartphone is built around, serving up the best possible Android experience that the Taiwanese manufacturer can muster, at a very enticing price point, namely R2 600.

Surprisingly strong

For that amount of money, users will certainly get a lot of smartphone, with the Z5 sporting a 5" display (480x854), registering a 196 ppi pixel density, quite generous in entry-level smartphone terms. Internally Acer has also kept things spartan and efficient, with the Z5 integrating a dual-core Mediatek MT6572 chipset, clocked at a modest 1.2 GHz. This may not offer the high-end processing and multitasking that some users might demand, but certainly meets the needs of an entry-level user. Added to this is 512 MB of RAM and 4 GB

worth of internal storage, again proving as signs of its entry-level status. Should that not be enough to tide you over, Acer has fitted a microSD slot for up to 32 GB, while a 5 MP back and VGA quality back provides so-so quality imaging.

One of the unique features of the Z5 is its dual-SIM orientation, with separate slots for a micro and mini SIM respectively, should you wish to split, for example, data and voice charges.

Exceeding expectations

All in all, the Z5 gives users far more than expected for a R2 600 entry-level device, with a large bright screen that showcases media assuredly, as well as a solid performing chipset to handle any modest levels of multitasking. If value for money sits atop your list of smartphone needs, the Acer Liquid Z5 is a trusty tool. **ts**

ALL IN ALL, THE Z5 GIVES USERS FAR MORE THAN EXPECTED FOR A R2 600 ENTRY-LEVEL DEVICE.



PHILIPS 242G5 24" 144 HZ GAMING MONITOR

A monitor for gamers may sound like an enticing idea, but Philips' monitor 24" offering more than promises, it delivers a terrific screen.



THERE IS PLENTY MORE WORTH LIKING ABOUT THE GAMER-SPECIFIC SCREEN.

From the moment we hauled Philips' 242G5 24" LCD monitor out of its box, we found much to like, particularly as readying it for its first port of call, our desk, took only a matter of seconds. Indeed, setting the solid if somewhat non-descript screen up, could not have been easier, with no tools required. Furthermore you can adjust your view through an impressive range – as tilt and swivel action joins your vertical adjustment to get it to just the right height and angle for optimal viewing.

Need speed? Look here.

Beyond this, there is plenty more worth liking about the gamer-specific screen. As the name suggests, the monitor, which boasts a 1920x1080 resolution, is blazingly fast, with a refresh rate of 144 Hz. Where this likely matters most is in fast paced games, with first person shooters being a prime example.

A nifty little control pod (or Smart Keypad, in Philips' terminology) plugs into the back and enables you to easily select between different gaming modes, with these including a configuration for racing games, first person shooters, real time strategy, and then two custom modes in which you can specify the amount of contrast and colour to your liking. Additionally, the control pod helps to navigate the menu and shift between a bevy of inputs, including two HDMI ports, as well as a DVI, VGA and display port. Furthermore, the Smart Keypad enabled us to easily customise the display's settings for colour, contrast and sharpness, without having to fiddle with buttons on the bezel.

Quality assurance

Speaking of the latter, we found that the monitor's picture is extremely good, especially when you consider its matte finish (thus, rendering little to no reflections to deal with). We were further impressed by its rich colours and deep blacks – nice to see on any monitor, but particularly appreciated at one specifically aimed at gamers. Highly recommended. R5 945.[RS] **ts**

SONS OF ANARCHY BOARD GAME

Guns, contraband and other illicit activities are things that you don't associate with good old fashioned board games. Until now.

Galforce Nine recently introduced the blood-soaked Sons of Anarchy (SOA) board game, based on the popular biker gang TV series. This is not your regular Settlers of Catan fare, unless your pilgrims were illegally smuggling drugs. In SOA you control one of four gangs over six game rounds, with the gang with the most cash at the end declared the winner.

The rules of Anarchy

During every round of play location cards are flipped over. Dudes (plastic biker tokens) can be sent to exploit these locations in order to sell, skim, spend, steal, swap, gain or drop guns, contraband, money or a combination of these. Anarchy cards are also flipped over each round with effects that will either help or hinder the gangs. Each gang issues order tokens to do one of six things: ride to a new location; exploit a location; throw down or fight at a location you contest; recruit; patch in; or sit tight. With between three and eight order tokens to use during each round, once

used up, each club has an opportunity to sell contraband on the black market. The more you try sell, the less its street value. There is also a "heat" tracker; you gain heat tokens for certain activities. Too much heat sends one of your members to the big house... for good. Also keep a look out for the Throw Down elements of the game.

Anarchy rules

SOA's rules are pretty straightforward and it plays through in about 90 minutes, best suited for three to four players. There is tons of strategy involved and due to its unique nature is difficult to compare to other boardgames. Importantly its replayability is very high, and you don't need to know the series to enjoy this game. SOA comes highly recommended, with an RRP of R850. Try Outer Limits for a copy [BK] **ts**



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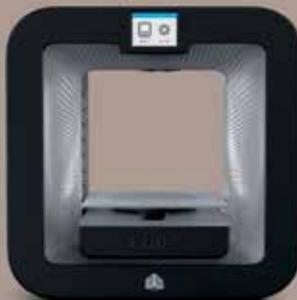
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ALSO IN THE OFFICE

Here a few impressions on some products that came through the office for review.

SAMSUNG GALAXY S5 MINI



As with every iteration before it, Samsung once again scaled down its flagship S5 smartphone to produce the slightly smaller, slightly less well-specced S5 Mini. Featuring the same chrome frame and dimpled plastic cover as its larger brethren, the S5 Mini has been fitted with a 4.5" Super AMOLED display (720x1280). Other changes include Samsung opting for an Exynos 3 Quad 3470 quad-core processor, clocked at 1.4 GHz. The back cover also houses an 8 MP camera and heart rate sensor, with the front incorporating a fingerprint scanner, similar in style to the larger S5. Priced at R6 700, the S5 Mini is a tad expensive for a mid-range smartphone, but performs as well as most other Android-powered devices.

NOKIA LUMIA 630



The Lumia 630 is the smaller cousin of Nokia Windows Phone 8.1 touting flagship, the Lumia 930 (p13). Unlike the 930, this mid-range device does not feature an aluminium frame, and is in keeping with Nokia's simple clean cut smartphone designs to date. Sporting a 4.5" IPS LCD display (480x854), the Lumia 630 remains bright and crisp in a number of conditions, thanks to Nokia's Clear Black technology. A glance internally will reveal a Qualcomm Snapdragon 400 chipset, with a quad-core 1.2 GHz setup. Also integrated is 512 MB of RAM, 8 GB of internal storage and a 5 MP camera to deliver a solid smartphone experience. Retailing for R4 800, the Lumia 630 is well worth considering for mid-range smartphone users.

GOPOLE GRENADE AND BOBBER GRIPS



Simply placing your newly purchased GoPro action camera in a waterproof housing is not enough, any avid adventurer needs to invest in a trusty set of grips to ensure they capture their exploits in all its glory. With a number of manufacturers out there, one that stands out is GoPole, which has a vast catalogue of products to peruse. Two in particular, the Grenade and Bobber grips crossed our path, and performed admirably as we put them through their paces. With each featuring a unique fastening mechanism and adjustable strap, one can be sure that their GoPro will remain fixed on the action. The Grenade and Bobber grips come with lifetime guarantees. Setting users back R360 and R450 respectively, they're worthwhile investments.

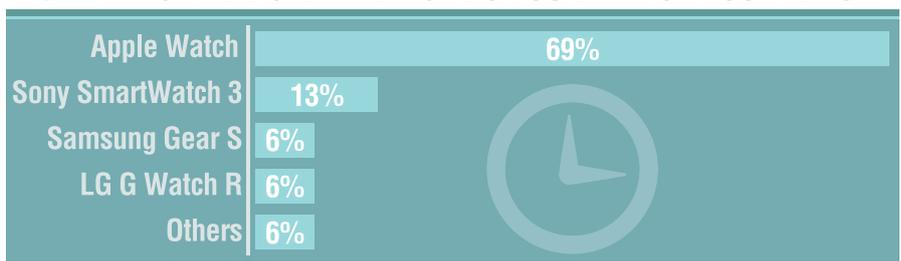
NATIVE UNION JUMP CABLE



For some iPhone users getting through the day without charging their battery is simply not possible. Native Union's Jump cable does what it says on the box, providing a jumpstart to your phone when most needed. We liked the compact size, and the fact that it serves as a regular charging cable for your phone and battery makes it easy to always have the spare 800 mAh battery charged. RRP R800 from major cellular outlets. **ts**



POLL: WHICH NEW SMARTWATCH DO YOU WANT ON YOUR WRIST?



STRONGLY RECOMMENDED!

BASIL KOUFOS

TECHSMART COVER PHOTOGRAPHER,
BOARD GAME SUPREMO



This year marks the 40th anniversary since Dungeons and Dragons first sparked people's imagination. Recently, DnD has also launched its 5th edition, with many gamers hailing it as the best edition yet. If you have never played before or want to find

out more, download the free basic rules from the DnD website: bit.ly/dndwiz1.

The Beginner's Box Set, Player's Handbook and Monster Manual are now available, with the Dungeon Master Guide coming out in December. So download the basic rules, buy some polyhedral dice and get together with a couple of friends - it's time to take your imagination to the next level. Books can be ordered through Outer Limits (www.outerlimits.co.za).



MYNHARDT VAN PLETSEN

TECHSMART STYLE GURU, CYCLING FANATIC



In the rapidly expanding world of outdoor adventure sport, it is hard to know what gear is right for you. Enter KTM's new line of saliva inducing road bikes. These two wheel wonders unearth the holy grail of all kit, meaning

they're affordable, beautiful and functional. Get one in every colour, as long as its orange. www.ktm-bikes.co.za.



DEEP FRIED MAN

COMEDIC GENIUS, TECH DEEP FRIER



When my Cambridge Surround Sound speakers died of old age after eight years, my home was left soundless. I went through various stages, first anger, then depression, then putting my iPhone inside a cup to amplify the sound. That last

stage lasted three months.

So I'm glad I bought a Nixon Blaster. It's a smallish, portable, sexy wireless Bluetooth music player, with USB and aux inputs for when your Bluetooth is misbehaving. Its sound quality and volume is impressive for its size. Sure, there are lots of wireless Bluetooth speakers on the market now, but I'm told the Nixon Blaster is one of the best. It beats an iPhone in a cup. Available online at Superbalist.com for R2 000. **ts**



PARROT ROLLING SPIDER



Parrot Rolling Spider is an ultra-compact drone controlled by smartphone. It flies indoors and outdoors with surprising speed and stability.

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MSI STEALTH PRO GS70 2QE

If “compromise” or “anything less than the best” are terms banished from your vocabulary, then take a look at MSI’s first GTX970M powered notebook that has landed on our shores.

You may have little problem finding a notebook labeled high performance, but MSI’s latest 17.3” offering, which is firmly aimed at avid gamers, certainly pulls no punches even in this premium sector. As was the case on the MSI Stealth GS70, build quality is top notch, and once again the notebook does the Stealth name proud, with a 20 mm profile and weighing in at well under 3 kg (2.6 kg, to be exact).

However, it is the specs onboard that really impress and that most clearly indicate that compromise was given the boot. Powering the heart of the notebook is the high-end Core i7 (4710HQ) quad core CPU clocked up to 3.6 GHz, and a generous 16 GB of memory that should ensure slowness is kept well at bay.

Glorious games

The real kicker though, is the graphics solution that MSI has seen fit to include – the top of the range Nvidia GTX 970M, which is amongst the best of the best when it comes to mobile GPUs at present, according to Evetech. Along with supporting the latest DirectX, it should also keep the likes of Crysis 3 from wrecking chaos with one’s system, and put a wag in Watch Dogs’ tale. This also brings a performance boost of around 30% over the previous generation GTX 870m while consuming less power.

For those hungry for benchmarking results, there’s good news in that regard; Evetech believes that 3DMark shows a substantial improvement over the previous generation 870M and 880M GTX cards. Games like Alien Isolation and Grid Autosport were found to run exceptionally well with 1920×1080 and at the highest settings. Games like League of Legends and DOTA 2 could also be enjoyed at maximum detail with no lag whatsoever, meaning this could be the ideal system for LAN/eSports gamers.

Now see here

No less important in a gaming notebook is the screen, and on this front, gamers can rest easy – the MSI Stealth Pro GS70 2QE’s display sports full HD (1920×1080) resolution with an anti-reflective coating and wide viewing angles. And, if being scared out of your wits by a lurking Xenomorph on one screen wasn’t enough, then the good news is that you can expand your viewing experience by connecting three external monitors as well.

Also worth noting is the new ‘Shift’ feature which grants users total control over their system’s balance between performance and temperature. Players can switch between profiles such as Sport,



IT IS THE SPECS ONBOARD THAT REALLY IMPRESS AND THAT MOST CLEARLY INDICATE THAT COMPROMISE WAS GIVEN THE BOOT.

Comfort and Green to find the perfect balance between system performance and temperature.

Just one click

Much like the GS70, the Stealth Pro GS70 comes equipped with the SteelSeries gaming keyboard, which sports full illumination in a colour of your choice. As per usual, this means users can customise the keyboard to their heart’s content with more than a billion different combinations of modes, effects and colours. Along with boasting desktop equivalent performance, the notebook also comes in three colours - red, black and silver - for that added distinctiveness, as well as a peace of mind engendering two year warranty. The MSI Stealth Pro GS70 2QE is available from **Evetech.co.za** for a RRP of R29 000. **ts**



QUICK SPECS



Processor:

Intel Core i7
4710HQ 3.5 GHz



Graphics card:

NVIDIA GeForce GTX
970M 3 GB



Memory:

16 GB RAM



Storage:

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+ 1 TB HDD



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MIND MAPS



Image: World map (2004, CIA World Factbook)

Knowing where you are and how to get back there seems trivial. But the neural mechanism behind it has baffled scientists for yonks. About 10 years ago the work of three neuroscientists, John O'Keefe, May-Britt Moser and Edvard Moser, culminated in the mystery being solved. The finding was so significant that they were jointly awarded the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine this year.

You are here

In 1971, John O'Keefe discovered that different clusters of nerve cells in the hippocampus were activated as rats moved around in a space. As the hippocampus plays an important role in forming memories, he suggested that the activation of these cells likely records a kind of positional map in the brain.

Finding the way

More than 30 years later, the Mosers found that as a rat moves through a space, the activation pattern of nerve cells in the entorhinal cortex formed a hexagonal grid. These grid cells create a spatial navigation system. Grid cells, together with other entorhinal cells that signal head position and the borders of a space, connect with place cells in the hippocampus. The combined activity of place cells and grid cells therefore allows the brain to know where its owner is and how it got there.

Moving forward

Recent studies have shown that the same mechanism exist in humans. Knowing how the brain allows us to navigate through space can help us understand – and perhaps even treat – the frightening spatial memory loss Alzheimer patients experience. **ts**

40 million:

The approximate number of nerve cells in the hippocampus

13:

The number of Nobel prizes in physiology awarded to studies about neurobiology

1.7 cm³:

The volume of the entorhinal cortex – about half of the hippocampus

5:

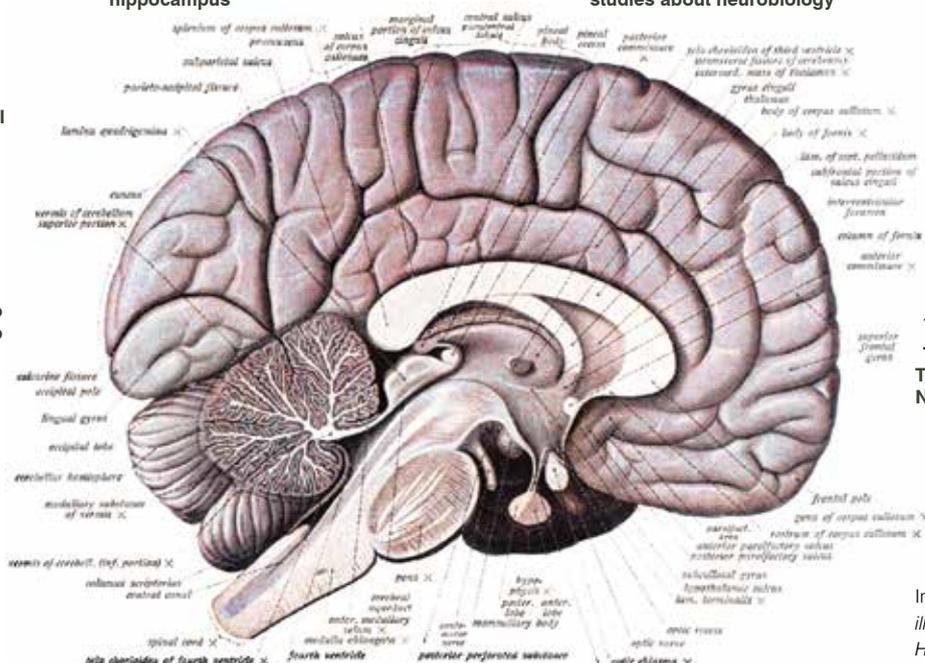
The number of times a Nobel prize has been awarded to a husband-and-wife team

3.5 cm³:

The approximate pressure a fibre of spider silk can withstand before breaking

12 million:

The value of each of the five Nobel prizes this year.



Source:

www.nobelprize.org
http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/medicine/laureates/2014/press.html

Image: An anatomical illustration from Sobotta's Human Anatomy 1908

SCIENCE

PIC OF THE MONTH

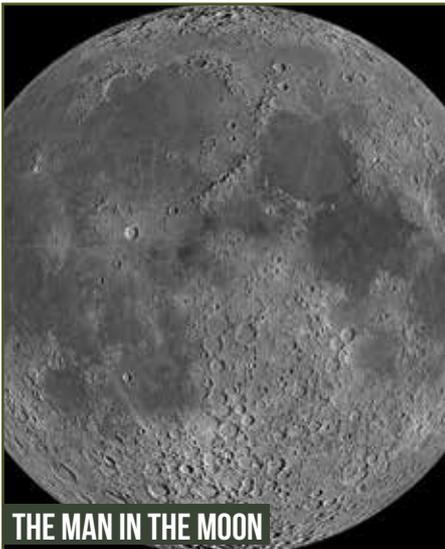


How is this for a selfie? The Rosetta spacecraft took this image of itself with its eventual destiny in the background – the comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko. This wasn't a spur of the moment picture, since the Rosetta traveled 10 years to reach this point, 487 million km from Earth, but just 16 km from the comet. Come 12 November the Rosetta will launch the Philae lander, set to touch down on the comet soon after. Amazing.

Image Credit: *ESA/Rosetta/Philae/CIVA*

SMART ANSWERS

LIFE IS FULL OF QUESTIONS THAT NEED SMART ANSWERS. WE CAN HELP.



THE MAN IN THE MOON

Image: NASA/GSFC/Arizona State University

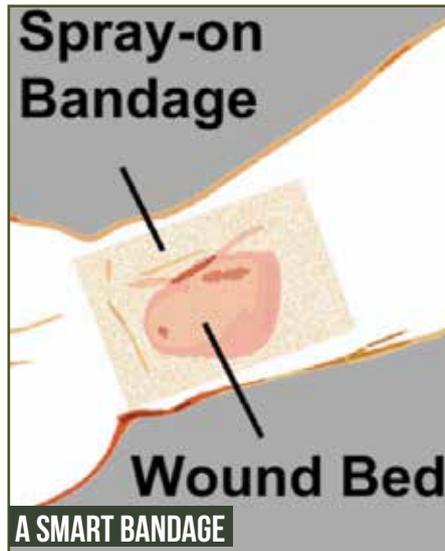
Where did the man in the moon come from? From deep inside.

Huh? Scientists say that the moon's big Procellarum crater, which looks like a man's face, was likely caused by a volcanic magma plume rather than a massive asteroid, as was previously assumed.

How so? Mapping gravity data from two probes that circled the crater showed that the lunar crust thickens and thins to form a jagged edge rather than one that is smooth and round. A model of the gravitational signal of magma rising up to the moon's surface and then cooling and crystallising over time matched the lunar probes' data well. Together these results point to a volcanic rather than asteroid origin for the crater.

But what caused the volcano? That is the new mystery.

Source: bit.ly/1wqyYIQ



A SMART BANDAGE

Image: LjWellman Center for Photomedicine

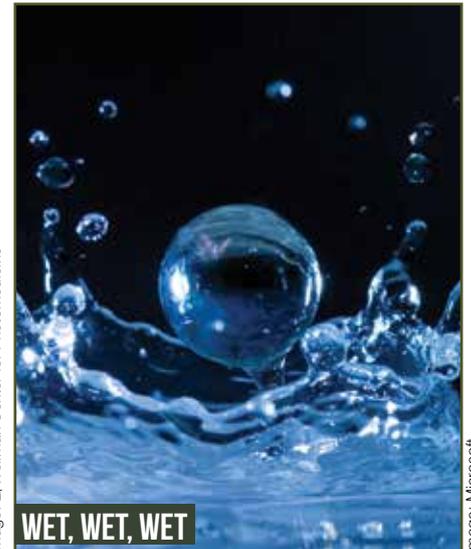
What's the deal? Scientists recently developed a bandage that shows how wound healing progresses.

How does it work? A clear, sticky liquid that includes phosphorescent molecules is painted onto the skin at a wound. When triggered by a flash of light from a simple hand-held camera, the phosphorescent molecules start to glow.

And then? The brightness of the glow depends on the level of oxygen at the wound site, with less oxygen resulting in a brighter glow. The less oxygen present at the wound, the further along wound healing is. So, the brightness of the glow indicates how well the wound has healed.

Why is the invention useful? The new bandage allows healing progress to be monitored effectively without the risk of wound disruption or infection, as would be the case with removing conventional bandages.

Source: bit.ly/1wqz0dE



WET, WET, WET

Image: Microsoft

Why does wet feel wet? It's actually a bit of a brain trick.

How so? Human skin doesn't have receptors that sense wetness. Instead, there are only receptors for temperature and touch. Together these two signals give wet.

How do we know this? Scientists applied wet stimuli of different temperatures to hairy and non-hairy patches of volunteers' skin. They also investigated the role of specific sensory nerves called A-fibres in creating the sensation. The results showed that cold wet stimuli on hairy skin feel wetter than the other stimulus combinations, especially when A-fibres were active.

Why is the finding important? The results provide the first neurophysiological evidence for how the brain combines sensory input from two unrelated receptor types to create new perceptual information. **ts**

Source: bit.ly/1zha7Vg

MEGASTORE

Mega Deals



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WE DELIVER

A SHORT TIME WITH:

Nissan may advocate the eco-friendly virtues of the Leaf. Robin-Leigh Chetty finds out if this battery powered car of the future is better than its petrol guzzling competition.

If one had to walk through any parking lot in South Africa, one could easily be forgiven for mistaking the Nissan Leaf with any other four-door petrol guzzling car. With the notable exception of its striking headlight and taillight setup, there is very little to distinguish the Leaf as a fully electric vehicle. That is of course, until we climbed inside and turned it on.

The sound of the future

Featuring a keyless push start ignition, the Leaf chimes into life with a rather whimsical tune and then fades into silence. The reason for this, as one might expect, is the fact that the LEAF features no conventional engine, and as such produces no noise. When we first experienced this, it was slightly eerie to a certain degree, so much so that people walking in parking lots or hawkers at robots were often surprised to find the Leaf silently creep up on them.



The Leaf is designed for a very specific kind of driver whose style is deliberate.

Silent it may be, but slow it is not, with Nissan fitting an 80 kW AC synchronous electric motor that yields a respectable 0-100 km/h time of 11.4 seconds and reaches a top speed of 144 km/h. With that being said, planting one's foot firmly to the floor is ill-advised, for the sole fact that it will greatly diminish the Leaf's driving range. Nissan lists its optimal range from a full battery at 195 kilometres, although in real world application it drops to the 160 kilometre range. That kind of range means the Leaf can go three days (given an average 50 kilometres per day) before a visit to a plug point is needed.

Think and drive

Charging itself takes an estimated seven hours, which means that drivers will probably plug in their Leafs overnight from a conventional power point thanks to Nissan's specially designed power adapter. Should that prove a little too long though, Nissan have also incorporated a quick charging mode that takes four hours. All of these charging concerns, shone a greater light on the fact that drivers have to give greater thought to when and where they will be driving, as well as their driving style in order to get the maximum amount of range, and squeeze every last km from the Leaf's battery powered engine.

Our time with the Leaf, as short as it was, brought into focus the notion that electric cars, whether they be from the Japanese manufacturer or not, are designed for a very specific kind of driver. An individual whose driving style is measured and deliberate, particularly because we found ourselves constantly checking the Leaf's range reading and carbon emission output symbol to gauge the car's environmental impact (located within the main information cluster).

All things considered

The one key area, apart from driving range and charging time considerations, is the Leaf's price tag, listed at an estimated R470 000 for the 2013 edition. This is a fair amount more than other C segment vehicles normally selling for R275 000, but the potential savings down the line still make the Leaf a better long term value for money investment, according to Nissan. For us, the Leaf is appealing for drivers who travel short to medium distances during the day, as well as those who favour a carpooling system for example. Should your daily driving needs extend further than the average, then the Leaf's listed 195 km driving range may fall short. **ts**

Batteries Included

The electric landscape of cars (such as the Leaf), bikes and other wheeled modes of transport is ever growing, here are four we love.



Tesla Model S P85D

The industry leaders as far as battery powered cars go, Tesla Motors, headed up by the enigmatic Elon Musk, unveiled its new all-wheel drive dual motor vehicle - the Model S P85D. We've featured the Model S in past issues of TechSmart, the key difference in this new iteration however is a world first dual electric motor setup and autopilot feature.

Fitted with either a 60 kWh or 85 kWh battery options, the Model S P85D has a motor on each axle, controlling the torque distribution between the front and rear wheels. As a result traction and responsiveness are greatly enhanced, ensuring that it's one of best performance vehicles that Tesla has manufactured to date, clocking a 0-100 km/h time of 3.2 seconds and reaching a top speed of 250 km/h thanks to its 515 kW engine.



Harley-Davidson Project Livewire

The roaring engine tone from a Harley-Davidson is unmistakable, so when we heard that the American manufacturer was experimenting with an electric motor sporting version, we were very highly intrigued but slightly concerned. In place of the iconic roar now is a futuristic hum that clearly draws inspiration from sci-fi films like *Tron: Legacy*.

Still a concept for the most part, the Project Livewire bike has been showcased by Harley-Davidson in the States, although a display on SA shores is yet to be confirmed. The current range of this prototype bike is listed at 86 kilometres, with a 0-100 time estimated at just under four seconds and top speed of 148 km/h. Whether Project Livewire will get the green light remains to be seen.

Nissan Leaf



Price
R470 000



Engine
80 kW
AC synchronous
electric motor



0-100 km/h
11.4 seconds



Top Speed
144 km/h



Range
195 km (under
optimal driving
conditions)



Marbel Board

Skateboards are not just for kids, and coasting on them has always been a savvy way of getting around. These too have been given the electrified treatment, thanks to US-based company Marbel's successfully funded Kickstarter campaign.

Apart from being battery powered, good for roughly 16 kilometres, the Marbel Board has a top speed of 40 km/h and weighs in at 4.5 kg. What we like most about the Marbel Board is a relatively quick 90 minute charge time to reach full battery capacity, as well as an iOS and Android compatible app to customise one's riding style settings. The one downside is its price, commanding a total of \$1 300 (R14 300), with an initial down payment of \$500 (R5 500), not to mention shipping from the States.



Radinn Wakeboard

How about a mode of transport sans wheels, in the form of Radinn's electric powered wakeboard? The wakeboard comes courtesy of its eponymous Swedish manufacturer, aiming to revolutionise the world of wakeboarding as we know it.

The company began developing the Radinn Wakeboard in 2012, with the final result yielding a lithium-ion battery powered, jet-propulsion enabled wakeboard that could make even the most avid of surfers a little envious. Added to this is a carbon fibre body, designed to keep it both strong and lightweight, although its maximum load capacity is unknown. Price too remains a mystery, but we're sure that something this radical and eye catching will command an equally gulp-inducing price tag.

Straight
fit regular
chinos.
R400, Woolworths
Collection.



SUMMER BUSINESS STYLE



by Mynhardt van Pletsen

Caught in the tension between keeping the sweltering heat of our sub-Saharan climate at bay, while you're dressing like you're not just a businessman, but the business, man, can be almost as tricky as using your fluctuating JSE portfolio as a reliable retirement plan. We give some sound advice.

From head to torso, stick to garments that are slim fitting, earthy in tone and consisting of at least 50% cotton. In the name of our no-clingy policy, avoid anything that's either baggy or skinny, and while you're at it, keep the bolds and brights for when you're spending your earnings at the beach.

Although you might not see this timeless truth reflected in your current colleagues, rise above the fold, and accept the obvious career-making advantages of the traditional necktie.

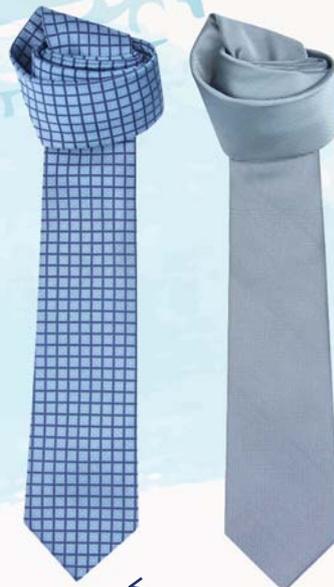
As far as your bottom half is concerned, remember to keep your darkest colours for where you are lowest to the ground, meaning pants and shoes. A pair of patent leathers in deepest darkest brown can upskill even the most casual chino from college material to a corporate force of nature.

Finally, upgrading your traditional briefcase to a worn full-grain leather messenger bag, will instantly move your paygrade from entry level paper pusher to executive style jet-setter. **ts**

Slimfit white shirt.
R400, Studio W, Woolworths.



Grey fashion suit jacket.
R1 000, Cignal, Markhams.



Various coloured ties.
R90 each, Cignal Designed
by M, Markhams.

Brown leather messenger bag.
R3 300, Largess,
Frasers.



Patent leather shoes.
R1 300, Aldo.



SMELLING FRESH

by Mynhardt van Plelsen

Quality fragrances have always been a controversial subject among men. Do you really want to cough up a grand just to not smell like your natural musky self? Brothers, the answer is unequivocally, YES.

If you've never heard this before, let us be the first to tell you: for but one neutral and unscented antiperspirant, throw all your deodorant sprays in the trash. Invest in a serious and high-quality manly fragrance, that will probs outlast your spray bottle a couple of seasons anyway.

1. The aptly named Hugo Boss range comes in a clear, red and black option. You can't get burlier than this, except for being the actual boss, of course. R665, 75 ml.



2. New guy on the block, Terre d'Hermes, comes with brief delusions of not only smelling, but also reigning over your kingdom like a Greek god. Winged slippers not included. R1 015, 50 ml.



3. If you fancy yourself as quite the sportsman, or if your name rhymes with either Pienaar or Damon, make sure to give Paco Rabanne's Invictus a try. R775, 50ml.



4. Going back to the classics, Calvin Klein's range of unisex fragrances opened the door for dudely guys to start smelling fresh. The BE series is still a favourite. R770, 100 ml.



5. Diesel's Fuel For Life will make you feel (but not smell) like you've just wrestled a mountain gorilla before going for a couple of recovery laps in the Amazon. R1 150, 125 ml.



6. The latest offering by Lacoste, Eau De Lacoste Blanc, is so white and fresh, it will remind you of your dearest Apple accessory. R865, 100 ml. **ts**



- Mark Leggett** @markleggett · Oct 19
The Ebola risk will not extinguish my appetite for bushmeat. Once you've had bat, you never go back.

- Trevor Noah** @Trevornoah · Oct 19
I know the remote control batteries are dead but I truly believe that if I press the buttons harder, it will work!

- Elizabeth** @Elizasoul80 · Oct 18
Don't think I'll be able to make it tonight, I'm looking for the remote.

- LaLa Rose Moss** @Angela_Rose81 · Oct 18
Lying in bed together staring at our phones. True romance.

- Master of Sarcasm** @tmastersarcasm · 3h
Why is peter pan always flying? He neverlands. I love this joke because it never grows old.

- Best Darth Vader** @mdarthvadern · 5h
No matter how bad life gets, there's always Star Wars.

- AnchorsAndAviators** @AnchorsAviators · 24h
Her tweets suck but she's gorgeous, so I followed her.

So, I get it, men. I totally get it.

- Nerf Herder** @TrueTorontoGirl · Oct 19
Sorry I unfollowed but it's you not me.

- deux ex machGINA** @calamitygina · Oct 4
How is Twitter still a thing? This is just the place I text to when no one wants to talk to me.

- Nkabo** @Phystoz · Oct 3
Just downloaded this month's issue of @techsmartmag can't wait to dive in to it :)

- n2o** @1evildiot · Oct 18
I've said it before and I'll say it again. and again. and again. and again. - twitter

- Nathan Mwande** @chenda02 · Oct 18
Every time I read @TechSmartMag I wish I had more... I wish I actually had money to appease my gear acquisition syndrome

- Deep Fried Man** @DeepFriedMan · Oct 17
Other countries place travel bans on Ebola. We put travel bans on the Dalai Lama.

- Neil deGrasse Tyson** @neiltyson · Oct 16
The objective truths of the world are controversial only to people who are both under-informed and who like to argue.

- Gary Alexander** @garyalexza · Oct 16
If Arnold Vosloo's face appears in this #sandstorm, I'm running.

- Kumail Nanjiani** @kumailn · Oct 14
The fact that most people who disagree with me on social issues are terrible at spelling gives me confidence.

- The Blonde One** @MichelleVitagr1 · Oct 14
I just want someone to love me the way women in commercials love yogurt.

- WULFDEAN** @WULFDEAN · Oct 14
Don't worry, everyone thinks you're doing twitter properly.

- Matt Roller** @rolldiggity · Oct 12
The fact that Winnie the Pooh wears a shirt means that he knows what clothes are and is exposing himself to us anyway.

- Cundalini** @Cunda22 · Oct 10
It's starting to get to the point where my Tweets are so bad that sometimes they just delete themselves.

- Mojak Lehoko** @mojaklehoko · Oct 8
"When life gives you lemons don't make lemonade. Ask for the manager" - Prof. Mojakson Lehook

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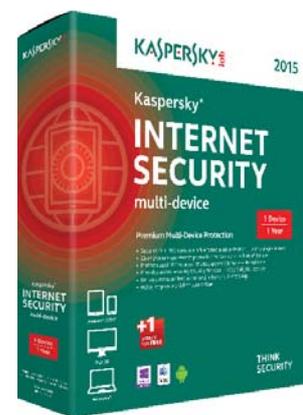
Wi-Fi Security Notification helps keep you safe on public Wi-Fi – plus Cost-Aware Networking helps you manage charges from Wi-Fi, 3G & 4G networks.

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HOW TO WIN

To stand a chance to win, simply drop send us a mail with the title "I want to win with Kaspersky Labs" in the title. Email your answer to competition@techsmart.co.za today! It's as easy as that.

Competition runs until 30 November 2014. Only entries from people living in South Africa will be considered. The judges' decision is final. Terms and conditions apply (bit.ly/ts/terms). The winners will be announced during the second week of December 2014. **ts**

COMICS 101 - THE SEQUEL

Any culture can be defined as a group of people who observe the same rituals, practice the same beliefs and share the same language. Unless you're wearing your "Keep Calm and Call Batman" T-shirt ironically, you'll probably need to know how to use a few of the terms in this article convincingly to fit in with the comic book crowd.

ANTHOLOGY COMICS

Anthologies are comics that have multiple artists working on different stories which can be self-contained in one issue or spread across several issues. British publication *2000AD* (www.2000adonline.com) and USA publication *Dark Horse Presents* (www.darkhorse.com/Search/dark+horse+present) are two of the best-known international examples of this type of book.

CREATOR-OWNED COMICS

Creator-owned comics are titles created by the artists and writers who retain all the rights to the book, the characters and the world they have created, as licensing rights for merchandising. Although they are usually published by a third party publisher, the publisher only has the right to publish the work. Image Comics (www.imagecomics.com) and Boom! Comics (www.boom-studios.com) in the USA are based on this model.

COMIC CONVENTIONS

Comic conventions are events where fans of comics (and increasingly, pop culture in general) gather together to buy and sell merchandise, launch new books, share news on upcoming events and also attend panels related to the comic book industry featuring special guests. These events can happen over one day or as many as four days and have become an increasingly social phenomenon with huge numbers of attendees dressed in cosplay. Probably the best-known comic convention in the world is San Diego Comic-Con in the USA.

DIGITAL COMICS

Digital comics are comics that can be read on a computer screen, tablets or smartphones. Increasingly, companies like Marvel and DC, the two biggest US comic companies, are doing their books as Digital First books, which means the books are released online first and afterwards as print editions. Digital comics should not be confused with webcomics unless one wants to send fanboys into absolute nerdrage.

FANBOY

Fanboy is a general gender-neutral catchall term used to refer to extreme enthusiasts and fans of a specific comic, company or product and can also be applied in the gaming community. Fanboys can be disturbingly obsessive about their interests and excessive in the defence of their opinions about popular culture. While the correct usage would be to call a DC enthusiast a DC Fanboy, one should always refer to a Marvel fan as a Marvel Zombie.

NERDRAGE

Nerdrage is when a fanboy loses his/her cool online and becomes indignant, angry, abusive and incoherent over a generally minor issue relating to their subject of interest.

SPLASH PANELS

Splash panels are usually a single massive frame on a page (or going across two pages) that is used by the artist to give the reader a lot of information or to set the scene and environment for the book. Artists typically spend more time on these pages to enhance the overall story and to engage the reader more excitingly.

WEBCOMICS

Webcomics are comic books designed for viewing on the internet. These books usually follow a serialised form, with pages being updated on a weekly or daily schedule. Most online comics follow a basic newspaper strip format of three or four panels per strip, but can also be full page art. Penny Arcade (www.penny-arcade.com) is probably the most famous web comic site internationally. **ts**



THE COMIC BOOK GUYS

Mark McKeown is quickly making a name for himself with the launch edition of his *The Tree of Life Trilogy*. We tracked him down for a bit of Q+A.

MARK MCKEOWN



TechSmart (TS): Please provide a brief description of yourself and the work/titles you've been responsible for.

Mark McKeown (MM): I read a mysterious novel ten years ago, written by a Zulu Sanusi that inspired me to adapt it into sequential art, it was *Indaba, My Children*, written by Credo Mutwa. I have only recently released the first issue of what will eventually become a thirteen part series called *The Tree of Life Trilogy*, which can be found at www.vusamazulu.com. The responsible, grown-up part of me works in retail.

TS: If you could choose any series (current or past) to work on, which would it be?

MM: At this point, no series that I have read has yet been able to trump *The Saga of The Swamp Thing* by Alan Moore. It was such a landmark for the medium. All the artists who contributed to its realisation have become beacons to aspiring closet-comic artists like myself. Hopefully there may come one day, where someday, I may do the same.

TS: Favourite comic book artist?

MM: Kent Williams's work on Darren Aronofsky's *The Fountain* moved me the most out of anything I have read so far.

TS: Favourite writer?

MM: Alan Moore. The depth of his work and his courage and bravery to take us where he takes us, is what I admire most about him. That and his being just a normal, all-round nice guy.

TS: Favourite publisher?

MM: DC. *Swamp Thing*. *Animal Man*. *Sandman*. DC represents titles that for me have pushed the medium the most.

TS: Favourite character as a kid?

MM: Like millions of kids around the world – Spider-Man. Everybody, especially a kid, wants to grow up to be extraordinary.

TS: Favourite character of all time?

MM: *Swamp Thing*. His story is written for generations that are yet unborn who will face an even further disconnection from nature than that which is felt today. From that point of view, I think 'ol swampy will pass the test of time more so than the more popular characters whose stories will become inconsequential and dated.

TS: Any new series that you've read that you particularly enjoyed?

MM: Although not particularly new, I am enjoying Grant Morrison's *Animal Man*. Like Moore, Morrison is an artist whose work transcends its medium.

TS: Any advice for young talent?

MM: Have a plan B.

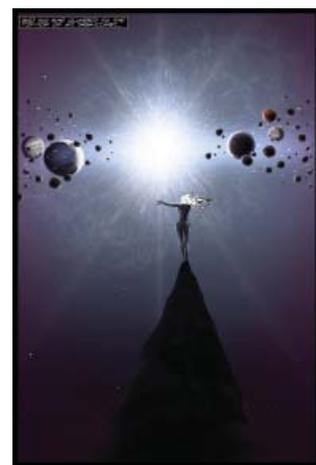
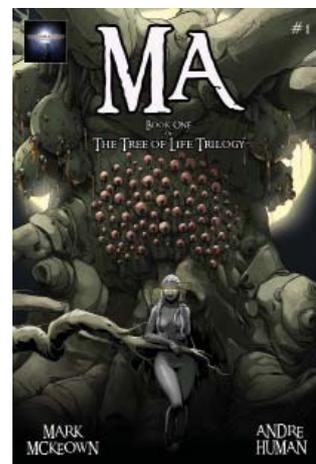
TS: What would be the next step in your comic book career?

MM: To have one.

TS: Do you have an end-goal in sight, for example, eventually working for Marvel, DC, Dark Horse?

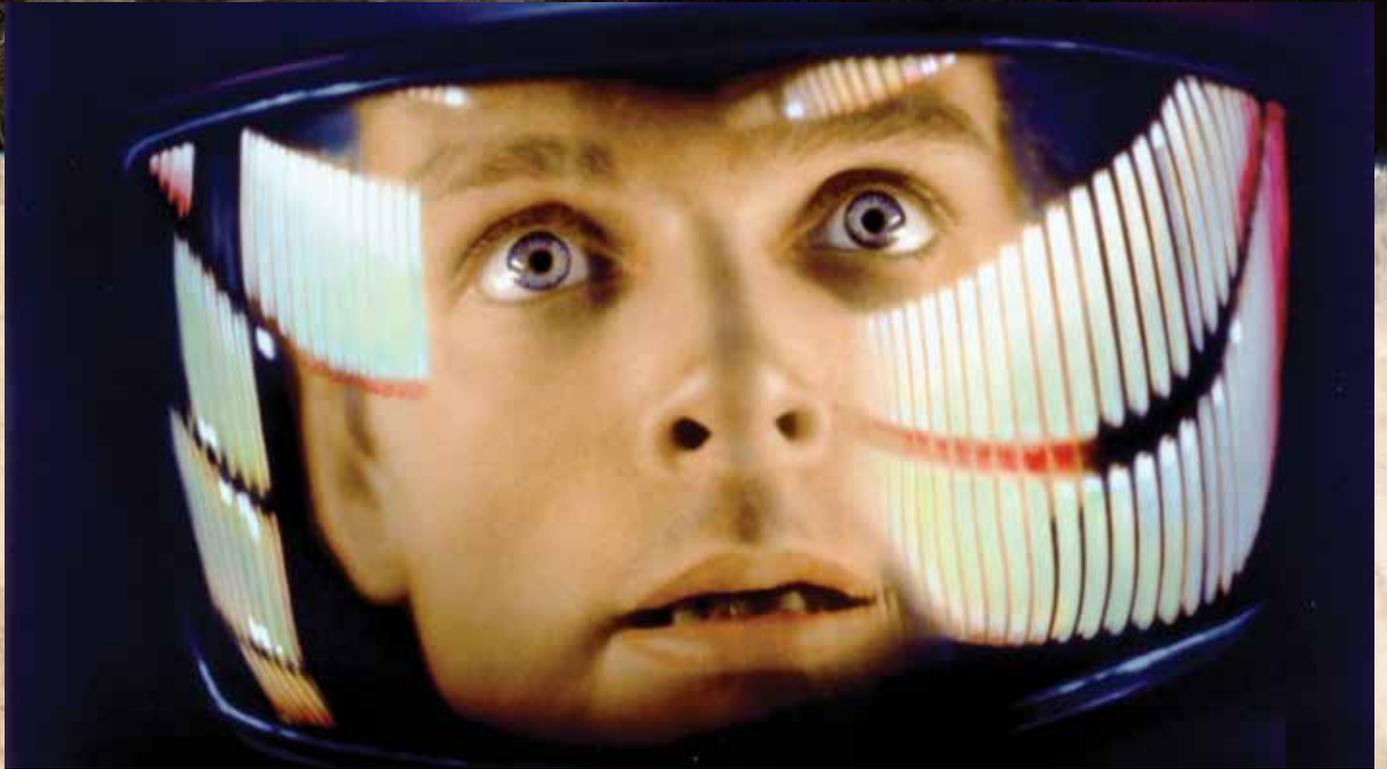
MM: Although it's every comic book artist's aspiration to work for these American comic book behemoths, the prospect of becoming SA's first home-grown comic book publishing giant is a grander aspiration. The challenges at present seems to be impossible and the opportunities are few. But if we have learnt anything from the American comic pioneers of yesteryear, it's to forge ahead despite the odds. **ts**

All images courtesy of Mark McKeown. Find more of his work at www.vusamazulu.com.



Top 5 MIND-BENDING MOVIES

Some movies just leave you perplexed, or “Curiouser and curiouser!” as little Alice said. Movie aficionado, Spring tries to navigate the maze of mind-benders.



2001: A Space Odyssey

1968

Before he brainwashed us with *A Clockwork Orange*, Stanley Kubrick made *2001: A Space Odyssey*. The sparsely scripted film brought us into contact with an eerie vision of mankind's existence and tattooed *The Blue Danube* and HAL 9000's red camera eye into our collective psyche.

From primitive man to the stars, we are catapulted four million years into Arthur C. Clarke's *Space Odyssey* series. Just when you think you've got a handle on the mysterious *Discovery One* mission to Jupiter, our lone survivor and hero is pulled into a colourful vortex and a disturbing conclusion as the Black Monolith takes over.

BEST HEAD-SCRATCHING MOMENT? *The beginning, middle and end. Plus everything in-between.*

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Inception

2010

Christopher Nolan warped our minds with *Memento*, yet nothing could prepare us for his haunting psychological heist movie, *Inception*. The clinical beauty of the surreal visuals, the film's allegory for the art of film-making and Nolan's ability to invariably fold the illusion back on itself several times, make it the cinematic equivalent of a Russian nesting doll.

We're entranced by the concept of being able to plant a thought, immersed in a dream state only to descend into deeper states of the subconscious and then ultimately left to figure out if we ourselves are lost in a dream.

BEST HEAD-SCRATCHING MOMENT? *When the totem keeps spinning. Or did it?*



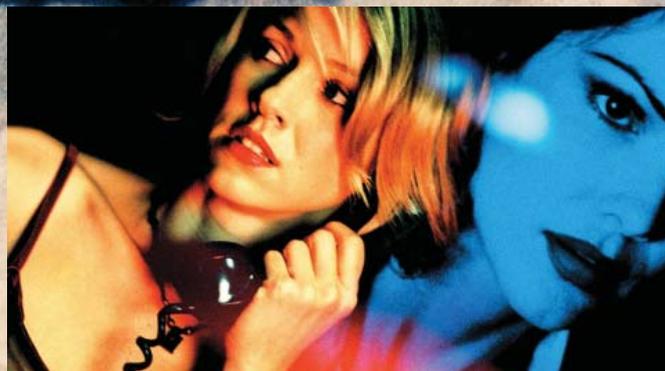
The Matrix

1999

Before they became The Wachowski Starship and unzipped our heads with *Cloud Atlas*, they had us in the palm of their hands with *The Matrix*. Downloadable cyberpunk kung fu and Agent Smith aside, *The Matrix* presented us with an unanswerable question: Is life real or are we human batteries simply living a simulated experience to power a robot empire? (Check out the *Brain in a Vat* thought experiment - bit.ly/NU6DSY)

The red or blue pill scenario was a schism for most audiences as we, like Neo, were given a chance to peek behind the curtain. And who can forget that creeping mirror liquid, the bullet-dodging and the women in the red dress?

BEST HEAD-SCRATCHING MOMENT? *Afterwards when you are left pondering if you are living inside a Matrix.*



Mulholland Dr.

2001

David Lynch blew everyone's minds with his black-and-white nightmare, *Eraserhead*. The film was so out there, all you can do is let it wash over you. *Mulholland Dr.*, originally intended to be a *Twin Peaks* style TV series, is more of a mindbender because he provides a semblance of a narrative, which remains alienating and elusive.

The series of interconnected dreams and symbols establish continuity through actors as they too find themselves in a state of flux, identity crisis and amnesia. Is it an enchanting dream? Is it a beautiful nightmare? And what does that lonesome cowboy really mean?

BEST HEAD-SCRATCHING MOMENT? *When Betty Elms is suddenly Diane Selwyn.*



Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind

2004

This list wouldn't be complete without Charlie Kaufman, the brilliant mind behind the pretentious *Synecdoche, New York*, curious *Adaptation* and trippy *Being John Malkovich*. Beyond its borrowed movie title and odd couple in Jim Carrey and Kate Winslet, *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* is a cinematic gem because it's both mind-bending and genre-bending.

French director, Michel Gondry harnesses the power of imagination and memories, giving us a chance to live vicariously through the dysfunctional characters as their painful echoes of the past are systematically erased. In the end, we get to decide on their (and our) fate. **ts**

BEST HEAD-SCRATCHING MOMENT? *The warped, repressive kitchen sink memories.*

HONOURABLE MENTIONS: *Jacob's Ladder, Primer, Source Code, Donnie Darko, Altered States, Waking Life Trance, eXistenZ*

NEW

CINEMA RELEASES



Interstellar – 7 November

When Christopher Nolan releases a film, it's a cinematic event. The *Inception* and *Dark Knight Trilogy* director has *Interstellar* lined up, and based on the trailers he's going beyond the beyond. Nolan's influences for the film

include: *2001: A Space Odyssey*, *Blade Runner*, *Star Wars* and theoretical physicist, Kip Thorne's work on warped space-time.

The Oscar winning Matthew McConaughey stars in this story about a family man sent to space in order to help a desolated earth. Up there they discover something magnificent. McConaughey is supported by the likes of Anne Hathaway, Jessica Chastain, Wes Bentley and Casey Affleck.



The Drop – 14 November

Tom Hardy, Noomi Rapace and the late James Gandolfini star in *The Drop*, a crime drama based on the short story *Animal Rescue* by Dennis Lehane (*Gone Baby Gone*, *Mystic River*). *The Drop* follows a Brooklyn bartender

(Hardy), who finds himself at the centre of an investigation into a robbery gone wrong.

This mature, nuanced film delves into the neighbourhood's past, bar culture and the grey area between friends and foes. Expect compelling performances from a talented cast, a gripping screenplay from a celebrated modern author and taut direction from Michaël R. Roskam in his Hollywood follow-up to *Bullhead*.



Dumb and Dumber To – 14 November

After a weak excuse for a prequel, we thought the Farrelly brothers' buddy movie tag team was done for. Well, after 20 years of hemming and hawing, we finally have the long-awaited sequel,

Dumb and Dumber To, starring the original Harry and Lloyd (Jim Carrey, Jeff Daniels).

The dim-witted duo returns to go in search of one of their long lost children in the hope of gaining a new kidney. Of course their idiocy reaches new levels, and we can only hope that twenty years hasn't matured and mellowed them too much.



The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part I – 21 November

While Jennifer Lawrence is still the alluring mascot and main attraction, *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire* was a dramatic improvement to the young adult series. While maintaining the trajectory, *Constantine* and *I Am Legend* director, Francis Lawrence brought a much darker, mature perspective to the Games.

In the first part of *Mockingjay*, we watch as Katniss spreads her wings on good counsel in an effort to champion the nation and save Peeta. Expect dark, taut sci-fi action-adventure, take a moment to admire one of Philip Seymour Hoffman's last supporting performances and then take another moment to admire everything Jennifer Lawrence.



Horrible Bosses 2 – 28 November

Writer-director Sean Anders knows comedy. His screenwriting credits include *She's Out of my League*, *Sex Drive*, *Hot Tub Time Machine*,

Dumb and Dumber To and now *Horrible Bosses 2*. Armed with Jason Bateman, Charlie Day and Jason Sudeikis, you could say it's a done deal.

After trying to be their own bosses in a start-up, the trio soon resort to an ill-conceived kidnapping scheme and dangerous tactics, after being outplayed by a slick investor. While no one asked for a sequel, the trailer and stellar cast make this one seem much more promising than it's got the right to be.

MOVIE NEWS



Lego Batman Begins

It appears the scene stealing success of Will Arnett's Batman character in *The Lego Movie* has led Warner to fast-track a spin-off. The project is set to be directed by animation

supervisor Chris McKay, and will see the return of Arnett as the caped plastic crusader. There are no plot details at present, but given the spate of superhero cross-overs, we could also see Jonah Hill and Channing Tatum return to voice The Green Lantern and Superman.



Joe Dirt 2 Burnin' for You

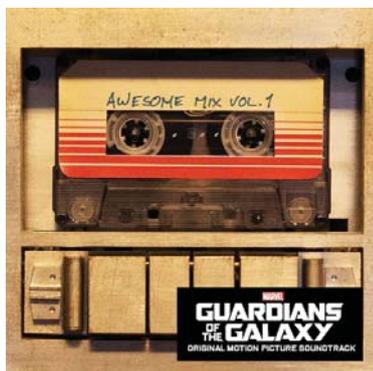
"Things are gonna happen for me, I'm Joe Dirt." While *Joe Dirt* didn't enjoy massive box office success when it was released, the film's oddball comedy and quotable quotes have helped

develop a loyal cult following over the years. David Spade has been looking for an excuse to reprise the titular redneck and it looks like his buddy, Adam Sandler, will make his dream come true when Happy Madison Productions released it to, not Netflix, but Crackle in 2015. **ts**

GEEK NEWS ROUND-UP

What's happening in the world of Geek?

GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY MIXTAPE NOW ON CASSETTE



One of *Guardians of the Galaxy*'s best elements was the awesome 70s-inspired soundtrack, chock full of hits that paired fantastically well with the feel of the film. In it, Peter Quill, aka Star Lord sports a Sony Walkman with a cassette mixtape titled *Awesome Mix Vol. 1*. Now Hollywood Records has debuted an actual cassette tape mirroring the one found in the film, set to retail at select stores in the US. Disney, who just so happen to own Marvel's movie rights, have not disclosed how many copies of the cassette will be produced, or whether it will be available outside the States. Now to find a working Walkman...

LEGO RELEASES 2 000 PIECE VERSION OF BOBA FETT'S SLAVE I



JJ Abrams may be keeping things hush hush on the upcoming *Star Wars* film, but that hasn't stopped Lego from giving fans something to mull over in the meantime. The thing in question, is a 2000 piece replica of Boba Fett's bounty hunting ship, the Slave I. Lego have given this piece of Star Wars merch a January 2015 release, with a \$200 (R2 212) price tag, should you be tempted to get one.

AGE OF ULTRON TRAILER OUT EARLY



So much for well laid plans, as Marvel had to release the new trailer for the next *Avengers* movie a week early, after a grainy version leaked online. Many TechSmart readers might have seen the trailer already, and if you haven't you might want to go and check it out for scenes of Joburg city central where parts of the movie was shot. *Age of Ultron* is set for release on 1 May 2015 in the States.

More Marvel news is that two of the *Avengers*' founding members will be teaming up in the 2016-slated *Captain America 3*. According to reports, Robert Downey Jr who plays the enigmatic Tony Stark, looks set to join the cast of third *Captain America* film. Although the script remains under wraps, reports suggest that it will follow the *Civil War* story arc within the Marvel universe.

SHARLTO COPLEY IN ORIGINAL PLAYSTATION SERIES



Sony's Playstation has always been about playing games, and although that isn't set to change, the Japanese company is adding a new dimension to its offerings, in the form of an original Playstation Plus exclusive series titled *Powers*. The show deals with a specialised detective unit which investigates the murders of superheroes, but for some added local incentive it features our very own Sharlto Copley (*District 9*, *Elysium*).

JAMES BOND'S SUBMARINE CAR TO GO ON SALE ON EBAY



There have been many memorable vehicles in the 007 collection over the years, but one of the more iconic is the submarine Lotus Esprit S1 he drove/piloted in *The Spy Who Loved Me*. In the Bond flick, the producers created multiple Lotus submarines to use during filming, with three of them set to go up for auction on eBay. The Esprit is listed at \$1 million by Las Vegas-based car restorers, Hot Rod City. If you're lucky to have the money to buy this piece of film history, launching it into water is not an option, as it cannot actually submerge underwater, nor can it drive on road.

If you cannot afford the car, why not a comic book at least, since 007's life in comics books and graphic novels will remain intact into 2015 and beyond, with Dynamite Entertainment picking up the rights to the *James Bond* comic series.

MYST SET TO BECOME A TV SERIES



Myst, the wildly popular 90s point and click adventure game, is set for development as a TV series and video game combo. The former has been handed over to Legendary TV & Digital Media, the TV division of Legendary Pictures, the studio behind films like *300* and the *Dark Knight* trilogy. Legendary TV & Digital Media will be pairing up with Cyan Worlds, the developers behind *Myst*, although no definitive date has been set for production or release. **ts**

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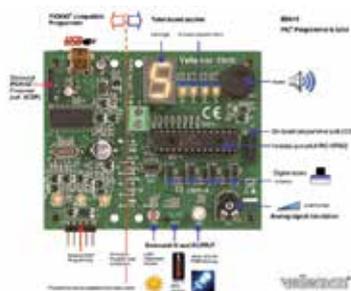
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ALIEN: ISOLATION

In space, something terrible can hear (and make) you scream. That something is one of the most terrifying monsters to be discovered, and in *Alien: Isolation*, you're its prey.

A really good horror movie entertains you for a couple of hours, but a great one stays with you long after you've left the theatre. Such was the case with the original *Alien* movie 35 years ago, and since then we have been waiting to satisfactorily return to the *Alien* world in a game. While hopes were pinned on *Aliens: Colonial Marines* to deliver on that front, those expectations were snuffed out faster than the lives of most of the *Nostromo's* hapless crew. Luckily, *Alien: Isolation* delivers where others failed.

This is Ripley, last survivor of the *Nostromo*, signing off

Helping matters is the fact that *Alien: Isolation* stays true to the cannon. Ellen Ripley's daughter, Amanda, goes in search of answers to her mother's disappearance some 15 years after the events of *Alien*, after news that the flight recorder from the *Nostromo* has been found. This sets the stage for her and a small crew to embark for the space station, *Sevastopol* where the information is being held. As you may suspect, the 'simple' mission doesn't go at all as planned, but rather sees Amanda (you) isolated, but unfortunately not completely alone, in the derelict station.

From the get go, *Alien: Isolation* perfectly captures the scariness of being in the vastness of empty space, with silence and a sense of desolation as your constant companions, which contributes to a growing tension.

ALIEN: ISOLATION IS A GREAT AND FAITHFUL HOMAGE TO THE MOVIE, AND ONE FANS OF THE FRANCHISE OWE IT TO THEMSELVES TO PLAY.



Once the titular alien appears though, the panic inducing suspense and moments of terror are dialed way up.

The Xenomorph is every inch the formidable, terrifying and relentless killing machine we remember it being in the movies. It is terrifically depicted as being the apex predator here, with you as its largely outmatched and often easily located prey. What this means is that you essentially have to 'outwit, outlast and outplay'. In short, survive the monster; and you do this by knowing when to run, when to hide, and when to use distractions such as Molotov cocktails and noisemakers to your advantage. You craft these from things salvaged, which in turn makes exploring the *Sevastopol* essential.

"Stay away from her....you bitch!"

In terms of production values, on the PS4 version reviewed here, we had no complaints, although the derelict space station isn't the most visually appealing locale that the next gen console is able to render. Additionally, we weren't much of a fan of the amount of backtracking in the game, especially since it's all too easy to get lost in the space station, and the Xenomorph's artificial intelligence could be frustrating at times. That being said, *Alien: Isolation* boasts plenty of creepy atmosphere, with everything from the iconic motion tracker, plasma torch and flamethrower all evoking fond memories of the world Scott and Gieger created. In essence, *Alien: Isolation* is a great and faithful homage to the movie, and one fans of the franchise owe it to themselves to play. RRP R700. [RN] **ts**



MIDDLE EARTH: SHADOW OF MORDOR

If a superb game based on the *Lord of the Rings* world has been the object of your singularly focused fixation, nay, obsession, then get ready to call Middle Earth: Shadow of Mordor 'my preciousss'.

More often than not, games that make the crossover from books, comics or movies fail spectacularly, hitting consoles with a resounding thud. Sometimes though, the result is so good that it leaves one gobsmacked for all the right reasons. Batman: Arkham Asylum was one example, and raising the bar even higher is Middle Earth: Shadow of Mordor (ME: SoM).

The game begins with your end – with Sauron's foul forces, under the command of the Black Hand, killing your wife and son in front of you before unceremoniously slitting your throat as well. However you, playing one of the rangers of Gondor, Talion, are brought back to life, cursed and bonded with the wraith of a famous Elven smith, and you have Mordor, murder and revenge on your mind.

If you come to an Orc in the road, take it

Finding the Black Hand and exacting your vengeance is not a simple matter though. Resurrected as you are, you are certainly not invulnerable, and you don't just walk into nor stroll around Mordor, especially not when you are surrounded by Orcs and Uruks (who will quickly gang up on you and kill again - and again, and again - if you're not careful). Thus sneaking amongst their ranks, darting out for a quick and quiet kill before slipping out of their line of sight, is a crucial part of

the game. Even better is seeking the high ground where you can, and dropping down on them from above or picking them off with your bow. Either way, playing smartly and patiently is imperative.

Adding another dimension to the game is the much touted Nemesis system, and it's here that ME:SoM really shows its brilliance. This entails finding Sauron's captains and warchiefs, interrogating them using your wraith powers and gleaned intel to progress. However, each captain has its own motives, power rating (which determines how difficult they are to best) and their own weaknesses you can use to your advantage once you have unlocked intel about them.

What's this? A smart Uruk? Impossible!

If you fall under the blade of a particular chief, they level up and become stronger, and can challenge other rivals to take their place. Additionally, when you next encounter the same chief, they will remember you and gloat over your previous demise.

Even armed with a sword, dagger and elven bow, the Uruks are as resilient and tough as they are brutal and merciless, and we would definitely recommend sneaking up on them and picking them off one by one rather than trying to engage a crowd all at once. To this end, it pays to watch surrounding Uruks' awareness levels carefully, as green will indicate they are unaware of your presence, and red means that they are already planning on using your fingers as toothpicks. Thankfully though, you have a raft of both ranger (warrior and melee focused) and wraith (magical) upgradeable abilities, which make Talion stronger and more fearsome in his own right, and this too adds to the game's momentum and allure.

Intricate and accessible game mechanics, a deep and intriguing lore, satisfying combat and a rich engaging world all add up to make ME:SoM a magnificent title that does J.R.R Tolkien proud. Highly recommended. RRP: R750. [RN] **ts**

IT PAYS TO WATCH SURROUNDING URUKS' AWARENESS LEVELS CAREFULLY, AS GREEN WILL INDICATE THEY ARE UNAWARE OF YOUR PRESENCE, AND RED MEANS THAT THEY ARE ALREADY PLANNING ON USING YOUR FINGERS AS TOOTHPICKS.



PIPPA TSHABALALA ON GREAT MOMENTS AT THEIR GREATEST

PIPPA TAKES SOME TIME TO REFLECT ON A FEW PERSONAL GAMING TRIUMPHS.

Yes, I stole my title from Ster Kinekor's in-theatre campaign. For the record I really don't like this campaign slogan, it doesn't make any sense to me grammatically and the repetition is, I think, just bad copy. But that's another argument entirely.

It's appropriate here however because what I do actually want to talk about is Great Gaming Moments. Capitalised. In particular, I want to talk personal triumphs. Like most gamers, I have a number of moments in my gaming history that I distinctly remember, not just because I loved the game or the characters really resonated with me, but often because I managed to get a really hard and elusive trophy/achievement, or beat a particular boss, finish a difficult level and so on. As a reviewer it's very difficult to get continuously excited about games that inevitably follow a specific formula without actively critiquing them as you're playing and becoming disillusioned.

I'm not going to go into huge detail regarding my personal gaming triumphs, partly because everyone has their own that resonate with them. For example, some things that I've struggled with while playing a game, my husband has finished on the first attempt, and vice versa (we used to play *Silent Hill 2* together many years ago because my problem solving skills matched his combat skills).

The nature of gaming and the skills that it develops, coupled with the fact that everyone has different personal strengths, means that what might be a triumph for me because I struggled to achieve it, won't be considered such for someone else. Games that I finished in a couple of days and that I didn't find challenging at all, have had others stuck for weeks. What I do love however is the feeling that remembering such an achievement brings about. A sense of triumph. A glow. A warm, fuzzy feeling if you will.

I love that *The Witcher* series is one of the few games I automatically start playing on hard (rather than playing through on normal before replaying on a higher difficulty) and I still manage to complete multiple playthroughs, even though it's extremely challenging. A friend of mine, an expert knifer in *Call of Duty*, prides himself on the fact that he has every knifing achievement available in all the *CoD* games. My husband delights that he almost always get 100% on the games he plays because he play obsessively until he has unlocked all the achievements.

The feeling of exhilaration you get, knowing that you have poured hours of blood, sweat and tears (both literal and figurative one's mind you) into this, the game that is your current obsession, and actually achieved something remarkable, makes for an intensely gratifying experience.

Much more so than *Batman: Arkham City* for example, which awards you a trophy for becoming Batman at the beginning of the game. "I am the Batman". Yeah, no sh*t. That's the point. **ts**

Picture: Adriaan Louw from we-are-awesome.com

KEEP RIGHT AT THE ROBOTS

Orania

AFRIFORUM HAS RELEASED A GPS VOICED BY STEVE HOFMEYR, AND IN THE PROCESS DEEP FRIED MAN IS GIFTED A COLUMN THAT WRITES ITSELF.

I was a bit stuck when it came to what to write about this month until, like a gift straight from the heavens, sent with love from the gods of comedy, I discovered that South African political lobbying group Afriforum has released a GPS voiced by bad-singer-turned-worse-political-activist Steve Hofmeyr.

I'm no developer, but I would imagine that the app development is to web development what putt-putt is to professional golf. I base my assumption, that developing apps is relatively easy, on the fact that Afriforum has now developed a GPS app. Afriforum is an organisation better known for far right-wing politics and fighting for the rights of South Africa's white minority than for their contribution to app development, or satellite navigation, or helping people who are lost, unless your definition of lost is anyone that votes for any party other than the Freedom Front Plus.

And I'm not sure exactly why Afriforum launched their GPS app, but I'm glad they did, as it makes my job as writer of this column significantly easier, and that's thanks especially to their choice of voice artist. If recent history has taught us one thing, it is that Steve Hofmeyr, a cheesy Afrikaans pop star who was once known for his Neil Diamond covers and is now better known for both for the allegedly high amount of illegitimate children he has and for his racist politics, is one of South Africa's greatest comedy goldmines. The fact that Comedy Central spent an entire night on roasting him on television is proof of this.

The jokes write themselves. And here is a selection, written not by me but by some people on Twitter after I posted about this, commenting that it's probably the only GPS that, regardless of which destination you choose, sends you to whites-only town Orania instead.

"It has two directions. Right and far right" – @TomEatonSA

"It relies on the principle that 3 right turns are better than one left turn" – @Wiaan13

"Dreadful GPS to use. When you start it up it belts out Die Stem before hitting on your wife" – @ShaunWewege

"After a while it starts producing little illegitimate GPSes" – @roadie123

"It's the GPS for when you want to know the quickest route to Australia" – @ThokozaneMahl

And those were just a few on them.

So forgive me if this column is not much of an actual assessment of Afriforum's GPS. I could tell you all about how it's a 'complete mobile GPS with voice guided navigation system and integrated Logbook functionality' (which in itself is quite funny, as Afriforum are not known for embracing integration), but I can't. I have already used my entire word count on cheap Steve Hofmeyr jokes.

For all I know, though, it's a decent GPS. It could even be the only GPS that can time-travel, taking its users back to the 'good-old days' of apartheid. If so, Afriforum are much more talented at app development than I gave them credit for. **ts**

I'M NOT SURE EXACTLY WHY AFRIFORUM LAUNCHED THEIR GPS APP, BUT I'M GLAD THEY DID, AS IT MAKES MY JOB AS WRITER OF THIS COLUMN SIGNIFICANTLY EASIER.

rage expo

COMPUTERS | GAMING | TECHNOLOGY

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- **The Mortal Kombat X demo that was bloody brilliant**
- **Evolve making us root for the monster**
- **Behind closed doors it was a brilliant thirty minutes of Batman: Arkham Knight that assailed our senses**
- **Assassin's Creed: Unity killed it with the crowds**
- **Sunset Overdrive is the wild FPS game the Xbox One needs**

Cosplay is also very much alive and well, and we need to say a big thank you to all of you guys that dropped by the TechSmart stand. If you haven't seen your photo taken at the TechSmart stand, head over to www.facebook.com/techsmartmag now. Congrats also to Kellen Campbell and Marcus Rodgers, who each walked away with an awesome Trendnet AC1750 dual band wireless router from Phoenix Distribution. See you there again next year! **ts**



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