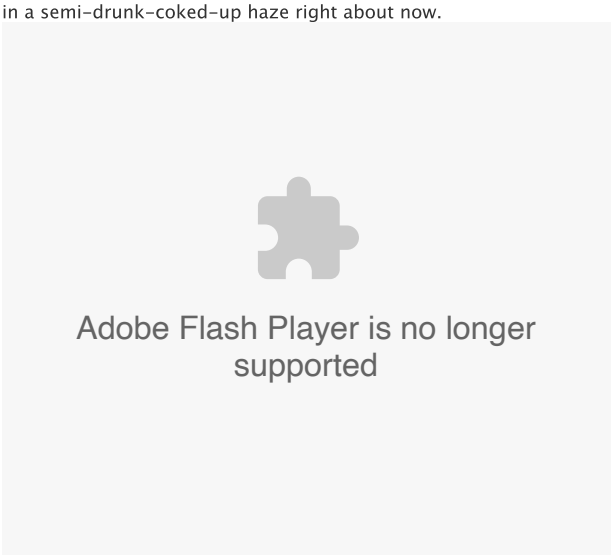
in a semi-drunk-coked-up haze right about now.



Posted by KatherineHannaford on February 13, 2007 in 3GSM 2007 | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

3GSM 2007: HTC launches Vox/S710 - smartphone with full QWERTY keyboard



HTC has finally launched its much-rumoured **Vox device** (or S710 if you prefer) - a smartphone with slide-out full QWERTY keyboard.

Slide-out keyboards are nothing new for HTC, most of their top sellers feature one. But this time the sliding keys are as part of a smartphone rather than a more bulky PDA. Other features are what you would expect from a smartphone - 2.4-inch QVGA display, 2 megapixel camera, Wi-Fi, 128MB of Flash memory, 64MB RAM and microSD support.

And like all new smartphones, there's Windows Mobile 6 on-board. As yet, there's no detail of which network will take it, but there's a good chance of re-branded version coming to a network in the coming weeks/months.

Stop press: Orange has now announced it will be launching this device on its network during the first half of 2007.

HTC website

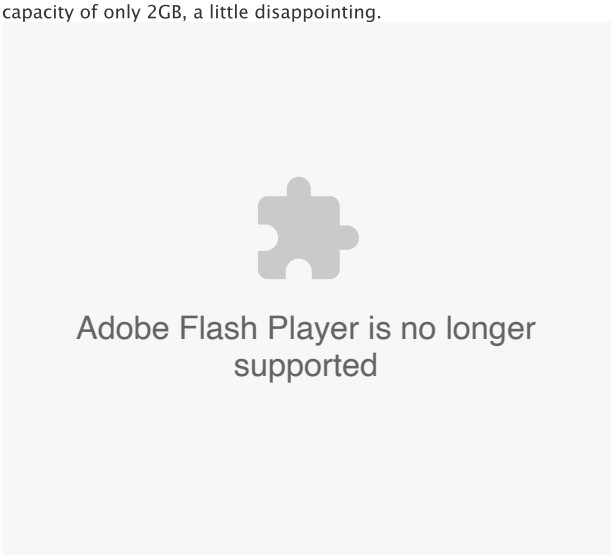
More from 3GSM 2007

Posted by modculture on February 13, 2007 in 3GSM 2007 | Mobile phones | PDAs
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3GSM 2007: Samsung F300 music phone

Still hovering around the Samsung stand at 3GSM like a hobo 'round The Ivy's garbage cans, Ashley has his mitts firmly clamped on the F300 music phone from Samsung. This hybrid of a mobile phone, and music player on the flip-side is 'quite strokable' according to him, although with the storage

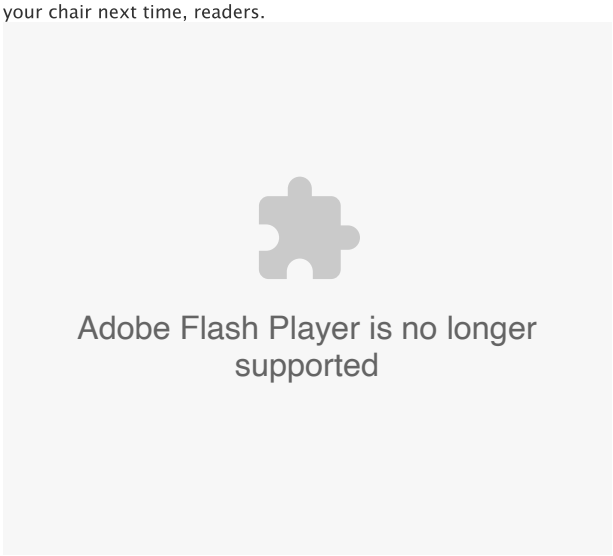
capacity of only 2GB, a little disappointing.



Posted by KatherineHannaford on February 13, 2007 in 3GSM 2007 | Mobile phones
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Shiny at 3GSM: Samsung's F700 Smartphone

Remember that Samsung F700 smartphone we mentioned last week, with the slide-out qwerty keyboard and 5-megapixel camera? Well, Ashley is a lucky little sod, as he's got within inches of one over in Barcelona for 3GSM. That's right, *he got within breathing space of the F700*. Try not to fall off your chair next time, readers.



Posted by KatherineHannaford on February 13, 2007 in 3GSM 2007 | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

3GSM 2007: Vodafone first to launch BlackBerry 8800

We previewed the new BlackBerry 8800 yesterday, unsure at the time which networks were going to offer new device. Well, now we know at least one - **Vodafone**.

The **BlackBerry 8800** features a full QWERTY keyboard, built-in GPS and BlackBerry Maps, a multi-media player and an expandable memory slot. The high resolution screen uses automatic light sensing technology for easier viewing, while the handset's trackball should speed up navigation. It can also access up to 10 supported personal and corporate email accounts (with support for attachment viewing) and work with most Instant Messaging services.

"The BlackBerry 8800, with its slim design and full QWERTY keyboard will be an absolute must for many of our corporate users," said Kyle Whitehill, director of Vodafone UK's Enterprise Business Unit. "We're pleased to expand the choice of BlackBerry handsets for our customers with the powerful and stylish BlackBerry 8800."

For details of pricing and contracts, visit the Vodafone website.

Vodafone Business

Posted by modculture on February 13, 2007 in 3GSM 2007 | Mobile phones | PDAs
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Revealed: the ringtones that ruin romance



We've already seen that the British are worried by their own ringtones, and now, two days before Valentine's Day, research from the ringtone retailer MAX BOX reveals which mobile ringtones are the most unappealing to the opposite sex.

Women said that they were most turned off by men who had arrogant songs referring to sexual prowess or good looks, closely followed by songs associated with football.

The worst song was "Mr Lover Man" from Shabba Ranks, followed by Color Me Badd's "I Wanna Sex You Up", and Right Said Fred's "I'm Too Sexy". In fourth place was the theme to "The Great Escape" (surely not), with "Match of the Day" in fifth place.

By contrast, men said that overly romantic or sentimental tunes would put them off a girl. Celine Dionne's "My Heart Will Go On" was top of the list, followed by Robbie Williams' "Angels" and Leona Lewis's recent number one hit "A Moment Like This" in third.

Here's the full list:

Women's turn offs:

1) Mr Lover Man
2) I Wanna Sex You Up
3) I'm Too Sexy
4) The Great Escape
5) Match Of The Day
6) The A Team
7) Banana Splits theme
8) Benny Hill theme
9) Crazy Frog
10) Mr Boombastic

Men's turn offs:

1) My Heart Will Go On
2) Angels
3) A Moment Like This
4) Eastenders theme
5) Everything I Do
6) You're Beautiful
7) Crazy Frog
8) Barbie Girl
9) I Will Always Love You
10) Uptown Girl

Posted by Andy Merrett on February 12, 2007 in Mobile phones
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3GSM: Viruses hit mobile operators hard



A joint survey from security software firm McAfee and the research company Informa has found that mobile operators are being struck hard by viruses.

A poll of over 200 operators worldwide shows that they are experiencing the effect of viruses in reduced customer satisfaction, network performance, and impact upon their brand and revenue.

Though mobile viruses are relatively few and don't affect mobile phones with the same severity than many of those found on PCs, they are still a threat that needs to be taken seriously.

Most antivirus companies now have software for mobile phones.

"This research clearly demonstrates that mobile security is moving quickly up the industry agenda with the number of malware incidents rising and more time and money being dedicated to resolving mobile security issues," said Victor Kouznetsov, Senior Vice President of McAfee Mobile Security.

There are believed to be around 350 mobile viruses, worms or other malware since the first one appeared in 2004.

More news from 3GSM 2007

Posted by Andy Merrett on February 12, 2007 in 3GSM 2007 | Mobile phones
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3GSM: Motorola's ergonomic RIZR Z8

Shiny Susi checks out the Motorola RIZR (pronounced 'riser') Z8 at 3GSM. HSDPA technology is what everyone is talking about at this year's show and the RIZR comes equipped. It also has an ergonomically designed sliding system that looks flat and then kind of fits round your face... It's hard to explain, so watch the video to see it in action:

Adobe Flash Player is no longer supported

Posted by Al W on February 12, 2007 in 3GSM 2007 | Mobile phones
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3GSM 2007: HP announce new iPAQ smartphone



HP have shown off their new iPAQ 500 series Voice Messenger smartphone at 3GSM.

The phone features VoIP, "push" email, voice-to-text recognition, and the Windows Mobile 6.0 operating system. It also has a 1.3 megapixel camera, wi-fi, Bluetooth, USB, and microSD slot. Disappointingly, it doesn't appear to be 3G.

Many of its functions can be controlled by voice commands, and presumably this is a reasoning for losing the QWERTY keyboard. Some will love being able to work via voice, others will probably hate it.

This definitely seems to be aimed at the business user, and doesn't sound as if it has many 'fun' features. It's not the most excitingly-styled phone either, but if it does its intended job well, that's fine.

It's due in the Spring in the US for arund $300-$400, but no news on international availability yet.

More news from 3GSM 2007

Posted by Andy Merrett on February 12, 2007 in 3GSM 2007 | Mobile phones
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3GSM 2007: dotMobi builds mobile content directory

.mobi™ Internet Made Mobile

dotMobi, the company who oversees the .mobi top-level domain suffix designed specifically for mobile phones, is embarking upon the launch of a range of directories that will be publicly available from the second half of 2007.

The dotMobi database is a catalogue of all mobile content available on the Internet today and is quality-rated by location, category, relevance and suitability to download content easily on a mobile phone.

The directory won't just contain .mobi sites, though these are designed and optimised specifically for mobile handsets, but also country specific, .com, WAP, and other mobile-friendly content. It claims it will be the most accurate and in-depth mobile content database in the world.

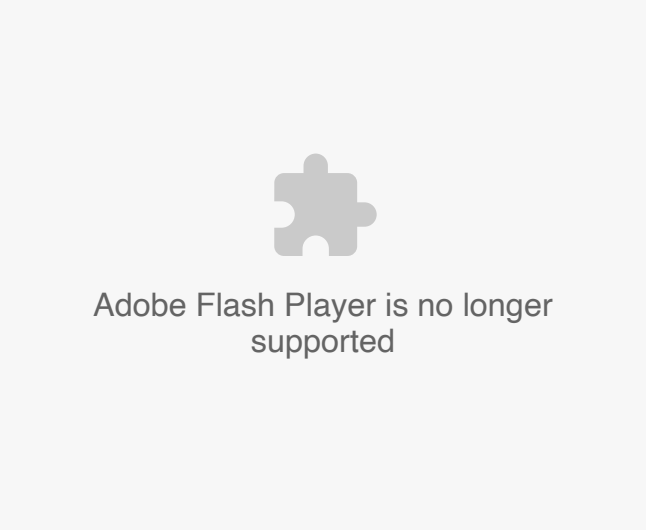
The directory will be made available to mobile operators and search companies to provide branded services to their customers based upon it. dotMobi will also be offering a research service for information professionals and researchers to monitor mobile Internet trends.

"We have already started delivering on access to the database at the 3GSM World Congress in Barcelona with our dotMobi Research Note on GSM Association members, which shows one of the first-ever reports on how 'mobile-ready' the operator community may or may not be. Data-services related to mobile content is naturally the next step for dotMobi after launching the mobile content standards and developer tools," said Neil Edwards, CEO of dotMobi.

Posted by Andy Merrett on February 12, 2007 in 3GSM 2007 | Internet | Mobile phones
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3GSM: Sony Ericsson stand fails to excite

Shiny Susi laments the lack of any new Sony Ericsson goodies at 3GSM. That's because it got a little over excited last week and revealed all its news in London before the Barcelona gig even kicked off!



Check out last week's Sony Ericsson launch coverage here:
Sony Ericsson's W880 and K810: too much evolution, not enough revolution?
Video Sneak Preview: Sony Ericsson K810 Cyber-shot camera phone
Video Sneak Preview: Sony Ericsson W880 Walkman mobile
Sony Ericsson's new Walkman handsets - hands on impressions
Sony Ericsson launches PC300 laptop card with HSDPA connectivity

Posted by Al W on February 12, 2007 in 3GSM 2007 | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

3GSM 2007: Nokia to cooperate with YouTube over mobile video

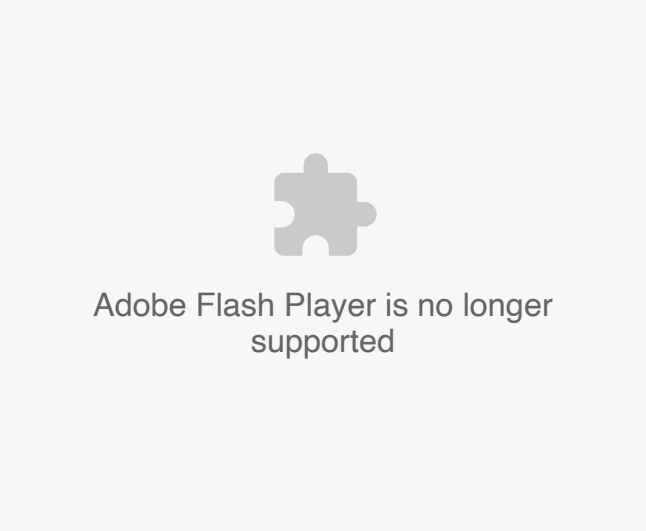
Nokia has announced that it will cooperate with Google's YouTube and allow its mobile phone users to access YouTube on their handsets. A new version of the YouTube website, called YouTube Mobile, will be accessible from a user's mobile web browser.

Good news, though mobile network operators also need to allow access to such services.

Posted by Andy Merrett on February 12, 2007 in 3GSM 2007 | Mobile phones
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3GSM: a first look at the LG Prada phone

We know the specs, we know the hype, but what's it like seeing the Prada phone in the flesh? I took a very brief look at it, which it is now my pleasure to share with you. Overall impressions are that this is not the phone I thought it was – it's better. Designer partnerships have a habit of being a bit gimmicky in the mobile phone world, but Prada seem to have really been involved from the beginning, rather than sticking their logo on at the end. And there really is no sign of a keypad – it's touchscreen in the truest sense of the word. Yes, it's true, I'm a little bit in love.



Posted by ScarlettSusi on February 12, 2007 in 3GSM 2007 | Mobile phones | Show news | Top stories | Video
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

3GSM 2007: Nokia N77 mobile TV phone



Nokia unveiled their N77 multimedia TV mobile phone at 3GSM. It features DVB-H technology, a dedicated TV key, and a powerful internal antenna to allow a digital TV signal to be received whilst on the move.

Nokia say it offers much of the functionality of the N92 (which we reviewed here) but in a more compact body.

The N77 offers a 2.4inch wide screen capable of displaying 16 million colours, built-in interactive TV functionality, the ability to pause live TV for up to 30 seconds, 2GB of memory, integrated stereo speakers, and a 2 megapixel camera.

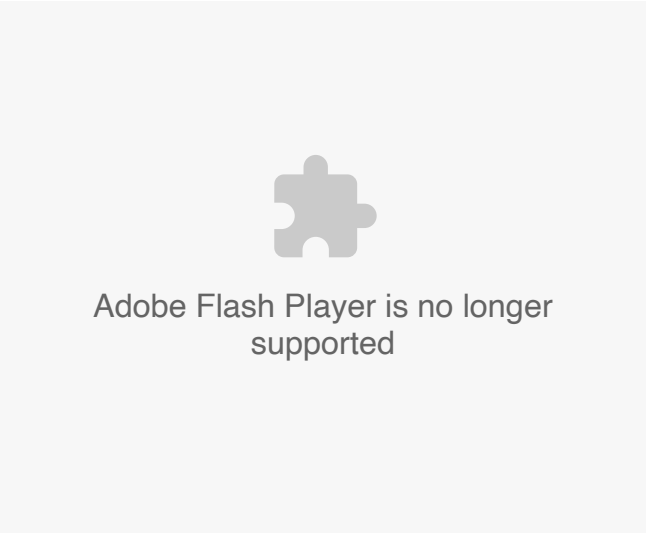
It's 3G, and runs Symbian OS with S60 3rd Edition software. It will retail for around €370 (unsubsidised) and be released in the summer. It won't be much use in the UK at present, though, as we don't use the DVB-H digital TV standard.

More news from 3GSM 2007

Posted by Andy Merrett on February 12, 2007 in 3GSM 2007 | Mobile phones
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3GSM: Motorola SLVR L9

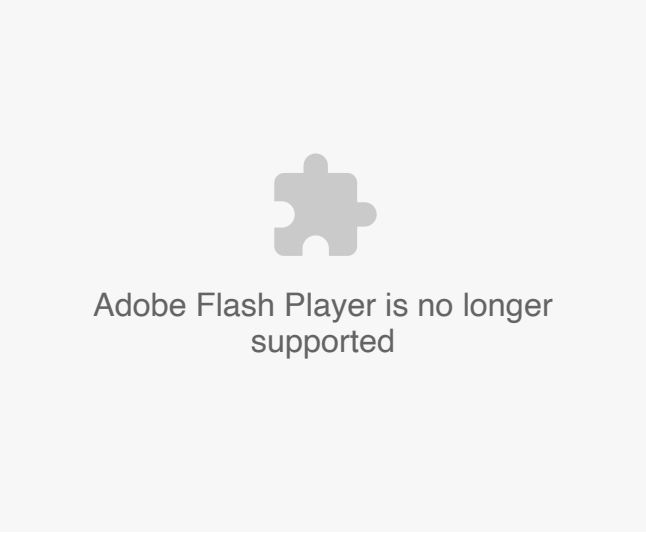
The Motorola SLVR has had a bit of makeover and now looks a lot a shinier and sports a 2.0 megapixel camera. There's a card slot to support up to 2GB of removable memory and an intriguing thing called a MegaSIM... Shiny Susi talks us through it:



Posted by Al W on February 12, 2007 in 3GSM 2007 | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

3GSM: Sneak peek at the LG Prada

The hotly anticipated iPhone lookalike, the LG Prada, has put in an appearance at 3GSM. It's stylish, it's touchscreen, it's sexy and it's secured safely away behind a glass panel. Damn. Shiny Susi takes a look:



Posted by Al W on February 12, 2007 in 3GSM 2007 | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

3GSM 2007: Microsoft claim signups to Windows Mobile 6

Microsoft, who officially launch Windows Mobile 6.0 at 3GSM this week, have claimed that several mobile phone manufacturers have signed up to use the new incarnation of their mobile operating system.

LG Electronics, Toshiba and HP will make smartphones that use the new OS, though neither have made Windows Mobile devices before.

Microsoft say that the first devices using version 6 of their OS will be available from the second half of 2007.

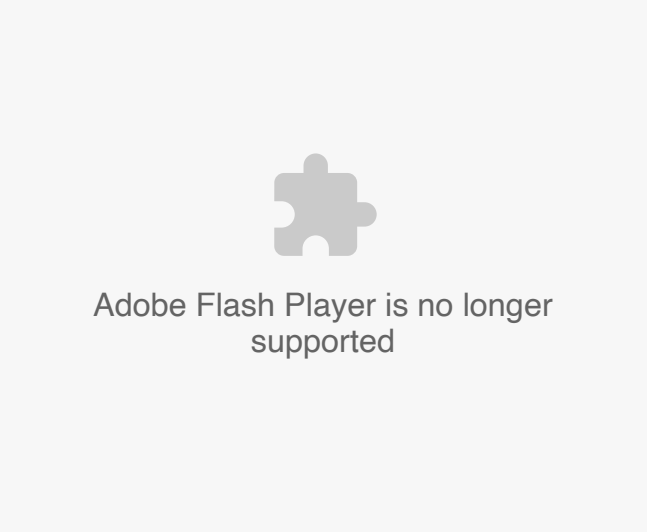
It's thought that Toshiba and HP may be able to leverage their position in the PC marketplace to sell their Microsoft-enabled phones to their existing computer users.

More news from 3GSM 2007

Posted by Andy Merrett on February 12, 2007 in 3GSM 2007 | Mobile phones
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3GSM: Motorola KRZR K3

Shiny Susi takes a look at the KRZR K3 from Motorola, which features HSDPA for instant media downloads. It's a clamshell in the style of the previous KRZR, but packs in more techy stuff, for no more millimetres. .



Posted by ScarlettSusi on February 12, 2007 in 3GSM 2007 | Mobile phones | Top stories
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3GSM 2007: Mobile phone and software manufacturers urge a cheaper mobile Web

Mobile phone operating system maker Symbian, whose software is found on about 70% of the world's smartphones, together will leading mobile phone makers, have appealed for mobile operators to make their wireless Internet services cheaper to appeal to more customers.

"With data, the unclarity of how much it costs is the biggest problem at the moment. And of course prices are high as well. That really needs to be solved," said Kai Oistamo, head of Nokia's mobile phone division.

Sales of smartphones in Europe rose 16% in the third quarter of 2006. Nigel Clifford, CEO of Symbian, believes that making tariffs easier to understand, and cheaper, is the way to stimulate growth in the market for both handsets and their use.

Sony Ericsson's Miles Flint said that even flat rate data tariff packages had complicated restrictions, making it hard for the consumer to know how much they were going to pay, and thus stifling use of the services.

"If we want to go to the next phase of mobile communications four factors need to be in place: great devices, 3G networks, the pull of service and brands, and tariffing that is predictable and affordable," said Clifford.

According to the Washington Post, mobile Internet revenue only accounts for around 5-6% at present, a situation that will have to change if it's to make up for falling revenue from voice services.

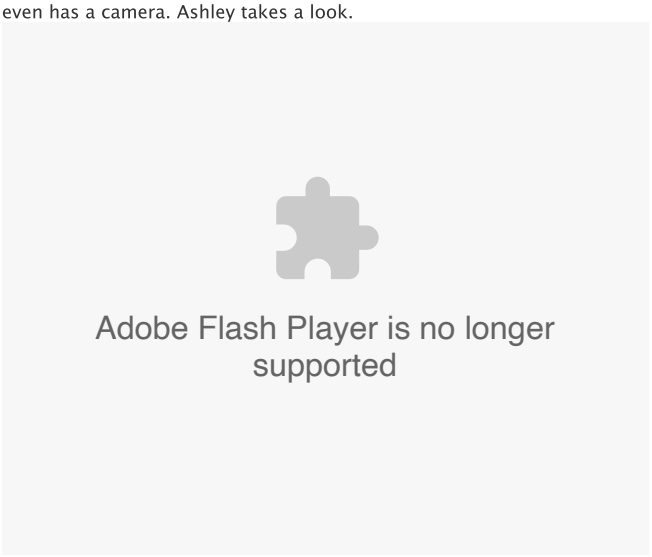
More news from 3GSM 2007

Posted by Andy Merrett on February 12, 2007 in 3GSM 2007 | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

3GSM 2007: Nokia's E61i smartphone

The Nokia E61 got a bit of a makeover, and has now made an appearance in its new guise, as the E61i. It's a bit sleeker, a bit shinier, and a bit better. It

even has a camera. Ashley takes a look.



Posted by ScarlettSusi on February 12, 2007 in 3GSM 2007 | Mobile phones | Top stories
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3GSM 2007: Motorola Q9

Another launch from Motorola, who have without a doubt been the most active of the big boys here at 3GSM. This one is the Q9, which offers a whole host of serious business functions, all packed into a none-to-ugly design.



Posted by ScarlettSusi on February 12, 2007 in 3GSM 2007 | Mobile phones | Top stories
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3GSM 2007: Motorola unveils MOTOSLVR L9 multimedia handset



The only new handset launched by **Motorola** at 3GSM 2007 without HSDPA connectivity is the **MOTOSLVR L9** - but it's still got plenty of useful features on-board to make it worthy of a look.

The MOTOSLVR L9 is a GPRS/EDGE handset with an integrated music player, FM radio and a stylish design with mirror-reflective finish. The FM radio supports RDS for station information on the go, while Bluetooth lets you play your music player tunes wirelessly. Also featured is a 2 megapixel camera with 8x digital zoom, video recording with 4x zoom and full-screen landscape playback.

The L9 also uses Motorola's new CrystalTalk technology, making it easy to hold conversations in noisy environments. There's 20MB internal memory, with a microSD slot to boost further.

The MOTOSLVR L9 is expected to be available in Q2 2007. No news on pricing as yet.

Motorola website

More from 3GSM 2007

Posted by modculture on February 12, 2007 in 3GSM 2007 | Mobile phones
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3GSM 2007: Nokia launches three new Eseries models - E90 Communicator, Nokia E65, and Nokia E61i



Nokia has launched its second wave of Eseries business devices with three new handsets on show - the **E90 Communicator, Nokia E65, and Nokia E61i**.

All devices are quad-band GSM and 3G friendly as well as having Wi-Fi connectivity, with the E90 Communicator also HSDPA-enabled. All devices also use Nokia's newly-launched Intellisync Mobile Suite 8.0 platform. The Nokia claims the **E90 Communicator** offers an "uncompromised mobile office experience". Based on the S60 platform, it also features an integrated GPS and Nokia Maps application, an FM radio, a music player, a video player and two cameras - a 3.2 megapixel auto focus camera with flash and a second camera for video conferencing.

The Nokia E65 is a slim slider, but with all the mobile business capabilities of a Nokia Eseries device. Most-used applications can be accessed via One Touch keys on the front cover, including the ability to make conference calls, access your contacts database, mute and un-mute calls, and access an application of choice through the 'My Own' key. The E65 also supports the most used corporate and consumer email systems.

The Nokia E61i is designed specifically for extensive mobile email usage, offering advanced attachment handling with on-the-device document editing. There's a new full keyboard design, and along with Navi and One Touch keys, should make catching up with your inbox much faster. It supports corporate mobile email solutions such as Nokia Intellisync Wireless Email, Good Mobile Messaging, Mail for Exchange, Seven Mobile Mail, and BlackBerry Connect and most popular consumer email solutions. There's also a 2 megapixel camera, a music player and a video player.

The Nokia E65 is already available in selected markets, with wider availability building during the first quarter of 2007. The Nokia E61i will be available during the second quarter of 2007 and the Nokia E90 Communicator is provisionally slated for the second quarter of 2007.

Nokia website

More from 3GSM 2007

Posted by modculture on February 12, 2007 in 3GSM 2007 | Mobile phones | PDAs
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3GSM 2007: Nokia 3110 classic - back to basics handset

Another new handset from Nokia, this time the **Nokia 3110 classic**, an everyday handset covering all the basics.

According to Nokia, the tri-band phone with 2.2-inch colour display is built for reliability, including details such as a thicker plastic casing and a larger antenna. That doesn't mean it is completely without features, it's just not particularly cutting-edge. What you do get is a 1.3 megapixel camera, music player, FM stereo radio, USB and Bluetooth connectivity.

If reliability is your main concern when buying a mobile phone, you can pick up the 3110 classic in the second quarter of 2007, priced in the budget bracket.



Nokia website

More from 3GSM 2007

Posted by modculture on February 12, 2007 in 3GSM 2007 | Mobile phones
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3GSM 2007: RIM launches BlackBerry 8800 with BlackBerry Maps



Research in Motion has launched the **BlackBerry 8800** – the first of the company's full QWERTY keyboard devices to feature a trackball design based on the Pearl handset.

The 8800 is a quad-band GSM/GPRS/EDGE device with Bluetooth 2.0 and a 320 x 240 display with "vibrant colour" – good enough to view detailed directions on the bundled BlackBerry Maps application, a handy tool that ties in with other applications – find someone in your address book and Maps will show you how to get to them.

Other features include a music player (AAC/MP3) and video player, with files stored on microSD card (just 64MB of on-board memory). There's also a speakerphone with built-in noise-cancellation technology, voice-activated dialling and a talk time of up to five hours.

Expect it on the shelves this month, pricing and networks to be confirmed.

RIM website

Via The Register

More from 3GSM 2007

Posted by modculture on February 12, 2007 in 3GSM 2007 | Mobile phones | PDAs
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3GSM 2007: Motorola adds to Q range with q9 and gsm smartphones

Motorola has added two new models to its **Q range of smartphones** – the **q9 and gsm handsets**, for HSDPA and GSM networks respectively.

The Q q9 operates on the new Microsoft Windows Mobile 6 platform, along with Motorola's Good Mobile Messaging technology, promising "easy and intuitive" personal and corporate email, calendar access and content management wherever you are. It's slim at just 11.8mm thick and features a 2 megapixel camera with digital zoom, video capture and playback at 30fps, music player, USB and Bluetooth connectivity, up to 2GB of storage via microSD card and of course, HSDPA connectivity for fast data transfers, streaming media and web browsing.

The MOTO Q gsm is a quad-band GPRS/EDGE device, again using Microsoft Windows Mobile 6 and featuring a soft-touch metal casing, electro-luminescent keys, full colour screen, ergonomically optimised QWERTY keyboard and a side thumb wheel. There's also a 1.3 megapixel camera, video clip capture and playback, music player, Bluetooth and USB connectivity, dual stereo speakers and mini-SD removable memory card slot.



Both MOTO Q q9 and MOTO Q gsm are also fully customisable, with over 300 applications available. The MOTO Q q9 will be available in Q2 2007, with the MOTO Q gsm available in the second half of 2007.

Find out more

More from 3GSM 2007

Posted by modculture on February 12, 2007 in 3GSM 2007 | Mobile phones | PDAs
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3GSM 2007: Motorola's MOTORIZR Z8 - "fit-to-face" entertainment slider phone



Motorola has launched the **MOTORIZR Z8**, described as a "fit-to-face" slider and optimised for the entertainment market.

The handset is Motorola's first "kick slider", a new design concept that matches the phone to the contours of your face. On the technical side, there's HSDPA connectivity and 16 million colour 35x50mm QVGA full screen display, with video playback speeds of up to 30 frames per second.

And it's Sky-friendly. Motorola's partnership with Sky will allow users to access Sky's mobile content services - on-demand clips plus to Sky's range of live mobile TV services via Sky's 'Anytime' application. In addition to its 90MB of internal memory, the device also supports expandable memory up to 4GB using MicroSD. There's also stereo Bluetooth, a built-in music player, a 2MP digital camera with dedicated side camera key and MPEG-4 video recording.

The MOTORIZR Z8 will be available from April 2007.

Find out more

More from 3GSM 2007

Posted by modculture on February 12, 2007 in 3GSM 2007 | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

3GSM 2007: Motorola launches MOTOKRZR K3 - slim HSDPA clamshell handset



The 3GSM is underway in Barcelona and **Motorola** has wasted no time in lauching a new range of handsets - the first of which is the **MOTOKRZR K3** - a stylish clamshell with HSDPA connectivity.

HSDPA means faster downloads, so faster browsing and potential for over-the-air downloads. The MOTOKRZR K3 also includes two integrated digital cameras - an internal VGA camera for video calls and a 2MP digital camera with 8x digital zoom for snaps. Also comes with USB 2.0 connectivity, 64MB of onboard memory, a microSD slot and stereo Bluetooth wireless technology.

According to Ron Garriques, president of Motorola Mobile Devices: "Whether you're looking for brilliant multimedia recording and sharing, premium sound with a state-of-the art interface or fast over-the-air downloads, MOTOKRZR K3 unites must-have design and must-do experiences."

The MOTOKRZR K3 is expected to be available in the coming weeks. Pricing to be confirmed.

Find out more

More from 3GSM 2007

Posted by modculture on February 12, 2007 in 3GSM 2007 | Mobile phones
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3GSM 2007: We're off

Hi, this is Ashley. We just landed in Barcelona, I'm here for 3GSM. It's the world biggest, best & sometimes quite controversial Mob. phone exhibition. There are many, many big names here from Sony Ericsson & Nokia to content companies & many other people who are looking at taking Web 2.0 application & importing them onto Mob. phones.

Throughout the duration of the show, we are using SpinVox's very clever technology Spin-my-Blog. It enables users to post direct to their Blog just by speaking to a Mob. phone. So anyway, we're off to the hotel now it's Sun night & looking forward to the show starting tomorrow. I'll be spending a lot my time with Samsung who paying for the trip. So expect some videos & some hands on with new phones.

You can check out live coverage from the show (and see how Spin My Blog fares) at our Vox 3GSM blog here.

Posted by ScarlettSusi on February 12, 2007 in 3GSM 2007 | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

3GSM 2007: Will MusicStation be a mobile iTunes beater?

That's certainly how Omnifone, the company behind the new mobile music service, has been spinning it in a series of pre-briefings to journalists this week.

MusicStation is a music subscription service for mobile phones, where you pay £1.99 a week for unlimited downloads of songs to your handset over the air via 3G or 2.5G, although there is a £2.99 a week option which also includes downloads to your PC or Mac.

Omnifone announced the service today, but it'll be offered by mobile operators, with 23 having signed up already, including at least one in the UK, thought to be Orange or Vodafone.

There's a certain amount of hype around the announcement - Omnifone says it's the first time 2.5G subscribers have been able to download full songs over the air, despite O2 having done this in the UK several years ago.



However, Omnifone was bullish when it talked me through the new service, pitching it as a direct rival to Apple's iPhone'n'iTunes combination.

"Apple's iPhone announcement has shaken up the mobile industry," says co-founder Rob Lewis. "It's created a lot of concern among the operators and handset manufacturers in Europe. Apple is looking to take a significant amount of market share from the manufacturers, while the operators see it as taking them out of the loop in terms of full music track sales."

Hence MusicStation, which Lewis says will offer an iTunes-like experience on 75% of phones available right now, rather than just one. It's an application that'll come preloaded on phones sold by participating operators, although on certain phones you'll also be able to download it to your handset.

But hang on a minute. Most operators are already selling full music tracks on their portals. Lewis says that MusicStation is designed to be complementary to this, rather than compete. However, he's not exactly brimming with praise for what the operators are doing already.

"Most mobile operators are aware that their WAP service doesn't look like a Rolls Royce product compared to the iPhone," he says. "Our service is complementary to that."

MusicStation WILL include digital rights management (DRM) technology within the application, to keep the record labels happy and ensure users can't pass on songs willy-nilly. Sorry Steve Jobs, this pesky DRM malarkey won't go away just yet.

But perhaps the most exciting element of MusicStation is the community aspects, which include charts of the tunes that are being played the most by users, the ability to create playlists which other MusicStation users can view, and send messages back and forth recommending tracks, albums and playlists.

There are also other connected features. "We're constantly holding on the server details of your favourite music, playlists, friends and your personalised tastes," says Lewis. "If you break your phone, or have it stolen, you can go into your Vodafone shop, get your new MusicStation handset, and when you connect to the network, all your favourite tracks and playlist data will be back."

MusicStation will also include a personalised news service, where you can receive messages from artists that you've opted into (say U2, or Kylie Minogue) giving info on gig dates, ticket sales and new releases. On paper, MusicStation sounds ace - the application itself will hopefully be on show at 3GSM this week so we can get an idea of whether it lives up to it in practice.

But one thing is niggling me. Is iPhone really such a big threat to the mobile manufacturers and operators? After all, it's expensive enough that it'll be a niche, even if Apple does sell 10 million of the devices. So why should the mobile operators rush to adopt MusicStation over their own services?

"Apple is looking to take as much market share from the manufacturers as possible without doing anything to support the existing supply chain," says Lewis. "The mobile industry, be it manufacturers or the operators, is desperately keen to make sure consumers have an alternative choice that's differentiated."

It sounds great. Let's hope it's not too long before us Brits get to try MusicStation out, to see if it really is an iTunes-beater.

Omnifone website

Posted by Stuart Dredge on February 12, 2007 in 3GSM 2007 | MP3 players | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (2) | TrackBack (0)

Nokia offers free mapping software for mobile devices

Nokia has annouced that its smart2go mapping and navigation platform will be made available free-of-charge for anyone with a compatible mobile handset to make use of.

Initially, the software will work on Nokia phones, and smartphones running the Windows Mobile OS, with Nokia planning to roll out the software to most other major mobile operating systems in time.

It will be pre-installed on all future N-Series multimedia computers under the name "Nokia Maps".



Featuring 15 million points of interest, with mapping and routing of over 150 countries and turn-by-turn satellite navigation in over 30 countries, the system will also allow users to send favourite location information by MMS, Bluetooth, infrared, or e-mail. Maps and routes can also be saved, and map screen shots added to their gallery.

Brand name companies will also be able to place their icons on these digital maps.

Nokia must have seen the potential, and threat, of services like Google Maps being used on mobile devices, and obviously wants a piece of the action. Yes, it's a useful application, and by installing it as standard on future handsets, and making it free to everyone else, they'll likely get many people using it, and be able to generate more revenue. Smart move.

Posted by Andy Merrett on February 9, 2007 in Mobile phones | Satellite Navigation systems
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

HSDPA will dominate mobile broadband, WiMax to go niche



Broadband on mobile phones will continue to grow in popularity as coverage and speed improve. A new study by Arthur D Little suggests that HSDPA will become the dominant method of delivering high-speed Net access to mobile devices, receiving the most investment over the next 5 years. WiMax, on the other hand, will be a niche player.

HSDPA is seen as a natural progression from GSM and UMTS for those operators already running 3G networks. It is a less risky and better understood method of achieving mobile broadband speeds close to that of first-generation fixed broadband services.

Michael Natusch, head of Arthur D. Little's UK TIME (Telecoms, IT, Media and Electronics) practice, said: "The momentum in HSDPA deployments has been stimulated by competition from other broadband wireless technologies and by the prospect of competition from mobile WiMax. However, there is as yet no convincing real-world evidence of the actual relative performances of these technologies in large scale deployments. Nevertheless, it is likely that these two technologies will achieve comparable levels of performance in typical real-world situations, contrary to the notion that mobile WiMax should be regarded as a "Killer" technology."

The survey shows that WiMax could achieve a greater theoretical peak in data transfer rates than current HSDPA technology can - maybe 4 to 5 times as much. However, WiMax coverage from a single base station is lower than that of HSDPA.

The study claims to assess all the factors, strategic, competitive, commercial, regulatory and political as well as technological that influence operators' choices of wireless network technology. Whilst other articles have concluded that WiMax will wipe the floor with HSDPA, this study suggests that HSDPA is more likely to gain widespread adoption.

(Via Cellular News)

Posted by Andy Merrett on February 9, 2007 in Broadband | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

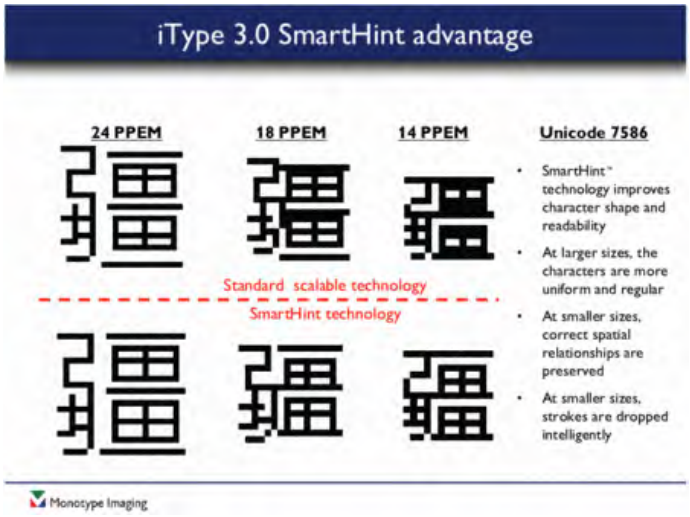
iType rich text system to be available on Symbian OS

iType is a system from Monotype Imaging that generates scalable, multilingual, and, most importantly, legible text on consumer devices. It's already installed on handsets made by three of the world's largest handset manufacturers, and now it is to be made available in the widely-used and popular Symbian OS, meaning it could find its way onto more.

iType works well on devices where display space is at a premium, such as mobile phone screens. iType font engine version 3.0 supports a patent-pending SmartHint technology that allows for high-quality display of East Asian characters scalled to small sizes. The technology combines new methods involving character fine-tuning and compression/decompression techniques, without the necessity to incorporate embedded bitmaps to handle the clear display of small-sized text.

An advantage of this system to that it's now possible to use fonts that have been specifically designed, giving the possibility of personalising text in the same way that ringtones and wallpapers are.

Below is a picture that demonstrates the 'before' and 'after' effect of using iType over a standard display.



Monotype Imaging

Posted by Andy Merrett on February 9, 2007 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Super Collapse 3 is the best casual game in the world



That's not me saying that, either. It's the prestigious Zeebys Awards, which took place yesterday in Amsterdam to garland the best web games of 2006. RealArcade's Super Collapse 3 took the prize for Casual Game Of The Year.

The game involves matching same-coloured squares on a grid, and has 140 puzzle levels plus a Quest mode to get your teeth into. Go on, it's Friday and your boss didn't come in today. Give it a try.

Super Collapse 3

Posted by Stuart Dredge on February 9, 2007 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Orb Networks launches its own mobile YouTube features



It's not just Vodafone looking to offer YouTube to mobile users. Orb Networks has unveiled a new feature in its placeshifting MyCasting service. The feature lets users share internet videos form their PC with friends' mobiles, sending links as text messages.

The new feature is only available in beta form to Orb's US users at the moment, but given Orb's partnership with UK mobile operator 3 for its X-Series handsets, hopefully it'll come here soon.

MyCasting users can send YouTube vids to their phones, but also clips from Google Video, DailyMotion and Yahoo's video service. "We're breaking out internet video sharing from the PC only and onto the mobile phone," says Orb boss Joe Costello.

"Think about how you typically find out about an Internet video – your friend pings you on IM or sends you an email with a link so you can watch it. Orb takes that spontaneous moment of sharing to another level – you send a text message with a link to the video from your PC to your friend's mobile phone. They click and watch anytime, anyplace."

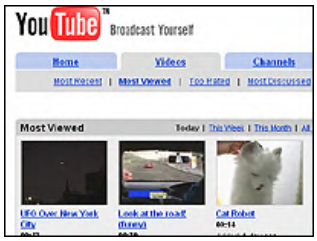
Interestingly, Orb is pitching the new feature as "another way for consumers to bust a bigger hole through the walled garden" of mobile operators, despite the fact that it's working with 3 over here to do just that. Vodafone's

deal with YouTube, announced earlier today, offers a similar promise of being able to share your favourite videos with friends, albeit only if they're also on Vodafone.

Orb MyCasting

Posted by Stuart Dredge on February 9, 2007 in Mobile phones | Web 2.0
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Vodafone to launch YouTube Mobile



Vodafone has been busy boosting its **Vodafone Live!** service this week, with announcements for MySpace Mobile and eBay Mobile. And now they've announced another biggie – **YouTube**.

How much of a service being offered isn't clear. The company statement promises "a version of the popular YouTube service directly from Vodafone live!", which doesn't sound like a full service. This seems to be confirmed by "a daily selection of new videos" as one of the big selling points. However, Vodafone goes on to say it is offering uses the chance to upload their own content from their mobile phones and "search across multiple categories". So is it or isn't it?

The service will launch initially in the UK, so we'll find out the full details nearer to the (as yet unconfirmed) launch date.

Vodafone website

Posted by modculture on February 9, 2007 in Mobile phones | Top stories
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Turn your fingers into a mobile phone



Another winning entry to this year's iF Concept Product Awards (albeit in a different category to the baby car seat featured earlier today) is 'Finger Touching', which is a wearable mobile device that turns your hand into a phone. No, really.

Designed by Sunman Kwon at Hong-ik University in South Korea, it slips onto your hand, and then projects a 3x4 mobile-style keypad onto your fingers, with each joint making up a button. You can see how it works from the picture.

Who knows if it'll be turned into an actual product. But imagine the looks you'd get if you whipped one out on the train and began texting by rapping your knuckles. Marvellous.

iF Design Awards – Consumer Electronics / Telecommunications category

Posted by Stuart Dredge on February 8, 2007 in Gadgets | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Shiny product launch sneak preview – Samsung's Lily phone

Shiny Katie is a wonderful human being, who is far too witty and entertaining for her own good. She does however have one tiny flaw – she has a real thing about 'girl phones.' And by girl phones I mean the kind of low-end stuff makers bash out in a bid to nab women (and some men) who don't understand that a mobi is measured not by its cuteness, but by how loud its speakers go when playing back MP3 tunes.*

Exhibit A is Katie going all weak at the knees when handling **Samsung's** latest **Lily** phone. Sure it looks delightful, but it only has a VGA camera for goodness sake, and where's the integrated GPS? And what about its HSDPA modem facility? Aah well. Each to their own, I spose.

Adobe Flash Player is no longer supported

* Preferably when sitting on the back of a bus

Posted by Ashleyn on February 8, 2007 in Mobile phones | Top stories | Video
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Microsoft launch new version of Windows Mobile

Microsoft have unveiled version 6 of their Windows Mobile operating system, and surprise surprise it looks a bit like Vista. It won't be available until the second quarter of 2007, and new smartphones and PDAs will have the OS installed from the second half of 2007.

It will feature the ability to view e-mails in their original HTML format with live Web links, and include Windows Live Messenger allowing instant messaging with more than one person at a time, and recording and sending of voice notes.

Users will be able to view, navigate and edit Office documents without affecting their tables, images or text. WM6 will also feature new security.

Not much more information at present, but Microsoft plan to unveil the OS properly at next week's 3GSM exhibition.

Windows Mobile

Posted by Andy Merrett on February 8, 2007 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Samsung F700, their latest Ultra mobile phone



Samsung have announced a new addition to their Ultra range of mobile phones, with the Ultra Smart F700. The phone, which they're calling 'revolutionary' (doesn't every manufacturer?), will be showcased at next week's 3GSM World Congress, so we're sure to hear more about it, and get our mitts on it then.

The phone features a full touch screen user interface on its 2.78 inch colour display (440x240 pixel resolution), has a slide-out full QWERTY keypad, and VibeTonz technology that provides tactile feedback to the user.

They've utilised a 'drag and drop' interface allowing easier menu navigation, music play list control, and other functions. Is this sounding like the iPhone to you? Touch screens certainly seem to be the 'in thing' right now; I wonder how many more manufacturers will beat Apple to it...

Anyway, back to the Samsung. The Ultra Smart F700 features HSDPA giving a maximum data transfer speed of 7.2Mbps. This means a 4MB song could be downloaded in around 4 seconds.

The phone has a full HTML web browser, a whopping 5-megapixel camera with auto focus, Bluetooth, WAP, Java, and USB. It features microSD expansion, and measures up at 104 x 50 x 16.4mm.

No exact word on availability yet, and price will depend on who you get it with. Looks very nice though - anyone want one?

Posted by Andy Merrett on February 8, 2007 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Vodafone launches new and exclusive eBay mobile application

More mobile exclusivity from **Vodafone**. Following on from yesterday's launch of MySpace Mobile, the company has announced a deal with eBay, offering a **new eBay mobile application** that's exclusive to the company through most of Europe.

Vodafone's eBay Mobile service will allow users to search and browse for items in real time, bid on items or purchase fixed-price items. The application will be embedded onto "key consumer handsets" in future or will be available for download for compatible handsets from Vodafone Live!.

According to Frank H. Rövekamp, Global Chief Marketing Officer of Vodafone: "There is a strong demand from eBay users to benefit from a mobile application where they don't miss the end of auctions and bid back when they are outbid. Today's announcement offers just that and gives Vodafone customers a great service and a clear advantage allowing them to make the most of their time."

The application will launch in Italy initially, then be rolled out over Europe. It will be exclusive everywhere in Europe, with the exception of the UK.

Vodafone website

Posted by modculture on February 8, 2007 in Mobile phones | Websites
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

LG's Shine handset officially launches in the UK



As we predicted last month, **LG** has just launched its **Shine handset** in the UK – and you can head off to your local dealer and pick one up straight away.

Shine (also known as the KE970) is the latest handset in LG's premium Black Label series. And the premium aspect is very much about the looks – a full-metal bodied (and very thin) slider phone. Saying that, the specification isn't bad either. Shine features a 2.2-inch reflective screen – slide it open for the brushed metal keyboard with the keys that (according to LG) are "bathed in a cool blue light".

The GPRS/EDGE handset also has a Schneider Kreuznach 2 megapixel camera with auto focus, music player with MP3, WAV and ACC++ compatibility, Bluetooth and USB connectivity plus a microSD slot to expand the memory.

It's shifted more than 200,000 units in Korea since its November launch – and it will probably shift a good number in the UK too. Priced from free dependent on your contract.

LG website

Posted by modculture on February 8, 2007 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

MySpace launches MySpace Mobile exclusively with Vodafone

Good news if you are addicted to **MySpace** and have a **Vodafone mobile phone** – you can now access your site on the move with **MySpace Mobile**, which is available exclusively in the UK to Vodafone customers.

MySpace Mobile will be pre-loaded on future (selected) Vodafone handsets or is available to download from Vodafone live!. According to Colin Digiaro, Senior Vice President, Corporate Development, International, MySpace: "Millions of people use MySpace as their primary means of communicating with family and friends, so it's vital we make this available on the move."

MySpace Mobile on Vodafone offers all the features you are familiar with on the web version, but with an interface adapted for mobile handsets. You can upload and view photos, read and respond to mail, manage your community of friends, post comments and blog entries, view friends and view your groups.

Vodafone website

Posted by modculture on February 7, 2007 in Mobile phones | Web 2.0
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

LG launches KE800 Chocolate Platinum – same looks with extra functionality



With all the attention on Sony's new handsets, we almost missed the official launch of the LG Chocolate Platinum, the latest addition to the Chocolate Phone range.

The tri-band/EDGE LG KE800 (to give it the official name) is a luxury version of the original, keeping the glowing red touch keypad and adding the "Chocolate" name plus a couple of extra features. It now has an SD card memory slot, an upgraded 2 megapixel camera with auto focus, night mode and multi burst, an FM radio and twice as much on-board memory as the original Chocolate handset (256MB rather than 128MB).

It also has an upgraded class-leading MP3, MPEG4 and AAC music and video player and stereo Bluetooth functionality, if you want to play your music via a wireless Bluetooth headset. The music player also features a 5-band graphic equaliser, along with voice and keyword search for finding your favourite tunes.

No news on a shelf date – we'll keep you posted.

LG website

Posted by modculture on February 7, 2007 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Oral blogging becomes a reality thanks to Spin-my-Blog

SpinVox, who already has expertise in voice-to-text messaging services, today officially launched their Spin-my-Blog 'voice-to-blog' service that allows anyone to create blog entries simply by talking on their phone.

The service should work with any mobile handset and network, and means that bloggers don't even need to have PC or web access to put an article up on their blog. They also avoid fiddly and limited text messaging. Simply by calling a standard telephone number and speaking the text they want blogged, the software converts their voice and posts it immediately on their chosen blog platform.

The service currently appears to work with Blogger, LiveJournal, and Vox, though there's also a 'generic' option which may well offer integration with other systems. It makes use of SpinVox's voice message conversion system (VCMS), developed in 2003 and working in their Voicemail-to-Text service online since 2005. There's nothing to upgrade or download. Users are simply given a Spin-my-Blog phone number which is automatically connected to their blog.

It opens up greater possibilities in social networking and citizen journalism, allowing anyone to call the dedicated phone number for a particular blog, and add an entry to it (with permission, of course).

Spin-my-Blog has already undergone extensive trials and is can be tested at the SpinVox blog. Here's an interview with Daniel Doulton, co-founder and VP of strategy and development at SpinVox soon, and get a better idea of the potential of this exciting new service.

SpinVox

Posted by Andy Merrett on February 7, 2007 in Internet | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Sony Ericsson's W880 and K810: too much evolution, not enough revolution?



It's probably not Sony Ericsson's fault that I came out of this morning's press launch feeling a bit underwhelmed. The company announced several new phones, with the two most interesting being the W880 Walkman music phone and the K810 Cyber-shot camera phone.

But there were also some nifty Bluetooth accessories, and four other phones that while basic, are just what a significant amount of mobile users are looking for, rather than all the bells and whistles.

The fact remains that it was very much evolution rather than revolution, at a time when some of Sony Ericsson's rivals (traditional and new) are unveiling all manner of breakthrough products. Take the K810, which is Sony Ericsson's flagship camera phone, but only has a 3.2 megapixel camera. Isn't that a bit puny next to the latest LG and Samsung camphones? Sony Ericsson says not.

"For the majority of consumers, 3.2 megapixels is probably more than enough quality, especially when you see the way we optimise those photos," said Steve Walker, head of product marketing at Sony Ericsson.

"Yes, megapixel increases are on our technology roadmap, but when we look at the research we do within Sony on the camera market, for many consumers 3 megapixels is more than good enough. And of course, as megapixels increase, so storage needs increase too."

It kind of makes sense, but when during the same event Walker also talked about Sony Ericsson's history as a camphone leader – launching the first integrated camera phone, and the first megapixel model – shouldn't it be releasing phones that aren't just good enough for what consumers do now, but for what they'll want to do a few months down the line?

The W880 has some strong positives, specifically its super-sleek design, and the fact that it comes with a camera (a shocking omission from the

otherwise-marvellous W950i). But some niggles remain. Why no 3.5mm headphone jack so you can plug your own phones in? Nokia has said it'll have one in every Nseries handset going forward, after all.

Walker said that the company's solution - putting the 3.5mm jack into the headphone cable - removes the problem. One journo pointed out that this falls down if the user loses that cable. "Well, try not to lose it is the best advice I can give you," he said. Thanks for that.

The elephant in the room at any music-focused mobile launch this year is, of course, Apple's iPhone. I should stress, I'm not an iPhone evangelist - it's got a bunch of flaws of its own to sort out - but you'd expect Sony Ericsson to be able to give a convincing argument of why people should buy its Walkman phones now, rather than waiting for the iPhone.

Walker did make some implicit comparisons when asked. "We have a range of products across a range of price points, including some at a price point of less than 100 Euros," he said.

"It's a slim, compact phone that's not compromising on the phone capabilities, but with everything in the package to let you listen to music on the move. It works, we know it works, we have a lot of consumer feedback from people, and they like the accessories. I can't really comment on iPhone and what Apple's doing. We're proud of what the Walkman's doing."

I really wish Sony Ericsson, Nokia and any other mobile manufacturer targeting the music market **would** comment on the iPhone. It's huge competition for them going forward, so shouldn't they be coming out now and saying 'Look, the iPhone's far too expensive, you won't be able to download songs over the air, it's too big and you'll be tied into Apple's ecosystem'? Aren't these people *up for a scrap*, in other words?

This has been a bit of a rant so far. There's a bunch of good things to report. Sony Ericsson has a new focus on FM radio, which by all accounts - Nokia reported this too - is a hugely popular feature with mobile users.

Sony Ericsson's Track ID technology, which has been developed in partnership with Gracenote, lets you 'tag' a song playing on the radio and have it identified, while also offering the same thing for any music you hear while out and about. The latter is nothing that Shazam didn't do a few years ago, but tying it into the radio is great.

But again, where does this lead? How about DAB chips in Sony Ericsson phones, or interactive features around the FM radio like Nokia's Visual Radio? Something's cooking, but Walker couldn't say what. "The expansion of that capability is an interesting one for the consumer. We have some things that we're working on, but nothing we can say today."

The same is true of questions over whether Sony Ericsson's Bravia TV phone, so far released only in Japan, will come over here. Not anytime soon, judging by the comments today. "Japan is a very high-end market, so we can offer a phone there that delivers a mobile TV experience that lives up to the Bravia name," said Walker. "It's limited to Japan now, but that's not to say we won't see that capability coming into other parts of our product range in the future."

Finally, what about full-track downloads? iPhone will, obviously, work closely with Apple's iTunes Music Store and iTunes application. Nokia is planning to launch some form of music download service this year. Does Sony Ericsson need to do the same? Seemingly not.

"Consumers don't want to be limited," said Walker. "The internet world has taught us that choice is what makes these things come alive. We want to make sure that we have the enablers - the right way of playing and protecting music - but it's not our business to be predominantly in the music services world."

Sony Ericsson does have its M-Buzz service, which sells ringtones and full-track downloads of new bands, but Walker said that's more a "stimulus" for the market. "What we do is work with our major operator customers to work out how their music services can be integrated into our Walkman phones," he said. "We do that with Vodafone, Orange, T-Mobile and many more besides."

Posted by Stuart Dredge on February 6, 2007 in Mobile phones | Top stories
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Samsung launch Ultra Edition D840 mobile phone

Samsung have announced their new Ultra Edition D840 mobile phone, the 'sexy and stylish older brother' of the Samsung D900.

Crafted from featherweight materials including magnesium and fibreglass-infused plastic, the phone has metallic looks and enhanced durability in a lightweight shell, and is just 11.9mm slim.



Its slider design features a 2.12" 262k colour TFT screen with 240x320 pixel resolution, has a 2 megapixel camera with 4x digital zoom and built-in flash, and the ability to record up to 1 hour of video.

The extra large screen offers enough space to view 12 lines of text together and is fully capable of displaying text/photo/video caller ID, plus any multimedia stored on the phone.

There's a multi-format music player with microSD expandable memory, plus a PIM, vCard, and vCalendar, document viewer, and TV output. Connections wise, there's Bluetooth and USB.

It will be available this month from Vodafone, Orange, and the Carphone Warehouse. Pricing will vary depending upon contract.

Samsung Mobile

Posted by Andy Merrett on February 6, 2007 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Video Sneak Preview: Sony Ericsson K810 Cyber-shot camera phone

Also unveiled this morning was Sony Ericsson's new K810 Cyber-shot phone, which is the company's new flagship camera phone. It's 3G, and has a 3.2 megapixel camera, auto focus, Xenon flash and the Photo Fix feature to sort out dodgy images. How good is it? Check out Susi's verdict below.

Adobe Flash Player is no longer supported

Posted by Stuart Dredge on February 6, 2007 in Mobile phones | Top stories | Video
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Video Sneak Preview: Sony Ericsson W880 Walkman mobile

As you'll have read in our earlier story, Sony Ericsson has a new flagship Walkman phone, the W880. And praise be, it has a camera, unlike the W950i. Plus it's slim, stylish and eminently desirable. Don't believe me? Susi got hands on with the phone this morning at Sony Ericsson's product launch. Click below to watch her verdict.

Adobe Flash Player is no longer supported

Posted by Stuart Dredge on February 6, 2007 in Mobile phones | Top stories | Video
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Sony Ericsson's new Walkman handsets – hands on impressions



This morning, **Sony Ericsson** officially unveiled its latest additions to the Walkman line up – the W880i and W610i. After the press conference we manage to get a quick hands on with both new handsets and we're pretty impressed. Check out our video coverage too here.

In both handsets, Sony has clearly been determined to cut down on the some of the bulk that earlier Walkman phones suffered from. The W610i is only 14mm thick – a good half a centimetre thinner than the popular W810i. The W880i is even more impressive at only 9.4mm, the slimmest Sony Ericsson handset yet, which we're reliably informed is thinner than a CD case. And it's 3G too – proof that 3G phones are rapidly catching up with their 2G and 2.5G counterparts in terms of compact design.

With the W880i in hand, I noticed that it was a little bit wider than it seems in the pics, but still a heck of a long way from being a brick. Unlike other handsets, the camera on the rear is now better integrated so that it forms a flat surface rather than having the lens in a raised section.

All the new handsets on show have adopted smaller, stubbier button designs. The W880i uses rectangular buttons with rounded ends very much like what we've seen before, only smaller and raised a little further off the phone's surface. I couldn't really form a definite opinion in the short time I had with each phone, but it seems likely that this new design will mean that people with shorter, wider fingertips will have a better time operating it.

Once again, there's no 3.5mm jack on the phone itself, so you need to rely on the headphone attachment, which does mean there's a mic around for handsfree calls, but it does also add a bit more cable into the equation. A2DP is now standard on both handsets but Sony Ericsson is going to package a stereo Bluetooth headset (the HBH-DS970) along with the W880i. W610i users will still have to buy their own. And speaking of generous extras, the W880i also comes with a 1GB M2 memory card, which should be good for around 900 songs as well as being removable and expandable.

Another new feature on each handset is the TrackID system. You can use this to record snippets of any song you hear, as well as anything on the radio. It then transmits the recorded information out to a service developed in conjunction with Gracenote and will then feedback the track information, including song name artist and album information. In its current status, there is going to be little else you can do from there, but Sony Ericsson plans to build up relationships with music download services to offer you the chance to buy tracks that you have identified, or get suggestions on similar music to buy.

Posted by Al W on February 6, 2007 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Sony Ericsson launches four entry-level handsets - K200, K220, J120 and J110



Sony Ericsson has four new candy bar handsets on the market, aimed very much at those who just want the basics for a budget price - the **K200, K220, J120 and J110**.

The **K200** is a camera phone - but with a very basic VGA camera. The camera and the on-board photo album are accessible with just one click, with enough included memory to store around 40 snaps. There's one-touch access for your phone book (which can store up to 300 contacts) and a talk time of 8 hours. It should be available in the second quarter of 2007 in either Metallic Black or Light Champagne. The **K220** is similar, but adds an integrated FM radio with RDS and 10 pre-set stations. You can also use it as a radio alarm clock. Again available in the second quarter, this time in a choice of Frost White or Ocean Blue.

The **J110** is a 'back to basics' phone with large, legible keys and one-click access to commonly used features such as the text message menu, ring volume and alarm clock. And as it doesn't have much in the way of features, that means a longer talk time of 9 hours. The J110 will be available from the second quarter of 2007 in Soft Cream, Smooth Grey or Precious Purple. The **J120** follows a similar specification, but adds an FM Radio, a stereo headset and loudspeaker. In Night Black, it's also available in the second quarter.

Sony Ericsson website

Posted by modculture on February 6, 2007 in Mobile phones
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Sony Ericsson debuts HBH-PV702 and HBH-PV710 Bluetooth headsets plus HPM-75 stereo portable handsfree unit



As well as the new handsets, Sony Ericsson also has a batch of new accessories on the market - the **HBH-PV702 and HBH-PV710 Bluetooth headsets** plus **HPM-75 stereo portable handsfree unit**.

The **HBH-PV702** Bluetooth headset is available with a black or white cover, weighs 14g and offers up to 8 hours talk time, with around 200 hours of standby and can be used with any compatible Bluetooth handset, Sony Ericsson or not. The **HBH-PV710** boosts talk and standby times to up to 12 and 300 hours respectively and comes in a more bold colour range - red and brown are included in the starter kit. Between calls it can hang on a supplied neck strap, slipping onto the ear when needed.

The **HPM-75** stereo portable handsfree unit is an upgrade to the HPM-70. It comes with spare ear buds of different sizes, which can be swapped over for a perfect fit to block out external noise. A microphone and call answer button are on the cord for accessing calls.

The PV702 is available from mid 2007, the PV710 is available in the coming weeks and the HPM-75 is available later this year.

Sony Ericsson website

Posted by modculture on February 6, 2007 in Mobile phones
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Sony Ericsson's new Cyber-shot handsets - K810/K818 and K550/K550im



More new handsets from **Sony Ericsson**. Following on from the new Walkman models comes two new **Cyber-shot handsets** - the **K810/K818 and K550/K550im**.

The 3G **K810/K818** Cyber-shot phone features a 3.2 megapixel camera with auto focus, Xenon flash and red eye reduction. Other camera-related features include Photo Fix, which can correct images after they have been taken and Illuminated Camera Icons to the side of the main keypad, which light up when in camera mode, allow you to access camera menu options at the touch of a button. There's also BestPic - shoot a number of images in succession, then pick the best one to keep.

Other general features include a 2.0-inch QVGA 262k TFT screen, video calling, photo blogging, Bluetooth, music/video playback and HTML browsing. Talk time is up to 10 hours. The K810/818 Cyber-shot phone should be available in the second quarter of 2007 in Noble Blue and Golden Ivory.

The slimline (14mm thick) K550 Cyber-shot phone is a quad-band EDGE device with 1.9-inch 262K TFD LCD screen, equipped with a disappointing 2 megapixel camera, along with auto focus, LED photo light and active lens cover. Also featured is Bluetooth, picture blogging, music/video player, FM radio with RDS, HTML browsing, Push Email and instant messaging support. Talk time is up to 7 hours.

The K550im variant is the first Cyber-shot phone to support O2's i-mode service. Both models will be available in Jet Black or Pearl White and should be in stores in the coming weeks.

Sony Ericsson website

Posted by modculture on February 6, 2007 in Mobile phones
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Sony Ericsson launches W880/W888 and W610 Walkman phones



A big day for **Sony Ericsson** today, with a glut of new phones and accessories being aired for the first time, kicking off with two additions to the Walkman phone range - the **W880/W888 and W610 Walkman phones**.

At just 9.4mm thin, the **W880/W888** is the slimmest Sony Ericsson phone yet. Available in brushed steel, silver or black and with a 1.8-inch QVGA 262k TFT display, it has a 1GB Memory Stick Micro included, enough for around 900 full length tracks. Also featured is Bluetooth audio streaming, a 2 megapixel camera, video recording and playback, picture blogging, full HTML browsing with RSS feeds and a strong battery life - up to 18 hours music playback. It should be available in the coming weeks, pricing to be confirmed.

The **W610** with 1.9-inch 262K TFT LCD display, stores up to 470 full-length music tracks on the 512MB Memory Stick Micro provided. It uses the TrackID music recognition application, which lets you record a clip of an unknown music track onto your phone and immediately receive a notification of the track name, artist and album. Like the W880/W888, there's a 2 megapixel

camera on-board, video recording/playback and picture blogging. Available in Plush Orange or Satin Black, it also includes an RDS FM radio, Bluetooth audio streaming, HTML browsing, Push Email and again, a long music playback of 25 hours or 7 hours of talk time.

Expect it in the second quarter of 2007.

Sony Ericsson website

Posted by modculture on February 6, 2007 in Mobile phones
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Asus shows off Aura concept mobile phone



It seems like the introduction of Apple's iPhone and to a lesser extent, LG's Prada phone has seen a return to the drawing board for mobile phone designers. And over at Asus, that drawing board has produced the **Asus Aura handset**.

The phone, produced by Hungarian design company Egy Studio, is not unlike Apple's handset - but does add a few extra whistles and bells. That includes movable navigation buttons and a sliding QWERTY keyboard, but maintaining a very thin device - just 6mm thick.

Other features include a 3.9-inch touchscreen display, 2 megapixel camera, HSDPA connectivity, along with Wi-Fi and Bluetooth plus a microSD memory slot.

That's all very well - but can they turn all that into a retail handset? We'll keep you posted.

Asus website

Via Unwired View

Posted by modculture on February 6, 2007 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

3GSM 2007: Five reasons to be cheerful about Barcelona's mobile expo

Next week is when the mobile industry decamps to Barcelona en masse, to launch their new products, talk shop, and send shamefaced flowers to their other halves (it clashes with Valentine's Day, see).

3GSM 2007 looks like being the biggest yet, with all the big mobile firms getting set to show off their wares. Tech Digest will be there, roaming the exhibition nosing out the latest mobile phones, technology and content amid the hubbub. So what can we expect from this year's show? Here's our predictions for 3GSM 2007:

1. Shiny new handsets a-plenty
The likes of Nokia and Sony Ericsson release so many new phones a year now that they have launches throughout the year, but 3GSM is still a major event for every mobile manufacturer, so we're guaranteed a bunch of new phones. Expect some slinky music handsets for starters, along with the next generation of camera phones. Plus someone's bound to demonstrate their zeitgeisty credentials with a ~~silly~~ stylish fashion phone.

2. Web 2.0 goes mobile
This is an ongoing trend, but expect the mobile internet to be big news at 3GSM 2007, hopefully with announcements from some big web firms as well as the mobile industry itself. Social networking should make a splash, while Google, Yahoo and Microsoft may have something to say about how they're mobilising their web services and communities. 3GSM is also a good place to find the small technology companies who'll be driving the next wave of Mobile 2.0 services, before they're bought up by bigger players.

3. Content is King
Admittedly, you could have used the above cliche about any 3GSM from the last few years, but in 2007 it could actually be true. We've got to do something on those powerful new "multimedia computers" after all. Every year, the number of content companies exhibiting at 3GSM grows, and 2007 will be no exception. Games, music, video/movies and gambling will all figure highly, while experienced 3GSMers will be keen to see if the mobile porn companies are still touting eye-poppingly gynecological photos on their stands.

4. VoIP on your phone
A dark horse, this one, considering the 78-odd companies claiming to be the future of mobile VoIP. But 3GSM 2007 will at least offer some clues as to who's offering free calls from your mobile now, what the restrictions are - and perhaps more pertinently what the mobile operators are going to do about it.

5. Secret squirrel stuff
3GSM is about far more than the exhibition floor itself. It's about suited execs getting together in Barcelona hotel rooms and cafes to sign deals and plot the future for the industry. For example, it's been reported that at 3GSM 2007, mobile operators including Vodafone and O2's owner Telefonica are getting together to discuss creating a joint mobile search engine to rival Google and Yahoo. We can't promise to be the fly on the wall at that meeting (unless our bluebottle disguise comes through in time), but we will have our nose to the ground sniffing out stories at the show. Check back next week for live posts from Barcelona.

Posted by Stuart Dredge on February 5, 2007 in 3GSM 2007 | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Motorola DJ-style S805 stereo Bluetooth headset



Call me old-fashioned, but when I go for a pair of headphones, I like the big chunky ones, not a million miles away from the pair I use when I pretend to be a superstar DJ. Which is why I'm drawn to **Motorola's DJ-style S805 stereo Bluetooth headset**.

Granted they aren't as subtle as some on the market, but you just know they're going to be so much more comfortable on the ears. The headset is fully Bluetooth 2.0 compliant, streaming up to 30ft away from the source. They also feature noise cancellation, volume and skip functions, a microphone for calls, a play time of up to 17 hours and despite the size, the S805 weighs less than four ounces.

The headphones come with cable, case, and charger, retailing for £79.99.

Find out more at the Motorola Shop

Posted by modculture on February 5, 2007 in MP3 players | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Microsoft Zune phone coming by end of 2007?

CrunchGear broke the story yesterday and now it's spreading around the Net like wildfire: the very real possiblity (according to sources) that Microsoft is working on a Zune mobile phone that could be ready by the end of the year.

CG's sources suggest that it'll be a smartphone that works with the Zune marketplace and can sync with the Xbox 360. It will run an interface similar to that of Zune, rather than Windows Mobile, which makes sense if it's building on the Zune's capabilities.

The rationale behind allowing it to sync with Xbox 360s? Market penetration, and the ability to stream movies over the net via the Xbox and get them onto the phone.

As with all rumours and whisperings, there's not much more to go on than that at present, but I'm sure we'll be hearing much more about it over the



(Picture from CrunchGear)

coming months.

What's interesting is that neither Apple nor Microsoft have their own mobile phone on the market, so it could be argued that the playing field could be more level when it comes to how they compete with one another. They'll both be playing catch up to the major mobile players though, and it'll be interesting to see how they both attack the market.

What Apple have is a loyal following, and a huge hold on the MP3 player market – something Microsoft can't yet say about their Zune. If both companies choose to play on the strengths of their respective media players, Apple has the upper hand.

Microsoft certainly have the clout and the cash to bring something to market in this time frame, particularly if there's been R&D; going on behind closed doors. It'll be a very busy year for them, though, with lots of shiny new offerings: Vista, Office, Zune, Zune phone.

How much will Ballmer shout and jump about in 2007?

Posted by Andy Merrett on February 2, 2007 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (2) | TrackBack (0)

Bag a Sony Ericsson W880i Walkman phone in a weekend treasure hunt



We had the teaser images, then we had the unofficial images of Sony's much-hyped **Sony Ericsson W880i Walkman phone**. But if you want to get your hands on one, you'll have to do a spot of treasure hunting.

You need to visit www.iwantmyw880.com, entering your current phone's details. Then this Saturday (February 3rd), you will be contacted via text message informing you that the first clue has gone live online. Once logged on, you have to solve the clues, before being given the location of the Sony Ericsson vault containing five W880i Walkman® handsets. Once you have this, drop everything and run!

If you can't spare the time this Saturday, there will be an online version running next week – so it's worth registering if you are interested.

Find the Sony Ericsson W880i Walkman phone

Posted by modculture on February 2, 2007 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (2) | TrackBack (0)

Rumour: Apple iPhone could be released early?



Think Secret speculates on rumours that the iPhone may be available in the US earlier than the announced June date. The tipsters have suggested that a release date as early as April might be possible. It certainly wouldn't be the first time Apple has delivered products earlier than announced – take the switch of Macs from PowerPC to Intel processors, for one.

And in related 'news', My!Phone thinks they've traced an Apple UK employee willing to divulge a UK release date of October 2007.

It could all be totally made up, mind you, but then that's the

best bit about Apple rumours, isn't it?

Related stories: iPhone is not a smartphone, say analysts | Microsoft's CEO laughs at the iPhone, makes bold Zune claims | Can Google's Switch mobile compete with Apple's iPhone?

Posted by Andy Merrett on February 1, 2007 in Mobile phones
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Sony Ericsson's new super-slim W880i handset - images online



Sony Ericsson sent out some intriguing images of the forthcoming W88i handset a few weeks back, without actually showing the super-slim phone itself. Well, Engadget has got hold of some images before the presumed launch date of 6th February - including the one above.

Details are still quite scarce about the actual specification (except that it features a 2 megapixel camera and all the expected music features), but it certainly lives up to the hype as a very thin and indeed very stylish handset. Sony Ericsson has a press conference on 6th February, so we'll hopefully have full details from there. In the meantime, check out the Engadget site for more images of the W880i.

More mobile phones

Posted by modculture on February 1, 2007 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Seagate unveils Digital Audio Video Experience (DAVE) wireless mobile storage



Seagate has unveiled what it sees as the next-generation of mobile storage - **Digital Audio Video Experience**, or **DAVE** for short.

DAVE is a technology that can deliver 10-20GB of wireless storage for your mobile device via Bluetooth or Wi-Fi anywhere up to 30ft (9.1m) - not unlike the recently-unveiled BluOnyx server. And the accessory is small - about the size of a centimetre-thick credit card. It's a technology with one eye on the future, as our downloads and the necessary capacity needed to store them continues to grow. According to Frost & Sullivan, the number of mobile video download subscribers will jump to nearly 5 million in 2010, as compared with roughly 250,000 mobile video download subscribers in 2006.

DAVE will allow you to store all these downloads on one device – a 10GB device should mean around 2,500 songs or 21 hours of video available to you all the time. And if you change your mobile handset, you don't need to swap over the data – just pair it with the new phone or device.

Seagate are planning to sell the device to mobile phone manufacturers later this year – so expect it for sale late 2007.

Seagate website

Posted by modculture on February 1, 2007 in Mobile phones | PDAs
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Sagem launches my501x and my401c handsets with T-Mobile



A new year and a selection of new handsets from **Sagem**, the first of which are the **my501x and my401** – both available at a budget price point from T-Mobile.

The my401c is a clamshell tri-band handset that's WAP-enabled and comes with all the basics, including a music player (MP3 format), VGA camera and Bluetooth. Weighing in at under 85g, it's available in black and silver or silver and pink, priced at £49.99.

The my501x is a tri-band phone with a slightly improved specification – MP3 player, video player, 1.3 megapixel camera and Bluetooth. Only available in white, it retails for £59.99.

T-Mobile website

Posted by modculture on February 1, 2007 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

British mobile phone users fear their ringtones



A staggering four out of five Brits fear criticism of their mobile phone ring tone, according to new research from Dial-a-Phone. Staggering because it's something every mobile phone user has complete control over.

97% of Brits judge someone's personality based upon their mobile ring tone, and on average, we change our ring tone 3.4 times each year, taking an average 37.5 minutes to make the choice.

The survey of 18-34 year olds asked them to match ring tones with personality traits, and came up with the following:

Top 10 hit: Moves with times but could be a fashion victim who tries too hard to be cool

Classic Hit: A laid back thirty something attempting to make a statement with a personal favourite

Hollywood Blockbuster: A real movie buff, but perhaps watches one too many films!

Current TV show: Fun personality - but has too much time on their hands

Retro TV show: Creative individual with a love for pop culture - however can appear a little nerdy

Children's theme tune: Game for a laugh, up for having a good time - though has a tendency to annoy people

Sport theme tune: Armchair sportsperson who enjoys a laugh with the lads/girls also a tad unimaginative

Classical: Tasteful and educated, yet probably on the old side

Made for ringtone (crazy frog etc): Totally unacceptable - most likely a Chav

Mobile setting (original ringtone): Not trying to impress, probably got better things to do than constantly changing their ringtone

Ring Ring: Uber cool, no need to impress though some view as boring - shows a lack of confidence and creativity

Vibrate setting: An Introvert not wanting to be noticed or a businessman not wanting to be rude

Apparently 90% of Brits have been criticised for their choice of tone, though 42% said they had been told off for not personalising their phone.

34% of people said that someone without a cool ring tone has no style. 10% change their ring tone once a week.

"Ringtones are a cheap and fun way to personalise your mobile phone, I am shocked that so many people get stressed about it - choose something you like and don't be ashamed to let it ring!" said Flic Everett from Dial-a-Phone.

Posted by Andy Merrett on January 30, 2007 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

New survey suggests UK users are technology-shy



A new survey from PayPal (quite what the significance is I'm not sure) suggests that Brits wish they could turn their back on modern technology because it's become too complicated.

One in three people can't set their defunct VCR, and 77% haven't a hope of getting their DVD recorder to work.

61% of UK mobile phone users don't use more than voice, text, alarm clock, and camera on their phone, whilst 40% don't even realise there is a camera on their phone.

Said Neil Edwards from PayPal: "It's a worrying sign for Britain that so many of us are baffled and therefore turned off by technology. There's no hiding from technology so burying your head in the sand won't make it go away. We all must embrace technology or risk becoming the tech illiterates of the world."

I expect it depends who you ask, though, as there are plenty of surveys around that suggests us Brits are embracing and pioneering technology in our everyday lives.

(Via Mad4MobilePhones)

Related stories: Dual SIM mobile phone could make dual tariff use less of a pain | Germany proposes mobile roaming price caps | Yell launches new mobile search service

Posted by Andy Merrett on January 30, 2007 in Computers | Mobile phones
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Motorola's Ferrari-themed handset - MotoRAZR MAXX V6 Ferrari Challenge

If the cost of Vertu's Racetrack Legends handsets was a bit rich for your tastes, there's another motor racing-themed phone on the market - the **MotoRAZR MAXX V6 Ferrari Challenge**.

The Ferrari aspect isn't much more than the outer branding and the red leather carrying case, plus a selection of Ferrari bits and pieces pre-loaded, including wallpapers of the F430 engine, Ferrari bodywork and a collection of 30 action shots in the photo album. And as for the handset, that's got HSDPA connectivity, music player, 2MP camera, VGA video camera, a microSD slot for storage and Bluetooth.



And one last thing – you get a Ferrari engine noise when you power the thing up. Nice touch. You can buy one now for £300.

Full specification at the Ferrari Store

Via Stuff

Posted by modculture on January 30, 2007 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Dual SIM mobile phone could make dual tariff use less of a pain



Unless you like lugging round two handsets, or fiddling with your mobile SIM cards, there's not really an easy way to manage two mobile phone contracts.

Now Chinese company Doubao has released what it claims is the first dual-SIM mobile phone with full functionality. It means you can squeeze the best bits out of two different tariffs and forget the rest.

The 728 phone, on which it appears, also features a 2.2in touch screen with support for handwriting recognition, a microSD slot, and a VGA camera. As Trusted Reviews say, it's not a spectacular phone. What's important is that it's the first in its class.

Whilst they don't reckon it'll make it much further west, the concept could be an attractive one for other manufacturers. Whether the operators will be as happy? Probably not.

Related stories: Germany proposes mobile roaming price caps | Yell launches new mobile search service | One Minute Video Review: Samsung Z560 mobile phone

Posted by Andy Merrett on January 29, 2007 in Mobile phones
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Verizon rejected Apple's iPhone advances two years ago

Various reports suggest that about two years ago, Verizon rejected a deal from Apple to market the coming iPhone.

They weren't against the iPhone itself, merely the terms of the agreement that Apple laid out, which are said to have included a share of the monthly contract fee, a say over how and where the iPhone could be sold, and a control over the relationship with iPhone customers.

What's interesting, other than the fact that Verizon may well have missed their chance now that Cingular have the exclusive rights to market the iPhone in the US, is that Apple were talking to operators two years ago.

No wonder iPhone rumours have been around for so long. Of course, a phone without a provider isn't great, but I wonder why Apple didn't choose

to develop an unlocked mobile phone. They could still control the official channels where the phone was sold, plus develop a relationship with iPhone owners.

Or maybe Verizon couldn't stomach marketing such an expensive phone. Time will tell whether they end up kicking themselves for missing out on a hit Apple product.

(Via TechWhack)

Related stories: iPhone is not a smartphone, say analysts | Can Google's Switch mobile compete with Apple's iPhone? | Apple's decision to 'lock down' iPhone to developers a wise security move

Posted by Andy Merrett on January 29, 2007 in Mobile phones
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iPhone is not a smartphone, say analysts



Whilst the coming iPhone may be an impressive, if expensive, iPod-capable mobile phone, it's not a smartphone – no matter what Steve Jobs says. That's according to analysts at ABI Research.

ABI Research's definition of a smartphone is a cellular handset using an open, commercial operating system that supports third-party applications.

The main reason for this conclusion is that the iPhone is locked down to developers. Though it will sport a version of OS X, it almost certainly won't be freely opened up to third-party software developers, and that's the problem.

The iPhone is a 'feature phone', not a smartphone: "Feature phones have third-party applications too, but these are relatively weak and limited applications that work with the middleware such as Java and Brew," said Philip Solis, principal mobile broadband analyst.

Stuart Carlaw, wireless research director, added, "Apple must get the phone engineering part of the equation right, and it is difficult to see how it will accomplish this with no track record in the industry."

Does it matter? It's only one opinion, and there are still sure to be plenty of people who want to get their hands on the iPhone.

Related stories: Apple iPhone: The full specifications | Nokia responds to Apple iPhone – 'it is a surprise that the iPhone is not 3G' | Microsoft's CEO laughs at the iPhone, makes bold Zune claims

Posted by Andy Merrett on January 26, 2007 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Is it a book, or a bunch of text messages? IT'S BOTH!

Fancy reading a book that's all about a Finnish IT executive who resigns to travel the world? Okay, so it doesn't sound that appealing (and anyway, we're still ploughing through the Jodie Marsh autobiography).

Nevertheless, 'The Last Messages' by Hannu Luntiala is a groundbreaking book. Why? It's written entirely in text messages. 1,000 of them, in fact. They're the fictitious messages sent and received by the hero while on his global jaunt.

You need a working knowledge of Finnish to read the book at the moment, but its publisher Tammi is apparently considering translating it into other languages.

(via CNN)

Posted by Stuart Dredge on January 26, 2007 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Shiny Video Review: SideKick 3

Paris Hilton had one. Nicole Richie had one. Lindsay Lohan had one. No, not a high-flying celebutard lifestyle filled with personal assistants, nights out at Hyde, and a seven-figure bank balance. A SideKick! And now you can decide if the SideKick 3 is up your street, as we have the honour of presenting you with a video review.

Adobe Flash Player is no longer supported

Posted by katewalker on January 26, 2007 in Mobile phones | Reviews | Video
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Parrot Conference Bluetooth speakerphone



Parrot is introducing some new technology to the boardroom with the Bluetooth-friendly **Conference wireless speakerphone**, with Skype capability.

The Conference speakerphone can store up to 6,000 contacts, which can be loaded wirelessly via Bluetooth-enabled mobile phones, PDAs, and laptops. And once loaded, you can access them and all the other menus and settings through a large, bright active-matrix TFT colour display. It works with Parrot's proprietary advanced digital signal processing technology with full duplexing for clear, echo-free conversations in rooms of any size. Three highly sensitive microphones provide a complete 360-degree voice pickup and a 5W speaker means all participants should be heard clearly.

It's powered by three rechargeable Lithium Ion batteries, so can be easily moved from office to conference room whenever the need arises. The batteries provide 10 hours of continuous talk-time, and fully recharge in five hours. It can also be paired with up to 50 phones at any one time and has an integrated Skype interface, so is ready to use with the service out of the box.

The Conference will retail from £148.

Parrot website

Posted by modculture on January 26, 2007 in Gadgets | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Germany proposes mobile roaming price caps



Germany, who currently hold the European Union's six-month presidency, have proposed the capping of mobile phone roaming charges in the EU.

In basic terms, the proposal would require each mobile operator to offer a plan, named the 'consumer protection tariff', that don't exceed €0.50 per minute, with calls received outside the home country not costing more than €0.25.

Viviane Reding, EU's telecommunications commissioner sponsoring the roaming plan, wants to have the regulation in place by July. The UK and France have led a group of EU governments opposed to the plan, saying that it doesn't give mobile operators the opportunity to provide their own special offers.

Mobile operators including Vodafone have complained that the proposal isn't necessary as they're already reducing prices. For example, Vodafone say that their Passport Plan has led to a 50% price decrease.

Of course, the mobile operators won't be overly happy with this kind of proposal, as it would likely shave a significant amount from their profit margins.

Related stories: Get Bollywood on your mobile phone | Samsung SCH-W559 touchscreen mobile phone first to offer tactile feedback | Hitachi W51H hi-res mobile phone

Posted by Andy Merrett on January 25, 2007 in Mobile phones
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One Minute Video Review: Samsung Z560 mobile phone

Susi's been playing with Samsung's Z560, which is the company's new HSDPA phone. It's available on T-Mobile here in the UK, and promises faster Web-surfing on the go, including if you use it as a modem for your laptop. How does it measure up, and perhaps more importantly, can you surf Popbitch using it? Click below to find out.



Posted by Stuart Dredge on January 25, 2007 in Mobile phones | Reviews | Top stories | Video
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

O2 promises end to mobile upgrade rip-off

Ever had that feeling, towards the end of your mobile contract, that you could get a much better phone for a lower price if you take advantage of another operator's introductory offers? Yeah, us too. And this is why millions of mobile users have 'churned' between operators.

O2's aiming to stem the flow from its customer base with a new initiative called Fair Deal. The gist: existing O2 users will be given the same handset and tariff deals as new customers when they come to upgrade. And they'll also be rewarded with 'O2 Treats' for their loyalty.

“We want our customers to be the happiest and most loyal, so we listen to what they want and – crucially – act on what they tell us," says Sally Cowdry, marketing director at O2 UK.

"They said ‘why shouldn’t existing customers get the same as new ones?’ And they’re absolutely right. All O2 customers should always get the best O2 has to offer, so that’s what we’re giving them. And on top of that, we want to say a big thanks to our customers for their trust and custom, so have something extra from us.”

Of course, this is as much about stopping customers from hightailing it to Vodafone or Orange when their contract's up as it is about big-hearted generosity. But it's good news for mobile users, especially if the rival operators follow suit.

Anything that means you don't have to spend 20 minutes on the phone threatening to cancel in order to secure the same upgrade price on a phone they've seen advertised in the paper for free is fine by me.

O2 hasn't yet given details of what the 'Treats' will be, although I'm guessing it might be free stuff, like games or full-track music downloads. Or maybe the CEO will turn up on your doorstep with flowers and a big wet kiss. We'll have to wait and see.

Posted by Stuart Dredge on January 25, 2007 in Mobile phones
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OtterBox launches rugged BlackBerry cases



You've not seen true despair until you've seen a high-flying business-person with a broken BlackBerry - especially if the cause was their own butterfingers. OtterBox's new 1930 and 1931 rugged BlackBerry cases might prevent their woe, mind.

The cases have water-resistant polycarbonate/ABS shells, plus rubber moulding making them easier to grip. There's also a rigid screen cover to protect the display from scratches.

OtterBox reckons soldiers are especially keen on the cases - all the better to ensure safe transmission of those illicit snaps of Iraqi prisoners, presumably.

Anyway, the 1930 fits the BlackBerry 8700 series, and the 1931 fits the 7200 series, and both come in black with grey rubber. They're on sale from the OtterBox website now, for $129.95.

OtterBox 1930 and 1931

Posted by Stuart Dredge on January 24, 2007 in Mobile phones
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t+ diabetes system - control diabetes with your mobile phone



When you think of the extra functionality a mobile phone offers, it's usually in the area of entertainment. But a new **diabetes management for mobile phones** could change that.

Around three million people in the UK suffer with diabetes and need to maintain healthy blood glucose levels, limiting the onset of long-term, debilitating complications, including heart disease, kidney failure, coma, amputations, blindness and impotence. **t+ medical** has pioneered a way to help people take control of long term conditions by turning a mobile phone into a personal healthcare management system.

The t+ diabetes system gives people instant personal feedback, helping them to spot day-to-day fluctuations that can have a devastating long term impact. The data is also transmitted to a website for detailed analysis and remote monitoring by a nominated healthcare professional and the t+ Specialist Nurse.

"Essentially it's a self-management tool, but because we can see patient readings on a secure website, we can advise on changes in insulin dosage without having to ask patients to come into the surgery," explains Dr Jeremy Wheeler, GP. "Especially when you're newly diagnosed with diabetes, it's very reassuring to know that your GP or practice nurse is monitoring your progress. Being able to check patients' readings remotely and give them a call with advice is a big plus."

t+ diabetes system

Posted by modculture on January 24, 2007 in Mobile phones
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Criminals eye up mobile phone banking

New research from The Tower Group suggests that criminal gangs are now looking to target mobile phone banking services, the goal being to infect or compromise a mobile device in order to steal money from legitimate users.



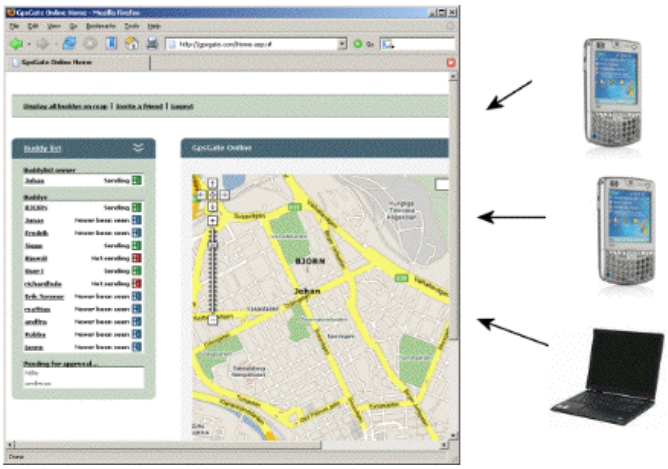
Targets would most likely be smartphones or wireless PDAs that act as replacements for credit or debit cards. Bob Egan, Chief Analyst at Tower Group, said that over 200 mobile viruses had already been identified and that number is doubling every six months.

"The success of mobile banking and payments, as well as the concept of the mobile wallet, will be measured against the industry's ability to effectively contain the malware problems to a level that is at least on par with that of the existing internet channel. Now is the time for IT managers and line of business heads within institutions to take action to protect both their companies and customers from mobile malware," he said.

Related stories: xVista develops UK's first portable iris scanner | Alliance & Leicester to introduce mobile phone banking next year

Posted by Andy Merrett on January 23, 2007 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

GpsGate.com mapping portal lets you share your location from Windows laptop/Pocket PC



Franson Technology has launched GpsGate.com, a GPS mapping portal that allows anyone with a Windows laptop or Windows-based Pocket PC device to share their location with anyone they have approved to 'spot' them online.

It's aimed at friends or colleagues who want to 'synchronise their lives for work or fun'. No longer will you have to rely on old-fashioned methods of coordinating your mates - "Meet at the Grey Horse at 7.30" - for now you can simply log in to GpsGate.com and see your friends' positions on a map, or a satellite image provided by a Google Earth plugin.

The GpsGate software costs US$29.95, with free access to the GpsGate website. Of course, your device needs to be GPS-ready, or have access to a GPS unit. GPSGate allows you to use Garmin USB GPS receivers with standard GPS applications.

In the future the company plans to add business tools to GpsGate.com, such as the ability to track delivery vans.

GpsGate.com

Related stories: Solar Powered Bluetooth GPS | CES 2007: JVC HDD in-car GPS unit and DVD player | CES 2007: LG gets into GPS navigation market

Posted by Andy Merrett on January 23, 2007 in Computers | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

BluOnyx Mobile Content Server - Wi-Fi storage for your mobile phone or media player

Agere Systems has introduced the **BluOnyx Mobile Content Server**, a storage solution for your mobile phone or media player when card capacity just isn't enough.

The BluOnyx is the size of a credit card and thinner than a Blackberry. It can transfer or stream music, video, pictures, business files to or from mobile phones, digital cameras, digital camcorders, PCs or to and from any site on



the internet (such as YouTube or MySpace), accessing the web via Wi-Fi connection.

It has its own rechargeable battery, which lasts up to 12 hours and is available with strage levels from 1GB to 40GB. There's no screen - all control is via your mobile phone, PC or screen. Any media file can be hosted, even DRM files, as long as the playback device has the decoding capability. And as it's Wi-Fi-enabled, the BluOnyx offers net access for mobiles and PDAs that aren't broadband-enabled.

The retail price of the BluOnyx is expected to range from £50 to £130 depending on memory capacity.

Find out more

More for your mobile

Posted by modculture on January 23, 2007 in MP3 players | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Use a hand-held mobile in the car - get points on your licence



It's been an offence for around three years to use a hand-held mobile phone whilst driving in the UK, but the threat of a fine doesn't seem to have put people off. However, the threat of three points on your driving licence might make a difference.

New penalties for using a mobile in the car will come into force from February 27th. As well as the points, fines will be doubled to £60. According to Transport Secretary Douglas Alexander: "It's quite simple - it's impossible to do two things at once and do them well."

New laws against using mobile phones in cars came into force in 2003. Research shows that 92 per cent of people support the law - but 21 per cent of those surveyed have admitted to breaking it. Home Office figures for 2004 show that nearly 74,000 fixed-penalty notices were issued in England and Wales for illegal use of a mobile phone while driving. However, a Liberal Democrat study last year suggested this meant only 1.1 per cent of those who admitted to the offence were being caught.

Via BBC

Hands-free in the car:
Pioneer DEH-P75BT Bluetooth car stereo system
Parrot's car stereo with Bluetooth

Posted by modculture on January 23, 2007 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Skullcandy Link Hydration Pack with speakers



Possibly not the ideal accessory every day, but if you happen to be heading off for some winter sports or even a bit of adventure back home, you might like to take your technology with you, using the **Skullcandy Link Hydration Pack with speakers**.

Skullcandy Link Hydration Pack is a backpack with a difference. Yes, it can hold everything you need in the great outdoors, including the biggest coat you can carry, but it also features a battery-powered amplifier, firing sound out of the 60mm speakers embedded in the straps. The speakers are weather-impervious, carbon-fibre woven custom jobs designed to be used in rain, snow or shine.

Add to that a mobile microphone embedded in the strap, which allows you to make calls handsfree. And in the mid-strap, there's also a soft-touch panel for controlling power, volume and your mobile phone. Secure pockets will hold your phone and music player in place.

Available now in a choice of colours, you can pick one up for £106.99

Find out more at iWorld

See also:
Jansport's iPod-friendly backpack with added Bluetooth
More for your iPod

Posted by modculture on January 23, 2007 in MP3 players | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Top 10 mobile phones of 2007 we can't wait for



Everyone's been talking about it the last few weeks – the blogs haven't buzzed this much since the Lonelygirl15 scandal; the chippies are wrapping pieces of cod in newspapers' sycophantic gushings about it, *heck*, even your own Aunt has asked you how integrated the OS X will be in it. Yep, we're talking 'bout the iPhone. However, in the shadow of Steve Jobs's phallic phone, many worthy mobiles have been cast aside – until now. Take a look under the jump for Tech Digest's list of the Top 10 Mobile Phones Of 2007 We Can't Wait For. And, err, admittedly the iPhone is on the list, not just to sate the Apple fans' thirst for More, More, *More* Pictures of The Great Shiny Object, but because it's actually a pretty great phone once you ignore all the buzz. Read on, fellow mobile geeks!



1.) LG Shine. A favourite amongst us Tech Digestians, and not for the obvious reasons, this Black Label mobile (our beloved Chocolate is also part of this range) features a 2 megapixel camera, Bluetooth, MP3 playback, 1GB of onboard storage space, and is also able to set user-recorded video as the phone's wallpaper. Pure bliss on a stick. *Available in the UK 7th February, expect our full review shortly.*

2.) Sidekick 3. Already available in the States, this baby was set to descend on Blighty back in December, but has been pushed back to late January. Featuring all the goodies we're used to in Paris and Nicole's phone du jour, it's got email, a 1.3 megapixel camera, MP3 player, miniSD slot, and T Mobile's Web'n Walk feature. *Available late January 2007 in the UK, expect*

our full review shortly.





3.) Nokia N93i. The hugely-antipicated update to the N93, it possesses MPEG-4 VGA video capture at up to 30 frames per second, a 3.2 megapixel camera with Carl Zeiss optics, 3x optical zoom, 1 GB miniSD card (hurrah!), Wi-Fi, *and* an MP3 player. Thankfully, it's been on a diet, and is much slimmer than its predecessor. *Available in 2007's first quarter.*

4.) Apple iPhone. You knew it was going to be included in the top 5, but are you surprised it's not at number 1? As you no doubt know, it will have a 3.5 inch diagonal touch screen, 2 megapixel camera, Wi-Fi, and run Apple's Mac OS X system. There'll be two versions available, a 4GB, and 8GB, handy for all those tunes you're likely to store. *Available in UK Winter 2007, if that.*





5.) LG enV. Another phone which has been available in the US since November, we're including this on our list due to its smartphone capabilities - it's got a full qwerty keyboard, 2 megapixel camera, integrated GPS, wireless synchronisation for emailing purposes, and of course, Bluetooth. Check out our video of it at CES. *No word on UK availability, but we guess around Spring 2007.*

6.) LG KE850 Prada. The recently announced mobile from LG, made in conjunction with the fashion house Prada, will pip the iPhone to the post to being the world's first completely touch screen mobile. It's got a 3 inch display, with a 2 megapixel camera, LED flash, Bluetooth, and a player supporting MPEG 4. *Due February 2007 in the UK.*





7.) **Sony Ericsson SO903iTV Bravia**. Based on Bravia technology (you remember those telly ads with the bouncing balls, right?) the SO903iTV boasts a 3 inch screen, with a slide function for horizontal viewing. It's got a 2 megapixel camera, and microSD card slot for storing those all-important pics of your friend downing three Sambuca shots in a row. *Available in Japan in June, let's hope it launches here sometime this year.*

8.) **Samsung Ultra Edition 12.9**. Formerly known as the D900, this new model is only 12.9 mm thin, with a 3 megapixel camera, 2.1 inch screen, quad-band, and not only that, claims it's the world's slimmest slider phone

with a 3 megapixel camera. *Due out sometime late 2007.*





9.) Google's Switch. Ok, so it hasn't been announced yet, but with shady photos cropping up all over blogs, and stories about it being made by Samsung, yet branded as Google, we will hold our breath for a 2007 launch UK-side. It's rumoured to have GPS with Google Maps based navigation features, a contact application using Gmail, Google Talk, and traditional messaging, and absolutely no internal memory, as everything will be served up over the network. *No word on availability, as it's still just a rumour, d'oh!*

10.) Samsung SCH-W559. It's the first touchscreen mobile to use Immersion's VibeTonz, a technology which provides tactile feedback for touchscreen interactions. This is good news, as there isn't a traditional keypad on the mobile, it's an LCD display, and with the VibeTonz feature, it ensures your touches will feel real, like actual keys. Not only that, it's got handwriting recognition, Bluetooth, a 1.3 megapixel camera, and audio and video playback. *No word on availability, but it's sure to launch in 2007.*

Posted by KatherineHannaford on January 23, 2007 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Mobile phones to be banned from British Open golf tournament

Following complaints from players during the 2006 British Open in Hoylake, organisers of this year's event at Carnoustie will be banned from taking their mobile phones on to the course.

Director of Championships for the Royal & Ancient organisers said, "We have so far resisted the call to ban mobile phones on the grounds that it may be an inconvenience to the public. However, after receiving complaints referring to the numbers that were in use as play was proceeding, we feel there is no other reasonable option than a complete ban."

Security checks will be carried out on spectators upon entry. Presumably the public aren't trusted to keep their mobile phones switched off, so they have to be banned completely.

Related stories: Solar-powered golf bag | USB golf simulator | Wi-Fi hits the golf course

Posted by Andy Merrett on January 22, 2007 in Mobile phones | Sport
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Thief returns stolen mobile phone and belongings after receiving 21 text messages from owner



In China, a young thief returned the belongings of a Chinese teacher he had stolen from after she sent him 21 text messages asking for the items to be returned.

Pan Aiying, a Chinese teacher at Wutou Middle School in Qihe county, had a bag containing her mobile phone, bank cards, and 4,900 yuan (about £350), snatched by a motorcycle rider.

She tried to call her stolen phone, but was disconnected. Before calling the police, she sent a text message to the phone: "Hey buddy. I'm Pan Aiying, a teacher from Wutou Middle School. You must be going through a difficult time. If so, I will not blame you"

And a second: "Keep the 4,900 yuan if you really need it, but please return the other things to me. You are still young. To error is human. Correcting your mistake is more important than anything,"

Another 19 messages were sent, all without reply. She gave up, planning to call the police the next morning. However, on her way out the next day, she

found a parcel containing her bag, phone, cards, and money, all intact.

"Dear Pan: I'm sorry. I made a mistake. Please forgive me. You are so tolerant even though I stole from you. I'll correct my ways and be an upright person,"

A rare and touching story.

(Via News.cn)

Posted by Andy Merrett on January 22, 2007 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Samsung's super-slim Ultra Edition 6.9, 9.9 and 12.9 mobiles



Exactly how thin are mobile phones going to go? It's like watching all those Hollywood starlets waste away - at some point, the public will put their foot down and say 'ENOUGH!'. But not yet. Witness Samsung's new Ultra Edition 6.9, which is a 6.9mm-thick candybar handset.

It's a 2.5G phone with a two-megapixel camera, 1.9-inch screen, Bluetooth, 80MB of internal memory and music/video playing capabilities. It's teeny-tiny! Although heaven help you if you stick it in your back pocket then forget to take it out before sitting down. The 6.9 is joined by two other new Ultra Edition handsets: the 9.9 and 12.9.

The UE 9.9 is a clamshell phone, which has near enough the same features as the 6.9, except with a MicroSD memory card slot, and a flash for the camera. It also boasts a TV-out port, making it ideal for showing your home-shot clips on bigger screens. And yes, it is 9.9mm thick.

Finally, the UE 12.9 (you can figure its thickness out for yourself, surely) is quad-band (the other two are tri-band), and has a three-megapixel camera, a 2.1-inch screen, Bluetooth including A2DP stereo audio support, and touts itself as the world's slimmest slider phone with a three-megapixel cam. Which frankly is a bit cheeky as claims go.

All three handsets should be out later this year, and eagle-eyed readers may have spotted that they're renamed versions of the X820, D830 and D900 Samsung phones.

(via Engadget)

Posted by Stuart Dredge on January 22, 2007 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Second Life gets its first virtual mobile operator



Vodafone is planning to launch itself as a mobile operator in the game Second Life alongside its Vodafone Island area within the popular virtual world. Second Life users will be able to use branded handsets to call each other within the world, as well as send text messages.

There's no news on how much it'll cost to use the virtual mobiles (who knows, perhaps they'll be free...), but it's the first time a big mobile operator has announced plans to extend into a virtual world in this way.

(via Techscape)

Posted by Stuart Dredge on January 22, 2007 in Mobile phones | Virtual Reality
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Sony Ericsson launches SO903iTV Bravia TV phone

We mentioned last week about the lack of excitement (and sales) for Virgin's Lobster mobile TV handset. Well, here's how it should be done - the **Sony Ericsson SO903iTV Bravia TV phone**.

In a very bold shade of red, the SO903iTV features a display based on Bravia technology. The screen is 3-inch, with a slide function for horizontal viewing. It also features time-shift video recording, a 2 megapixel camera and microSD card slot for storing your data.



It's scheduled for a June launch, but here's the bad news – so far it is Japan only, via DoCoMo. But if it goes down well over there, who knows?

Sony Ericsson website

Via Cnet Asia

Posted by modculture on January 22, 2007 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Mobile game of the week: Tomb Raider Legend 3D



Okay, so you can turn Lara Croft into a 2D platform game, but it doesn't really do justice to, well, the reason millions of sweaty-joysticked men fell for her in the first place. Yes, gamers, I'M TALKING ABOUT BREASTS. Well, and free-roaming action adventures in three dimensions, obviously.

Anyway, Eidos' mobile division clearly know this, which is why they've released Tomb Raider: Legend. It only works on the swankiest handsets, but you get proper 3D visuals throughout, with a mix of platform-swinging gun-shooting gland-wiggling action.

It's getting a good critical reaction, and is now available to buy for just over £7 from Eidos' own website, as well as a mobile operator portal near you. On your phone, I mean.

Posted by Stuart Dredge on January 19, 2007 in Gaming | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Microsoft's CEO laughs at the iPhone, makes bold Zune claims

Steve Ballmer, Microsoft's erratic CEO, laughed at Apple's iPhone during a recent TV interview with CNBC, mainly because of the price. He then claimed that the Zune claimed 20-25% of the high end music player market.

He wasn't exactly convincing, though:

""I don't know, but I think most estimates would say we took about 20-25 per cent of the high end of the market. We weren't down at some of the lower price points, but for devices $249 and over we took, you know, let's say about 20 per cent of the market."

Tell it like it is, Steve. Or like you think it possibly might be.

It's an interesting figure, given other reports that suggest otherwise.

If you fancy watching it, it's miraculously found its way onto YouTube:

Adobe Flash Player is no longer supported

Posted by Andy Merrett on January 19, 2007 in MP3 players | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

NAMM 2007: ChordGenie intelligent chord finder for guitarists



Inigma Media has released their ChordGenie guitar chord finder that works with any Java-enabled mobile phone.

It features over 15,000 chords, and offers a much faster way to finding chords than using a book. Chords can be found in standard or alternate tuning, in any position on the fret board. The display shows each chord and its fingering. Slash and power chords are also included. It can be customised for both left and right-handed players, and for the guitar, banjo, mandolin, ukulele, and tenor guitar.

The software also includes a metronome, pitch pipe tuner, and a songbook feature allowing users to bookmark chords.

The Chord Builder function allows users to build up their own chords, and can act as a great educational tool.

It costs just £4.99 and can be downloaded over the air or to a PC. A trial version is available at chordgenie.com.

(Via Modern Guitars Magazine)

Posted by Andy Merrett on January 19, 2007 in Mobile phones | NAMM 2007
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Review: Orange Bluetooth Loudspeaker System



The propaganda

While I was cleaning out the attic the other day I found a neat little stereo. It has all the usual play/pause, volumes controls and stuff, but the weird part is that it only takes these funny looking shiny circular thingies – there wasn't an iPod connector in sight. That's just weird.

But you know, plugging your player into a stereo is soooo last year – Bluetooth is what 2007 is all about. In fact, Orange revealed it special Bluetooth Stereo Loudspeaker System back in October, but it should come its own this year as more and more handsets start to offer the latest stereo Bluetooth standard, called A2DP, which has been designed specifically to stream high quality audio wirelessly.

The speakers fit together as a single unit, or you can separate each speaker from the main unit, with a little under 1m worth of speaker cable to play with on each. The controls are pretty basic and consist of a single volume dial, which acts as the power switch as well, and the essential Bluetooth button. There is also a 3.5mm line in.

The good

Acoustic Energy is the company which actually makes Orange's speaker set. It has a good reputation for making decent speakers and that really shows here. The sound has a pleasingly warm feel to it with a good balance of bass power and definition. You can really pick out a lot of the subtleties in what you're listening to and you can crank the volume up to full and never experience any kind of distortion.

Pairing with a Bluetooth handset is very straight forward as you would expect – you just hold the Bluetooth button for a few seconds to start the pairing process. Testament to the simplicity of the design is the fact that all of the instructions are on one side of an A4 sized instruction leaflet.

The bad

The flipside to that very basic design is that the looks are a bit unexciting and it lacks any kind of playback controls. In its defence, the AVRCP standard necessary for remote control of playback functions isn't particularly widespread yet, but you will need to bear in mind that you'll have to turn to

your phone handset (or whatever you're using) to control the tracks. But that's not a particular hardship and the range is pretty good.

I'm also not much of a fan of how it looks when the speakers are separated from the main unit. What you can't tell from the picture is that there are two hooks pointing out of each side to keep the speakers firmly attached. It ends up looking like someone has driven four giant nails into the central section, which is a bit naff. And there doesn't seem to be any way to remove them, other than perhaps going at them with a pair of pliers – something I wasn't willing to try.

Geek Sheet

Dimensions: 373 x 133 x 156mm approx.

A2DP Bluetooth

3.5mm line in

Detachable speakers

Overview

If you have been using the A2DP Bluetooth standard to listen to music through compatible headphones, Orange's speakers might well prove a very neat way of upgrading your sound to something more powerful. While they fall slightly short in the style and functionality departments, there is little to fault in the sound quality. The price tag of £90 isn't too bad either and given that there aren't currently all that many alternatives to them, it seems all the more worthwhile.



Related stories: Jabra BT8010 Bluetooth headset – and headphones | Review: Parrot Wireless Speakers| Is the end nigh for DAB? | *More Mobile Phones...*

Related sites: Orange

Posted by Al W on January 19, 2007 in Home audio | Mobile phones | Reviews | Wireless home
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Tag Heuer preparing to launch mobile watch?



Cards on the table: does anyone seriously want a watch they can make calls on? Really? It's one of those gadgets that sounds way cool in theory, but falls down when you realise how much of a twonk you'll look using it on the train.

Still, Tag Heuer might sway your opinion. Some photos have leaked out which appear to show a new watch from the company that can make calls and play MP3s, alongside its regular timekeeping duties. Presumably, this involves wireless connection to a Bluetooth headset, which would solve the embarrassment problem (well, partly). It's claimed that Paris design firm ModeLabs is working with Tag Heuer on the device.

(via Mad4MobilePhones)

Posted by Stuart Dredge on January 19, 2007 in Gadgets | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Virgin's mobile TV service fails to excite public

The device got a favourable review by us, but the public, it seems, is giving **Virgin's mobile TV service the thumbs-down**.

According to a report in The Guardian, Virgin Mobile has sold "considerably less" than 10,000 of its mobile-TV-enabled Lobster handsets, despite a strong advertising campaign featuring Pamela Anderson and a price point now below £100. And that's probably down to looks.

In a month that's seen the unveiling of the iPhone and LG's Prada handset, Virgin's Lobster looks very much of a past era. And when it comes to mobiles, looks really do matter. Better-looking handsets are promised for this year – we'll probably have a better idea then of how much the public really wants TV on the go.



Virgin Mobile

Via The Register

Posted by modculture on January 19, 2007 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

First info on Virgin Media's quad-play services

So, everyone knows that NTL and Virgin have got together for a joint quad-play venture, called Virgin Media, which'll supply home-owners with TV, broadband, home phone AND mobile. And we know it's all systems go this year for the new brand. But how will it work?

If you want an early glimpse, check out Virgin Media's Know First website, which has a few details, along with the first screenshot of the new service's digital TV electronic programme guide (pictured).

There will be three TV packages to choose from. Medium Virgin TV will have over 39 channels, including E4, CBeebies and Bravo. Large Virgin TV will offer over 83 channels, including all those in the Medium package plus others like Discovery, Cartoon Network and Eurosport. Finally, XLarge Virgin TV will have over 129 channels, including Disney, National Geographic and MTV. All the packages will come with a variety of on-demand options too.

Meanwhile, Virgin Broadband will also come in Medium (2Mb), Large (4Mb) and XLarge (8Mb) options, while home telephony follows the same pattern: Medium gives you unlimited UK landline weekend calls, Large has unlimited UK landline evenings and weekend calls, and XLarge offers completely unlimited UK landline calls at any time.

Mobile? It's staying as Pay Monthly or Pay As You Go. Other news: current NTL users can opt to change their email addresses to @virginmedia.com if they want, and new-look Virgin Media bills will be sent out in the coming months. Oh, and the site has a competition to win tickets to the Virgin Media launch party and swigg champers with Richard Branson.

Virgin Media Know First website

Posted by Stuart Dredge on January 18, 2007 in Broadband | Digital set-top boxes | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (2) | TrackBack (0)

Hitachi W51H hi-res mobile phone



Hitachi don't sell their mobile phones here in the UK, but their latest model, the W51H, makes me wish they did. It's just been announced in Japan, and is a clamshell phone with a monster 2.9-inch display with 480x800-pixel resolution. That's dribbleworthy in itself.

The phone also has a fingerprint-scanner to stop people nicking your sensitive data (i.e. saucy text messages), a two-megapixel camera with LED flash, 30MB of internal memory, and voice-activated GPS that lets you speak your destination, with the software then figuring out how to get you there.

It's only available on Japanese operator KDDI at the moment, and given Hitachi's regional focus

when it comes to phones, don't hold your breath for a UK release.

(via Newlaunches)

Posted by Stuart Dredge on January 18, 2007 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Can Google's Switch mobile compete with Apple's iPhone?



A slightly fatuous question perhaps, given that Google Switch is still a rumour, albeit one with a freshly-minted set of allegedly-leaked photos. According to Engadget, Switch will be a touch-screen device made by Samsung, but branded as Google.

It'll have built-in GPS, allowing Google Maps based navigation features, with a contact application that's a cross between Gmail, Google Talk and more traditional text messaging. Oh, and there won't be any internal memory: everything will be served up over the network. Hopefully that'll be 3G then, unlike the iPhone...

Whether this is it or not, there's little doubt that a Google-branded mobile phone will appear at some point. The company has ramped up its mobile activities in the last year, albeit focusing on signing deals with operators like 3, Vodafone and T-Mobile.

Now that the iPhone has crossed the line from myth to real product, perhaps we can spend the next 18 months dreaming up cool ideas for the GooglePhone. Like built-in WiMAX, to make use of all those city-wide networks that (we're told) will spring up in the next few years.

Or a direct interface to Google-owned YouTube, letting you watch vids but also upload the ones you've shot using the phone. It *would* have a camera, right? Or a dynamic version of Google Earth that lets you swoop over the Himalayas and send text messages to the Yetis. Okay, maybe that last one's a bit ambitious. But I can dream... For now, feast your eyes on the screenshots via the link below.

(via Engadget)

Posted by Stuart Dredge on January 18, 2007 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Apple's decision to 'lock down' iPhone to developers a wise security move



A researcher at Symantec has said that Apple's decision (based on what Steve Jobs said) to 'lock down' the forthcoming iPhone is a smart move and will help to keep them secure.

"If the iPhone remains a closed device, with not even Java applications or widgets let alone native code, the risk of infection becomes orders of magnitude lower," said Eric Chien on the company's Security Response Weblog.

Steve Jobs had previously told reporters, "These are devices that need to work. And you can't do that if you load any software on them. It doesn't mean we have to write it all, but it means it has to be more of a controlled environment."

Chien expects that malicious software will find its way on to the iPhone, but not in such vast amounts as on other mobile devices. Limiting access to the operating system gives hackers less opportunity to find vulnerabilities.

Security or not, however, this decision is sure to disappoint many OS X fans who were hoping to port over some of their desktop applications to their shiny new iPhone.

Posted by Andy Merrett on January 18, 2007 in Computers | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Disgusting fact: Average mobile phone contains more bacteria than toilet seat



I suppose it depends on how clean you keep your toilet seat, but new research shows that the average mobile phone contains more bacteria than the trusty throne.

Dial-a-Phone conducted this vital research, taking swabs from everyday objects and testing them for bacteria.

Seems that the ubiquitous mobile has more bacteria on it that the average door handle, keyboard, shoe sole, or toilet seat.

Of course, the phone also ends up touching more parts of the human body than those other objects.

"The phones contained more skin bacteria than the any other object; this could be due to the fact that this type of bacteria increases in high temperatures and our phones are perfect for breeding these germs as they're kept warm and cozy in our pockets, handbags and brief cases. These bacteria are toxic to humans, and can cause infections if they have the opportunity to enter the body," commented Joanne Verran, Professor of Microbiology at Manchester Metropolitan University.

There's a simple solution, though. Clean your phone thoroughly with an antibacterial wipe more than once a year. Easy!

Related stories: Clean your screen with Alpine Innovations Mini Spudz | Lockup Cup stops people from sharing your coffee | Getting dirty at the office: Content of your PC keyboard could make you ill

Posted by Andy Merrett on January 18, 2007 in Mobile phones
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LG's KE850 Prada phone gets official unveiling - and imminent European launch



Can't wait for the iPhone to arrive? Well, you can get your hands on another very fashionable handset much sooner when the **LG KE850 Prada phone** arrives in Europe next month.

Like the iPhone (but beating it to market), the KE850, sized at just 98.8 × 54 × 12mm, is a touchscreen-only mobile phone, in this case using a 3-inch display with 240x400 resolution. The display is a minimalist white on black - no iPhone-style coloured icons here.

In terms of specifications, the KE850 is tri-band, EDGE compatible and features a 2 megapixel camera with Schneider-Kreuznach lens and LED flash, Bluetooth 2.0, an MPEG4 video player and an audio player with MP3/ACC/ACC+/WMA/RA support. There's also a document viewer supporting Microsoft's PPT, DOC, XLS formats, plus PDF and TXT. Memory is via SD card - none built-in I'm afraid.

According to LG, the phone will hit mobile stores and Prada shops in Europe from the end of February. The price quoted is 600 Euros – but we'll probably have a better idea of that and which networks are opting for the handset as that Euro launch date approaches.

LG website

Via Engadget

Posted by modculture on January 18, 2007 in Mobile phones | Top stories
Permalink | Comments (3) | TrackBack (0)

Samsung SCH-W559 gets tactile control with VibeTonz technology



Not yet available in the UK, **Samsung's SCH-W559** features Immersion's **VibeTonz technology**, which provides "tactile control" for the touchscreen handset.

The SCH-W559 is the first touchscreen-based handset to use the technology. It uses a large 260,000-color QVGA LCD touchscreen display to replace the traditional keypad (not unlike the recently-announced iPhone), with users confirming tactile cues when they press graphical onscreen controls, which can be customised by selecting one of five feedback profiles for these cues.

It allows touchscreen-displayed buttons to feel more like mechanical keys, with the tactile feedback boosting usability in situations where controls are obscured or washed out by glare. The new phone is being sold by China Unicom currently and also includes handwriting recognition, Bluetooth, 1.3 megapixel camera, and audio and video playback.

We'll let you know if it is heading to the UK.

VibeTonz website

Posted by modculture on January 18, 2007 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Apple aiming for 10 million iPhone sales in 2008



So, Apple announced its 'fiscal first quarter' results yesterday for the last three months of 2006. The key news was that the company shifted over 21 million iPods, which is 50% up on the same period in 2005. In the US, this made up 72% of the digital music player market, while Apple reckons it now accounts for more than 85% of the legal music downloads.

However, the company also talked iPhone, saying it wants to sell 10 million of the handsets during 2008, and said that the reason the iPhone isn't 3G is because 2.5G networks are more widespread in the US than 3G. On behalf of all Europeans who are keen to get an iPhone, cheers for that Apple.

However, the company did say it will "be where the technology is over time", which cynics may suggest means a revamped 3G version a few months after millions of people have splashed out on the first-generation version.

Oh, and Apple had stern words for Cisco, which is taking it to court over the iPhone trademark. "We think the Cisco trademark is silly. We believe Cisco's US trademark registration is tenuous at best." Oof!

Other stats from the results and subsequent conference call: Apple sold over 1.6 million Macs in the last three months of 2006, thanks to strong sales of laptops, particularly the MacBook Pro. Apparently Apple was pleasantly surprised by the 1.6 million figure, which was way above its own expectations.

Finally, Apple described its upcoming Apple TV product as the DVD player of the 21st century, and said there are now over 4 million songs, 350 TV shows and 250 films on the iTunes Store. That's in the US, obviously. No news on when they'll finally roll out the telly and movies here in Europe.

(via AppleInsider)

Posted by Stuart Dredge on January 18, 2007 in MP3 players | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Nokia introduces USB chargers for its mobile phones



Nokia has come up with a solution to allow you to charge your Nokia mobile phone from the USB port on your laptop or PC. The Nokia CA-100 is compatible with the 2.0mm charger connector, whilst the CA-70 works with 3.5mm connectors.

In fairness, it's not particularly revolutionary. I've been able to charge my iPod and my Palm PDA via USB for ages. One thing that does interest me, though, is whether a mobile phone can be fully charged in this way, as I know some devices can't be completely charged unless connected to a mains adapter.

Here's the product page for the CA-100 though there's no word on pricing.

Posted by Andy Merrett on January 17, 2007 in Computers | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Brit Awards 2007 gets set for live text voting



Well, it was only a matter of time, I suppose. This year's Brit Awards will be the first to feature live text voting on the night itself. Sadly, this doesn't mean you can text abuse from your sofa to get Oasis hustled off-stage early during their show-closing hits medley. Although it's a thought.

Instead, viewers of the live TV broadcast will be able to vote during the show for the Best British Single. There is a webpage telling you how it'll work, but at the time of writing, it's just throwing up a friendly Apache Tomcat HTTP Status 404 message on my computer (Mac/Firefox), which doesn't bode well.

Nevertheless, the Brits promise to be one of the most high-profile SMS-voting events yet. Although the danger of relying on keen texters is that Crazy Frog will hop away with the prize...

Posted by Stuart Dredge on January 17, 2007 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

GMEA: it's a mobile phone with a sliding-puzzle keypad



God bless designers. If they weren't coming up with crazy concepts for new gadgets, the world would be a much less fun place.

Meet GMEA, which its creator describes as "the first ever real game phone". Does that mean 3D graphics, an attached DualShock joypad, and a slot for Nintendo DS cartridges? Sadly not.

Instead, it's got a keypad that mimics a sliding puzzle! Bear with me on this, it's genius. Really. You can move them around to arrange them however you like, although the right positions are marked underneath, so you can get them back into place if necessary.

It's the brainchild of Russian designer Dima Komissarov: click on the link below to see a moving demo, then ring up Nokia and DEMAND they incorporate this into their next handset. Or not, as you prefer.

GMEA concept mobile

Posted by Stuart Dredge on January 17, 2007 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Anycom FIPO turns audio iPod docks into Bluetooth receivers



You couldn't fling a cat at last week's CES show without hitting 17 home entertainment devices with iPod docks. Not that I tried, mind. They wouldn't give my cat a show badge. Anyway, buying a spiffing new hi-fi with an iPod dock isn't much use if you don't have an iPod.

Except Anycom has unveiled a nifty new widget called FIPO, which plugs into any connector designed for an iPod, and functions as a Bluetooth receiver, receiving audio from any Bluetooth device – mobile phones, laptops, MP3 players or whatever. And there'll be an increasing number of Bluetooth MP3 players in the months ahead, I promise you.

FIPO will cost $99 in the US, with mass production beginning in February – Europe included. It certainly sounds neat, although the cynic in me wonders a.) how many people really want to stream tunes from their mobile phone to their hi-fi anyway, and b.) how many MP3-player owners would opt for FIPO, rather than a much cheaper cable to connect their player to the Line-In jack on their hi-fi.

Anycom FIPO website

Posted by Stuart Dredge on January 17, 2007 in Home audio | MP3 players | Mobile phones | Wireless home
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Samsung SCH-W559 touchscreen mobile phone first to offer tactile feedback



Immersion Corporation have announced that the Samsung SCH-W559 is the first touchscreen mobile phone to use their VibeTonz technology to provide tactile feedback to the user.

The phone, which uses a large 260,000 colour QVGA LCD touchscreen display to replace the mechanical keypad (sound familiar?), will actually receive tactile cues when they press graphical onscreen controls. The response can be customised to one of five feedback profiles.

The VibeTonz system allows the buttons displayed on screen to feel more like real mechanical ones, and can also improve usability when controls are obscured by fingers, or are hard to see due to glare. It can also be used to make the phone more personal, for example, for a loved one's message to arrive feeling like a beating heart, or for a movie trailer to draw you into the exciting motorcycle chase by letting you feel engine acceleration.

It works by exerting precise, high-speed control over the vibration actuator with unprecendented subtlety and dynamics.

"Our VibeTonz System can provide mobile device manufacturers with an inexpensive enhancement to touchscreen operation," explains Immersion CEO Vic Viegas. "It also provides a platform for a wide range of additional features that can add fun, engagement, and improved usability to mobile devices."

The phone itself looks destined for the Chinese market, at least initially, but this sounds like a great technology that could well find its way into other

mobile devices.

Samsung

Posted by Andy Merrett on January 17, 2007 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Bling up your mobile at the Carphone Warehouse



If you don't fancy shelling out for something like Motorola's D&G-branded; RAZR or one of the millionaire-friendly Vertu handsets, how about adding some bling on a budget - by leaving your handset at the Carphone Warehouse.

Carphone Warehouse in the UK are now offering the **Bling My Thing service**, which seems to be a high street version of the German web service. If you want to add that showbiz glitz to your handset, just drop it off, borrow a loan phone for a few days, then go back and pick up your new blingtastic phone, coated in Swarovski crystals.

You can choose from a range of standard designs or of you're feeling creative, do one of your own. Prices start at £100.

Carphone Warehouse website

Via Stuff

Posted by modculture on January 17, 2007 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Qstik EVOQ Bluetooth DSP headset - wireless mobile calls, VoIP and music streaming



Qstik has launched what it claims is "the world's most advanced Digital Signal Processor (DSP) Bluetooth headset" with the **EVOQ**.

Using technology originally developed for the telecoms industry and the military, the circular EVOQ unit features bi-directional noise cancellation, echo cancellation, auto-volume control and speech enhancement for mobile calling. And for music streaming, it has a dedicated ear-bud headset for true stereo, along with Bluetooth Advanced Audio Distribution Profile (A2DP) and Audio Video Remote Control Profile (AVRCP) support. There's also an A2DP-compliant USB dongle available.

And there's wireless VoIP access, courtesy of the Bluetooth dongle, which allows you to switch between calls and music easily.

The Qstik EVOQ DSP Bluetooth headset is available now for £59.99, with the Bluetooth USB dongle available for an additional £17.99.

Find out more

Posted by modculture on January 17, 2007 in Mobile phones | VoIP
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

DoCoMo to bring touchscreen clamshell phone to market

Japan's DoCoMo has unveiled a clamshell mobile phone featuring two touch-sensitive screens and able to be controlled with either a stylus or finger.

Characters are input by writing on the screen, or a virtual keypad can be called up to dial a number.

DoCoMo said that users would be able to send handwritten notes and pictures to other phones.

The D800iDS, manufactured by Mitsubishi, features similarities with the Nintendo DS game console, though the operator said that the DS stood for "direct and smooth".



Touch screen phones, smartphones and PDAs weren't new when Apple announced their iPhone, and you can bet this phone, due on sale in Japan in February, certainly won't be the last.

One thing the iPhone doesn't feature is aroma, unlike Sony Ericcson's SO703i which comes with scented sheets designed to relax users during phone calls.

Related stories: Apple iPhone: The full specifications | Play iTunes songs on your Nintendo Wii | Nintendo DS sets sights on VoIP

Posted by Andy Merrett on January 16, 2007 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

3 cuts back roaming charges



Good news if you are with **3** and you plan on calling from abroad – the company has announced its customers will no longer pay to receive calls, and will be able to use their bundled minutes, text, and data, when roaming onto a 3 network abroad, including all the services in its X-Series package.

The deal applies to both pay as you go and contract customers travelling to Ireland, Sweden, Denmark, Austria, Italy, Hong Kong, Australia, and (if you don't live here) the UK. Once the bundled minutes have been used up, messaging services (SMS and MMS) are charged the same rate as in the UK, while voice calls will be 20 pence a minute. International calls will be charged as though the customer is in the UK.

The European Commission is currently investigating roaming charges by mobile operators, so it's perhaps no surprise to see 3 acting to cut back charges. Here's hoping the rest feel compelled to follow suit and offer a full service for the same rate outside of the UK.

3 website

Via The Register

Posted by modculture on January 16, 2007 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Hitachi Europe starts production of high definition IPS LC screens for mobile handsets

Mobile phone screens could improve considerably this year with the news **that Hitachi** has started production of **2.9-inch high definition IPS liquid crystal screen** for mobile handsets, which should boost image quality, as well as offering a wider viewing angle.

The need for improved screens is being driven by the demand for new mobile phone technology – full-screen browsers, navigation, photography and mobile TV broadcasting have all driven the demand for better LCDs. Increasing the number of pixels for higher liquid crystal module definition usually means that the parts – including wires, which block light from the backlight – all become larger. By using IPS technology, Hitachi has been able to improve luminance without increasing power consumption.

When this technology filters through isn't clear, but with ever-increasing demands on handsets, we should see it before the end of the year.

Find out more about IPS technology

Hitachi website



Posted by modculture on January 16, 2007 in
Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Vodafone launches three special edition McLaren Mercedes mobile handsets



To celebrate the new Vodafone McLaren Mercedes Formula One racing team, Vodafone have unveiled three new special edition mobile phone handsets.

The handsets are:

* The Vodafone McLaren Mercedes 770SH from Sharp (top picture)
* The Vodafone McLaren Mercedes GX29 from Sharp (second picture)
* The Vodafone McLaren Mercedes SGH-Z720M from Samsung (no picture yet available)

The Sharp GX29 is a 2G clamshell phone with a VGA camera, games, and USB 1.1/Bluetooth 1.0.

The Sharp 770SH sounds fairly entry-level 3G, being a clamshell phone with a 1.3 megapixel camera, USB 1.1 and Bluetooth 1.0.

Finally, the Samsung SGH-Z720M is a 3G/HSDPA slider phone with a 3 megapixel camera with auto focus, USB 2.0 and Bluetooth 2.0, and a stereo headset.

All give access to the Vodafone Live! portal, and have various music and games options.

UK pricing and availability to be confirmed

Vodafone

Posted by Andy Merrett on January 15, 2007 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

You've seen the Apple iPhone... now buy the T-shirt!



Okay, so us Brits can't get our clammy hands on an iPhone until the end of the year (if we're lucky), but we can kit ourselves out with some suitably iPhony merchandise. Bayraider's sniffed out two very-much unofficial iPhone t-shirt auctions on eBay.

One simply offers a choice of two iPhone images on a black or white background, while the other offers the more Americanised slogan of "If I don't get my iPhone I'm gonna bust a freakin nut!!'. Quite.

(via Bayraider)

Posted by Stuart Dredge on January 15, 2007 in Mobile phones | eBay goodies from Bayraider
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Research shows energy cost of mobile broadband solutions



It sounds obvious when you think about it: like everything else, running a mobile broadband service uses up energy.

Industry experts have warned that the energy required per subscriber will significantly increase with the widespread rollout and usage of mobile broadband. ABI Research have said that mobile operators will need to move away from traditional cellular-only technology and make greater use of WiMax and metro wi-fi solutions.

They reckon that energy costs are the third most significant operating expense for mobile operators.

Based purely on coverage, they also found that WiMax is twice as cost-effective as WCDMA, whilst metro wi-fi is fifty times more cost-effective.

Their study also forecasts the growth in total energy consumption arising from mobile broadband service delivery from 42.8 billion KWh in 2005 to 124.4 billion KWh in 2011, most of which will be attributable to the Asia Pacific region.

Read more about ethical consumerism at our sister blog Hippy Shopper

Posted by Andy Merrett on January 15, 2007 in Broadband | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Get Bollywood on your mobile phone



Can you really do justice to epic Bollywood movies on a two-inch screen? Mobile industry bigwigs the GSM Association certainly think so, having launched a 'Mobile Bollywood Initiative', in partnership with mobile firms Roamware and Hungama Mobile.

The threesome plan to premiere three Bollywood short films at next month's 3GSM show in Barcelona, which have all been directed by Bollywood icon Sanjay Gupta. "I am thrilled to have the opportunity to be involved in a project that has a promise and potential to create a whole new distribution model for Bollywood cinematic entertainment," he says.

"Our project 'Dus Kahaniyah' has been made keeping the mobile and digital medium in mind and the fact that today the market for short films has been

given a huge impetus as the quality of video experience on mobile has improved significantly."

Mobile Bollywood films could be enormous, given their popularity – an estimated global audience of over two billion viewers – and the large number of mobile users in India (140 million) and elsewhere in the world.

Posted by Stuart Dredge on January 15, 2007 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Apple gets tough over web sites offering 'iPhone skins' for other Microsoft/Palm-based smartphones



"Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery" – but as we've seen all too often, that old adage doesn't wash with Apple and their bevy of lawyers.

Notwithstanding the fact that *no-one* has access to a retail iPhone yet (and won't for months), owners of lesser smartphones running inferior mobile operating systems (Windows Mobile and Palm OS) can apparently get their hands on iPhone skins to jazz up their displays with Apple icons.

None of these 'skins' offer any extra functionality – but they might just spread a bit of Apple magic amongst users of other devices.

Not if Apple have anything to do with it, though. Not only were the offending web sites targeted by lawyers, but so were – allegedly – journalists who reported the existence of these skins. That's why the attached photograph has been pixelated (I'm not implying it's criminal to own a Windows Mobile device, honest)

It's an interesting situation in which both the developer of these illicit skins, and Apple, get extra publicity. Unfortunately, it does tend to dull Apple's shine a little more.

(Via All Headline News)

Posted by Andy Merrett on January 15, 2007 in Internet | Mobile phones | Websites
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

T-Mobile moves to end "technobabble"



According to new research undertaken by **T-Mobile** and YouGov, over half of the UK's population is "frustrated, confused or bored by technology jargon".

It sounds like it's more confused than bored or frustrated, with a third of Britons unsure of VoIP and considerably more (77 per cent) baffled by HSDPA. In fact, 2 per cent of those surveyed thought it was connected to tax returns and 5 per cent having some strange notion that it is connected to their body's mineral content.

After undertaking the survey, T-Mobile is now planning to tackle "technobabble". All of its shop staff are taking part in training to ensure they clearly demonstrate what customers can do with their gadgets, and talk in their language rather than in megabits and gigabytes, in an effort to "demystify" technology.

While all that's admirable, let's hope dumbing down doesn't mean treating us all like dummies.

T-Mobile website

Posted by modculture on January 15, 2007 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Cellswapper: an answer to those lengthy mobile contracts?



Mobile contract lengths have been creeping from 12 to 18 months in the UK, while it's reported that to get an iPhone on US operator Cingular, you'll have to sign up to a TWO YEAR contract. Cripes. So what to do if you're stuck in a contract and want out?

Cellswapper is a US-only site at the moment, but the idea is to match up people who want to get out of their contracts early without paying a fee, with those who want to get a short-term contract. The result: two happy punters, one of whom can expect to save $150-200 in termination fees.

The operators don't work in quite the same way over here, but it'd be interesting to see if a service like Cellswapper could take off here. Maybe a retailer like the Carphone Warehouse could even run it...

Cellswapper website

(via eHub)

Posted by Stuart Dredge on January 15, 2007 in Mobile phones | Web 2.0 | Websites
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Macworld 2007 roundup: Back seat Macs; new markets; Apple's "killer app"

As Macworld closes for another year, here are my reflections on a show of surprises and omissions.

iPhone



The star of the show has to be the iPhone, yet it's the first Expo I can remember where a product has been announced before it's available. Not only is it frustrating for consumers but it also gives a long lead time for competitors to line up their iPhone alternatives - and you can bet that they're doing just that.

Some are calling the iPhone 'vapourware' because the product can't be bought. In fact, you'd be lucky to just *touch* one.

Apple TV



Apple TV had been announced last year, and whilst it got its share of limelight in Jobs' keynote, as soon as the iPhone was announced, it's fair to say that most people forgot about it.

That's not to say that it's an unimpressive piece of kit, though I have my doubts about how it will fare in a UK market.

Back seat Macs

Many true Mac fans (you know, the people who actually buy Apple's computers) may well have been disappointed that these two consumer-friendly items have completely overshadowed - in fact, eradicated - any Mac hardware announcements.

iPhone or no iPhone, we had expected some new Mac to arrive. Yes, this is primarily a consumer affair, so maybe a new Pro machine will be announced later in the year, but dreams of more powerful Macs weren't realised at the show.

Best Mac hardware from third party

In fact, the best Mac-based hardware of the show had to be Axiotron's ModBook, a 'tablet Mac' created from the Apple MacBook. A very slinky piece of kit, winning one of the "Best of Show" awards, it's something we wish Apple themselves had made. Maybe they will, one day.

Dropping the computer

After the iPhone excitement, Steve threw in the announcement that the company were changing their name from "Apple Computer Inc" to "Apple Inc", to reflect their increasing presence in the consumer electronics market.



Given that their biggest selling products to date are iPods, not desktop or laptop computers, and that Apple TV and the iPhone could prove a hit with consumers, this isn't too surprising, but is it a sign of something more?

Apart from the usual references to record numbers of non-Mac computer users switching to Macs, there was precious little mention of Apple's computers in the keynote. However, what there was mention of was OS X.

Apple's killer app - OS X

Apple has a killer application. It's not the iPod, the Apple TV, nor the iPhone.

It's OS X.

In a computer and consumer electronics industry where manufacturers are picking up on good product design, both visually and in usability, there's less of a distinction between Apple hardware and PC manufacturers hardware. Yes, Apple computers still represent great design, but a whole range of PCs, both desktop and notebook, are no longer simply beige lumps that are purely functional.

Apple's winning product, the one that will unite its current and future hardware devices, is OS X, a modern, robust, scalable operating system that sits just as happily and works just as well in an iPhone or in the Apple TV as it does in a Mac mini or a top-of-the-range Mac Pro.

Despite Jobs' current protestations, I wouldn't be at all surprised if, at some point in the near future, it's announced that OS X can be legitimately run on any Intel-based PC.

Sure, the iPhone is supposed to synchronise with PC users' Windows-based machines, but how much easier would it be for users to have versions of OS X spread across the whole range of hardware? Of course, interoperability still needs to be worked on, as not everyone is going to load OS X on their PC, but it feels like a distinct possibility.

Apple marches on

The pre-Expo message, the company name change, the ongoing move to mainstream consumer products, OS X in the iPhone... these signal a company that is keen to take on new markets, and to be recognised for much more than its computers.

Whether it has more successes like the iPod remains to be seen, but there's no doubt that Apple is changing.

Macworld 2007 coverage

Posted by Andy Merrett on January 13, 2007 in Computers | Macworld 2007 | Mobile phones | Top stories
Permalink | Comments (3) | TrackBack (0)

First video of Apple's iPhone

Adobe Flash Player is no longer supported

Yes the **iPhone** does exist and it is not a collective hallucination of the people who attended MacWorld last week and the thousands who watched the launch on the web.

The proof is here courtesy of **CBS News** who secured a demo from Apple. First thoughts are it looks pretty impressive but I can't remember the last time I used a phone two-handed. So can you operate it with one hand? Does it matter? Guess we'll have to wait until we get our own to play with before that question can be answered.

It is amazing though that it seems to be the only legit vid of the iPhone on YouTube. Apple is certainly keeping the handset very close to its chest for the time being.

10 tricks to play on your iPhone
10 reasons to love/hate the iPhone
Nokia responds to the iPhone announcement

Posted by Ashleyn on January 12, 2007 in Macworld 2007 | Mobile phones | Top stories
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Jabra BT8010 Bluetooth headset - and headphones



Spotted over at Shiny Shiny is Jabra's latest attempt to get us to go Bluetooth - the **Jabra BT8010** - which doubles up as a pair of headphones.

Doubling up is probably a good idea - after all, most phones these days have a media player, so why not use it? And it saves you carrying around two different add-ons. The actual Bluetooth unit features a personalised phonebook, caller ID and up to 10 hours talk time. And if no-one is calling, slip in the other earpiece and listen to some tunes.

Price still to be confirmed.

Jabra website

More from Shiny Shiny

Posted by modculture on January 12, 2007 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

LG Shine handset - UK launch date confirmed and new pictures



You may have seen Susi getting excited over the LG Shine phone this week at the CES. Well, LG has been kind enough to send across some images of the handset and announced that **February 7th is the date it is to debut on the UK** (after Korea obviously) - with the rest of the world to follow (which might make up for the wait for the iPhone).

LG has already sold more than 180,000 Shine handsets in Korea since its launch in November, so there must be some hands-on appeal in the wide 2.2-inch 'magic mirror' screen and brushed full metal body. Full technical details for the UK version of Shine will be announced at the launch on February 7th. You'll read about them first here.

LG website

Posted by modculture on January 12, 2007 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

O2 does Lord of the Rings on your mobile



The words "mobile phone" and "theatre" aren't often found in the same sentence – but with **O2 collaborating on the new Lord of the Rings theatre production**, all that could be about to change.

The company claims it's the first time a theatre production has featured mobile content specifically for its customers. And I don't doubt it for a second. Specifically, that content, accessed via O2 Active, includes advanced ticket booking via a dedicated number, exclusive preview nights for O2 customers (as long as they turn their phones off), behind the scenes footage via mobile blogs and exclusive ringtones and screensavers.

The British and European premiere of The Lord of the Rings will take place at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane in London on 19th June 2007, following the previews from 9th May. According to Manjit Waters, Head of Mobile Portals at O2 UK: "We're delighted deWynters have chosen O2 to bring this material from The Lord of the Rings to the public. Theatre has been much neglected by the mobile industry to date and we're pleased to be able to help them reach new audiences. We're enabling theatre to go mobile, extending all their assets to the mobile arena. This is a very exciting production and there's plenty of material on O2 Active for our customers to choose from."

O2 website

More for your mobile

Posted by modculture on January 12, 2007 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

10 reasons to love the iPhone, 10 reasons to run



Now that the iPhone announcement has had a couple of days to sink it, here's my reflections on the best and worst of the iPhone.

FOR THE IPHONE

1. Looks (and feels) amazing

Whatever you think of the feature set, and the chances of your fat fingers destroying that shiny big screen, the iPhone looks amazing, and it probably feels amazing in the palm of your hand, too. It's sleek, curvy, shiny, and sexy, with on-screen icons and buttons that just ooze and drip class.

2. OS X

Most likely a scaled-down version of the fully fledged Mac OS X, but still a world-class operating system, and touted to run 'desktop-class applications'. Certainly great news for Apple Mac fans that have longed for a home-grown solution that lets them use the desktop apps they love on the move.

3. Google/Yahoo integration

Seeing Apple working closely with Google and Yahoo may not sit comfortably with everyone, but it does mean that the iPhone gets killer apps – like Google Maps – as well as more mail functionality – Yahoo mail push. A good alliance.

4. Gestures

Whilst no-one but Steve and a few top bods at Apple have got their hands on the iPhone yet, all the demonstrations so far point to a pretty slick 'gesturing' system for controlling the iPhone. Sweeping and pinching to scroll and zoom look particularly cool. Apple have certainly done a lot of

research into this. Well-known for producing great user interfaces, expect something special from Apple on this one.

5. Cover art

Not everyone's cup of tea, but the function first introduced on the desktop version of iTunes makes it way onto the iPhone. Sure, it only looks good if iTunes can find art for most of your albums, but scrolling through your music visually with bold finger sweeps on that luscious widescreen is amazing.

6. Smart contacts and voicemail

After all, this is a *phone*: Finding and calling contacts, setting up conference calls, and visual voicemeail that allows you to see your messages rather than having to run through them sequentially, are all cool features that raise the bar on how you make, take, and organise calls.

7. Sensors

The iPhone's three built-in sensors: accelerometer, proximity, and ambient light, improve the user experience by doing smart things without the user intervening or even having to think about them - typically Apple.

8. Wi-fi

Of course wi-fi isn't everywhere, but it's increasingly easy to hook up to the Internet at home and work, as well as plenty of other places: cafés, libraries, and urban hotspots. iPhone certainly isn't the only handset to include it, but it's a great addition.

9. Large screen

Oh that gorgeous high-resolution widescreen. It invites you to touch it - which is just as well, given that's how you interact with the iPhone.

10. It's Apple

For some, this puts it in the 'against' list, but not for me. Apple make products that look, feel, and work... great. The iPhone is undeniably Apple.

AGAINST THE IPHONE

1. Lockdown

Despite running a version of OS X, Steve Jobs has told the press that the iPhone will be a closed platform. It was exciting when we thought we could put all our OS X software goodies on the device, but apparently that isn't going to happen. Oh, Apple will probably *sell* extra software, but there won't be a free-for-all.

I'm surprised, given the stability and reliability of OS X, that a workaround for this hasn't been found. Steve Jobs has implied that a rogue application could screw up the mobile network. "Cingular doesn't want to see their West Coast network go down because some application messed up," he told Newsweek.

2. Touchscreen

That touchscreen is a mixed blessing. Fingers are messy things (some people's more than others) and sweeping and tapping them all over a glossy screen is sure to take its toll eventually. Plus, fingers are much fatter than a stylus, so you can't help but obscure what you're interacting with. You'll also have to invest in your own screen protection, as first-generation iPhone doesn't have its own.

3. No 3G

This is a killer for many people, particularly outside the US. Whilst a second generation of iPhone could feature 3G, omitting it from the start may make it unattractive to anyone wanting high-speed Net access on the move. Wi-fi isn't everywhere and we're more accustomed to widespread 3G in the UK and Europe. Though Steve mentioned the elusive 3G in his keynote, it's not a feature yet, and with an apparent exclusive tie-in to Cingular (in the States) until at least 2009, things could move very slowly on this one. Let's hope European variants evolve more quickly.

4. Poor camera spec

A 2 megapixel camera, even on a mobile phone, is pretty paltry these days. It's an easy one to upgrade in future models, but it still seems a little stingy. It's a spec already whipped by cheaper phones from most other manufacturers. With the iPhone touted as an all-in-one device, the camera needs to improve.

5. US provider

The whole deal with users requiring a two-year contract with Cingular to use the iPhone is a bum deal for anyone on the larger US networks with existing

contracts. Let's hope similar tie-ins 'features' like this don't make their way over to the UK.

6. No VoIP

Some were hoping for VoIP to be a part of the iPhone, but that doesn't appear to be the case. And the reason? Allegedly because of Cisco's pesky lawsuit against Apple's use of the iPhone name. Apple have said that their products are different because Cisco make VoIP devices, which the iPhone isn't. If this is the only reason, it's a pain. Worth a name change?

7. Release date

5+ months until the US gets hold of the iPhone, and almost a year until international rollout begins, will result in hype and unreasonably raised expectations. It could all backfire on Apple if demand can't be met, or if the first iPhone doesn't live up to the spin that will now circle the Internet until release date.

8. Battery life

The iPhone's battery life is something that has to improve if users are to enjoy all of its features on the move without being forced to recharge it 2 or 3 times a day. 5 hours talk/video time is pretty pathetic, added to the fact that these batteries look like they're 'locked in' (a la iPod) - so carrying round a spare and swapping it out isn't a possibility.

9. Price

Yes it's a premium Apple product, but the price is going to deter even some of the most ardent Apple fans. Unlocked versions, if they ever materialise, could cost even more. And what about the replacement cost? Presumably the iPhone, as it comes on contract, is already subsidised?

10. Not Symbian

Though OS X is great, and the scaled-down iPhone version could work wonderfully, many see Symbian OS as the leading OS for mobile devices. It's present on around 70% of mobile devices (as of 3Q last year) and is an evolved, honed system. OS X, on the other hand, is as yet unproven on such a mobile device. It also makes it harder for existing third-party applications to be ported to the iPhone.

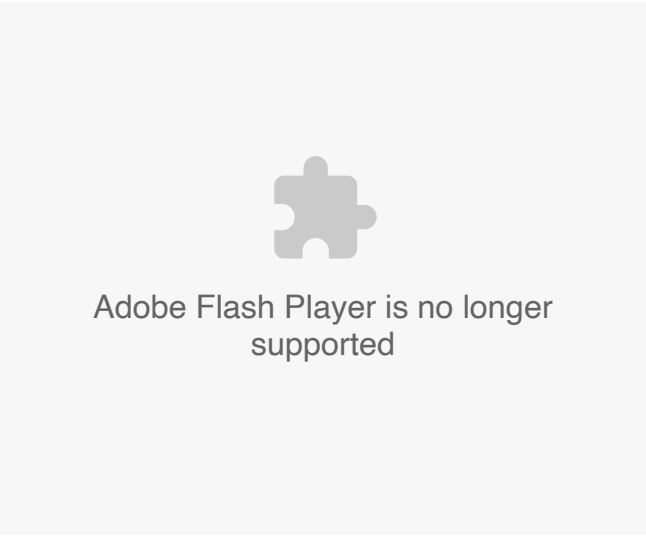
Posted by Andy Merrett on January 12, 2007 in Mobile phones | Top tens
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

CES 2007: top 10 (final edition)

So it's over. The geeks have left town, and there's nowt to do in Vegas but drink and gamble.

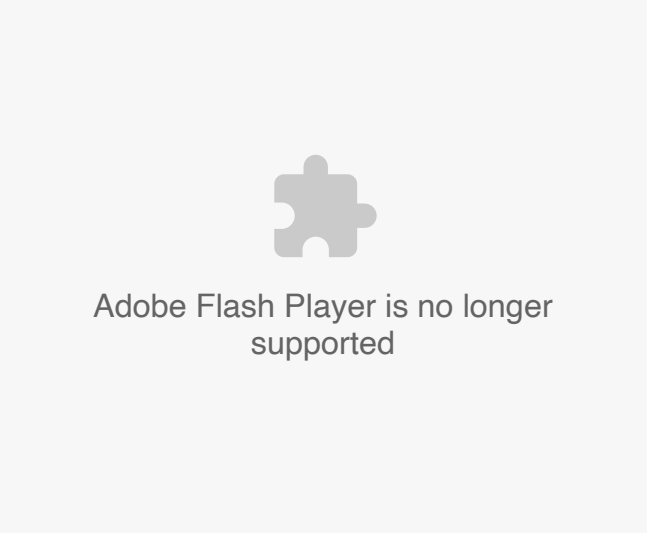
Time, then, for us to show you the top 10 videos you've liked the most - the little things we filmed that our counters tell us were most popular with you, the readers. Not only are you everyone's person of the year, but you contributed to Tech Digest in your own special way. I hope that makes you feel good.

1. Asimo. Nuff said.

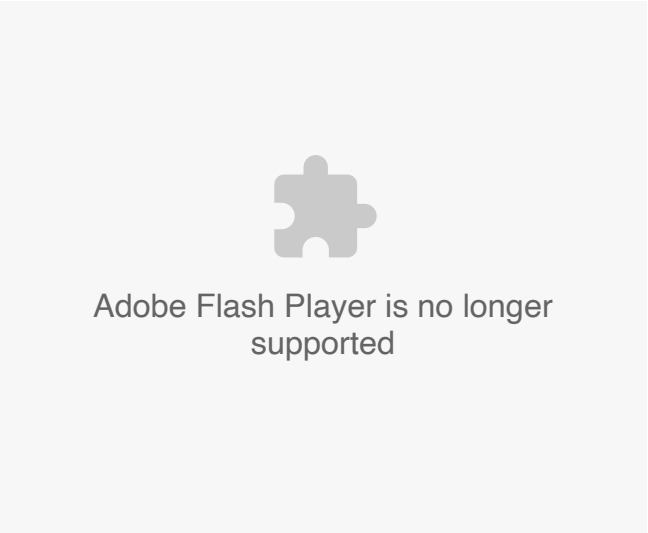


2. Feeling fat? Want exercise, but don't want to stop playing video games? Put down that Wii and get on your bike. Not that one, silly, the one that plugs into your game. Drive that car with your thighs of ~~steel~~ mush that will

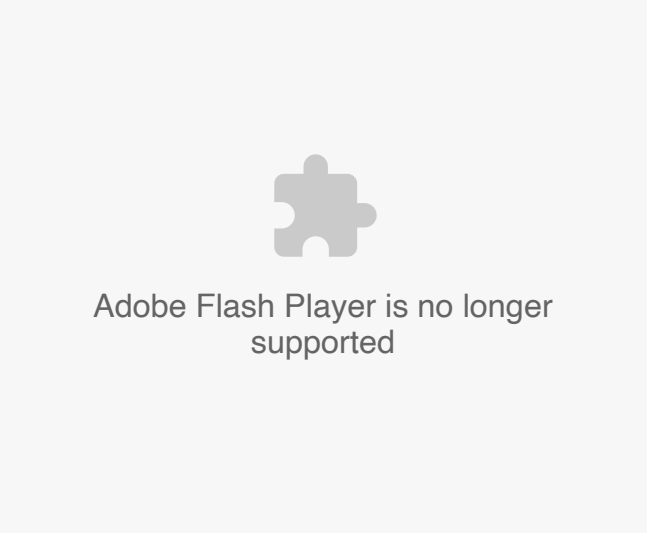
soon become steel. Unless you get bored and go back to killing hookers on GTA.



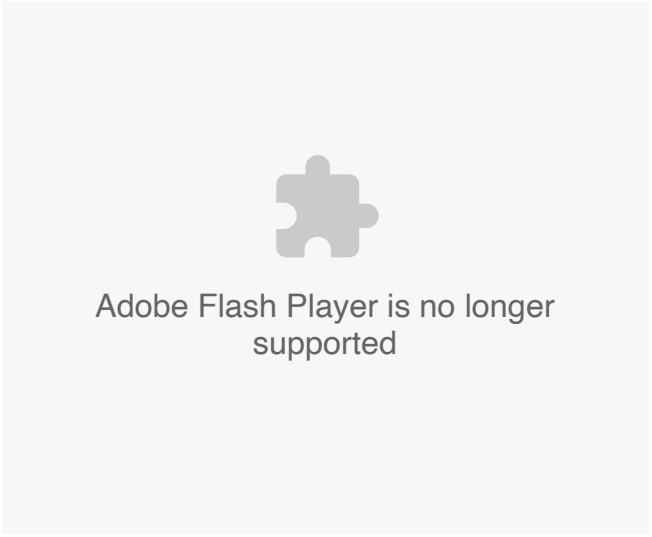
3. It works like a Wiimote, but it's not. It's a T(v)mote. See what I did there? If they sell it under that name I want a cut.



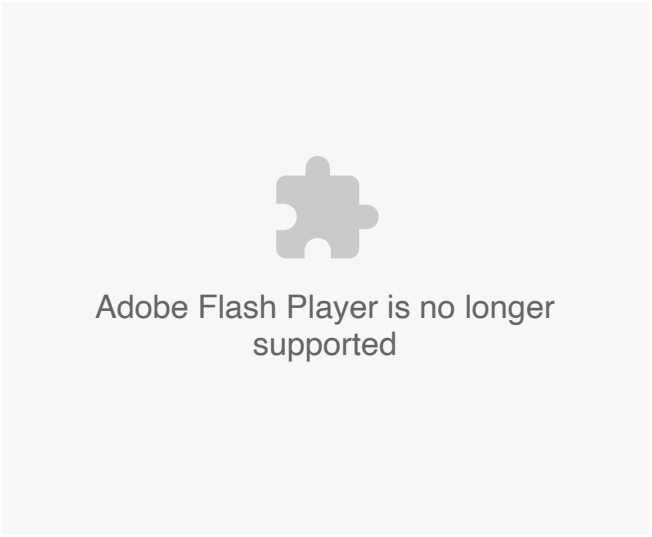
4. Look at my ~~willy~~ telly! It's huge! 108" huge! If it bent, I could use it as a duvet.



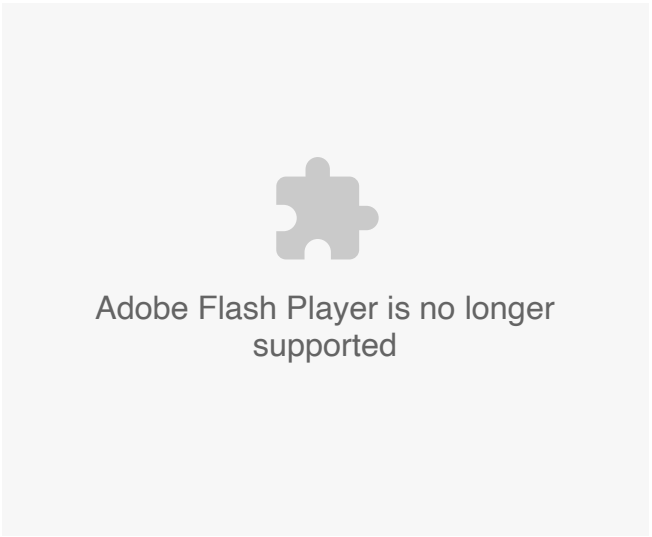
5. Don't you hate it when you're sitting on the sofa, happily watching a film, and the urge for a beer overpowers you but you can't be bothered to get up? Hate no more! Get the beer-fetching robot instead. You know it'll be the top of everyone's Xmas lists this year.



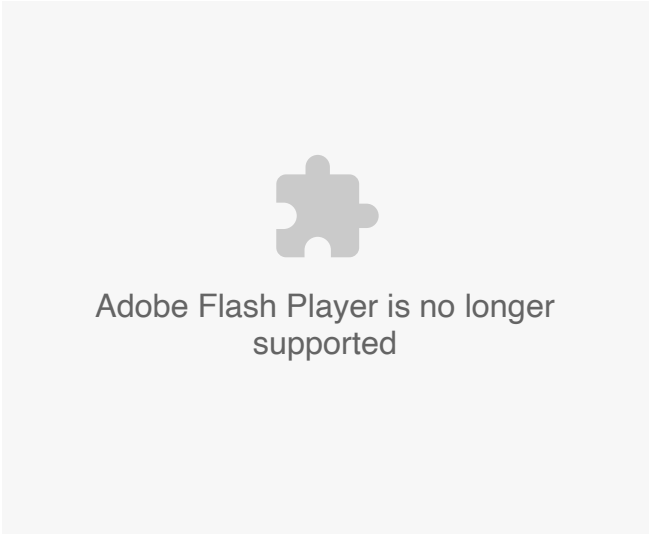
6. Technology for the elderly. We know you're savvier than this, but your gran could probably do with it. Just don't let her ask you what a blog is, or you'll be there for ~~hours~~ months if she's anything like mine.



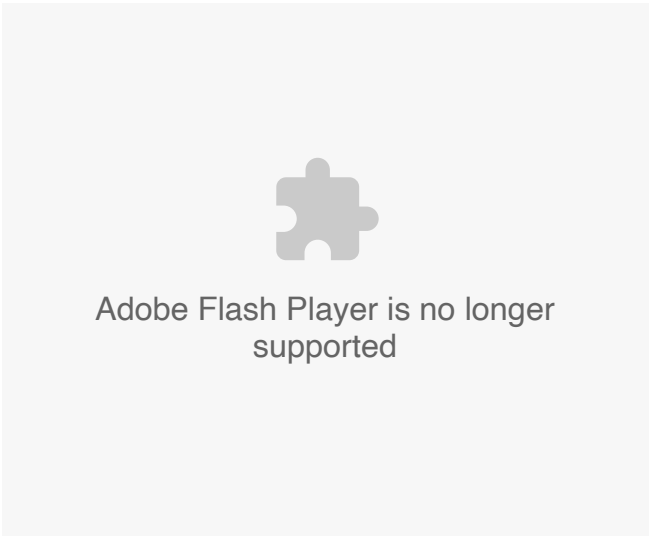
7. R2D2 wants to run your life, in a crazed despotic robot fashion. Or maybe he just wants to show you his holiday snaps. Either way, I'd play nice - this robot's a powerhouse.



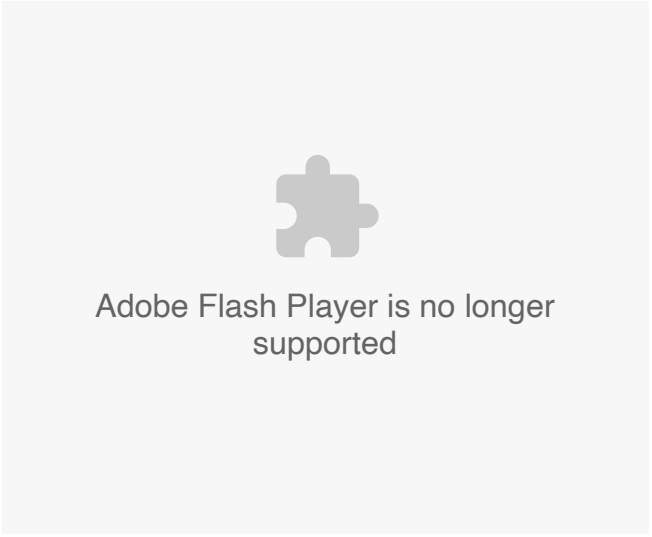
8. Gone are the days when everyone and their dog had a Nokia. Still, enough of you are interested in their output that this N76 preview video scored highly in our rankings. Check it out, and then wish the iPhone were coming out sooner.



9. Stu looking very uncomfortable on a horse. Sort of like the bucking broncos you can ride in bars with sawdust on the floor, only with less bucking. I think that makes Stu slightly happier, but I don't think the poor lad's overly impressed.



10. I've always been afraid of hamsters to a certain extent, but was comforted by the fact that they live in lockable cages. No more. This hamster can drive, and I think he's pissed off.



Posted by katewalker on January 11, 2007 in CES 2007 | Gadgets | Gaming | Home audio | Home cinema | MP3 players | Mobile phones | Robots | TVs | Top tens | Video
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Cisco to sue Apple over iPhone name



We hinted on launch date that Cisco might have something to say about Apple's use of the iPhone for its new handset - and it does. It's going to sue.

Cisco obtained the iPhone trademark in 2000 after acquiring Infogear, which previously owned the name. However, Apple doesn't seem overly concerned, dismissing Cisco's claims as "silly" and "tenuous at best".

According to Apple spokesman Alan Hely: "We think Cisco's trademark lawsuit is silly. There are already several companies using the name iPhone for Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) products. We are the first company to ever use the iPhone name for a cell phone, and if Cisco wants to challenge us on it we are very confident we will prevail."

In response, Mark Chandler, Cisco senior vice-president and general counsel, said: "Cisco entered into negotiations with Apple in good faith after Apple repeatedly asked permission to use Cisco's iPhone name." Cisco said it would seek to stop Apple from "infringing upon and deliberately copying and using" the trademark.

Apple website

Posted by modculture on January 11, 2007 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

ROK launches Monkey Sports News - sports news read by monkeys



While the quality of some satellite TV sports reporting might leave a lot to be desired, no-one has, as yet, launched a station manned by monkeys. But there is one for your mobile - **Monkey Sports News from Rok**.

As you would expect from ROK, it's a TV service for 2.5G networks, available on both ROK TV and FreeBe TV. No cruelty is involved - instead it's just technology at work. Monkey Sport News, which is aimed at both men and women, takes a live text feed of sports stories and uses a speech recognition programme to lip synch the stories, which are read by computer-generated animals.

According to Bruce Renny, Marketing Director of ROK: "Aside from catering to the traditional male sports demographic, we have designed Monkey Sports News in a fun and quirky way to also appeal to the growing demographic of female sport enthusiasts. In the past three months alone, ROK has seen a twenty per cent increase in the consumption of sport content by women, across our mobile TV services."

ROK website

Posted by modculture on January 11, 2007 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Apple's iPhone and LG's KE850 - striking similarities?



No, your eyes do not lie – the pictures above are of two separate handsets that could well have been separated at birth.

Engadget noticed the similarity between the design of Apple's much-heralded iPhone and **LG's KE850**, currently recipient of the International Forum Design Product Design Award for 2007. Of course, it may be pure coincidence – but that's probably something for the respective legal teams to ascertain.

Apple website
LG website

Via Engadget

Posted by modculture on January 11, 2007 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

CES 2007: Koss takes away the wires with two new sets of headphones



Koss has unveiled a pair of rather swish pair of Bluetooth headphones called Cobalt. They have a unique white and gold finish and a behind the head design that looks similar to the Motorola HT820s. They don't specifically state A2DP but we're assuming that's what they use.

The internal Li-Ion battery give and approximate battery life of eight hours and it is designed to give an extended frequency response. Koss also supplies a Bluetooth transmitter that will fit your computer/MP3 player/whatever with it.

Check out the Koss Tugos on the turn.



As a slightly lower tech solution to the whole Bluetooth thing, the Koss TUGO incorporates an MP3 player into the ear piece (if Mohammed won't come to Mohammed...) with the play/pause, skip and volume controls located on the side.

It is powered by a Li-ion battery – no indication of how long it will last, but it should charge in about three hours. You can hook it up to your PC using a mini USB input. Inside, titanium coated diaphragms increase the rigidity of the element. They also fold up flat for easier storage.

Unfortunately there's no indication of the price of UK availability just yet.

Tech Digest CES coverage

Posted by Al W on January 10, 2007 in CES 2007 | MP3 players | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

CES 2007: SideShow ain't just for laptops



We checked out the ASUS w5fe notebook PC the other day, which uses Vista's new SideShow system to allow you access to things like music, photos, contact information and more, even when the machine is on standby. I had thought that was about all it was going to be used for (certainly the website doesn't give much else away). However, having a peek at around the Microsoft booth I found a further three gadgets that were showing off SideShow functionality,

The rep had a mobile running a prototype SideShow application for the Windows Mobile platform. With this he was able to access his computer, scroll through emails, check out photos and listen to music, all wirellessly and without going near his machine.



There was also a SideShow remote control on display, which will presumably be used with the various Media Center tool. Although the demo device wasn't in operation, I expect it will primarily be used to navigate through your video files so you can select the one you want to play.

Finally there was a SideShow Picture frame being demoed that can connect up to your stored digital photos and show them off either as a single image or in a slide show. One problem with this though, is that there are already several products on the market that do the same thing, and things like the new Kodak frames, looked a hell of a lot better and will be able to do more.

On the whole, the SideShow aspect of Vista looks extremely promising and I'm looking forward to seeing what else will take advantage of the system.

Tech Digest CES coverage

Posted by Al W on January 10, 2007 in CES 2007 | Computers | Gadgets | Home cinema | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

CES 2007: Nokia's Pekka Pohjakallio talks Nseries, Wi-Fi and multimedia trends



Nokia has maintained a high profile at CES, announcing three new phones and deals with the likes of Skype, Yahoo and Six Apart. I sat down for a chat with Pekka Pohjakallio, VP of Nseries computers in Nokia's multimedia division.

Besides giving Nokia's initial response to the Apple iPhone, he also talked about the new N93i, N76 and N800, promised that Wi-Fi and 3.5mm headphone jacks will be standard in ALL Nseries handsets from now on, and hinted at a potentially-ace collaboration with guitar-maker Gibson. Read on for the full details.

First off, we went through the three new Nseries handsets, starting with the N93i (pictured), which is the revamped version of the N93 camcorder handset.

"It's 6mm thinner and 3mm shorter, and we've used premium materials to make it more comfortable to use and carry," says Pohjakallio. "We've upgraded the screen to 16 million colours, and made the setup of Wi-Fi much easier than it used to be. It's now active/idle, so there is a sniffer checking around for Wi-Fi hotspots."

The basic form factor remains the same, with you twisting the screen in a camcorder stylee, and then folding it back on itself to watch clips. The Wi-Fi is important too, and it's clearly becoming an ever-more important feature for Nokia.



"From now on, all the Nseries will have Wi-Fi," says Pohjahkallio. "We believe more and more that when the internet is about participation, the creation tools we have on these devices fit into people's desire to participate in Web 2.0 applications, as well as get at their email and browsing wherever they are. And Wi-Fi seems to be cheaper in many places than normal data calls. And of course it is also a tool for home integration, as there are lots of devices that you can connect to Wi-Fi."



Then there's the N76 (pictured), which if I was a cynical man, I'd label Nokia's RAZR. It's a super-slim clamshell phone with metallic styling, and according to Pohjakallio, it's aimed at the demographic group Nokia refers to as 'technology stylists' (you may remember our post from the Nokia World conference explaining how Nokia segments mobile users)

"There's an emerging group of people who are excited about the new technology, and don't settle for low-quality, but it's also very very important for them that the style is right and the materials are good," he says. "So the N76 is metal, very robust and with a good premium feel to it, but still having all the Nseries use cases. There's a two-megapixel camera, the new internet browser, and a music player with which you can use a normal 3.5mm headphones jack."

Like Wi-Fi, 3.5mm jacks are going to be a standard feature in Nseries devices going forward, which is frankly about time for the mobile industry, given that so many music phones come with proprietary ports forcing you to use the bundled earphones rather than your own set. "We're not going to have any proprietary jacks any more," says Pohjakallio. I'll raise a toast to that.

Finally, there's the N800 Internet Tablet (pictured), which is the follow-up to the original 770 device, which Pohjakallio says was more of a device for "Linux enthusiasts who were hacking and making new code in the open-source environment". The N800 keeps the widescreen format and Wi-Fi connectivity, and is basically about browsing, instant messaging and thanks to a deal with Skype announced at CES, VoIP calls too.



Is it a new gadget for people, or is Nokia trying to replace another device? "I think this is a new one," says Pohjakallio. "It's for those who really want to get the internet in a comfortable manner wherever they are. You have PDAs, but their main use case is something else. This has been done thinking internet first, and then adding other features if need be."

Some of those other features are pretty neat, mind. Nokia has signed up Navicore to provide navigation software for the N800, and RealNetworks to get the latter's Rhapsody music subscription service running on the device. Pohjakallio says the latter could be the dark-horse feature, suggesting people may use the N800 as an internet radio in their kitchens, for example.

"Because it's open-source Linux, there's lots of application development happening for it," he says. "You will see a community building, developing applications we wouldn't have even thought about."

One thing I was keen to ask about was how Nokia is approaching the challenges of making smartphones that are supposed to do so many different things. Can one device really be as good at watching mobile TV, as it is at shooting video or taking photos, as it is at playing music or games, or surfing the internet? How do you prevent the jack-of-all-trades problem kicking in, where one or more of these areas suffer?

When it comes to devices like the N93, Pohjakallio says Nokia is taking the form-factor approach, of making sure that as soon as users pick it up, they

know what its main use is (camcorder in this case), with the other features sitting behind. Which doesn't quite answer the question (can those other features be as good if the phone is focused more on video). But he does say there's an interesting challenge when it comes to more general handsets like the N76.

"You have to be really careful about what is important," he says. "Our main areas are photography, music, video, TV, games and internet connection. They all have to be in a good level in these products when it comes to usability and performance, and then you can highlight one or two per product. It is a challenge, but we believe that we are one of the companies who have been thinking about what makes a good multi-purpose device for a long time now, so we are further ahead than some other companies."

The last area I asked about was convergence with other devices. Particularly at this year's CES, lots of the major consumer electronics manufacturers are figuring out how to make their devices work with other devices. Think TVs designed to display your photos, or hi-fis that connect easily with iPods and so on. Is this a big deal for Nokia?

Pohjakallion says yes, and cites design decisions like the 3.5mm jack as proof. TV-Out is also becoming a more important feature for Nseries handsets, while he also thinks the Universal Plug'n'Play (UPnP) standard will become more of a factor as home electronics devices come out that support it. Oh, and Bluetooth when it comes to things like cars, which increasingly have Bluetooth fitted in the factory.

"The surrounding world is very important, and the reason we think we have a strong position is that this is a device that is very personal, and always with you," he says. "So it's natural that stuff accumulates on here, and then you share it with other devices. And of course the PC and Mac connectivity is of the utmost importance, for storage and so on, as well as music synchronising."



And it's not just your normal gadgets either. Here's a mini scoop for you: the morning of our talk, Pohjakallio rode to CES in a tour bus belonging to guitar firm Gibson, after a meeting with one of their bigwigs. Are we going to see a Nokia axe any time soon? Weeelll... who knows.

"They have the classical part, but lots of electronics are starting to be embedded," says Pohjakallio. "They have a digital guitar, so they connect to the same places we connect to. So... yeah..."

Tech Digest CES coverage

Posted by Stuart Dredge on January 10, 2007 in CES 2007 | Interviews | Mobile phones | Wi-Fi
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

CES 2007: Plantronics Discovery 665 headset with an IQ



Designed for those situations when you're taking a call and the noise of a passing bus, tannoy annoucements or loud music completely obscures the most relevant part of what you're being told - the Plantronics Voyager 665 Bluetooth headset comes with new Audio IQ technology that is designed to intelligently adjust sound volumes when the background noise picks up. The idea is to stop you having to fiddle with the volume button too much while you chat.

Alongside that technology comes an impressive array of accessories too. The stylish headset fits into a compact holder with a pen clip. If you receive a call while it's in there, it will even give you a vibration alert. You also get an extra attachment that takes AAA batteries and will give you a few hours extra juice if you run out. And you get a car charger in the box too.

Other features include QuickPair technology for faster, easier pairing with Bluetooth devices and a lightweight construction (just 9g) for extra comfort. Unfortunately, I don't know the exact price yet, nor when it will be hitting the UK.

Tech Digest CES coverage

Posted by Al W on January 10, 2007 in CES 2007 | Gadgets | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

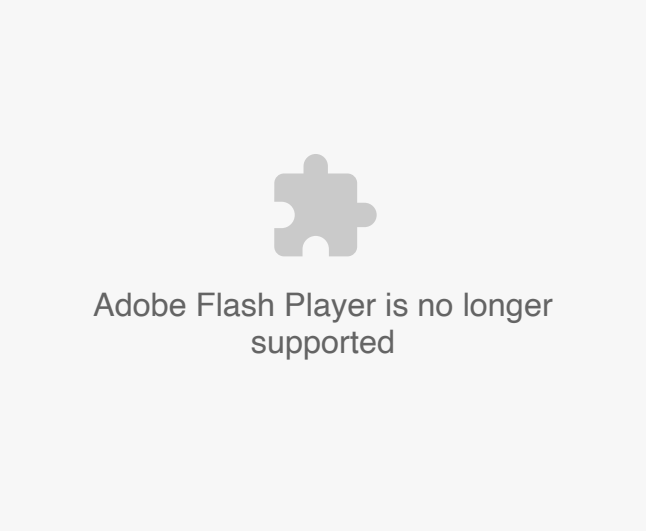
CES 2007: Ten latest videos

Another day, another silly gadget or ten brought to you by our intrepid journalists. Here are the ten latest videos we shot at CES, assembled for your viewing pleasure.

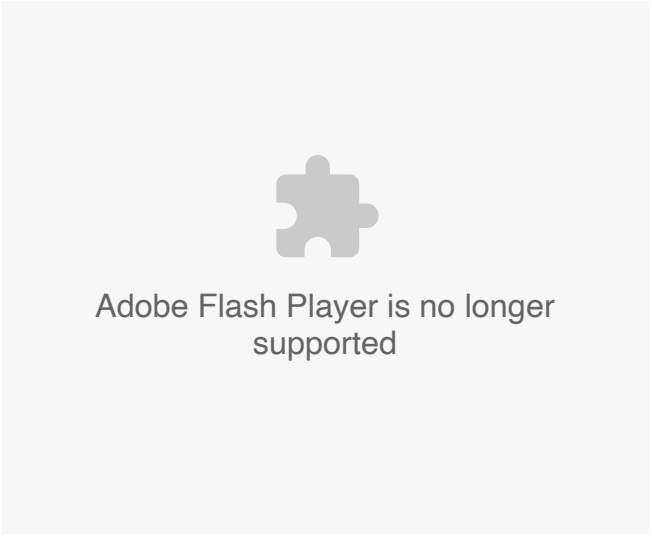
1. Best. Video. Ever. Not only will the Giddyup Horse Simulator make you ~~laugh~~ lose weight, but you can get some uncomfortable jollies watching Stuart do his thang in a strangely sexual fashion.



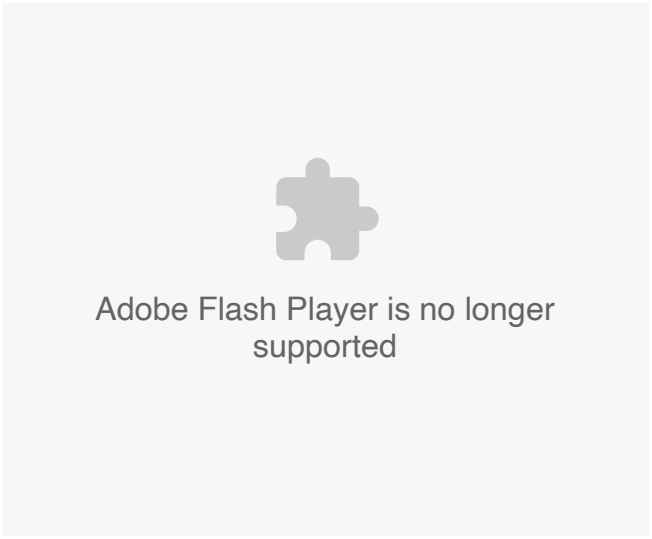
2. I hate everyone who lives in Japan. Not only do they get to live in my favourite country, eating the best food in the world, but they also have Akihabara and futuristic gadgets we'll never see. These 10 megapixel cameraphones are a case in point.



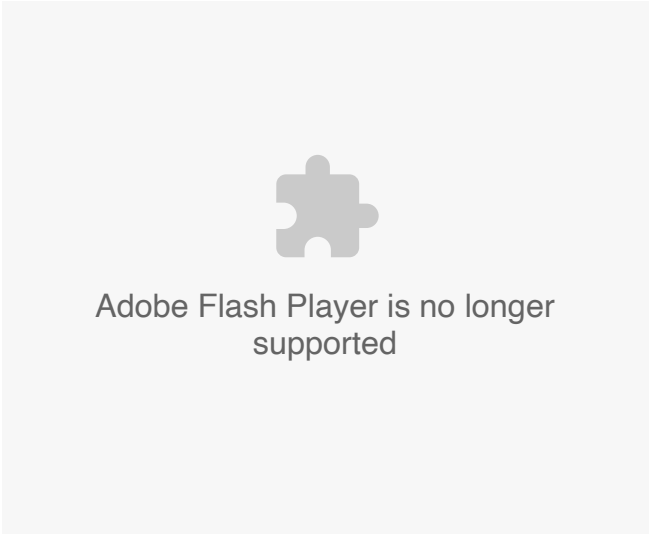
3. One for students everywhere. Or, if you believe the sign, pets and babies. They say it's a mini washer. I say it's a glorified salad spinner. You decide.



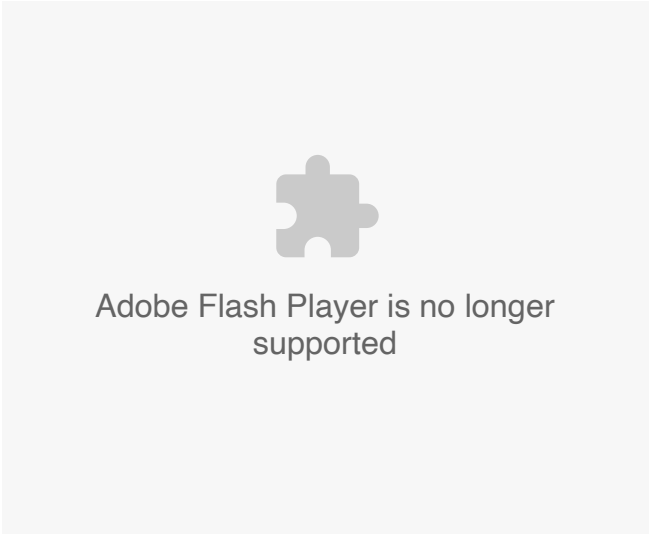
4. I don't get Hello Kitty at all. I find her more than mildly disturbing. I am, however, impressed with her brand. She gets her name on more things than (probably) the Olsen twins, whose empire had 100,000,000 products at last guess. Good PR choice, Kitty. :)



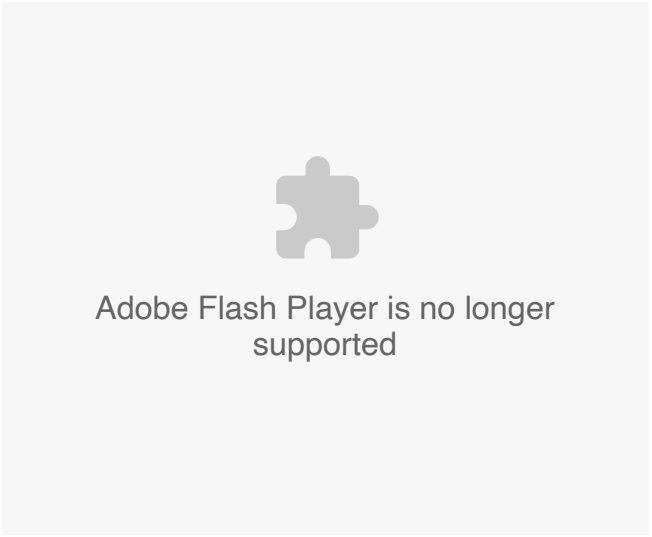
5. Hubba hubba. Scratch the iPhone, this tablet PC/laptop/identity crisis is a serious contender for sexiest computer-related gadget introduced in January 2007.



6. Kodak pimp their latest digicam offering, but it doesn't seem to match up to what I expect from a camera these days. Sure, it takes and stores and shares pictures. But where's my phone, address book, SMS service, and diddy web browser? Get with the times, people!



7. I hate exercise. I love exercise devices that make the people using them look foolish, especially when I'm not that person.



8. WiFi portable media player. It, um, plays media on the move, and has WiFi. Sort of like Ronseal. Which doesn't play media or have WiFi, but does do what it says on the tin.



9. I love the proliferation of gadgets found in the average house these days. What I don't love is the endless wires, and the ensuing chaos, even with cable tidies in use and identifying post-its on every plug socket. Netgear may have the answer, once I can afford the products their wireless is designed for...

Adobe Flash Player is no longer supported

10. n00b! This is 1337 pwnage, public smack-down stylee. Working with computers and gadgets obviously doesn't mean you actually know how to play with them... kekekekekek

Adobe Flash Player is no longer supported

Posted by katewalker on January 10, 2007 in CES 2007 | Computers | Digital cameras | Gadgets | Gaming | HDTV | MP3 players | Mobile phones | Sport | Video | Wi-Fi | Wireless home
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Sony Ericsson's MBR-100 Bluetooth music receiver



Sony Ericsson continue to push the joys of music from your mobile, this time with the **MBR-100 Bluetooth music receiver**, which wirelessly transmits your Bluetooth phone-based tracks to a hi-fi or car stereo.

The MBR-100 comes with 2 different cables, an RCA cable and a 3.5 mm input cable so it can fit almost any audio device at home or in the car. Once your phone is paired to the MBR-100, you just have to walk into its range to accept an automatic invitation on your phone screen to play your music as loud as you want. As the music plays through the speakers you can use your phone as a remote control, with the ability to play, pause and skip to next track.

The MBR-100 has a rechargeable battery and a glossy black finish. Expect to see it in stores sometime in early 2007.

Sony Ericsson website

More mobile phone accessories

Posted by modculture on January 10, 2007 in Mobile phones

Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Sony Ericsson HBH-PV705 Style Edition Bluetooth headset



Sony Ericsson has a new Bluetooth headset on the market for "when looking good is important" - the **HBH-PV705 Style Edition**.

Strangely, the company is selling the merits of wearing your headset as jewellery - hung round your neck for example, courtesy of the included "silver finish" chain. You can - but you might look a little bit silly, no matter which of the three exchangeable panels you select (black, floral or purple).

So let's concentrate on the technology. It weighs 14g and offers 12 hours talk time, along with 300 hours in standby. The unit rests on your ear with a soft ear hook and as it doesn't cover your ear canal, you can hear the outside world when wearing it.

Available in the first part of this year, a price is yet to be confirmed.

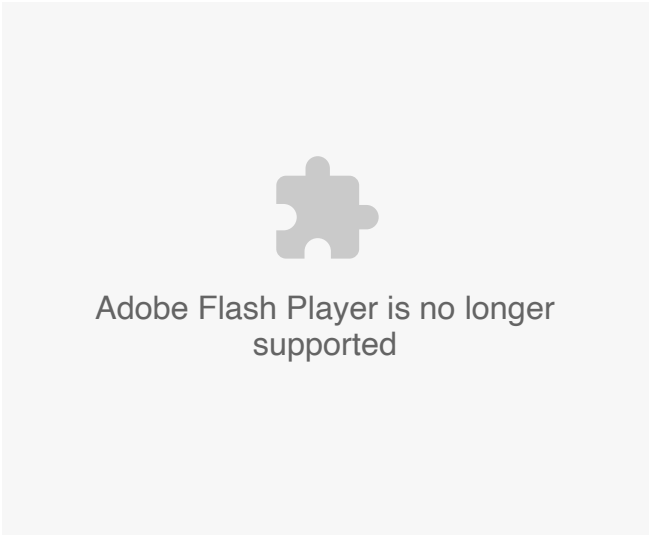
Sony Ericsson website

More for your mobile phone

Posted by modculture on January 10, 2007 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

CES 2007: LG's new Shine phone

The LG Shine phone is currently only available in Asia, but it's been promised to the UK for a while now. However, the pictures seen so far don't do it justice, and I was surprised to find out how attractive it was once I got to the stand.



Posted by ScarlettSusi on January 10, 2007 in CES 2007 | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

CES 2007: Samsung 10 megapixel camera phone and MobileTV handset

Samsung had a couple of CDMA phones on display on their stand, and of course, no one's sure if they're going to ever make it to the UK. Still, they both look flash, although why you'd ever want 10 megapixels in a camera phone god only knows. Really in depth photos of your mates down the pub

perhaps?

Adobe Flash Player is no longer supported

Posted by ScarlettSusi on January 10, 2007 in CES 2007 | Digital cameras | Mobile phones | Top stories
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

10 tricks to play on your new iPhone (when it arrives)

By the time you've waited for between 6 and 12 months for your new iPhone, you may have gone just a little crazy. Relieve your madness with these iPhone-busting ideas:



1. Spin the iPhone

"iPhone's accelerometer detects when you rotate the device from portrait to landscape, then automatically changes the contents of the display, so you immediately see the entire width of a web page or a photo in its proper landscape aspect ratio."

See how fast you can rotate the iPhone before the operating system simply gives up trying to reorient what's on the screen.

2. Grease the iPhone

It's a touchscreen, man, but you just *know* that after your morning coffee and doughnut and several grovelling calls to the boss that you might have trouble getting your iPhone to understand your gestures. See how much gunk you can get on the screen before you (a) can't control the screen and (b) can't read it anyway.

3. "Venus fly trap effect" for your iPhone

"The proximity sensor detects when you lift iPhone to your ear and immediately turns off the display to save power and prevent inadvertent touches until iPhone is moved away."

Go on, wave it about near your ear and see how many times it tries to save power and 'prevent inadvertent touches' before it just gives up and goes to sleep (or cracks open on your skull)

4. Install Office 2008 on your iPhone

Yeah, baby, Universal Office 2008 is coming around the same time as the iPhone (Stateside anyway). And the iPhone runs OS X right? So put this tiny, happy little application on 'cause you know how much fun typing a Word document on the soft keyboard is going to be, don't you? And Microsoft and Mac get on so well...

5. Install Windows Vista on your iPhone

Next step up from #4. Hey, why not give it a go? Just because two-year-old PCs will struggle to get the best out of the Vista monster, doesn't mean your Intel iPhone can't have a go at running it. Wonder if Aero'll work?

6. Teach your iPhone new gestures

Some smart-arse developer is going to find out a way to abuse the gesturing-with-your-fingers system and come up with some new interesting

ways of controlling the iPhone. Worked for getting the motion detectors on the PowerBooks to flip screens, anyway.

7. Photo feedback loop overload

Get your iPhone to take a photo every second, email it to your Yahoo IMAP account (via your free wi-fi connection of course), then have Yahoo push that email back to you. See how long before that exciting digital flickbook you've just created eats up the 4 or 8GB storage.

8. Send rude audio files to a Zune user

Tricky one. First, *find* a Zune user. Then send him a cleverly concocted iTunes insult (a fart or something'll do if you can't be more creative) over wi-fi. OK, so the incompatible DRM could send one or t'other of them into meltdown (my money's on Billy Zune) but it's worth a go.

9. Widget overdrive!



See how many pointless OS X widgets you can cram onto the device. You know the ones – weird animations, quotes of the day from people you've never heard of, Sudoku – that sort of thing. Then watch iPhone squirm trying to serve them up to you. 3.5 inches of screen isn't infinite...

10. Interrogate your iPhone

"An ambient light sensor automatically adjusts the display's brightness to the appropriate level for the current ambient light, thereby enhancing the user experience and saving power at the same time."

Pretend your iPhone has done something very, very bad (called Bill Gates and asked for a laptop PC with Vista installed, for example). Shine a very bright light on it and watch it lose it's ambience.

Get serious iPhone specs and links here / *Macworld 2007 coverage* / *CES 2007 coverage*

Posted by Andy Merrett on January 10, 2007 in Macworld 2007 | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (4) | TrackBack (0)

Apple iPhone: The full specifications



So, after months (years) of speculation and rumour, **Apple has finally announced the iPhone** in all its glory.

Tech Digest has already covered the initial communications aspects, and what it might mean for UK consumers if and when it arrives in Britain, plus reactions from the likes of Orange and Nokia (scroll to end of this article for the links) so in this article I'll take a look at the key features of this 'revolutionary' new mobile phone.

First up is that **gorgeous touch screen** that fills almost the entire front panel. It's a 3.5 inch (diagonal) screen, boasting a **resolution of 320 x 480 at 160 pixels per inch**. That's more than enough for widescreen (16:9) viewing, though you'll probably get black bars at the top and bottom of the images.

It has just one physical button at the bottom of the display. Nearly everything else is done via the touchscreen, using intuitive finger motions such as tapping, sweeping and 'pinching'.

It features several sensors. One reorients what's displayed on screen when the phone is rotated between landscape and portrait orientation. It also has a proximity sensor that knows when you have the phone to your ear and adjusts the screen and touch pad accordingly.

The phone is **quad-band, wi-fi enabled** (Apple site specs say 802.11b and g though Steve was talking about n compatibility also), with **Bluetooth 2.0 EDR, GSM, and EDGE**.

It comes with a **2 megapixel camera**.

It will **run Apple's own Mac OS X** system - no details on whether this will be a cut down version of Tiger, a cut down of Leopard (which could be released before the iPhone is), or a full version intelligently switching to make best use of the iPhone, isn't clear, but Jobs described and demonstrated the use of **Mac OS X applications and widgets, including stock trackers, weather, iChat, iCal, iTunes, iMovies, and iPhoto**. It will also utilise Core Graphics, and other features that will be familiar to anyone who uses the desktop version of OS X.



Containing an **Intel processor** (exact chipset not known), it will offer **5 hours battery life when talking, browsing the web, or watching video, and 16 hours of audio playback**. No word on standby time.

Dimensions are 4.5 x 2.4 x 0.46 inches (115 x 61 x 11.6mm), with a weight of 135 grams.

There are plenty of calling features, tied into your contacts list and email, including setting up **3-way voice conferences, sending email whilst on a call, and easily adding and calling numbers from emails**.

Software wise, it contains a version of **Apple Mail, featuring rich HTML email**, **web browser Safari**, with Google and Yahoo searches, **Google Maps**, and **Widgets**. Given that the phone OS is Mac OS X, it shouldn't be difficult to put a variety of other apps onto the system. Apple claim that apps run fast. They also say that PC users will be able to sync their contact data, so presumably as well as supporting the 'i' range of Mac apps, there'll be some syncing with Outlook etc. We'll wait to see how that bit works.

Apple announced that they'd teamed up and formed close alliances with both Google and Yahoo, which is also exciting.

It will be worth taking a look at the keynote speech (not available at time of writing), and the official iPhone web site to get an idea of the capabilities of the phone.

Suffice to say, it looks very good. It's been well over 2 years in the making, and it shows. It offers a **dynamically new way for users to interact with their phone**, using just their fingers. No more add-on or pull-out

keyboards, fiddly styli, or other oddities. Of course, the proof will be in the using, and it may not suit everyone (like any interface) but it certainly looks good from a distance.

The groan factor is the wait. Even the US won't get it until June (Apple don't have full FCC approval yet, apparently, so things could change a little in specs etc.). Europe isn't due to get it until sometime in the last quarter of 2007. Great...

Hopefully by then, there'll either be a souped-up second generation iPhone ready, or a Euro-friendly one. Apple would do well not to ignore the UK which, though a crowded market, is also a very tech-savvy, and promiscuous with their handsets too.

Done right, the iPhone could be massive, though with limited initial stock and global reach, and an initial target of 1% of the mobile market share, it won't pose any immediate threat to the big guns.

The 4GB version will retail in the US for $499 and the 8GB will cost $599, coming in June, exclusively with Cingular Wireless. It's due in Europe in Q4 of 2007 - no more details than that, though.

Other iPhone stories:

Apple iPhone - the first proper pic
Which UK network will get Apple's iPhone first?
Apple's iPhone - the first images. Coming to the UK soon?
Nokia responds to Apple iPhone - 'it is a surprise that the iPhone is not 3G'
Apple iPhone - bad news for UK consumers, great news for eBay

Posted by Andy Merrett on January 9, 2007 in Macworld 2007 | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (3) | TrackBack (0)

Nokia responds to Apple iPhone - 'it is a surprise that the iPhone is not 3G'



So, the Apple iPhone has finally been announced (read all about it here if you're still in the dark). So what does this mean for existing mobile phone makers? I just interviewed Nokia's vice president of Nseries Computers Pekka Pohjakallio at CES, and here's what he had to say, having spent the morning receiving text messages from Nokia's spies watching Steve Jobs' speech.

"I think it confirms our story," he says. "We have been preaching the message of converged multimedia in one device, with lots of use cases and a good experience for the whole life of Nseries. And now Apple have come and said basically the same thing, even if they have implemented some things differently.

"It just confirms our message, and it's good to have others preaching the same message. The best company will win in the end, so I think it's good news for us. It's not a threat, although of course it's hard competition, but that usually makes you perform better yourself."

However, Pohjakallio did point out one possible snag for Apple's iPhone, even if it is well stocked for multimedia features.

"They had music, internet, an email deal with Yahoo and a deal with Google, but it is a 2G device, not 3G, which was a surprise to me," he says. "And it's coming first to the US market with Cingular, so let's see. But overall, it's very exciting for us."

Of course, Pohjakallio didn't just talk about the competition. Check the rest of the interview for his views on Nokia's flagship multimedia handsets, and the challenges of making a phone that's equally good at TV, music, gaming, Internet access and washing the dishes. Well, not that last one. Not yet.

Posted by Stuart Dredge on January 9, 2007 in CES 2007 | Macworld 2007 | Mobile phones | Top stories
Permalink | Comments (17) | TrackBack (0)

Apple iPhone - bad news for UK consumers, great news for eBay

There's no denying that it looks amazing, is crammed with innovative features and has sent Apple's share price soaring. But I can't help but feel a little bit let down by Apple.



I know they obviously can't get the iPhone to market tomorrow, but making UK punters wait until Q4, which is consumer electronics speak for December, is going to cause both British punters and the UK phone industry a nightmare.

Here's why

1 If Apple's track record is anything to go by I'd take Q4 with a huge pinch of salt. The company have consistently missed product launches and I would bet a fair sum of money that we won't see the phone in the UK until 2008.

2 They are only making ten million iPhones. To put that in some kind of perspective Nokia sold 40 million high-end mobiles last year and claims it will do at least double that this year. There is going to be huge demand which Apple simply won't be able to meet.

3 Apple always plays at home. Apple has shown time and time again its local market (ie the US) is way more important to it than anywhere else in the world. If that first batch sells out in June (smart move btw as I reckon Cingular will be pre-registering buyers very soon - that gives them five months to pack them in) where do you think the next lot will be sold? Not in Europe. You only have to look at how Apple has sold its iPods to know that keeping UK punters hanging on is one its fortes - and in many ways creating hype shifts the products when they arrive too.

4 eBay is the real winner. Just imagine how much UK Apple obsessives are going to pay for a phone on eBay in June? Some will be getting US friends and relatives to get Cingular contracts and then having the iPhones shipped over. There will be a ton of iPhones on eBay, many won't be legit and almost all will be overpriced.

5 Will people still spend money on smartphones this year? The iPhone is such a great product that I can imagine that many Europeans won't upgrade their handsets in 2007 and will prefer to wait for its arrival in the UK.

The only sliver of comfort for Nokia, Sony Ericsson and others is that a year is a very long time in the mobile phone industry. Nokia's N95 will be launched in a March and it is in many ways a real rival to the iPhone. It has a similar set of features (minus iTunes and the large storage), a much better camera and is HSDPA rather than Edge (so it has the potential for downloads and web browsing at speeds of up to six times faster than the iPhone).

There is a chance that a phone that is not 3G and only has 2.0 mega pixel camera might look rather old hat by January 2008. I doubt it though. Good luck Sony Ericsson, Nokia and HTC - your high-end phones have some real competition.

Posted by Ashleyn on January 9, 2007 in Mobile phones | Top stories
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Apple iPhone - the first proper pic



Posted by Ashleyn on January 9, 2007 in Macworld 2007 | Mobile phones | Top stories
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Which UK network will get Apple's iPhone first?



OK, so we now know the iPhone exists. But when will UK punters be able to buy it. It ships in the US in June, but sadly we won't be able to buy it until Q4 in the UK.

That gives Apple a long time to work on a partner for the handset for Europe.

The big market this summer will be eBay - just imagine how many Europeans will want to import one from the US.

Then Apple may sell a Sim-free version on its UK website and through its retailers. But if it does partner with a UK network here's the runners and riders.

Vodafone - (Maybe) Although Voda has close links with Verizon, Cingular's big US rival network, it needs a big hit and there's no denying that the iPhone will be huge. However I think it will be put off by the fact that the phone is not 3G and not compatible with its music download offering.

Orange - (possible) Has Euro-wide distribution say can offer Jobs and co a lot of potential punters. But see statement below - doesn't sound good. Has also invested a lot in its music download service and might see the iPhone as muddying the waters.

T-Mobile (The best bet) Again a big Euro-wide network so lots of distribution. Likes to get in quick with high profile phones too. Less concerned about music downloads. So in our book the frontrunner.

O2 (unlikely) I can't see it, even though it is owned by monster Spanish network Telefonica it probably doesn't have the reach.

3 (mmm) Wouldn't have thought so. The iPhone isn't 3G for starters.

Orange has just issued this statement... Doesn't sound like it is going to be first in the queue for the phone does it?

"Today's launch of Apple's iPhone is another example of how the world of entertainment technology is converging. It reinforces our belief here at Orange that we shall see many more similar moves in the future. We have already seen our own Music Player service grow rapidly in the last year to average 100,000 single downloads per month, with over 500,000 tracks to choose from currently. Apple's entry into the market will no doubt stimulate even further interest in mobile music services.

"Europe is undergoing a digital revolution and Orange , Apple and other key companies are at the forefront of that. As the technology and entertainment industries merge over the next few years, consumers will be able to do things they previously only ever dreamt of and will be able to access all the services they need from a single provider"

Posted by Ashleyn on January 9, 2007 in Macworld 2007 | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (4) | TrackBack (0)

Apple's iPhone - the first images. Coming to the UK soon?



OK, so here it is, the gadget that has been something of a Holy Grail for geeks the world over for the last god knows how many years. Years of false leads, speculation, gossip and some truly awful photoshop mock ups are finally over. Was it all worth it? Well, it's a bit early for a final verdict, but the product shots haven't exactly sent a shiver down my spine. It's thin – very thin – at 11.6mm and it's got a 3.5-inch screen.

As for UK distribution – no news yet. There's nothing on Apple's UK website. The deal announced was with Cingular in the US. No mention yet of any UK networks. Might Apple choose to sell the phone only through its website and retaillers? It could potentially bypass the networks if it wanted to. I am sure there's be plenty of demand for a SIM free model if they can keep the price under £300.

So what do you reckon? First impressions? *Slightly* disappointed that they didn't come up with a more exciting name (everyone nicknamed it that, which makes it seem a bit old already) and it's not entirely clear what Cisco is going to say about the whole thing.

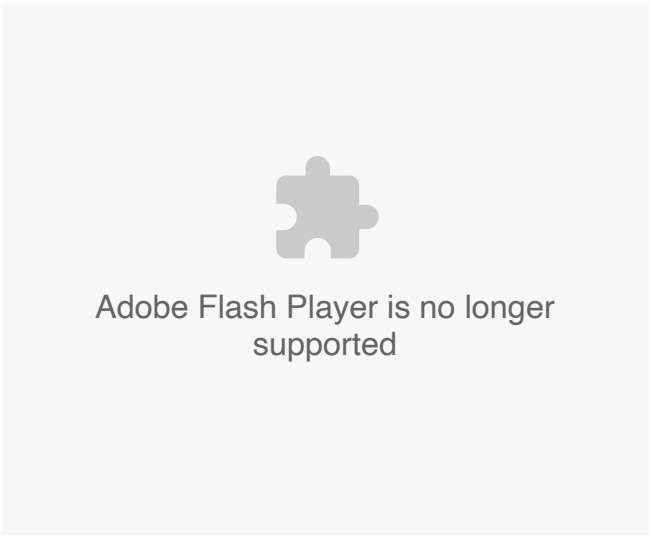
Further specs: touchscreen display, 2 megapixel camera, 8GB of storage, Bluetooth, WiFi and, most exciting of all, OS X. The touchscreen disables automatically when it comes close to your face, which is the kind of whizzy technology that always impresses me.

Posted by Ashleyn on January 9, 2007 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

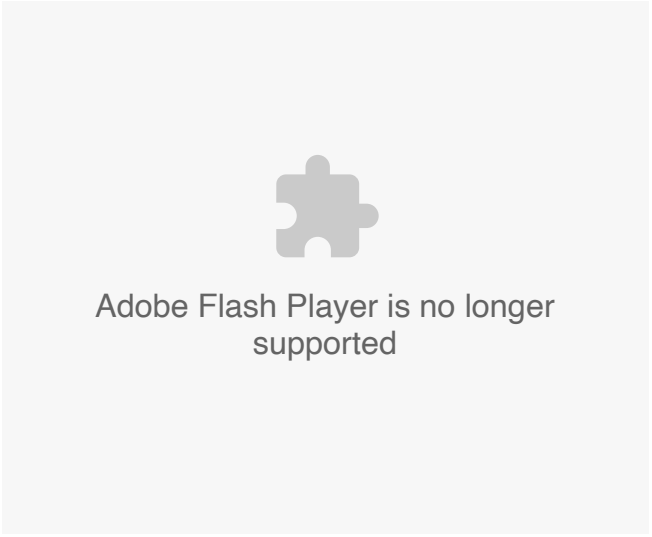
CES 2007: The Top 10 vids so far

We've been blogging and shooting videos for what feels like weeks, so we thought it time to give you a rundown of the Top 10 CES 2007 vids so far. Drumroll please...

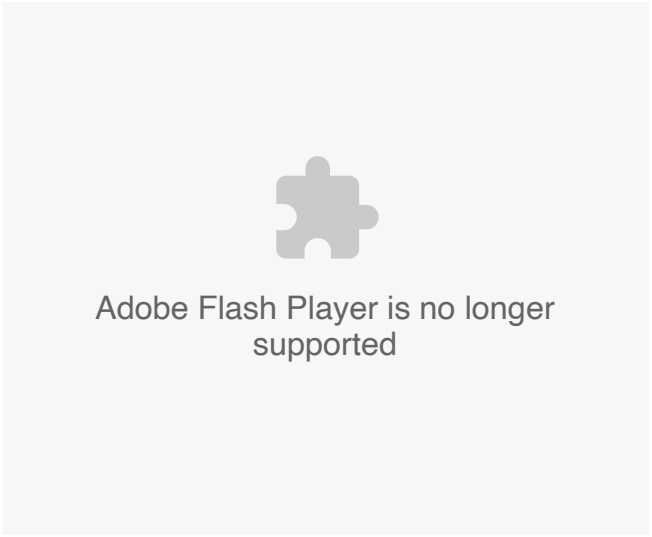
1. Is it a robot? Is it a hamster? Is it both? Really, it's anything you want it to be.



2. More robots, this time Star Wars-themed. R2D2 will do anything media for you, but he really doesn't want to see that Paris Hilton video again. Please.



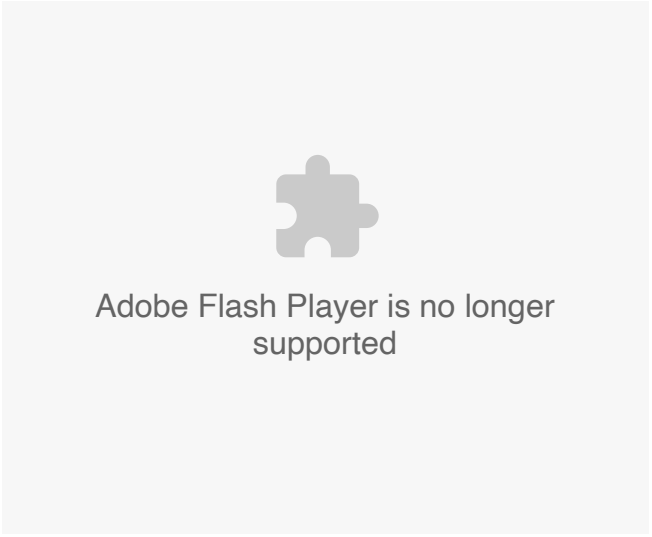
3. Susi suffers US gadget envy checking out the LGenV. We think she's kept the return portion of her ticket, but we can't be sure.



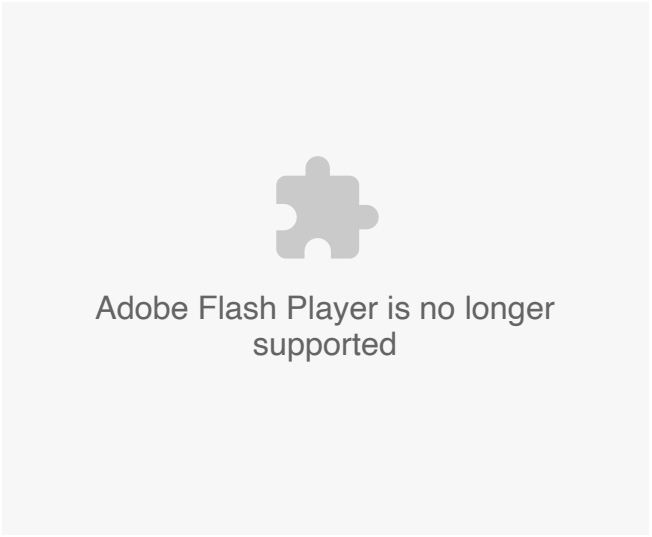
4. Elvis is The King for a reason, you know. And now he's back, at CES. I don't think this counts as a 'he's alive!' spot, though, so put that blog away.



5. You may think this looks dull, until you realise how much you need one. And then you will rue, oh yes.



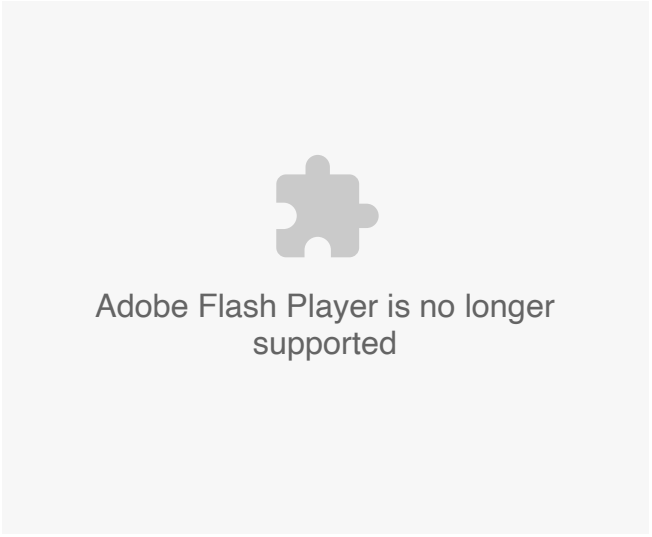
6. We love our Shinies, really we do. Even when they're dressed up like Hunter S. Thompson, gonzoing their way around Shadowrun on Xbox Live.



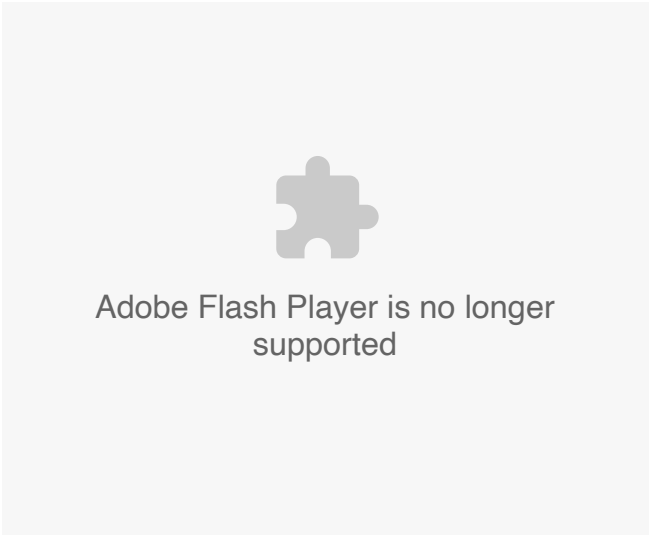
7. You may be au fait with the Ambilight telly, but are you down with the system? Oh yes. This baby rumbles.



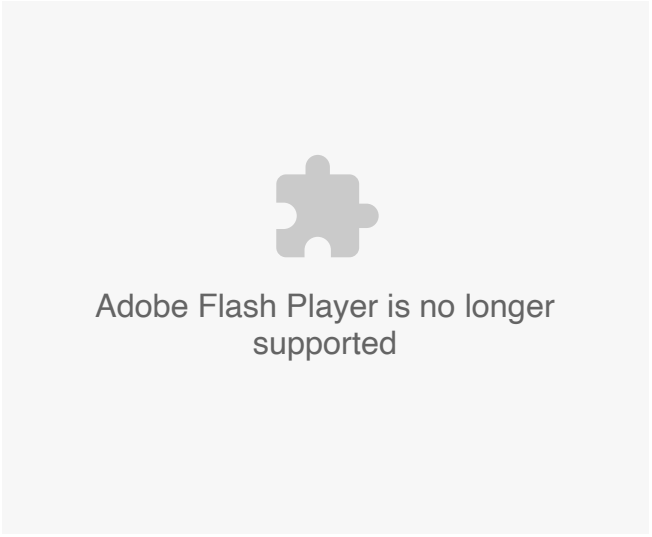
8. I hate the Blues Brothers. I used to like them, until an ex watched the movie 40 times in a single week. If you've not had them ruined for you, watch them pimp Blu(es)-Ray.



9. Kat's at it again, this time revealing her inner Nintendo fangirl as she coos over Wii travel bags and accessories in a very unique fashion. I don't think Hunter would approve...



10. My telly's bigger than yours. No, really. This 108" behemoth will surely trounce everyone's oversized telly claims for the whole five minutes it takes someone to invent the telly that can only be seen when on the moon, for it is that big. It's called Asia.



Posted by katewalker on January 9, 2007 in Blu-ray | CES 2007 | Gadgets | Gaming | HD DVD | HDTV | Home audio | Home cinema | MP3 players | Mobile phones | Robots | Show news | TVs | Video | Web 2.0
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Macworld 2007: Apple and Cingular Wireless to team up for 'iPhone'

Unnamed sources cited by The Wall Street Journal are convinced that Apple will team up with the US wireless operator Cingular Wireless to provide the much rumoured 'iPhone'. They also think it likely that Apple will release an unlocked phone that can be used on any network.

Whilst this is US-centric news, and we know that North America nearly always gets hold of the latest technology first, an unlocked UK version could be good news, allowing users to choose their network provider by simply purchasing (or transferring) a SIM card.

We'll all find out if the phone is coming to Macworld or not in a little over 6 hours' time.

(Via Digit Mag)

Posted by Andy Merrett on January 9, 2007 in Macworld 2007 | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

CES 2007: Yahoo unveils Yahoo Go for Mobile 2.0 application



Yahoo has launched a beta version of Yahoo Go for Mobile 2.0, the second-generation version of its flagship mobile application.

Although only available on 70 phones at launch, more will be on the way - and for the first time, Go works on non-smartphones. It's got a nifty carousel design giving you access to your email, local info and maps, news, sports, finance, entertainment, weather, your Flickr account - a long-awaited feature - and Yahoo's new oneSearch service.

I had a play with the beta today at Yahoo's stand, and it feels very slick. It's powerful too, with the ability to customise news feeds by adding in any RSS feed, for example. Uploading photos to Flickr is seamless, as well as browsing your contacts' latest pics. You can find out more and download the app from the link below.

Oh, but also, Yahoo said today that by 2016, it reckons more people will be using Yahoo through their phones than through their PCs, and it also announced plans to preload the Go app on phones from Motorola, Samsung and Nokia.

Yahoo Go for Mobile website

Check out the rest of our CES coverage.

Posted by Stuart Dredge on January 9, 2007 in CES 2007 | Mobile phones | Web 2.0
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

CES 2007: Yahoo talks about its new oneSearch mobile search technology



It's been a busy day at CES for Yahoo, with announcements coming thick and fast. Among them is news of a new mobile search service called oneSearch, which is currently part of Yahoo's beta Go for Mobile 2.0 application, but will be introduced to its mobile web and SMS services by the end of January.

"Today's mobile search is horribly terribly broken," says Ojas Rege, senior director of mobile products at Yahoo, who I caught up with at the show. "What happens so often is that companies take things that work on the PC and bring them to the mobile phone. So what works on a PC, when I enter a search term and want a bunch of links back to do research, doesn't work on a mobile phone. Those links break, or take me to sites that don't work very well, which take 10 seconds to reach."

The thinking behind oneSearch is to bring back quick answers, which Rege says is what mobile users want when searching for something.

"If you want links, we'll give you links, but that should be more of the backflow and not right up-front," he says. "If you're searching for sport, you want the score. You probably don't want the team's homepage, which will look like crap on your mobile phone anyway."

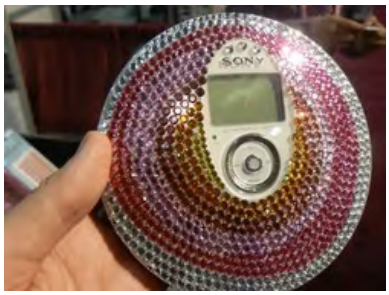
As an example, if you type the name of a sports team into the oneSearch search box – Rege tried the 49ers during our chat – you first get the final score of the most recent game and information on the next one, then other content including team profiles, the official website, photos from the Web and Flickr, relevant news articles and so on. Much of this content comes from other parts of Yahoo, so it can be served up easily.

Other features include remembering your previous search queries and autofilling to make it faster to enter search terms. And oneSearch has had a successful start, with Opera dumping Google to make Yahoo its exclusive search provider for the Opera Mini and Opera Mobile browsers. Oof!

Check out the rest of our CES coverage.

Posted by Stuart Dredge on January 9, 2007 in CES 2007 | Mobile phones | Top stories | Web 2.0
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

CES 2007: Like a rhinestone... mobile?



We're in Vegas, so it's about time we wrote a story involving gadgets and glitz. Korean company Kosam Corporation has a stand at CES promoting its rhinestone art, which can be used to decorate all manner of gadgets, from mobile phones and MP3 players through to laptops.

Check the CD player on the left and the mobile phone below for examples. I have to be honest, and say I'm not sure if my trusty Nokia N70 would benefit from a 'Princess Jewel' makeover (that's the pack they gave me to take away). But if you like your bling, you'll love this stuff.



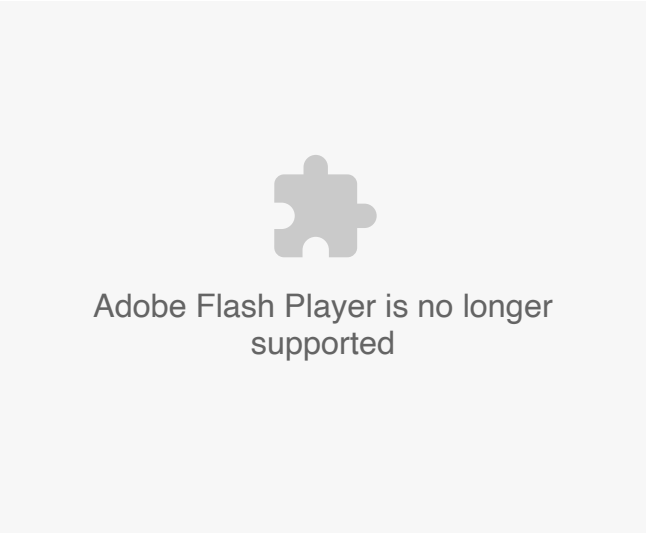
Kosam website

Check out the rest of our CES coverage.

Posted by Stuart Dredge on January 9, 2007 in CES 2007 | Gadgets | MP3 players | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

CES 2007: Nokia N76 video preview

Here it is. Quite possibly the slimmest and smallest smartphone on sale. It is N76, Nokia's, ahem, RAZR-like N series model. So it not only looks the biz and has the usual collection of music players, cool camera and web browser. It also has one of those etched keypads. It goes on sale in a couple of months time.



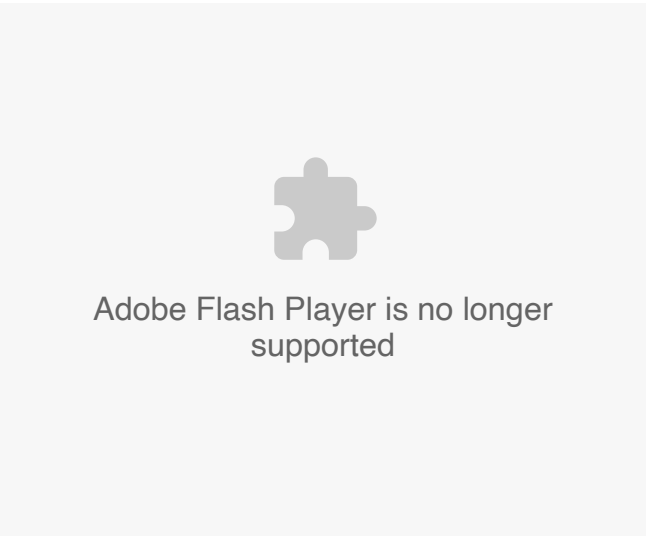
Check out the rest of our CES coverage.

Posted by Ashleyn on January 8, 2007 in CES 2007 | Mobile phones | Top stories
Permalink | Comments (3) | TrackBack (0)

CES 2007: Nokia N93i video preview

I went off to the **Nokia** press event today to take a look at the new handsets and the N800. Here's a quick vid I shot of the N93i.

Nokia fans will remember that the N93 was a cracking phone, but a little on the tubby side. So with the N93i Nokia has hit us with a smaller and lighter handset. There are also some design tweaks too. Anyhow here's the vid.



Check out the rest of our CES coverage.

Posted by Ashleyn on January 8, 2007 in CES 2007 | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

CES 2007: Samsung and Google unite to provide mobile users with Google services

Samsung became the latest mobile phone operator to announce an alliance with Google to provide its mobile phone users access to Google's products and services.

Samsung mobile phones equipped with Google applications will enable consumers to search information, find locations, and manage their email on the move.

From early this year, selected Samsung mobiles will provide Google search, Google Maps, and Gmail for Mobile. The Ultra Edition 13.8 is its first device to offer these services.

Of course, it will still depend upon the network operators allowing its customers access to Google products. Last year Google slammed mobile

IPR2024-00906 - Samsung
Ex. 1031 - Page 198

operators for blocking its content.

Check out the rest of our CES coverage.

Posted by Andy Merrett on January 8, 2007 in CES 2007 | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

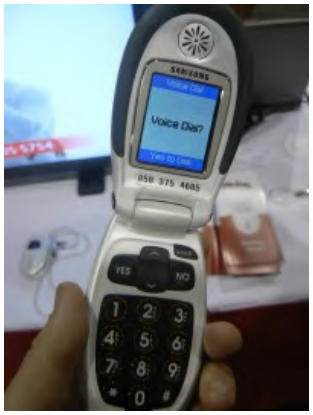
CES 2007: Jitterbug idiot-proof mobile phones



Not everyone wants an all-singing all-dancing multimedia computer. That's what Nokia calls its high-end mobile phones these days, by the way. But there's still plenty of people who just want a phone they can call people with. Think your parents, or grandparents even.

I hooked up with Jitterbug last night, who were showing off two handsets at the Digital Experience event. The Jitterbug OneTouch (pictured) doesn't even have a numeric keypad on it. The green button calls the Jitterbug operator, the yellow one calls a number of your choice (it's set up by Jitterbug when you order the phone), and the red button calls 911.

Meanwhile, to access other features like voicemail, you answer Yes/No questions using the buttons under the screen. It really is the most grandparent-friendly mobile I've seen, although if they're a bit more advanced, it can also hold a list of other contacts that can be scrolled through to call.



Meanwhile, the JitterBug Dial (right) does have a numeric keypad, but otherwise works in the same way with the Yes/No questions to access features. Meanwhile, the number buttons themselves are big and backlit.

Both phones are made by Samsung for Jitterbug, and are reassuringly solid-feeling clamshell phones. They have a cushioned ear-bit which is also compatible with hearing aids, apparently. They're $147 each, with call plans starting at $10 a month. It's only just gone on sale in the US, but the company told me there are "definite plans" to expand this in the future.

Over on Shiny Shiny they've got some video footage of the Jitterbug.

Jitterbug website

Check out the rest of our CES coverage.

Posted by Stuart Dredge on January 8, 2007 in CES 2007 | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Sony Ericsson releases teasing images of forthcoming W880i handset

I'll hold my hand up - I don't know anything about the new **Walkman W880i handset**, except for what can be gleaned from these two pictures from **Sony Ericsson**. From the evidence below, we can ascertain that:

1. It will be very thin.
2. It will have a large screen area (in relation to size of phone.

The offical word is that "the W880i Walkman phone will blend astonishing good looks and all of the music-centered features that fans have come to expect from the Walkman® phone family." Which isn't much, so enjoy these images (one here, one over the fold) and rest assured, we'll keep you posted.





Sony Ericsson website

Posted by modculture on January 8, 2007 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

CES 2007: Sony Ericsson launches W200 entry-level Walkman phone



Sony Ericsson's latest Walkman phone is the entry-level **W200** - a candybar handset with a capacity that can be boosted to store around 2555 full-length tracks.

Available in black or white, Sony Ericsson is pitching it as a first step into "music on your mobile". It's actually a very small first step - the initial capacity allows for just 37 tracks, but this can be increased to 1GB via Memory Stick, which increases that to up to 255 tracks.

There's also an FM radio with 20 presets, alarm (via the built-in speakerphone) colour-matched headset, VGA phone, HTML browser and surprisingly, push email, along with all the usual phone basics.

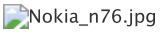
Don't expect to see it in stores until at least April this year, when a price will be announced.

Sony Ericsson website

Check out the rest of our CES coverage.

Posted by modculture on January 8, 2007 in CES 2007 | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

CES 2007: Nokia adds to Nseries with the slimline N76 flip phone



Nokia has unveiled a new addition to its Nseries range of handsets – the **N76** – which the company claims is the "perfect blend of style and substance" with its slimline shape and depth of multimedia features.

It's very much the music phone, with dedicated quick cover keys on the Nokia N76, to access the main features without having to flip open the phone. It holds up to 1500 tracks, works with industry standard 3.5 mm headphones and supports most formats, including Windows Media DRM if you like to buy your tunes online.

There's a 2.4" screen with up to 16 million color screen, which operates in landscape mode for web browsing via the Nokia web browser. There's also a 2MP camera with 20x digital zoom – and like the music player, you can use it without having to open the device. There's also ease of uploading to most online galleries too. There's also 2GB of expandable memory, video capture (15fps), FM radio, Bluetooth, voice recording and all the phone and messaging features you would expect.

Expect to see it in the first few months of 2007, priced around 390 Euros for a sim-free model, considerably less if you take out a contract.

More on the N76

Check out the rest of our CES coverage.

Posted by modculture on January 8, 2007 in CES 2007 | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

CES 2007: Nokia revamps the N93 – calls it the N93i



Personally I am a huge fan of the Nokia N93. I love its fabulous screen, wealth of features, cool web browser, flip open and morph into a mini laptop design and most of all its amazing camcorder.

What I am not so keen on though is its rather chunky design. Let's just say that it become known in Shiny Towers as the phone that ate all the pies.

So today I am hugely excited to find that Nokia has updated the Nokia N93 and shed a bit of its ahem, girth. The new **N93i** is apparently slimmer and more compact – how compact well I'll find out this afternoon.

Features include

MPEG-4 VGA video capture at up to 30 frames per second
3.2 megapixel (2048 x 1536 pixels) camera with Carl Zeiss optics, 3x optical zoom, autofocus and close-up mode
1 GB miniSD card
2.4inch display
Wi-Fi
MP3 player

Nokia has also tweaked the design a little so the reborn phone has a new metallic finish keymat and a mirror effect cover.

It also has Vox blogging software built it as we mentioned earlier today.

Check out the rest of our CES coverage.

Posted by Ashleyn on January 8, 2007 in CES 2007 | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

CES 2007: Vox Mobile application to be preloaded on Nokia phones



Vox, otherwise known as Tech Digest's fave personal blogging platform, has cut a deal with Nokia to install its Vox Mobile application on the newly-announced Nokia N93i handset, which was announced today at CES. Vox Mobile will also be preloaded on other Nokia N-Series phones going forward.

Six Apart's Mena Trott gave me a demo of the application running on the N93i at tonight's Digital Experience event, and it works well. Owners of the Nokia N70 Music Edition, N72, N73, N73 Music Edition, N80 Internet Edition, N93 and N95 can download the settings file to make it all work from Nokia's Vox site.

Check out the rest of our CES coverage.

Posted by Stuart Dredge on January 8, 2007 in CES 2007 | Mobile phones | Web 2.0
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

CES 2007: LG's US Chocolate and enV phones (we're a bit jealous)



Unsurprisingly, LG are saving their big news for tomorrow's press conference so there's not much to say about their new stuff, but today we were given a chance to see some of the exclusive products that haven't made it to our side of the Atlantic, and to be honest, we're a bit jealous. First was a chance to compare the US version of the chocolate phone (left) to the UK model (middle). Our Yank counterparts get a bigger touchpad and more colour variations, but it's much chunkier than our version and lacks the sleekness the phone is famous for. We also got our grubby mitts on the enV, LG's latest smartphone (right), and were very impressed with the way they integrated a full QWERTY keyboard, 2 megapixel camera, GPS, stereo sound (two speakers either side of the big colour screen) with the best bits of the chocolate - that trademark sleek, stylish design, and the illuminated touchpad. Much nicer than most of the brick-like QWERTY phones that are currently on offer over here, we're hoping it hits British shores soon.

Click here for Susi's video of the enV

Check out the rest of our CES coverage.

Posted by Ashleyn on January 7, 2007 in CES 2007 | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

CES 2007: LG's enV smartphone

Yes, I know it's already available in the US. But we don't have it in the UK, so for that reason I think you should press the play button on the video. And if not for that, then perhaps for the increasingly rubbish jokes that I will inevitably throw in. Blame it on the jetlag.
The phone itself is from LG, and is a relatively compact smartphone, with a full QWERTY keyboard, and integrated GPS.

Adobe Flash Player is no longer supported

Check out the rest of our CES coverage.

Posted by Ashleyn on January 7, 2007 in CES 2007 | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

CES 2007: LG HBS-200 bluetooth stereo headphones



With their press conference taking place tomorrow, LG have been keeping most new launches safely under wraps. The solitary new product on show today was the HBS-200 bluetooth headset, which will launch in the USA this month. The sister product - the HBS-110 (an earbud design) - won two CES 2007 innovations awards (Wireless Communication and Wireless Peripherals) and these neckband alternatives up the ante even more with a longer talk / play time (up to 8 hours) than their counterparts. You also get a standby time of 250 hours, voice activated dialing, call waiting and last number redial as well as a full set of music controls. Now you just need to explain to that stranger on the bus that you actually are listening to music even though there are no wires...

Check out the rest of our CES coverage.

Posted by Gemma on January 7, 2007 in CES 2007 | MP3 players | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

CES 2007: Vault 360 aims to slay iTunes



Bamboo Technology was at tonight's CES Press Preview showing off its Vault 360 software, which aims to replace all the proprietary applications that came with your digital cameras, MP3 players and camcorders.

"We want to take all your photos, music and videos from any device to any other device in a very simple fashion, so you don't have to use any of the software that ships with them," says Bamboo president Todd Porter. "You simply plug in the device, and once the content is copied into Vault, you can export those files to any device, and we'll automatically convert them for you."

He showed us a mobile phone playing video that had originally been recorded using a TiVo DVR, and then converted to a mobile-friendly format using Vault 360. But does it work with DRM technologies for copy-protected files?

"If your computer has DRM rights, we'll recognise it so you can transfer your stuff," says Porter. "Also, we totally circumvent iTunes, so you don't need it at all. You can use Vault 360 to transfer videos, photos or music to your iPod, which is a feature people really like."

The Platinum version of Vault 360 costs $49.99 in the US, although a basic version is available for $29.99. Us Brits can buy it on the Bamboo website now, if we have a credit card, but a full European version is coming out at the end of February. "We wanna be the operating system for device conversion," says Porter. Having looked at the app in action tonight, that's not just an empty boast.

Bamboo Technology website

Check out the rest of our CES coverage.

Posted by Stuart Dredge on January 7, 2007 in CES 2007 | Camcorders | Digital cameras | Home audio | MP3 players | Mobile phones | Personal video players
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

CES 2007: Logitech X-240 speakers



PC speakers are getting more clever, judging by Logitech's newly-unveiled X-240 speaker system, which has dedicated audio controls for your PC or Mac, as well as acting as a charging cradle for your iPod, MP3 player, PDA or mobile phone.

The speakers include special trays for the iPod and Microsoft Zune, which provide a snug fit and keep their charging cables out of sight. There's also some nattily-titled audio features like ported down-firing subwoofer and real-time bass equalisation on board.

The X-240 speakers will be on sale in April in the US, and in May in Europe, and will cost $49.99 (around £26).

Logitech website

Check out the rest of our CES coverage.

Posted by Stuart Dredge on January 6, 2007 in CES 2007 | Home audio | MP3 players | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

ROK TV now compatible with Symbian 3 handsets



ROK is gradually building up across-the-board access to its ROK TV service, with **Symbian 3 handsets now compatible with the service**, including the Nokia N71, N73, N80 and N93.

ROK TV offers video streaming to mobile phones via 2.5G GPRS at what it claims is a faster frame rate than any existing 3G TV service. ROK TV currently offers 21 channels and is available in the UK, China and the USA. In the UK channels can be viewed individually for 99p per month or all channels for £9.99 plus network data charges.

"To be able to add these new high-end handsets to our compatibility list is a major development in the deployment of mobile TV services worldwide," said Jonathan Kendrick, Chairman of ROK. ROK also expects to expand further in 2007, with plans to build and operate 30 white-label mobile TV services over both 2.5G and 3G for selected mobile networks globally.

ROK website
ROK for Microsoft handsets

Posted by modculture on January 3, 2007 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Review: Exspect Recharge4

The propaganda



There's few things more frustrating than having your Mobile/MP3 player/Handheld console run out of juice when you're on the move - especially when you're in an airport several hours from home, surrounded by electric lights, X-ray machines and tannoys, but with not one single plug socket available for your use. And given the sheer number of batteries that need charging in your ordinary everyday gadgets, this is going to be an increasing problem.

Unless you have an Exspect Recharge4, that is. It is so named because it will recharge one of your gadgets four times from just one of its own charges. The most obvious use for this is the iPod but it has also branched out to support mobile phones, handheld consoles and pretty much anything else that uses a mini USB charger. The review kit I have is the iPod version, but it actually comes with both an iPod plug and a selection of mobile phone adaptors and a mini USB plug *and* a standard USB plug, which is pretty generous.

The good

The Recharge4 has dimensions of 84 x 41 x 23mm, roughly the same size as a ten pack of cigarettes, and weighs in at around 360g; it isn't exactly going to be a problem to carry about. It only has one button, labelled C-Check/Start, which unsurprisingly starts up the charging and/or lets you know how much juice there is left. This is indicated by eight green lights on the front. You can probably tell it isn't exactly a complicated tool.

In my tests it performed exactly as promised, even when I mixed and matched by charging my mobile, my iPod, a GPS device and a PSP. Further more I actually squeezed a fair bit more than four charges out of it.

The bad

There is little to find that is bad about the device itself, or its performance. But if I had to complain about something it is that it is very easy to lose the various adaptors you need for your different gadgets. If there could be a single attachment that held a few of these at the same time that would certainly help, but it's not really a big deal.

Geek Sheet

Available in three versions: Mobile Phone, MP3 Player and Portable Gaming

Recharges four times from one charge

Extra adapters available seperately

Overview

The Recharge4 costs £40 (although you can pick one up for £30 if you shop around) which is maybe pushing towards the pricey side, but if you do frequently find yourself cut off from access to mains power, it could prove to be completely indispensable. It is well made and worth the outlay, and, unless you're prepared to put in a lot of elbow grease there's little in the way of alternatives.



Related stories: USBCell - standard batteries that recharge via USB | Review: Solio power charger| Review: Eurohike Wind up phone charger | *More Gadgets...*

Related sites: Recharge4

Posted by Al W on January 2, 2007 in Gadgets | MP3 players | Mobile phones | Reviews
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Vodafone offers Samsung's BlackBerry-like SGH-i320 in the UK

Back in July, we featured **Samsung's SGH-i320** 'BlackBerry beater' smartphone, which was scheduled to come to Europe at some future date. Well, that date approaches, with news that the smartphone is now available to order via Vodafone in the UK.

Weighing in at 95g and measuring 11.1 x 5.9 x 1.2cm, the tri-band phone with EDGE support features a 2.2-inch, 240 x 320, 65,536-colour display, a



QWERTY keyboard, a 1.3mp camera and Bluetooth. It uses Windows Mobile 5, has 120MB of memory on board, along with a MicroSD slot for more.

Vodafone is offering the device to its business customers, with prices from nothing to £140, depending on your choice of airtime package.

Vodafone

Via The Register

Posted by modculture on January 2, 2007 in Mobile phones | PDAs
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Eco-friendly Mobile Phones



It's about blasted time that we're starting to see mobile phones that actually consider environmental viability. Three concept mobiles from ModeLabs are designed around using the repetitive motion inherent in mobile usage to actually provide power for the thing. The U-Turn, for example, uses the opening-closing of the keyboard to inject some extra juice into the battery. Can't wait. [GT]

ModeLabs [via Ministry of Tech]

Posted by gtaylor on December 26, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

The Top 50 mobile games of 2006 revealed



Still think Snake is as exciting as mobile gaming gets? Think again. The last year has seen hundreds of high-quality downloadable games released, taking in console conversions, movie games and entirely original titles. And a new version of Tetris, obviously.

So what are the best ones? UK website Pocket Gamer has just compiled its Festive 50, which ranks the best games of 2006. Some of them you'll know from the console world: Project Gotham Racing, FIFA 07 and Splinter Cell Double Agent all make the top 10.

But others are entirely new, including the likes of Stranded, Turbo Camels: Circus Extreme, Super KO Boxing and chart-topper Tornado Mania.

(via Pocket Gamer)

Posted by Stuart Dredge on December 22, 2006 in Gaming | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Vertu Signature Cobra and Python - jewel-encrusted mobiles for millionaires



Vertu is at it again, producing high-status handsets for people with more money than brain cells. We've covered the Vertu Signature Duo handset and the Vertu Racetrack Legends phones recently, but even they seem like a bargain compared to the **Vertu Signature Cobra and Vertu Python**.

The new handsets are a joint venture with jewellery designers Boucheron. The specifications are nothing to brag about, so we're left with the looks. For $310,000, you can pick up the Cobra, covered in one pear-cut diamond, one round one, two emeralds, and 439 rubies. Just eight have been made, so hurry!

A little much for you? Well, how about the Python, a comparative snip at $115,000. 26 of these on the market, but sadly, no rubies this time. If

you're tempted by either, perhaps you need to think about a donation to charity.

Vertu website

Via CNN

Posted by modculture on December 22, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

T-Mobile extends Content Lock to BlackBerry users



T-Mobile is keeping the mobile web safe with its **Content Lock** feature, now extending the service to the BlackBerry – which means it now covers all of its web-friendly handsets.

Content Lock is an advanced filtering mechanism, intended to protect consumers, especially children, being exposed to adult and illegal internet content when accessed via the T-Mobile service. Content Lock specifically blocks access to online child abuse content as well as adult rated sites, gambling sites and unmoderated chatrooms. Customers trying to access a website or a service on the internet via their mobile phone which is rated as adult content will be informed the site they are accessing has been blocked.

"As the number of people using the internet and the diversity of content available continues to grow, it is important to implement the necessary precautions to protect customers against illegal content. Extending Content Lock to BlackBerry users demonstrates T-Mobile's commitment to safeguarding its customers," commented Peter Robbins, QPM, Chief Executive, Internet Watch Foundation.

Content Lock is switched on by default for all T-Mobile's existing and new pre-pay and contract customer accounts. However customers who can prove they are over 18 can ask for the adult Content Lock to be removed free of charge.

T-Mobile website

More BlackBerry:
Review: BlackBerry Pearl
T-Mobile launches BlackBerry 8700g

Posted by modculture on December 21, 2006 in Mobile phones | PDAs
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Ten Nokia 8800 Sirocco Brian Eno Signature Edition phones to be auctioned for charity

Nokia today announced that they have ten highly exclusive Nokia 8800's with Brian Eno's signature emblazoned upon them. The phones are being auctioned online to raise money for two charities chosen by Brian, the Keiskamma Aids Treatment program and The World Land Trust.

The auction starts on 8th January 2007 and goes on until 12th February 2007. Each phone will come with a certificate of authenticity.

The Keiskamma Aids Treatment program provides both HIV education and anti-retroviral drug therapy to the residents of the district at the mouth of the Keiskamma River in South Africa. The World Land Trust, a well-regarded UK-based conservation project, has helped buy and preserve more than 300,000 acres of ecologically-rich habitats from South America to the Philippines.

"I would like to thank the people who bid for these phones for helping towards solutions to two of the biggest problems facing the world: climate change and Aids," said Brian Eno. "The World Land Trust seeks to address long term environmental change by planting trees and caring for the land. The Keiskamma Trust is a great example of an intelligent local response to a global problem, helping people with AIDS to manage their condition and live useful and productive lives"

"We are truly delighted to work closely with Brian, who composed the soundtrack to the Nokia 8800 Sirocco Edition, to raise funds in support of his chosen charities," says Heikki Norta, Senior Vice President, Lifestyle Products, for Nokia. "In addition to supporting these two very worthwhile causes, each successful bidder will own an exceptionally unique mobile phone, each individually numbered and signed by the composer himself."



Bidding is easy: just visit nokiacharityauction.com to find out more.

Related stories: Share your travel knowledge online and help UNICEF | Tom Baker sings Kinks' classic, charity download-only track for Shelter | Cancer charity turns to text

Posted by Andy Merrett on December 20, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (4) | TrackBack (0)

"The Infinite Monkey Project EP" released today, result of T9 predictive text project



Today sees the launch of a rather unusual EP. "The Infinite Monkey Project EP" was based upon a creative project from T9, those of predictive text software fame.

Based around the principle of the classic Infinite Monkey Theorem, which states "Due to the nature of infinity, a monkey hitting keys at random on a typewriter keyboard will almost surely eventually type every book in the Bibliotheque Nationale de France" (Borel-Cantelli 1913), it asked various musicians to compose songs with lyrics made up from words sent in by the general public.

People were asked to text in words that they felt had a good chance would be included in the lyrics of a hit song. Words were collected; phrases were formed. Artists then short-listed sentences to create lyrics and a final song for download release.

Apparently anyone selecting a word that appears in the final songs is eligible for a portion of the royalties - if it becomes a hit.

In fact, several EPs have been released around Europe:

1) Representing the UK, Sparo wrote "Communicate". Sparo's music is 'a diverse collection of hip hop, beats, breaks, guitars and good old fashioned songs, with a generous dash of odd-ball sci-fi thrown in for good measure.'

"I hope everyone likes what I've done with their words. I'm glad the main theme seemed to point towards communicating love and not something ruder! I really enjoyed working on this unique project" Virgil Howe aka Sparo.

2) Babamars - 'Gute Wetter Front' - Representing Germany, Babamars are an exciting nine piece group with roots in Berlin and Paris. Their sound draws influence from pop, indie and electro music.

"I love the idea of the Infinite Monkey Project to put random ideas of different people together to a sense. We love Chaos!" Gesa Hansen

3) Alex and Tomy - 'Un Paraiso Salvaje' - Representing Spain. Otherwise known as Alex Guerrero and Tomas Robles, this duo joined forces to combine their creative talent. Tomas is a producer, musician, singer and songwriter from Madrid whereas Alex is a producer, remixer and sound engineer from Seville.

"In the beginning we thought that the project was interesting enough and at the same time a bit weird. So we decided to make a track where not only random words and music ideas could have a common place to meet, but

serious commercial music and personal viewpoints could reach a sweet spot to live happily and in peace with ourselves." Alex Guerrero & Tomas Robles

4) Inabeathead - 'Bleumarine' - Representing France.
Inabeathead, otherwise known as Olivier Girard, is a French / American producer who draws influence from trip hop / hip hop luminaries such as DJ Shadow, Coldcut and the Wall of Sound and Ninja Tune labels.

"This project was certainly fun to participate in. I thought the idea to work with randomly generated sentences was pretty challenging and the final result sounds like a pretty cool little poem! As usual, I composed my music as if it was the score of a virtual movie. I want my tracks to tell a story from beginning to end, to create interesting and original electro-analogic atmospheres..." Olivier Girard

5) Sparo - 'Dreaming' - Representing Italy
Not one to shy away from a challenge, the multi-lingual Sparo also provided a track for his Italian fan base!

The UK EP is available to download from today at www.infinitemonkeyproject.com.

Related stories: Line of a song sells for £11000 on eBay | Yahoo offers MP3 download free from DRM

Posted by Andy Merrett on December 19, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Samsung SCH-V960 - the world's first 'optical joystick' mobile phone



All new phones need a unique selling point - and the **Samsung SCH-V960** is no different, featuring an 'optical joystick', which it claims will revolutionise how we interact with our handsets.

Put another way, it means you should be able to navigate faster around the phone's functions. To use the optical joystick, you place your finger on the phone, then as you move it, the cursor, using optical sensors, scrolls around in similar fashion to a PC mouse. The big benefit here is 360-degree movement - not just the traditional four directions.

Other features include a 2 megapixel camera, music player, GPS function, Bluetooth, document viewer and microSD slot. The V960 will be launched in Korean at the end of December, no date for Europe as yet.

Samsung website

Via Phone Mag

More Samsung mobiles:
Review: Samsung X820
Review: Samsung D900 Ultra slim slider phone

Posted by modculture on December 19, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

qode - UK newspapers to go interactive



A 'red button' doesn't work in a newspaper (as it does on digital TV), so interactivity for the daily press requires a different approach. News Group newspapers thinks **qode** is the answer.

qode is interactivity via a mobile handset - and it will soon be used for the first time in the UK via the News Of The World. The newspaper will initially use the technology to bring clips of Premier League football to its readers (News Group has the rights to broadcast clips to mobile phones), but it could be used in conjunction with advertisers to offer discount vouchers or product information.

There's is one drawback - the software is not yet pre-embedded in mobile phones, so must be downloaded, meaning that readers will have to visit the qode site first to enable their phones to access clips. There's no mention of cost either - whether this means it's a free service (except for data charges) or whether it's not been decided isn't clear. Either way, it sounds like an

interesting move – having the option of seeing the goals as you read the match report certainly sounds a winner to me.

qode website

More for your mobile:
Review: Eurohike Wind up phone charger
Record your own personalised mobile ringtones with ReVoice Singtones

Posted by modculture on December 19, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Review: Samsung X820



The propaganda

Currently holding the title of skinniest-mobile-in-the-world, the Samsung X820 attempts to squeeze all the essential functions you'd expect from a mobile handset, and then some, into a chassis that is only 6.9mm thick. Features include a 176 x 220 pixel display, digital music player (MP3, AAC and WMA compatible), web browser, document/spreadsheet viewer and even a 2.0 megapixel camera (!).

The handset, although a touch taller and wider than some at 113 x 50mm, is still nothing short of minute. But there surely must have been some compromises made to squeeze it all in there – check the turn to find out what we think.

The good

Sorry to state the obvious, but freakin' hell – it's only 6.9mm thick! It's hard to imagine without seeing in the flesh, but if you want to get a rough idea, it is almost the same thickness as six credit cards stacked together. And that is also just under half a centimetre thinner than Motorola's skinniest offering, the L6. It is definitely a head turner and ideal of you're either very fashion conscious or are wanting it to fit into a very tight pair of jeans (along with yourself of course).

A brief poll yielded mostly positive opinions about the general aesthetics, although one concern was that you could snap it by sitting on it. Actually, while this must be a risk factor, the handset does feel pretty strong and robust – it would probably take a fair bit of weight to really kill it.

The menu interface is incredibly easy to use and takes no time at all to learn your way around even if you have never picked up a Samsung mobile before. The screen is also really good and yields some really crisp, bright images. This is especially good when combined with the 2.0 megapixel camera, which does produce some really decent pics when used in well lit areas, although it lacks a flash. The fact that Samsung didn't shirk off with a 1.3 megapixel camera is a really pleasing addition.

The bad

There are two areas in which the X820 loses out to its bulkier competitors: sound quality and battery life. Playing MP3 tracks offers pretty decent sound (but with only 80MB of storage and no card slot, you probably won't bother with it much), yet call quality suffers a little. There tends to be some occasional popping going on and background noises from the other person's end often pick a strange garbled effect. It wasn't enough to detract heavily from the phone's performance but these are issues that have been eliminated from other larger handsets.

Battery life is claimed at an underwhelming 2.5 hours talk-time. Unfortunately I didn't get a charger with the review kit so I couldn't run a full test, but along with the 210 hours of standby time, a single charge did allow me to use it comfortably for a couple of days before it started complaining. Nonetheless, such a short talk-time is far more like what you would expect from a 3G mobile – not from a GSM.

Geek Sheet

Dimensions: 113 x 50 x 6.9mm

Weight: 65g

Tri-band, GPRS, EDGE

Screen: 262,144 colours, 220 x 176 pixels

2.0 megapixel camera

Connectivity: Bluetooth, USB

Compatibility: MP3, AMR, ACC, ACC+, e-AAC+ and WMA audio, JPEG images, H.263, AMR, MPEG4 video, DOC, XLS, PPT, PDF and TXT files

Battery: up to 2.5 hours talk-time, 210 hours standby

Overview

The Samsung X820 is eye-catching and convenient if your pocket space is at a real premium. The very straightforward menu design is a big plus, yet even with the 2.0 megapixel camera, etc, the feature set might still prove too basic for some. The short battery life is by far the biggest weakness, however, and it threatens to eliminate a lot of the practicality of such a compact handset. Serious fashionistas probably won't let hold them back though.



Related stories: Review: Samsung D900 Ultra slim slider phone | Samsung replaces P300 calculator phone with P310| One Minute Review: Samsung E870 | *More Mobile Phones...*

Related sites: Samsung

Posted by Al W on December 18, 2006 in Mobile phones | Reviews | Top stories
Permalink | Comments (2) | TrackBack (0)

Tom Baker sings Kinks' classic, charity download-only track for Shelter



Former Dr Who (and Little Britain voice) Tom Baker has recorded a new version of The Kinks' classic "You Really Got Me" as a charity single for Shelter.

The festive download-only single is part of BT's Text Aid charity initiative, which sees the legendary Dr Who actor return as the voice of its text-to-landline service which converts texts sent to landlines into speech. From now until 8 January, BT will donate 2p for every text message sent to or from a BT landline, and all proceeds from the charity download, directly to Shelter.

On Christmas Day, a staggering 129,341 children in England will wake up homeless, and BT hopes to raise at least £100,000 to support Shelter's vital work.

The track is available to download today for just 79p from 7Digital and from a range of online retailers including eMusic and iTunes. In addition, 2p from every text sent to or from a BT landline between now and 8th January 2007 will be donated to Shelter.

Wendy McMillan, general manager of BT Retail, said: "The Text Aid campaign is designed to offer fun and different ways for everyone to get involved in raising money for Shelter at this critical time of year.

"To get people into the sprit of the campaign we've brought back Tom Baker as the voice of our text-to-landline service and used his computerised voice to launch him as a virtual pop star, performing a new dance take on an old Kinks classic!"

BT Text Aid

Related stories: Cancer charity turns to text | Save the Children is first UK charity to enter Second Life | The search engine with a heart | Make money from your old mobile phone

Posted by Andy Merrett on December 18, 2006 in Internet | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

One Minute Review - 3's X-Series Nokia N73 mobile

So is **3's X-Series** a cynical marketing ploy to tempt gadget lovers into subscribing to its network? Or is it how the mobile internet should be. Check

out the video and then you tell us.



More Apple iPhone goss
X-Series launch
Nokia's future of mobiles

Posted by shiny on December 15, 2006 in Mobile phones | Top stories | Video
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Gizmodo makes bold iPhone announcement

I told myself I wouldn't mention the Apple iPhone again (1, 2, 3) until we had something concrete to go on but first we had Diggnation, now we have Gizmodo. I can't keep quiet on this. The post in question over at Gizmodo reads:

> Gizmodo Knows: iPhone Will Be Announced On Monday
>
> I guarantee it. It isn't what I expected at all. And I've already said too much.

That's it. That's the whole post. On any other blog you'd be forgiven for scanning straight over it and onto the next but not here. There has to be something to this. I guess the only thing we can do here is stay tuned Monday... *and if it turns out to be a hoax I promise not to mention it again.*

Via Fark.

Posted by John on December 15, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (5) | TrackBack (0)

Review: Eurohike Wind up phone charger



The propaganda

Picture the scene – you've just emerged from your tent in the Scottish highlands/Lake District/Welsh mountains/festival campsite [delete as appropriate] faced with gale force winds and freezing rain for the third day on the trot. All you want to do is blackmail one of your mates into picking you up so you can ward off the trench foot and hypothermia with a nice brew. Only problem is that your phone's battery just died leaving you with a long trudge back to civilisation where you can find a wall socket.

That is unless you have a Eurohike Wind up phone charger, which lets you convert some elbow grease into power for your mobile. Plug the accompanying cable into your handset and wind like crazy for a few minutes, and that should give you enough juice to get a message out. Furthermore it has a built-in LED torch in case it gets dark while you wait.

The good

It is quite satisfying to watch your battery bar increase as your hard work is transformed into precious electricity. That said, it does take a fair amount of effort to build up charge – about three minutes of winding translates into just a few minutes of talk time. I naively considered testing how long it would take to charge a battery to full, but I think the effort might have cost

me the use of my arm. However, in an emergency, a few minutes of effort will undoubtedly be well spent. Keeps you warm too.

The built-in torch is actually surprisingly handy – it charges very quickly, retains its charge for a fair few minutes and, more importantly, is reassuringly bright. You even have a choice of brightness settings – using 2, 4 or 5 LEDs.

The unit itself is roughly comparable in size to a pack of cards, although it is a little narrower and fatter. The outer edge feels slightly rubberised which helps you to maintain a grip while you wind.

The bad

The device comes with a selection adaptors to suit different makes of phones including Nokia, Sony Ericsson, Motorola, Samsung and Siemens. It is by no means an exhaustive list but that is in part to do with the mobile manufacturers insisting on changing their charger design for no good reason after a few years. I'm especially looking at you Nokia and Sony Ericsson. Grrr.

The device might still have been improved by a wider range of charge adaptors. Not necessarily for phones though – I'm particularly thinking of something compatible with handheld GPS units. A mobile phone is all well and good, but if the worst happens and your GPS gives up the ghost you could be better off knowing where you are when you call for help.

Geek Sheet

Wind up phone charger

Contains four adaptors

Built-in LED torch

Overview

The Wind up charger could be a really handy tool, especially if you're keeping it as a back up for emergencies, although just using it as a torch does save you lugging around a load of spare batteries.

I expect these will be filling a few stockings this year. You can pick one up for a tenner from Millets – they are available in black, pink or blue.



Related stories: Wind up Radio, Torch and Phone Charger | Roberts unveils the Wanderer radio| Solar powered battery charger | *More Gadgets...*

Related sites: Millets

Posted by Al W on December 14, 2006 in Gadgets | Mobile phones | Reviews
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Record your own personalised mobile ringtones with ReVoice Singtones



A new service lets you record a personalised mobile phone ringtone by recording your voice to hits from the world's best artists. It features voice synchronisation and enhancing technology, apparently the same as used in professional music and movie studios.

ReVoice Singtones can be created from your mobile phone or a PC, by downloading the Singtone Studio programme. Of course you'll need an external microphone for recording your dulcet tones.

It's not a subscription service – you just pay for the tone when you send it, and many of the tones are free during the site's introductory period.

The tones are either MP3 or AMR format, and the phone must be able to connect to the Internet to download the tones. Paying for tones can be done by having an account with O2, Orange, Vodafone, or T-Mobile.

Singtone

Related stories: Crazy Frog on your PS2 | Kids to spend over four grand on ringtones | Skype launches licensed music ringtones

Posted by Andy Merrett on December 14, 2006 in Mobile phones
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Review: Virgin Mobile Lobster 700TV



The propaganda

Through out this year, mobile TV has been heralded as the future by most major mobile network operators.But even the improved data speed of 3G still isn't enough to make it into the killer app the networks want it to be. However, Virgin's Lobster 700TV takes a different approach to the streaming problem; it uses an onboard DAB decoder using BT's Movio to tune into five different TV channels (and it is possible the list will change over time) consisting of BBC1, ITV1, ITN News, E4 and Channel 4, who's service has recently been updated.

The service is blissfully subscription free too (unless you're on Pay As You Go) and because it's DAB, you also get the opportunity to tune into 50 or so radio stations as well. The phone is a bit of a behemoth and aesthetically not to every one's taste (or as the ladies of Shiny Shiny put it: "it looks like someone has knocked it on the side and a swelling has come up". Mmm, nice).

It does have a selection of other features too though: a Windows Mobile OS, MicroSD memory card slot, media player, 1.3 megapixel camera and a decent battery life that should give a good couple of hours of viewing time.

The good

Wonderful though the idea of mobile TV might be, it ain't much use when you're walking places or are doing anything that requires you some attention from your eyes. For that reason, the integrated DAB receiver is an absolutely great feature, especially if you're a 6Music addict like myself. Furthermore the sound quality is top notch and way better than anything you'll get from some piddly FM receiver.

Coverage of digital services in the UK is now pretty good (about 85%) so most places should be able to get Virgin network reception and also TV/Radio reception. Using the radio, the signal only broke down occasionally when moving around inside buildings and never cut off entirely. TV was a different matter, but we'll come to that shortly.

General operation of the handset was pretty good too; it suffered from the usual slow down you get with the Windows Mobile, but to its credit, it never once crashed. The buttons are quite large and easy to operate one handed, although their movement doesn't feel as crisp as on many other phones.

The bad

The DAB aerial is integrated with the headphone cable. That's not a huge surprise (where else are they going to put it?), but if you lose them or leave them at home you're a bit stuck. And because there's no 3.5mm socket to be found, you can't use your own cans and that's a bit of a shame.

The main issue is that TV reception can be patchy, especially while on the move. The problem is a bit sporadic, even in the city centre where coverage should be strong – sometimes it will work fine for ages, but at other times it will lose signal entirely forcing you to reload the channel and lose valuable moments of viewing time, and that can be a real pain. Another annoyance is that some programs on C4 and E4 have a licensing issue, so you're just presented with an apology notice when you tune in, but I suppose Virgin can't really take all the blame for that.

The frame rate for TV isn't wonderful either so things can end up looking a bit jerky and lip syncing can quickly break down. It's not unwatchable and when you have a consistent signal it rarely develops any annoying artefacts, which are the bane of the 3G alternatives.

It seems that mobile TV isn't quite fine tuned enough yet to be relied on to stave off the boredom of your bus journey yet, but if you're trying to catch a cheeky few minutes of telly while at your desk, you should be okay.

Geek Sheet

Dimensions: 111.2 x 52/58 (at bulge) x 23.8 mm

Weight: 140g

Screen: 240 x 320 pixels

DAB digital tuner

TV channels: BBC1 C4, E4, ITV1, ITN News

Bluetooth

Battery: 5 hours talk time, 140 hours standby

1.3 megapixel camera

MicroSD expandable memory

Overview

The sheer size of the phone is going to be the cause of most gripes, but I didn't really mind it – sure it's bigger than most ordinary handsets and probably about four times the size of one of Samsung's Ultra models for example, but it's not so big that you can't fit in your hand or pocket or anything. I do know that some people prefer a little extra girth (ooer!) on their phone and so it shouldn't be much of a problem unless you have dainty little hands.

If you're sold on the DAB tuner, you'll be hard pushed to find a standalone portable DAB that is much smaller and, because you can pick it up from free on contract, it's a bit of a bargain too. If you're going for a Pay As You Go contract though, the Lobster will set you back £199 and TV subscription costs £5 per month.

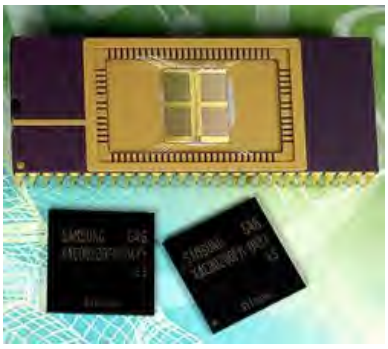


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Related sites: Virgin

Posted by Al W on December 14, 2006 in DAB | Mobile phones | Reviews | Top tens
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Samsung fusion chip to make phones five times faster



Looks like we'll all be looking to upgrade our handsets again next year, with **Samsung** announcing that it expects gadget makers to be using its new **'fusion' memory chip** (also known as OneDRAM), into handsets, portable games consoles and media players by mid 2007. The benefit? It "sharply increases" data throughput speeds. Or in other words, everything becomes a whole lot faster.

The memory replaces the distinct banks of SRAM and DRAM found in most of today's mobile devices and allows media and communications processors to share the available memory, dynamically adjusted according to need. That should boost the handset's processing speed fivefold, claims Samsung.

Other benefits include low power consumption – the memory requires 30 per cent less power than separate DRAM and SRAM memory banks. And with handsets containing fewer chips, that should also mean smaller devices and lower production costs. More on this when the first device comes through.

Samsung website

Via The Register

More mobiles:
LG and Prada partner up for next year's fashion phone
There's gold in them there recycled mobiles (sorry)

Posted by modculture on December 14, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

iPhone domain registered... and up for sale

The Apple iPhone drama continues... A helpful reader of Tech Digest has pointed us in the direction of the-iPhone.com, a url that has been registered by a domain squatter and is up for sale at a whopping $750,000.00!

It seems like everyone is trying to cash in at poor little Apples expense but whether the asking price will be met by anyone remains to be seen.



Personally I think whoever bought it will struggle to sell the address at that price. Now, if it were just iPhone.com... well that's a whole different story.

Posted by John on December 12, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (2) | TrackBack (0)

Review: Sony Ericsson M600i



The propaganda

The business phone market has recently become a hard fought battleground for mobile phone manufacturers and the M600i is currently competing with several strong contenders such as the BlackBerry Pearl, the Samsung i320 and the Nokia E61. It has the now ubiquitous push email solution as well as a scroll wheel navigator on the side – another lesson learnt from BlackBerry.

For a 3G candybar handset, it is remarkably skinny at 105 x 15 x 54 mm. It also has things like a media player, document and spreadsheet editors, and A2DP standard Bluetooth connectivity.

The good

Visually, the M600i does itself proud. The absence of any major navigation buttons or joystick on the front gives it a very pleasing minimalist style. It is also available in either black or white – both of which looks extremely smart. The new Symbian OS is similarly effective and I find it is a lot less cluttered than some Windows Mobile powered systems.

Surprisingly – for a Sony Ericsson anyway – the battery life is pretty strong. Having owned SE phones almost exclusively for the last five or six years, I'm used to some weak battery performance, but the M600i is good for around 5 hours of talk time or over 300 hours of stand-by time. Compared to other business phones out there, that is pretty decent and should realistically allow you to go for a couple of days with out desperately hunting down a phone charger.

The bad

There are few things missing from this phone. The most obvious is the lack of camera. More and more companies are beginning to frown on the sheer number of espionage-friendly camera-equipped handsets out there, but I still think that this must constitute a pretty small market sector. And even if you rarely use your phone camera, it's always nice to have something as a backup. Further more, the higher end P990i has an incredibly neat business card scanner function that equips its camera and this would have been a worthwhile addition to the M600i's feature set.

Wi-Fi is also absent. That's not a huge shock in such a small handset but it would have been nice, especially if you're wanting to indulge in some extensive mobile internet use without racking up a big 3G data fee.

Lastly, the M600i has lost the full QWERTY keyboard in favour of the unique two-way rocker keypad. This is definitely one of those love it or hate it features – I know people who do swear by it, but I struggled to get my head round it. I'm sure that with a bit more practise it could quickly become much easier to use, but that doesn't necessarily make it better than having smaller individual keys. The lack of navigation buttons on the front makes one handed control of the menus a little tricky too.

Geek Sheet

Dimensions: 105 x 15 x 54 mm

Weight: 112 g

Screen: 262,144-colour TFT, 240x320 pixel

Input: QWERTY, Touch screen, Handwriting recognition

Symbian OS

Connectivity: 3G, GPRS, Bluetooth (A2DP), USB, Infrared

Memory: 60MB internal, Memory Stick Micro (M2) compatible

Opera 8

Overview

The M600i is a very slick business phone and it benefits greatly from keeping its bulk to a minimum. Although it occasionally feels a little too stripped down, it has a core set of good features that should let it compete admirably with its rivals. The price tag of between £250 and £300 is also about spot on too.



Related stories: Review: Samsung i320 | Hands on with the Sony Ericsson P990i, M600i and W950i| One Minute Video Review: Sony Ericsson W850i | *More PDAs/Smartphones...*

Posted by Al W on December 12, 2006 in Mobile phones | PDAs | Reviews
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O2 Ireland adds Napster to i-mode service

O2 has announced a deal with Napster that allows customers to download tunes from the Napster catalogue directly to their mobile handsets.

Unfortunately for us in the UK, the service is initially being launched solely in Ireland – but you can expect it to be moving across the water if successful. Napster Mobile will offer all of its 2.2 million tracks for access via the i-mode service, as well as a recommendation engine that informs you of new songs that might interest you based on previous downloads.

And from early next year, customers will also be able to access a copy of the mobile downloads on a designated PCs. For more details of the service, visit the O2 Ireland website.

Posted by modculture on December 12, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Channel 4 goes live exclusively on Virgin Mobile TV



Virgin Mobile TV has been around for a couple of months now, but previously with a limited Channel 4 service. Not anymore – you can now receive a full, live version of the channel.

Virgin Mobile now has a five channel line-up of BBC One, ITV1, Channel 4, E4 and the recently-announced ITN News exclusively on its Lobster 700TV handset. The full Channel 4 coverage replaces Channel 4 Short Cuts – a previously available highlights package. The handset also has access to 50 DAB radio stations.

The Virgin Mobile Lobster 700TV is available now through Virgin Mobile Stores within Virgin Megastores and WHSmiths, its standalone stores or from The Carphone Warehouse. The mobile TV phone and service is free to customers on a contract of £20 a month or more, for the life of their contract. Alternatively, the phone is also available on pre-pay for £99.99, with three months free viewing, followed by a £5 per month charge.

Virgin Mobile website

Posted by modculture on December 12, 2006 in Mobile phones | TVs
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

LG and Prada partner up for next year's fashion phone

LG, makers of this year's fashion handset of choice – the Chocolate phone – is looking to corner the market again next year, with the announcement that it's teaming up with **Prada** to develop "an innovative and iconic mobile phone".

It's still in the planning stage right now (so no photos available), but according to LG, the handset will combine high-end technology with "avant-garde design". Rather than just sticking traditional phone technology into a new case, the two companies are working together on all aspects of the phone, including software, user interface and music as well as the design and packaging.

The result, they claim, will be "a unique, sophisticated and elegant phone" with an advanced touch interface replacing the conventional keypad. The initial launch is planned for early 2007, with distribution starting in Europe (firstly in Italy, the United Kingdom, France, and Germany). So you never know, we might well get our hands on this at the CES in January.

LG website

Posted by modculture on December 12, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Vertu's Racetracks Legends phones for the rich and frivolous



There's obviously a strong demand for overpriced handsets amongst the rich and famous. Following on from Vertu's millionaire-friendly Signature Duo handset comes a whole series of handsets from the company, all themed around motor racing.

The **Vertu Racetracks Legends phones** are a limited edition range, covering six of the world's most famous racetracks. The series starts with Monza (red) and Silverstone (green), followed by Le Mans (blue) and Indianapolis (black), with Monaco (yellow) and Nuerburgring (titanium grey) bringing up the rear. The phones feature racing tread rubber detailing and a laser etched map of the phones respective race track.

Small in number, collectable, pitched at the millionaire set – you know the price is going to be high. Expect to pay at least £3,000 for each handset. And if the bug bites and you decide to pick up all six, there's a special case to store them all in, made of carbon fibre – the price of that to be confirmed, but don't expect a bargain.

Vertu website

Via Luxury Launches

Posted by modculture on December 12, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

iPhone trademark problem

After hearing just days ago that Apple's iPhone may be hitting the US as early as January (*a date that is looking more and more unlikely*) next year, it seems that the company may now have a rather large problem on their hands. Turns out that the Canadian company Comwave have already trademarked the name iPhone and the service – a Skype-like internet phone line – has been in use state-side for the past few years.

Comwave might just manage to swing itself a nice little deal out of this. After all, would Apple's phone by any other name have the same "must have" qualities? Unlikely. And you've got to wonder if Comwave foresaw Apples move into the mobile market. A quick search over at the Canadian Intellectual Property Office shows that it's not the first company to try and trademark the name, *but the only one to succeed.*

Via The Inquirer.

Posted by John on December 11, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

MessagePlus mobile texting system could prove popular with consumers



LogicaCMG have unveiled an extension to the hugely popular mobile SMS text messaging facility called MessagePlus, which they claim contains features that many users want and would be prepared to pay for - 70% of customers according to a recent MORI poll. They also say that mobile operators will like the system because it breeds consumer loyalty and generates cash.

Text messaging is expected to continue to grow in popularity until at least 2010, but it has remained largely a simple and static medium with few features. MessagePlus aims to change that.

Three of the innovations MessagePlus offers are:

Auto-Reply: Users can create an SMS alternative to an 'out of office' reply and use that to field incoming text messages. A business user might leave alternative contact details whilst a personal user might tell their mates that their battery is running low.

Auto-Copy: Users can elect to have text messages copied directly to an email account.

Sponsored Messaging: Users could send cheaper text messages in return for allowing the operator to add adverts to their message (oh joy)

The system is supposed to integrate easily into an existing SMS service. What do you think? Would you use (and pay for) services like this?

Related Stories: Pensioners embrace text messaging | Cancer charity turns to text | England's World Cup campaign skyrockets text messaging

Posted by Andy Merrett on December 11, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

T-Mobile introduce Sony Ericsson M600i



T-Mobile have announced that they've added the Sony Ericsson M600i to their business portfolio (yes that does sound a bit grand).

The M600i supports MS Direct Push email and Blackberry Connect. It comes with 80MB of memory and a 'full' QWERTY keyboard (of sorts, take a look at the picture). It also features an email setup wizard that allows for fast synching with Gmail, Yahoo, BT or AOL email accounts.

The unit is Web 'n' Walk enabled, giving users open access to the Net via T-Mobile's 3G network.

There's a voice service, MP3 player, and pre-loaded games, plus stereo Bluetooth for listening to music on an optional wireless headset. It comes with an expandable 64MB memory card.

The Sony Ericsson M600i is the latest addition to T-Mobile's range of business devices which supports CoPilot Live, satellite navigation software that transforms the handset into an advanced communications-enabled and route planning system, offering accurate door-to-door guidance.

It's available now, costing up to £230 depending upon the mobile plan chosen.

T-Mobile

Related stories: T-Mobile MDA Vario and O2 xda Mini S go on sale | T-Mobile MDA Pro/O2 XDA Exec review | We want more Wi-Fi claims T-Mobile/You Gov survey

Posted by Andy Merrett on December 8, 2006 in Mobile phones
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Alliance & Leicester to introduce mobile phone banking next year

The Alliance & Leicester has said that it plans to introduce mobile phone banking for personal customers in early 2007. Customers will be able to gain access to their current accounts, requesting mini-statements and checking their account balance at any time.

Customers will be provided with a pass code when they sign up for the service. Once personal details have been verified in any one transaction, they will be removed from the phone.

"Accessing banking details via a mobile phone is the next natural step and one we think our current account customers will embrace," said Ian Tandy, director of e-commerce at A&L.;

Related stories: int offers credit card payments via sms messaging | First Direct launches online chat service | HSBC and First Direct offer banking via text message | British online shoppers take security seriously

Posted by Andy Merrett on December 7, 2006 in Mobile phones
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No cancer risk from mobile phone usage, Danish study suggests



Every so often someone tells us all that prolonged use of mobile phones is bad for our health (it's usually in the Daily Mail or on This Morning, isn't it?).

Now, however, a two-decade study by the Danish Institute of Cancer Epidemiology which followed 420,000 mobile phone users for up to 21 years has concluded that there was no increase in various cancer risks - including brain, neck, eye tumours and leukaemia, amongst those who had used their mobile phones compared to that of the general population.

"We found no evidence for an association between tumor risk and cellular telephone use among either short-term or long-term users," said lead researcher Dr. Christoffer Johansen of the Danish Institute of Cancer Epidemiology. "Moreover, the narrow confidence intervals provide evidence that any large association of risk of cancer and cellular telephone use can be excluded."

Whilst that sounds like good news, I'm still not convinced that having a phone strapped to your ear, or stored around your waist (particularly if you're male) is such a good idea.

Related stories: Computer Keep Fit | *Mobile Phones...*

Posted by Andy Merrett on December 7, 2006 in Mobile phones
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There's gold in them there recycled mobiles (sorry)



Today's horrifying statistic: less than 1% of discarded mobiles are actually recycled, despite being loaded not only with precious metals, but toxic sludge. Hopefully by appealing to basic human nature - greed, that is - that can change. The U.S. Geological Survey estimates that a whopping 500 *million* unused mobiles are lying around in desk drawers, which can be converted right into cash by companies such as The Recycling Factory. (And while you're at it, sell off those used ink cartridges you've got lying around too.) [GT]

Recycled Cell Phones—A Treasure Trove of Valuable Metals [via WorldChanging]

Related stories: Moto's biodegradable mobile | Send empty ink and dead mobiles to the Recycling Factory | 5 ways to recycle your mobile

Posted by gtaylor on December 6, 2006 in Mobile phones
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UK mobile users download 1 million Tocmags



Last month we wrote about Tocmags: user-generated mini-magazines for mobile phones.

Prior to the official launch, 125,000 Tocmags were downloaded in the 6-month beta testing phase, and generated entirely by word-of-mouth.

Now over 1 million Tocmags have been downloaded to mobiles across the UK, thanks to most users downloading several of them, and the fact that private Tocmags are apparently becoming popular as content-rich alternatives to SMS messaging.

Currently top of the 'public' Tocmag league is the 'movies' Tocmag (www.tocmag.com/movies). Published monthly by film buff Jennifer Burk, the six-page mini-magazine features reviews of the latest Hollywood releases and a trailer for Clint Eastwood''s forthcoming WWII epic, Flags of our Fathers. The 'movies' Tocmag has generated nearly 15,000 downloads alone.

Tocmag's founder Brad Ells said that they chose to launch first in the UK because we're Europe's most advanced mobile nation (isn't that good to know?). We have the most advanced mobile Internet usage and handset technology. Also, in recent years the UK has demonstrated the most willingness to experiment with new medias.

Tocmag

Related stories: Tocmag: The mobile MySpace? | *More Mobile Phones...*

Posted by Andy Merrett on December 6, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

i-Kids GPS child safety device launched in the UK



Mobiles2Go have announced the availability of their i-Kids GPS gadget designed as a child safety device that will keep track of a child and give parents peace of mind.

i-Kids has a one-touch emergency button that will immediately put the child in touch with a parent by speed-dialling four pre-programmed numbers in sequence until the alert is answered. If none of the numbers are answered, the call is diverted to the i-Kids service desk where a trained operator can offer assistance.

The latest GPS functionality ensures that the device can be pinpointed to within 10-20 metres. This works even when the device is switched off, and can alert the parent by text message if a child moves out of pre-defined safety zones.

Children can be sent text and voice messages from the parent, but cannot send texts or make calls, nor receive texts from unauthorised people.

Commenting on the launch, Mark Gullickson, CEO of mobiles2go said: "Everyday we read about the increasing number of threats to child safety and this is fuelling the already prevalent fears of parents everywhere. There is a fine balance between keeping your child safe while gradually introducing the freedom and responsibility they need to enjoy a healthy and happy childhood. i Kids has already proven a very popular solution to this parental predicament in Australia, Netherlands, Germany, South Africa and Korea, by giving children the ability to communicate safely, with security features that give parents peace of mind. "

The durable device is priced £99.99, with a monthly tariff of £15.75 on an 18-month contract.

Mobiles2Go
i-Kids

Related stories: Hannspree.z - child-friendly, zoo-themed TVs | Track your kids by mobile phone | Loc8tor tagging stops you losing keys, children, teeth..., | Parents need their techie kids' help

Posted by Andy Merrett on December 6, 2006 in Gadgets | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

O2 launches blue Bluetooth headset with hot dialling



O2 has a new Bluetooth headset on the market under the name **O2 blue**, which offers fast access to important numbers and a lengthy battery life.

The O2 blue features "hot dialling", which offers instant access to three previously-selected numbers with the press of a button. It also comes with a USB charger, so you can power up if you're near a PC or laptop. A single charge should give you around 15.5 hours of talktime and a standby time of up to 22 days.

And just to add confusion, there's a white version of the blue, limited edition and only available in O2 stores. That version comes with that essential Bluetooth add-on, a free stuffed polar bear.

The headset retails for £50.

O2 website

More Bluetooth:
Sony Ericsson launches MBW-100 Bluetooth watch
Bluevoice - combined watch and Bluetooth headset

Posted by modculture on December 6, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Alliance & Leicester launches mobile banking service



Mobile banking seems to be the next big thing for our financial institutions. HSBC/First Direct announced a service a couple of months back, Mint followed up with credit card payments via handsets soon after and now the Alliance & Leicester are launching mobile phone banking, via the Monilink network.

Customers that register for the service will have on-demand (and secure) access to mini statements and balance enquiries from their mobile phone. The service is protected by a personal passcode and any information displayed is automatically deleted. No personal details are stored on the handset itself, ensuring that information remains secure, even if the handset is lost or stolen.

Ian Tandy, Director of eCommerce at Alliance & Leicester said: "The mobile phone is already a central tool in people's every day lives - we increasingly lead digital lifestyles with mobiles acting as the hub. Accessing banking details via a mobile phone is the next natural step, and one we think our current account customers will embrace."

Alliance & Leicester intends to extend the range of services available using Monilink, include the ability to access other accounts, the ability to transfer money or even to pay a bill directly from your handset.

Alliance & Leicester website

Posted by modculture on December 6, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

LG Chocolate U830 folder phone with HSDPA connectivity

LG has a new Chocolate phone on the market, just in time for Christmas. The new handset is the **LG Chocolate U830**, a 3G folder (or clamshell) phone that's HSDPA-friendly and at 14.8mm, one of the slimmest 3G handsets around.

It features the same touch-sensitive technology and styling that made the original so appealing, along with 185MB of on-board memory, a 2 megapixel camera and MP3/AAC music player (including stereo Bluetooth



for wireless music) and a video player. There's also a 2.2-inch TFT screen inside, along with an outer 1.3-inch screen and a POP3 email client.

The U830 comes in a presentation box with a pair of stereo headphones, two batteries and a USB lead as standard. Initially, it's exclusively available from 3, with pricing dependent on contract.

3 website

More Chocolate phones:
LG KG800 Chocolate phone reviewed
LG KG810 - aka the Chocolate clamshell

Posted by modculture on December 5, 2006 in Mobile phones
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Motorola launches red MOTORAZR V3i - fighting AIDS in Africa



More technology that helps in the fight against AIDS in Africa - following on from the red iPod nano comes the **red MOTORAZR V3i**, which again aims to raise money for the (PRODUCT) RED initiative, with £10 from the handset cost and 5% of the monthly phone bill being donated to the global fund.

The handset is available exclusively at The Carphone Warehouse. It's still very much the fashion phone, with the looks and slim design, but a fairly average specification, including 1.23 megapixel camera, 10MB of memory (which can be boosted by microSD card), MP3 player and MP3 ringtones.

But this particular version of the handset will be doing some good, as well as making you look stylish. Motorola and Carphone Warehouse is donating £10 from every red handset purchase, with 5% of the phones revenue also heading out to Africa. Motorola says the proceeds of selling just three handsets can provide a year's worth of school materials and daily hot meals for a child orphaned by AIDS, while 5% of the average yearly phone bill can provide 180 treatments to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV.

The handset is available now.

Carphone Warehouse website

Posted by modculture on December 5, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Zenum's "premium design" Opus smartphone to launch early 2007



Planned for a launch in November this year, **Zenum's Opus smartphone** will now make a stylish entrance early in 2007, the company has announced.

The reason? It still needs "some improvment". What will improve, we don't know. The current spec is a tri-band phone with Wi-Fi, Bluetooth (with A2DP wireless stereo support), a two megapixel camera, QWERTY keyboard, 64MB RAM, 128MB Flash ROM, miniSD support and a 700MHz Texas Instruments OMAP 750 CPU. It runs with Windows Mobile 5.0.

It's being billed as a phone with "premium design", doubtless to appeal to all those tax exile in its native Switzerland. Judging by the image, it's certainly

not without an element of style, but you can make your mind up in March 2007, when the phone will finally hit the shelves.

Zenum website

Via The Register

More smartphones:
Palm Treo 680 smartphone now available in the UK
E-Ten Glofiish M700 pocket PC with sliding keyboard and Wi-Fi

Posted by modculture on December 5, 2006 in Mobile phones | PDAs
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ANSA - ROK launches a new sms question and answer service



More for your mobile from ROK, this time it's ANSA - a text message-based question and answer service that promises you an answer via sms within 10 minutes.

To use the service, send your question to 83773. Each question you ask costs 50 pence plus the standard message charge. Initially, an answer to your question will be sought via ANSA's database. If that's not successful, the question will be sent to a suitable ANSA expert. The reply will then be checked by one of the ANSA moderators before being sent on to you.

All of this takes just 10 minutes. The expert answering your question gets 10p for their answer, with an additional 5p everytime it's used. If you fancy yourself as an expert, you can sign up at the website.

ANSA website

More from ROK:
ROK offers mobile TV over Wi-Fi
ROK launches Viper - the mobile VoIP service

Posted by modculture on December 5, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (2) | TrackBack (0)

Nokia World: Where camera phones and Post-It notes collide...



Another company exhibiting at last week's Nokia World conference was Realeyes3D, which makes software for cameraphones. The company doesn't sell it - instead, its business model is based on persuading handset makers to preload the software on their new phones.

It's pretty nifty though. Among the apps on display was Phone2Fun Digitiser, which lets you scribble messages or drawings on paper, then take a picture of them with your cameraphone, and send a cleaned-up version of the image as an MMS message or email to friends.

"We've integrated it into the messaging clients of the new Nokia Series 60 3rd edition phones," says Katia Hilal, business development and alliance manager at Realeyes3D. "When you click on New Message, you get the option of sending a handwritten message. And besides writing, it's great for things like drawings or even maps, if you're sending someone directions."



An evolution of this technology is called Phone2Fun w-Postcard, which lets you take a normal photo, THEN do the handwriting thing and take a picture of that, and then combines the two so you have a photo with your scribblings overlaid on it - which you can then move around, make bigger or smaller, and change the colour of.

Katia says it's applications like this that could actually persuade mobile users to start using MMS more. I think it's tailor made for scribbling silly moustaches and schoolboy-style genitalia graffiti

on photos of friends. In other words, it'll persuade mobile users to start using MMS more. Well, those of us who are juvenile, anyway.



Realeyes3D also has a more business-like application called, er, Realeyes3D Mobile Scanning. Well, it does what it says on the tin: lets you use your phone's camera to capture documents, notes, white boards etc, and then save them as photos within your handset, or send them on.

The company also has a technology that uses your phone's camera as a navigation aid, using it effectively as a motion sensor, allowing you to tilt and move the phone in order to move around large documents, images or web pages. It could be a solution to some of the problems of viewing 'proper' websites on a phone's screen, or alternatively as a neat navigation mechanic for mobile games.

Whether you can get your hands on Realeyes3D's apps depends on how their negotiations with handset makers go, however. "Our business model is for preloading on handsets," says Katia. "Particularly messaging applications are designed to be part of the messaging client on the phone, and very tightly linked in. It's not an application that you download and then have as an item on your phone."

Still, the chap who talked to Katia just before me worked for Nokia, and seemed very enthusiastic about the technology, so watch this space...

PREVIOUS NOKIA WORLD COVERAGE

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Tech Digest goes to Nokia World

Posted by Stuart Dredge on December 4, 2006 in Mobile phones
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Nokia World: Flash wallpapers and games on your phone



Just polishing off some more interviews from last week's Nokia World conference today - there was so much happening at the show, I'm still working through transcripts. Let's kick off with Mobile Entertainment Factory, a German firm that's using Adobe's Flash Lite technology to create animated wallpapers and games/applications for phones.

Dr Hubert Weid, the company's CEO, ran me through a demo of the Flash wallpapers (pictured), which are cleverer than just having neat visual animations. One example was a wallpaper that actively links to your phone's time setting, and displays it as an analogue on-screen clock - good for those of us who've stopped wearing watches in favour of using our phones.

"You could even have time-based wallpapers," he says. "We could combine four different wallpapers in one Flash wallpaper, so your phone would display a different one in the morning, evening and night-time, without you having to change it."

Mobile Entertainment Factory started life making Java games for mobile phones, but has recently diversified into Flash Lite games. Hubert says the two areas don't really compete with each other, although he warns against the common assumption that Flash games are just simple one-button games with no depth.

"I wouldn't say simple," he says. "It's more rich media. Of course, we're just starting out, so it's simple at the moment, but in the mid or long term that

will change. We might not do sophisticated 3D shooters in Flash, but if you think about advertising games, this is the perfect tool. It's much nicer and better to watch, and avoids the complications of Java."



He showed me a few games, including a Spin The Bottle application – one for The Kids, I'm guessing – and a Simple Simon style memory game.

The games feature more flashy (sorry) visual effects than many mobile games, especially things like popping up speech bubbles or zooming in and out, which are easier to do thanks to Flash's vector graphics.

Adobe's Flash Lite player is making its way into more phones, particularly thanks to Nokia's efforts. But it's still very early days for Flash Lite games on mobile, not least because there's nowhere to buy them.

"It's very hard, because there are hardly any out there!" says Hubert. "As Flash players are pre-installed in more phones, the industry will wake up and start to see that there is new functionality here. But today, even the operator portals don't know how they should handle Flash games."

PREVIOUS NOKIA WORLD COVERAGE
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Nokia promises WiMAX handsets in 2008
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Posted by Stuart Dredge on December 4, 2006 in Mobile phones
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Samsung launches Ultra Edition handsets – Ultra Music F300, Ultra Video F500 and Ultra Messaging i600



Samsung has launched three handsets under the Ultra Edition banner – the **Ultra Music F300, the Ultra Video F500 and the Ultra Messaging i600**.

The F300 and F500 are tri-band devices, each with a two megapixel camera. The F300 has a 2.1-inch touchscreen and the looks of a music player, with the keypad sliding out. It also features Bluetooth 2.0 audio (A2DP), FM radio, 100MB of on-board storage and a MicroSD slot to boost it further. The F500 has a 2.4-inch screen, a sliding keypad, music and video support and 400MB of storage, which again can be boosted via MicroSD.

The i600 is a 3G handset with HSDPA support. It has a 2.3-inch screen, QWERTY keyboard and runs Windows Mobile 5.0. There's a VGA camera for video calls, a 1.3 megapixel camera for snapping. plus Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 2.0, 64MB of RAM and 128MB of Flash ROM.

No news on pricing or if these handsets will make it over to Europe. We'll keep you posted.

Samsung website

Via The Register

More Samsung handsets:
T-Mobile offers first non-PDA mobile broadband handset - Samsung Z560
Samsung i320 reviewed

Posted by modculture on December 4, 2006 in Mobile phones
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Bluetrek G2 Limited Pink edition - more fashion-friendly Bluetooth headwear



From the people that brought you the Bluetrek Skin range (also known as 'fashion for heads') and the M2 headset ('changes with your moods') comes another fashionable piece of headwear - the **Bluetrek G2 Limited Pink Edition**, a limited edition version of Bluetrek's bestselling G2 headset in pink.

Available only until December 31st, this female-friendly headset only has a cosmetic addition, the technical side is just as it was. That means 13 hours talk time and up to 21 days standby time, a reversible/adjustable ear hook for a better fit and an operation range of up to 10m.

It weighs just 12g, has a dual colour LED to indicate charge, low battery, stand-by and communication and retails for £29.99. You can pick it up from 3, T-Mobile and John Lewis stores.

Bluetrek website

Posted by modculture on December 4, 2006 in Mobile phones
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Diggnation leaks possible iPhone details

Popular weekly podcast, Diggnation, recently leaked details on the eagerly awaited Apple iPhone. Though not yet officially announced and technically rumour, the news is still taken as fact by many; Kevin Rose - founder of digg.com and one of the Diggnation presenters - was also correct when he let slip details on the Core 2 Duo Macbook and Macbook Pros in the past.

Details are few (Rose was scared he was going to get in trouble for releasing the information and held-back) but if he's right we know that the iPhone's features include 2x batteries (one for phone, one for mp3), flash memory, slide-out keyboard, touchscreen (on outside) and that it will be available in two capacities: 4Gb and 8Gb. Kevin also stated that the phone would be released in the US in January and that prices would be $249 and $449 for the two sizes.

View Diggnation #74 here.

Posted by John on December 4, 2006 in MP3 players | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Apple files patent for wireless handheld device



The EETimes has picked up upon Apple's latest patent filing, published today but rumoured since August, of a handheld computing device with wireless communications capability.

It's summarised as: "The portable computing device includes an enclosure that surrounds and protects the internal operational components of the portable computing device. The enclosure includes a structural wall formed from a ceramic material that permits wireless communications therethrough. The wireless communications may for example correspond to RF communications, and further the ceramic material may be radio-transparent thereby allowing RF communications therethrough."

Well, we've been talking about wireless iPods and iPhones for an age, so it's not that surprising. How it will come, though, is another matter. Maybe something else to look forward at MacWorld 2007 in January.

The patent goes on to talk about the device's ceramic properties:

"It should be noted that ceramics have been used in a wide variety of products including electronic devices such as watches, phones, and medical

instruments. In all of these cases, however, the ceramic material have not been used as structural components. In most of these cases they have been used as cosmetic accoutrements. It is believed up till now ceramic materials have never been used as a structural element including structural frames, walls or main body of a consumer electronic device, and more particularly an enclosure of a portable electronic device such as a media player or cell phone. There is a need for improved enclosures for portable computing devices," the filing explains. "Particularly, enclosures that are more cost effective, smaller, lighter, stronger, and aesthetically more pleasing than current enclosure designs."

So there you go. What will it materialise into?

Related stories: Apple iPhone to sport 2 megapixel camera? | iPhone tantalisingly close as Apple register trademark. Dual model rumours start | Apple iPhone would flop, UK survey suggests | Apple iPhone rumours continue: ready by January 2007?

Posted by Andy Merrett on December 1, 2006 in MP3 players | Mobile phones | Wi-Fi
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Yahoo! services come to Nokia S40 range of mobile phones

Yahoo! have announced that they're extending their relationship with Nokia by bringing a range of their services, including Mail and Messenger, to the S40 series of devices.

Yahoo! services will initially be available on the new Nokia 6300 handset, the Nokia 5300 XpressMusic, and the Nokia 5200.

Moving forward these services and the ability to synchronise Yahoo! contacts, tasks and calendar on the PC and phone will be added to an even wider range of Nokia's Series 40 devices.

"Since the Series 40 platform was introduced in 2002, Nokia has sold more than 400 million mobile phones which operate using the platform," says Kai Oistamo, Executive Vice President and General Manager, Mobile Phones, Nokia. "In addition to the millions of users who can add Yahoo! services to their S60 smartphone, today's announcement empowers tens of millions of people with the ability to enjoy their favourite Yahoo! services on an even broader ranges of Nokia devices."

Related stories: Nokia 6290 smartphone announced | Nokia 6086 GSM/UMA camera phone | Nokia 2626 mobile phone for 'emerging markets' | Nokia 6300 thin and compact monoblock mobile | Nokia N92 review | *More Mobile Phones...*

Posted by Andy Merrett on December 1, 2006 in Mobile phones
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3'S X Series Launch pricing - they got it right shocker

Comment from David Murphy of Mobile Marketing Magazine

I wouldn't want to be working in one of 3's stores over the next few weeks. Because if the mobile network operator, or mobile media company as it prefers to style itself, makes a decent fist of promoting its X-Series package, its staff are going to face a stampede of customers looking to sign up.

When we first wrote about X-Series a couple of weeks ago, we criticised 3 for not releasing pricing details. Price, we said, was all-important. At £25 or £30 a month, the service could really fly. Well when you add in a voice tariff, that's what 3 is asking, for the first 6 months at least.

On the Silver package, which costs £5 a month, the minimum voice and text tariff is £20 for the first six months, £35 thereafter. On the Gold package, which costs £10 a month, it's £25, rising to £40 after six months. For anyone who likes to go online with their mobile, X-Series looks irresistible.

At the mobilemarketing 2006 conference the other day, several delegates were talking about the lack of pricing transparency for data charges. If you respond to someone's mobile marketing campaign and download their admittedly gorgeous Java brochure to your handset, chances are it could be costing you £5 or £6 to do so.

Well here's a package that costs less than that for a month which, within reasonable limits, allows you to download Java brochures till the cows come home, and surf the web and make Skype calls to boot.

Sure, there are only two handsets to choose from initially, (only one, the Nokia at launch) but they look pretty good, with a 3.2 Megapixel camera on the Nokia and a 4GB digital music player on the Sony Ericsson, and there will doubtless be more to come.

3's move could be the best thing that's ever happened to the mobile marketing business. Surely the other operators can't just sit back and accept it. Currently, only T-Mobile's web 'n' walk package comes anywhere close to what 3 is offering. If the cost of going online on your mobile becomes as affordable, and as transparent, on all networks as it is now on 3, it can only encourage consumers to get involved in mobile marketing campaigns.

As Jonathan Bass, MD of mobile agency Incentivated put it when I called to get a quote: "You want a quote from me? One word: hurrah!"

Related stories

3's X-Series pricing announced 3's X-Series live blog

Posted by shiny on December 1, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Simon Webbe launches 3's MPops - the mobile Top Of The Pops



We previewed Mpops a couple of weeks back, said to be 3's version of Top Of The Pops for mobiles. Well, you can find out for yourself if it lives up to the hype, with the show **available to view from today**, with guest presenter Simon Webbe (the bloke that used to be in Blue) .

The interactive mobile broadcast will go out live every Friday afternoon from today (December 1st), but only to 3 customers. In the first episode of MPops, Simon Webbe will run through the top selling tracks of the week, previewing an exclusive video, interview or behind the scenes gig. Viewers will be able to interact during the show with instant downloads of the tracks featured, including videos and realtones as well as competitions.

According to Graeme Oxby of 3, "The Top of the Pops' audience hasn't disappeared - they simply aren't sitting in front of the TV anymore. So instead of having to sit around waiting for the audience, we're taking a chart show to them"

3 website

Posted by modculture on December 1, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

X-Series from 3 - flat-fee broadband internet and services - pricing announced



Two weeks back, 3 announced the X-Series, answering most questions about its flat-fee mobile broadband and data-hungry services except one - the pricing. Well, now it's out in the open.

There are two packages, both of which are on top of your 3 phone package - **X-Series Silver at £5 per month** and **X-Series Gold at £10 per month**. If you opt for X-Series Silver, you get unlimited Skype calls with other Skype PC users and to any other Skype 3 mobile customer. There is also unlimited instant messages, to or from Windows Live Messenger or Yahoo! Messenger, to another X-Series handset or a PC, along with unlimited internet access. The X-Series Gold package adds in access to your home TV with Slingbox and your home PC with Orb for £10 per month.

There are a couple of other things worth noting. If you're new to 3, you'll be signing for a minimum six months and if you buy a Slingbox with X-Series Gold, there is a 12 month minimum contract. That's because you get your Slingbox reduced - just £99. And of course, there is 'fair use'.

It's available from today, but with just the Nokia N73 right now, followed by the Sony Ericsson W950i in January..

X-Series website

Posted by modculture on December 1, 2006 in Mobile phones | Top stories
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Nokia World: Hands on with the Nokia 770 internet tablet



Slipping out of one Silicon Valleyspeak presentation today ("Push the envelope!", "Innovation!", "Quadrants!"), I took the chance to get hands on with Nokia's 770 Internet Tablet. I hate the name – could it sound any more nerdy? – but the device itself is genuinely appealing.

It's a lightweight landscape handset, designed principally for web browsing, messaging, and multimedia. It's hard to say how it felt in the hands, as it was attached to one of those heavy security devices that stop journalists from walking off with brand new Nokia phones, but it did seem eminently pocketable.

Web browsing was pretty seamless, using a pop-up on-screen keyboard to type URLs in, with websites being reconfigured to fit the screen. Not all looked absolutely spiffing – *cough* Tech Digest – but it felt more intuitive than, say, the PSP's web browser.



RSS seems to be playing a big role too, as there's a mini-application dedicated to setting up your feeds, which can then be displayed on the 770's home screen. It seemed like you had to know the exact address of a site/blog's RSS feed though, rather than just the main address, which isn't that user-friendly. But I might not have had enough time to find that particular option.

The device was playing radio too, although I'm a bit vague as to whether this was internet radio streaming via Wi-Fi, or FM radio with Nokia's new station database saying what it was. Either way, it sounded good through the supplied pair of Nokia headphones.

I'm still not sure about the 770 though. Like I said, it's an appealing gadget, but for many of its options – particularly messaging – I'd want a pop-out keyboard rather than an on-screen one that you poke at with a stylus. Maybe you can use a Bluetooth keyboard with it, but then that means carrying around two separate gadgets.

PREVIOUS NOKIA WORLD COVERAGE
WidSets bring the best Web 2.0 sites to your phone
Video of Nokia's future mobile concepts (part two)
Video of Nokia's future mobile concepts (part one)
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Geek TV crosses Miami Vice and Dom Joly with YouTube and, er, breasts
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Nokia promises WiMAX handsets in 2008
Tech Digest goes to Nokia World

Posted by Stuart Dredge on November 30, 2006 in Mobile phones
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Nokia World: WidSets bring the best Web 2.0 sites to your phone

There's been a lot of talk at the Nokia World conference about the coming together of Web 2.0 and mobile. But a lot of it's just that: talk. It seems logical that people will want to do similar things on their mobiles that they will on Web 2.0 services, albeit with extra elements of location and/or search thrown in to take advantage of the mobile phone.

But in a less high-profile corner of Nokia, the Emerging Business Unit, they've already created one application that's attacking this convergance head-on. It's called WidSets, and its nearest parallel is the Dashboard widgets on Mac computers, in that it pulls down information from websites to your phone, via RSS feeds, into the WidSets Java application.

You can pull down news stories, blog posts, Flickr photo streams, emails and weather forecasts, to name a few examples. Okay, so it might just be a



slick RSS reader with a graphical user interface, but it's easy enough to use that it could appeal beyond the tech-head community. I talked to Nokia's Kaj Haggman to find out more.

"We were all using Web 2.0 services within Nokia, and at the stage when we were thinking of what to launch next, we thought it would be really cool if you could get Web 2.0 services to the phone very easily," he says. "And we had been using the widgets on Apple Macs, and also Yahoo widgets, so..."

The way WidSets work is you go to the website and enter your phone details, get sent a text with a WAP link to download the application itself, which works on any phone that supports Java MIDP 2.



Then, you browse through the library of existing widgets (WidSets is the application, and widgets are the individual thingies that get content from sites) and choose the ones you want, and hit the synchronise button to transfer them to your phone. From now on, they connect automatically to find new content whenever you run WidSets.

One clever aspect is that you can create your own widgets on the website, for example if you have a particular blog you want to read, and it's not already one of the 900+ widgets in Nokia's library.

"People ask me what's the difference between a widget and a full browser," says Haggman. "If someone tells me there's something cool on the Web, I'll go there with a browser to take a look. But if I'm interested in just one part of a website, and want to check it regularly, then I'll define it as a widget so I don't have to go back every day and check if there's something new, but instead my phone will be updated."

Don't worry if you're on an unfavourable data tariff either – there's a traffic monitor which shows how much data each widget has used up, and an alert to warn you if you're nearly reaching a predefined limit (useful if, say, you have a data limit of 5MB a month, beyond which you start paying arms and legs).

Most of the widgets are for individual websites or blogs, but Haggman says WidSets also has a proper Java scripting language, which people have used to create search engines, traffic cameras, and even games. There's a Sudoku game already, and a simple fruit matching game too. But hang on, there's whizzy stuff afoot...



"You can compare your high scores with everybody else who's been using WidSets," says Haggman (pictured left). "Our next idea is that we want to connect people to each other too, so they can play together."

At the moment, you subscribe to the different widgets using the WidSets website, although there is a simple feature on the phone to add any of the most recently-created widgets from the handset. However, the next version – due to be released this week – will change that, allowing you to browse the entire library of widgets from your phone.

How about video and social networking though? They're two of the biggest website categories – think MySpace and YouTube – but they're not that well represented at the moment on WidSets. This is partly because Nokia isn't targeting the biggest websites, says Haggman, and also a technical restriction on using the Java application with video. Memory restrictions, apparently.

For now, WidSets is available as a Java application which should work on most new phones. Next year, a more advanced Symbian or Series 60 version will come along. But for now, it's well worth taking a look, downloading it to your phone, and seeing if Nokia is along the right lines with this whole Web 2.0 on mobile thing.

PREVIOUS NOKIA WORLD COVERAGE
Video of Nokia's future mobile concepts (part two)

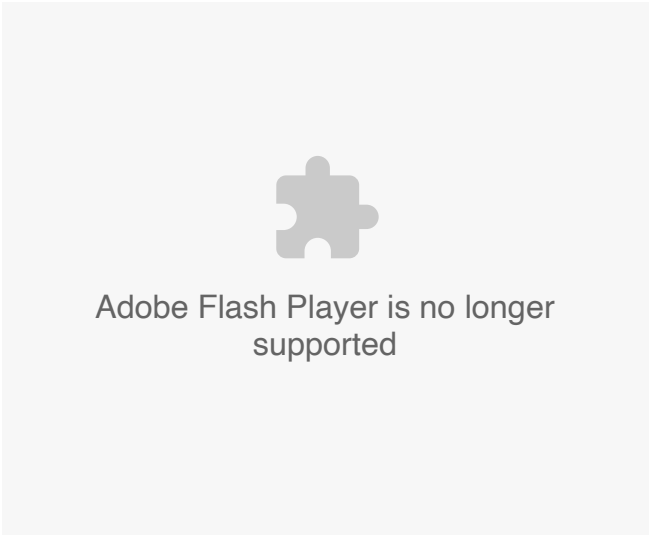
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Tech Digest goes to Nokia World

Posted by Stuart Dredge on November 30, 2006 in Mobile phones
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Nokia World: video of Nokia's future mobile concepts (part 1)

The presentations at the Nokia World conference have just finished - I've got a stack of stuff to post up in the next few hours, so keep checking back. But in the meantime, here's one of the animated videos shown by Nokia's head of design Alastair Curtis, showing where they think this mobile lark is heading in the next few years.

This was the 'Live' video, and shows how we'll be touching each others' phones to pass messages in clubs in the future, rather than hitting each other with Bacardi Breezer bottles. An improvement, I think. Click below to watch it.



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UK mobile survey suggests people want mobile Internet freedom

A survey from m-Send suggests that only 51% of 16-24 year olds and 53% of 25-34 year olds want to access the content provided by their own mobile network operator via an Internet mobile. The number rose to 76% of over 55s who'd prefer to only get their own operator's content.

This concurs with other research that shows the younger generations want the freedom from the so-called 'walled garden' of content that their mobile operators present to them.



It was also noted that more people in the south, south east, midlands and Wales preferred to access web content and interact with their favourite brands over their mobile, in the same way that they do on a computer, than those in the Scotland, the north of England and the south-west.

Earlier this month Google slammed mobile operators for their 'walled garden' approach, but Chris Astle, MD of m-send, also puts it down to user's lack of knowledge of what's available: "At the moment we are in a similar situation to the early days of consumer use of the internet when most people used CompuServe as it was simple, easy to use and correctly formatted. However, users soon realised that there was much more available to them outside of this walled garden, as companies realised that it was actually very easy to create websites themselves. The result of this survey shows that at the moment the vote is split, but we firmly believe that as consumers become more aware of how easy it is to use the mobile internet, they will be demanding access beyond what is offered by their network operator. Getting the offering to those consumers right, will definitely give some companies a competitive edge."

M-Send

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Teen texting survey reveals a celebrity following



A new survey of texting teenagers by Hotxt has revealed what teenagers think about text messaging and etiquette (or lack of it).

Amongst the musical celebs that teens would most like to add to their texting circle of friends, Lindsay Lohan beat Paris Hilton as the most popular female (22.8%), with Lily Allen in second place (20%).

In TV celeb land, Charlotte Church (I thought she was a musician, oh well) came number 1 with 17.8%. Declan Donnelly came second with 14.7% though Ant was in 7th place (7.4%). Slightly worrying (surely) is that Simon Cowell came third with 12.3%. Why?? Louis Walsh was the least favourite of all, though. Jamie Oliver came 4th with 10.7%.

Teens were also surveyed about who they thought would be the greatest 'text pest', and, oh dear, the Hoffmeister (David Hasselhoff) was voted top with 29.3%. Russell Brand was voted second (23%) with Robbie Williams in third place (21.1%).

These results show that most young people now prefer to express their feelings emotionally via text rather than picking up the phone to tell someone how they feel about them. Certainly when it comes to flirting, texting is the perfect way to send a cheeky text to someone you fancy! As many as 87.2% 16-24 year olds use texting as the best way to flirt with someone rather than over the phone.

Southampton, Sheffield then Newcastle and are home to the biggest text flirts, but on the flipside, as many people as 22.8% think it is acceptable to dump someone via text message. The survey reveals that teens from Plymouth are the worst contenders for this kind of behaviour.

Doug Richard, co-founder of Hotxt and entrepreneur of Dragon s Den fame, comments " This Hotxt celebrity-focused survey is an indication of the significance texting plays across all aspects of teenagers lives today. Texting has created a new and preferred platform for communication, an opportunity for social networking and starting new relationships as well as a means to finishing them in an easy and impersonal way, such as the simple text from Britney Spears to her husband to end their marriage."

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Garmin offers free software for receiving texts on a sat nav



Garmin satellite navigation systems can now download a software update that will allow them to send and receive SMS text messages when paired with a compatible Bluetooth mobile phone. And some of them will even speak those text messages (though how it's going to cope with text language I don't know)

The new service is available on the nüvi 660, 360 and 360T and the StreetPilot c550, which all feature the text to speak functionality.

The free download is available from Garmin's support site at www.garmin.com/support/, and a list of compatible mobile phones can be viewed at www.garmin.com/bluetooth/phones.jsp.

Posted by Andy Merrett on November 30, 2006 in Mobile phones | Satellite Navigation systems
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Nokia World: Are you a life juggler or a technology stylist?



One of the interesting running themes of the Nokia World conference has been the way Nokia is splitting consumers (i.e. us lot) into 12 distinct segments, which are being used to help the firm design its new mobile phones.

The categories are based around what you do in your life and how you use mobile technology. This morning, the company's VP of sales and marketing in Europe, Phil Brown, showed a slide with all 12 listed (click to see larger). Which one are you?

- Pragmatic Leaders
- Life Jugglers
- Mature Acceptors
- Family Providers
- Simplicity Seekers
- Style Followers
- Image Seekers
- Life Builders
- Style Leaders
- Young Explorers
- Technology Stylist
- Technology Leader

Sadly there's no Crumpled Blogger category, so I think I fall between three or four of those. But that's okay: in his presentation, Phil said these categories are not hard and fast, citing his own wife, who "is a life juggler, but thinks she's a style leader. Obviously, I tell her she's a style leader..."

More importantly, he also said that these categories are to be found across the world in 'mature' mobile markets. In other words, it's not like everyone in Japan is a technology leader, compared to us style-focused Europeans. Although he did note some national differences with tongue firmly in his cheek.

"I'm not a racist, but... it's fair to say there may not be as many style leaders in Germany as perhaps there are in Italy. But they're still there in Germany, even if it's a smaller number. And in countries like Sweden, there are lots of people in the bottom left of our graph [Simplicity Seekers and Mature Acceptors] who see themselves as very rational and maybe not so involved in the mobile life."

Perhaps Nokia should rejig its categories along national stereotype lines after all. Us Brits could be Beery Hooligans, Emotional Repressors, or Men With Floppy Hair Who Say Gosh A Lot. If I see Phil later today, I'll suggest it.

Other stuff. Nokia is running polls for many of the keynote presentations, where you can vote by text during the talk, and then the results are shown at the end. For Phil's, the question was 'What will be the most popular form factor for consumers in 2010?', and the results were:

- Slide (42%
- Monoblock (31%)
- Fold (20%)
- Swivel (7%)

Oh, and lastly, I'm wondering if there's some kind of unwritten policy within Nokia to avoid referring to Apple by name. Whenever they veer onto the subject of iPods or iTunes, they always talk about "companies from the MP3 space", or "providers of entertainment on the internet" rather than just saying Apple.

Maybe I'm just reading too much into it, but it's not unknown for companies to refuse to even mention their key rivals in public speeches. Which could mean that Nokia now sees its prime competitor in the years ahead being Apple, rather than the other mobile phone manufacturers...

Just a thought.

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Nokia World: Geek TV crosses Miami Vice and Dom Joly with YouTube and, er, breasts

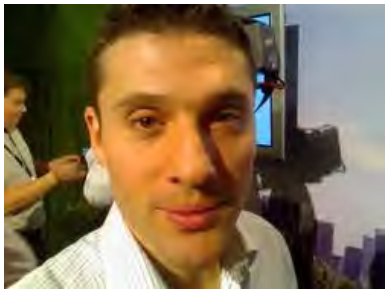


Mobile TV isn't just about simulcasting existing channels, thankfully. There's a number of companies looking to produce new made-for-mobile TV stuff, blending existing brands with user-generated content (i.e. your video clips).

One such firm is Player X, which launches its Geek TV channel on December 4th. It's a one-hour show that runs on a loop, with a new episode every week. It's launching first on 3 UK, although Player X aims to sell it to the other operators too. Richard Morris, the company's video product manager, told me a bit more about it.

"Essentially it's unique selling point is it's all made-for-mobile content," he says. "There are great brands like Miami Vice and American Dad, but it's new content exclusively for the phone. And then there's a user generated aspect where we invite people to send in their clips, and if they're good enough, we'll air them."

Apparently the reason operators like Geek TV is partly because it promotes videos that can be downloaded as individual episodes elsewhere on their portals. So you might see an episode of Player X's new Miami Vice animated mobisodes on Geek TV, and then go and buy the others from the portal to download.



Richard (pictured) says Player X will be running themes and competitions to ensure the user videos are as good as possible.

For example, the company also produces video clips featuring TV prankster Dom Joly, so Geek TV will include some of those, along with a competition for viewers to send in their clips - via 3's own SeeMeTV service - of them doing an impression of Dom's phone man character (you know: "I'M ON THE TRAIN!").

"If we like your clip, we'll air it, and then the best ten will be judged by Dom Joly himself," says Richard. "And then the winner gets to appear in his next series. And that's the way you can cross promote from the TV channel to user-generated things like SeeMeTV, and the video-on-demand that's available elsewhere on operator portals."

Apparently you'll also be able to send in larger video files via the Geek TV website too, although Richard stresses again that "it's not about sending us your crap. We want good stuff!".



So as a company selling mobile video and TV shows, what's doing well at the moment? Do the mobisodes based on famous brands like Miami Vice sell best, or the more original unique-to-mobile stuff? Interestingly, while more operators sign deals to sell the former on their portals, sales may actually be better for the non-branded stuff.

"Miami Vice isn't necessarily our biggest seller, but it's our most syndicated product," says Richard. "Our biggest seller is something called Check My Tits, believe it or not. We don't do adult - we do entertainment and that's as far as we'll go. But stuff that's cheeky and not branded will do just as well if not better than branded stuff. Users are looking for something different and new."

He's also not impressed by some of the mobile video and TV that's available elsewhere at the moment, not in terms of quality, but in terms of whether it's right for the current audience who are watching stuff on their mobiles.

"You've got things like Cartoon Network and Nickelodeon out there, which is completely the wrong demographic for who's actually paying for and watching this stuff!" he says. "The average age of viewers for those channels must be 6-8, it's insane! Geek TV is catering for 16-24 year-olds, so it's very focused, and very mobile savvy. Plus there's the community aspect to it too."

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Nokia World: Hands On Mobile talks football, mobile advertising and its Mobizines rival



I wrote about Refresh Mobile and its award-winning Mobizines mobile application yesterday, but it looks like it's got competition. Another company exhibiting at the Nokia World conference is Hands On Mobile, which you might know from mobile games like Call Of Duty 3 and Spider-Man, but which has moved into other areas of mobile content.

This includes HOMBRE, which might sound like a Mexican condom brand, but actually stands for Hands On Mobile Run-time Environment. And it sounds quite like Mobizines, in that it's a Java application for your phone which serves up stories, information and other content, and updates regularly using your mobile's connection to get new stuff.

"If someone's already got a website, this is an easy way of mobilising that," says Eric Hobson, president and general manager of Hands On EMEA & SE Asia. "We can take a feed off a website, suck that up into a Java application, and have it dynamically updating, with a lot of the graphics stored in the application itself, so it loads up quite fast."

He showed me a demo of a surfing version, which provides news and weather conditions for surfers. Apparently this sort of mobile application is perfect for advertisers too, who are looking for a good way into mobile. Another demo is for a version of HOMBRE customised for a shampoo brand, which has info, daily quizzes and dating stuff, alongside some more traditional ads on what shampoo is best for your hair.

"Clearly nobody's going to download an application just to find out what shampoo they should be using," he says. "You need the other stuff around that. For users, the trade-off is 'you entertain me, and I'll listen to your message. But if you just try to give me the hard sell, I probably won't."

HOMBRE isn't just about advertainment though. Hands On is also talking to the Learning Skills Council here in the UK about how the technology could be used, for example to serve up job vacancies or training courses for young people.

"The government has a real problem engaging with disaffected youths," says Eric. "They aren't in jobs or training, and probably don't have PCs. We can put the relevant information – say jobs or training in Nottingham – into an application like this, sucking it up from a database so it's current, and then showing it in an environment that's useful to them."

Hands On has also gleefully leapt onto the mobile user-generated content bandwagon, with an application called Phame that lets users post video and music clips and images, then pay to download other people's and vote on the best ones. It's the same model as 3 UK's SeeMeTV, which seems to have inspired a lot of mobile firms with its success, judging by this conference.

The company has also been working on a mobile dating application based on the My Single Friend website, although Eric reckons that's still six months away from actually launching.

Meanwhile, the company also has a nifty football application called Match Centre Live, which is another connected Java application that serves up information – in this case, news, results and latest scores. Again, advertisers could get involved by sponsoring the application, which means the likes of us users will hopefuly get it for free.

"Operators have been reticient to put it on their portals," says Eric. "I've got a sneaking suspicion that it's because it could kill their premium SMS football alert business! So we're looking at going the advertising sponsor route, and have been talking to beer brands. They could use it as part of their whole promotion of football, so you might log on at 4.45pm to check the result, and they could say 'Ah well, you've lost, why not have a few beers to console yourself?!'"

2007 seems set to be the year when we see more advertising on mobile, which Eric says is due to the fact that the technology is a lot richer than it has been in the past, when the best an advertiser could hope for was to send out text messages to bought-in lists of mobile numbers.

"A lot of advertising agencies saw mobile SMS alerts as a spammy type environment," he says. "They've been awakened to the whole thing now though, particularly if we go to them with something like HOMBRE, or a sponsorable application like Match Centre Live, or even the opportunity to wrap adverts around a mobile game. And of course, they see mobile as a way to target the 18-35 audience, which is bloody hard and very expensive to reach on TV."

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Nokia World: Fancy a 100GB mobile phone with a built-in projector?



What will mobile phones be like in 2010? Ask Tero Ojanperä, Nokia's chief technology officer, who did the final keynote speech at the Nokia World conference today. And he's not short of ideas:

1. "A navigation device in 2010 will be similar to the N95, but it will deduce information from your calendar, then input the navigation and take you to the place you need to go."

2. "If you're a journalist, you'll be documenting an event like this with your 10-megapixel camera, and you will be taking videos with your HDTV-quality video camera that's embedded in your mobile device."

3. "Say you're starving for your Latte. Your devices finds the various coffee machines for you, sends the parameters of your Latte over the Internet, so that when you walk to that machine, your Latte has been brewed."

But the most interesting idea he floated during his speech was of phones with 100GB of internal memory, containing every single item of media you own – music, films, photos, documents and so on.

"Your whole media will be indexed and there for you to take with you," said Ojanperä, before getting back on a futurology tip. "If you come to Amsterdam, you might film some tulip fields in HDTV video, and then later go to a friend's house and show those videos projected onto the wall, using the projector that's been integrated within your device. All of this will be possible within three years."

However, he went on to talk about how fast mobile networks are going to get in the years ahead too, and this is where I wonder about those 100GB phones. After all, if you've got a super-fast mobile network, and you're not paying any extra data charges for what you stream or download, do you need to keep your entire music or movie collection on your phone?

Couldn't you just stream it from your home server, using something like Orb - which remember, is already being put onto mobile phones by UK mobile operator 3 with its X-Series? Anyway, that's just me getting carried away with future-gazing. And there was no need, because Ojanperä was still going strong.

"Imagine you want to go to the Van Gogh museum, so you locate it using your device, and then browse through the internet the opening times, and some reviews that people have posted. Once you get there, next to the paintings you can touch tacks with your Near Field Communication-enabled phone to initiate a service that connects back to the internet, and fetches information about the painting, and perhaps reviews by other visitors."

There was also something about sensors embedded in your shoes detecting that it's raining, so sending a message to your phone to direct you to the nearest bus stop, but I think he was getting carried away by this point. I liked another idea though, which Nokia is apparently already doing, of porting internet servers into mobile phone, so your phone can itself act as a server.

"It enables the mobile device not only to access the Internet, but to be accessed," said Ojanperä. "You could store all your documents and pictures that you would like to share in that tiny server, and somebody else can access them if you allow it. This will fundamentally change the information architecture of the internet. And this is happening today. We have put the server into open source, and it is starting to spread."

I love all this stuff - if he'd mentioned robots, lasers and a 4D holographic version of Snake, I'd probably still be sitting at the back of the conference auditorium with a silly grin on my face, dreaming of The Future. As it is, we'll just have to wait for 2010 to see if all or any of these ambitious ideas come off.

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Nokia World: Refresh Mobile talk about their award-winning Mobizines



You might have read Andy's earlier story about Refresh Mobile scooping a Developer Of The Year award at the Nokia World conference. The company makes a product called Mobizines, which lets you get bite-sized versions of your favourite magazines and websites on your phone. I grabbed John Stoneman from the company for a chat to find out more about Mobizines.

"It's slightly different from a WAP site because the whole content is downloaded to the phone," he says. "You get a compete edition down to your device, which you can then browse. Because of that, it looks a lot richer than a regular WAP site, and it's a lot quicker to read, because you can jump from page to page without having to download each one as you go."

Refresh Mobile partly promotes the mobizines on its own site, but also relies on its content partners to promote them. As Andy mentioned in our earlier story, you can get mobizine versions of Tech Digest, as well as our stablemates Shiny Shiny, Who Ate All The Pies, Shoewawa (instructions for all of these are at the end of this story). Other mobizines include BBC News, Glamour, OK! Magazine, Time Out and Maxim, although a full list is here.

Once you've downloaded one mobizine to your phone, you can easily get others via its menu. John says that the line-up is getting more broader, having started with mainly techy brands.



"We recently got a distribution relationship with 3, the mobile operatoe, which has opened us up to much more of a mainstream audience," he says. "So we've got things like OK and Glamour, as well as Daily Snack, which is much more about celebrity and gossip. And then there's Holy Moly..."

You might know Holy Moly as the weekly email that's not afraid to tear celebrities a new... well, suffice to say, it's fairly blunt about them. And it's one of the more interesting mobizines too, as it offers new content every day, ensuring users are getting more than the people who just subscribe to the email.



"It's one of the most popular mobizines," says John. "The only place you can get their daily content is on Mobizines, which is really cool. While Mobizines is the size it is in comparison to most people's websites, it's always going to be difficult to get them to commit to doing bespoke content just for this mobile audience. But we've shown through the popularity of things like Holy Moly that if you do something specific to mobile, you get a good response from users."

Right now, Mobizines just offers text and pics, although if people want to provide video content, they can do it via a link within their mobizine, or by sending out a WAP link in a text message. John says there's no technical reason why videos couldn't be included, but it's a commercial decision instead.

"If we were to bundle a 100-200k video file as part of the mobizine, the user has to download it, which could be an expensive thing to do if they're on the wrong tariff," he says, while hoping that more operators follow T-Mobile's example and launch unlimited data tariffs.

75% of Mobizines users are accessing it on regular Java phones, although the Mobizines reader application is also available for Symbian handsets. A Blackberry version is on the way, which I daresay will lead to a new crop of mobizines about business news / share prices / schtupping your secretary to cater for a new influx of suity types. A Windows Mobile version is also under consideration, although Palm OS is further down the list.

What about handheld games consoles? "We do have a version of Mobizines which works on the PSP," says John. "It's quite cool. Obviously, you don't have GPRS or a 3G connection, so it updates over Wi-Fi. As soon as any operating system or platform gets traction and users, we'll port over to it as quickly as we can."

To check out Shiny's mobizines, click on the following links depending on which you want: Tech Digest, Shiny Shiny, Who Ate All The Pies and Shoewawa.

PREVIOUS NOKIA WORLD COVERAGE
Next-gen N-Gage to work on 5-7 phones from Day One
Nokia declares war on the iPod!
Ruud Gullit on gadgets and marriage: "It's like warfare..."
Two mobile phones and one DJ Slow...
Nokia promises WiMAX handsets in 2008
Tech Digest goes to Nokia World

Posted by Stuart Dredge on November 29, 2006 in Mobile phones
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Refresh Mobile wins Nokia "Developer of the Year" award

Refresh Mobile, a London-based company that runs the Mobizines service allowing users to access 'snack sized' versions of their favourite mags, web sites and brands via their handsets, has won Nokia's prestigious "Developer of the Year" award, beating off competition from over 100 global entrants.

The Forum Nokia PRO Awards is a yearly competition with eight different categories. It recognizes exciting innovations, technical accomplishments and commercial successes which drive the evolution of mobile applications, content and services worldwide. The panel, which includes mobile analysts

and leading journalists, judge applications on criteria including innovation, technology excellence, usability, and commercial success.

Naturally, it must be a successful service because it allows you to access Tech Digest, Who Ate All the Pies?, Shiny Shiny, and Shoewawa on the move.

Find out more about Mobizines as Stuart speaks to John Stoneman from Refresh Mobile at Nokia World

Mobizines

Related stories: Nokia World: Refresh Mobile talk about their award-winning Mobizines | *More Mobile Phones...*

Posted by Andy Merrett on November 29, 2006 in Mobile phones
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Ministry of Sound try out mobile ticketing

Virgin Mobile have been testing it out, and now Ministry of Sound has carried out a live trial of mobile ticket purchasing - they say it's the first time an end-to-end transaction has taken place on a mobile.

Clubbers attending student night Milkshake were able to access the legendary London club and see Welsh rappers Goldie Lookin Chain DJ live for the reduced price of £2.50 by purchasing a ticket via their mobile.

Registered PayPal users simply texted the word shake to 60500. An interactive voice response callback then confirmed their request by asking them to authenticate their unique PayPal PIN before a mobile ticket was delivered to their handset.

Felicity Ive, Head of Strategic Brand Partnerships, Ministry of Sound said " Ministry of Sound is already a multi platform, lifestyle brand and using this kind of technology helps create experiential events for consumers that really drive home a marketing message. In this case, the benefits of PayPal Mobile. Ministry of Sound has been at the forefront of youth culture for the last fifteen years. Intuition, boldness and a keen sense of what our audience want has helped us maintain this position. What today s youth market wants is definitely mobile."

Related stories: Virgin Mobile extend mobile ticketing with free tickets to The Automatic gig | Mobile ticketing could beat the touts, says Nokia | "Oi, where d'you think you're going?" | *More Mobile Phones...*

Posted by Andy Merrett on November 29, 2006 in Mobile phones
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XT9 new mobile interface builds on T9 text input software

Tegic Communications has announced the availability of a new mobile interface, XT9, based on the existing T9 mobile text input system available on many mobile phones and other devices.

XT9 Mobile Interface integrates the popular T9 text input software with handwriting recognition capabilities using a stylus.

XT9 has additional features that make it simple to type words and phrases, as well as enjoying popular content and wireless services:

* Next letter prediction: when entering letters by scrolling through an alphabet (up-and-down or side-to-side), XT9 predicts the user's next letter based on previous letters entered.

* Error correction: For users of hard QWERTY keyboards, XT9 helps ensure a better messaging experience by compensating for users tapping incorrect keys on the keyboard.

XT9 is currently available on Samsung's' SGH-i320.

Tegic

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Posted by Andy Merrett on November 29, 2006 in Mobile phones
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Nokia World: Nokia declares war on the iPod!



Or, in their words: "I don't see any reason for standalone MP3 players to exist in the long-term. There's no reason for standalone non-connected MP3 players. You have a worse experience."

That's what Nokia's Tommi Mustonen said earlier this afternoon, admittedly in answer to a direct question from a journalist on whether Nokia is predicting the death of the standalone MP3 player. Gotta love those leading questions.

And happily he had the balls to take the question head-on, although not so far as to offer Steve Jobs out for a fight while smashing an iPod to bits with a big hammer. If I ever go into PR, that's the kind of thing I'd suggest. Meanwhile, Mustonen also outlined some of the other stuff Nokia is doing in the music field.

A lot of it was fairly standard stuff, about how music is a huge part of Nokia's N-Series multimedia computers (NOT mobile phones, remember), and how people are using them heavily, whether it's buying music on the Internet from services other than iTunes and loading it on to the devices, or ripping their CD collections and transferring them over.



He did mention Nokia's policy of putting a standard 3.5mm headphone jack on the N-Series handsets so that people can use their normal headphones – which other manufacturers haven't quite got round to doing yet – and also talked figures, saying that Nokia has effectively sold more than 100 million MP3 players in 2005 and 2006.

Someone did ask the question of whether all the people who buy these MP3-capable phones are actually using them to play music, and Mustonen replied that in a study of Series 60 users, 64% are using their phones to listen to music several times a week or more.

Interestingly, radio is increasingly seen as an important feature by Nokia, so they're going to be putting it across the device range – I'm not sure if this is just N-Series or all the company's mobile phones – and has also developed a Station Directory database of over 100,000 radio stations around the world, which the FM tuner on your phone will be able to access to give you details of what's available. This year alone Nokia has sold 150 million FM-radio-enabled devices, y'know.

He also talked podcasting. "It's probably the fastest growing audiocasting phenomenon at the moment," he said. "Our podcasting application allows device owners to go out to the Internet and start searching for podcasts, subscribing to them, and then getting them delivered direct to the device using 3G or wireless LAN. It's clearly highlighting the importance of connectivity, as there's no need to use your PC with this application."



He also waxed lyrical about Nokia's new Music Recommenders service, which has 40 or so independent music shops around the world picking their favourite new tunes, which can then be bought by users. David Bowie is involved somewhere along the line too.

"It's a different approach to most recommendation engines out there," said Mustonen. "We wanted a human recommendation engine. Say I like reggae. I will subscribe to recommendations from someone in Jamaica who's lived his whole life around reggae and knows everything about it. And if I like it, I can buy it."

Next year, as previously announced, Nokia will launch some kind of bigger music download store. But the iPod was never far from the minds of us listening hacks, especially when Mustonen talked about how mobile phones' key advantage is connectivity. I've been reading Apple iPhone rumours on the internetweb for years now, and sooner or later it'll surely happen. What then for Nokia?

"There is a possibility that different players will come into the market," he said. "But if MP3 manufacturers are going to implement a phone feature, bringing in connectivity and other mobile features, they are basically doing multimedia computers and directly competing with us. And that's competition we're happy to take, and we plan to win that game."

Other stuff from this session: Nokia is keen to get USB 2.0 into its music handsets, especially the ones with larger hard drives inside, to make transferring a stack of tunes across quicker.

And fear not Mac users, there is apparently already software available on the Nokia website allowing you to sync songs you've ripped to iTunes (as opposed to bought) with your Nokia handset. I'll have a look for it and post a link once the conference is over.

OUR OTHER NOKIA WORLD COVERAGE
Are you a life juggler or a technology stylist?
Geek TV crosses Miami Vice and Dom Joly with YouTube and, er, breasts
Hands On talks football, mobile advertising, and its Mobizines rival
Refresh Mobile talk about their award-winning Mobizines
Fancy a 100GB mobile phone with a built-in projector?
Next-gen N-Gage to work on 5-7 phones from Day One
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Posted by Stuart Dredge on November 29, 2006 in Mobile phones | Top stories
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Nokia World: Ruud Gullit on gadgets and marriage: "It's like warfare"



The vast majority of the Nokia World conference is tech-focused, as you'd expect. But I've just come out of a strange session hosted by Clive Anderson, which focused on how celebrities are using mobile technology. Actually, it was more like an episode of Grumpy Old Men/Women, given that they were moaning quite a lot.

Anyway, Ruud Gullit was here live, in the flesh, talking about how he uses technology, and in particular how he doesn't like to read manuals when he buys a new gadget. "I think of it as a puzzle," he said. "I open it, put it on and then try to find my way through. If there's really something I can't find how to do, then I look in the manual."

Right now, tens of thousands of Newcastle United fans are punching their keyboards in frustration and wishing he'd done that when he was in charge of their football club. But he also had other stuff to say about the role gadgets play in a happy household. Or otherwise.

After a video clip of Brooke Shields saying she has to get her husband to talk her through new gadgets before she can get the hang of them – and how she must be thanking her lucky stars she didn't marry Michael Jackson on that score – Ruud said the same thing happens round his gaff.

"Whenever I have something new like a video phone, I have to explain it, but she always says 'not now!'. So when I call her to try it out, she doesn't know what to do! And I say 'look, I just tried to do a video call with you'."

At this point, Clive Anderson pointed out that perhaps Mrs Gullit doesn't want to put the videophone on at that particular moment – "I don't want to cause trouble for you..." – which got a laugh from the crowd (and Ruud, thankfully). "It's like a battlefield," he continued. "The wife doesn't want to admit she can't do it, but in the end she'll say I was right. It's more like warfare..."

Also good was the appearance of Joanna Lumley via pre-recorded video, who started by rhapsodising about "a tiny seperate little palm-sized piece of Faberge equipment in my hand", before getting onto some serious grumping.

"What's frustrating is when it doesn't work," she said. "Of course, I get out the manuals, but I realise that the manuals almost expect me to understand the terminology. Words like option, select, quit or exit. Is quitting the same as exiting? If I quit, will the whole phone blow up?"

Very funny, although not quite as funny as the expressions on dozens of middle-aged technology journalists' faces as they listened to Joanna Lumley say the words 'option', 'select', 'quit' and 'exit'. They'll be telling their grandchildren about that for years.

Meanwhile, Clive Anderson revealed his initial misgivings about mobile phones ("I met this guy who had one, and all he could do was call his wife to see if the milk had been delivered, and call the guy who'd installed it in his car to say it was working okay. I thought 'this'll never catch on...), but the

last word should go to that man Ruud Gullit, on the "magic" of mobile phones.

"It's like an old LP," he said. "You know that the needle is there, and you put the record on here, and then music comes out. But you don't know how it works..."

A bit like a well-drilled Premiership defence etc etc etc. Right, I'm off to see some technology. I don't want celebrities: I want Men In Shirtsleeves Explaining Synergistic Consumer Solutions. Really.

PREVIOUS NOKIA WORLD COVERAGE
Two mobile phones and one DJ Slow...
Nokia promises WiMAX handsets in 2008
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Posted by Stuart Dredge on November 29, 2006 in Mobile phones
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My bluebook - online back-up for O2 phone customers



If you're an **O2** customer worried about losing your mobile data, you might want to try **My bluebook**, a new service that allows customers to store personal information through a free, web-based account.

My bluebook can keep track of contacts, text messages, pictures, and video clips for personal reference or as a means of sharing with friends and family. According to O2, 80-85% of mobile users surveyed want to be able to back up their contacts easily, 25% want to be able to backup photos, while 10-15% want to store their sms messages securely.

If you want to upload data, it's just a matter of dialling a number from your mobile phone. The company intends to extend the service next year, so users can backup address books automatically.

O2 website

Posted by modculture on November 29, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Nokia World: Two mobile phones and one DJ Slow...



Vellu Maurola is a very cool man indeed. Not just because he has cool hair, calls himself DJ Slow, and is DJing at the Nokia World conference using two N91 mobile phones connected up to a set of decks. Although that is pretty cool. But because he *made them himself*. I caught up with the Finnish DJ as he dropped (is that the right word?) Peggy Lee's 'Fever', to find out more.

"It's a mobile setup that I invented a couple of years ago," he says. "You have these MP3 controllers in the software, and the phone is connected via USB as an external hard drive, so you can browse the songs. I only need one device to play the songs, but there are two reasons why I have two. First, if one crashes, I can use the other one. And second, it looks much better!"

Vellu actually had to hotfoot it from Amsterdam Airport this morning to make it to Nokia World on time, which he says shows one of the benefits of using mobile phones to DJ - they were stashed in his hand luggage, so no risk of losing precious records that are travelling in the hold. "Size matters, as it always does!" he chuckles.

But is DJing with a pair of mobiles really as good as other forms? "Playing with these, it's almost the same as playing with CDs, but only 60% the same as playing with vinyl," he says.

"One thing that's different is that you're browsing through file names, which is weird for me, because I like to see things, y'know, colours and shapes. Maybe one corner of a record sleeve is broken, for example, and I will



remember that it's good. It's confusing when you only see file names. Maybe the answer will be to have a small picture on the screen of the cover like iTunes does."

Besides the N91s, Vellu uses the XP10 digital DJ player, and its Bison software to control the MP3s. He says it's solid and reliable, even if it hasn't got loads of flashy bells and whistles. Besides roaming the world as DJ Slow, Vellu records his own stuff, and runs his own company called Slow Music Design, which produces music for films, adverts, events and parties. So is Nokia along the right lines with the stuff it's doing in the music field?

"Yeah, it's very interesting," he says. "Music moves your feelings very much, so now that we have these kinds of devices which can play music, why shouldn't we push it? I feel it's very nice."

Find out more about DJ Slow here. As I write this, the crowd's not quite warmed up – most of them are still swapping cards and gabbing about 'value propositions'. But don't worry. "They'll be dancing within 30 minutes," says Vellu. "Don't you worry about that..."

Posted by Stuart Dredge on November 29, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Nokia promises WiMAX handsets in 2008



Nokia's president and CEO Olli-Pekka Kallasvuo is just doing his keynote speech at Nokia World, and he's just said that the company will bring out WiMAX-enabled handsets in 2008, which would be able to hook into citywide Wi-Fi networks using the technology.

Also, the company predicts that this year alone, 970 million mobiles will be sold globally – this is from all manufacturers, not just Nokia – and that 65% of these are people upgrading to new handsets. Kallasvuo also said that Nokia reckons the number of people with a mobile phone will break the 3 billion mark sometime next year, and will pass 4 billion in 2010.

Other than that, he basically gave an overview of what Nokia is up to, which covered existing announcements (e.g. working with Flickr and the new Music Recommenders community), and an interesting snippet about Mastercard running a trial with Nokia to let people pay for stuff in 32,000 shops by touching their phones to a reader. Oh, and he also said Nokia is seeing the first opportunities to use GPS for photo-sharing, gaming and messaging applications.

Posted by Stuart Dredge on November 29, 2006 in Mobile phones
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Tech Digest goes to Nokia World



So, here I am in Amsterdam at Nokia World. Sadly, despite the name it's not a post-modern amusement park where all the rollercoasters are shaped like N70s, and kids queue up to throw N-Gages at coconuts to win a prize. Although it's a thought.

Instead, Nokia World is Nokia's two-day conference where it unveils new phones, talks about its strategy and big visions, and invites a bunch of its partners to show off the latest cool stuff they're doing on phones.

So, I'm sat here waiting for the keynote speeches to begin, having munched on a pastry and logged on first time to the free Wi-Fi. Which is nice. The lobby is bustling outside, lots of people here including journalists, Nokia people, and other mobile firms. I'll be posting news, interviews and other gubbins throughout the show, so keep checking back to see what's happening.

Posted by Stuart Dredge on November 29, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Nokia 2626 mobile phone for 'emerging markets'



From what I understand, the new Nokia 2626 announced today is aimed more at emerging markets, so I'm not sure if or when we'll see the phone in the UK.

It's a dualband EGSM phone based on the Series 40 user interface. It has a 128x128 pixel display able to show 65,000 colours, has a one-touch FM radio, Nokia Xpress Audio Messaging, Voice Recorder, MMS, IM, MP3 ringtones, an email client, JAVA, WAP browser, and built-in handsfree speaker.

It comes in a choice of five body colours: Fiery Red, Spatial Blue, Energetic Copper, Elegant White, and Navy Blue.

Dimensions are 104 mm x 43 mm x 18 mm (L x W x H) and it weighs 91g. It has a talk time of up to 3 hours and standby of up to 12 days.

Its suggested retail price is €75, available from early 2007.

Nokia

Posted by Andy Merrett on November 28, 2006 in Mobile phones
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Nokia 6290 smartphone announced



Nokia's announcement of new mobile phones continues with the Nokia 6290 smartphone which they say is "advanced technology made brilliantly simple"

It seems to be aimed at the professional. Dimensions are 94 mm x50 mm x 20.8 mm (L x W x H), weighing 115g. This smartphone is based on the world's leading smartphone software S60 on Symbian OS.

It features a digital camera with 4x digital zoom, integrated flash, and serial shooting of 15 shots, 2.2" QVGA 16.7m colour screen, rich email functionality including Office attachments, MP3 music player with stereo surround sound, and two way video calling.

It promises an ergonomic keypad, fast access keys and intuitive menu structure, plus a Setup Wizard to guide users through the process of establishing their specific email, MMS functions as well as operator-specific settings.

It comes with 50MB of memory and a microSD card slot for expansion. It's GPRS, EGPRS and WCDMA enabled, as well as Bluetooth.

The Nokia 6290 phone has a talk-time of up to 3.5 hours and a standby battery time of up to 10 days.

It should be available in the first quarter of 2007, exact pricing and availability to be confirmed, but RRP is around €325.

Nokia

Posted by Andy Merrett on November 28, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Nokia 6086 GSM/UMA camera phone



Nokia's announcement today of four new mobile phones includes the Nokia 6086.

It's a UMA (Unlicensed Mobile Access) handset designed to allow its users to stay in touch whatever their environment. It's a quad-based GSM and UMA camera phone with a classic design, large keypad and intuitive user interface. Dimensions are 92 mm x 46 mm x 23 mm (L x W x T), and weighing 84 grams.

It features a camcorder and video player, Bluetooth synchronisation, VGA camera with 4x digital zoom, 6MB user memory expandable via microSD card, and up to 5 hours of talk time and 10 days of standby.

Nokia say that the UMA technology will benefit mobile operators, allowing them to deliver voice and data services to their subscriber base over WLAN, decreasing their costs related to network deployment and increasing mobile service availability.

Apparently Orange will be one of the first to offer the 6086 and have added it to their Unik offer, launched back in September.

“Our Unik offer combines the best of fixed and mobile within a single handset, allowing customers to use one phone to meet all their needs – with one number, one address book, one voice mail and one bill,” says Yves Maitre, Vice President, Devices, Orange. “Already customers can choose from the largest range of UMA phones. The addition of the Nokia 6086 strengthens our Unik offer and builds on the strong tradition we have of working with Nokia to combine cutting edge technology with exceptional ease of use.”

Estimated price €200, and available from early 2007.

Nokia

Posted by Andy Merrett on November 28, 2006 in Mobile phones
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Nokia 6300 thin and compact monoblock mobile

Amongst Nokia's new phones announced today is the stylish Nokia 6300, a thin and compact mobile phone with some decent specifications.

Size wise, it's just 13.1mm thick, 106.mm high and 43.6mm wide, with a stainless steel design, and weighs in at 91 grams.

It comes with a 2 megapixel digital camera with 8x digital zoom, able to take 1280x960 resolution still images and 176x144 videos.

It has a 2-inch QVGA screen able to display 16.7m colours at 320x240 resolution.

It synchronises with a PC via USB, has a standard memory of 135MB and can be expanded to 2GB using microSD cards. It's an MP3 player and FM radio, has voice dialling, voice commands and voice recording, and an integrated hands-free speaker. Communications wise it has GPRS, EGPRS, and Bluetooth.

Talk time is up to 3.5 hours and standby of up to 14 days.

It should be available in the first quarter of 2007, exact pricing and availability to be confirmed, but RRP is around €250.

Nokia



Posted by Andy Merrett on November 28, 2006 in Mobile phones
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Nokia announce four new mobile phones: 6300, 6290, 6086, 2626

Nokia today announced four new mobile phones which will be hitting world markets in the first quarter of 2007. Here's an overview of the four handsets, with links to more detailed descriptions and pictures for each phone:

Nokia 6300

The Nokia 6300 is a mid-range model, less than 13.1mm thick with a stainless steel frame that will add strength as well as design interest. It sounds as if it will be curvy, and have a decent range of features. Retail cost of the phone will be around €250 - of course deals and availability will vary.

Nokia 6290

The Nokia 6290 is a smartphone combining the power of the S60 3rd edition and 3G that promises to be easy to use and attractively designed. Features include multiple alarms, quick cover access keys, and an interactive world travel application. Estimated price €325.

Nokia 6086

The Nokia 6086 is a quad-band GSM and UMA-enabled camera phone in a classic design, large keypad and intuitive user menu. Estimated price €200.

Nokia 2626

The Nokia 2626 is being aimed at emerging world markets. It will come in a range of bold colours including Fiery Red and Spatial Blue, and include an FM radio. Estimated price €75.

More details to follow.

Posted by Andy Merrett on November 28, 2006 in Mobile phones | Top stories
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Parrot MK6000 - hands-free mobile phone car kit with streaming audio capability

Parrot has unveiled the **MK6000**, which it claims is the first hands-free mobile phone car kit with streaming audio.

The MK6000 sits on your dashboard. To operate, start your car, pair your Bluetooth-enabled smartphone or other MP3 device with the MK6000 and your music can be heard over your car's stereo system. In addition to audio streaming, the new MK6000 features two other innovations - 'beamforming' technology for improved voice quality while phoning and a text-to-speech synthesis function that will read the phone book listings to you.



The MK6000 has a one-button user interface that controls all the music functions such as play, fast forward, and track selection. The unit also allows you to to make calls, take calls and check voicemail without touching your mobile phone, as well as muting the music when a call is made or received.

The MK6000 will be available in the UK from early 2007, priced at £124.99

Parrot website

Posted by modculture on November 28, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (2) | TrackBack (0)

Nokia reveals worldwide mobile gaming habits



Nokia have done some research into people who play games on their mobile phones. A diverse group of 1800 people from China, Germany, India, Spain, Thailand and the United States were asked about their gaming habits.

80% of those interviewed play at least once a week, with 34% playing every day. The average length of play is 28 minutes, but highest in India (39 minutes), the US (31 minutes) and Thailand (29 minutes)

Games are played as much on the move (61%) as at home (62%), and 56% play whilst waiting for something else to happen.

Oh look, here's a surprise: The Nokia-sponsored survey showed that 63% of respondents preferred 'the richer experience of Nokia's next generation mobile games offering over existing Java 2D and Java 3D games offerings.'

Good gameplay (83%), replayability (79%) and game genre (78%) are key motivators when considering which mobile games to purchase. Graphical quality (84%) and using the phone for other purposes while downloading (78%) were found to be the most important features when deciding to play Nokia's next generation mobile games.

Worldwide gaming trends show that connecting people, either as teammates or as opponents, is becoming an increasingly important part of what consumers want from their mobile gaming experience. Globally, 45% play multiplayer games on their mobile phones at least once a month. India tops with over half (56%) playing at least once a week and one in four playing everyday.

Not only do players want to defeat their foes, they also want to share game demos with their friends (62%). Additionally, a large majority (79%) would trial games sent by friends.

"These research results further validate that consumers are looking to the next generation of mobile gaming to meet their gaming needs," says Jaakko Kaidesoja, director, games, multimedia, Nokia. "Consumers are demanding great graphics, great content and great game play and we have listened. Next year, we intend to deliver superior mobile gaming experiences which will include great looking, involved and connected games that are easy to find, manage and play."

Posted by Andy Merrett on November 27, 2006 in Gaming | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Mobile adult content market to grow to $3.3bn by 2011

Juniper Research suggests that demand from the well-developed European market will propel the mobile adult content market from its current level of $1.4bn to over $3.3bn by the year 2011.

Here's a shock revelation: sex sells, and is pretty persistent. Mobile is the latest channel for the distribution of adult content, thanks to the increasingly rapid roll out of 3G services incorporating enhanced mobile video and graphics capabilities.

By 2011, video-based services will account for over 70% of mobile adult content market revenue.



Bruce Gibson, Research Director at Juniper Research, said: "The mobile channel will provide a different way of presenting adult content to traditional delivery channels and will reach new audiences. Mobile is about fun and instant gratification. I think the biggest opportunity is at the casual and softer end of the adult market – lads in pubs sharing a video clip after a few pints and people looking for a bit of fun when they have spare time to kill, etc. – not the hard core stuff. "

So there you go, more sex on your mobile.

Posted by Andy Merrett on November 27, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Mobilesift.co.uk mobile comparison site launches

mobilesift™ comparisons made easy

Another day, another comparison website launches. I really think someone ought to launch a website comparison comparison website, but there you go.

The latest service to launch is MobileSift which allows you to find, compare and buy mobile phones online. Andy James considers that existing comparison sites fail to provide essential information.

"Choosing the best mobile phone deal is easy, providing you have all the relevant information to make an informed decision", says James. "Mobilesift offers this essential information in the form of buyers' guides, faqs, tips and 'key features".

Mobilesift compares the latest mobile phone handsets, including Nokia, Motorola, LG, Sony Ericsson, Samsung and other brands. Users can compare the best deals for pay-monthly contract or pay-as-you-go mobile phones.

Mobilesift.co.uk

Posted by Andy Merrett on November 27, 2006 in Mobile phones | Websites
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Sony Ericsson opens first retail store in London



Sony Ericsson has today officially opened its **first retail store**, which you'll find in Kensington High Street, London.

The store covers 3,500 square feet, with the focal point being a central bar that runs the length of the store, which allows potential purchasers to try out "live" handsets – so you can snap away with one of the Cybershot or listen to a few tunes on the Walkman handsets. Which might be a good way of keeping warm and busy when the cold weather kicks in.

There's also specially trained staff to talk you through the latest kit – and of course, you can buy it, along with accessories and cards for your handset, via a deal with Carphone Warehouse, which is running the store. Other stores in "key cities" are to follow.

Sony Ericsson website

Posted by modculture on November 27, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

October text stats show we're more in love with SMS



Despite all the latest gizmos and attachments for mobile phones, latest statistics show that we're still a nation of text addicts.

October set a new record, with 3.8 billion texts sent, with texts rising steadily month-on-month since May.

It's up 27% on October last year, and up 100 million from last month.

In August, the Mobile Data Association predicted that 40 billion texts would be sent this year, and these stats suggest that will be surpassed.

Posted by Andy Merrett on November 24, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Google slams mobile operators that block its content



A Google senior executive has laid into mobile operators around the world, accusing some of them of blocking access to certain Internet applications (yes, including Google's own)

Chris Sacca, head of special initiatives at Google, said on Monday that certain mobile operators had lobbied the search giant, asking it to stop people accessing Google Mobile Maps. Oh yeah, that's going to happen.

"They're inserting themselves in between you and an application that you want. I think that has scary, scary implications," said Sacca.

He also hit out at operators claiming to provide unlimited Net access but then blocking hungry applications like VoIP and streaming video. I'm sure they'll just claim some 'fair use' policy.

"VoIP is not a service. It's a technology which provides only one thing — cheaper calls — and we can provide cheaper calls very easily by cutting prices," Bobby Rao, Vodafone corporate strategy director, told journalists and analysts on Wednesday."We think the best way to offer people cheaper calling plans is to offer them cheaper calling plans... The value customers are looking for is not VoIP," Rao added.

Yep, I think you're missing some of the point, here, Bobby.

Posted by Andy Merrett on November 24, 2006 in Mobile phones | Websites
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

iPhone will sport mini OS X?



The latest rumours surrounding Apple's much anticipated 'iPhone' is that it will contain a stripped-down version of Apple's next OS X operating system - codenamed 'Leopard'.

Well, provided the other bits of the rumour stack up into a real product, that's not particularly surprising. After all, could you imagine Apple putting Windows XP, Palm OS or Symbian onto its own smartphone? I don't think so (mind you, how many people said Apple would never go to Intel...)

Now, that would be a tasty phone if you're already a fan of what OS X provides. Truly mobile communication with iChat, appointments on iCal, a full Mail app. Of course, it wouldn't get a full Leopard in there - the processing power and storage space wouldn't be big enough - but it's an appealing thought.

Posted by Andy Merrett on November 24, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (2) | TrackBack (0)

Vertu's millionaire-friendly Signature Duo handset

I tend to use the number of marks and scratches on my handset as an indicator of when I need to upgrade my phone. But there's no chance of doing that with the extremely flash **Vertu Signature Duo**, as it's got a scratch-proof screen.

You can find out all about the handset at Brandish, but before you nip down to the local phone shop, it's worth noting that the scratch-proof screen is down to it being made of sapphire, the body is made of stainless steel and titan and the phone comes equipped with a concierge service to sort out your every need at any hour.

Now, if you want to find out how much all this costs, head over to Brandish, where you'll also find many more great items worthy of your hard-earned cash.



Posted by modculture on November 24, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Iqua's stylish CPW-603 Bluetooth wireless headset



We covered the Iqua Bluetooth car kit earlier this week, but if you're on the look out for something a bit more personal, the Finnish firm has a solution for that too - the **CPW-603 Bluetooth wireless headset**.

The emphasis here is style - aimed at the fashion-conscious, the CPW-603 is available in pearl white, charcoal and pink, each with the same minimalist styling. It's also lightweight, fits in either ear and promises crystal-clear sound from any brand of Bluetooth phone.

It's also straightforward to use - one button allows you to switch a call between phone and headset, redial or end the call. And there's voice activated dialling, along with support for VoIP calls when used with your PC.

The CPW-603 costs £29.99 exclusively from Carphone Warehouse.

Carphone Warehouse website

Posted by modculture on November 24, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

T-Mobile offers first non-PDA mobile broadband handset - Samsung Z560



T-Mobile has launched the first non-PDA HSDPA (3G broadband) mobile phone in the UK - the **Samsung Z560**, offering connection speeds four times faster than traditional 3G. And even better - you can attach it to your PC and use it as a high-speed modem.

Using T-Mobile's Web 'n' Walk service, you get high-speed web access and email on the lightweight (98g) device, along with a 2 megapixel camera, MP3 player with 3D stereo sound, 30MB of internal memory, video streaming, video calling and up to one hour's video recording.

A basic Web 'n' Walk package for the handset is £7.50 per month. However, if you want to hook it up to your laptop, other plans give you that option. Opting for Web 'n' Walk Plus gives you the option of high-speed web browsing on your laptop, aling with instant messaging for £12.50 per month. Or if you want to make some free calls, the Web 'n' Walk Max package adds VoIP calling for a total of £22.50 per month.

The Samsung Z560 costs from free on a T-Mobile pay monthly price plan and is available now.

T-Mobile website

Posted by modculture on November 24, 2006 in Mobile phones

Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

My Oxbow - surfer brand meets Sagem mobile phone



Sagem seems well up for the co-branded handset. Following on from its Roland-Garros tennis handset and its England World Cup phone, the company has launched **My Oxbow** - a collaboration with the surfing label, creating a handset in one of Oxbow's designs.

So, for a surfer-friendly phone, I'm guessing you'd expect a wacky (but watertight) handset? Guess again, this is just a standard Sagem my400v handset with VGA camera. However, it does offer extra surfer content as part of the Vodafone Live service, including weather for surfing, places to stay, information relating to Oxbow (including the latest gear and events) and dedicated downloads.

But before all you surfer dudes dash out for one, note this is only currently available in France. But if successful, something similar is likely to head over to the UK.

Sagem website

Posted by modculture on November 24, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Ealing patients to receive health and appointment information by text message

Ealing Primary Care Trust has announced that patients across its 22 surgeries will soon receive GP appointment reminders and health information by SMS text messages on their mobile phones, making it the largest scheme in UK primary care.

It will utilise the Orange mobile network and iPLATO Patient Care Messaging service, which assures confidentiality and security across a multi-lingual and ethnically diverse population.

Working in conjunction with existing patient booking systems, the plan is that it will free up time currently spent contacting patients and so provide a better overall care service.

It's also believed that important health information, for example about the flu jab, has a better response rate when sent by text.

For a National Health Service strapped for cash, another advantage is that it could save over £240m per year if adopted across England.

Keith Martin, Service Development Manager at Ealing PCT, said, "Mobile patient services have proven that they are cost effective and scalable and are, therefore, the way forward in Ealing. We have a diverse population of 360,000 patients registered with GPs in the borough and many already use mobiles to run their daily lives. Ealing PCT chose iPLATO for its long experience in UK primary care. Patient Care Messaging is functional and secure. It improves service without adding extra work for healthcare staff and integrates seamlessly with existing systems used by GPs to book appointments and clinics."

It follows news earlier in the month that the Royal Free Hospital is using SMS messaging for confidential appointments.

Posted by Andy Merrett on November 23, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Virgin Mobile extend mobile ticketing with free tickets to The Automatic gig

Virgin Mobile has extended its partnership with ActiveMedia Technology and FlyTxt to develop its mobile ticketing strategy, enticing its mobile customers by giving away 300 free tickets to "The Automatic" sell-out concert this Sunday, 26th November, at the Carling Academy, Islington.

This mobile ticket giveaway follows the recent launch of Q Jump, a mobile loyalty campaign that enables Virgin Mobile customers to jump to the front of the queue using mobile ticketing technology.

This is an interesting experiment (by the way, if there's any freebies left, Virgin Mobile customers can text the number of tickets they want to 26666 on a first-come-first-served basis - good luck!). It's not exclusive mobile ticketing (like Nokia's Guns n' Roses gig) - more like a bolt-on to traditional ticketing - but if successful could lead to more virtual tickets being sent out in this way (though being free, results could be just a little biased).

Manchester City FC are also trying mobile ticketing, and it looks like a use of technology that will continue to grow.

Virgin Mobile

Posted by Andy Merrett on November 23, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Iqua miniUFO - the saucer-shaped handsfree kit for the car



Still using your mobile phone on the road? Well, you obviously know it's illegal, so if you want to keep your licence clean and yourself fine-free, you should look at something like the **Iqua miniUFO** - a Bluetooth device for accessing your calls handsfree on the road.

Mount the miniUFO on the sun visor or dash-board of your car and you get up to up to 10 hours talk time and 450 hours standby time. Sound quality is good, thanks to "cutting-edge" noise suppression and echo cancellation techniques. Four simple buttons cover the main functions (if you're not on the move) or you can activate by voice if your phone supports it.

Other functions include mute, call waiting, conference, the ability to switch easily between phone and handsfree, and LEDs to indicate your Bluetooth is active, your call status and if your battery is low.

It's available now, priced around £40.

Find out more

Posted by modculture on November 23, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

E-Ten Glofiish M700 pocket PC with sliding keyboard and Wi-Fi



E-Ten has announced the imminent arrival of the **Glofiish M700** - a pocket PC/communicator with neat sliding QWERTY keyboard and Wi-Fi connectivity.

For some people, a full keyboard will probably be enough to make this worthy of a second look, esepcially if you like to send numerous sms and email messages or edit documents on the move. And with that keyboard sliding, it means less bulk in your bag. Software is Windows Mobile 5.0, so everything you'd expect there, including push email and use of a full Microsoft Office suite.

The M700 supports GSM, GPRS and EDGE, plus Wi-Fi connectivity if you're in range of a network. There's also GPS via an embedded SiRF Star III chipset and a range of E-Ten software, including several phone and messaging tools, camera and image editing software and an FM tuner.

The Glofiish M700 should be available by mid-December from Expansys, price to be confirmed.

Expansys website

Posted by modculture on November 23, 2006 in Mobile phones | PDAs
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

TWIG Discovery gadget combines mobile phone with GPS sat-nav



The TWIG Discovery is an all-in-one mobile phone and handheld satellite navigation / GPS unit which means that if you want personal navigation features you need only carry around one gadget with you and still get much of your mobile's functionality.

Whilst you can get navigation software for mobiles and smartphones, Finnish manufacturer Benefon claim this as the first of its kind, combining GPS satnav with phone in a single handset.

Not only can it be used to find your way around the place, including places of interest, but it will also allow you to find your other TWIG-wielding friends, and plot a path to them.

There's an alert button which allows your GPS location and address to be sent by SMS or email to ten preset contacts, instantly letting them know where you are.

Though the hardware doesn't yet sport the niftier features of mobiles (camera, Java, etc.) its main purpose is in navigation and location of other people, and at this it sounds very capable.

The TWIG Discovery will retail for £330 and is available from their website.

TWIGWorld

Posted by Andy Merrett on November 21, 2006 in Mobile phones | Satellite Navigation systems
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Sony Ericsson Newsflash exhibition - the best cameraphone images of the year



With improved cameras on our phones, we're all equipped to capture the images that make the news. If you're in doubt, check out **Newsflash - an exhibition of cameraphone images that captured a moment**.

Sponsored by Sony Ericsson and held at London's Air Gallery, Newsflash features images taken by the British public that demonstrate how cameraphones are playing an increasingly prominent role in photo-journalism - from such extremes as a bird's eye view of a burning church to Jenson Button's first F1 win.

The exhibition also features cameraphone images taken by sporting pundits, including James Allen (Formula1), Nasser Hussain (cricket), Gaby Logan (football), Kenny Logan (rugby), Matthew Hoggard (cricket), Suzi Perry (motorcycle racing), Steve Backley (athletics), Robbie Earle (football), Annabel Croft (tennis) and Kelly Sotherton (athletics). And it features the best images discovered as part of the Sony Ericsson/Times competition to find the Cameraphone Photographer of the Year 2006, the winner of which was Ms Machmann-Morck, from Norway, who took the picture featured here of a fire at the Royal Academy.

Sony Ericsson Newsflash runs from 13 - 17 December 2006 at the Air Gallery, 32 Dover Street, London, W1S 4NE. Admission os free.

Sony Ericsson website

Posted by modculture on November 21, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

T-Mobile launches Sidekick 3 in UK



T-Mobile has announced the arrival of a new Sidekick - **Sidekick 3** - featuring instant messenger and email, a built-in camera, MP3 player and net access via its Web'n'Walk service.

It's probably best to label the Sidekick 3 as a communicator than a mobile phone. Yes, it's a phone, but its strengths probably lie in what else it can do. First, swivel open the screen and get full web access using T-Mobile's Web'n'Walk, along with a full keyboard to key in the addresses and a trackball to move around the page.

Add to that email, instant messenger, calendar/diary functions, 1.3 megapixel camera (with the option of storing images online) and for the first time, an MP3 player. Internal memory is just 64MB, but you can boost this via miniSD (a 64MB card is included).

It should be in stores in December, price not confirmed, but likely to depend on your contract.

T-Mobile website

Posted by modculture on November 21, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

3 teams up with Groove Mobile for mobile music services

Mobile provider 3 and Groove Mobile have announced that they're joining forces to power a new mobile music service on 3 UK's network. It will see Groove bring its award-winning music service to 3, which is ranked number one in the UK's mobile music download market.

The service will offer full-track music downloads to mobile handsets, access to multiple charts, the download of high-quality album art, and exclusive content.

The music service allows users who purchase music over the air to get their track delivered to their handset, and get a copy of their track online. They can then play it on their laptop or PC, transfer it onto an MP3 player, or burn it to CD. They can also purchase the track on their PC and then download it free of charge to their mobile. Also, in the event that a customer loses/deletes a track, they are able to re-download the track up to 3 times, free of charge (unlike iTunes).

3UK's Marketing Director, Graeme Oxby says "3UK's mobile music service powered by Groove Mobile will enable our customers to download music simultaneously from their phone to their PC and vice versa. It will bring online music purchasing for both home and mobile into one seamless experience. Once again this will demonstrate 3's leadership in this market and give a fabulous experience for our customers."

3

Posted by Andy Merrett on November 20, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Pitch brings social networking to mobiles for free

Pitch have today launched a new mobile entertainment community, funded entirely by advertising revenue and so free for its users. Features include instant messaging, photo and video upload and sharing, and an 'exciting new online community'.

Yes, it all sounds very MySpace, and that's exactly who they seem to be targeting. Pitch's creators say that MySpace could lose its chance in the increasingly popular mobile space - a space that they're keen to dominate.

The service gives users their own unique PitchTag, allows them to build their own mobile home page, and gives them an inbox for sending and receiving messages. They can take part in real-time group chat, and create and join interest groups. Pitch members can upload and share as many pictures and videos as they like, through the unlimited Pitch Albums feature.

The service works primarily over WAP, and Pitch say that the user only pays for data charges and so instant communication is significantly cheaper than

sending a text through a network operator. Users must elect to receive up to 3 ads per week.

Pitch CEO Lourens de Beer commented: "Web-based social networking is being embraced worldwide as the ultimate next-generation lifestyle tool, with a myriad of different applications and creative opportunities for individuals to express themselves and their opinions, interacting with each other in a unique space. For the first time, Pitch brings all the benefits of personalised social networking to the mobile handset, a medium perfectly-suited to this phenomenon. The mobile phone has taken next step in becoming the ultimate and indispensable social communication tool."

Pitch TV

Posted by Andy Merrett on November 20, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

HTC launches P4350 smartphone



HTC has launched its 7th smart device in the last 5 months, this time the **P4350** smartphone, which is likely to reach Europe by the end of the year, courtesy of Vodafone.

The P4350 is just 17mm thick, weighs 168g and features a semi-automatic sliding full QWERTY keypad, a 2.8-inch colour display with touchscreen, 200MHz processor, 5-way navigation for easy operation, 128MB ROM and 64MB RAM and a microSD slot for file storage. The quad-band device supports GSM/GPRS and EDGE, Wi-Fi, and Bluetooth 2.0.

Software is Windows Mobile 5.0 - that means push email, net browsing and synchronisation with Microsoft Outlook Calendar, Contacts and Pocket MSN, plus the Microsoft Office suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint and the ability to view PDF documents).

No specific word on a UK launch, but the P4350 will also be available under the Vodafone brand in Germany and the Netherlands from December 2006.

HTC website

Posted by modculture on November 20, 2006 in Mobile phones | PDAs
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Apple iPhone to sport 2 megapixel camera?



We love Apple rumours, and particularly Apple iPhone rumours. I think we're all expecting some kind of iPhone to be revealed early next year, but the latest buzz is that it will contain a 2.0 megapixel camera on board.

Certainly it's unusual to get a fashionable mobile phone these days without a built-in camera, but Digital Inspiration are asking whether a pretty low-res camera on the iPhone will really be that much of a sell, given that Nokia is already on 3.2 megapixels, and this could be doubled in mid-2007.

Maybe the pull is the hype, more than the exact specifications. After all, even Apple fanboys (yes that includes me) know that the iPod isn't the most feature-rich of all digital music players... but it *is* Apple.

I'll be a lot happier when we actually get some official word on this iPhone...

Posted by Andy Merrett on November 17, 2006 in Mobile phones | Top stories
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Welcome in 2007 at the intercontinental Nokia New Year's Eve party

Nokia are planning an extravagant send-off to 2006, and welcoming in of 2007, by co-ordinating a worldwide New Year's Eve party spanning five cities, connecting up millions of music lovers in the process.

Starting at Hong Kong's Ocean Terminal, then travelling west through Mumbai's Andheri Stadium, the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin, Ipanema Beach

in Rio de Janeiro and finally New York, the party will be beamed via TV and the Internet for those not lucky enough to be there in person (oh yeah, and what happened to London?).

The party is being orchestrated by Harvey Goldsmith CBE, who produced both Live Aid and Live8.

"Living up to our promise of 'Connecting People', Nokia New Year's Eve aims to connect millions of people from around the world through music and mobility," says Jo Harlow, Senior Vice President of Marketing for Nokia (like how she got the slogan in there). "Nokia New Year's Eve leverages the power of television, the internet, live events and the world's most exciting music artists to get people talking, sharing and celebrating on one incredible night."

Yes, those music artists. Expected performers include The Black Eyed Peas and the Scissor Sisters. Jake Shears of the Scissor Sisters was mercifully less corporate: "We're damn thrilled to be playing Nokia's world wide music party. It should be a helluva good time."

Global attendance is expected to top 1.3 million, with a combined TV and Internet audience of 150 million. That's some party.

Posted by Andy Merrett on November 17, 2006 in Mobile phones | Top stories | Websites
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

3 launches MPOPs - Top Of The Pops for mobiles



3 is to launch its own version of Top Of The Pops for mobiles, going under the name **MPOPs** and hosted by ex-TOTP host Reggie Yates (pictured) and guests.

Launching in December, the show will go out live and weekly on a Friday afternoon to 3's users, initially for a run of seven shows. Each week, the presenters will run through the top selling tracks of the week, with an exclusive preview video, interview or behind the scenes gig clip just before the number one track is announced.

Viewers will be offered instant downloads of the tracks featured, including videos and realtones as well as competitions. According to Morgan Holt, Director of Media Innovation at 3: "The Top of the Pops' audience hasn't disappeared - they simply aren't sitting in front of the TV anymore. So instead of having to sit around waiting for the audience, we're taking a chart show to them. But we've adapted the chart show format for the mobile generation - MPops is shorter and punchier than its TV predecessors."

3 website

Posted by modculture on November 17, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Yahoo on Flickr Mobile plans



Present at this morning's X-Series launch from 3 was Yahoo, which is one of the initial partners for 3's mobile broadband service. I had a quick chat with Geraldine Wilson, who's vice president of Connected Life for Yahoo Europe.

At the start, X-Series won't mean a big change to what Yahoo is actually offering to 3 users - it's already offering its Yahoo Go application through the operator, giving users access to email, web search, instant messaging and their Yahoo Photos accounts. However, she says that the important thing about X-Series is that its flat-fee pricing will help popularise this kind of application, because users won't be worrying about how much they're spending on data charges while using it.

More excitingly, she said that proper mobile integration with Flickr is coming in January, presumably also via the Go application. Flickr has signed deals with handset manufacturers like Nokia already to help people upload pics from their phones, but with no data charges on something like X-Series, people will upload many more pics. Roll on January.

Oh, also Wilson said that the other advantage of something like X-Series is the possibilities it opens for mobile advertising - particularly richer ads involving pictures (and presumably video). Once people aren't paying for

data by the kilobyte, they're less likely to get angry at effectively having to pay to download ads. That's the theory, anyway.

Posted by Stuart Dredge on November 16, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

3's X-Series monthly price? "Less than home broadband"

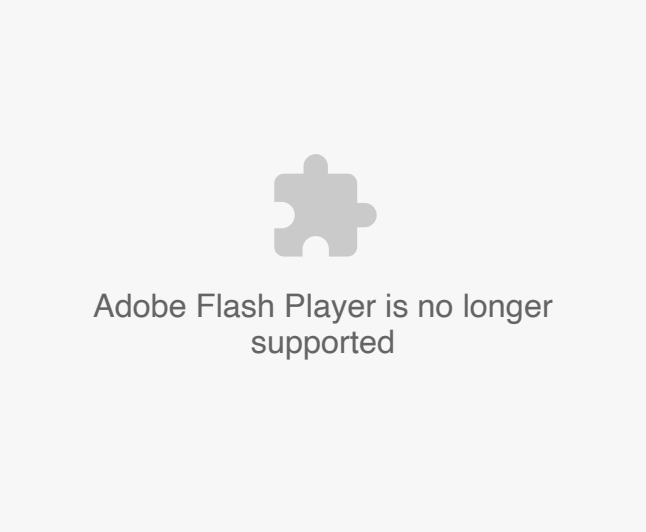
One thing conspicuous by its absence from this morning's X-Series launch were any firm pricing details. Of course, 3 did say that you'll pay one monthly flat fee for unlimited (albeit with fair-use restrictions) use of all its services, including messaging, browsing and slinging your TV to your phone. But no actual figures.

We sniffed around at the event, including talking to some 3 people, and the consensus was that you'll pay "a bit less than home broadband" for X-Series. Which by our reckoning means £15-20 per month, although this would presumably be on top of your regular monthly tariff covering voice calls, texts, video calls etc.

If true, this is mighty tempting, although we can't help thinking it'd be nice to use all these nifty internet services through a handset with a flip-out keyboard and big wide-screen. Read our other X-Series launch coverage here and here, by the way.

Posted by Stuart Dredge on November 16, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

YouTube on your mobile phone - thanks to the Orb and 3's X-Series



Yep we were a bit cynical about it too, but one of the big stories from today's 3 X-Series launch is that subscribers will be able to watch YouTube vids on their mobile. Apparently the Orb software, which will be pre-installed on X-Series mobiles, allows the user to remote control their home PC. So the big news is that you'll be able to watch YouTube vids, stream music stored on your hard drive and more and you won't have to pay mega expensive bandwidth charges to the network as, after a payment of £15-20, it will all be free.

More on the launch here and word for word transcription of the day Yahoo, Google and Microsoft made sweet mobile love together is here.

Posted by shiny on November 16, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Check 3 UK's X-Series out for yourself

We've been live-blogging from 3's X-Series launch event this morning, but the official website has just gone live. Click here to have a nose around it, there's a webcast happening right now, details of both launch handsets and the services, and even a strange blog of "mobile internet musings from 3 people on the go", which is inviting your comments. Feel free to suggest they give Ashley and Stuart from Tech Digest a couple of free X-Series phones as we leave the event. Well, it's worth a try.

Check out our launch coverage, and key quotes.

Posted by Stuart Dredge on November 16, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

ROK launches Yamgo - extreme Sports mobile TV



If you can't get all your kicks from Shiny's Nollie (that's an extreme sports site for girls), you can watch some on your mobile phone via ROK.

Yamgo is joining ROK TV, a service we've covered in the past, which offers a range of free channels to your GPRS mobile for free. Apart from the data charges obviously. Yamgo TV offers instant access to extreme sport videos 24 hours a day - mini films and action covering everything from snowboarding and skateboarding, through to hangliding, rock climbing and cliff-jumping. For full details of programming, visit the Yamgo website.

For details of the ROK TV service and how to view it on your mobile, via Wi-Fi mobile or on your PC, visit the ROK website.

Posted by modculture on November 16, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

3's X-Series launch: key quotes



Here's a few of the key statements from the bigwigs assembled for 3's X-Series launch in London. It continues over the bump, with the latest quotes being added at the bottom of the post. Also, Ashley is sitting next to me furiously typing out the actual news as it's announced - click here to read it.

- 3's Canning Fok gets his retaliation in early to any criticisms of X-Series: "We take the long-term vision. We do things that don't always seem obvious to people, but they're actually common sense."

- 3's Frank Sixt: "We're tearing down the walls around the proverbial walled garden, and going naked into the big world outside... We think forcing people into a walled garden of content and services in a mobile broadband world, is simply wrong. And forcing choices and prices on to them is not acceptable. We believe that more choice, which is the hallmark of success of the internet model, is as inevitable a trend for mobility as it is on the internet. We shouldn't hold back from it."

- Sixt again, on Slingbox: "Place-shifting is probably the most important thing that's happened in the media world since tape recorders and Tivo's introduced the idea of time-shifting. Watch anything you can on your own TV, with your mobile."

- 3's Frank Sixt again, on the pricing structure of X-Series: "In the early days, fees will be somewhat higher for higher bandwidth consuming activities, like video streams at high quality levels. But in all cases, we're going to try to follow as a principle - what is free when you use it on the internet, in principle, should be free when you use it on mobile broadband."

- Skype's Niklas Zennstrom: "Initially, people can get their Skype contact list on their phone, see whether contacts are online or offline, click on a contact just like you can on a PC, and make a Skype call to that user. Of course, this is free. What we hope to bring out later on next year is the other Skype services - chat, instant messages, and the premium services like SkypeIn."

- Skype's Niklas Zennstrom again: "3 aren't afraid of disrupting their own market and industry. I'm confident this will give them a lot of new customers and new revenues. The mobile operators who tear down the walls will become the winners of the future."

- Yahoo's Dominique Vidal: "Mobile is key for the future of Yahoo. There are 1bn users on PC, and 3bn on mobile. It's obvious. How long are you spending in front of your PC? Some people, a few hours, but you're spending a lot of time moving, not in front of a PC, and mobile plays a very important part in this experience."

- Sharon Bayley, of MSN: "Since we switched our Messenger service to the 3 network in August, we've seen 100 million Messenger conversations on the 3 network in the UK alone. That's one million messages a day... Instant messaging and search on mobile devices like the X-Series from 3 is only going to increase and become a much bigger part of our everyday lives."

- David Thevenon, of Google. "We want to have people to have the same access to information and rich content that they are used to having from their PC in their home or office. One lesson of the internet is that when you open access to information. people will rightly want to have access to it, and benefit from it. We are seeing mobile search as something that users truly want. They want access to it, and are using it in quite a high-scale manner already."

- eBay's Meg Whitman: "Throughout the brief history of the Internet, there have been key milestones where you realised everything was about to change. I believe the launch of X-series is another one of those. It's likely to be remembered as the moment when consumers were finally given the right tools to truly experience the net away from their desktops."

- Joe Costello, of Orb Networks: "To date, in my opinion, the mobile/wireless web has been a bust. It hasn't come anywhere near meeting its promise, for two reasons. First, infrastructure. It's been a dial-up kind of infrastructure. That's not true for some carriers - Hutchison has been extremely aggressive in investing in 3G. But many others are far behind. But that is not enough, just to have the speed, the broadband wireless. More is required: opening up the wireless web. That is not happening today, or hasn't until this launch. The wireless web has been a tightly controlled walled garden. And tight control limitations wasn't what made the web take off. It was the opposite: unfettered freedom. What we have on mobile now is what we would've had on the Web if Compuserve and Prodigy had continued to control it."

Posted by Stuart Dredge on November 16, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Review: Samsung i320



The propaganda

Smartphones, and in particular Windows Mobile have something of a reputation for being a little bit bulky, heavy and quite often ugly. Samsung has had a good run of Windows Mobile devices over last year, but this latest smartphone, the i320, is something a little different. It has to be one of the slimmest, sleekest Windows Mobile handsets to date boasting an ultra-skinny 11.5mm thickness.

It also has a full QWERTY keyboard, a 2.2" widescreen display and a 1.3 megapixel camera while still retaining a very practical form factor and weight of just 95g. Internal memory is around 120MB and with the opportunity for expansion coming from a MicroSD slot. Connectivity includes USB, Infrared, Bluetooth, GPRS and EDGE.

The combination of the keyboard layout, push email and feel of the handset also give it an impression of being much more like a Blackberry than most Windows Mobile devices I have seen, but with the addition of Windows Media Player it has a bit more capacity for entertainment than your average smartphone.

The good

Fitting the full QWERTY keyboard on such a small device did not come without a cost in terms of button size, but despite this I found that typing was certainly still possible using the tips of both thumbs. Most of your typing will be for emails and texts, because, while Samsung has included the relatively useful Picsel viewer for accessing Word documents, Excel

spreadsheets and Powerpoint presentations, there's no Office tools to edit any of the above.

Other strengths included Samsung's slight tweaking of the Windows Mobile on-screen layout, plus you can select from quite a few different styles until you find one that seems most logical to you. This means many of the most immediately important functions can be accessed quickly from the main screen, without needing to navigate through too many other menus.

The camera also took some very impressive pics for its size and thanks to the large, clear and bright 320x240 pixels, 262k colour LCD, look very impressive on the screen.

The bad

Although the keyboard is easy to use when needed, the more important directional keys, soft buttons and navigation controls are not so well laid out. In fact I developed a very irritating habit of missing the right soft-key and hitting the 'back' key instead, often undoing everything I had been typing.

Other things have been sacrificed to squeeze all the goodies into the skinny chassis; there's no Wi-Fi or 3G – something that is now almost essential on a Windows Mobile. Furthermore the battery life is pretty weak and with regular use, will probably need an urgent recharge after a single day or so. However, Samsung has at least acknowledged this as a problem and taken steps to rectify it – you get a spare battery packaged with the handset, and it comes in a handy case that can be plugged straight into the charger so you can swap them with minimal interruption.

Finally, for some reason the memory card slot has been hidden behind the battery. Phone technology has allowed for the removal and swapping of memory cards while the handset is still powered up for quite some time now, so this seems a bit of an unforgivable oversight. And even more so when you discover that the SIM card slot stands apart from the battery meaning you can (theoretically) swap your SIM in and out at will.

Geek Sheet

Dimensions: 111 x 59 x 11.5 mm

Weight: 95 g

Full QWERTY keypad

2.2", 65k colour, 320 x 340 resolution display

120 MB internal memory

MicroSD expansion slot

Windows Mobile 5.0 OS

Bluetooth, USB and Infrared

1.3 megapixel camera

Overview

Aside from a weak battery and a couple of minor design annoyances, it is hard to pin down why I don't like the Samsung i320. It is impressively thin, light on the pocket and easy on the eye, but I just think you're sacrificing a little too much for that slim form factor. The i320's rivals such as the Sony Ericsson M600i or the HTC S620 Smartphone show just how much more a slightly bulkier device can offer and at a lower price.

In the end, it really comes down to personal preference as there is little to seriously lament and, at the same time, little to really shout about either. But if you think it could be for you, it is priced at a competitive £329.95 to buy it outright, or probably cheaper on contracts.



Posted by Al W on November 16, 2006 in Mobile phones | Reviews
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

3'S X Series Live Launch

So here we are live at what 3 is billing as the most important press conference given by an mobile phone network this year. Big talk. But the network has flown in a series of big names to entertain the awaiting mix of journos and analysts.

They will hopefully be going into greater depth on the stories that 3 anounced earlier today that it was partnering with Skype, eBay and Slingbox to offer a range of new mobile services – all for one flat free. You can read the basics here.

Ok, we now have Hutch's CEO, Canning Fok, talking about how successful 3 has been in 3G – not withstanding those early phones which were 'fat and

had poor batteries.'

Now we are getting 3's vision for what it calls Mobile Broadband. It says it has been driven to this move by choice - 'going naked into the big world outside.'

Now we are getting the lowdown on the X Series. They launch in December in the UK, in other countries early next year. There will also be a second X series with new apps coming in 2007.

Here we go with the apps

1 Free Skype calls plus IM which is also free (available via Skype, Yahoo, Windows Live etc_

2 Free Internet browsing - including accessing eBay.

3 Orb - so you can access what is on your PC anywhere via your mobile

4 Sling - so you can watch whatever is on your TV anywhere on your mobile.

We are now getting the 'leaving the walled garden behind. speech.' The big difference between X-Series and other networks is that with 3 it will be on a new charging model. 'Hope to lay the foundations for the mobile charging model of the future.' Mobile broadband will now ape broadand in that there will be more free stuff with an overall tarrif. The pay per minute model is on its way out. Much of the move has been enabled by increased bandwidth thanks to 3G, HSDPA etc - no more rationing.

X-Series customers get charged a flat fee - they are going to try to follow the ' what is free on the internet should be free on mobiles' model. But there will be charges for higher bandwidth stuff (video basically).

So to wrap up the big story is free Skype calls, free IM and free browsing.

Over now to Skype - co-founder Nikolas Zennstrom is talking about how excited he is about this being the first time Skype has been available on mobile phone via a mobile phone operator - the boy has entered the lion's den here. He says the move is a response to request from users who want Skype via mobile. Naturally he is predicting big demand.

The first offering on a phone. You put your Skype contacts on mobile - see whether they are online and then make a voice call. Next year Skype chat and IM and Skype in and Skype out. He hasn't practised his speech much - not that slick - but nicely informal.

Way to go Nikolas - the first mention of Estonia (Skype's home). Now talking about handset makers. Happy that 3 has driven Skype to mobile and worked with manufacturers. He is now expressing his dissappointment with 3G so far - Skype (and other mobile broadband stuff) will change all that.

He loves 3 as they are not afraid of disrupting the market. Bets they will get lots of new subscribers.

The software is apparently much easier to use than the Pocket PC version. Also Skype will be pre-loaded on the phone - that sounds good. It is all about partnerships, apparently.

The baton is now picked up by Yahoo's Dominique Vidal, Regional VP Europe. Getting a lot of internet marketing jargon now - harping on about how his site is one click away from his competitors. Also talking about Yahoo Answers - eight million users (per month? so far? doesn't sound that much).

He sees future as been driven by users - more engagement and more services for users - this needs more innovation to benefit users. Hurrah he has gone.

Sharon Baylay from Microsoft now is going to tell us about 3 and IM. We now have another slightly cheesy talking heads video from 3 - IM is apparently like having all your mates in your pocket.
(hmm must have big pockets).

Heavily focussed on bringing new apps to mobile. She thinks it is all about one device (presumably one using a Windwos Mobile OS). The key story for her is IM which is used by 11 million people in the UK. Very happy with the 3 platform 100 million IM messages sent since August.

Google next. Blimey, Google, Microsoft and Yahoo in the same room. Maybe 3 should help run the UN too.

Here's David Thevenon, head of wireless partnerships EMEA. '3 apparently helps Google achieve its mission and take Google mobile. Whoops the mic just exploded - half of the nation's tech journos are now half deaf. He'll have to speak up.

David likes the transparent approach to free intenet from 3 - same acces to info on PC and phone. Doesn't really say much - the deal wth Google was announced yesterday.

eBay next – more cheesy videos – they really are cringey. Here's Matt Whitman, CEO of eBay on the video screen. We are now getting an internet history lesson. She says X-Series is the moment that consumers finally get the chance to see their fave sites on mobiles. Saying that eBay is doing well in both Austria and the UK. Wonder what tie-ups there wil be between Skype, eBay and 3 – interesting?

Now on to the makers. Nokia and Sony Ericsson. Nokia first, Kai Oistano. 'True arrival of mobile broadband is very welcome – expects X-Series to have a major impact in offering rich media experiences to comsumers. Says he thinks internet is the killer app for 3G. Nokia N73 will be the company's first X-Series phone – sorry multimedia computer Nokia don't call them phones any more. Getting specs on N73 now. Don't expect we'll get any more handset announcements. Apparently Nokia has sold 10 million N series devices – 250 million multimedia computers will be sold in two year he says.

Now it is Miles Flint, pres of Sony Ericsson. Very excited by 3 apparently making the first move to offer internet to consumers with competitive rates etc. First to say words web 2.0. Now giving us the the SE story. We are now getting some fairly dry strategy stuff. One phone will be available with X-Series – it is the SE W950i. Very excited (me as well as him) as this is a corker of a phone – four gigs of memory, cracking screen etc. Funnily enough hasn't mentioned that is has no camera. This is a very covetable phone and the X-Series features are going to tempt gadget fan boys to think about 3 for the first time.

Orb now – Joe Costello. He has sent a video message by video phone – very cool. He says mobile wireless web hasn't delivered. The more that's needed is opening up the wireless web. He says 3 is taking the lid off the wireless web. He's gone to get his plane now. Scott Monson of Orb Europe takes over now. He says Broadcast is dead, now it is MyCast (a new one on me). Of course this isn't reflected in mobiles until now. There is going to be a custom user Orb interface on both the handset and the web – the idea being it is very easy to access the content on their PC while using their mobile. Internet videos are now mobile – eg you can now watch YouTube on your mobile (hurrah). That's what we have been waiting for – bet it kills your battery though. Can't wait to try this.

Makes you think though – why would you pay to watch 3 videos when you can watch YouTube vids on your mobile for nowt.

Sling now. Blake Krikorian, CEO. He is the only speaker today to wear a tie – he says it is very web 3.0 to wear ties – loudest guffaws of the day. Says the 3 deal is huge for us – wants 3 to buy a US network so he can offer the app in the US. Company history time...

Basically, as you probably know, Sling enables users to watch what is on their TV on their mobile. The reason I suspect that he is so excited is that the tricky part of using Sling is that you pay huge bandwidth connection fees to your mobile provider. Not any more with 3...

He is saying what 3 is desperate to communicate and what the partners are very keen to say that by making the internet free they hope that 3 is setting a precedent that other networks around the world will follow.

It seems the whole web loves 3 today. They are having a big love in on stage now – Skype, Nokia, Microsft, Yahoo and Google, oh and George W Bush and Osama Bin Laden too. [Ashley Norris]

Posted by Shinykatie on November 16, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

O2 offers My Blue Book to enables its subscibers to share

O2 has unveiled a content-sharing service called **My Blue Book** that enables consumers to upload text, photos and videoclips to a dedicated website to share with friends and family. According to Mobile Marketing Magazine O2 customers can also use the service to back up their contacts. The service has been up and running for around three weeks, but has not yet been officially promoted.
To upload content, users send it to a dedicated shortcode, 40202. From the summertime, however, users who register for the service will no longer need to actively upload content. Any MMS or SMS message they create or receive will automatically be uploaded to the site. The customer can then forward a link to the site to anyone they wish to share the content with.
In addition to the uploading services, O2 says customers will also be able to create blogs and to sync over the air with Microsoft Outlook. The service is being offered to O2 customers free of charge.

“We thought about charging for it, but we decided not to in the interests of creating a stickier customer relationship” says O2 Capability & Innovation Director, Rick Shaw.
O2 has also revealed that one customer using its ‘Look at Me’ user-generated content channel has earned £525 in the last three months via the

10% commission users receive when a clip they have uploaded is downloaded by another customer. Downloads normally cost 35p per clip, but are currently being offered for 10p per clip. O2 says the customer in question 'Rachel M' has earned the money via a variety of clips, "none of which are saucy".
Separately, O2 has revealed plans to continue the Mobile TV trial it ran in Oxford earlier this year, though has not set a date or a venue for the second phase. A trial in Ireland, involving 500 users, begins in January. The company also says it will trial NFC (Near Field Communications) technology in 2007, looking at smart ticketing and smart poster applications.

Posted by shiny on November 16, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

X-Series from 3 - flat-fee broadband internet and data-hungry services on your mobile handset



Hutchison, the people behind the 3 network, has announced the **X-Series from 3**, partnering with Skype, Sling Media, Yahoo!, Nokia, Google, eBay, Microsoft, Orb and Sony Ericsson to offer what it boldly describes as "the true power of broadband internet over the mobile."

What that means in reality is flat-fee pricing for a range of data-hungry services from a compatible handset - those being (at time of launch) the Nokia N73 and Sony Ericsson W950i Walkman phone. Hutchison hopes the flat-fee will appeal to anyone put off data services by fear of the hefty bill at the end of the month - although as yet, we don't know what that monthly figure will actually be.

Heading those services is Skype - you can make and receive unlimited Skype calls with Skype PC users anywhere in the world, along with other Skype 3 mobile customers. There's also the option of using a Slingbox (hardware not included) to watch terrestrial TV, Freeview, cable, and satellite TV on your handset, as well as controlling your home personal video recorder (PVR). Orb offers you access to digital content on your home PC (music files, digital photos, videos etc), with an interface speciifically designed for X-Series handsets.

There's also the option of instant messaging via Windows Live Messenger or Yahoo! Messenger to another X-Series handset or a PC, along with web browsing via Google or Yahoo! search engine. And if you like eBay, there's real-time bidding on there too.

The flat-fee will be on top of your 3 subscription, there is the usual "fair usage" clause and some services (Orb and Slingbox) will initially be charged at a higher price point. The X-Series from 3 will be lanched in the UK on December 1st 2007. We should have more detail on this later today, after the official press conference.

3 website

Posted by modculture on November 16, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Apple Rumour? 12 million iPhones ordered



A Chinese newspaper is reporting that Apple has inked a 12 million unit contract with Foxconn to manufacture their iPhone.

As we've said before, the rumour is that Steve Jobs will announce the much awaited iPhone at the Macworld Expo in January next year.

Other rumours include a 15 inch MacBook which could also appear in January.

(Via Reg Hardware)

Posted by Andy Merrett on November 15, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Alcatel's budget OT-E801 music phone

Alcatel has launched the **OT-E801 music phone** with SD card slot, available on pre-pay for under £40.



The dual-band phone is aimed at the "stylishly young". The rubberised handset is available in black and white and features dedicated music control keys and SD card slot. A Sandisk 128MB card is offered with the handset (around 50 music tracks), but you can boost storage to 2GB (nearer 800 tracks). Music transfer is drag 'n' drop via USB.

The handset offers around 9 hours talktime and 270 hours in standby. There's around 6 hours music time with one charge. No video or camera, but there are 2 games included.

The OT-E801 is available now on the high street, price starting at £39.99.

Alcatel website

Posted by modculture on November 15, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Nokia to launch music download service with key independent record shops

Nokia will tomorrow launch a new music download site which will let users buy tracks from 40 of the world's most influential record stores, including London's Puregroove records, New York's Fat Beats, Chicago's Reckless, Berlin's Hard Wax, Tokyo's Mona Records, and Rio de Janeiro's Modern Sound.

Users can sign up to musicrecommenders.com free, and receive personalised recommendations every month. The site will also offer artist interviews, city music guides compiled by the independent record stores, and background on the stores themselves. Recommended tracks from any of the 40 stores will cost 89p.

As an added bonus, David Bowie will be contributing exclusively to the service every month and sharing his personal music recommendations.

"Waking up to a new sound or new band is something that makes my day just that bit more exciting," said David Bowie. "Unfortunately, so much music goes unheard, especially things that don't bow to the mainstream. Music Recommenders help navigate the undiscovered music that is out there."

"We wanted a music service which offered music fans the chance to explore new music from all corners of the world that most of us would never normally get to hear. We've recruited the most knowledgeable people, from the best record shops around the world, whose day jobs are to listen to thousands of tracks every week and recommend the best." explained David Roberton of Nokia.

a href="http://musicrecommenders.com/">MusicRecommenders.com opens tomorrow.

Posted by Andy Merrett on November 14, 2006 in Mobile phones | Websites
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

T-Mobile launches MDA Compact III mobile with GPS

T-Mobile has announced the launch of its MDA Compact III mobile device with a built-in GPS satellite receiver, and they claim it makes dedicated sat-nav systems redundant.

It comes with CoPilot Live 6 satellite navigation software (as long as you sign up to particular Flext plans), and features turn-by-turn voice instructions, street mapping and powerful route calculation, for use both in-car and on foot.

Users with web'n'walk can get free real-time traffic alerts and avoidance, delivered directly to the CoPilot via the T-Mobile GPRS network.

All the other functions you'd expect from a modern mobile device are there too - tap the screen and you get access to making calls, Internet surfing, checking emails, downloading music and listening to radio. The web browser is based on Microsoft's Windows Mobile 5.0.

The MDA Compact III has a large touch screen, easily switchable from landscape to portrait mode. It also has an integrated 2 megapixel camera and Bluetooth.



It will be available from T-Mobile stores and online from this Thursday, 16th November and will cost £59.99 when purchased on the Flext 35 tariff plus web'n'walk (£42.50 per month).

T-Mobile

Posted by Andy Merrett on November 14, 2006 in Mobile phones | Satellite Navigation systems
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Royal Free Hospital uses SMS text messaging for confidential appointments

The Royal Free Hospital in north west London has started using SMS text messaging to allow patients to quickly and anonymously arrange appointments at their Sexual Health Clinic.

Under new Government legislation, these clinics are required to offer patients an appointment within 48 hours, but understandably many patients did not want to visit or phone the centre during office hours, and were often held in a call queuing system if when they tried to phone. Not ideal.

The new system lets people automatically book appointments out of hours. At the end of each day, the system is fed a current list of free appointment slots. Patients can then text a dedicated number from their mobile phones, and they receive a reply with a choice of three appointments within the next 48 hours. Once the patient has responded with their choice, their mobile phone number is used as a temporary patient number, and they receive one more message with a confirmation booking reference, which is then confirmed when the patient attends the clinic. Messages can be used for other data such as postcode, gender, and date of birth, and a different patient phone number can be given out for each unique clinic or service.

It sounds like a great use of modern technology that saves money, improves accuracy, and helps patients make quick and private appointments whenever it suits them.

Posted by Andy Merrett on November 13, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Go fishing with Discovery on your mobile phone



Fishing and technology - not words that sit well together. But the Discovery Real Time channel hopes to change all that with the launch of **Discovery Mobile - 'Fishing Tackled'** - a range of fishing content for mobiles, including video tutorials from top angler Matt Hayes.

The WAP-enabled service can be accessed by anyone with a mobile phone and features the best of the channel's fishing output, along with hints and tips on catching a whopper. If you're heading down to the bank, 'Fishing Tackled' also features an exclusive weather service with real time updates across the UK. And if the fish aren't biting, there's some arcade-style games designed too, along with animated fishy screensavers.

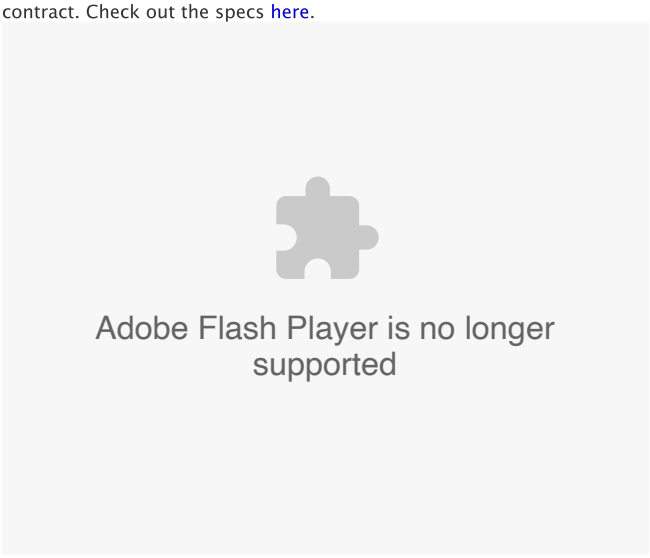
To access the service, enter discoverymobile.co.uk into your WAP browser. Or if you have 02's i-mode service, you can access it there.

Discovery Channel

Posted by modculture on November 13, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

One Minute Review: Sony Ericsson W850i

Ashley takes a look at the new Walkman phone from Sony Ericsson, with a low level of excitment. We can only assume all the Blu-ray activity tired him out. It's available now from the usual suspects, with prices varying on contract. Check out the specs here.



Posted by ScarlettSusi on November 10, 2006 in Mobile phones | Video
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

O2 gets exclusive on James Bond Casino Royale silver K800i Cyber-shot camera phone



Just in time for the movie release, O2 has announced it has an exclusive on the **James Bond Casino Royale silver K800i Cyber-shot camera phone** we featured some weeks back.

The silver K800i has the same specifications as the standard handset - 3.2 megapixel camera with dedicated shutter button, auto red eye reduction, PictBridge, video/image stabiliser function, BestPic and Picture Blogging. Plus a two-inch QVGA 262K TFT display, 64MB internal flash memory, Bluetooth, full HTML browsing, video recording and playback and music player.

As a bonus, O2 is offering a three DVD pack of GoldenEye, The Man With The Golden Gun, and Goldfinger, some Casino Royale playing cards and a chance to win a holiday. The handset also includes Bond wallpapers, music ringtones and the full video movie trailer.

The handset is available now, but will only be available until the end of January. Price dependent on contract.

O2 website

Posted by modculture on November 10, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Freddie Flintoff on your phone! How the Ashes are going mobile

Hurrah for England, we're going to stuff the Aussies in the Ashes. Well, I can hope. But the Ashes are significant this year not JUST because of England's



imminent historic whitewashing of Ricky, Shane and chums (am I tempting fate yet?). It's also the first Ashes to have its own 'mobishow'.

What's that when it's at home? A made for mobile TV show called Ashes Down Under, which consists of three-minute episodes consisting of news, reports, banter and contributions from current England captain Andrew Flintoff AND his crocked predecessor Michael Vaughan.

"It's about taking something like the Ashes, which is going to be a massive event over here, and creating a suite of content around it," says Pete Russell from Player One, the firm behind the mobishow. "Sky have the live and highlights rights for the actual event, but there's a lot more you can do with it."

Each three-minute mobishow is hosted by ~~orange~~ leading TV presenter Mark Durden-Smith, including updates from Michael Vaughan, highlights from the last Ashes series, and clips from a roving reporter Down Under. There'll also be plenty of interaction, with viewers able to send in video, text and picture contributions from their phone, and pose video questions to be answered by Flintoff.



"Getting individuals like Vaughan and Freddie involved is critical, as they're the guys at the coal-face, and people want to hear their views," says Russell. "The key for us is to make sure there's some relevance for viewers. We've also done a deal with an animation company in Australia, so if something dramatic happens, we can get a new animation of it out in 48 hours."

Player One has also created other video Ashes content, boiling each of the last Ashes series' test matches down to a two-minute highlight sequence. Apparently operators are keen on all this content around big sporting events, particularly when they don't have the rights to show the action live on their mobile TV services.

"Live and highlights is obviously important, but I'd question whether a lot of people will actually want to watch the Ashes live on their phones," says Russell. "We're taking the view that there's a lot of downtime around it – it's a three-month tour – so let's get some interesting titbits in there to plug the gaps when there isn't any live action."

Player One has teamed up with production firm Twofour Mobile to actually make the mobishows, which Russell says is important because they really are made for mobile, rather than just trying to squeeze a traditional TV broadcast into a phone. He admits that it's been a technical challenge making the mobishows look good on some less powerful handsets, but says Twofour's specialist knowledge was crucial.



That said, Russell isn't just focusing on mobile for this sort of sports content. Ashes Down Under is also going to be available as a video iPod download, and on Orange's broadband portal.

"Mobile is the focus right now, but this is a multi-platform play," says Russell. "A lot of this content is going to work equally well on broadband. And in the future, mobile and broadband integration will be driven even more by content. We're working on a Freddie Flintoff fantasy game, which will be online with a related mobile application. Within operators like Orange, the mobile and broadband content people are talking quite closely to each other, so it'll be interesting to see how that goes."

Posted by Stuart Dredge on November 9, 2006 in Interviews | Mobile phones | Video
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

ntl:Telewest and Virgin Mobile to become Virgin Media

Back in July we reported on the quadplay deal from ntl:Telewest and Virgin Mobile which launched back in September for £40 per month, and providing TV, landline and mobile telephony, and broadband.

Well, deciding that it was too much of a mouthful to mention all those companies each time, the new brand - described as an 'exciting new presence in the UK media market' - is Virgin Media.

Virgin Media is promising to live up to Virgin's long-established reputation for offering world class customer service. At least, that's what they say. What it means is that the company has committed £5m this year to improve customer care, prior to launching the brand.

Steve Burch, president and chief executive officer, ntl said: "Virgin Media will shake up the market by bringing the Virgin traditions of value-for-money, brilliant customer service and innovation to the world of entertainment and communications. While work remains to be done between now and the re-brand, our decision to announce its name and logo today is a reflection of my confidence that we're well on the way to creating an organisation that can live up to this vision by consistently putting the consumer first."

Gordon McCallum, chief executive officer of Virgin Management Limited and ntl Board member added: "Taking on the Virgin brand is about much more than a new name and logo above the door. ntl Telewest's management team has consistently demonstrated that it understands this and the commitment that's needed to succeed. Much has already been achieved and we're confident that the company's on track to deliver the Virgin promise when we re-brand next year."

Well, that's all the corporate talk. I made my feelings known about this potential 'eggs in one basket' scenario in the previous article but it does seem to be the way many companies are taking things as they seek to take over your communications needs.

For now, we get a nice new logo. It'll be interesting to see what happens to the other products currently on offer from ntl:Telewest and Virgin Mobile. It's all systems go from early 2007.

Posted by Andy Merrett on November 8, 2006 in Broadband | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

3 customers get their pick of Girls Aloud



Mobile company **3** has teamed up with Girls Aloud, offering the first-ever **'fans choice' video**.

3's MusicStore will feature three versions of the video for the band's forthcoming single (a cover of Tiffany's I Think We're Alone Now) - and you get to vote on which version the rest of the world will see. Actually, it's the same video (based on Ocean's 11) with a different ending, described as 'sexy', 'shocking' or 'funny' - but as it's unlikely to be an 18 certificate, I wouldn't expect too much of either.

3 customers will be able to watch all the endings and vote for their favourite to become the official video promoting the single. The winning video will be revealed to the rest of the nation on 17th November 2006.

3 website

Posted by modculture on November 8, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Iqua offers CPW-603 Bluetooth headset exclusively through Carphone Warehouse

Iqua is to launch its CPW-603 Bluetooth Wireless Headset in the UK exclusively through the Carphone Warehouse, and it will come either on its own or bundled with the LG KG800 "Chocolate" phone.

The headset allows users to answer and end calls, redial, use voice dial and switch between phone and headset with a single button. It can operate up to 10 metres from the phone, and is compatible with VoIP Internet calls.



The battery will give 9 hours talktime and 200 hours standby, achieving a full charge in 2 hours.

It comes in pearl white, charcoal or pink colouring to suit your fashion and that of the LG phone.

It measures 48 x 25 x 10 mm and weighs 12g, and looks as if it will be available to purchase on its own for £29.99.

Carphone Warehouse

Posted by Andy Merrett on November 7, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Tesco launches "first internet phone in your pocket" from Mobiboo



Tesco, the pioneering supermarket who are keen to get into a lot more technical things than food and clothing, will today begin stocking a new kind of mobile phone from Mobiboo Mobile.

If you can get your head around the name, then read on, because they say they're the UK's first WiFi mobile VoIP (Internet phone calls) operator, and that they'll save even average phone users hundreds of pounds per year.

Designed to take the place of both your mobile and your landline home phone, Mobiboo say that users can save 30% on their mobile charges and 50% on landline.

They're offering two tovo handsets – the t450g PocketFone and the t1000 HomeFone Plus.

It relies on you having WiFi at home, work or at a WiFi hot spot, and allows you to call any phone around the world at low rates. As is the norm for these kind of deals, they also offer free calls to other tovo/Mobiboo customers for free – so you just need to find them. If you don't have wi-fi access at any point, the handsets can function using your usual mobile network.

There are no roaming charges when abroad, and all incoming calls are free for the receiver.

“This is a major breakthrough for smart consumers who are tired of paying huge phone bills, and who want to find a cheaper and more flexible communications solution. And it’s the beginning of the end of outrageously high roaming charges” says Martin Heath, CEO of Mobiboo Mobile.

“Most people are familiar with the Internet phone,” adds Heath, “but they are cumbersome to use, need to have the PC turned on, and can only be used in one location. Mobiboo’s tovo service offers all the convenience and mobility of a mobile, but with the quality of a landline and the low price of VoIP. It’s literally like having your Internet phone in your pocket.”

There are a choice of pay-as-you-go and monthly packages which can be switched around at will using an online account. A basic PAYG UK package has no monthly charge, local calls are charged at 2p per minute, international tier 1 calls at 5p per minute.

tovo customers can also choose to have a geographic landline number as well as a mobile number connected to them. The handsets will receive calls to either number wherever you are, at home or abroad. When using tovo at home or in the office, you don’t need to turn on your laptop or PC as it will connect to your WiFi network.

It sounds well worth investigating, but with the big boys like Orange also muscling in to this space, it could become quite a confusing selection of tariffs.

The service and handsets debut in selected Tesco's stores.

Tovo

Posted by Andy Merrett on November 6, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Tocmag: The mobile MySpace?

The UK version of Tocmag has launched today. Tocmag is a free service that allows anyone to create a mini-magazine optimised for mobile phones.

Each magazine can consist of up to 6 pages of text, photos, audio and video; it's being touted in some quarters as the mobile MySpace.

They're said to be very easy to create - anyone with a computer and Internet access can create a Tocmag. Once created, anyone with a handset can download them to their mobile's memory, meaning they're always available regardless of having mobile reception.

During Beta testing, over ten thousand Tocmags were built, and nearly 125,000 were downloaded, apparently exclusively via word-of-mouth recommendation.

The service reports that the current favourite download is 'dirtysecrets' that allows strangers to confess all.

Brad Ells confidently says "Tocmag is what mobile users have been waiting for: a free service to develop mobile content. “People will now be able to create and store content-rich messages on their mobiles, full of text, photos and even videos. It certainly beats SMS or MMS messaging.’"

There are plenty of possibilities for using the service. Current applications include virtual business cards, travel logbooks, private couple mags and even a weekly church newsletter.

In order to download a tocmag, a user's mobile must be Java enabled (there's a huge list of compatible ones on the site), with GPRS and WAP turned on, and no 'walled garden' that disallows data from outside the local network.

Tocmag

Posted by Andy Merrett on November 6, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

O2 introduces Cool Blue Ice phone



The **O2-branded Ice phone** wasn't greatly received when our review team got their hands on one a few weeks back. Will a change of colour to **Cool Blue** make it any more appealing?

Probably not, unless your looking for a blue phone to match up with something. Apart from the colour change, this is still the same handset. What you get is a 3G handset with MP3 player, 1.3 megapixel camera with zoom, Bluetooth, 32MB internal memory and a microSD card to boost your storage further.

This version of the O2 Ice costs from £79.99 on pre pay and is available exclusively from Woolworths. Check out our hands-on review here.

O2 website

Posted by modculture on November 6, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Orange offer broadband, mobile and unlimited UK landline calls for £50pm

Along with their unlimited broadband and UK/international landline calls deal, Orange have also announced a new broadband/mobile deal that



combines the benefits of the traditional home landline and your mobile phone.

Many people are relying on their mobile for the majority if not all of their phone needs, and this deal provides a single handset offering one phone number, one address book, and just one bill.

The perks it provides? Unlimited free calls at home (connects wirelessly via the Orange Livebox and routes calls over the Internet) to Orange mobiles and UK landlines, and a choice of three handsets from Motorola, Nokia and Samsung.

The Livebox can connect up to six handsets, and three people can use the box to surf the Net or make phone calls at the same time.

Whilst £50 per month might seem a bit steep, if it's a replacement for your phone and provides you 8 meg broadband, then you don't have to pay line rental or broadband subscription fees to anyone else.

Product page

Posted by Andy Merrett on November 3, 2006 in Broadband | Mobile phones | VoiP
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

"Nokia Shorts" 15-second films shortlisted for BIFA

Nokia have announced a shortlist of five films in its Nokia Shorts 2006 competition held in association with Raindance, the British Independent Film Awards (BIFA) and Kevin Macdonald, director of One Day in September and Touching the Void.

Entrants were asked to make a film lasting just 15 seconds and the results included comedy and animation.

The five finalists are:

1. Chrysanthemums the Word – Toby Roberts
2. What's the Point? – Katherine Taylor
3. Fate and Mr McKinley – David Lilley and Stephen Grey
4. Death of the Dinosaurs – Leilani Holmes
5. Ah, Youth – Paul Gilbert

The winner will take the 'Best 15 Second Short' BIFA at this year's British Independent Film Awards.

"Whether a film is feature length or just 15 seconds it's all about creativity and inspiration and our finalists have shown that they have bags of both," said Elliot Grove founder of Raindance and BIFA "The film industry is notoriously tough to break into so we're really excited about giving these up and coming filmmakers a helping hand".

Head over to nokiashorts.co.uk to view them all. My vote goes to "Ah, Youth" from Paul Gilbert, which features an interesting take on youth from a woman of more mature years.

Which is your favourite? View them all here.

Posted by Andy Merrett on November 2, 2006 in Awards | Camcorders | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Sky Mobile TV now on 3 Mobile UK

BSkyB and 3 have just announced that 3's customers will now be able to receive up to 27 Sky Mobile TV channels on their handsets, to include live news, sport, music, entertainment and documentaries.

As Sky love packages, 3 customers will be able to choose from a range of themed packs: News & Sport, Entertainment, and Music. Each package costs £5 per month for unlimited (fair use) access.

Sky News and Sport gets you Sky News, Sky Sports News, Discovery Factual; CNN; Bloomberg; At The Races; Extreme Sports Channel; National Geographic; History Channel; and Biography Channel.

Sky Entertainment Pack contains Sky One; Sky Movies Mobile; MTV Snax; MTV Trax; Nickelodeon; Paramount Comedy Channel; Cartoon Network; Living; E!; Bravo and Discovery Lifestyle.

Sky Music Pack offers Kiss; MTV Snax; MTV Trax; The Box; Kerrang; Smash Hits; IMF1; and IMF2.

Could this be a lure for more people to hook up to mobile TV?

Posted by Andy Merrett on November 2, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

LG launches Wine variation of Chocolate Phone



Bored fo your original Chocolate Phone? Not taken by the clamshell variation? Well, here's another extension of the concept – and in time for Christmas – the **LG Chocolate Wine handset**.

According to LG, this is the Chocolate Phone with an "understated, sophisticated look", with the "Wine" bit relating to its burgundy colour. In terms of features, it's still pretty standard – MP3/WMA/AAC music player, 128MB of storage, 1.3 megapixel camera and video camera and the option to use it as a storage device via USB.

The LG Chocolate Wine will be available free on contract from Phones 4U in a presentation box, with stereo headphones and USB lead.

LG website

Posted by modculture on November 2, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Survey provides insight into UK mobile users' feature wish list



SmartTrust recently did a survey of 411 UK mobile phone users to ask them a little about their attitudes to mobile devices and what they would want to see from future handsets. Though it's quite a small sample size it does reveal some interesting information.

The top 3 most desired features of any mobile handset were design, camera, and battery life.

Respondents were asked which manufacturer they would prefer for a future converged mobile device. Here, Sony came out joint top with Nokia, each with 18%, followed by Sony Ericsson, Microsoft, Apple, Samsung, Palm, and RIM. However, Nokia was the maker of choice for over 35s whilst 16–24s favoured Microsoft. Microsoft got 11% and Apple 6% of the overall vote.

34% said their choice was based on brand trust. Other reasons included reliability of products, leading-edge technology, established brand, and product ease of use.

When they were asked to consider the company best able to provide a future converged device as part of a package also including software, applications, wireless connections and supporting customer services, the ordering changed a little, with Microsoft getting 20% of the vote, followed by Sony at 17% and Nokia at 13%. Sony Ericsson got 8%, Apple 7% and HP (not even present on the first list) 4%.

Asked about the features they'd most like to see on a mobile device, improved battery life was mentioned by 3 out of every 4 questioned. Other desired features were improved battery life (61%), storage of over 20GB (55%), Full Microsoft Office functionality built-in (46%), the ability to make Internet phone calls (VoIP) (36%), the device having biometric security features (35%), satellite navigation (31%), and an expandable LCD screen (31%).

When it comes to Net access, things currently look rather bleak. 54% said they thought the cost of Net access from their mobiles was too high. 22% said they had no idea how much Net access cost, but were still put off by a perception of high costs.

Other factors for avoiding the Net on their mobile phones were that downloads were too slow (32%), whilst 37% said there was no point going online as their phone or screen was too small.

Only 9% of people using the Net were charged a flat fee for unlimited access, and 47% said that they thought this was the best way to be billed.

Of those accessing the Net, the most popular activities were downloading ringtones (44%), logos/wallpaper (39%), games (29%), news (21%) and web-based email (15%)

When asked what they'd be interested in watching on streaming TV, there was a gender difference. Everyone said movies were the most important, but men then said news, sport, sitcoms, and music, whilst women said music, dramas, sitcom, and documentaries.

So it seems that there is interest in future converged devices and what entertainment and content they can provide, but a perception of high costs and slow connection speeds will need to be overcome by manufacturers if UK consumers are to embrace next-generation handsets and services.

Posted by Andy Merrett on November 1, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

"Oi, where d'you think you're going?"



Ever wished you could jump straight to the front of the queue like a celeb when you go to see your favourite band? Well if you're a Virgin Mobile customer, now you can. Mobile Marketing Magazine reports that Virgin has launched a queue-jumping facility that runs at selected gigs at Carling Academy venues across the UK.

Ads at the venues give instructions on how to jump the queue by texting 'Qjump' to a dedicated shortcode number. In return, you get a barcode sent to your phone that you scan at a terminal to convert it to a ticket that lets you and a mate jump straight to the front of the queue while all the other suckers shout abuse at you and try to work out which obscure band you're a member of. Clever eh?

Get the full story here

Posted by modculture on November 1, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Vodafone exclusively offer 'world first' mobile movie release: Mission Impossible 3



Vodafone have scored an exclusive for new purchasers of Nokia N93 multimedia computers. Nokia will launch the film Mission: Impossible 3 on 512MB memory cards on the same day the film is released on DVD, to be available for free as part of the Vodafone Nokia N93 sales package.

The film runs at 25 frames per second, and the N93 will give you full rewind, fast forward, stop and play capabilities plus stereo audio playable through the supplied stereo headset.

The film can be transferred to a PC after watching so that the memory card can be used for extra storage, though thanks to some irritating DRM the film can't be watched on the PC or transferred anywhere else (not officially, anyway) so you are stuck to watching it on the 2.4 inch screen of your N93.

So, if you want to watch Tom Cruise on the small screen and you've been hankering after a N93 anyway, pop down to your Vodafone store for more info, or visit the official website.

Vodafone

Posted by Andy Merrett on October 31, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Vodafone UK offers unlimited group calls for £5 a month

From tomorrow, Vodafone UK is offering its customers a new Vodafone Family tariff that will allow groups of four or six people to make free calls at any time, providing they are all Vodafone customers.

£5 per month gives you free access to 3 other Vodafone customers, whilst £7 per month lets you call up to 5 others.

It's being aimed particularly at parents and children, hence the name, but can equally be used for any group that communicates a lot. Customers can be a part of up to three groups at any one time. Each individual call can last up to one hour.

Given the generally high price of mobile-to-mobile calling, this is a great plan for a select group of friends or family.

Vodafone Family

Posted by Andy Merrett on October 31, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Virgin Mobile adds ITN News to its mobile TV service



Virgin Mobile's recently-launched mobile TV service has got a new channel - **ITN News**, a 24 hour news service covering current affairs, news and entertainment, designed specifically for mobile handsets.

ITN News adds to the channels already available on Virgin Mobile's Lobster 700TV, including BBC One, ITV1, Channel 4 and E4 and now ITN News, along with over 50 DAB digital radio stations. The handset is available from Virgin stores, Carphone Warehouse, WH Smiths or online from the Virgin Mobile site. The TV phone and service is free to customers on a contract of £25 a month or more, for the life of their contract.

Alternatively, it's available on pre-pay for £199, with the TV service free for an initial three-month period, followed by a charge of £5 a month. As it's through DAB, make sure you have a reception in your area before you buy.

Virgin Mobile website

Posted by modculture on October 31, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Sony unveils Pink Memory Stick Micro (the pop act not the colour)



Sony has unveiled a **limited edition Pink Memory Stick Micro** (M2) - that's the American pop act, not the colour, which is still black. Think they've missed a trick there.

Anyway, if you're a fan of Pink (or P!NK as she's referred to by Sony), you can pick up this 512MB Memory Stick Micro pre-loaded with exclusive content - an extract of the Stupid Girls single (about half of it) and a video interview with the singer. And it's copyright free - so you can pass it on to your mates (if they want a short interview and half an MP3 track).

The card is obviously only compatible with Sony Ericsson mobile phones equipped with an M2 card slot and should be available from early November. No price given - but it's unlikely to be more than a standard 512MB card.

Sony website

Posted by modculture on October 31, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Carphone Warehouse launch MyMobileLife service

The Carphone Warehouse today unveiled its new MyMobileLife

service aiming to give mobile phone users access to a range of services as well as free instant messaging using any of the popular IM clients.

Some services, including the instant messaging, will be free, such as news from the BBC, daily horoscopes, and TV listings. Other premium services will also be introduced including a £9.99 per year 'near live' comprehensive football results and events service. You can build a favourite team list of as many teams as you like and every time one of those teams scores a goal or has a goal scored against them, makes a substitution, has a player booked or sent off, the subscriber will be alerted by the service.

It's also possible to shop at selected retailers using your phone and check on eBay auctions.

In time, additional services will be launched including banking and online cinema ticket purchase.

Consumers can register for MyMobileLife by texting 'Life' to 81444 or by visiting www.mymobilelife.co.uk

Posted by Andy Merrett on October 30, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

BBC and Sky are the big players in British mobile TV

A new study by an audience measurement group shows that the two main players in the relatively small British mobile TV market are the BBC and Sky. It looked at mobile users' watching of channels, websites and content titles, and found the most popular services were BBC with 33% and Sky Sports with 29%.

28% of mobile web users visited the BBC website via their mobiles, and 23% visited Sky Sports online. Only 3% of mobile users actually watched TV.

70% of mobile TV and Internet users are male.

Telephia's European MD Reza Chady said that the BBC and Sky's mobile strategies were working:

"Consumers are tapping into three screens—television, PC and mobile phone—for their news and entertainment. Broadcasters must develop an integrated strategy across the three screens to reach, maintain and expand their audience."

Posted by Andy Merrett on October 26, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Buy a Nokia N93 - get Mission Impossible 3 on miniSD



The **Nokia N93** has been in the shops for a few months now, but Vodafone are giving it an extra push, offering a copy of the **Mission Impossible 3 movie free** on the miniSD card bundled with the handset.

The offer coincides with the release of the movie on DVD. Obviously this isn't going to be cheap way of picking up the movie, more an attempt by Vodafone to pitch the N93 as an all-round media device rather than a mobile handset. Quality might not be good enough for your average film buff either, with the card just 512MB in size, there must be some serious compression going on. And of course, there's the 2.4-inch screen.

Saying that, the N93 does have a TV cable or you can stick the card into your PC for a bigger picture. Price of the N93 varies with your contract, check with your local store for details.

Vodafone website

Posted by modculture on October 26, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Train company to offer tickets via mobile phone

Chiltern Railways

Another use for your mobile phone, this time as a train ticket, with the news that **Chiltern Railways** is set to offer **tickets via mobile handsets**.

The railway, which operates from London through to the West Midlands, is set to introduce technology that sends a barcode to a mobile phone via sms, which passengers can then scan at the station ticket barrier. The rail networks hopes it will make tickets easier to buy and ease queuing at stations. The company said mobile ticketing will be available before the end of the year for a three-month trial.

The network isn't the first to introduce mobile ticketing - Tyne and Wear Metro operator Nexus trialled a similar scheme earlier this year and a similar scheme already operates successfully in Helsinki.

Chiltern Railways

Posted by modculture on October 24, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Friday interview: Yahoo's Mitch Lazar on mobile social networking



There's huge amounts of interest around mobile social networking right now, and in particular over who's best placed to make the most of it. Following Tech Digest's feature on the issue, and the follow-up interview with MTV's Angel Gambino, now another big name joins the debate.

Mitch Lazar is vice president of business development for Yahoo's Connected Life initiative, so is heavily involved in Yahoo's mobile ambitions - including bringing its social networking and Web 2.0 properties to mobile. Read on to see what he has to say.

How well will sites like MySpace, Bebo etc transfer to mobile?

As mobile phone functionality increases (radio, internet, e-mail, camera) so does their role in everyday life. For example, we're all taking photos on our phones now which means we can visually, as well as vocally, share our experiences as we have them. By opening the door of on-line communities to mobile device interaction we give access to a whole new universe of contributors and users.

For example, Yahoo! has made Flickr available by mobile - users can take, upload, and tag photos straight from their Nokia phones and share them with global communities. In time other services like Yahoo! Answers, our new social search service, will then be a natural extension... users asking other users questions as they think of them.

Will they dominate the mobile social networking space, or will they face stiff competition from mobile startups, or even the operators?

Users rally around known brands and sources, going where the communities are. Yahoo! has around 500 million users many of whom have invested time in our products like Mail and like our blog service 360, and as such are rooted there. No doubt new entrants will emerge but that's the nature of the environment.

What challenges will they face?

We recognise that there will, of course, continue to be technological challenges such as multiple formats and screen size etc. Our strategy is to work through them in partnerships, with content owners, device manufacturers and operators, to provide a high quality mobile internet experience.

For example, earlier this year we launched our Yahoo! Go for Mobile client, which allows consumers to access their favourite Y! services including Mail, Messenger, Search and Photos all in one place on their phone.

We partner with handset manufacturers including Nokia and Motorola as well as operators Hutchinson 3 in Europe to increase awareness and availability of the product, and believe that these partnerships are proving to work to everybody's advantage.

Posted by Stuart Dredge on October 20, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Hitachi unveils transflective IPS LCD screen for mobile phones

TV on your mobile is likely to be much bigger news next year - but there could be a problem with seeing your screen in the daylight. Which is where **Hitachi's transflective IPS LCD screen** comes in.



The IPS LCD screen is a thin panel with improved outdoor visibility and – so they claim – with a much higher picture quality and wide viewing angle, using the world's first Transflective IPS-Pro system. All this improves visibility in bright outdoor conditions for mobile phones, particularly when it comes to TV reception.

The Transflective IPS LCD module now in commercial production provides improved visibility in bright outdoor conditions using a reflection unit fitted to the picture element structure, so that reflections from bright outdoor lights lighting up the LCD can also be used for displaying images. As a result, images are generated in the usual manner by transmissive lights from the backlight in indoor environments where the brightness is comparatively low, and illuminated by reflective lights in bright outdoor conditions.

Commercial production started in September, so expect it in your mobile sometime next year.

Hitachi website

Posted by modculture on October 20, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

RoamCon – control and secure your home with your mobile phone



RoamCon is a system of controlling your entire home, courtesy of the net, Wi-Fi and your mobile phone. So probably best not to leave your handset lying around if you invest in it.

It's very much "home of the future" territory, but available now, offering core surveillance and security and control of heating, lighting, smoke detection, gate operation and home entertainment – all from a single interface. Your home can be monitored live via the net or mobile, while images can also be recorded to browse later. Via the mobile phone you can also switch cameras – and if the system detects an intruder or event it can notify you by text message or by email and stream video to your mobile. And you can monitor your home no matter where you are in the world.

Check out the website for the full breakdown of services and if you want it in your home, prices start at £3,000.

RoamCon website

Posted by modculture on October 20, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Bluetrek Skin Bluetooth earpiece – fashion for heads



Bluetrek has a new Bluetooth earpiece on the market – knowns as **Skin** – the first in its 'Fashion for Heads' range, apparently aimed at those who want to make a fashion statement with their technology.

The idea, it would seem, is to treat your Bluetooth headset as an accessory, matching it up the way you might match up earrings, a watch or a bag. The Bluetrek Skin is lightweight, slimline and with a layer of black synthetic fabric that gives it a 'velvet effect' look. But enough about its looks – we buy these things for a practical use, no matter what the company says. This one offers 12 hours talk time, 17 days standby, a range of 10 metres and has an LED to indicate power levels.

Available at the end of November for around £60.

Company website

Posted by modculture on October 19, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

CoPilot Live comes to Sony Ericsson's Symbian UIQ-based smartphones



Good news if you want to add sat nav on your Sony Ericsson smartphone - you now can, with the announcement that **CoPilot Live navigation is now compatible with Sony Ericsson UIQ-based handsets**, initially the M600i and P990 handsets.

This latest version of CoPilot Live offers GPS to the same level as a dedicated system - but on your phone, using the phone's functionality - the touch screen, processor and built-in speakers. You get turn-by-turn voice directions (as well as on-screen), detailed maps and points of interest (from Navteq), a new route if you miss a turning and ccess to a safety camera database, with your current speed and the limit displayed on screen.

For prices and availability, check with your mobile operator.

CoPilot website

Posted by modculture on October 19, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

ThinkGeek's budget retro handset with Bluetooth



With Hulger's vintage-styled Bluetooth handset retailing for around £100, there's an obvious gap in the market for a cheaper version - after all, these things are never going to be more than a novelty. ThinkGeek has taken up the challenge - offering this retro Bluetooth handset for $40, which is around £21.

For your money you get a quirky, vintage handset that wirelessly connects to your phone using Bluetooth 1.0, 1.1 and 1.2. Its range is around 30ft and you can make or receive calls for as long as the phone is charged. Unfortunately, they don't make clear how long this is.

If you're after one of these handsets, but don't see yourself using it much past that amusing first night in the pub, it doesn't seem a bad price to pay.

ThinkGeek website

Via Gizmodo

Posted by modculture on October 19, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Orange and Microsoft to launch mobile Live Messenger



Microsoft and France Telecom (who operate mobile phone services under the Orange brand) have announced a deal whereby Microsoft will supply a mobile version of their Windows Live Messenger (previously MSN Messenger) for use by Orange customers.

They say it's the first service to converge PC and mobile-based instant messaging services. It will launch first in France and then roll out into other European countries, including the UK, during 2007.

Ultimately, it will allow France Telecom's 135m customers to interact with 240 million worldwide Windows Live users, though this will roll out in stages, with 'several million' FT users expected to have access to it by 2009.

Only certain compatible handsets will initially be able to run the service. By December, nine handsets will be capable of downloading the software, including 6 already in production. This will increase to several dozen by the end of next year.

There are no public details on pricing yet, but the two companies have said that it would be made attractive to young users. Orange also don't see SMS suffering as a result, as they say people want some messages to remain in a more private space.

Microsoft's deal isn't exclusive, meaning that similar services could roll out with other operators.

As Windows Live Messenger and Yahoo Messenger are now interoperable I wonder if this means that Orange users can IM both services.

Posted by Andy Merrett on October 19, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

SoundID Personal Sound Systems



'Just step over there if you want some privacy,' you say, fingering your SoundID in your pocket. Although this is technically a hearing aid - a powerful hearing aid at that - it seems inevitable that it'll be used for everything from eavesdropping on celebrities in public to eavesdropping on your lascivious neighbors. It's incredibly tiny, as hearing aids are wont to be, and has up to four modes. Amplification mode enhances sound in the immediate area, blanking background noise and kicking up conversation volume. Phone mode lets you pair with a (here's where that comes in) Bluetooth phone so you're not constantly shouting "WHAT? WHAT?" Then there's CompanionLink, which involves a microphone paired to your SoundID, and One2One, which connects two SoundIDs so neither of you has to shout "WHAT? WHAT?" The SoundMate model, with Phone, CompanionLink and One2One is $249 USD, where the SoundFlavor has all four plus a wireless mic, at $699. [GT]

[via Gizmodo]

Related stories: Scala Rider Bluetooth Helmet Headset | Bluetooth Squirrel to handle calls | Bluetrek water-resistant Bluetooth headset

Posted by gtaylor on October 19, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

O2 to offer free incoming calls for users roaming in Europe

O2 have announced that, along with Movistar in Spain, they will offer incoming calls free of metered charges to customers roaming in 35 European countries.

The "high roamer" service will allow customers to pay a £5 monthly fee which gets them a reduced rate of 25p per minute on outgoing calls, plus free calls in Spain, which is where O2 say most of their customers go when abroad. They will expand this to the 35 European countries early next year. This might encourage users to use their phones more when abroad.

O2

Posted by Andy Merrett on October 18, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Asono Freebit H1 Bluetooth headset



The pulse races ever so slightly when I see a new product from Norwegian firm **Asono** - previous efforts, such as the DAB1, have an interesting design not often seen in the mainstream. Alas, the **Asono Freebit H1 Bluetooth headset** seems to lack any such quirkiness.

The stand-out feature is the ergonomic design, which allows the Freebit H1 to fit comfortably within the ear muscle without clamping the ear or blocking the passage between the ear canal and your surroundings. This, according to Asono, means comfort and improved sound. It's also got a number of patent-protected improvements for functionality, but it's not clear what these actually are - what is clear is that

it offers 9 hours use between charges, 200 hours standby time and a working range of 33ft.

The Asono Freebit-H1 will be available before Christmas, priced at around £56.

Find out more

Posted by modculture on October 18, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Vodafone adds Sharp's 3G 770SH and Sharp GX29 clamshell to its Christmas line-up



As we previously mentioned, **Vodafone** has added a pile of new handsets to its Christmas line-up, with many models exclusive to the mobile giant - including the **Sharp 770SH 3G handset** and **Sharp GX29 clamshell**.

The **Sharp 770SH** is an entry-level 3G clamshell handset, which will give you access to Vodafone's mobile TV services. Other than that, it has a 1.3 megapixel camera, an inner TFT screen and outer mono display, video calling, 20MB of storage (which can be boosted by microSD card), MP3/AAC/AAC+/AAC+e music player, Bluetooth, USB and talktime of around 2 hours 40 minutes, along with a standby of 330 hours. It's available in a choice of black or silver.



The **Sharp GX29** is a fairly basic 2.5G clamshell with just a VGA camera for taking your snaps. It's got a TFT screen with 256K colours, along with a second external mono display, Bluetooth, USB, voice memo and games. Battery life is 3 hours 40 minutes, with standby 250 hours.

Both should be in Vodafone stores in the coming weeks. Prices according to contract.

Vodafone website

Posted by modculture on October 18, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

LG's Shine phone the KV4200

LG has taken the wraps off its next generation, ahem, girl phone. The wonderfully named Shine series has arrived with the first model sporting the moniker the **KV4200**.

Its big selling point is that it has a screen that morphs into a mirror. Anyhow sister blog Shiny Shiny has the full details here.

Posted by shiny on October 18, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

ROK launches world's first converged mobile and PC subscription-free TV service - FreeBe TV

Not content with offering a free mobile TV service to GPRS handsets, **ROK** has gone one step further - offering those TV channels free to PCs, with a **PC-enabled version of FreeBeTV**, the world's first subscription-free mobile TV service - available from today, Wednesday 18th October.

IPTV FreeBe TV is a desktop application which offers instant access to a range of channels without a net browser. There's currently 12 free channels, including live news, music and sports. Free, ROK believes, is the only way encourage mass-market adoption of mobile and IP TV services - leaving advertising to sort out the revenue generation, with the mobile networks still picking up their percentage from the mobile data charges. ROK hopes the added PC service will encourage people to shift their viewing habits away from the traditional TV - considering both the PC and mobile as standard viewing tools.



In the longer term, the company plans up to 500 channels, but if you want to view the initial 12, you can download the application now. Windows only I'm afraid - and you'll need Real Player.

Find out more at the FreeBe TV website

Posted by modculture on October 18, 2006 in Computers | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Vodafone's exclusive Motorola V1100 coming for Christmas



One of the exclusive mobile phones Vodafone is launching in time for Christmas this year is the Motorola V1100, a 3G clamshell phone that claims a 'sporty design' (whatever that means). It'll come with mobile TV, Vodafone Radio DJ, and a 1.3 megapixel camera.

There's not a whole lot more information on the handset yet - no release date, pricing/contract details or other specs, so we'll just have to be content with the pic for now. More details when we get them.

Posted by Andy Merrett on October 17, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Carphone Warehouse launch mobile phone auction site

MyMobileAuction.com
from Carphone Warehouse

The Carphone Warehouse has launched an online auction site dedicated exclusively to selling used mobile phones. It grandly claims it'll be in direct competition with eBay for the second-hand mobile market, and says there's a real need for it in the UK due to the increasing 'mobile mountain' of discarded old phones.

After an introductory month of free listings, a flat listing fee of £1.25 will be charged to the seller. £1 of this will be used to check that the mobile phone has not been stolen - a prerequisite for selling on the site is that handset unique ID numbers are registered.

Because many mobile customers change their phones every year on a contract, or simply to keep up with the latest fashion, old phones stack up quickly, but due to a lack of consumer demand (presumably they mean on the high street) and limited store shelf space they're hard to shift.

This site hopes to change that. Apparently Vodafone already sell end-of-line mobiles on the site, which has been in trial for 4 months and has sold 3,000 handsets per week directly to buyers.

I have to say I like the idea. What do you think?

MyMobileAuction.com

Posted by Andy Merrett on October 17, 2006 in Mobile phones | Websites
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Sling Media and Symbian partnership for mobile TV viewing

Sling Media who make the popular 'TV-over-the-Internet' Slingbox, and Symbian who produce an operating system for smartphones, have partnered to bring a new mobile TV solution to consumers.



Sling Media will make a version of its SlingPlayer Mobile software available for Symbian OS in selected European and Asian countries before the end of the year, branching out to the US thereafter.

The solution will let smartphone users on S60 and UIQ use their devices as mobile digital TVs that can pick up any programme available from their home. SlingPlayer Mobile will be able to control a user's home PVR so they can watch recorded shows, manipulate live content and schedule new recordings.

lake Krikorian, CEO of Sling Media said that "People love their living room TV programming and simply want the ability to watch it on any device wherever they happen to be, whether at work on their PC, around the home on their wireless laptop, or on the go via their mobile phone. I've been using a beta version of the SlingPlayer Mobile on a Symbian smartphone, and it's pure sweetness."

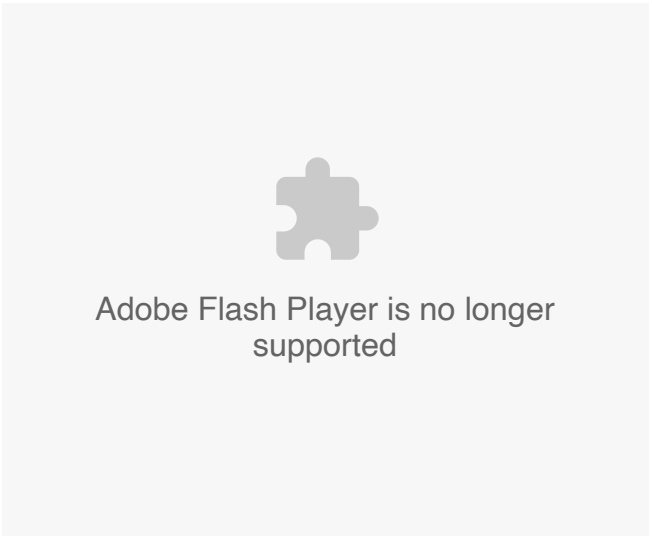
Not surprisingly you'll need a Slingbox. This new solution simply extends the options you have for watching your home TV, Freeview, cable or PVR content on the move. If you've a Symbian smartphone, you don't need a Net-enabled PC to watch content, as it'll work over 3G or WiFi.

They've a large mobile customer base to work with, as Symbian OS is present in over 82 million smartphones worldwide.

Posted by Andy Merrett on October 17, 2006 in Mobile phones | TVs
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

One Minute Review - The Motorola KRZR (or should that be KRAAAAAZR) K1

In my book the **Motorola KRZR** sounds like the sort of rock and roll mobi that should be sticking out of the back pocket of Aerosmith's Steven Tyler. Well Moto's latest take on the RAZR is a bit more Belle & Sebastian than that.



Posted by shiny on October 17, 2006 in Mobile phones | Video
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

iPhone tantalisingly close as Apple register trademark. Dual model rumours start.



An Apple iPhone or two could be a step nearer as there are reports of Apple officially filing for the 'iPhone' trademark. An analyst from Prudential Equity also believes that his 'sources' and 'recent checks' suggest that Apple could release two models - one a smart phone and the other a slim music phone. At least one of them will have wi-fi connectivity, and a keyboard for messaging.

American Technology Research analyst Shaw Wu has written "Our research indicates that an Apple-designed smart phone has moved from concept to prototype and recently has progressed to near completion as a production unit. We believe this smart phone has been in development for over 12 months and has overcome

substantial challenges including design, interference, battery life and other technical glitches".

Apple have filed a number of patents recently, suggesting that something big is on the way.

Other rumours speculate that Apple will launch the iPhone in the US by partnering with the Cingular mobile operator.

Whether Apple will quickly try to enter the more crowded UK mobile phone market, which is more advanced than the US one, remains to be seen. Britain's consumer market could be harder to break into.

We'll probably hear about it from Steve at the San Francisco Expo next year.

Posted by Andy Merrett on October 17, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Sagem launches the 600v 3G phone through Vodafone



Sagem is introducing its first 3G handset in the UK - the **600v**, which will be exclusive to Vodafone.

Looks-wise, it looks like a fairly innocuous candybar handset, but there's plenty of features to make it worth a second glance if you're looking for a lower-priced phone, including a music player (mp3, AAC AAC+ formats), a good quality (262,144 colours) screen, integrated camera, Bluetooth and SyncML for switching/sharing files, Java games, 16MB of on-board memory (can be upgraded via miniSD card) and 4 hours of talk time, plus 400 hours on standby.

Available exclusively from Vodafone from Monday 23rd October, retailing for £69.99

Sagem website

Posted by modculture on October 17, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Samsung launches Symbian SGH-i520 HSDPA handset



As we mentioned yesterday, **Samsung** has announced the **SGH-i-520 smartphone**, based on the Symbian operating system and Nokia's Series 60 (S60) user interface and offering HSDPA (super 3G connectivity).

HSDPA should mean internet downloads up to five times faster than standard smartphones. It's a slider and features a 2MP and VGA camera, 2.3-inch QVGA TFT screen, music playback for MP3/AAC/AAC+/AAC+e/Real/WMA files, video playback in MPEG4/H.263/Real/H.264/WMV formats, Bluetooth and USB connectivity, full HTML browsing, mobile printing and 45MB on on-board memory, which can be boosted to 2GB via microSD card.

Still no news of a launch date, we'll keep you posted.

Samsung website

Posted by modculture on October 17, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Vodafone unveils 3G Christmas mobile line-up

Vodafone has unveiled a large range of 3G handsets in time for the busy Christmas season. 10 of the mobile phones are made exclusively for Vodafone include 6 HSDPA phones from Motorola and Samsung for accessing the web at broadband speeds.



Vodafone have said that 5 of the 10 exclusive phones sourced from Europe, US and Asia will be priced at entry-level.

14 of its handsets will include Vodafone's Radio DJ service, whilst all the 3G handsets will have Vodafone live! for mobile TV services.

The range will also include two 3G phones from LG including the LG KU800 slider phone (pictured) and the LG L600V.

Vodafone will offer:
Nokia 6234
Motorola V1100
Motorola MOTORAZR maxx V6
Motorola MOTORAZR V3xx
Samsung ZV40
Samsung ZV50
Samsung Z560V
Samsung Z720V
Sony Ericsson V630i,
Sagem my600V
Sagem my800V
Sharp 770SH
Sharp GX29
Vodafone 710

More details on all of these over the coming days.

Vodafone

Posted by Andy Merrett on October 16, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

First set of generic dot mobi domain names to be auctioned

The first set of generic domain names under the new .mobi top-level domain is due to be auctioned off on 27th October at the T.R.A.F.F.I.C. East domain conference, Hollywood.

Unlike the free-for-all first-come first-served system used for previous TLDs, certain commonly used words and phrases will either be auctioned off or undergo a Request For Tender process by dotMobi. This should help to dissuade cybersquatters and ensure that some premium names are only taken by organisations who can provide quality web content for mobile devices.

The first set of 10 names are 'celebs', 'cheaptickets', 'flowers', 'fun', 'gossip', 'hot', 'laugh', 'party', 'stockquotes', and 'wow'.

"Given the strong demand for .mobi domain names, bidding at this initial auction will most likely be exciting," said Neil Edwards, CEO of dotMobi. "We anticipate that the winning bidders of these Premium Name sites will develop relevant and useful content for mobile Internet consumers."

Apart from 'stockquotes', perhaps, this set seems to be targeting the entertainment market - I wonder what sort of sites will develop from these snappy names.

Posted by Andy Merrett on October 16, 2006 in Mobile phones | Websites
Permalink | Comments (0)

Samsung to launch slim Symbian SGH-i520 HSDPA smartphone in Europe?



According to various online rumours, **Samsung is set to launch the SGH-i520 HSDPA (super 3G) smartphone in Europe this week** - more specifically, at the Symbian Smartphone Show, which opens tomorrow (Tuesday) in London.

The SGH-i520 is based on the Symbian operating system and Nokia's Series 60 (S60) user interface. The slider handset is just 1.8cm-thick and is expected to

feature full PDA functionality, a 2.3in display, Bluetooth 2.0 on board and a two megapixel camera.

We'll hopefully have more details after the official launch – along with a shipping date for the UK and Europe.

Samsung website

Via The Register

Posted by Al W on October 16, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Mint offers credit card payments via sms messaging



We recently covered HSBC and First Direct's forays into banking via text messaging. Well, they're not alone – credit card provider **Mint** (part of the Royal Bank of Scotland) is getting in on the act, offering the **TextDebit service** for paying off credit card bills in conjunction with Telrock.

The service allows Mint cardholders to pay their monthly balances on their mobile phones from pre-registered debit cards, as well as being able to request balance inquiries and available credit balances, view mini statements and pay outstanding balances in full or part amount anywhere in the world. It all uses sms – register your card with the company for the service, then use the service via passwords assigned to your phone, with transactions only taking place once authentication by both parties has taken place.

Telrock hopes their system will become the standard for sms banking – which is likely to be next year's big growth area in personal banking.

Mint website

Posted by Al W on October 16, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Acoustic Energy and Orange launch Orange-branded Bluetooth speaker system



So, you've got a Bluetooth-enabled phone full of tunes and you want to listen to them in the living room. What do you do? Well, **Orange** hope you'll go out and buy their **stereo Bluetooth loudspeaker system**.

The Orange-branded (and Acoustic Energy-made) stereo Bluetooth speaker system uses Advanced Audio Distribution Profile (A2DP) technology for wireless wide bandwidth stereo over distances of up to 10m, which can then be played back through the 20w amplifier. It's plug and play – as long as you have a compatible phone, PDA, PC or MP3 player. Just select a track or playlist, press play and the Bluetooth loudspeaker system blast out your tune. For improved stereo, the stereo mini-monitor loudspeakers can be detached from the Bluetooth receiver/amplifier unit and separated by up to 2m. And if you haven't got Bluetooth, you can plug your device into the speaker system.

The Orange Bluetooth wireless loudspeaker system will go on sale this month at selected Orange shops at around £89.99.

Orange website

Posted by Al W on October 16, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Vodafone and Phones 4u link up: Carphone Warehouse unhappy

vodafone_2.html

Vodafone has done a deal with Phones 4u that will ensure P4U is the only third-party UK company allowed to sell Vodafone mobile contracts. This ends the previous partnership with the Carphone Warehouse who can now only sell pay-

as-you-go phones on the Vodafone network.

"Phones 4u is fully aligned with the Vodafone strategy of delivering a superior customer experience. This strategic deal will... ensure we can target all key customer segments through their channel of choice," said Voda UK CEO Nick Read.

OK, but some are speculating that Vodafone is doing some kind of payback for CW getting increasingly involved in broadband by acquiring AOL.

Not surprisingly CW aren't happy, saying that it will limit consumer choice as Phones 4u will now be working towards selling Vodafone quotas. Vodafone had apparently approached CW prior to inking the P4U deal, but CW declined as they said they sold phones based on what was best for the customer, not the mobile phone companies.

Posted by Al W on October 13, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Motorola P790 portable power charger



We featured one way of getting power on the move (and without a plug socket) yesterday with the UPB10 by APC. Now **Motorola** has launched their own solution, with the **P790 portable charger**.

It's small enough to fit into your pocket and plugs into your Motorola handset or Bluetooth headset's mini-USB port when you need some extra power on the go. The P790 is fully rechargeable and reusable - a single charge of the unit provides two full re-charges for handsets (approx. 300 - 400 minutes of talk time) or more than ten for Bluetooth headsets before it needs to be charged up itself.

It also comes with a single wall charger, so you can charge both phone and P790 together. Available in the coming weeks, price to be confirmed.

Motorola website

Posted by Al W on October 13, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Palm's colourful Treo 680 smartphone debuts

Palm_treo_680

If the Palm Treo 750v was a bit rich for your tastes, you might be interested in the company's new entry-level model - the **Palm Treo 680**, which is slimmer than other Treo handsets and also available in a choice of colours.

The Treo 680 is being pitched at the "professional consumer" - which probably means someone who wants the added functionality of a smartphone, but doesn't want to sacrifice the looks. Saying that, it doesn't look much different to the 750v, apart from the colour. The 680 a quand-band phone with 320x320 colour screen, Bluetooth, enhanced sms messaging (you can view as a thread rather than individual messages), 64MB of storage (which can be boosted by card), email, web browsing (via Blazer 4.5), music player, VGA camera, photo album and Documents To Go - so you can view, edit and share Word and Excel documents. The operating system is Palm OS.

It's available in red, orange, white and silver. Or rather will be - Palm isn't being specific about a release date in Europe, but will be clearer towards the end of this year, they assure us.

Find out more

Posted by modculture on October 13, 2006 in Mobile phones | PDAs
Permalink | Comments (1)

Sony Ericsson launches limited edition James Bond Casino Royale silver K800i Cyber-shot camera phone



Somehow the plain old Sony Ericsson K800i will never be enough with the **James Bond Casino Royale silver K800i Cyber-shot camera phone** about to hit the stores. But hurry - they're only available for a limited time.

Both the K800i and Sony Ericsson's M600i appear in the movie, so it's authentic Bond kit. The specifications haven't changed, you're still getting a phone with 3.2 megapixel camera, dedicated shutter button, auto red eye reduction, printing without a PC with PictBridge, video and image stabiliser function, BestPic (pick your best shot out of 9) and fully integrated Picture Blogging. There's also a two inch QVGA 262K TFT display, 64MB internal flash memory with Memory Stick Micro M2 expansion, Bluetooth, full HTML browsing with RSS feeds, support for standard push email, video recording and playback, a music Player supporting MP3/AAC plus FM radio and 3D gaming.

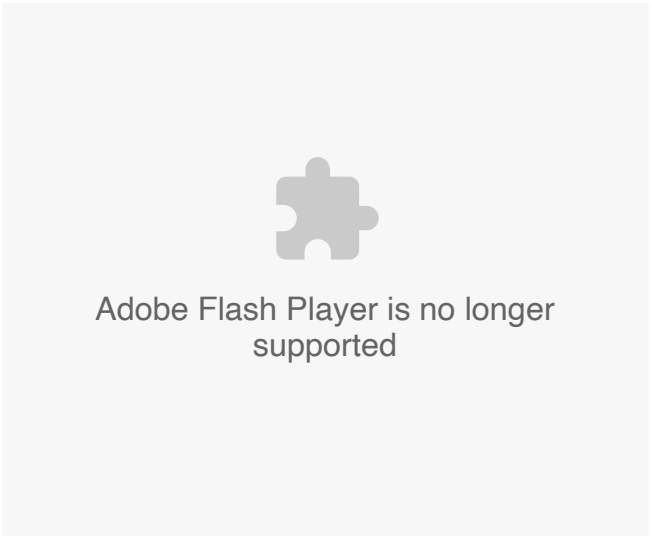
However, you do get some Bond add-ons - Bond wallpapers, music ringtones and the full video movie trailer. The special edition Bond K800i Cyber-shot phones will be available worldwide during the latter part of 2006. Price to be confirmed.

Sony Ericsson

Posted by modculture on October 12, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

One Minute Review: LG KG810, the Chocolate Clamshell

Too lazy to read? In this instance you're ok, since you can sit back and watch a brief synopsis of the LG KG810 in this video (you might have problems with the rest of this site though). If you want more details, check out the full review here.



Posted by Shiny Media on October 11, 2006 in Mobile phones | Reviews | Video
Permalink | Comments (0)

Sagem launches myC5-3 clamshell phone through Vodafone

Sagem has another new clamshell in the shops - the **myC5-3**, which is available through Vodafone on pay-as-you-talk.

Available in a choice of jet black or pale pink with "discrete" white butterflies, it features a 128x160-pixel 65,000-colour screen (along with a second external backlit screen), VGA camera, built-in day planner, WAP and a battery life of 240 hours on standby and 3 hours talk-time.

No, it's not one to consider as an upgrade, but it's smart, small (82.2 x 42.7 x 23 mm) and retails without a contract for a reasonable £60.

Sagem_myc53 Sagem website

Posted by modculture on October 11, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1)

Review: LG KG810 aka the chocolate clamshell



The Propaganda

The LG Chocolate phone took over the Razr this year as the phone to be seen with, from Southhampton to Solihull. It was loved for its smooth finish, touch sensitive buttons, and of course the massive marketing campaign LG put into it.

They followed up on this by launching the white and the pink version, and have announced a premium edition with gold and platinum trimming. But essentially, they're all the LG Chocolate.

Until now. The LG KG810 is a chocolate phone trapped in a clamshell boy. The touch sensitive buttons are still there, although now they only work the MP3 controls. Not launched yet, it's currently doing the rounds in Asia.

The Good

The KG810, or chocolate clamshell as it shall eternally be known, is aimed at a market that doesn't want to spend ages figuring out how their phone works, where the shortcuts are, or how to configure their own personalised settings. Some would argue that we're all that market, but ho hum. LG clearly know that, since their keypad may not be the most attractive around, but does make all the basic functions easily accessible. There's a shortcut key for switching it to silent, your inbox, contacts, camera and MP3 player, as well as two soft keys and a favourites button you can configure to show your most used functions. Phew. In fact, there are many times when you'll find yourself having to go into the main menu.

There are also lots of features you'd expect on a phone like this: the numbers appear in different colours as you enter a phone number. There are loads of ringtones to choose from, and thankfully at least one that sounds like an actual phone, for us more reserved types.

The Bad

I'm just going to come right out and say it: I don't like the design of this phone. Where the Chocolate was innovative, this is tired. Where it had excitement, this invokes shrugging of the shoulders and an ill-concealed grunt. No doubt not everyone will feel this way, but there's something about the thickness and the silver surround which doesn't work. In fact, it looks remarkably similar to the Motorola Razr maxx I took a look at here, which comes with HSDPA and a 2 megapixel camera for a similar weight and design.

There's also the seemingly insurmountable problem of actually touching the phone. Whilst the shiny surface is polished and lovely, it cries out to be stroked and there in lies the problem. It's possible that I have bizarre amounts of finger grease, but I suspect the fingerprints I've left on it would happen to anyone.

The other selling point, the touch sensitive controls, are only relevant to the MP3 functionality. Since they only work whilst the music is on, you still have to open the phone to do anything, including turning the MP3 player on. Incidentally, whilst writing that I realized just how lazy I've become, that I actually object to opening up the phone to use it.

The problem I came up against most with this phone was the battery life. It requires charging every couple of days, and even then, it's touch and go whether you'd make it home before it concked out. However, having done a bit of digging I did find an power save mode, which dims al the screens, which could eak it out for a further day.

Another really irritating feature is the alarm. I'm sure if anyone ever looked into it they'd find that 123% of people used their phone as an alarm, making this a function it is worth getting right. Unfortunately, LG have neglected to put a snooze button on this one. Yes, I'm lazy. Yes, I love my bed more than is healthy. But no snooze button? Why? Why would they do that?

Geek sheet

Display: Internal(262,000 colour, TFT type, 176x220 size) External(65,000 colour, TFT type, 96x96 size

Dimensions: 92 x 47 x 14.6

Weight: 86g

Standby time: Up to 200hrs

Band (in MHZ): >900 / 1800 / 1900 (Tri-band)

Sound: Polyphonic

WAP browser: 2.0

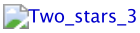
Messaging: SMS, EMS, MMS, Email

Connectivity: Bluetooth, USB data kit

Accessories: Travel adapter, Strap, Stereo headphones and inline remote/Handsfree kit, USB data kit, Pouch

In our opinion

You only have to look at the balance of the good and the bad to know that I didn't like the phone. And whilst some of it is clearly subjective, such as the design, a lot of it seem like pretty obvious mistakes. The alarm for instance. But, if it's your cup of tea, you can get it for £285 from Expansys. It's not launched on contract yet, but if it's anything like its predecessor, it'll be free with contracts of about £30 a month.



Posted by Shiny Media on October 10, 2006 in Mobile phones | Reviews
Permalink | Comments (0)

Samsung launches SCH-B600 10 megapixel camera phone



Is it primarily a phone or a camera? Who knows - but **Samsung** is certainly turning a few heads with the **SCH-B600 10 megapixel camera phone**, which it has just launched in Korea.

The SCH-B600 is actually 6mm thinner and 10g lighter than it's previous big camera phone - the 7 megapixel SCH-V770. The new model features 3x optical zoom, 5x digital zoom and an LED autofocus feature for clearer, sharper images, even in poor light. There's also white balance, manual focus, continuous picture-taking and movie recording, along with Bluetooth for sending your pictures wirelessly, a high-colour TFT LCD screen and TV out to view images and movies externally.

Despite all that - and looking like a camera, it is very much a phone, with all the usual functions, plus MP3 player, business card reader and mobile TV via DMB. Will we see it in Europe? Who knows, but it's on sale now in Korea for the equivalent of around £485.

Samsung website

Via Akihabara News

Posted by modculture on October 10, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Vodafone plans its own island in Second Life



It's an increasingly blurry line between real and virtual worlds, with criminals taking advantage of online games, the ability to own and earn from a virtual replica of our world, and now the possibility of linking up your mobile and messaging.

It appears that Vodafone want to create 'Vodafone Island' in the smash virtual world of Second Life. 3pointD.com reports that "Vodafone content should start appearing on the Grid in coming months. Besides activities like sports, music, film and events that are planned for Vodafone Island, the company will also try to give SL residents new ways to interact with each other and with the real world."

I'll be honest I'm starting to get a little confused as to what's completely real, what's completely virtual, and what services float in-between. On the one hand you've got Weblo where people can buy virtual copies of places, people and domain names, and then on the other you've got Second Life with the real world Vodafone setting up an island. What's all that about?

Anyone think this it's a good idea for companies to follow us into online worlds?

(Read (via Mobile Weblog)

Posted by Andy Merrett on October 10, 2006 in Gaming | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1)

O2 launches Jet handset - the phone with added battery life



O2 has launched the **Jet handset**, aimed at businessmen who want a robust phone with increased talktime.

The company claims the handset offers up to 67% more talktime than any comparable on sale device from leading manufacturers - over 540 hours on standby and 9.9 hours of talktime - double the talktime of Nokia 6230i (O2's most popular model). That's the big selling point - the specification is fairly basic, with Bluetooth and email access (support for pop3 and IMAP4 email) being the only standout features.

O2 has also added a two-year warranty in case it isn't quite durable enough for your working day. along with a package of over £50-worth of accessories free of charge, including a charging desk stand and an in-car charger. Prices range on contract (check with your local supplier), but if you want it on Pay and Go, you can pick it up from October 19th for £59.99.

O2 website

Posted by modculture on October 9, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Friday interview: dotMobi's Neil Edwards slams the critics of the .mobi domains



The world of domain names has seen its fair share of controversy, and one of the hottest recent debates concerns the new .mobi domain, which covers mobile internet sites. It's run by mobile Top Level Domain Ltd (mTLD, or dotMobi informally), whose investors include the likes of Ericsson, Google, Microsoft, Nokia, Samsung, T-Mobile and Vodafone. dotMobi opened up registrations to companies in June, before allowing everyone else to sign up last week.

Controversy? There's been plenty, including claims that .mobi is unnecessary, risks splitting the internet in two, and even accusations that it is purely for squeezing more cash out of companies frightened that someone else may register 'their' domain. Many of these criticisms have been made online, and dotMobi CEO Neil Edwards doesn't mince his words when responding to them.

"It's the most juvenile argument," he says. "We have companies like Microsoft, Business Week and BMW who all spend a lot of money doing

proper development of their systems, so it's insulting that guys who write free blogs are passing judgement on how the best minds in the world should do their development."

But let's rewind to some of the facts. Since June, over 13,000 companies have registered .mobi domains, while since the first day of last week's 'landrush', Edwards says that over 111,000 domains have been registered. Around 65% of these came from North America, 20% from Europe and 15% from Asia, with more than 100 countries included. Interestingly, China was the third largest country in terms of .mobi registrations.

The key question, however, is how many of those companies are actually planning to launch .mobi sites, versus those who have simply bought the domain name to stop anyone else buying it. Last week, for example, US telco Verizon's associate general counsel told the FT that they'd only registered verizon.mobi for the latter reason. So are many .mobi sites actually launching?

"We didn't expect to see a lot of these brands go live until sometime in 2007," says Edwards. "The hosting tools have got to catch up with the sale of names. But we've seen Business Week launch a commercial ad-supported mobile magazine behind businessweek.mobi, there's kicker.mobi, the leading football magazine in Germany, and then Microsoft have made a conscious decision to put their mobile services behind live.mobi."

So how about that Verizon comment then? Unsurprisingly, Edwards is bullish, pointing out that Verizon's 'closed' mobile internet portal doesn't fit with .mobi's philosophy of encouraging better mobile internet sites outside the operators.

"They quoted the junior assistant general counsel of Verizon saying that .mobi's not a good idea. What do you expect?" says Edwards. "That's the company that runs a closed portal! That's their business model. And anyway, she's not the person who's actually making the business decisions."

Moving on, the big challenge for dotMobi now is less about selling more domains – that will be down to resellers – and more about its other aim, of encouraging better mobile internet sites. It's part of what companies sign up to when buying a .mobi domain, and Edwards says that dotMobi will be monitoring all the .mobi sites, and providing diagnostic tools to let people know if their site is up to scratch.

But with over 120,000 registrants, there needs to be more information and assistance out there on how to develop effective mobile sites. Edwards says that dotMobi is working with ten web hosting companies, who are developing hosting and design packages to help people get up and running with their .mobi site.

"A year ago when we built the dotMobi mobile site, we spent $25,000 on it, as there were only three to five companies in Europe who could build a mobile site properly. Now, that same site would cost around $30 or $40. The bottom line is that mobile hosting is now affordable for the average guy on the street. We're also about to launch a big developer program and a user guide on how to do mobile development."

There is one more lot of selling to be done, though. dotMobi has held 5,000 generic .mobi domain names back, including the likes of money.mobi, travel.mobi and cars.mobi (and intruigingly, according to ipwalk, also cocaine.mobi and heroin.mobi). Some of these will be sold through an assessment process, which Edwards says will ensure the sites are reputable and useful for mobile users, while others will be auctioned off to the highest bidder.

"Something like travel.mobi we wouldn't auction off, because we want to make sure it goes to a travel site that provides things like online hotel reservations, and real information," he says. "We'll be asking people about their business capabilities, their technical capabilities, their commitment to the market and making sure they build a good mobile experience based on our standards. But something like travelasia.mobi? We'll put that into an auction."

There's plenty of mileage in the dotMobi debate, but whatever you think of the subject, it can't be denied that companies are buying the .mobi domains, whatever their reasons. It's unsurprising, then, that Edwards comes back to the critics.

"They're not happy because .mobi has proven overnight that we went from having no customers to having 120,000 customers embracing the open standards," he says. "You also can't argue with the fact that 13 mobile companies [dotMobi's investors] who are adamant competitors, came together to solve a problem, rather than developing their own standards. That's how we should be judged."

Posted by Stuart Dredge on October 6, 2006 in Interviews | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Vodafone offers BlackBerry Pearl on its website



As well as O2, it seems that **Vodafone is also offering the BlackBerry Pearl**, with pre-orders being taken on the company's website.

Check out our video for a hands-on look at the BlackBerry Pearl. Or if you just want a quick specification, it's got a media player, 1.3 megapixel camera, quad-band GSM/GPRS reception, Bluetooth and push email. The QWERTY keyboard features the SureType prediction system, and there's a trackball control in place of BlackBerry's usual jogwheel.

Price is dependent on contract, ranging from free to £250. No shipping dater as yet.

Vodafone website

Via The Register

Posted by modculture on October 6, 2006 in Mobile phones | PDAs
Permalink | Comments (0)

Get your band featured on FreeBe TV



We featured FreeBe TV from ROK recently - the free mobile TV service over GPRS. It's had a successful start - and they're looking to build on that by **offering new bands the chance to appear on FreeBe TV**.

Bands and indepedendent labels are being asked to send in music videos for the new You-Made-It channel. That channel launches this weekend, adding to the 10 already available. According to Bruce Renny of FreeB TV: "You-Made-It is a mobile version of YouTube whereby people can send us their own clips, comedies, animations short films and music videos and we'll post the best onto the channel so people the world over can enjoy them on their mobiles".

If you want to find out more or send in a clip, visit the FreeB TV website.

Posted by modculture on October 6, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

One Minute Video Review: Nokia 5500

Nokia has today announced the 5500 Music Edition, which is a super-rugged phone for sporty types. The music version features a 512 MB microSD card, a fitness carrying strap, bicycle holder and sports headset. I took a look at the 5500, not getting too worked up about the sport possibilities, instead focussing on the great game you can play whilst you're not out being fit.



Posted by Shiny Media on October 5, 2006 in Mobile phones | Reviews | Video
Permalink | Comments (1)

Nokia propose new mobile wireless standard to rival Buetooth



Nokia are proposing to fast-track a new wireless standard for mobile devices and gadgets that's ten times more energy-efficient than Bluetooth. Called Wibree (no clue as to pronunciation yet), it has been in development for 5 years and Nokia now want to standardise it and roll it out to other manufacturers.

"Our aim is to establish an industry standard faster than ever before by offering an inter-operable solution that can be commercialised and incorporated into products as quickly as possible," said Bob Iannucci of Nokia Research.

The key advantages of Wibree over Bluetooth seem to be the lower power consumption and smaller chip. Data transfer rates are slower, at around 1Mbps, but this may not be an issue in some of the smaller applications Nokia are proposing the technology is used in, such as intelligent watches, health monitors and sport sensors.

Bluetooth has become a worldwide standard particularly in mobile devices, and analysts wonder if this new system can reach the same status. Do we have enough wireless standards already? Nokia seem to think not. It will also be interesting to see if Wibree stays a proprietary format or is released to be an open standard, as Ericsson did with Bluetooth in the early 1990s.

(Via BBC News)

Posted by Andy Merrett on October 4, 2006 in Mobile phones | Wi-Fi
Permalink | Comments (0)

DAB music downloads to get official launch in new year



Back in June we reported a trial of **music downloads via DAB**, being undertaken by the UBC media group in the Midlands, more specifically, via Heart FM. Well, things must have gone well, as the service will be rolled out in beta form this year, with an **official launch in early 2007**.

The idea is that you can download tracks as you hear them, each costing £1.25, but offered as two WMA files. One gies to your phone at 32kbps, with a higher quality 128kbps version accessible to download online. According to The Register, the first handset using the service will be Virgin Mobile's Lobster DAB-enabled phone (pictured).

More details nearer the launch date.

UBC Media Group

Via The Register

Posted by modculture on October 4, 2006 in DAB | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

HSBC and First Direct offer banking via text message



Never worry again if your salary has been paid into the bank - **HSBC and First Direct**, through Monilink (the people behind the Link cash machines), have introduced **mobile banking**, with 24 hour access to banking services via your handset.

To use the service, you obviously need an account with one of the banks, then you download some software. Once registered and authenticated, you'll have secure access to your accounts, wherever you are. You can check your balance, receive statements (on demand or at set times of the month) or top-up your pre-pay mobile. Or for a £2.50 monthly fee, you can receive text alerts - for example telling you

when your salary has been paid in or when your account is heading into the red.

Apart from the £2.50 fee, other charges are 20p per balance enquiry and 25p per mini statement, which will be charged on your mobile phone bill.

HSBC website
First Direct website

Posted by modculture on October 4, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1)

Bluetrek M2 – the Bluetooth headset that changes with your mood


Bluetrek_m2

Bluetrek has a new Bluetooth headset on the market – the **M2** – their smallest earpiece yet and one that can adapt to your style and mood, so the company claims.

The M2 is just 51 x 21 x 13.5mm, weighing just 12g – and smaller has to be better when you've got it stuck round your ear. The promise of a mood-changing headset is actually just interchangeable covers – 4 in total – so you can match your mood or your clothes for that day. Bluetrek suggests black chrome for elegant evenings out – I'd suggest not wearing a headset if you're at such a grand occasion. The M2 offers 9 hours talk time, 11 hours standby and comes with a USB charger cable.

Available now and retailing for around £39.

Bluetrek website

Posted by modculture on October 3, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Sony Ericsson launches Z558 clamshell phone with touch-sensitive display


Sony_z558

Interesting new phone from Sony Ericsson – the **Z558** is a clamshell handset with a touch-sensitive display, along with character recognition, which is in preparation for what the company calls "one-touch" text messaging.

Certainly the image is intriguing – bringing back memories of struggles with an old Palm and stylus (never got the hang of writing on one of those). The tri-band Z558's touchscreen has a 220 x 176, 262,144-colour display, along with a 128 x 36 colour sub-display. There's a 1.3 megapixel camera with 4x digital zoom and 18MB of on-board memory, expandable using Memory Stick Micro (M2) cards. There's also all the phone, messaging, music and gaming you'd expect from Sony Ericsson, along with Bluetooth.

There is Asian character recognition as well as English, with a special version (Z558c) for the Chinese market. The phone is set to ship later this month – whether it will land in the Uk is still not confirmed.

Sony Ericsson website

Via The Register

Posted by modculture on October 3, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1)

Sony Ericsson to open first London retail store

Sony Ericsson is celebrating its fifth anniversary by opening its **first dedicated store on Kensington High Street in central London**, allowing customers to play with the latest phones and accessories "in a relaxed, fun environment".

According to the company, everyone is welcome to pop in and try the latest products, services and applications, with specially trained staff on hand to help, as well as offering demonstrations of the latest technology. But don't



think this is a charitable venture – it's all run in conjunction with Carphone Warehouse, who will doubtless be very keen to get you to sign on the dotted line for a mobile package.

The store opens at the end of November. But if you're not in the UK, don't worry, Sony Ericsson is opening similar retail spaces in the coming months in "key cities throughout the world".

Sony Ericsson website

Posted by modculture on October 3, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Review: MobileWear bluetooth watch

The Propaganda

Fossil make watches. Sony Ericsson make phones. Together they make.... phone watches. This is their partnership answer to Motorola and Oakley who created the O-Rokr shades. The MobileWear watch uses Bluetooth to connect to your phone, displaying vital info on the screen in the clock face. So is it a better deal than the not-so-lovely shades?

The Good

Unlike certain other partnerships that we could name, this watch actually looks like a watch. It's adapted from a number of existing Fossil watches, and to look at it you wouldn't notice anything amiss. There are two buttons on the side which control the Bluetooth functions, as well as a winding wheel to set the time.

To pair with your phone, it's simply a case of choosing the relevant icon and pairing it. Couldn't be easier. The icons are simple and just give you the ability to pair, turn the Bluetooth on and off (so it can just act as a normal watch) and choose whether you want to receive alerts for messages.

Once you've paired it the fun really starts. Receiving a phone call means you'll be alerted via a discreet vibration from the watch. You've then got scrolling text on the screen which alerts you who's calling. You can also reject the call from the phone, in which case the call goes to voicemail. There's also a vibration each time you get a message, and a little envelope icon is displayed.

The Bad

The watch is a chunky metal affair, and is likely to only be attractive to 50% of the population. The strap can either be metal or rubber, but either way, it's not going to set female hearts a-racing.

The functionality is great to begin with, but I was unable to secure a connection after about 30 minutes of use. This might be due to the battery power being low, or the fact that it was an early production sample, but either way, it didn't work.

It's a Sony Ericsson product, so does in fact only work with Sony Ericsson phones. This is contrary to many other Bluetooth devices which connect to everything, despite being made by one particular manufacturer.

In our opinion

When it works, it's fun. There are elements that would make it even more James Bond, such as being able to answer calls from your phone, or text messages being displayed on the screen rather than just an alert that they're on your phone. It's £150 from Widget.co.uk so not a cheap accessory, but you'll pay a large percentage of that for a Fossil watch anyway.



Posted by Shiny Media on October 2, 2006 in Gadgets | Mobile phones | Reviews
Permalink | Comments (0)

Monday interview: mobile advertising expert Russell Buckley



Mobile advertising is going to be increasingly high-profile in the next few years. And I don't mean Crazy Frog or those baffling Phones 4 U TV commercials. Advertising on your mobile has so far been largely restricted to annoying spam text messages – the sort that often arrive at 3am. But that's going to change, with mobile operators and content companies keen to make extra revenue, and big brands eager to find a way of reaching the young consumes who've been deserting print and TV in their droves.

One company that's already doing rather well from mobile advertising – without a spam SMS in sight – is AdMob. The company places simple text adverts on WAP sites, and is picking up some big clients. The company recently appointed Russell Buckley to be its managing director in Europe.

Buckley is something of a mobile advertising expert, being one half of the team behind the respected MobHappy blog, which covers all aspects of mobile technology. I talked to him about the new job, and how he sees mobile advertising developing.

"I've been involved in mobile marketing for the last six years, but now's an exciting time," says Buckley. "It's the first time we've seen something that really works. When we run an ad, people are clicking on it, with a response rate of up to seven or eight percent sometimes, and we're driving sales directly off it."



AdMob basically hooks up companies who want to advertise on mobile phones, with publishers of mobile Internet sites, and then arranges to place text-only adverts, with links, on the latter's sites. The company has over 150 advertisers, and its network of publishers serves more than 300 million mobile page views a month, including sites from small WAP startups through to huge global brands like MTV.

"It's great for targeting," says Buckley. "For a start, the people who see these ads are already using WAP, so it's not like people seeing an advert in The Sun saying 'go to this WAP site', but they haven't got the right settings. And we can also target the ads by country, by operator, and by handset make and platform. So if you want to advertise to, say, all people with Symbian Nokia phones in the UK, we can do that."

Isn't WAP old hat, though? It was hyped as being whizzier than it actually was, and then everyone lost interest. Buckley agrees, but crucially says this was just the short-term reaction. He cites a theory coined by analyst firm Gartner, called the Hype Cycle, which described what happens when a technology is launched, overhyped, becomes unfashionable, and then gradually becomes popular again as people actually start using it.

That's a simplification, mind – the actual theory uses high-falutin' analyst terms like 'Trough of Disillusionment', 'Slope of Enlightenment' and 'Plateau of Productivity'. Whatever you call it, it happened to WAP, which is now edging towards that plateau.

"It's probably where we were with SMS in 1999," says Buckley. "It's under the radar, but an awful lot of people, and particularly kids, are using it."

He also compares the current mobile internet to the early days of the Web, when people were looking for new sites to visit. Many of AdMob's advertisers are themselves WAP publishers, so trying to attract people by advertising elsewhere. Handset manufacturers and mobile content firms are also advertising – Nokia is one of AdMob's clients – but interestingly, Buckley says the most popular WAP sites right now aren't always those run by the biggest brands.

"Some of the bigger names on our network haven't got all that much traffic in comparison to these new upstarts," he says. "It's like when the Internet came along, and traditional publishers were very slow to catch on, so allowed big brands like Yahoo and Google to develop. It will be interesting to see if that pattern's repeated on mobile. The upstart brands are already pulling in huge traffic, probably bigger than the Yahoos from the internet world. These companies could be the Googles and Yahoos of tomorrow."

Most of AdMob's traffic comes from Europe, which Buckley says has been quicker on the uptake for WAP than elsewhere. However, it's not just about the UK by any means. AdMob's five top markets are South Africa, India, the



UK, the US and Israel, with South Africa by some way the biggest. Buckley thinks European mobile operators can learn from it, as data traffic is cheap there, which has spurred many more people to use their phones for browsing.

"If you make data a fixed-price and cheap, growth explodes," he says. "It helps in some of these countries, like India, that the penetration of PCs isn't as high, so people use their phones. And of course, people speak English there, and most of the big global WAP sites right now are in English."

Right now, few people would complain about text adverts on a WAP page. But how will mobile advertising develop? Several companies are already looking at the next step, for example more graphically rich banner ads. Buckley says AdMob could do this now, but is waiting, as most mobile users aren't on fixed-data plans. In other words, they pay for every kilobyte of data they use, which isn't a problem for a couple of lines of text, but could be an issue once adverts become banners.

"The last thing we want in this marketplace is for someone to start pumping rich media down peoples' phones in advertising form, and pumping up their phone bills as a result," he says. "For now, we know that text links work, people are happy to click on them, and they get high responses. Why try to run marketing campaigns that are the equivalent of slapping them in the face with a wet fish? We shouldn't be looking at the aggressive advertising techniques which became prevalent in the initial bubble of the internet."



One way mobile advertising is developing fast is in the area of search, with mobile operators scrambling to sign deals with the likes of Google and Yahoo to incorporate web-like search on their phones. AdMob is working with Google on a contextual search service, so that its advertisers can include their ads for people searching for certain keywords through Google. But Buckley seems unconvinced in general.

"My personal view is that search seems to be seen by everybody as being as important on the mobile as it is on the Web," he says. "I don't actually think it will be. It's still important and relevant, but not quite in the same way as the Web. You can't just cram Web-based ideas onto mobile. It works sometimes, but more often needs radical rethinking, not just tweaking. You have to approach mobile with a blank sheet of paper."

Having seen Nokia make a splash this week with its new N95 handset - the first mainstream phone to feature fully-fledged GPS integrated into the phone - does this offer opportunities for advertising? Location-based advertising has been an industry buzzword for a while now, without any clear signs of people making money from it.

Buckley thinks location is a huge opportunity on mobile, but thinks it's in the middle of that cycle of disillusionment referred to earlier, particularly in the minds of the mobile operators.

"A lot of them have written it off, because all their trials have been engineering-led rather than usability-led," he says. "If the application is 'where's my nearest cash machine?', of course it won't work. You can do that by walking 100 yards in any direction in a built-up area. 'Find my nearest garage?' Who cares?!"



Instead, Buckley's more excited about some of the newer location-based mobile applications which blend elements of social networking. He cites Loopt, a company for whom he has consulted, as a good example, which enables you to see your friends' physical locations on a map, and send them messages. He says that for kids in particular, it may even be a reason to change their operator, to ensure they're not left out if a group of friends adopts it.

"Can that be overlaid by some form of advertising? Yes, but the complexities of doing it are a bit mind-boggling," he says. "That doesn't mean it can't be done, but for a startup it's challenging. Say you're standing outside Charing Cross station. You might receive an advert for a nearby Internet cafe, but it's

difficult to scale. If you walk 300 yards down the road, you might not get any adverts."

The thing that everybody forgets about location-based services, thinks Buckley, is time. That internet cafe may want to serve an advert up to you at 10am, when it's quiet, but they probably wouldn't want to in peak times like lunchtime.

"It adds complexity, as a lot of advertisers won't want to advertise 100% of the time," he says. "The time element is something people always forget. But I'm not saying it's impossible to work these issues out.

Posted by Stuart Dredge on October 2, 2006 in Interviews | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (2)

Samsung X830 stylish swivel music phone



Samsung have revealed their X830 music phone with a swivel design that's just a little different to the current crop of clams and sliders. It's pretty compact, measuring up at under 2cm wide by 8.4cm long, with a depth of 3cm.

Aimed at the mobile music lover, it features a 1GB flash memory and is able to play MP3, AAC and WMA files. It has click-wheel navigation and an internal music library so you can sort and play your music tracks as you wish.

There's a 1.3 megapixel camera built in - no news on whether it has any extras like optical or digital zoom. There's also Bluetooth for syncing and sharing photos.

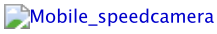
It's available in glossy black, white or... oh look, more pink. Want some hype? Ender Yavas, Head of Product Management at Samsung Mobile said: "The Samsung X830 is perfect for any fashion conscious music lover. It effortlessly combines style and functionality and is a great phone to look at and to use. Now there's no need to spend your money both on a fashion phone and a music player- the Samsung X830 has got everything you need."

It should be available this month and is being offered up to O2, Orange, Carphone Warehouse and Phones4U on both contract and pre-pay. Price? We'll keep you posted.

Samsung

Posted by Andy Merrett on October 2, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Road Angel Mobile - locate speed cameras with your mobile phone



Whatever your feelings towards speed cameras, they're unlikely to go away - and ignoring them could be the end of your driving licence. A number of sat nav systems have started to add software to locate cameras, but now you can add it to your phone, courtesy of **Road Angel Mobile**.

Road Angel Mobile enables compatible smartphones to warn you of various hazards, such as fixed and mobile camera positions, average speed monitoring areas, accident blackspots, primary school locations and congestion charging zones. Whenever a potential hazard approaches, Road Angel Mobile provides visible and audible alerts to get your attention. It runs on most Nokia handsets using Symbian Series 60 2nd Edition (check here for compatible handsets). In addition, to provide the application with the satellite signal needed, you'll need to use a suitable Bluetooth GPS receiver, such as the Holux GPSlim 236 or GR230.

You can download it for a limited period for free, with the price rising to £5 at the end of October. In addition, there are data charges of £1.50 per week, charged to your handset.

Find out more

Posted by modculture on October 2, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1)

Samsung FX media phone with 5.1 channel audio



Samsung has launched another handset in South Korea that we may or may not see in some form, going under the name of the **FX**.

It's a slider at just 1.9cm thick and with phone and PDA functionality, along with Wi-Fi, digital TV reception and 5.1-channel audio. There's also a 2.4-inch colour screen, front-mounted VGA camera and a two megapixel camera on the back. It features all the call and media playback facilities you'd expect, and of course, with virtual 5.1 audio support, one you wouldn't. According to Samsung, the phone can mix the audio into two channels for a better-sounding stereo experience. Storage of media is on the phone or via Micro SD cards.

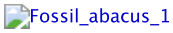
No news as yet of it coming to Europe - we'll keep you posted.

Samsung website

Via The Register

Posted by modculture on September 29, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Fossil's Abacus Bluetooth watch



So, what's the difference between the **Fossil Abacus Bluetooth watch** and the Sony Ericsson MBW-100 Bluetooth watch we featured yesterday? Both are made by Fossil and both feature technology from Sony Ericsson to connect to your mobile phone. However, there's a marked difference in looks - and this one retails for around £50 cheaper.

The Abacus was developed from one of Fossil's bestselling analogue watches. In terms of functionality, it seems very similar to the MBW-100, with auto-pairing to your phone to offer caller ID information on your wrist (and the ability to reject a call) via an OLED screen, along with notification of incoming texts by vibration. There's an out of range warning if your phone and watch separate, time/date from your phone and it's water resistant up to 3m. The battery lasts for around 7 days before it needs a charge via AC adapter or USB.

Available in two styles, with a stainless steel case and bracelet or with a stainless steel case and black PU strap. Both retail at £149.99. Check your phone will pair with it before buying.

Find out more

Posted by modculture on September 29, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Vodafone launches cut-price Pay As You Talk deals



Vodafone is launching new sets of tariffs from 1st October - **Anynet and Anytime** - which removes higher call rates to other networks, with call charges to any network from 10p per minute and texts from 3p.

The 10p call price is for evenings and weekends, whille the text rate is only applicable if you buy a 500 text pack, which retails for £15. The prices will work in conjunction with Free Weekends and Vodafone Stop the Clock offers. In addition, you'll also receive 10% back when you buy a top-up card by credit or debit card worth £15 or more.

All new customers activating after 1st October will go onto the new plans, whilst other customers can switch by calling 2345.

Vodafone website

Posted by modculture on September 29, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Sony Ericsson announces K320i - the businessman's snapshot camera phone



Sony Ericsson today announced the arrival of the **K320i**, which it describes as a "snapshot camera phone", with enough business-friendly features to make it useful for the working week.

As a business tool, the K320i includes PC synchronisation straight out of the box, support for push email, a full (HTML) web browser and storage for up to 1,000 contacts. And if you've got some time off, the K320i also offers a camera with 4x digital zoom (amazingly, only VGA), along with a media player for music and video playback on the 1.8-inch UBC (Ultra Bright Colour) screen. However, internal storage is just 15MB, with mo mention of being able to expand this.

It's a Bluetooth handset and one of the first Sony Ericsson phones to feature Automatic Bluetooth pairing, which allows you to easily connect with a compatible Bluetooth accessory (like a headset) without the need to enter a pass code when first linking the two devices.

The K320i is available in Misty Silver, Graphite Grey and Light Brown and will be available from October 2006. Pricing dependent on contract.

Sony Ericsson website

Posted by modculture on September 28, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Sony Ericsson launches MBW-100 Bluetooth watch



Sony Ericsson, in assocation with Fossil has introduced the **MBW-100 Bluetooth watch**, a mobile accessory/fashion item that allows you to keep in touch with your phones functionality as easily as checking the time.

As an analogue watch, it's certainly a looker, crafted from high quality (and scratch-resistant) stainless steel with a silver facia. It's also water-resistant up to 30m. But it's the Bluetooth functionality that's the big selling point. An OLED display beneath the watch face displays who is calling when a call is incoming. A simple key press on the watch can reject the call. You can also control your music from the watch (play, pause and skip tracks), get notification of text messages and there's out-of-range notification when you are separated from your phone.

There's also a battery level indicator, with Bluetooth functionality good for seven days between charges, with the time going for a further seven days after that. The watch will auto-pair with the following Sony Ericsson phones - K610, K610i, K618, K790, K800, V630, W710, W850, Z610, Z710.

Available in time for Christmas, it should retail for around 300 Euros (around £203).

Sony Ericsson website

Posted by modculture on September 28, 2006 in Gadgets | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Vodafone to launch own brand 3G handset - Vodafone 710 clamshell



Vodafone is the latest company to launch an own-brand phone - in this case the new **Vodafone 710 3G clamshell handset**, which will be the **first in a series of own-brand models**.

China's Huawei Technologies will supply the Vodafone 710 clamshell phone. "The move will assist the uptake of 3G services, due to the lower cost per handset and the fact that the Vodafone 710 will be offered on prepay as well as contract, and will provide wide market access to 3G," Vodafone said in a statement.

"White label" phones can typically cost a third less than those sourced from more established handset brands - and they give operators greater

flexibility to customise the phones to their own services. Details so far released on the 710 indicate it features an MP3 music player, a 1.3 megapixel camera and Bluetooth. The launch is expected next month.

Vodafone website

Via Reuters

Posted by modculture on September 28, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Yay or Nay: Nokia N95



This week's Yay or Nay Wednesday is the just announced Nokia N95 (watch Katie's NY preview).

It's a monster-featured multimedia phone/camera/music player with all manner of communication possibilities, with Bluetooth, HSDPA, GPS amongst others.

What do you reckon. Is it hot or not?

Posted by Andy Merrett on September 27, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (5)

Wednesday interview: Michael Kornhauser of ALK on why satnav is going mobile



Could the next killer app for mobile phones be satellite navigation? ALK certainly hopes so. The company has been selling its CoPilot Live application for PDAs and smartphones for some time now, but in the latter case it's always been dependent on a separate GPS receiver, which connects to your phone using Bluetooth.

However, developments like GPS-enabled phones and HSDPA networks point to a bright future for mobile satnav, and other location-based services. ALK has certainly come a long way since the 1970s, when it was working with the US government computing routes from Earth to Mars.

"From the start, we've been providing consulting, services or applications that help people get from A to B," says managing director Michael Kornhauser. "Now it's happening on mobiles."



"In the mid-1990s, we took it a step further by attacing a GPS receiver to a laptop computer," says Kornhauser. "At the time, the laptop was the only entity available that had the computing power and memory to do satellite navigation. But we always had a view to ultimately reduce that in size for mobile phones."

From the early days of its CoPilot product, ALK was working closely with Microsoft on the latter's handheld platforms, initially WinCE and then Pocket PC. ALK was to launch the first mobile edition of CoPilot for the Cassiopeia PDA. From there, the company has developed its CoPilot Live product for smartphones, and according to Kornhauser is looking to extend that to more

mass-market phones. He also says that CoPilot Live has been built with mobile in mind.

"A lot of navigation systems are either on-board, where all the data is stored on the system, or off-board, where you effectively dial up to a server," he says. "CoPilot Live is something we call hybrid-compliant, so it takes advantage of the tremendous computing power on these smartphones and the diving cost of smart memory, to do all the computing and map storage on-board, but goes off-board for value-added services and other elements of navigation."

How does this work? Well, in most cities, street-level map data doesn't change that much, but information like traffic conditions, weather, speed camera placement is more dynamic, so more suited to being pulled down over-the-air. So how else does a product like CoPilot change between platforms? Is it essentially the same application on mobile as it is on a laptop?

"A lot of the guts are the same, and the product has similar functionality and overall look and feel," says Kornhauser. "But the UI is tweaked fairly significantly for each device. On a tablet, you have up to a 15-inch screen, so you can have a lot more information on there. But then on a Pocket PC, and even more so on a smartphone, it's imoprtant that the information is simple to understand, concise, to the point and can be understood at a glance."



So who uses this stuff, and who picks the mobile over the tablet version and vice versa? According to Kornhauser, the laptop and tablet PC versions of CoPilot Live don't sell that well in Europe, but are popular in the US with people who own camper-vans, as well as professional truckers - who may even go for the fully-fledged FleetCenter version (left). Meanwhile, smaller businesses tend to go for the PDA version, while the smartphone edition appeals more to regular punters.

"We're seeing more and more devices with these capabilities," he says. "It's not just enterprise users who have smartphones any more. Devices like the Nokia N73 and Sony Ericsson W950 are great examples. They're powerful smartphones, yet they also have great cameraphones and video or music capabilities too."

Two big trends that could make mobile satnav more common in the next year are GPS in phones, and HSDPA networks. Nokia's announcement of the N95 yesterday is sure to be the first of many GPS-enabled handsets, which removes the need to have a Bluetooth-connected GPS receiver to use applications like CoPilot Live.



"It's an absolute killer for us," says Kornhauser. "Take a look at the satnav market to date. In Europe, the big push for PDA navigation came when it was first put into a bundle in 2004. Then when that petered off a little bit, the GPS receiver got put into the device itself, and there was another big uptake. It's about having less things to buy, less things to power, and it's cheaper, which naturally gets it out to more people. And we see the same happening in the smartphone market."

Meanwhile, handsets like the N95 are also likely to work on faster HSDPA networks. Kornhauser says it's feasible for someone living in, say, Munich to have the surrounding 50 miles of data stored on their device, but when they travel somewhere else, they'll be served the additional local data directly over the air. "You can do those kind of advancements if you can get five to six megabytes of data down to the handset in a reasonable time," he says.

So where do the mobile operators fit in, if at all? Will they launch their own navigation services, or partner with people like ALK, or just keep out of the market altogether? Kornhauser seems to think the second option is most likely, with operators charging customers a set fee per month for, say, traffic information which can be overlaid onto a phone's mapping software. It does seem that there's scope for more of what he calls "value-added services" with this kind of satnav technology.

"We're taking it from something you just use when you're lost or on holiday, to something you use every day in various different aspects of your life," he says. "So you might be using the speed camera information, or getting walking directions when you're not in your car, or getting other location-

based content, or route-based content as we would call it. From ALK's perspective, it's not about finding stuff around where you are, but around where you're going. We know where you're going, how we're going to get you there, so we can serve various bits of relevant information along that way."

Posted by Stuart Dredge on September 27, 2006 in Interviews | Mobile phones | Satellite Navigation systems
Permalink | Comments (0)

Jajah launches Mobile Suite VoIP service - up to 86% saving on international calls from your mobile



Jajah, already known for their home phone VoIP service, has today launched a new VoIP service for all mobile handsets - the **Jajah Mobile Suite** - which promises savings of up to 86% on international calls and again, without the need to be connected to a PC.

As an example of the savings, the company says a 10 minute call from London to New York with the Jajah Mobile Suite will cost £1.10, compared to £12.90 with Vodafone, £1.50 with Orange, £7.00 with T-Mobile and £9.90 with O2. You can get the deal by downloading a plug-in from the Jajah website or by sending an SMS. The plug-in will allow the service to operate on any mobile phone, regardless of geography, service or manufacturer.

Overall savings are obviously dictated by how much you're currently paying for calls, but are greater if both you and the person you're calling have the plug-in installed. And the cost of each call is clearly displayed before the call is made, so you can make sure you are making a saving.

Find out more at the Jajah website

Posted by modculture on September 27, 2006 in Mobile phones | VoiP
Permalink | Comments (0)

textandsell - buy and sell on the net with your mobile phone



Just launched is a new classified service under the name of **textandsell**, which, as you might have guessed, uses the mobile phone to place adverts on the internet.

Here's how - take a photo of the item you wish to sell with your phone. They then add text that describes the item and desired sales price. Text the photo with details to the textandsell number - 07740 827827. The cost is the cost of a premium-rate text, which is initially £1.50 for ad advert lasting two weeks. According to Tobi Hardy, co-founder of textandsell: "Our service combines ease of use and access with modern technology and low cost of entry. For all ages it has never been quicker, easier or cheaper to sell your stuff."

Will it dent eBay? I'm not convinced to be honest, but you can have a look for yourself and make your own mind up at the textandsell website.

Find out more

Posted by modculture on September 27, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

T-Mobile offers Motorola KRZR K1 and exclusive champagne Samsung E870

Two new mobiles available from **T-Mobile** in the UK - the **Motorola KRZR K1** and the **Samsung E870** in an exclusive champagne colour.

First up is the **KRZR K1**, previewed here back in July and offered by T-Mobile with web'n'walk - which means full internet on the handset. It's got the looks, with a deep blue glass-reflective finish and a decent set of features, including a 2 megapixel digital camera with 8x digital zoom, video capture and playback, MP3 player and an external memory slot for storing and sharing. The music player can also connect to an optional stereo Bluetooth headset while 'Airplane mode' lets you listen to music with the phone

Motorola_k1

switched off. The Motorola KRZR K1 costs from free on a T-Mobile pay monthly plan or £299.99 on pay-as-you-go.

Samsung_e870

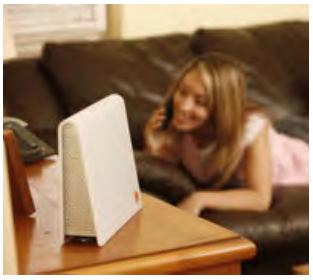
Also in T-Mobile stores is the exclusive **Samsung E870 Champagne handset**. It's a fashion-friendly clamshell handset with an MP3 player (compatible with AAC/AAC+/eAAC+ and WMA formats), a 1.3 megapixel camera, 80MB of storage (expandable via a card slot), Bluetooth, dual colour displays and an unusual TV out function, which allows easy transfer of all files tp a projector for display on a TV or PC.

As well as the champagne colour, you can also get this in white, with prices from free and up to £199.99, dependent on price plan. It's also avaailable now.

T-Mobile website

Posted by modculture on September 27, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1)

Orange launches the Unique phone - one handset for home and mobile calls



Orange has today launched the **Unique phone** - the company's first converged service, offering the benefits of **fixed-line and mobile in one handset** to customers in the UK, France, the Netherlands, Spain and Poland. The first handsets compatible with the service are the Motorola A910, Nokia 6136 and the Samsung P200.

The idea is simple - have a single phone for all your needs, with one number, one address book and one bill. At home, the handset connects by Wi-Fi mode to the Orange Livebox, with calls routed via the net. And outside the Wi-Fi network, it functions on a mobile network. You can move between the mobile and home networks without interrupting your conversation - a call made at home automatically switches over to the Orange mobile network when you leave the house, with a symbol on the phone's screen informing you of the network you're connected to.

Each home can have up to six Unique phones, with three people able to make calls or surf the net at the same time. Because it uses the Orange Livebox to route calls at home, Unique phone also offers enhanced coverage and faster access to Orange mobile data services including Orange World, picture and video messaging, mobile email and the mobile internet. And there's unlimited free calls at home to Orange mobiles and landlines.

UK customers can pre-register for the service now, with the first units available in November.

Find out more

Posted by modculture on September 25, 2006 in Mobile phones | VoiP
Permalink | Comments (0)

Review: O2 Ice phone

The Propaganda

The Ice phone is the O2 branded phone, which comes with all their 3G bells and whistles. With it's smooth white casing, they're after the fashion buyers, who would otherwise be after a slim Motorola or chic LG Chocolate.

It's available free on contract and on pay as you go, where it'll set you back £99.99. It comes with a free bluetooth headset in both cases.

The Good



3G is often only added on to some serious handsets, which are noteable for their chunky design and complicated spec (although this is changing with the Samsung Ultra range). O2 are aiming theirs at an entirely different market, which is reflected in their partnerships with the likes of Ebay and Streetmap. It's not designed to be compatable with their WAP i-mode service, though.

The 3G capabilities are immediately evident on the design of the phone. There's a camera on the front and the back, the first for video calling and the second for taking photos. Whether said video calling will ever really be used, we've yet to find out, but it's there for those that want it.

It also features Bluetooth, as well as a MicroSD slot. This is essential to take advantage of the media player capabilities, which can play video and music. It's not a key feature of the phone, as you need to enter the main menu in order to get into it, but again, it's there for those who want it.

The simplicity of the design is echoed in the menu. There are only 9 options, with a simple grid icon display, although this can be changed. For those who want 3G without a million other option this will work well.

The Bad

The design is a key seller for this phone, but when you actually get it out of the box, it's a huge disappointment. The white plastic looks tacky, whilst the candybar styling makes it look like a remote control - a phone masquerading as a tacky remote is not going to be a massive seller. However, this is a complete Marmite phone - some people love it, whilst others hate it, so I'm willing to admit when I'm wrong should this go ahead and be the most popular phone ever sold.

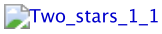
O2 seem to have sacrificed a lot of other functions in the quest to make this a simple 3G phone. There's no shortcuts, except to the contact list, so you find yourself spending a lot of time going through the menu in order to get to what you want. The camera is also only 1.3 megapixels, and you experience a shutter lag of about 2 seconds, so be prepared for some blurry shots.

The other thing that ensured I'd never use this phone out of choice was the selection of ringtones. I was left mortified every time it rang, having decided that a circus tone was the least offensive of those offered.

The big services they're pushing with this phone is Ebay and Streetmap. I have to say that despite only having a small screen, the Streetmaps did appear easier to read than on many other devices, with the maps being adjusted so you could get a proper idea of where you were. However, for the amount of effort they've put into plugging the Ebay service I was expecting more. Yes, you can enter th 'My Ebay' section and check on your auctions, but that's as far as it goes. There's no way of bidding on anything, which makes it pretty useless in my eyes. I can't imagine much worse than being able to check to see you've been outbid and then being able to do absolutely sod all about it.

In our opinion

The combination of the design with the lack of features and the awful ringtones means this isn't a phone that I'll be pocketing any time soon. However, what I see as a lack of features others will see as a simple user interface, and the design will appeal to others as being clean and curvy. However, even with these differences, O2's 3G service isn't enough of a draw for this to be chosen in that most competitive of markets, the mobile one.



Posted by Shiny Media on September 25, 2006 in Mobile phones | Reviews
Permalink | Comments (2)

Friday interview: Rok's Bruce Renny talks mobile VoIP

It's part two of Tech Digest's interview with Bruce Renny from ROK. Following Wednesday's focus on FreeBeTV, the company's new mobile TV service, today it's time to talk about Viper, which ROK launched a couple of weeks ago touting it as a "free mobile VoIP" service.

However, it's since come in for some criticism online, for not being the over-the-air VoIP solution that you might expect, but instead letting you make calls from your mobile phone via Bluetooth to an internet-connected computer.



"All the system turns out to be is software that makes certain mobile phones glorified Bluetooth headsets for a PC-based VoIP network. So yeah, it's mobile, as long as you're within Bluetooth range of a PC that's within range of a broadband connection," said MobHappy, while The Inquirer pointed out that the service doesn't yet support that many Bluetooth phones. Still, Renny is bullish about the potential of Viper, and its implications for the mobile industry.

First, the basics. You can download the Viper application from ROK's website, and to use it you need a Bluetooth-enabled phone and PC. It's true that currently, it only works with six Nokia handsets – the 6630, 6680, 6681, 6682, N70 and N90 – although Renny says this will be expanded to 100 handsets by Christmas. So what's the big idea?



"We're all conscious of the phenomenon of Skype, which has signed up 100 million people worldwide with barely any advertising," he says. "It's a phenomenon, but it's clunky. Skype requires you to be wired to your PC. Our idea is to make mobile VoIP available via Bluetooth. Your Bluetooth handset directs your mobile call to your PC, routes that to whoever you're calling, and it pops out of their PC via Bluetooth."

The application is free to download, and Viper-to-Viper calls are free. Renny pitches one use as business travellers when abroad, using the service via their laptops to avoid roaming charges. Surely they'll just take a Skype headset and use that with their laptop? But ROK's view is that the freedom to roam around their hotel room, as well as not having to pack an extra device, will persuade users.

Another downside of the service as it launched is the inability to call non-Viper users. "Down the road, we'll be introducing that," says Renny. "A Viper-to-non-Viper call will cost a fraction of the operators' call charges. Something like 2p a minute. But we're hoping like Skype, people will pro-actively viral this to their friends, families and business contacts."

Since Viper launched two weeks ago, Renny says the application has been downloaded over 6,000 times, with 1,500 active users already, and 90,000 visitors to the website (many of whom presumably discovered their phone wasn't yet supported). It's fair to say that right now, Viper is an early-adopter thing, although ROK wants this to change.

"The trick is to make it user-friendly," says Renny. "We don't expect everyone to have a PhD in computer electronics. If a 45-year-old housewife can use it without any particular instructions, then it is consumer-friendly. Our UI is improving all the time, and we're asking for feedback. We don't know all the answers, and we're honest about that. So all the technical feedback, good bad or indifferent, is giving us a broader perspective on what we need to do."

So then, about these criticisms that the service isn't truly 'mobile' VoIP, because it relies on the Bluetooth connectivity to a PC? Surely the way this is heading is towards mobile VoIP applications which either use phones' Wi-Fi connectivity to connect wirelessly to a home network or hotspot, or which even use the mobile network itself?

"Without a doubt this is leading to over-the-air," says Renny. "ROK Skunkworks, as I like to call our in-house development people, are working hard on it. There's various blocks though. Quite often a Wi-Fi zone is owned by a particular brand, so you often have to pay to access it. But it is inevitable that to a greater or lesser extent, we will see mobile VoIP where you just dial, and it goes straight from your handset via Wi-Fi to the internet."

Can ROK launch this kind of technology soon enough though? After all, everyone's waiting to see whether Skype comes out with a mass-market mobile client that a decent proportion of those 100 million subscribers can use, while there are other VoIP companies targeting mobile with Wi-Fi clients. Part of the reason ROK has launched Viper so early, with limited handset support, seems to be to head off this competition.

"There's a land grab now, generating customer loyalty and stickiness," he says. "If it works, why change? You can't get any cheaper than free. Also, we did a comparison with existing mobile VoIP services, and there always seems to be a string attached. You've got to buy another service, or preinstall some money to open an account online, or send a premium-rate text in order to open the application. You wouldn't accept a free ice cream if you had to pay £1 for the cone, so why should that be true of mobile VoIP?"

ROK plans to make its money from the Viper-to-non-Viper calls, when that feature is launched, taking a slice of the 2p a minute calling charges. So

what about the mobile operators? If they were blind to the threat of mobile VoIP in the past, surely they're catching on now? Renny says he divides operators into three camps.

The first he labels the "arrogant" operators, who plan to launch their own broadband-mobile convergance VoIP services, and assume that their subscribers will use those. The second he labels the "myopic" operators, who still don't see VoIP as a threat, so are sticking their heads in the sand and hoping the issue goes away.

"And then the third camp are the ones who are pro-actively addressing this," he says. "If the networks don't sell these Wi-Fi-enabled phones in their stores, you can bet the public will buy them online. You can't put the genie back in the bottle on that one. Wi-Fi handsets are here and growing fast."

It remains to be seen what this third group of operators will do exactly. But what's ROK's next move, following FreeBeTV and Viper? Here's a prediction: the company will launch some kind of instant messaging client for phones. Listen to Renny's not-so-guarded hints.

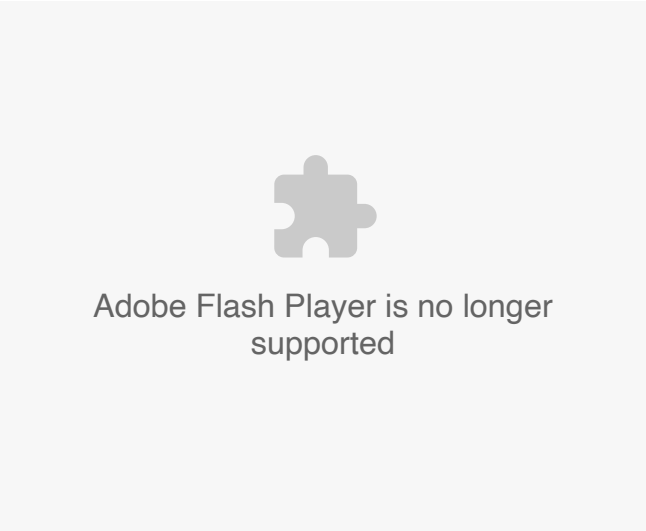
"Through our research and focus groups, we see that kids think text is too slow, and want an alternative like instant messaging," he says. "A technology will be launched imminently, whether by ROK or somebody else, which will allow IM on the mobile for free. And ROK loves to offer stuff for free... It's very difficult to compete against, no matter how big you are. If someone is prepared to give ice cream away, the established ice cream vendors will suffer."

Read Part 1 of Tech Digest's Bruce Renny interview

Posted by Stuart Dredge on September 22, 2006 in Interviews | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

One Minute Video Review: Motorola Razr Maxx

I took a look at the Motorola Razr maxx, together with a bit of help from Duran Duran. It's not in the shops yet, so we'll keep you updated on pricing.



Posted by Shiny Media on September 22, 2006 in Mobile phones | Video
Permalink | Comments (0)

Wednesday interview: Bruce Renny of ROK on free mobile TV



I've seen the future, and it's monkeys reading the news. Honest. I saw it on FreeBeTV, a new mobile TV service from ROK which launched last week. Monkey News Network (MNN for short) is one of the five launch channels on the service - the others have less monkeys but more extreme sports, comedy, cartoons and movies.

It capped a busy period for ROK, which launched its Viper mobile Voice-over-IP service the week before, taking aim at operator call charges by allowing people to make internet calls if they're in range of a computer with Bluetooth.

ROK's marketing director Bruce Renny has plenty to say on both subjects, so I'm splitting the interview into two parts. Today deals with the mobile TV side, while on Friday I'll follow up with the VoIP area.



FreeBeTV has its roots in the ROK Player, a technology launched by the company three years ago to squeeze content – mainly films and music albums – onto memory cards, which could then be played on mobile phones.

The company patented its compression and copy-protection technologies, and then developed them into a streaming mobile TV service called ROK TV, which was designed to work on 2.5G phones over a GPRS connection, rather than just 3G.

"Our 2.5G service performs better than any 3G service out there," says Renny. "It's full-screen, and has a higher frame-rate than any 3G service. But it's purely a showcase: our shop window to the operators around the world, who want to offer a mobile TV service to their customers without restricting it to 3G users."

However, FreeBeTV is ROK's full-scale attempt to launch a mobile TV service directly to mobile users, rather than via the operators. Renny says the company has learned plenty of lessons from its work with operators, about how people watch mobile TV.

"It's three minutes per session, three times a day," he says. "That's the typical behaviour. People want short, sharp bursts of information. Half the hits are for live news and sports updates, and the other half is content like music videos. This has large implications for the mobile TV space going forward. Broadcast TV, where you stream live-to-air channels in full, may not fit with this 3x3 viewing model."

He cites Coronation Street as an example, claiming that people are far less likely to watch a whole half-hour episode on their phone than they are to watch edited highlights of the previous show. However, he admits that it's still early days to work out what will be popular on mobile TV, including whether it will be dominated by existing shows, or new stuff.

"Brand names are important for credibility, particularly when it comes to news and sports," he says. "But there's also a fantastic opportunity to create entirely new brands with made-for-mobile content. I would like to see people experimenting with new content formats. Think of independent record labels, who could do something really imaginative if they really take the mobile space seriously."



ROK is also launching its own channels on FreeBeTV. Hence Monkey News Network, where a Reuters news feed is filtered through a text-to-speech application developed in-house, and then read out by a lip-synching chimpanzee. Oh, and the sports reporter is a gorilla. "It's completely deadpan," says Renny. "They're reading serious news stories, so it has to be. Will people prefer to watch CNN or monkey news? I just don't know. It's all experimental."

ROK also wants to launch a user-generated channel called You Made It, which will operate along the same lines as 3 UK's See Me TV. People will send in their cameraphone video clips, and ROK will edit them into a coherent channel. FreeBeTV was announced on Friday, and Renny says so far over 4,000 people have downloaded the application, and it's got well in excess of 1,000 actual viewers. The service supports around a dozen handsets at the moment, although this will expand.

The big problem with FreeBeTV is that it's off-portal, meaning that while you don't pay for the service itself, you do have to pay your operator data charges, which for many contracts are charged by the megabyte.

So in an average example, where your operator charges, say, £2.35 per megabyte of data you use, a streaming mobile TV service can work out as very expensive. And if it's higher – which is the case for some pay-as-you-go tariffs – you could be looking at a monster bill. Isn't this a big problem for something like FreeBeTV? In short, yes.

"I've never understood why the networks charge so damn much for GPRS in Britain," says Renny. "I can see no reason for them doing it, although cynics

might propose that it's an effort to get customers to sign up for 3G quicker. If Britain doesn't have the most expensive GPRS prices in the world, it's certainly right up there. But Britain is just a small rock in the sea. We're more interested in places like India, China, Brazil and North America, where GPRS is either all-you-can-eat or virtually free."

Those are bullish words. I'm sure ROK would be interested in the UK if these data-charging problems went away though. Renny admits that T-Mobile's Web'n'Walk tariff is a move in the right direction, charging a flat fee of £7.50 a month for unlimited data usage. "T-Mobile have broken ranks, and the others will have to follow suit," says Renny.

Posted by Stuart Dredge on September 20, 2006 in Interviews | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Hands on with the Sony Ericsson P990i, M600i and W950i



Last night I went along to the **Sony Ericsson** Indian Summer Party and I had the chance to play with the latest and greatest handsets in the 2006 line-up. First I had a long look at the new 3G smartphone, the **P990i**, designed for business users and to act as a complete mobile office.

It is powered by the new Symbian OS 9.1 and features the all-important push email service to try and lure in crackberry users, plus there are the usual office applications, internet browsing facilities and the handy RSS reader. It also has a really clever business card scanner that allows you to take a snapshot of any business card using the phone's 2 megapixel camera and will read the details and add them to your contacts list.

The phone has a flip-down keypad on the front that masks the full QWERTY key set below the screen. Interestingly, inside the pack you'll get the tools to remove the outer keypad entirely so you can just work with the QWERTY setup and the touch-screen interface. This isn't going to work so well for people who have to dial in a lot of their numbers but when you have most numbers stored in your contacts, this does make a lot of sense and the phone does look a whole lot better without it.

One problem I spotted, however, is that by squeezing all 35 individual keys onto the front of the handset, they have become absolutely tiny. To be fair, I didn't actually have a lot of trouble using them and rapidly got the hang of typing text, but if you're not blessed with long spindly fingers like me, you could have more trouble.

The web browsing facilities were benefiting the most from the 3G connectivity - a marked improvement over the old GPRS enabled P910i - and the large screen means that you can still see what you're doing without squinting at the text. One other bonus is that there's also a WLAN 802.11b connection included now, but I don't have any word on the potential for VoIP calling yet.

Next up was the **M600i**, which has just recently hit the shelves in the UK. This phone is, if possible, aimed even more at the business user and feels like a cut down version of the P990i that hasn't actually lost too many important features. It even comes without a camera to appeal to those working under tighter security policies. Again, it is 3G enabled and has a touch-screen interface, internet access and push email - sadly no Wi-Fi though.

Instead of a full keypad, each button is a two-way rocker containing two alphabet keys set out in a QWERTY configuration. This definitely took a bit of getting used and in the end I gave up and resorted to the handwriting recognition system, which is one further benefit of the touch-screen. Even with the two letters per button compromise, the keys were still pretty fiddly in my opinion, but there are people who swear by this design so I won't write it off just yet.

Finally, I had a look at the **W950i**, which particularly appeals to me as I am a big fan of the Walkman handsets. This phone comes in the same chassis as the M600i and is therefore quite a lot bulkier than the W800i and W810i. However, there are benefits to this such as 3G, the touch-screen interface and the scroll wheel on the side, plus this handset uses an ordinary keypad so those with larger fingers will still be able to use it. Unsurprisingly, the memory capacity has taken a leap to keep up with other music phones on the market and is offering 4GB of storage space.

There have been some software improvements too; on the phone itself, you now have the Opera 8.0 web browser, which along with the large screen should make using 3G for internet access a lot more practical. The Disc2Phone computer software has been upgraded so that now it will transfer album art along with your tunes - I'm not sure how well this feature will be supported by the various networks' digital music stores though.

The W950i includes support for the latest A2DP Bluetooth standard so there's a new wireless headset to go along with it. Well I say wireless, but actually there's still a fair bit of wiring involved, just not tethered to the phone. On the whole though, this looked pretty good and had a neat little LCD to display track information, incoming calls, etc.

Sony Ericsson website.

Posted by Al W on September 20, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Nokia launches 6288 3G slider phone



Nokia's got a new slider phone on the market, under the name of the **Nokia 6288**, a 3G phone in black or white that sells itself on its video capabilities – and not much else.

The 6288 features a bright QVGA, 262,144 color display for video playback, video ringtones, video editing plus a two megapixel and VGA camera. There's also decicated camera and zoom buttons, Bluetooth and a 512MB memory card included.

The phone should be available sometime in the autumn – UK pricing to be comfirmed nearer launch date, although a price of 325 Euros has been quoted for the European market.

Nokia website

Posted by modculture on September 20, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Orange Local – your own personal concierge service



Orange has launched a new tourist-friendly service for its users – **Orange Local** – which claims to be a **personal concierge service,** finding you everything from the nearest cash point to a place to eat with just a couple of clicks.

Orange Local offers a map of the area local to your mobile, with access to detailed information from over 2 million services and amenities in the UK, including restaurants, hotels, bars and cash points, plus more "dynamic" information such as traffic, travel and entertainment listings. There's also maps of how to get to each place, plus photos so you recognise them when you get there.

The service is available to Orange World users on the 'tools' section of every handset.

Orange website

Posted by modculture on September 20, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Nine in ten 12-year-olds now owns a mobile phone



A new survey shows that nine out of ten 12-year-olds now owns a mobile phone. There's steep escalation as the age rises – 24% of 9-year-olds, 51% of ten-year-olds, then 91% by age 12. Preparing for secondary school seems to be one determining factor, plus a large number of parents who think that by age 11 it's OK for kids to have mobile phones.

Not surprisingly, 11-17 year olds who took part in the Carephone Warehouse study said they preferred texting to making voice calls, as much because it's a more private form of communication. Two-thirds of 15-17 year olds and half of those who are younger would not allow their parents to look at their text messages or pictures.

Charles Dunstone, who is chief exec at The Carphone Warehouse Group, said, "The mobile phone has become the most important electronic device for young people in the UK today. ... It provides them with a social network, a sense of security and access to entertainment. But most importantly it provides them with a sense of belonging to their peer group."

Mobile manufacturers and resellers must be rubbing their hands with glee – a whole new generation of mobile users hooked before they become teenagers. Whilst they might not spend huge amounts of money now (unless they have wealthy, generous or very understanding parents) they may well do when they reach adulthood.

Of course, having a mobile is seen as a very modern and necessary safety device, as much as anything else, but it's also a highly prized social status symbol for kids today.

I don't know. When I was a lad...

Update: When I was a lad, I could tell the difference between 1 in 10 and 9 in 10. Oops.

Posted by Andy Merrett on September 19, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (2)

Sony Ericsson launches M-Buzz – a new music mobile download service



Sony Ericsson is launching a music download service under the name **M-Buzz**. However, this isn't another big name music download service – this one focuses on new music for Sony Ericsson handsets.

M-Buzz will be a promotional space for breaking new and developing artists. Music will be available via a revamped version of the company's PlayNow service and the web. As well as full songs, the site will feature videos, biographies, gig schedules and other related content. The first batch of artists featuring will be courtesy of Sony/ATV Music Publishing, after the company signed a deal to showcase a limited number of its artists and bands each month.

The first phones offering M-BUZZ will be the W850i and W950i Walkman phones announced earlier this year and scheduled to ship in Europe during the second half of 2006. M-Buzz will go live on October 2nd, with downloadable content gradually phased for the 20 countries currently accessing Sony Ericsson's PlayNow service.

M-Buzz website

Posted by modculture on September 19, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Monday interview: JumpTap's Eric McCabe on why mobile search is more about music than sex



For many people, mobile search is what they do when they're about to leave the house, and suddenly realise they've left their Nokia down the back of the sofa. Yet in the mobile industry, it means something different. It's about internet-type search engines on your phone, allowing you to search for content either directly from your handset, or on your mobile operator's portal (think Vodafone Live or O2 Active).

Some big names from the Web world are piling into mobile search, for example Google and Yahoo. But there are also several mobile-only search companies working with operators in this area. One such is U.S. firm JumpTap. I chatted to VP of marketing Eric McCabe to find out more about what people are searching for on their mobiles, and why he thinks his company can compete with the goliaths of the Internet world.

"We're a white-label provider focused purely on mobile search," says McCabe. "We work with the mobile operators, and offer them a set of products so they can launch their own operator-branded search to their customers. It's the user-interface, the search engine itself, and then the advertising suite allowing people to do pay-per-click or other forms of advertising."

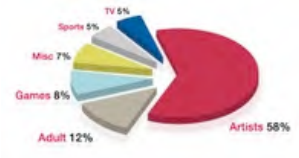


The company currently has deals with five North American operators, and are pitching to operators here in Europe at the moment. So what do operators want to do with mobile search? Why would they work with a company like JumpTap?

"Initially, they want some kind of way to help people find more digital content, mostly on their own portals," says McCabe. "They want to sell more stuff, basically. But they quickly see that they need to offer more to their subscribers."

According to JumpTap, when people search for something on their operator portal, they'll find it between 60% and 70% of the time. For example, you might search for 'Madonna', and your phone will come back with some ringtones to buy. But what if your search is one of the 30-40% that don't correspond to a piece of content your operator can sell you?

This is where 'off-portal' search starts to become important, where the operator allows you to see search results from people who aren't part of its portal, and tries to make money by selling advertising around different search terms, much like Google does on the Web. "The operators are all thinking in this direction, and some are moving ahead with it, but they have to figure out a strategy around advertising," says McCabe.



So what kinds of things are people searching for on their phones? Earlier this year, JumpTap released some research from its users, showing that 58% of mobile searches are for music artists, followed by 12% for adult content, 8% for games, 5% for sports, 5% for TV and then 7% for other stuff.

The company also released its Top 20 most popular searches, which makes for interesting reading:

1. eminem
2. 50 cent
3. sean paul
4. shakira
5. sex
6. metallica
7. family guy
8. porn
9. t.i.
10. madonna
11. playboy
12. tetris
13. reggae
14. rihanna
15. country
16. tv theme
17. theme
18. game theme
19. nhl
20. Disney

McCabe says that this kind of information can directly affect what content operators have on their portals, particularly when they receive the data quick enough to make changes in response.

"We might say 'hey, a song called SexyBack by Justin Timberlake is one of the top searches, but you're not showing that many results, so you need to source more content for this particular song'," says McCabe, who is also vocal about the differences between web search and mobile search (not least because it provides an opportunity to have a crafty dig at rival Google).

"Mobile search is much more about getting to actions and answers, rather than just seeing a long list of links," he says. "Google's mobile search is basically their internet results presented on the mobile screen. You still get a million results back.

"We have tried to get people right to a particular piece of content based on the word they're searching for, and the context that it's in. If you're searching for an artist, we'll bring back a list of images and ringtones. If it's more of a local thing, we'll bring back addresses and numbers of restaurants."

However, McCabe says local search is not that common yet, although this may change in the future. People apparently say they would like to search for local things – maps, directions, restaurants etc – on their mobile, but in practice they're not doing it much.

But getting back to those big rivals, aren't companies like Google and Yahoo going to dominate mobile search? Operators like T-Mobile and Vodafone have already been keen to sign deals to put Google on their portals, for example. McCabe says their attitudes are changing, however.

"Their first initiative was to work with Google because they have a great brand, and they thought it would drive more usage," he says. "What they're doing now is coming back to us and saying now they understand this market a bit better, they want to work with a white-label provider. And Google is increasingly a competitor for them, offering search but also telecommunications-type services, from VoIP to Wi-Fi to Google Wallet for purchasing things."

JumpTap might not ever be a brand mobile users will be familiar with in the same way they are with Google and Yahoo - not least because of its policy of providing white-label services to operators - but its technology, and the wider area of mobile search, will become increasingly important in the coming months and years.

Posted by Stuart Dredge on September 18, 2006 in Interviews | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

The Week In Tech: 10 stories you might have missed



The first in a new weekly feature rounding up some of the more intriguing, informative or plain baffling tech stories knocking about the internetweb. Casting aside all those cast-iron predictions that Apple would launch the iPhone this week, first up is News Corporation finally starting to throw its weight around in the Web 2.0 world.

Chief operating officer Peter Chernin (left) told a conference that MySpace wants to crush YouTube and, well, basically any other big Web 2.0 service. "If you look at virtually any Web 2.0 application, whether its YouTube, whether it's Flickr, whether it's Photobucket...almost all of them are really driven off the back of MySpace, there's no reason why we can't build a parallel business."

One reason why that might not be the case? If you look at virtually any Web 2.0 application, it's easier to use than MySpace. And you don't have to worry about your content getting spewed out of other parts of the Murdoch empire. Mashable's verdict on MySpace's plans: "This is such a ridiculous strategy that it's not even worth contemplating."



This week's bear/woods story comes courtesy of Microsoft Exchange hosting firm Intermedia.NET, which released some survey findings claiming that IT staff are twice as likely to wear a heavy metal t-shirt as their non-IT colleagues, are 32% less likely than business managers to wear clean clothes every day of the week, and twice as likely to carry a Maglite and a Leatherman.

"Our large Microsoft Gold Certified team of engineers was comforted that IT people are twice as likely to wear Megadeth and similar t-shirts, and that black jeans and ponytails are still hot items," said Intermedia.NET's boss marketeer Rurik Bradbury. "However, they were distraught to find that the cellphone belt clip has gone 'mainstream' and lost its identification with the IT subculture."

Talking of heavy metal t-shirts, self-styled "software-Jedi" Dana Hanna starts his 'An App a Day' campaign today. He's writing 30 software applications in 30 days, and then giving them away for free. "I write tons of prototypes at home, and never end up doing anything with them," he says. "So I might as well toss them out there for the good of the world."

First up is this nifty app that turns your mouse cursor into a magnifying glass, although Dana reckons the most entertaining suggestion he's had so far is "an app to count polarbears in Norway and geotag them in Google Earth." That *would* be cool.



Moving on to enormous telephoto lenses, Carl Zeiss unveiled a whopper this week. It's got a focal length of over 5.5 feet, with 21x magnification. Oh, and it weighs in at a healthy 256kg. So you won't find it in a Cyber-Shot anytime soon. It's being shown at this month's Photokina show in Cologne. I'd like to see Jamiroquai frontman Jay Kay try to pick a fight with a paparazzo holding this heavyweight jobby.

From the large to the small now. How about a projector the size of a sugar cube? Yes, it does mean a passing hungry horse could guzzle up your home entertainment system, but still, it's a feat of engineering. But hang on, read the story, and the ugly truth becomes apparent.

"Today's technology allows RGB projectors with a side length of ten by seven by three centimeters to be produced. Although this is still distinctly larger

than a sugar cube, it is only a quarter the size of a standard projector."



Fix! Apparently the key to getting sugarcube-sized projectors is shrinking green diode lasers. Fingers crossed. Meanwhile, boozers among you shouldn't consider paying a visit to South Dakota any time soon. The state attorney general's office is testing alcohol-monitoring bracelets on convicted drunk drivers.

The 'Scram' bracelets measure "vapours from the skin" (i.e. beer sweats) and send the results for analysis. If someone could invent one that would tell me the sixth pint of cider ISN'T a good idea on Friday nights, while flashing a photo of the local gutter in warning, that'd be grand, thanks.



Talking of items of personal clothing with unexpected digital-media features... How about the Egokast, a hefty belt-buckle that doubles up as a video player. You're not supposed to watch it, mind, it's for the people around you.

"This is the first media device that you don't watch, but everybody else does," says inventor Shaw Kaake, who I sincerely hope was named after the popular biscuit. "Instead of staring into your BlackBerry or your PSP, you're looking at the reactions of people to the content."

Surely this means entire train carriages of fellow passengers staring at your crotch. Where can I get one? Moving swiftly on, news of some Princeton computer scientists who've created prototype vote-stealing software that can be installed on public voting machines. Right now, someone's reading this in a secret White House laboratory and saying "Meh, we did that *weeks* ago. Now when's e-voting coming in..."



Paris Hilton, it's time to dump the BlackBerry. There's a new celebrity mobile on the block, codenamed 'Black Diamond' (right), which costs $300,000. Why? Well, it runs Windows Mobile 5.0, has Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, an SD memory slot and a touch-sensitive keypad. Oh, and only five units are ever being made. Far better value than a chihuahua.



And finally... We may be also-rans in Miss World, but us Brits can boast the most beautiful computer-generated woman on the planet. Doesn't that make you feel proud as punch? Her name's Prada Woman (left), and she was created by UK designer David Cathro using Photoshop, for a competition organised by 3D site 3DM3.

She's a cross between Jennifer Lopez and the sort of secretary who appears in films pretending to be plain, until she gets to take off her glasses, swish her hair back and PURR LIKE A PUMA! She beat off competition from Poland, France, South Korea and Poland again.

Sources: Mashable, Intermedia.NET, Dana Hanna, Engadget, Physorg.com, Madisonet.com, New York Times, TechEBlog, 3DM3.com

Posted by Stuart Dredge on September 15, 2006 in Awards | Computers | Digital cameras | Gadgets | Mobile phones | Personal video players | Websites
Permalink | Comments (1)

Apple iPhone rumours continue: ready by January 2007?



According to a source with close connections to Apple (aren't they always) an iPhone could be revealed at MacWorld in San Francisco in January 2007. Allegedly it'll be styled very much on the new iPod nano's, and be available in black, white or platinum. It'll have a 3 megapixel camera, 2.2 inch display, iTunes integration and an iPod-esque feature set. Storage is currently unknown.

What do you think? A nano-styled iPhone with iTunes functionality?

Posted by Andy Merrett on September 15, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (2)

FreeB TV - ROK offers free mobile TV over GPRS



Not many companies seem as charitable as **ROK** these days. Not content with offering free VoIP calling via Bluetooth for mobile phones, it's now offering **free mobile TV over GPRS** (2.5G) under the name of **FreeB TV** in both the US and the UK.

The service is currently available with 14 handsets (check website for list) and offers 4 channels of content - Classic Cartoons, Classic Movies, Vintage Conedy and Extreme Sports, with a YOU-MADE-IT channel of users' funny clips to follow. If you want to try it, visit the website, enter a few details and you'll get a WAP link sent to your handset to access the service.

Obviously the service is free, but the data charges still apply. But if you have a bit of spare data and a bit of spare time, it's cfertainly worth a look.

FreeB TV website

Posted by modculture on September 15, 2006 in Mobile phones | PDAs
Permalink | Comments (1)

Synchronica Mobile Manager makes your mobile scream at the right time



The basic idea of the Synchronica Mobile Manager, that if your mobile gets kipped you can, er, call it up, and tell it not only to forbid access to your personal information (which would be very important if you had your phone set up to allow purchases through it) but also to just howl like Allen Ginsberg just after he found out how much William S. Burroughs' bail was going to be. Unfortunately, you can only get it as part of their larger remote-mobile-management package, which does five mobiles but also starts at around €1200. [GT]

a href="http://www.synchronica.com/products/syncml/mobile-manager.html">Synchronica Mobile Manager

Related stories: Samsung's hand warming mobile | Mobile ticketing could beat the touts, says Nokia | Galaga Plus Micropayments Equals Mobile Fun

Posted by Gabrielle Taylor on September 15, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Orange launches Sony Ericsson K610i with added Sega classics



Orange is pitching its **Sony Ericsson K610i phone** very much at gamers, with **free Sega game demos pre-loaded onto the handset**.

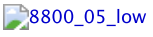
Exclusive to Orange, you'll be able to play some of Sega's finest moments on the move, including Sonic the Hedgehog and Chu Chu Rocket. In addition to the free Sega demos you'll also be able to download Sega wallpaper and ringtones, along with a free Sega phone tag. And they'll even throw in a £10 money-off voucher for Sega games too. The phone itself features a 2 megapixel camera with 4 x digital zoom, MP3 player, Bluetooth and a talktime of around five hours.

If all that appeals, you can pick up the Sega-fied K610i for free on Orange contracts over £30 or for £159.99 on PAYG.

Orange website

Posted by modculture on September 14, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

The Met gets tough on mobile crime, tough on the causes of mobile crime



Especially when the cause is dozy students waving their expensive mobile phones and iPods around when robbers are watching... The Metropolitan Police is spending the next few weeks visiting London schools, colleges and universities to ~~confiscate funny cigarettes~~ advise students on how not to get their gadgets nicked. In 2005, the Met says that an average of 328 mobiles were stolen in London every day.

The Met's campaign will include attending university Fresher events and school assemblies, advising students to register their belongings – especially mobiles and bikes – on the Immobilise website, providing information to help prevent mobile phone crime, and discouraging students from buying mobile phones under suspicious circumstances. No, that doesn't include when you're in a mobile phone store, and suspect that the greasy-haired salesman patronising you is under 12 years old. Sadly.

“We hope that our activities will encourage students to be more vigilant and aware of their surroundings," says DCI Mick McNally of the National Mobile Phone Crime Unit. "This will make it harder for robbers to operate and with stolen phones fast becoming worthless we hope this will have a positive impact on street crime.”

Posted by Stuart Dredge on September 14, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Review: Blackberry Pearl



The Propaganda

The Blackberry Pearl is RIM's attempt to "get Blackberry out of the boardroom". They've made themselves indispensable to Serious Business People around the world, but now they're after said Serious People's kids. Or at least their less responsible, black-sheep-in-the-family, we're-not-sure-he'll-ever-settle-down, younger brother.

They're also hoping that people will now truly ditch the mobile phone they've been carrying around in addition to their emailing device, as they think they've cracked the perfect combination of data and phone functionality. But then, doesn't everybody?

The Good

Out of the box, the Blackberry Pearl emerges all shiny and new. I have to admit, if I didn't know about the phones magical abilities, I would be tempted to buy it on looks alone. This is an impressive feat bearing in mind the quality of the competition out there. I'm getting bored of saying it, but it really does have a 'piano black' finish which stays that way, despite being chucked in my bag to wrestle against keys, sand and other miscellany. The black is set off with chrome on the sides, and surrounding the camera. It's pretty. The best bit about it is the ball or 'pearl' you use for scrolling, in the centre under the screen. It's a great way of scrolling through the extensive menu, since it works in the same way to the ball in a mouse, not constrained to moving just left to right and up and down. It also lights up with a kind of purplish glow when you start using it.

The email system itself is really easy to set-up, and is designed with consumers in mind, rather than those who have an IT guy and an Exchange server. It's simply a case of getting on the Blackberry website from your PC entering your email address and password, and you're done. There's no entering of smtp addresses, finding well hid settings or anything that you could mess up. The only sticking point is that if you want Hotmail to deliver, you need to pay MSN for 'premium access', but that's an MSN problem rather than RIM's.

The performance of the Pearl could be battery sapping. After all, it's got a great screen that adjusts it's brightness according to your surroundings, Push email, and more backlighting than you can shake a stick at. In fact, I got about 3 days fairly typical use from a single charge.

In an attempt to catch up with other phone manufacturers, RIM have added a media player for music, photos and videos. To support this, they've included a MicroSD slot, and bundle a card with it, although they're not clear on what size it will be at the moment. They've also included headphones for your media.

The Bad

Blackberry are really pushing the inclusion of a camera on this one, but at 1.3 megapixels it doesn't stand up against the competition. It's the size now seen on budget phones, and those where the camera isn't anything more than a quick addition when needs must. Given Blackberry's excitement about it being there, you'd have thought they'd have got a better one. They've also put the MicroSD card under the SIM, which is a personal hate. It makes it really tricky to get to, and risks damaging the SIM card.

There are also certain things seen on your average mobile which you'll miss. There's no way of instantly getting into a new SMS message, or your contacts – all of these are done through the main menu. And to put that in perspective, the main menu has 33 different icons to navigate through, although you can move the order they appear in. There are 5 icons on the home screen, but they seem bizarre choices, including Enterprise Activation and Yahoo Messenger. There are two buttons either side of the handset which you can personalise, but there doesn't seem to be a way of personalising the home screen. [Update: you can move the icons by rearranging the main menu, which in turn changes the home screen icon order].

The keypad itself is a full QWERTY keypad, but has two letters to each button. And unlike other models, it's not a case of hitting each side of the key to get the different letter. So, this gives you a combination of predictive text and normal typing, where you've got to keep an eye on what you're being predicted to avoid having to go back and do it all again. I found it really difficult to get used to, as the predictive element fooled my brain into thinking that the keypad would be set up like a normal phone. I would have found it quicker and easier if it had I think.

Another bone of contention is the lack of scroll wheel, which many Blackberry addicts will no doubt lament. Whilst the Pearl is attractive, and good for skipping about the screen, it's just not as quick when you want to go through emails or scan to the bottom of a document. For some reason, the test model I had would plonk me in the middle of yesterday's messages when I entered the email inbox, which meant I had about 40 emails to get through before I could see my new ones. It only started doing this after a few days, so it might just be a bug in an early model.

There is no 3G on this model, which Blackberry put down to an issue of space. This does mean that web pages are slow to download, and in addition, certain pages are completely useless to you. The squares of images that make up a streetmap are put one on top of each other, making it impossible to see where the connections are.

Geek Sheet

Dimensions: 4.2 x 1.97 x .57 inches

Weight: 3.1 oz

Screen: 65,000 colors, 240 x 260 pixel color display

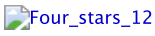
Camera: 1.3MP camera with flash

Memory: 64 MB flash memory with Micro SD slot

Network: Quad-Band: 850/900/1800/1900 MHz GSM/GPRS and EDGE networks

In our opinion

Despite it's faults, the Blackberry Pearl is tempting. Whether it'll get those elusive consumers emailing on the move I suspect will depend largely on the packages carriers put together – there's still a fear held by many people that they will somehow end up with an enormous phone bill come the end of the month if they use data services.



Posted by Shiny Media on September 14, 2006 in Mobile phones | PDAs | Reviews
Permalink | Comments (0)

LG launches the KG810 clamshell Chocolate phone

The Chocolate phone just got a bit more hip, with the introduction of the **KG810 – LG's clamshell Chocolate phone**.

Rather than the word "clamshell", LG seems to prefer "folder" for its new phone. And apart from that, it's almost got the same technical specifications as the original Chocolate handset – a fully featured MP3/AAC music player including A2DP Bluetooth for wireless music, 128 meg of on-board memory,



a 1.3 megapixel camera and video camera – with the addition of an FM radio the only technical difference.

LG is being particularly bullish about its new handset. According to John Barton, Sales & Marketing Director, LG Mobile: "This is the best looking folding handset on the market. It's thin enough to slip into a pair of jeans, yet feels solid and luxurious when in use. The unique touch sensitive keys on the top let you know that it's a Chocolate phone and the new form factor adds even more individuality to an already iconic handset."

If all that sells the phone to you, you can pick it up exclusively from Phones4U sometime this month, with a presentation box, stereo headphones and USB lead as standard. Prices is from free on contract.

LG website

Posted by modculture on September 14, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Mobcharger – the disposable mobile phone charger



Whether you're out shopping, stuck in a festival field or away on holday – there's always a point where your mobile starts to fade away and you've nowhere to charge it up. Here's one solution – **Mobcharger – the instant, disposable mobile phone charger**.

The credit card sized battery should slip into your pocket or bag. When your phone's power level is looking low, plug in Mobcharger and get it powered up. Mobcharger provides 90 minutes talk time and 480 minutes standby. The zinc-carbon battery will not leak or corrode and lasts for up to five years. When empty, bin it with your normal household rubbish. You can currently buy a Mobcharger for Nokia, Sony Ericsson, Motorola and Samsung phones. A mini USB is also available which is compatible with all new mini USB phone connectors such as the Motorola RAZR.

They're available now for around £5.

Mobcharger website

Posted by modculture on September 13, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

T-Mobile offers TrafficTV real-time traffic information to BlackBerry users



Stuck in a jam? Not sure if your route is going to be congested? You can now find out for sure by checking your **BlackBerry**, with **T-Mobile offering the TrafficTV mobile application** exclusively on those devices.

TrafficTV combines Trafficmaster Traffic information with live CCTV pictures. Install it on your BlackBerry for a full interactive map of the UK and live 24 x 7 access to Trafficmaster' traffic information and over 500 CCTV pictures. Trafficmaster has sensors on over 8,000 miles of motorway and trunk roads in the UK, flagging up delays as they happen. And if you want to see it for yourself, you can reference CCTV camera images in real time.

Contact T-Mobile for exact costs, which they claim start from around 10p per day.

T-Mobile website

Posted by modculture on September 13, 2006 in Mobile phones | PDAs
Permalink | Comments (0)

Palm (finally) launches the Treo 750v



Palm has today officially launched the long awaited **Treo 750v**, together with Vodafone and Microsoft. Available throughout Europe from the end of October, the 750v will be available exclusively from Vodafone for at least 3 months. It's the first Palm device to be designed with Europe in mind, hence the lopping off of the enormous aerial found on previous Treo devices. Whilst the previous Treo models were hugely popular in the US, the same pick-up has yet to be seen over here.

Using the latest Windows Mobile OS, the Treo 750v features a touch screen as well as a full QWERTY keyboard. The Vodafone connection takes advantage of their 3G network, formatting web pages to fit the 240x240 screen. Other features include a miniSD card slot, 1.3 megapixel camera, Bluetooth and the Windows Media Player.

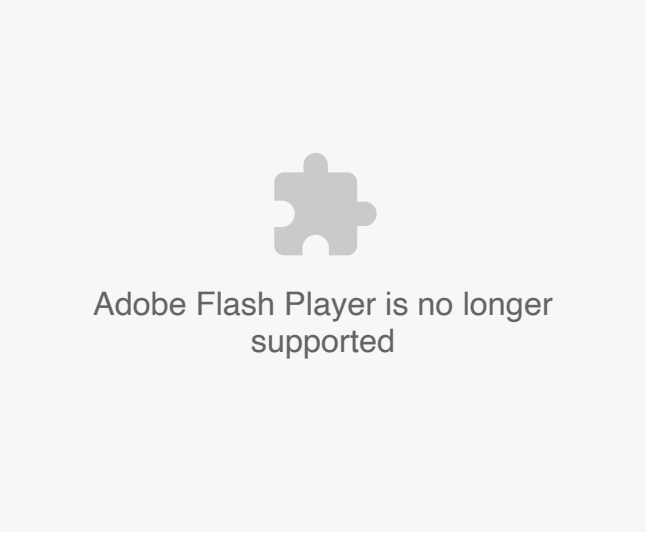
Cost wise, Vodafone are offering it on certain tariffs for free, whilst others will have to pay £150. Email packages start at £10 a month, to prevent nasty surprises at the end of the month. So far, there are no details about which carriers will be picking it up from January onwards.

Check out the video here.

Posted by Shiny Media on September 12, 2006 in Mobile phones | PDAs
Permalink | Comments (0)

One Minute Review: Palm Treo 750v

Palm launched their latest Treo 750v today, which is their first Windows based device available in Europe. It's also heavily Vodafone friendly as they've got exclusivity for at least 3 months. It'll be available from the end of October, although you can preorder now.



Posted by Shiny Media on September 12, 2006 in Mobile phones | PDAs | Video
Permalink | Comments (0)

Sky does Champions League over TV, internet and mobile phones

There's no escaping the Champions League – or if you want to look at it more postively, there's no reason to miss a goal, with **Sky expanding their covering of this year's Champions League to the internet and to mobile phones, not to mention HD**.

From this week, the satellite giant will offer live coverage of games on two Sky Sports channels, with selected matches on Sky Sports HD. Manchester United and Arsenal's opening matches on Wednesday will be the first



Champions League games to be broadcast in HD. From tonight, you can also catch the action online, with live streaing through skysports.com. But bgefore you get too excited, it's PPV - which means £3 per match.

You can also get some match action on your phone. Not live games - instead, you can receive in-game goal clips and post-match highlights from all the games. Which might be better value considering the number of dull 0-0 draws that the Champions League throws up in its early stages. Check your mobile operator for details.

It's all a taste of things to come. In two weeks time, from Friday 22nd to Sunday 24th September, The 2006 Ryder Cup will be the first single major event ever to be shown live across the range of new platforms - standard definition television, HD, broadband and via mobile.

Sky website

Posted by modculture on September 12, 2006 in Computers | HDTV | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Brando Mini Bluetooth Keyboard



Somewhat smaller than my cigarette case, the Brando Mini Bluetooth Keyboard is a petite 80 grams (ie, smaller than some American chocolate bars), comes in *stylish* metallic silver (as opposed to the unstylish rusted iron colour of an abandoned horseshoe) and - but seriously, the good part is that it folds up tiny enough to fit in your pocket or even possibly your wallet. And at around £30, it won't injure your wallet much either. [GT]

Brando Mini Bluetooth Keyboard [via Gizmodo]

Related stories: On the go: Roll-up Fabric Bluetooth Keyboard | Swedx wooden computer keyboard and mouse | Dasher, A Flasher Way To Write

Posted by Gabrielle Taylor on September 12, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

EMI and T-Mobile trial ad-supported free mobile video



T-Mobile, in collaboration with EMI Music, is to trial of ad-supported mobile video, effectively offering **free mobile video content embedded with television-style advertising**, provided by mobile ad firm Rhythm NewMedia.

The trial is taking place in the UK, with T-Mobile customers presented with an electronic program guide (EPG) on their handset that will offer a range of news, sport and etnertainment content. When a user selects a video from an EMI Music UK artist, that video is streamed with specifically targeted advertisements. Advertisers participating in this trial include Coca Cola Zero, General Motors, Gillette, Land Rover, Microsoft Mobile, Nike and Toyota.

No news of a specfic start date - more details as we get it.

T-Mobile website

More mobile viewing:
Virgin's Mobile TV unveiled for October launch
ITV begins live streaming to 3 mobile network

Posted by modculture on September 11, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Vodafone to offer fixed-line broadband deals in the UK before Christmas



A little later than most of the competition, **Vodafone has announced it is to launch fixed-line broadband services in the UK,** along with combined mobile/broadband deals. The mobile giant has announced a deal with BT Wholesale to provide the broadband service, which should launch before the end of the year.

According to Nick Read, Chief Executive of Vodafone UK: "Today's announcement is a strategically important step in the evolution of Vodafone's business in the UK. Choosing BT as our partner enables us to provide high quality fixed-line broadband services to customers quickly and cost-efficiently right across the UK, and this perfectly complements our national mobile coverage and mobile broadband service. This news is further evidence of Vodafone delivering on its strategy and providing its customers with a total communications solution wherever they are."

In other words, if you're a Vodafone customer, expect a competitive price deal for your landline and mobile through the letterbox before Christmas.

Vodafone website

More broadband:
Sign up with Virgin Mobile - get free Virgin broadband
Carphone Warehouse "free broadband" - demand means long wait

Posted by modculture on September 11, 2006 in Broadband | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Sweet and Clean Way to Debadge Your Gizmos



According to the highly entertaining how-to-do-stuff blog Instructables the best way to debadge your gizmos, for that clean uncluttered look, is to scrub them off with a sugar cube... That's right, all you have to do is mask off the holes and parts you don't want sugar crystals getting into with sticky tape, then use a sugar cube (probably several) to scrub away the labels. Apparently sugar is just abrasive enough to remove logos and printing, but not hard enough to scratch plastic. Sounds a bit iffy to us but if you want to see how it's done watch this video.

Posted by Shiny Media on September 11, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Nokia will use real names for its phones in 2007



Nokia have said that **from 2007 all their phones will be given proper names** rather than numbers and other codes. According to their marketing chief, the names will carry a meaning and will be important to their customers.

Apparently the market has been confused by all the model numbers that have been released by Nokia and other manufacturers. Sounds like me. I was never really into the Nokia phones and was amazed at everyone who could distinguish phones by their number and remember all the features that each had.

We'll have to wait to see what names Nokia chooses to evoke the importance and meaning of their next batch of phones, and whether they'll use English or have localised versions.

Do you care if your mobile has a name?

Posted by Andy Merrett on September 8, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Mobile phones could become portable TV recorders



Texas Instruments is set to introduce a mobile phone that can record TV programmes using the DVB-H handheld digital video broadcast standard to record short extracts of TV for later viewing. It will also have picture-in-picture (PIP) technology (hope it has a big screen) to allow two programmes to be watched at once.

TI have done research that suggests mobile users would watch up to 3 hours of TV per day on their phones, but in snippets of 2-10 minutes at a time and particularly during a commute and at meal times.

Whether it will catch oon will depend upon broadcasters providing content in this format, operators streaming in, and consumers actually wanting it. The actual technology is expected to be available en masse during 2007.

It could be something that increases in popularity though. ITV recently started streaming ITV1 and ITV Play to the 3 Network.

Are you interested in mobile TV, and what sort of devices would you want to be able to watch it on?

Posted by Andy Merrett on September 8, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1)

Nokia E62 (aka, neo-crackberry) formally launched



Leaked as far back as spring '06, according to the Globe & Mail today's the day the Nokia E62 formally comes onto the market. With a form factor similar to the BlackBerry - as Nokia's Chapple said. "Hats off to RIM. We are happy to follow. Not all good ideas come from Finland" - allegedly also "Our business plan is not predicated on corporations ripping out their BlackBerrys. Lots of companies have not gone mobile yet. If we're not creating new business then we don't win." CNet gave the E62 a 7.3 rating (with an average 8.4 rating by the users) and MSNBC called it "spectacular". If it looks familiar, it's because you've already seen its sibling, the E61. Both weigh 144g and are 117x70x14mm, but the E62 has 75 megs of ram versus the E61's 64, the E62 has a 1.3mp camera, and the standby time on the E62 is better (6.5 hours versus 5). Price TBA any second now. [GT]

Nokia E62 smartphone [via The Globe & Mail

Related stories: Nokia does a BlackBerry | 3 launches instant access email for mobiles

Posted by Gabrielle Taylor on September 7, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1)

HTC unveils P3600, P3300 PDAs and S620, S310 smartphones



HTC has unveiled four new devices today - the S620 slim smartphone, **the S310 candy bar-style smartphone, the P3300 navigation PDA and the P3600 HSDPA-ready PDA**. All devices will be available under the HTC brand as well as in customised versions for operator partners - with the P3300 already snapped up by T-Mobile for launch as the MDA Compact III.

The **HTC S620** (pictured) is a slimline smartphone at just 12.8mm thin and weighing 130g with battery. It's the first device to feature HTC's JOGGR touch sensitive navigation bar, which offers quick access to applications including Outlook Mobile (with push email), Word Mobile, Excel Mobile, PowerPoint Mobile and a PDF viewer. The quand band phone also features a 2.4-inch, colour, landscape screen, a fully integrated QWERY keyboard, Wi-Fi and Bluetooth. it should be in Europe from October.

The **HTC S310** is a candy bar-style smartphone featuring Windows Mobile 5.0. More comsumer-friendly, this quad band device will be available in a range of colours later this month.

The **P3300** (pictured) is HTC's first dedicated navigation PDA with built-in GPS and features the latest TomTom software, Navigator 6. Both 2D and 3D maps are claimed to be easy to install and view using HTC's RollRTM (Trackball and Track Wheel) and theoptimised 2.8-inch colour screen. Retailing from October 2006, it will be available with a 'taster pack' of



regional maps or as a full version pre-loaded with a complete set of maps for Western Europe.

The **P3600** is billed as HTC's next generation PDA. Running with Windows Mobile 5.0, it also features 3G connectivity and is HSDPA-ready. There's also a music player and two megapixel camera. Available in a black or white glossy finish, the HTC P3600 will be available across Europe later this month.

HTC website www.htc.com

Posted by modculture on September 7, 2006 in Mobile phones | PDAs
Permalink | Comments (0)

Virgin's Mobile TV unveiled for October launch



Virgin has unveiled its Mobile TV service, with the first broadcast set to commence from **October 1st**, coinciding with a huge advertising blitz, fronted by Pamela Anderson.

The service, which uses the DAB IP-based BT Movio platform, will offer four TV channels - BBC one, ITV1, Channel 4 and E4, along with 50 digital radio stations, 'red-button' interactivity and a seven-day electronic programme guide (EPG). Channel 4 will initially broadcast Channel 4 Short Cuts, a made-for-mobile TV channel, with a full Channel 4 simulcast to following at a later date. That's not the only limitation - some films, sports broadcasts and US shows will also be removed from broadcast, while the BBC's participation is on a 12-month trial basis.

Virgin is offering the service via the Lobster 700, its first Windows-based smartphone. If you sign up to a contract of £25 per month or more, you get the handset and the TV service for free for the life of your contract. You can also take the Lobster on pre-pay for £199, with the service free for 3 months, followed by a £5 a month charge.

Virgin Mobile

Posted by modculture on September 7, 2006 in Mobile phones | PDAs | TVs
Permalink | Comments (0)

O2 offers BlackBerry Pearl and new BlackBerry tariffs



If you're keen to get your hands on the new **BlackBerry Pearl handset**, which we got hands-on with last night, you'll probaby be interested to know that O2 has announced availability of the device, along with new BlackBerry tariffs.

The BlackBerry Pearl is Research In Motion's attempt to court the consumer market with their device, offering BlackBerry functionality in a more stylish smartphone body. It features a media player for MP3 music and MPEG4 video, 1.3MP camera with built-in flash and zoom, Picture CallerID support, the ability to send images via MMS or BlackBerry email, integration with the BlackBerry Desktop Manager software to transfer images to and from their handsets. and storage via the Micro-SD card (to boost the 64MB on-board). If that sounds a bit multimieda for you, there's still the traditional BlackBerry functionality including wireless push-based email, quad-band phone (with EDGE), SMS, web browsing, intranet access capability, organiser and instant messaging.

O2 has launched two new tarrifs to tempt us to go for the new device from 2nd October. The Pay As You Use tariff is an entry level package for lighter

data users – with no monthly subscription for O2 voice customers. You can send and receive emails, browse the web and use Yahoo! Instant Messaging through the BlackBerry for £2.30 (ex VAT) per MB. O2's unlimited tariff allows for unlimited BlackBerry internet data (which is actually a fair usage of 75MB monthly) including sending and receiving emails from £8.51 (ex VAT) per month depending on your existing O2 contract. The unlimited tariff can also be taken as a stand alone contract without a voice subscription.

Visit the O2 website for further details

Posted by modculture on September 7, 2006 in Mobile phones | PDAs
Permalink | Comments (0)

Colour Phasing Light Speakers



The disco light is back! Well, not exactly, but these **Colour Phasing Light Speakers** will blast out your digital tunes and give you a light show to accompany them.

These round speakers feature over 200 colour combinations – you can choose from a sound-activated audio beat mode with three distinct lighting patterns – 'Snake', 'Waterfall' and 'Random' Or pick a static colour for something a little calmer. The two 5W speakers each feature individual control knobs for volume and colour, so you can mix and match your mod if you like.

Compatible with all MP3 players (connects via headphone socket), Saturday Night Fever it ain't, but it adds a bit of a twist to the usual dull speaker systems.

Find out more

Posted by modculture on September 7, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

One Minute Video Review: The Blackberry Pearl

A first look at the new phone and email device announced by Blackberry today, the Blackberry Pearl. It's aimed at the part of the market they've yet to convince – consumers who value the style of their phone above all else.



Posted by Shiny Media on September 7, 2006 in Mobile phones | Reviews | Video
Permalink | Comments (0)

Vertu Aerius mobile headset with Bluetooth

If you must have one of these things attached to your ear, it might as well be ultra-light, sleek, stylish, pair with the push of one button and answer just as simply. The Vertu Aerius Bluetooth Headset has the usual features: noise reduction, ear hook, calling system, leather pouch. It also rather unsurprisingly looks a lot like the Jabra JX10, since both were designed by Jacob Jensen (which will undoubtedly raise the price before it's announced). [GT]

Vertu Aerius Bluetooth Headset [via Sybarites]



Related stories: iTech World Cup bluetooth headsets in your team colours | On the go: Roll-up Fabric Bluetooth Keyboard | Jabra BT320s Bluetooth earphones

Posted by Gabrielle Taylor on September 7, 2006
in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Review: Samsung D900 Ultra slim slider phone



The Propaganda

Samsung's new Ultra range is designed to illustrate just how much technology they can fit into a slim phone design. So, whilst they've now got the skinniest candybar title, the slimmest HSDPA phone and a host of other accolades, they haven't skimped on the specs. The D900 was the first of these to be launched, featuring a sliding design and measuring just 12.9mm in width. And yes, it's the world's slimmest slider phone. Available free on contract, it's in the shops now.

The Good

It's seldom now that you can pick up a phone that does something that's truly new or unique to the brand. Cameras, MP3 players and office functionality are all present in the vast majority of phones on the market, to one degree or another. Any company that attempts to create something new risks straying over into the gimmicky territory occupied by novelty ringtones and crazy photo effects. So, with that in mind, I give you the Samsung theme screen. And I invite you to make up your own mind.

Basically, it features a home screen based on your geographical location, within reason. If you're in England you get Big Ben. France? Champs d'Elysees. Holland? Hmm. You appear to have no iconic landmarks, so you're stuck with windmills, I'm afraid. When you change countries, the phone recognises it and will change screens, as well as the local time. It does check with you first, in case you're particularly attached to Big Ben. I'm not sure if the screen changes if you change countries but not time zones i.e. Dublin. Unfortunately, I can't check for the purposes of this review, as I couldn't clear a jolly to Dublin with the Powers That Be. C'est la vie. The screen also indicates the signal strength - lots of clouds, and you've got poor signal, clear sky, and you've got loads, as the shepards say.

The camera is also the best found on a slider phone at 3 megapixels, which takes stills and video footage. There is 60MB of internal memory to store your photos, as well as a MicroSD slot for expanding that. The screen is 2.1" which is noticeably larger than previous Samsung screens such as the one found on the E900. It also supports 262,000 colours, so is bright enough to take advantage of all the fancy pants graphics it comes with.

The buttons on this model are soft keys, rather than laser-etched, touch sensitive, or some other kind of nice-in-theory-awful-in-practice design. This makes them easy to use, although not as attractive. On another design note, the soft finish on the phone is a nice touch, and unlike many similar models, doesn't get greasy after a few days. The inclusion of Stereo Bluetooth, means that you can use the MP3 player to send music to your bluetooth headphones, ditching the wires.

The Bad

The camera is a key point on this phone - it's the best available on this design of phone. However, despite offering 3 megapixels, it loses against the competition as it still appears as a camera phone, rather than something that you'd consider dumping your camera for. The light is LED, so doesn't use a flash, making your subjects look odd in low light. Unlike many of it's contemporaries, there is a limited number of things you can do with the photos once you've taken it. Yes, you can MMS it, and you can send it via Bluetooth to a printer, but there's no extended applications, such as loading it onto a blogging site, which both Nokia and Sony Ericsson have included.

There are design issues as well. The battery is a nightmare to get out, and considering it hides the SIM card slot, it's one of the first things you notice about the phone. The call answer/reject button are an old skool green and red, making the keypad look old fashioned, confirmed by the large buttons. The lip that 'catches' the slider at the bottom sits right against the *, 0 and # key, which is awkward when you're writing a text, as these are the space and word change buttons.

Geek sheet

Size: 50x104x13

Weight: 83g

Talk time: 390 mins

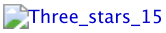
Standby time: 200 hours

Camera: 3 megapixels

Music support: MP3, AAC, ACC+, AAC+

In our opinion

On paper, the D900 looks great. But it's once you take it from the box that you lose the excitement. Whether it's the large screen which makes it look bigger than it is, or the green or red buttons that make it look old fashioned, designwise they seem to have let the fact that it's thin excuse any effort on the rest of it.



Posted by Shiny Media on September 5, 2006 in Mobile phones | Reviews
Permalink | Comments (5)

Apple iPhone would flop, UK survey suggests



A recent survey suggests that a next-generation iPod phone (dubbed the iPhone) would not be a huge success, despite the Apple-fan rumours going round that appear to be clamouring for it.

A digital music survey of 3000 British consumers suggests that most people would either keep phone and music player separate, or want a phone that plays music rather than a music player that makes phone calls:

46% of those surveyed said they would prefer to use a phone that played media files.

21% said they'd use a music player on its own.

Over one-third said they'd never use a combined phone and music player.

Over-45s were the most reticent about using a combined gadget, whereas most teenagers - whilst open to using an integrated machine, would rather use a phone that played music than a phone-enabled MP3 player.

Analysts say it reinforces figures that show iPod sales slipping whilst music-enabled mobile phones increase in popularity.

And yet, despite all this, yet other figures show that only 25% of people want to download music onto their phone at all.

So what have we got here? Well, if people are into downloading mobile music at all, they'd rather do it on something that's a phone that happens to be able to play music, rather than on an MP3 player that happens to be able to make phone calls. I don't understand the major difference myself, but I guess it's all about perception.

Would you use an iPod phone?

Posted by Andy Merrett on September 5, 2006 in MP3 players | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (4)

Sarian launches HR4110 - the world's first fully integrated HSDPA router



Sarian has launched the world's first router compatible with High-Speed Downlink Packet Access (HSDPA or super 3G). The **Sarian HR4110 HSDPA router** is designed to support what they describe as "mission-critical communications" within businesses, as well as being a back up unit for companies with fixed broadband connections.

As well as offering HSDPA coverage, the HR4110 will automatically search for 3G or other mobile networks in areas without HSDPA to keep you online. There's also dual SIM card slots for switching to a back up network in the event of the primary connection becomign unavailable. And in terms of security, it's built on Sarian's own operating system, SAR/OS - which the manufacturer claims has no known exploits.

According to Andy Hood, managing director of Sarian Systems: "The speed and reliability of HSDPA make it ideal for mobile business applications such as live video surveillance, VoIP and telemetry, or even as a back-up for the

company broadband. The HR4110 is designed to help businesses harness these features and keep key business applications running smoothly in environments where network failures or coverage issues are unacceptable."

The HR4110 is available to order now direct from Sarian. Contact the company for price and further details.

Sarian website

More HSDPA:
T-Mobile launches MDA Vario II with HSDPA connectivity
Orange announces SPV M3100 with HSDPA connectivity

Posted by modculture on September 5, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Anycom Bluetooth headphones for the iPod



Making the iPod smaller might mean it fits into your pocket easier, but there'll always be the earphone cable to contend with. Unless you invest in a Bluetooth set-up like this **Anycom headphone bundle for the iPod**.

It can be used with all iPods (except the shuffle), allowing you to listen to music and control important functions, as well as working with your Bluetooth mobile phone. The headset has four buttons to control all important functions (volume up/down, call answer/end, redial/mute, next/previous title, pause/start) and can be used with a range up to 10m metres away.

One charge offers 12 hours of listening (with 200 hours standby), with charging via USB or AC power supply. It's avaialble now for around £120.

Find out more

More Bluetooth headphones:
Saitek Audio Bluetooth headphones
i.Tech BlueBAND headphones

Posted by modculture on September 5, 2006 in MP3 players | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1)

Samsung replaces P300 calculator phone with P310



Bad new for lovers of quirky phones designs - Samsung has ditched the calculator looks of its retro-styled P300 mobile in favour of something equally small, but far more dull - the **Samsung P310**.

The new phone looks more like the rest of Samsung's range, albeit much smaller - still the size of a credit card. However, on the plus side, it does have a better camera, now boosted to two megapixels. Much of the remaining spec is unchanged - a 220 x 176, 262,144-colour display, 80MB of memory and a Micro SD memory card slot. The P310 also features Bluetooth, but now with A2DP wireless stereo.

There's been no confirmation of availability or price as yet.

Samsung website

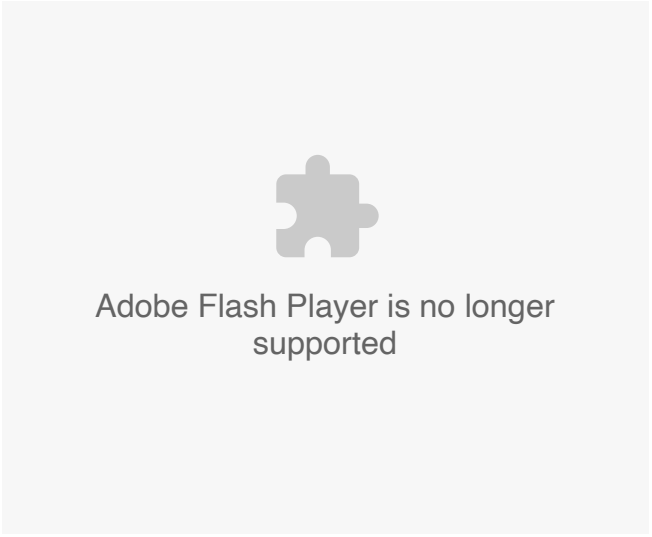
Via The Register

More mobiles:
IFA 2006: LG unveils super 3G U830 clamshell handset
Nokia launches the luxury 8800 Sirocco

Posted by modculture on September 5, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

One Minute Video Review: Samsung Ultra Range

A quick look at a few of the new phones in Samsung's line-up, including the world's slimmest phone, and the new clamshell HSDPA phone.



Posted by Shiny Media on September 5, 2006 in Mobile phones | Video
Permalink | Comments (0)

ITV begins live streaming to 3 mobile network



ITV started broadcasting live 24/7 to the 3 Network today, meaning 3's mobile customers have the joy of being able to watch ITV1 and ITV Play wherever they are.

It will cost 49p per day to watch ITV Play, 99p per day to watch ITV1, and there's also a £5 per month package giving unlimited access to 18 channels. Quite what these other 16 channels are I'm not sure – what's the betting QVC is on there, along with Price Drop TV, Bid TV and, err... hey I don't know all the Teleshopping channels OK?

ITV already has a deal with 3 to let customers download highlights packages (what, highlights of ITV1?) – but now if you're out and about and haven't pinged your PVR to record Emmerdale, you can watch it on your mobile. Woo-hoo.

Would you want to watch ITV1 on your mobile?

3 website

Posted by Andy Merrett on September 4, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Map24.com: Free map service for mobiles



A free new mapping service has been launched for use by anyone with a multimedia phone or PDA with mobile Internet access.

Map24.com runs like other online mapping services such as those available from the AA and RAC, and though it currently covers Europe it has plans to extend worldwide in the near future.

Chris Wallett, UK managing director of Mapsolute, which owns Map24, said: "More and more people are using online maps for route planning and navigation, and for other uses such as finding venues. With Map24 Mobile, people can now use their mobile phones to plan their journeys and find extremely useful mapping content. It's free, easy to use and extremely useful whilst you're on the move."

I'm can't see any immediate benefit of using Map24 over other services, but an initial test shows that it works pretty well – so could be good if you're mobile Net connected but without a sat-nav.

Map24.com

Posted by Andy Merrett on September 4, 2006 in Mobile phones | Websites
Permalink | Comments (0)

Mobile Phone Signals Monitor Traffic Flow

Depending how you look at it TrafficAid is a useful or a sinister development in road traffic management. Developed by engineers at IntelliOne in Atlanta. TrafficAid monitors traffic flow by picking up and triangulating mobile phone



signals. All mobiles, whether they're being used or not are constantly sending out signals that tells the network where they are and this information can be used to accurately plot the number of vehicles, and how fast they are moving on a stretch of road. Unlike existing systems, which rely on buried sensors, cameras or detectors, TrafficAid requires no additional infrastructure. In case you are concerned about privacy IntelliOne claim that no personally identifiable data is retrieved fro the phones being monitored, though it hardly seems worth worrying about given the number of cameras watching your every move these days.

Posted by Shiny Media on September 4, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

IFA 2006: LG unveils super 3G U830 clamshell handset



With some of the **HSDPA** networks in place already and the rest to follow in the next few months, it's no suprise to see the super 3G phones making their mark at IFA, including the **U830 from LG**.

It's a slimline clamshell phone that may ship under LG's "Chocolate" banner, though this isn't as yet comfirmed. What is confirmed is that the phone will be available on the 3 network and it will feature a two megapixel camera, an impressive 200MB of storage space, Bluetooth connectivity and support for various audio formats, including MP3, AAC and WMA.

No news on price or specific release date – more when we have it.

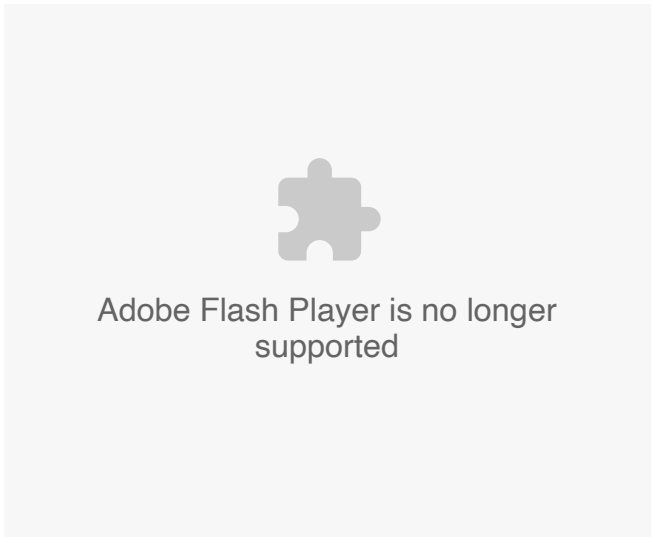
LG website

More HSDPA:
Orange announces SPV M3100 with HSDPA connectivity
T-Mobile launches MDA Vario II with HSDPA connectivity

Posted by modculture on September 1, 2006 in IFA news | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

One Minute Video Review: Navman Mobile

I looked at the Navman Mobile Travel Assist S60 – there was a name change in the time between I recorded this video and you seeing it now, so excuse the trip into the past. You can read a full review here.



Posted by Shiny Media on August 30, 2006 in Mobile phones | Reviews | Video
Permalink | Comments (0)

Nokia launches the luxury 8800 Sirocco



Nokia is to release an enhanced version of its 8800 slider phone next month, keeping the looks, adding a much-needed higher-spec camera and changind the name to the **8800 Sirocco**.

I thought the Sirocco was an old Volkswagen motor, but apparently its a strong wind. What that has to do with phones, I don't know - but I do know that this phone features a 208 x 208, 262,144-colour display, 64MB of storage, Bluetooth with wireless stereo audio, MP3 ringtones and a digital music player. Battery time is eight days in standby and up to three hours talk time. Much of that was present in the older version, the one big new feature is the camera, boosted from a VGA model to two megapixel model. There's also a redesigned keyboard and navigator control.

You can get your hnads on one in September, with no price as yet confirmed. But you're unlikely to geet much change from £500.

Nokia website

Via The Register

More mobiles:
One Minute Video Review: Nokia N73
Samsung's 8GB SCH-B570 golfing mobile phone

Posted by modculture on August 30, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (2)

89 metre throw clinches Mobile Phone Throwing World Championship



Many is the time I've wanted to chuck my phone as far as possible: sometimes because of it's 'features', and sometimes because the person on the other end of the phone is so darn annoying. If only I'd known about the annual **Mobile Phone Throwing World Championship** I could've put my frustrations to good effect.

I don't think I'd have managed 89 metres, though, which was the winning throw by Finland's Lassi Etelätalo in Savonlinna (Finland) last weekend. Eija Laakso took first place in the woman's category with a new world record throw of 50.83m.

It's been held since 2004 and features four categories: Juniors, Original and Team Original and Freestyle. The first three categories require an overarm throw, whilst points are awarded in the freestyle category for aesthetics.

Technique is just as important as distance, and apparently three things are needed to be a long distance phone lobber: power, technical skills and a sense of humour.

What would be your phone of choice to lob?

(Via Digital Lifestyles)

Posted by Andy Merrett on August 29, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

One Minute Video Review: Nokia N73

Susi looks at the Nokia N73, which features a 3.2 megapixel camera as well as all the applications you need to get the best of your photos. You can check out the full review here.

Adobe Flash Player is no longer supported

Posted by Shiny Media on August 25, 2006 in Mobile phones | Reviews | Video
Permalink | Comments (1)

Manchester City FC introduces mobile ticketing



Manchester City are expanding their trial of using fans' mobile phones as tickets when they play Arsenal this weekend.

A select group of top customers have been supplied with modified near-field communication Nokia phones fitted with RF chips that enable the user to purchase electronic tickets and then operate turnstiles at the ground using special readers.

The system can also be used for targeted advertising and promotions, such as offering discounts to fans who arrive early, and providing wallpaper, ringtones and club merchandise.

The scheme will then be rolled out from Christmas, though it will only work with the modified phones supplied by Man City.

It will be interesting to see if this is something that can be extended to other clubs, and if some kind of standard emerges. It would be a tad inconvenient needing a different phone for each ground.

Nokia started trailing other forms of mobile ticketing several months ago.

Posted by Andy Merrett on August 25, 2006 in Mobile phones | Tech Digest news
Permalink | Comments (1)

Do you know the cost of your mobile calls?



If you made a call on your mobile outside of your talk plan, would you know how much it had cost? According to a new survey, 8 out of 10 people wouldn't have a clue.

The survey was undertaken by SimplySwitch.com, the price comparison and switching service, which asked just over 10,000 of its call centre customers a series of questions about their mobile service. They also discovered that half of those questioned had been overcharged in the past by their mobile operator and over 60 per cent believed value for money was the most important factor when choosing a new tariff – above a phone's looks or the latest functionality.

With this in mind, Karen Darby, CEO at SimplySwitch, has put together five tips aimed at consumers looking to get a good deal on their mobile bills. You can read them after the turn.

Getting a good deal on your mobile

1. Check out all the offers that are available to you. SimplySwitch.com has a new service that allows you to do this with a click of a button.

2.Look for hidden charges, such as the cost of making international calls, downloading content or using your phone's additional services.

3. Ask your operator the cost of calls and text messages outside of your talk plan

4. Work out if you really need an itemised bill. Although it can be helpful to see what you are being charged for, most operators now charge you for sending an itemised bill

5. Insure your phone to avoid paying for a replacement if it is lost or stolen.

SimplySwitch website

More mobiles:

Posted by modculture on August 24, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Review: Nokia N73 multimedia phone



The Propaganda

The N73 is billed by Nokia as the complete multimedia phone. It comes with a 3.2 megapixel camera, including a Carl Zeiss lens, an MP3 player and radio which play out of integrated stereo speakers with 3D sound. The big drawer for many people will be the integration with Flickr, making sharing your photos really easy.

It's a 3G phone and has a secondary camera mounted by the screen for video calls, as well as all the Symbian S60 functionality of mobile email, and applications such as Real Player. It's available in three different colour combination – silver and plum, white and red or white and brown.

The Good

The first thing that you notice on picking up the N73 is the camera cover, which doesn't sit flush to the surface of the phone. However, whilst on first glance you might think it makes it look, well, odd, in fact it hides a key selling point of the handset – the camera. The camera itself is 3.2 megapixels, and launches as soon as you open the shutter – a revelation after being used to navigating various menus to get to a camera phone. You can adjust the resolution of the images, according to what you want to do with them, and how many pictures you want to be able to store on your phone. In a nice touch, they've added the size of print that each resolution will stretch too, which is exactly the kind of detail that your average user might not be sure of.

Taking a picture is also a piece of cake, thanks to the buttons on the side of the phone, which mean you can hold it exactly as if you're using a camera. All the settings are defaulted to auto, which means you don't need to worry about the flash (and it is a flash, rather than an LED light) or the focus, although you can switch to manual. In fact, there's at least 3 minutes of fun to be had revealing the lense and then watching the internal exposure mechanics adjust to the lighting – it's like shining a torch in someone's eyes and watching their pupils dilate. However, so far, so nothing new. But it's once you've taken a photo that the fun really starts.

The N73 comes set up ready for you to synch it with your Flickr account. It's just a case of entering your username and password, after which you're good to go. That means that when you take a photo, as well as the usual 'Send via text/bluetooth/IR' you have the option to upload on the Web. And once you've started, it's difficult to stop. I'm not sure when I'm going to need the pictures of my office that are now littering my Flickr account, but you never know.

It also comes with Nokia's Lifeblog, which is based on LiveJournal. It allows you to post items from your phone, including SMS, MMS and audio, onto your existing LiveJournal. If you don't already have an account, you can sign up from your phone and get started almost instantaneously. For avid mobloggers, there's an application which displays a timeline of all your activity from the day – the texts you received, the photos you took etc, which you can then go through and post to your blog.

Whilst its raison d'etre is the camera and all you can do with it, the N73 doesn't rest on its laurels when it comes to other features. There's a search application, accessible from the main menu, which connects you to both Yahoo and Yell.com, making finding business details, or just surfing the web

a lot easier than navigating bookmarks. It's also got stereo speakers for the MP3 player, which play in 3D. There's another few minutes of fun to be had fiddling with the ringtones, hearing what they might sound like in a cave, a railway station or a duct. It's completely bizarre, but does illustrate the quality of the sound you can get out of them.

The Bad

The camera is easy to use, and takes fantastic photographs, but it's not the reason to get rid of your digital camera all together. I found it slow to load – it took 4 seconds from when you opened the cover, which means if you're after that illusive spur of the moment shot, you'll probably have missed it. There's also the eternal problem with camera phones with the lag between when you've hit the button, to when the shot is actually captured. Again, you'll miss the spur of the moment pictures.

The Flickr application can also be a bit of a minefield. It asks you for your Flickr username and password – easy. Unless you signed up using your Yahoo ID. In this case, there's no explanation about what you should do from Nokia's side. If you root around on the Flickr website there is a page explaining that you need a whole new login for N73s, which is a completely random selection of numbers and letters.

The design of the phone is pretty nondescript. The lense cover doesn't sit flush against the back of the phone, which makes it look like the battery cover isn't pushed on properly. There's also a memory card slot for MiniSd cards, which you need the nails of an LA socialite to be able to get into.

Geek Sheet

Weight: 116 g

Height: 110 mm

Width: 49 mm

Thickness (max): 19 mm

Memory: 42MB internal memory, MiniSD slot

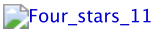
Camera: 3.2 megapixels, 20x digital zoom

Audio Support: AAC, MP3, WMA

Synchronization: MS Outlook, Lotus Notes 5.0, MS Outlook Express, Lotus Organiser 5.0, Lotus Organis er 6.0

In our opinion

It's rare that a product that promises to make it easier for us to share our life/photos/whatever actually does. However, I'm completely converted with the N73. The integration with Flickr and LiveJournal mean that it really does make it simple to add things to your online accounts. If you don't have a blog but intend to, this is the phone to get. And if you've got no interest in sharing your life with complete strangers? The camera alone might win you over.



Posted by Shiny Media on August 23, 2006 in
Mobile phones | Reviews
Permalink | Comments (7)

Stuart's Wednesday Rant: beached mobile game brands



The coolest new mobile phone game this week? It features a bunch of strangers washed up on a desert island, who have to survive long enough to escape. There's mysterious doings afoot though, some dangerous wildlife, and at least one person in the group aren't what they seem...

Great! Someone's done a mobile game based on Lost! But they haven't. Instead, this is a game called Stranded (left), which is heavily inspired by the Channel 4 series, even if its creators Glu Mobile reckon they were thinking more of Robinson Crusoe when they made it.

But here's the confusing thing: rival publisher Gameloft has just signed up the rights to make an *official* Lost mobile game, which'll be out early next year. So shouldn't mobile gamers wait for the real deal rather than play the imitation? I'm not so sure.

You can't compare the two on quality yet. Stranded is ace: a truly immersive adventure with a healthy dash of Animal Crossing-style fishing'n'farming. You should buy it. But Gameloft hasn't even announced what its Lost game

will be like, let alone released any screenshots. So it's too early to tell which is best.

But it's in situations like this where I wonder if the branded game – Lost in this instance – isn't at a disadvantage when faced by unofficial competition. Glu was effectively free to make up its own storyline for Stranded, creating characters, a plot and throwing in jokes without having to get them approved by a brand-owner.

Will the same be true of Lost? Possibly not. Gameloft make marvellous mobile games, but creatively speaking, titles based on TV shows and films can be constrained by the need to follow a plot that viewers will already be familiar with.



It can be done: Gameloft just released a mobile game based on The O.C. which uses the same characters, but doesn't follow any episode (right). Meanwhile another publisher, I-play, did an official 24 game which used the basic concept behind the series to string together a series of spy-themed mini-games.

From an industry point of view, signing up these TV and film brands makes sense, as the mobile operators – who still sell the lion's share of mobile games – prefer to take brands.

But from a gamer's point of view, I'd rather see games publishers ploughing their money into graphics, gameplay and storyline, rather than into licensing deals.

That's not to suggest that Gameloft won't do both with Lost, of course, but having run down my phone battery several times playing Stranded on the train recently just to find out what happened next, I'd hope fans of the show don't think they have to wait until 2007 to get some decent desert-island action on their mobiles.

Posted by Stuart Dredge on August 23, 2006 in Gaming | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Samsung's 8GB SCH-B570 golfing mobile phone



Don't you just love quirky mobile phones? And they don't come much more niche than the **Samsung SCH-B570**, a handset that doubles up as a golfing caddie.

The SCH-B570, launched yesterday in South Korea, features a hefty 8GB of storage for your music. But if playing a round is preferable to playing a tune, you'll be pleased to hear that this phone has the information needed to play South Korea's toughest golf courses, incorporating a GPS receiver which works out how far you are from the green, then suggesting an appropriate club. It also features DMB TV reception, motion-controlled games and, rather strangely, psychological tests.

Priced at the equivalent of between £443 and £499 (depending on contract), we hope to see it in the UK – but you get the feeling it's a forlorn hope.

Samsung website

Via The Register

More mobiles:
Sony Ericsson unleashes the Z610 3G clamshell mirrored handset
Sagem's my501C clamshell handset

Posted by modculture on August 23, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Sony Ericsson unleashes the Z610 3G clamshell mirrored handset

Another handset for the fashion conscious, this time from **Sony Ericsson**, which has introduced the colourful **Z610 3G clamshell handset** with mirrored finish and a hidden OLED display that can only be seen when in use.

The 128 x 36 pixel OLED display is a nice touch – you can impress your friends with information floating on the surface of your shiny coloured



mobile. In addition to the hidden screen, the 3G Z610 also features a 2 megapixel camera, with an interesting sounding Picture Blog application, which allows you to share photographs via an online site with just a few clicks.

Inside, there's a 2-inch, 262k colour screen, support for push email and RSS feeds, Bluetooth, USB connectivity and a 64MB Memory Stick Micro for storage (which you can replace up to 1GB). And of course, a choice of colour between "Luster Black", "Rose Pink" and "Airy Blue".

The Z610 will be available in selected markets in the last quarter of this year. We'll keep you posted when we hear more.

Sony website

More mobiles:
Sagem's my501C clamshell handset
Samsung's swinging X830 music phone heads to Europe

Posted by modculture on August 22, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Virgin Mobile launch free broadband offer

Not to be outdone by everyone else offering free broadband for a year so long as you take some other service offering, Virgin will be offering free broadband to anyone who signs up for a new Virgin SIM-only mobile contract at £15 or £30 per month. The broadband service on its own would cost £17.99 per month for 8Mb download speed and 6Gb monthly usage allowance.

As there's no contract for a Virgin mobile, if you actually want a mobile phone and broadband and don't have either, you could sign up, take the year of mobile use and get the free broadband, and then either scrap the phone or the broadband after the year if you find another deal. Of course, they'll hope that you won't.

I'm no great fan of these 'free' offerings but then I tend to shop around for each service individually without going for bundles like this.

Posted by Andy Merrett on August 21, 2006 in Broadband | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1)

Monday interview: Ex Bang & Olufsen chief Anders Knutsen on why 3D mobile audio is the future



It's fair to say Anders Knutsen's time as CEO and president of hi-fi firm Bang & Olufsen was a success. The figures speak for themselves - record-breaking profits and a soaring share price - but under his leadership B&O managed to turn round its slide into irrelevancy and become that rare thing: a truly *cool* technology brand. By which I mean that even if you couldn't afford to actually buy any of its hi-fis, you could at least dribble over the pictures of them in magazines.

Anyway, Knutsen doesn't have anything to prove after his time at B&O, so what's he doing joining the board of Brit startup Sonaptic, which makes 3D-audio technology for mobile phones? He spoke to Tech Digest on why he made the leap into the world of mobile surround-sound, how it will shift more high-end handsets, and whether mobiles could eventually displace the humble hi-fi from your living room.



Let's start with Sonaptic, which recently announced that its Sonaptic Sound technology is now inside more than 10 million mobile handsets through its partnership with Texas Instruments - even if many of those are in Japan. Over here, you might have seen (or rather heard) it in the Sharp 903, which came out on Vodafone last year (left).

Surround sound for mobile music and TV are the main draws, although it can also be used to make mobile games more immersive. So what hooked Knutsen?

"I didn't know the company before they contacted me, but they gave me a demo on a phone, and I was really impressed with how much better it was than listening to music with a normal headset," he says. "It reminded me of

when at Bang & Olufsen, we said instead of standing outside the concert hall, we were going to move into the concert hall and sit in the middle. That's how Sonaptic's technology sounded to me too the first time I heard it."

One of Knutsen's main jobs at Sonaptic will be to get the firm's technology installed in more handsets in Europe and North America. But do mobile users really want surround-sound in their phones? After all, decent stereo would be a start for many handsets if you're listening to music.

Knutsen is even-handed, admitting that mobile music has always been about convenience rather than quality. However, he believes that's beginning to change, albeit slowly. It's a sales problem more than anything though - how do people know they want 3D sound until they've heard it?

“Never ask consumers what they would like, as they really do not know!” says Knutsen. “They want what they have today, and are very seldom able to express what new features they would like. But there have been a few articles on headsets and mobiles, and how important sound is, on the basis that 3D sound is better, so some customers will ask for it.”

Knutsen doesn't think people would buy handsets today solely because they offer 3D sound, but says it can become one of the expected features on top-end handsets, including those focusing on music. One intruiging question is whether mobiles will ever be used in the home to play music, as well as out and about. You can already plug some phones into your TV to watch video clips full-screen, so will the same thing happen with your hi-fi?

“Mobile playback devices are going to play a bigger and bigger role in the future,” says Knutsen. “You can imagine that one day you'll simply use your mobile device as your domestic playback device too. You can never have as good an experience as with fantastic loudspeakers, but you can get close to it.

But wait a second before chucking your B&O speakers in the bin. Knutsen says the focus of Sonaptic's business will continue to be mobility, rather than trying to kill off the hi-fi manufacturers' business.

“I don’t feel the target group is what you call the hi-fi nuts, the audiophiles who are really passionate about movies and sound,” says Knutsen. “You cannot get the same quality experience when you are running around as when you are sitting quiet in your room. But it’s about the convenience.”



Rather cheekily, I wonder whether Knutsen thinks there's a role in the mobile space for traditional hi-fi firms like B&O, maybe with super-high-end music handsets? Of course, that's a road B&O has already gone down with Serene, a concept handset announced last year together with Samsung (right). It promised to offer "the purest relationship between function and form" - with a £1,000-plus price tag to match.

“Well, I'm not that fond of it,” says Knutsen. “It has two names, Samsung and Bang & Olufsen. That would have never happened in my time. But it does show that design elements can be very important.”

Posted by Stuart Dredge on August 21, 2006 in Home audio | Interviews | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Yahoo to provide web search to Orange mobile users



Internet search engines seem keen to get hold of mobile users and encourage them to use their services on the move.

In the latest move, **Yahoo have done a deal with Orange to get its mobile Web portal onto their network** and into the mitts of their users.

It's a bit of a Google-Yahoo battle - isn't it always?

Yahoo have already done a deal with 3, whereas Google have teamed up with both T-Mobile and Vodafone.

One distinct advantage for all concerned (hopefully including the customer) is search results based upon geographical location. Of course, it's also likely to generate extra advertising revenue for the search engines and mobile operators.

Providing a search engine for a mobile that works well needs more work and attention to content than the desktop equivalents we're all used to. For one

thing, there's a wider variety of handsets and capabilities to deal with, and there's issues of bandwidth, ease of data entry, navigation, and so on.

What do you reckon? Would you want to be able to Yahoo! or Google on the move from your mobile? Would geo-targeted services be good?

Posted by Andy Merrett on August 21, 2006 in Mobile phones | Websites
Permalink | Comments (0)

Sagem's my501C clamshell handset



Another new clamshell on the block, this time from **Sagem**, which has launched the **my501C**, a lightweight GPRS handset with music player.

Looks matter as much as functionality for many buyers - and in that, the my501c doesn't disappoint with a nice chrome finish. While the phone is snapped shut, an external OLED 256-color screen display your important info. Once opened, you can get the fuller picture with the 1.8-inch, 128x160 pixel display in 65,000 colors. The phone also has a solid, if not groundbreaking, set of features, including an MP3 player that can also play tracks in the Apple-friendly AAC format, along with dedicated music navigation keys. Storage is an initial 32MB, which can be boosted via micro SD cards. There's also a 1.3MP camera with 8x digital zoom amd video functionality and Bluetooth.

The Sagem my501C is scheduled for release in August 2006. No price or network details confirmed as yet.

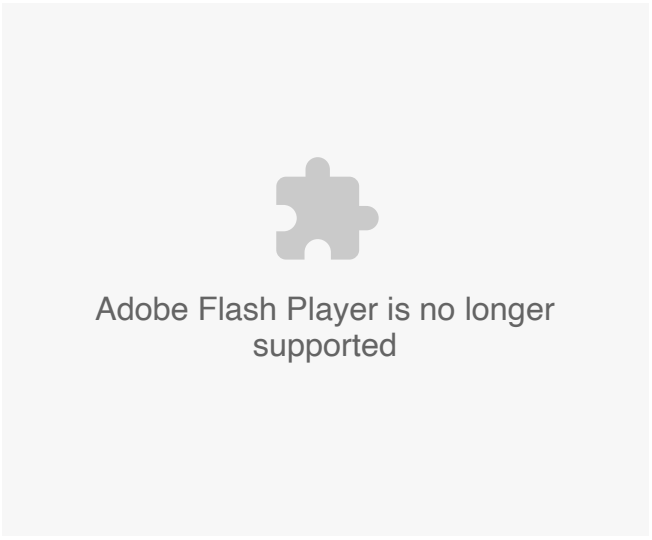
Sagem website

More mobiles:
Samsung's swinging X830 music phone heads to Europe
LG launches L343i i-mode clamshell phone

Posted by modculture on August 21, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

One Minute Preview: Samsung X830 mobile

We wrote about the new Samsung X830 earlier today, and yesterday I got my hands on it for a brief look, in a very noisy hall. Check out the video below.



Posted by Shiny Media on August 18, 2006 in MP3 players | Mobile phones | Video
Permalink | Comments (0)

Sign up with Virgin Mobile - get free Virgin broadband

Another week, another free broadband offer - this time, courtesy of **Virgin Mobile** (now, of course, under the NTL:Telewest brand), which is offering **free high-speed access with Virgin.net if you sign up to a Virgin Mobile monthly deal**.



The deal seems fairly straightforward – if you sign up top one of Virgin Mobile's SIM-only pay monthly tariffs, you will be offered a year's worth of up to 8Mbps broadband, a service that would normally cost £17.99. The offer is available between now and 31st October. Once your SIM is activated, you can get the free broadband service by dialling a number you'll be given.

Last month, NTL:Telewest launched Britain's first quad-play service, offering digital TV, broadband, fixed-line phone and a mobile phone deal from Virgin for £40.

Virgin Mobile

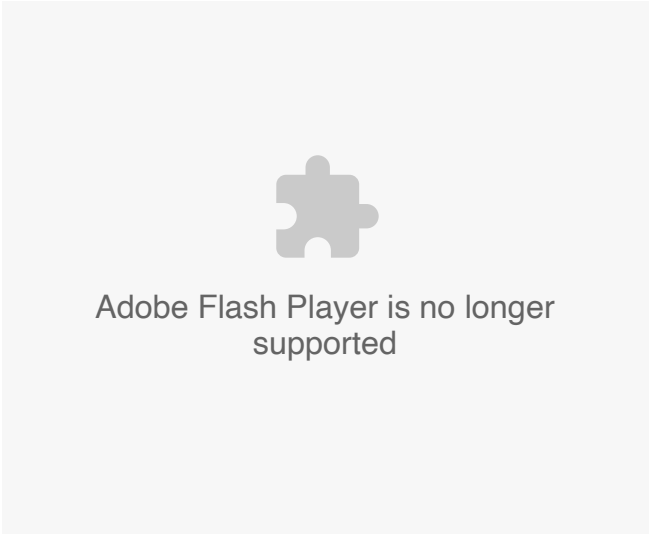
Via The Register

Posted by modculture on August 18, 2006 in Broadband | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

One Minute Video Review: T-Mobile's MDA Vario II the first HSDPA phone to go on sale in the UK

We have waited a very long time for HSDPA phones, but now they seem to be coming in droves. T-Mobile looks like it will win the race to be first to market with its **MDA Vario II**, which goes on sale next week.

Here's a vid and a mini review



The phone is pretty similar to the **Vario I** but with the following key differences.

1 **HSDPA** – Yep it will be able to run at speeds of up to 1.8Mbps – four times faster than standard 3G. T-Mobile claims to have HSDPA across most of the major UK cities, which is far more developed than say Orange. Ultimately the speed of HSDPA does improve the web browsing experience on the phone – pictures certainly load much more quickly. The other key use for the phone in this space will be as a modem for laptops, though if you plan to use it in this capacity check out T-Mobile's data fair usage rules.

2 Better camera – It now has a two mega pixel snapper and the video shooting quality has been updated.

3 Different styling – it looks a little tidier now. Another tweak is that the keyboard apparently glows red in the dark – nice.

4 The device now has a BlackBerry style track wheel for speeding up access to applications.

Overall – the Vario I was a big hit in the Shiny offices, so there's sure to be a lot of interest in the second version. The HSDPA facility certainly worked well in central London

Posted by Shiny Media on August 18, 2006 in Mobile phones | Reviews | Video
Permalink | Comments (3)

Samsung's swinging X830 music phone heads to Europe

Slider phones are just so yesterday – if you want to be ahead of the crowd, you've got to swing – with a phone like **Samsung's X830 music phone**.



The swing aspect quickly transforms this miniature to gadget from pocket MP3 player to cool mobile phone. Not sure you'll look all that cool taking a call with it, but your Bond-style phone should impress the office. The phone has 1GB of storage, which you can boost by card. Formats supported are MP3, WMA and OGG and once you've loaded in your music, you can browse it easily by artist, title or album. The GSM phone also features a 1.3MP camera.

Already available in Korea, the X830 should be available in the UK around October. Prices and networks to be confirmed.

Samsung website

More mobiles:
LG launches L343i i-mode clamshell phone
Review: LG U400 music phone

Posted by modculture on August 18, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1)

Friday interview: 3's Graham Baxter on how HSDPA will speed up your music and video life

Earlier this week, 3 invited a bunch of journalists to one of its London stores to see its new HSDPA mobile broadband service in action. The focus was to show how much faster music and video downloads, and video streaming will be, once it launches later this year in certain parts of the country, before being rolled out elsewhere early next year.

Tech Digest was there, and had a chat with Graham Baxter, 3's technical solutions director – the chap responsible for 3's network technology. He understands all those acronyms, in other words, but also has a handle on what HSDPA will mean for mobile content, and how it stands in relation to rival wireless technologies like WiMAX.

“It’s important to stress that HSDPA is an incremental step in 3G networks,” says Baxter. “It’s an upgrade to our existing network. You do need new handsets or data cards to make use of it, but they can co-exist in the same network.”

The first few HSDPA handsets will be on sale before Christmas. 3 hasn’t announced which handset manufacturers it’s working with yet, but there was a very slinky prototype LG mobile being used for the demos, so fingers crossed that will make it onto the shelves.

When 3 launches HSDPA later this year, initially in London and Manchester, the network will be capable of 3.6 megabits per second, compared to the current 3G rate of 384 kilobits per second. Beware though, the first handsets will only be capable of receiving 1.8Mbps, although a few will be capable of the full 3.6Mbps. However, ultimately it could be capable of up to 14.4 Mbps, which 3 will be working towards over the next couple of years. Got all that? Good.

But this is just download speeds – the ‘D’ in HSDPA (well, that's 'downlink', but let's not split hairs). What about going the other way? It’s increasingly important, given data applications like 3’s See Me TV, where people are uploading their own videos. Faster uplink speeds could mean you’ll be able to upload longer videos, rather than the short clips that are currently possible.

When HSDPA launches, Baxter says the uplink speed will be the same as 3G – 384 Kbps – but that towards the end of next year 3 is planning to launch HSUPA, which will offer 1.5Mbps uplink. Got that? And HSUPA could eventually reach uplink speeds of 5.7Mbps.

The big question about all this bandwidth is what does it mean? 3 showed demos of various content services working with HSDPA, for example downloading songs (see our video clip yesterday) and streaming videos. And it’s true that the speed increase is really impressive – click, and your song is on the handset in 25-30 seconds.

But how will 3 approach this? If we can download music two or three times as fast, will 3 go for that, or up the audio quality – and thus file size – to have downloads that take the same time to arrive, but sound better? The problem is that Baxter can’t really answer these questions – he’s in charge of making sure 3’s content team have the choice to do either, rather than deciding which strategy to take.

“Think about movies or music videos,” he says. “HSDPA gives higher spectral efficiency, so you can get a higher data rate, or more subscribers. So you

could have more subscribers downloading a larger volume of videos, or offer higher-quality videos to the same number of subscribers. It really is a case of mix'n'match."

One thing 3 is planning is full album downloads alongside individual singles once HSDPA is up and running. Baxter also mentions surfing content-heavy internet sites like Flickr and YouTube, although there remains the question of how soon these sites will launch mobile versions that look good on a handset.

Baxter can talk about competitive technologies. Will Wi-Max be a strong competitor, for example? "It's an interesting debate, but you never hear people talking about the fact that you still need to build a network out for Wi-Max," he says. "And that takes a long time to roll something out that's in any way comparable with the 89% population coverage we have already."

The HSDPA v WiMAX debate could take up a whole interview by itself. What we can say is that 3's demo succeeded in its main intention - we want an HSDPA handset (especially the LG one), and hell, we want one before Christmas.

Posted by Stuart Dredge on August 18, 2006 in Interviews | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

LG launches L343i i-mode clamshell phone



A new addition to O2's i-mode range is the **L343i from LG** - an entry-level clamshell phone.

If you want something small that gives you access to i-mode, then the L343i is probably worth a look. Just a touch of the button and you get access to the service, viewed on a 1.7-inch 262k colour TFT screen, so you can book a holiday, browse the houses for sale, access eBay or use the i-mail service to send message to phones or email accounts. Other than that, the specification for this tri-band phone isn't going to get your pulse racing. The camera is described as "in-built", which sould like VGA, but does have 4x zoom. It also features Bluetooth and has 40 polyphonic ringtones.

The LG L343i will be available exclusively on O2. Price and availability has yet to be confirmed.

LG website

More i-mode:
eBay joins O2's i-mode service
Sony Ericsson unveils K610im - the i-mode 3G phone

Posted by modculture on August 17, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Tunes in 30 seconds: see 3's HSDPA network in action

3 was showing off its speedy new HSDPA network in London this week, demonstrating how much faster it is than slow old 3G for activities like downloading music tracks and streaming video. Our video below shows two handsets - the one on the left is HSDPA, and the one on the right is 3G.

As you can see (from our, ahem, blurry camphone footage), the HSDPA one downloads the song in around 30 seconds, at which point the 3G phone isn't even halfway. Later today, we'll post our interview with 3 in which they explain some of the other benefits of HSDPA, and tell us just how fast it'll go in the future. In the meantime, click below to watch the vid.

Note, the HSDPA handset starts downloading first, but that's not an unfair head start - just a reflection of how long it takes the 3G one to begin the download. The button to start was pressed at the same time for each.

Adobe Flash Player is no longer supported

Posted by Stuart Dredge on August 17, 2006 in Mobile phones | Video
Permalink | Comments (0)

Review: Scala Rider Bluetooth Helmet Headset



The Propaganda

You don't realise til you get a motorbike how much stuff you need to buy to make it work. There's all the clothing to minimise scraping off the road situations, there's the bags, boxes and the like to make it usable day-to-day, and then there's the fact that you can't take any phone calls whilst you're on your bike. Unless you've got a bluetooth headset specially adapted for use under helmets - such as the Scala Rider headset from Cardo. It's a speaker that sits inside your helmet with a boom mike that you position inside the front mask. The idea is that it's simple enough to use on the road, without having to stop your bike to chat.

The Good

Securing the headset is easy, as you clamp the battery pack to the outside of your helmet using the clamp they supply. It's weather resistant, so there are no worries about the conditions you're biking in. It also doesn't leave a mark on the helmet, which given how much you've just shelled out on the helmet (definitely a piece of equipment you don't want to skimp on) you'll be thrilled about.

You then position the boom mike by your mouth, and the speaker by your ear, which is fixed on with velcro. It's a speaker, rather than an in-ear piece, presumably to ensure that it doesn't fall out if you're on a particularly bumpy ride.

To make calls, you set up your phone with speech recognition. Alternatively, you can answer calls and dial your last number using the buttons on the battery pack. Once I was on a call, I was amazed by how clear the sound was - the speaker really does make it easy to hear people. The speaker also adjusts the levels according to your speed levels, so it doesn't become deafening when you're at a standstill. I've also been on the other end, and can vouch for the fact that when someone is using this, it really is impossible to tell that they're on a bike even up to speeds of 70 mph (apart for the "hang on a sec, just overtaking.." type comments).

The Bad

Whilst the sound quality is great on a closed helmet, the microphone does suffer when you're using an open helmet. Despite the manufacturers saying that it's wind-resistant, if you don't have your visor down, you do know about it.

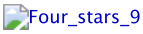
Whilst they've made the buttons as big as they can, it can still be tricky to adjust, particularly when you're wearing gloves. There is a large answer button, as well as a separate re-dial button, but it's the volume buttons that are really tricky to get to. If you do have to adjust the volume, you might find that it's altogether safer to pull over.

There are also certain additional features that it would benefit from. For instance, there is a sudden crop of bluetooth headsets designed to work in tandem with your MP3 player. This would be perfect for the Scala Rider, as

listening to music is something you miss on a bike – what could be better than cruising along listening to Bat Out of Hell, or some equivalent biker type music, and knowing that you're not going to miss any calls. It's also impossible to get it to pair with a GPS device, which again, would be a great application of the technology.

In our opinion

It's a great piece of kit, and it's really surprising to hear exactly how clearly people can hear you. For anyone that travels regularly on their bike, £75 will be a small price to pay for the assurance that they're not missing calls. As for whether it's the safest thing in the world? Probably not.



Posted by Shiny Media on August 16, 2006 in Gadgets | Mobile phones | Reviews
Permalink | Comments (3)

BenQ Siemens AL26 phone Hello Kitty phone



Catching my eye (and how could it not in that colour) over at Shiny Shiny is BenQ Siemens' latest attempt to cash in on the **Hello Kitty** obsession – the **BenQ Siemens AL26**.

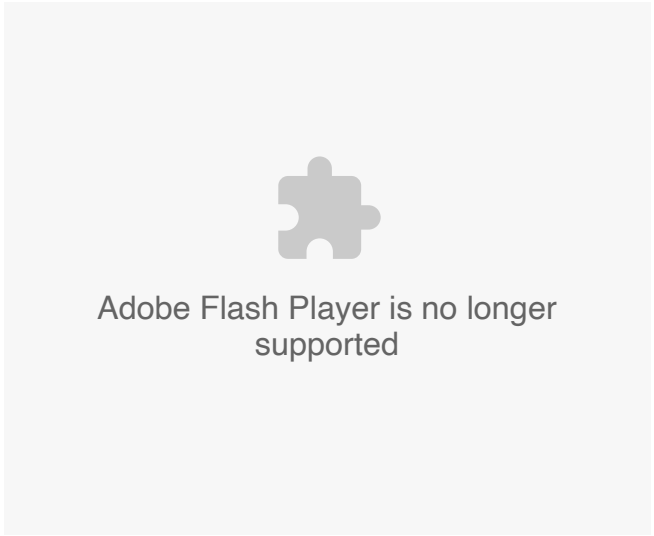
If you're looking for a cutting-edge mobile that'll look sharp in the boardroom – this isn't it. If you're an overgrown child with an obsession with this particular cute cat, read on. Because it's a slider phone with a metallic pink finish featuring images of Hello Kitty herself, not to mention wallpapers, games and ringtones based on the cartoon cat packed inside.

Want to know? Check out Shiny Shiny for more on this, plus loads more gadgets for girls.

Posted by modculture on August 16, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

One Minute Video Review: LG U400 music phone

Katie and I look at the new LG U400 phone, which is chock full of music-related features. For an in-depth review click here. The phone is available free on a 3 contract.



Posted by Shiny Media on August 16, 2006 in MP3 players | Mobile phones | Reviews | Video
Permalink | Comments (5)

Bluevoice – combined watch and Bluetooth headset

When gadgets converge, it can be beautiful thing, resulting in less weight in your pocket/bag and more functionality at your fingertips. But sometimes, it does go slightly wrong, resulting in something like the **Bluevoice – the combined watch and Bluetooth headset**.

Actually, rather than wrong, I'd probably say pointless. After all, don't most of us already own a watch? But if you like the idea of a watch round your ear, you'll be pleased to know that the Bluevoice will be officially unveiled later



this year, with the big commercial push early next year. The marketing claims it to be an alterative to the "cyborg look" of many Bluetooth headsets – instead, you get a functional watch that transforms into a Bluetooth headset when a phone call comes in. It is actually worn as a watch, but when you receive a phone call, you can detach it and use it as a Bluetooth headset. When the call ends, you reattach to the strap. Maybe I'm missing something here – but wouldn't it be easier to wear a watch and answer your phone?

Anyway, if you're more convinced than me, you can look forward to paying $127.95 for the analogue version of the Bluevoice or $119.95 for the digital version, both in an assortment of colours and both due available in the first half of next year.

Find out more

Via Blue Tomorrow

More Bluetooth:
Jabra BT320s Bluetooth earphones
Seiko bluetooth watch

Posted by modculture on August 16, 2006 in Gadgets | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Sky's Mobile TV service goes Extreme!



You don't need to clim a steep rock face or ride a big wave for an extreme sports buzz, you can just switch on your mobile phone, as **Sky has added its Extreme Sports channel to its Mobile TV service**.

Extreme Sports is joining Sky's mobile service as part of the news, sports and factual pack of channels with immediate effect, featuringmade-for-mobile content including a series covering the best and worst slams and profiles on the ultimate extreme sports legends as well as existing content such as the acclaimed Tips & Tricks series.

The Sky Mobile TV news sports and factual pack costs £5 per month for unlimited and is available to any Vodafone Live! 3G customer. Interestingly, Sky says it expects to extend the service to other 3G mobile networks in the coming months, as well as adding new channels to the service. We'll keep you posted.

Sky website

More mobile TV:
Mobile TV – consumer report finds ROK's 2.5G service out-performs leading 3G services
Virgin to launch live TV on your mobile

Posted by modculture on August 16, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

T-Mobile launches MDA Vario II with HSDPA connectivity



Just a week after Orange launched the SPV M3100 with HSDPA connectivity, **T-Mobile** has launched its own super 3G device – the **MDA Vario II**. There's one big difference though – T-Mobile has an HSDPA network in operation.

T-Mobile claims the MDA Vario II will provide users with connection speeds of up to 1.8 megabits per second – four times faster than previously available with 3G. If you move into an area that isn't yet covered (HSDPA apparently covers the same area as T-Mobile's 3G network), the Vario II will automatically connect via Wi-Fi

and GPRS, so you're always connected at the fastest possible speed. It's also Web'n'Walk-enabled, pre-installed with a web browser so you can browse the net the way you'd browse it on your home PC.

The MDA Vario II features a sliding QWERTY keyboard, which which illuminates in low light, an integrated 2 megapixel camera with LED flash, VGA camera (for video calling) and Bluetooth connectivity. It's based on the Microsoft Windows Mobile 5.0 and comes with Microsoft Office installed, so you can use Outlook and view and edit Word, Excel, PowerPoint and PDF files. Push email is also available for business users running Microsoft Exchange 2003 Service Pack 2.

The Vario II is available now in a limited edition red, silver and black casing. Prices differ dependent on your contract, with a maximum price of £299.

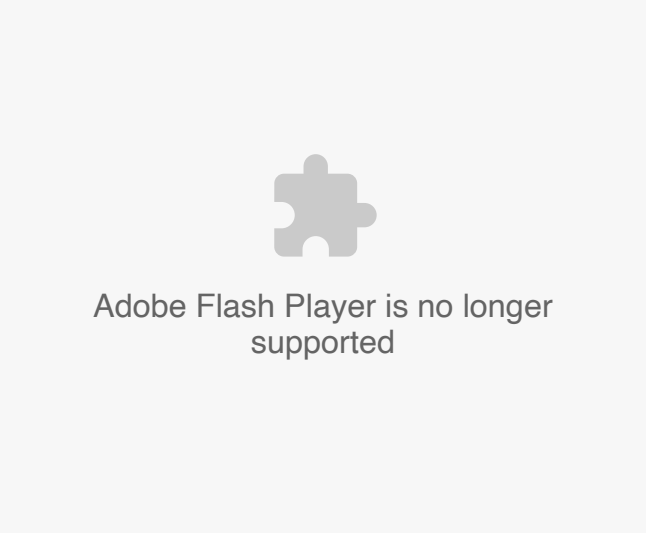
T-Mobile website

More HSDPA:
Orange announces SPV M3100 with HSDPA connectivity
Vodafone to launch v1605 HSDPA/super 3G handset

Posted by modculture on August 15, 2006 in Mobile phones | PDAs
Permalink | Comments (0)

One Minute Video Review: Pulsar Bluetooth headphones

Gemma looks at the Pulsar Bluetooth headphones in the first of these headphone reviews. The Pulsar headphones are available for £70 here. For a more detailed review you can read the full article here.



Posted by Shiny Media on August 14, 2006 in Gadgets | Mobile phones | Reviews | Video
Permalink | Comments (0)

Vodafone to launch v1605 HSDPA/super 3G handset



Just days after Orange announced a HSDPA (super 3G) handset in the form of the SPV M3100, **Vodafone** is set to follow, with an own-brand version of the HTC TyTN Windows Mobile-based handset, dubbed the **v1605**.

Details are scarce at present with regards to the specification, but as it's the TyTN, it should feature a 2.8-inch, 240 x 320 touchscreen display, Wi-Fi wireless networking, tri-band GSM/GPRS, along with 3G and HSDPA. There's also a two megapixel camera on the back. It should also feature a 400MHz processor, 64MB of RAM and a Micro SD slot for boosting your storage.

You can order it now from Vodafone's website as a business customer, with price based on number ordered and contract - but prices range up to £250. There's no confirmed shipping date.

Vodafone website

Via The Register

More HSDPA:
Orange announces SPV M3100 with HSDPA connectivity
LG unveils HSDPA two-way slider phone

Posted by modculture on August 11, 2006 in Mobile phones | PDAs
Permalink | Comments (0)

Apple Rumour of the Day: iPhone revisited

It's been a bit quiet on the rumour mill for a few days – after all, once Steve has made his announcements, that kinda seals it for the pre-speech rumours: most of them dead in the water.

But let's take a look at the iPhone talk. OK, so Steve didn't announce any such device, but that doesn't mean it's not coming – or even that he's not talking about it behind not quite closed doors.

AppleInsider says that the iPhone has grown past rumour into expectation, and also reports that Mr Jobs has been making uncharacteristic remarks in Apple's inner sanctum.

An informant (don't we love them – not that *we* know any...) has said that the device may well turn up earlier than expected, catching even some insiders off-guard. Boy, that would be fun.

So, an iPhone with iPod capabilities, to ensure that Apple don't get knocked off top spot by, say, Nokia – but will it come soon enough? Some analysts say if it comes it won't be until mid-2007, but then Apple have a habit of delivering early.

Apple4 I'm upping the likelihood of a pre-2007 iPhone release to 80%. What do you reckon – is the iPhone on its way?

Posted by Andy Merrett on August 11, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (2)

Review: LG U400 music phone



The Propaganda

This is the LG music phone – the U400. As with many LG phones, it's firmly ingratiated with 3, featuring the 3 Player (their MP3 player interface). LG see it as a contemporary for the Sony Ericsson Walkman range, and since they've brought out the W850i it can't differentiate itself based on its 3G capabilities.

It's a slider phone which features the MP3 player controls on the front of the handset, as well as call answer and reject buttons. The numbered keypad is revealed when you slide it open.

The Good

Because the MP3 controls are on the front of the handset, the U400 successfully stakes its claim as a true phone/MP3 hybrid. It's got an internal memory of 70MB, and a MiniSD slot which can expend it by a further 1GB. In total this will hold about 500 songs, which doesn't make it the biggest out there, but will be adequate for many people out there. It's bundled with a 512MB memory card to get you started.

Because it's exclusive to 3, it's integrated with the 3 player – their MP3 interface. This allows you to view your library to include the songs you've uploaded onto your phone, as well as those you've bought and crucially, those that 3 have available for you to buy. This makes it really easy for you to spend your gas bill money on tracks at 99p a pop.

There are other things that make this a good music phone. Headphones are bundled with it, and appear as standard in-ear headphones, connected into an in-line remote via a 35 mm jack. This means you can quickly discard them and insert your noise cancelling/sporty/just plain comfier headphones. It's also got stereo Bluetooth, so if you're a flash git, you can even stream music without the wires. But be warned, as I have previously mentioned, I have never been able to get my Plantronics headphones to connect to an LG phone.

Other positive aspects: the screen is bright and crisp, the camera isn't hidden under the slide like many of these types of phones (this means you

can shoot with it as you would a normal camera), and the colours of the casing make it attractive, and MP3 player-like.

The Bad

Five minutes out of the box, and the U400 was covered in finger prints - it's got a nice finish but it's just not equipped for the real life situation for being touched by a human hand. There's also a problem using the softkeys. They're situated on each side of the scrollwheel, which is itself to the left of the phone. Getting to them requires a bit of finger gymnastics and a lot of getting used to.

You can't transfer music with a simple drag and drop between drives with the U400. There's software to load and even when this is done, loading tunes is hit and miss. Once you've loaded the songs, there is a horrible DJing function that means you can put a kind of 'wiki-wii-wik' scratching noise over the top. It's a horror to behold, although I recognise that if someone else wrote this review, that might well appear in 'The Good'.

The camera is also nothing of note. It's 2 megapixels but doesn't have any zoom or autofocus built in. You do get the feeling that LG concentrated so hard on the music part of the phone that everthing else kind of fell by the wayside. This is particularly obvious when you try to write messages, find contacts or any of that phone type stuff - there aren't the familiar soft keys that we've quickly become to depend on.

In our opinion

The LG U400 is a good MP3 player, with everything you'd want included in an MP3 player. However, without stereotyping too much, I tempted to conclude that the slightly bulky size, and the masculine black and blue casing means that I'm perhaps the wrong sex to fully appreciate it. And to be honest the wiki-wik noise means it will never be found in my bag.


Posted by Shiny Media on August 10, 2006 in
Mobile phones | Reviews
Permalink | Comments (1)

Jabra BT320s Bluetooth earphones



With so many mobiles offering Bluetooth and indeed a decent music player, Bluetooth headphones/earphones are becoming an ever more useful purchase. And the latest to market are the **BT320s earphones from Jabra**.

When you connect the Jabra BT320s to your music phone, you can listen to your favourite tunes without missing a call - the music automatically pauses when a call comes in. The remote control interface lets you control your music, as well as controlling the main call functions - answer/end, voice dial and last number redial. The headphones are exhangeable, while the main unit is splash proof and offers up to 6 hours of listening/talk time and 160 hours standby time. There's also an LED indicator for battery strength and charging.

If you fancy picking up the BT320s, it should cost around £70. We're still awaiting confirmation of a release date.

Find out more

More Bluetooth:
Sennheiser announces BW900 Bluetooth headset
Saitek Audio Bluetooth headphones

Posted by modculture on August 10, 2006 in MP3 players | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Orange announces SPV M3100 with HSDPA connectivity

Orange has expanded its Signature devices for business range with the **SPV M3100 PDA with 3G, GPRS, EDGE, WiFi and most interestingly, HSDPA connectivity for the first time**. But there's one drawback - Orange is unlikely to have an HSDPA network for sometime yet.

HSDPA (or 3G broadband) is the next major leap in mobile connectivity - offering data transfer well in excess of current 3G speeds - over three times faster than current 3G and over 40 times faster than GPRS. Both Vodafone and T-Mobile have a network in place - Orange is still testing theirs, with a launch date currently estimated as an undetermined date in 2007. Still, I guess you're future-proof if you pick one of these devices up - and you've plenty of other connectivity options in the meantime.

The M3100 with QVGA 320x240 pixel touch screen is powered by Windows Mobile 5.0, which means access to all the Microsoft business software



(Outlook, Word, Excel), along with push email. It also features a full sliding qwerty keyboard, Bluetooth, USB and infrared connectivity, 128MB internal memory and entertainment options including Windows Media Player, a 2.3MP camera and video recorder. Talk time is up to 4 hours or 3 hours for 3G. Standby time is up to 6 days.

The SPV M3100 is available now to UK business customers for £315 (ex VAT) or from free, depending on your contract.

Orange website

More HSDPA:
Vodafone first to offer 3G broadband in the UK
LG unveils HSDPA two-way slider phone

Posted by modculture on August 10, 2006 in Mobile phones | PDAs
Permalink | Comments (1)

Sony Ericsson K618 phone: entertainment and business combines



Sony Ericsson has announced its latest 3G mobile phone, the **K618**, touted as a phone that satisfies both business and pleasure at the same time. I thought you couldn't mix those two, but maybe this phone proves me wrong.

This 3G phone is as light and slim as a 2.5G phone (for those of you keeping up with the Gs). It has 'push email' (in other words, it comes to you without you having to download it) which should go down well with business users, or anyone who likes immediate spam. There's bluetooth, a 2 megapixel camera with 2.5x digital zoom, a Picture Blog application so you can post pix straight to your Blogger account, video calling, and a 256Mb memory card expandable to 1Gb.

Available in black or white, it's coming in September, price to be confirmed.

Posted by Andy Merrett on August 9, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Virgin to cure in-flight boredom with text Q&A;

If the in-flight movie isn't doing anything for you, your iPod has run out of batteries, and you're fed up listening to the guy snoring in the seat next to you, maybe you'd like to pass the time and boredom with a few text messages.

Normally, that's out of the question, but if a system from Virgin takes off, you could start texting questions to a ground station and have them answered, all in mid-flight.

You wouldn't use your regular phone - passengers would use their seat-back TV screens (hmm we're not talking economy class here are we?) to text a question to an existing answer service on the ground (not Richard Branson then) which promises to answer any question within minutes.

It's an interesting idea, but I think I could find better ways of entertaining myself on a long flight with a little preparation - and for free.

Not sure when this service is being introduced though.

Posted by Andy Merrett on August 9, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1)

Stuart's Wednesday Rant: why brain training mobile games are a clever idea

Some of us aren't cut out for this brain training lark. Last week I bought Brain Age for my DS, and within 24 hours had lost the cartridge after absent-mindedly putting it down somewhere. So much for improving my memory.


Dchoc_brainjuice_16_pyra

There's no doubt that the relatively new brain training genre – simple logic puzzles to stretch your grey cells – has been a huge success on DS. Nintendo has apparently sold over five million copies of its three brain-training titles, and they can't all be duplicates for idiot users like me.

What's more, brain training has been credited with persuading legions of Japanese pensioners to invest in a DS – something that for all its charm, WarioWare had thus far failed to do. However, the next big push for the genre isn't on DS. It's on mobile phones.


Iq_img

Three mobile brain training titles have been announced recently. The first comes, appropriately enough, from Japanese firm G-Mode, and is called I.Q. Academy – it's being published here in the West by Irish firm Upstart Games. Hot on its heels come Mobile IQ Trainer from British company Telcogames, and Brain Juice from US publisher Digital Chocolate.

Three's a crowd, but there's plenty more where those came from. It takes a while for mobile games publishers to react to new trends, so many were still beavering away on Sudoku games when the brain training craze hit DS. So what does it all mean, beyond making me worried that I'm going to mislay my phone now too?

Firstly, in the West, mobile brain training games should open up the genre to a wider audience. Japanese grannies and grandads may have been flocking to the stores to buy DS handhelds, but I'm not sure the same will happen here in the West. Whereas an increasing number of elderly people already have a mobile, even if it's a fairly basic one bought for them by their family.

Secondly, there's the network capabilities of mobile phones. See how your brain power stacks up against the rest of the UK, or even the world. I believe Digital Chocolate is looking to include some form of network functionality in Brain Juice, although it's unclear what form this'll take exactly. Yes, you can do this with a DS, as long as you're within a Wi-Fi network.

Thirdly, brain training games are perfect for episodic content, where you get a new bunch of puzzles delivered to you every day. And while this is equally possible on handheld platforms like PSP and DS, it would seem to be no-brainer (sorry, I tried not to use that word) on mobile, and it'll be easier for publishers to charge small amounts for this – which will encourage them to keep up the service.

Brain training is already big on DS, but it'll surely be bigger on mobile, as long as these games are promoted in the right way to attract people who probably don't spend their time surfing their operator's games portal. But then if you're making a brain training game, you should be smart enough to figure that out for yourself.

Posted by Stuart Dredge on August 9, 2006 in Gaming | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1)

Nokia jumps on music store bandwagon, teaming up with Loudeye


Nokialoudeye

Nokia may be looking to challenge Apple's iTunes service by launching one of its own, as it buys out Loudeye. They're setting their sights on multi-function mobile devices as being the preferred medium for enjoying music, through Nokia's own products like the N91.

Nokia sold more than 15 million music-enabled devices worldwide in the 2nd quarter this year, which it claims makes it the world's largest manufacturer of digital music players (hmmm).

They're confident that Loudeye, who currently provide the service for a large number of online music stores including Oxfam's Big Noise Music, MSN and MTV, have the experience, and rights to a substantial quanity of music, to make this a success.

It will be interesting to see how quickly this is taken up. Apple have done well (despite criticism) by tying in the iPod to its iTunes store, and I wonder if Nokia will do the same with its handsets.

One of the big pains I foresee, for anyone who has both a Nokia music phone and an iPod, is DRM headaches and the inability to transfer music. Particularly if the services end up having different music catalogues, users could end up with their collections scattered across different devices that won't communicate with one another – hardly the integrated digital experience.

What do you think? Will this deal make Nokia a serious contender in the market, or will they just be another bit-part player against the giant of iTunes?

Posted by Andy Merrett on August 9, 2006 in MP3 players | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

ROK launches 2.5G mobile TV service in the US



I imagine our US readers have seen our numerous posts on **ROK TV** in the UK and wondered what all the fuss was about? Well, now you can find out – as the service that streams TV to your 2.5G phone **has now launched in the US**, initially with 13 channels and priced at $0.99 per channel.

If you're not expecting much from the 2.5G service, think again. ROK was recently consumer tested against the leading 3G TV services in the UK, coming out in second place, ahead of big boys 3 and Orange, for the quality of service. However, ROK doesn't seem to be going for the mainstream market in the US – instead focusing on niche/alternative content, such as TV Reggaeton, OutThere TV, and Noche De Salsa. Up to niche 50 channels should be available in the coming weeks, along with on-demand and premium programming.

To get ROK TV, visit the ROK website, register and download the software to your smartphone, Windows Mobile or Java device. You can then build up your own custom package of channels. To get things off the ground, the company is also offering one month of free ROK TV for all new subscribers.

ROK website

More ROK:
Mobile TV – consumer report finds ROK's 2.5G service out-performs leading 3G services
Watch ROK TV on your mobile without data charges using Wi-Fi

Posted by modculture on August 8, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Photo messaging increases with camera phone popularity



A new report from M:Metrics shows that **camera phone ownership and usage is increasing in both the US and Europe**.

In the UK, photo messaging has increased by 16% since February. The report also shows that people with higher quality cameras in their phones are more likely to send their photos via messaging (51.8%) than those with VGA (28%) or lower quality (22.3%) resolutions.

The most popular camera phone in the UK is currently the RAZR, however the most common phone for actually sending picture messages is the Nokia 6111.

I'm not sure if there's much significance to the most used model to send picture messages.

What seems to be the case is that those taking better quality photos (well, potentially) are happier to send them to others. It may also be that those with higher quality phones also have calling plans with a higher quota of free picture messaging, but we can't tell from these stats.

Often the way I've seen people using their phones is to take photos and then show them directly to other people by passing the phone around, rather than sending them. Certainly cheaper and more sociable, though probably not what the operators hoped for.

The survey also pushed us some general figures about mobile usage in the UK.

Sent Text Message (84.7%)
Used Photo Messaging (29.7%)
Browsed News and Information (15.0%)
Used Personal E-Mail (6.6%)
Purchased Ringtone (5.7%)
Downloaded Mobile Game (4.3%)
Used Mobile Instant Messenger (4.1%)
Used Work E-Mail (3.2%)

Purchased Wallpaper or Screensaver (2.2%)

Text messaging is still king but photo messaging is more rapidly increasing its share.

Posted by Andy Merrett on August 7, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Mobile internet - most of us don't use it



Virtually all new mobiles and PDAs on the market feature a **web browser**, but new research suggests that, for most us, it's **just another add-on we don't need**.

The research from Hostway has found that although many people can access internet services from their mobile phone, three quarters (73%) are not taking advantage of it. Amongst the reasons for not using mobile internet were being frustrated by slow-loading pages (38%), problems with navigating websites from a phone or PDA (27%) and some websites being completely unavailable on mobile phones (25%).

"At the moment, most websites just aren't flexible enough to be accessed on mobile phones," said Neil Barton, a director at Hostway. "There's nothing wrong with having a flash website with all the bells and whistles you can muster, but you've got to be aware that mobile users simply aren't going to be able to access it. The research illustrates that even if people do wait for sites to load, quite often it's impossible to actually get at the content itself because of the way that sites are built."

However, the survey suggests that if these problems could be remedied, people would be more enthusiastic about using the net on the move. 90% of the survey said that they would use mobile internet if they could be sure that pages would load faster and they wouldn't incur high costs from their mobile operator. Accessing email on the move (71%) and the latest news and sport (47%) were highlighted as the most desirable services from a mobile.

The research, commissioned by Hostway, was conducted by independent research body TNS and surveyed 1484 consumers in Great Britain.

Hostway website

Posted by modculture on August 7, 2006 in Mobile phones | PDAs
Permalink | Comments (1)

3 to exclusively stream ITV1 to your mobile



Good news for anyone who hates leaving the house just before Jeremy Kyle hits the screens - you will soon be able to watch it on your mobile via **3**, after the company announced an **exclusive deal with ITV to stream the channel**.

The deal allows 3's 3.5 million customers to watch ITV1, along with "participation channel" ITV Play live. It will be the UK's first live streamed terrestrial mobile channel and the largest service of its kind in the UK, with coverage of more than 89 per cent of the UK population.

The service will be available from this autumn, with 3 having an exclusive 3G mobile licence to 3 for six months to host the ITV channel. Full details of the channel packages will be announced nearer the time of launch.

3 website

More from 3:
MSN Messenger on your 3 phone
3 adds K610i and K800i Cyber-shot phones to its range

Posted by modculture on August 7, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

One Minute Video Review: Nokia N93

Adobe Flash Player is no longer supported

Just like Buffy the Vampire Slayer and The Arctic Monkeys discussions about **Nokia's N Series** phones invariably lead to fisticuffs in this parish. Here's Ashley swooning all over the camcorder-tastic **N93**, while Katie pulls disapproving faces.

Posted by Shiny Media on August 4, 2006 in Mobile phones | Video
Permalink | Comments (1)

Apple Rumour of the Day: The iPhone



Apple Rumour: The iPhone

I love **Apple rumours**, don't you? It's certainly one of the companies everyone loves to speculate about, even though we know that nothing's certain until Steve Jobs sings.

What's quite cool (for a while) is the amount of spoof product and ad shots that people seem to spend a lot of time concocting. Some of them are quite convincing, too. Here we go with the iPhone.

The Rumour Mill Says...

MobileMag are just one site that have published the spoof Apple iPhone ad. Yeah, someone's got the 'Apple font' and the white background and suddenly they're on the PR team. "Everything you expect from a Mac, from a phone" is the tag. "Say hello to everyone" another one beams.

Join the club, watch the "iPhone Ad" on YouTube.

Adobe Flash Player is no longer supported

See how many old adverts someone has clipped together or Photoshopped to create it. Convincing? Maybe not, but it seems to well up the hope that many Apple fans have for another way to bring Apple into their life.

It's easy to lose count of how many previous rumours have been off-the-wall and proved wrong when Steve actually starts talking.

Next time he'll talk is on Monday, August 7th at the World Wide Developers Conference (WWDC06). We'll see what happens (and of course we'll tell you about it).

Finally, you can play WWDC Bingo, courtesy of Ars Technica - can you get five rumours in a row?

Rumour Rating

Well, this one's been rumbling on and off for a while. Do Apple really want to get into mobile phones? How does it fit into their digital lifestyle strategy? Will the iPod generation and Mac addicts really want to commit another part of their lifestyle to Apple?

My feeling is it's fairly likely. Whether it gets announced on Monday is another matter, but so I have a bigger chance of looking stupid (hey, why not) I'll rate the likelihood of Mr Jobs unveiling an iPhone (or similar device with a different name) on Monday - **60%**:



So what do you reckon? iPhone, anyone?

Posted by Andy Merrett on August 4, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (3)

New Platinum and Gold LG Chocolate phone



LG gave further indications as to when we can expect the new coloured versions of the popular Chocolate phone, as well as previewing two new editions when I met them this week.

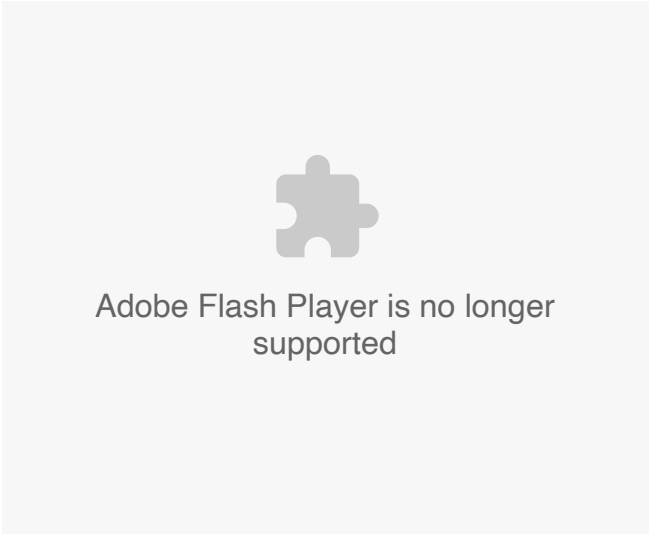
I saw the two new 'premium' versions - gold and platinum. These look the same as the classic version, but with a thin gold or silver strip running through the middle, with Gold/Platinum inscribed on it. Looks wise, they reminded me slightly of a packet of cigarettes, but the kind that might tempt a non-smoker to take it up. Besides this, the main enhancement is the inclusion of a 2 megapixel camera with light, where the previous model only had 1.3 megapixels. These are expected to arrive with us mid-November, making them prime Christmas list fodder. They'll come at a similar price to the classic version, which was free on many networks with a £35ish contract.

Further to that, I got a proper look at the pink and white versions, both coming soon. The white version is designed to feel like an iPod Nano, with the same sheen to the paint and silver edging. n fact, it's one of the more successful imitations, as the size and build quality of the phone lends itself well to it. Weirdly, when you first pick it up it feels thicker than the 'classic' Chocolate. This provokes several minutes of looking at the two side by side from every possible angle, only to discover that in fact, they're exactly the same size. It just goes to prove that black is most definitely slimming. This is going to be available in the next 10 days, and in all likelihood, by next Friday (11th). Carphone Warehouse have a two week exclusivity deal, after which it's expected to be everywhere.

The pink version is the hot pink we're all used to from the Motorola RAZR, with the same red glowing buttons we expect from the classic Chocolate. Despite pink and red clashing no doubt it'll be a huge seller. LG expect this to be THE pre-pay handset at Christmas time, when it's expected to retail at about £150. The official launch will be in October, available on both pre-pay and contract.

Posted by Shiny Media on August 4, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

One minute review: Oakley O-ROKR shades



Susi looks at the latest collaboration from Motorola and Oakley -the O-ROKR shades, which stream music to you from any Bluetooth enabled device. Feel free to laugh uncontrollably.

Posted by Shiny Media on August 3, 2006 in MP3 players | Mobile phones | Reviews
Permalink | Comments (0)

Vodafone say video calling is a flop



Vodafone are admitting that video calling has not been a success with its customers, despite it being one of the main selling points for 3G phones. Voice and text still remains the predominant use of phones for communicating, and any video-ing going on is probably destined for the likes of YouTube.

Rumours have been circulating that Vodafone has lost interest in 3G, and that all the cash that went into securing licences and infrastructure was a waste. They seem unhappy to subsidise 3G handsets any more, because customers aren't spending enough money on the extra services.

Mind you, they have also said that more than half of their 3G customers have taken a mobile TV package, often the premium one. It's all a tad confusing knowing who to believe, because a more independent survey found that 3 in 4 of all mobile users weren't interested in Mobile TV at all.

Mobile operator 3 would disagree, claiming that its mobile TV and music services were wildly popular. So, are people turning to 3 instead of V, or is there some marketing hype going on here? What, hype? Never.

It makes me wonder how many people are actually on 3G technology anyway, letalone using its features, if all people really want to do is send text messages...

(sings: And I'm gonna be under the tree, I wonder why no-one's using 3G...)

Posted by Andy Merrett on August 3, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (3)

Mobile music downloads set to increase, but ringtones won't die



Jupiter have done some research that suggests that global downloading of music to mobile phones will reach $14bn by 2011.

The kings of download at present are ringtones, which account for 81% of all downloads, but real music downloads will increase from 9% to 32%, taking away some of their annoyance value. It's all fuelled by an increase in 3G networks and music handsets.

Fortunately, or not, depending on your aural sensibilities, ring tones aren't going to vanish completely. After all there'll always be teenagers on trains that need some way of annoying business commuters...

Posted by Andy Merrett on August 3, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Nokia phones UK's most stolen mobile



Those uni boffins (from Loughborough) have been researching again, and have discovered that Nokia mobile phones have achieved number one spot in "**Britain's Most Nicked Mobile**".

I'm not sure if this is a huge revelation? After all, Nokia's are pretty much the most common phone around, which suggests they're popular, which suggests they're 'nickable' - dunnit?

But wait, we get the actual models: The Nokia 6230 was the most stolen phone, at a whopping 15.4% of all thefts. After that came the Samsung D500 (8.2%) and the Motorola Razr (5.4%).

Overall, over half of all thefts were of Nokia models, followed by Samsung (13.6%) and Sony Ericsson at 13.3%. Again, to me, that sounds like the general popularity of these manufacturers.

Just to mix things up a bit though, it turns out that thieves are seasonally-inclined, and pick different phones to nick around Christmastime.

One thing's almost certain - the old Nokia brick I still embarrassedly use isn't likely to be nicked by anyone. If only.

Posted by Andy Merrett on August 3, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1)

Are these the weirdest mobile games ever?



Unfortunately, Indian firm Mobile2win didn't get into today's 'Top 10 mobile games' post, as I haven't had a chance to play any of their games. But by hell, I'd like to. Take Spank The Ass for example, for its title screen alone (left). Or 7 Year Itch, where you have to hurl crockery at your spouse. Or Cupid's Fart to Heart, where the goal is "to fart and spread love". Or Moo Poo, where you fly around as a loose-bowelled cow. I won't even tell you what Casting Couch, Cherry Popping and Anti Terrorism Party Pack involve... If these games aren't already for sale in the UK, well, they should be.

Posted by Stuart Dredge on August 3, 2006 in Gaming | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Thursday Top 10: Mobile games worth giving yourself RSI for



Mobile games are rubbish, right? Snake's the only one worth playing, especially since you paid a fiver for that rubbish movie game when you were drunk on the train home last year. Never again. But wait a second.

Mobile games have moved on, both from Snake and from the more atrocious movie tie-ins that were common a couple of years ago. The last year has seen an explosion in creativity and quality among mobile game designers. To prove it, we've rounded up ten of the best current mobile games.

They're all unbranded, not based on films, console games, celebrities etc. This isn't because branded games are inherently bad, but because unbranded games don't always get the publicity they deserve - in the press, or from your mobile operator. That said, they should all be available to buy for £3-£5 from the games section of your operator's portal.

1. Turbo Camels: Circus Extreme
It's the best game featuring a bouncing German camel you'll ever play! Yes, probably the only one, but still. Pioneering a genre crying out to be known as the hump'em-up, this sees you playing a camel who's fired out of a cannon, and has to bounce around over 60 levels collecting items before


Turbocamels4_1

executing a gymnastic landing. It's got humour, panache, and turtles too. And a finely-tuned scoring system gives it more depth than most games we've seen.
Official site - Pocket Gamer review

2. Rollercoaster Rush


Rollercoasterrus

Ever been on a rollercoaster and wished it was, well, a bit more dangerous? Try this neat 2D game that puts you in the shoes of a coaster brakesman. It's controlled with just two buttons - 6 to speed up, and 4 to whack on the brakes (although you get a bonus if you don't use the brakes at all). The idea is to give your passengers as thrilling a ride as possible by jumping off bumps, speeding downhill and doing loop-the-loops at every opportunity. Set in Australia, France and the USA - what, no Alton Towers or Thorpe Park? - and will have you beaming like a fool from the start.
Official site - IGN review - Pocket Gamer review


Midnightbowling

3. Midnight Bowling 3D

Bowling games have always been a safe bet on mobile thanks to the simple controls and familiar gameplay mechanics. The latest breed of 3D-capable phones are spawning their own bowling titles too, such as this one. There's a selection of well-rounded characters to control - yes, including the obligatory slinky women - and enough swoopy camera angles to make the game worth showing off. Meanwhile, you unlock new characters, balls and costumes as you go along. They haven't messed with the controls though - setting your aim and spin is as easy as the traditional 2D bowling games.
Official site - IGN review

4. Tower Bloxx


Towerbloxx

You have to be good to get comparisons to Tetris and not emerge with egg on your face. The premise of Tower Bloxx is simple - build skyscrapers floor-by-floor by pressing the 5 key to drop blocks into place - complicated by the fact that they're swinging all over the place. If your timing's good, your tower is straight and loads of people move in. If it's off, you end up with a wobbly load of old shite. It's hypnotically addictive, with added depth provided by the Build City mode, which mixes in a dash of Sim City-esque town planning to the core one-button action.
Official site - IGN review - Pocket Gamer review


Ancientempires2

5. Ancient Empires 2

This is nominally an original game, although it's fair to say this (and its predecessor) owe more than a smidgeon to Nintendo's Advance Wars series. It's turn-based game where you move your units around a map, ganging up on enemies, capturing towns and gradually taking over the (fantasy) world. If all this sounds a bit dull, don't worry - it's leavened by the crafted cartoon graphics, which actually look better than the GBA version of Advance Wars. Hate orcs and elves? No problem, this goes easy on the wizardy rubbish in favour of brain-twisting strategy.
Official site - IGN review - Pocket Gamer review

6. Skipping Stone


Skippingstone

Single-handedly popularized the mobile game genre of 'one-button' games, so called because, yes, you only use one button to play it. Made in South Korea, it's brilliantly simple: you have to skim a stone by pressing the 5 key every time it hits the water. Time it right, and your stone goes faster and higher. Get it wrong, and you'll gradually sink. There's also a bunch of obstacles/helpers thrown in, including a whale that spurts to give your stone a boost. It's not half as twee as that makes it sound - it's probably the best rhythm action game released yet for mobile.
Official site - IGN review - Pocket Gamer review


Darkest_fear_2_

7. Darkest Fear 2: Grim Oak

Because you *can* scare the willies out of yourself with a survival horror game on mobile, even if it's top-down rather than 3D like Resident Evil on console. The plot concerns a suitably spooky hospital-gone-wrong, and there's lashings of monsters, gore and puzzle-solving to be had. If you're as geeky as me, you'll also appreciate the effort that's gone into the game's atmosphere, from the sound to, yes, the lighting effects. Scarily good.
Official site

8. Playman World Soccer

Football games traditionally haven't worked well on mobile. They need too many buttons, leaving you floundering while the opposition spank 20 goals past you. But this game's different, thanks to its innovative control system where your player automatically runs ahead - all you have to do is turn him left or right. The result: marvellous weaving runs a la Ryan Giggs in that FA

Cup semi-final against Arsenal. The game's also got spiffing 3D graphics and a wealth of humour, with some of the most unrealistic - yet fun - unlockable power-ups you've ever seen.
Official site - Pocket Gamer review


Mrgoodlivingpla


Townsmen3

9. Townsmen 3
For those of you with fond memories of Populous and Powermonger, the Townsmen series of mobile games is the modern-day equivalent (albeit with less smiting and natural disasters). It's a resource-management and building game where you have to build up a colony of 'townies' (no, not the kind that hang around your local shopping centre). Construct buildings, seek out new resources, fend off natives and eat LOTS of bacon. It's cartoony looks bely a strategy game with impressive depth.
Official site - Pocket Gamer review

10. Slyder

Slyder
Another unbranded mobile game that'll remind elderly gamers of some titles from their youth, for example Chip's Challenge. The task here is to guide an amenable blue ball ('Slyder') around 150 mazes, negotiating baddies, traps and bottomless pits. As you do. The twist is that when you move Slyder in a particular direction, he won't stop until he hits an obstacle. Much brain-twisting strategy ensues. The game looks ultra-simple, but trust me, it's fiendish once you get started. A perfect example of the sort of 2D puzzler that mobile does best - although hopefully the nine other games here prove that's not all your phone is capable of.
Official site - IGN review - Pocket Gamer review

Posted by Stuart Dredge on August 3, 2006 in Gaming | Mobile phones | Top tens
Permalink | Comments (0)

Review: Samsung E900 fashion phone


Samsunge900_4

The Propaganda

The E900 is a fashion phone from Samsung. Think of phrases like "slip into your handbag on a night out" and "the fashionista's choice" and you're pretty much there. It's a slider phone with a touch keypad that lights up on contact. Sound familiar? Lets face it, this is incredibly similar to the LG Chocolate phone which arrived within the same month. So how does it compare?

The Good

The first thing that strikes you with the E900 is the great screen with a 2.05" 262K colour TFT display. Images appear sharp and bright, both because of the quality of the screen and the way it's set off against the glossy black casing surrounding it. Samsung have also made the most of this by including lots of striking pictures as wallpaper choices.

Looks wise, I'd be really happy about it if I hadn't seen the Chocolate with my own two eyes. The sliding action is smooth, and the gloss makes it look expensive - especially when it isn't marred by any buttons. Unlike many other phones, the menu short cuts also make sense - you can get to contacts, a new SMS message, and connect a Bluetooth device all within one button.

The camera is 1.3 megapixels, and pictures are bright regardless of the lighting, even when you don't use the LED flash. The other key feature, the MP3 player, benefits from the addition of a MicroSD slot - the one area in which the E900 triumphs against the LG Chocolate. Separate touch buttons appear when the MP3 player is activated.

The Bad

The E900 suffers by comparison - for instance, whilst the design itself is fine, you can't help but think that actually, the buttons would look nicer if they were illuminated in red instead of white. And it would benefit from being a little thinner and a little wider instead.

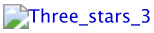
The touch buttons themselves are a nightmare. If you're on a call and the phone is shut, it's tricky trying to end the call and bring up the buttons. In addition, because the phone itself is slightly smaller, there is a higher

chance of accidentally hitting the wrong button – I found myself in the O2 browser several times.

The MP3 player is also only accessible through the main menu. Not a major gripe, but noticeable when so many other phones have a dedicated MP3 button. The menus also have a habit taking you back to your home screen if you choose an invalid option (i.e. checking the memory card when there isn't one installed). This just makes navigating that much more frustrating.

In our opinion

The Samsung E900 would have been a groundbreaking phone had it been released in February. Unfortunately, it's arrived up against the LG Chocolate, surely *the* phone of 2006, at a similar price. Neither are groundbreaking on specs, but that was never the intention of the manufacturers. Personally, I'd be more than happy to carry one around in my bag, but I would always have a nagging feeling that there was something a little better out there.



Posted by Shiny Media on August 2, 2006 in
Mobile phones | Reviews
Permalink | Comments (6)

Wednesday interview: Robert Perkins of LUUP on the future of mobile payments



Paying for stuff with your mobile? Yeah yeah. Heard that one before. Every three or four years there's a lot of noise about the idea, only for it to fizzle out quietly when the technology isn't ready. Except in Japan of course, where the entire population threw away their banknotes and credit cards years ago to pay for everthing with their mobile phones. So we've heard.

2006 could be different. There are several companies talking about mobile payments again, whether it's PayPal, the mobile operators, or LUUP. Not heard of the latter? It's a mobile payment system that launched earlier this year, aiming to provide an easier way to pay for mobile and digital content using your phone. So what's it all about?



LUUP started life in Norway, funded by a pair of investors keen to launch a workable mobile payments system. It then launched in the UK and Germany earlier this year, and has since picked up around 15,000 customers in each country.

"We were one of the first people to be granted a full e-money licence in Europe," says Robert Perkins, UK director at LUUP. "It basically means we can act like a bank, and operate throughout Europe. Our aim is to create a mass-market brand, a bit like Visa, to act as a middleman between consumers and the banks."

When you sign up, you get a LUUP wallet, which you can pay into from any source – credit or debit cards or a bank transfer – and then use to pay for stuff (the company's FAQ explains more). In the UK, the company has focused on mobile content so far, aiming to make it cheaper to buy games, ringtones and other stuff outside the mobile operator portals.

Currently, the main way to pay for this is premium-SMS, where you get a bunch of premium-rare text messages sent to your phone. In truth, the advantages of using LUUP are more for the content-sellers

"The merchants can save money by using LUUP, and we're hoping some of them will pass on those costs to customers," says Perkins. "One of our partners, Intomobi, is offering realtones for £1, which is the cheapest you can get them anywhere online. And they're doing that purely because we're charging less fees than the operators do for PSMS."

So what else can you pay for using LUUP? The company will soon launch a top-up feature in Germany so users can buy extra airtime using their LUUP wallets, although Perkins says the UK operators are more reluctant to co-operate with this.

Another possible use will be mobile gambling, although most mobile casinos and bookmakers already offer secure wallets that you can pay into using your credit or debit card.

One thing they're not doing is paying for physical goods in the real world – going into a high-street shop and buying something using your phone. It's often been seen as the holy grail of mobile payments, and although LUUP has run trials in Norway, Perkins says it's a bit too early to offer it for real.

"It's starting in Japan, and the technology is available, but in Europe and the UK it's going to be a while before the technology catches up," he says. "We're interested in being there when it does, but it's a little bit early right now."

Even as a pure digital mobile payment technology, LUUP has competition. For example, the UK mobile operators are working on their own system called Pay4It, which will make it easier for people to buy mobile content off-portal - effectively replacing SMS.

Perkins says that there are plenty of benefits for merchants in using LUUP over Pay4It, particularly the better revenue share offered by LUUP. However, the idea of Pay4It is that you'll be charged direct to your phone bill, rather than having to manage a separate wallet, so in the eyes of consumers, it may seem easier.

What about PayPal too? The eBay subsidiary announced plans earlier this year to allow users to pay by mobile for goods by sending a text message. It's not exactly the same as LUUP, but it could be seen as competition.

"We actually see PayPal Mobile as good news for us and the industry," says Perkins. "The challenge is to change people's perceptions about using their mobile to buy things. If a big brand like PayPal is offering this, then smaller brands coming into the market like ourselves will have time to grow. There's plenty of room."

He also says that PayPal will focus mainly on payments over £5, whereas LUUP covers smaller payments too. Also potentially in LUUP's favour is the fact that it is targeted at young people, with a minimum age of 14 rather than 18. Another intruiging feature is the ability to make peer-to-peer payments using LUUP to friends.

"That could really help this service to proliferate," says chief marketing officer Jeff Lamont. "It's one thing that PSMS or the operators will never have the capability to do."

LUUP, PayPal Mobile, Pay4It... frankly it's too early to tell which of these m-payment methods will succeed, or whether there is room for more than one of them. But the fact that there's so much activity in this area does show that this time, the hype around m-payments may just turn out to have some basis in reality.

Posted by Stuart Dredge on August 2, 2006 in Interviews | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Faster and More Powerful Uninstaller



Add/Remove Programs in Windows Control Panel is okay for uninstalling programs that play by the rules but if you download a lot of software from the Internet you might find that a few of them just won't go away. Some programs also leave behind references in Add/Remove Programs; in short it could be a lot better. Propellerhead has found an alternative, and it's called Easy Uninstaller, and not only is it between 5 and 10 times faster than the Windows utility, it's also more efficient and tells you a lot more about the programs you have on your computer, including useful things like the publisher's website, the version number and where it is located on your hard drive.

Easy Uninstaller can also handle multiple deletions and it keeps a log of the programs you've removed, it's very easy to use and best of all, it's free! Don't forget there are hundreds more great tips and links to free software on he PCTopTips website.

Posted by Shiny Media on August 2, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1)

Vodafone users in Australia will get BBC mobile downloads; UK Macbooks to get USB 3G broadband



For the first time, the BBC will allow clips downloads of some of its hit programmes to users outside the UK.

Vodafone 3G customers in Australia will soon be able to enjoy the catchphrases of Little Britain, as well as Doctor Who, The Office, and others.

Keith O'Brien, head of content for Vodafone, said: "Mobile TV is one of the most popular services on Vodafone Live!, and we expect the new BBC programmes to be a hit with our customers."

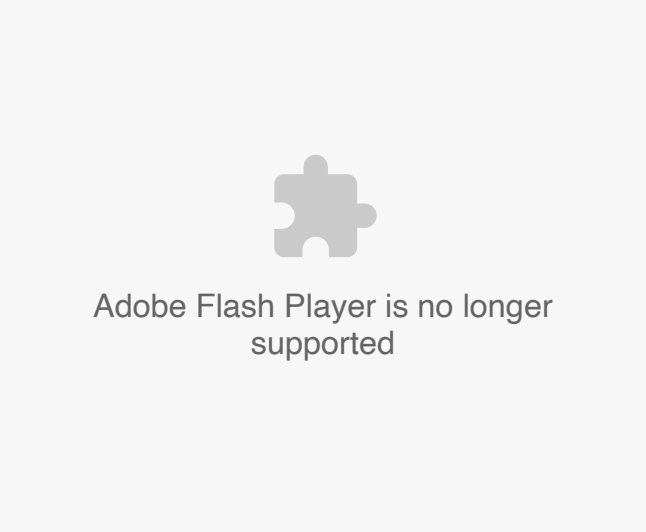
Lucky Aussies, eh?

Read

Meanwhile, Vodafone UK has announced that it will launch a USB version of its 3G Mobile Connect Broadband Datacard for MacBook and MacBook Pro notebooks sometime in the Autumn. Their current offering doesn't work with the MBPs as they use a new ExpressCard 34 port. Connectivity should be the same as for other users, at around 1.4Mbps. No pricing yet. (Via Register)

Posted by Andy Merrett on August 1, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Part II: The future for the LG Black Label range



More from the Man at LG, who lets us in the future of the LG Black Label range (the one that brought us the Chocolate phone). Unfortunately, the Man in the Know bears a striking resemblance to the Man in Black here due to a badly placed window (or badly placed camera), but you get the idea.

Posted by Shiny Media on August 1, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

LG Interview Part I: the new Chocolate phones



A quick look at the new LG Chocolate phones to be launched this year – the White Chocolate version (launched in the next 10 days) and the Pink Chocolate (pre-Christmas), courtesy of the Man in the Know at LG.

Posted by Shiny Media on August 1, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

T-Mobile's PAYG customers get capped mobile Internet browsing



T-Mobile has announced that from today, its Pay-As-You-Go customers can surf the Internet on their mobile phones and never pay more than £1 a day.

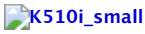
It's part of their web'n'walk service which has been advertised quite extensively recently. It will cost them less than 1p per kilobyte, so effectively once they use more than about 100K (not difficult on the Net) they'll not pay any more that day.

They claim that unlike other operators who offer a cut down Internet experience, there's no restriction on what sites can be viewed. I'd expect that it won't handle much more than text and simple graphics, though, both because of the technology involved and the price capping. Of course there's a fair use policy in the small print.

Seems like a pretty good deal for PAYGers wanting moderate access to the Net, though it's not going to take long to get through 100K a day.

Posted by Andy Merrett on August 1, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Review: Sony Ericsson K510i



The Propaganda

Sony Ericsson released this phone a few months ago, billing it as the phone to take advantage of the 'capture and share' mentality we apparently now all have towards our photography. Happy Slappers everywhere must have pricked up their ears. Now, after a frantic couple of weeks of phone launches, does it stand a chance against the competition?

The Good

It's a lightweight phone weighing only 80 grammes, and although it's a candybar shape it has a slightly parallelogram knock to it, which makes it a little different. The back is a soft touch material (similar to the Motorola PEBL) and the whole thing is available either in black or purple.

Anyone who has had a Sony Ericsson before will be familiar with the interface, which is navigated by the mini joystick under the screen.

Connectivity options are good, with infrared, Bluetooth and a bundled USB cable for transferring files. It's also got Push email, although I'm not sure that the people that own this phone would necessarily need it.

The camera comes with a lot of gimmicky features, like the ability to add clip art and a frame to the pictures. There's also the choice of shoot modes. Panaromic takes three photos, providing you with a strip of the previous photo to the side so you can match up shot at each picture. There is also the 'burst' option, which takes a series of four photos in quick succession so you can pick the best.

The Bad

The camera is the key feature on this phone, but at 1.3 megapixels and 4 x digital zoom, it doesn't do anything to wow (especially in the week LG announce the first 5 megapixel camera phone). There's no flash included, not even an light, so this has to be purchased separately - I doubt they were flying off the shelves. Since a key feature of this phone is the ability to share your photos, the absence of some kind of blogging programme is noticeable. Unfortunately, exactly this was announced by Sony Ericsson and Google (owner of Blogger.com) just a few days after this phone was launched.

Transferring files is a pain - whilst you think you might be able to outwit the phone by simply dragging and dropping music files to the phone when it appears in Explorer, you can't. The files will be on there, but they won't play on the MP3 player. To get them to play, you need to download the Disc2Phone software (included) which transfers music from your computer to your phone. Not unusual, but it's a hassle that we could all do without.

The phone has 28MB internal memory (with even less of it being usable) with no option to expand it, which means there is little space to keep the photos and the music Sony Ericsson so want you to enjoy. I managed only to squeeze 8 songs on, which isn't even enough for a full album.

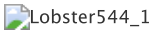
In our opinion

The Sony Ericsson K510i is free on all contracts and from £90 on Pay as You Talk. As a contract phone, it's unlikely to be picked - if you want a phone that plays music, or takes decent pictures, or both, there are far better options out there (the Sony Ericsson W810i is a Walkman phone with a 2 megapixel camera, for a start). However, on Pay as You Talk, it might just stand a chance. It's the same price as the Motorola V3 RAZR and the Siemens E61, but if you're a fan of Sony Ericsson, it's still got enough going for it to be in with a chance.

Two_stars_1

Posted by Shiny Media on August 1, 2006 in Mobile phones | Reviews
Permalink | Comments (0)

Review: Lobster 544 budget music mobile



The Propaganda

Virgin Mobile have committed to expanding their own branded line of mobile phones in the second half of this year, under the name 'Lobster'. These are designed to appeal to youngsters who eat seafood, or are on a budget, or something. Anyway, the 544 is another one of those "for music lovers" phones that everyone is so keen on at the moment.

The Good

The design of the phone is great. It's got a fairly average rounded clamshell shape, but the finish, which is a kind of high shine dark silver colour, makes it look much more expensive than it is. It's also got an external screen under which is one MP3 control - play/pause.

The MP3 player has a dedicated button on the internal keypad, which takes you straight to your list of tracks. It will also play in the background whilst you're doing something else, which is essential if a phone is claimed to be for music lovers - music lovers write text messages too.

Crucially, this phone can be loaded with MP3s simply by dragging them and dropping them. That means there's no need for additional software, or anything to frighten off first time MP3 owners. The phone appears as a separate drive, thanks to the USB cable, which even the least experienced computer owner must be ok with. There's also a 64MB MicroSD card included, which can obviously be increased as required.

It's got a 1.3 megapixels camera, which has a light. It's got a surprising number of settings, including 6 different white balance ranging from cloudy to incandescent (oo'er), as well as the ability to take three different shots in quick succession to make sure you get the best one. The pictures are also on the removable disk, meaning they stand a better chance of eventually getting off your phone.

The Bad

Although the drag and drop MP3 player is good, it still has the potential to confuse a first-timer. Two drives appear in your Explorer window, and the instructions don't tally with what you see on your screen, which spells the beginning of a tedious few trial and error minutes. There's also absolutely no word on what file formats it accepts, but after more trial and error, I can tell you it's not WMA files, but is MP3 files. So, essentially, the manual sucks.

Being a budget phone, the connectivity is limited. There's no Bluetooth, which means despite being a music-centric phone, you can't pair it with Bluetooth headphones. The menu screen is also ill designed, being grey apart from the highlighted icon you scroll through. Bearing in mind it's a bright 262k colour screen, it seems a waste.

In our opinion

The Lobster 544 costs £70 on Pay As You Talk, which sits below most other PAYT phones with these features. The big draw is the MP3 player, with an interface that is about as simple as you can get (if you can navigate the minefield that is the instruction manual). Overall, it's good value for money and although is no great shakes spec wise, will suit the budget consumer.

Four_stars_3

Posted by Shiny Media on July 31, 2006 in Mobile phones | Reviews
Permalink | Comments (6)

Vodafone, O2, T Mobile, Orange, and 3 agree to lobotomize stolen mobiles

"I believe the public should be free," said Home Secretary John Reid, "to carry... mobile phones and MP3 players... without fear of becoming a target for robbers." Vodafone, O2, T Mobile, Orange, and 3 have ganged together to make that more possible by blocking stolen mobiles from their networks within 48 hours of when the victim reports the theft. While it's currently apparently not too hard to get a blocked phone reactivated illegally, this supposedly indicates that the mobile networks really mean it this time. Perhaps this watch the video about the mobile blocking will indicate more about how exciting this truly is. [GT]



Stolen mobiles 'will be blocked'

Related stories: Dead Ringers? at Hippyshopper | Pensioners embrace text messaging | Watch out kids, here comes Phonesitter

Posted by gtaylor on July 29, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Pensioners embrace text messaging

A new survey from the charity Help the Aged shows that 1.5 million over the age of 75 own a mobile phone, with 300,000 using it to text their friends and family.

The study shows that many older people think that it's important to have an understanding of new technology, with 26% of over-65s seeing it as a way of remaining independent.

Even so, not everyone is feeling so tech-savvy. 31% find new technology confusing, with 22% saying that their age or disability will stop them benefiting from it. 20% say that they haven't been taught how to use new gadgetry.

Despite this, it does dispel the image of low adoption rates for technology amongst the elderly.

Read

Posted by Andy Merrett on July 28, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Watch out kids, here comes Phonesitter a service that uses your mobi to tell your parents where you are

Now this may seem a bit Orwellian for some, but Mobile Marketing Magazine reports that from 13 August, parents who want to know where their kids are will be able to find out, so long as they have a mobile phone on the right network.

It's all down to Phonesitter, a new service that tracks the movements of individuals via their handset. Phonesitter establishes locations using the transmitter/receiver networks of Orange, T-Mobile, O2 and Vodafone. Although established in other parts of the world, phone tracking has only recently been permitted in the UK after a change in legislation.

The service costs from £5 per month, for which you can track up to five phones, and though it sounds intrusive, the company behind the service points out that it's not possible to track any phone without the prior knowledge and authorisation of the phone holder, and that once authorised, all registered phone holders are informed that they may be tracked, and may withdraw from the service at any time, by sending a text message to Phonesitter.

Get the full story here.

Posted by Davidmurphy on July 27, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1)

LG claims UK's first phone with 5 megapixel camera

The **KG920** stakes its claim as the UK's first mobile phone with a 5 megapixel camera. Yes, five. That's better than many dedicated compact digital cameras and is a big step forward in combining imaging with communication.

Its twist design allows the camera to rotate up to 180 degrees so you can preview self-portraits. It's got a 4x digital zoom, and though all digital zooms don't always give the best pictures, with 5 megapixels and auto-



focus to play with, there's more chance of getting a decent, unpixelated shot. It also has a built-in Xenon/LED flash that will reach 1.5 metres.

There's also an MP3/AAC music player, and a 256Mb memory card is included for music and photo storage. It's Bluetooth enabled, and can sync to your PC.

Whilst it doesn't have all the features of higher-end dedicated compact camera, it's certainly going to narrow the gap between the kinds of images you can take on your mobile compared to a dedicated camera, and helps reduce gadget clutter for the casual photographer / party snapper. It weighs in at 130g, with dimensions 10.8cm x 5cm x 1.8cm.

Coming in August, price to be confirmed.

Posted by Andy Merrett on July 27, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Sagem announces new range of Bluetooth accessories



Sagem has unveiled a new line in Bluetooth accessories with the **Sagem CK1 hands free kit, the H2 Bluetooth headset and the SH1 Bluetooth stereo headset**.

The CKI hands free kit is a slimline accessory that can be used in a car or on a desktop. As it's small, it fits onto the dashboard of your car or clipped to the sunvisor. The speaker offers good quality sound, with side keys to change volume, take a call (or sign off) do a last number redial or manage call queuing. Battery life is 15 hours talk time and 10-25 days on standby.



The H2 Bluetooth headset in a silver and black design weighs just 18g and fits to either side of your head - whichever ear you prefer. Its compatible with any Bluetooth 1.2 gadget and has a long battery life - 12.5 days on standby and 10 hours talk time. The SH1 Bluetooth stereo headset claims to offer "home stereo sound" on the move. It fits snugly onto your head (fitting behind the neck rather than across the head) and features two keys for volume and a third toggle for switching between talk and music - so there's no excuse for missing a call. Battery life is 7 hours talk time and 150 hours of standby.

No confirmation of prices or shelf dates, we'll let you know as soon as we find out.

Sagem website

More Bluetooth:
Sennheiser announces BW900 Bluetooth headset
Review: TRENDnet ClearSky Bluetooth VoiP Phone Kit

Posted by modculture on July 27, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Column: Will Paris Hilton's mobile game start a celebrity bandwagon?



There was a time when being a celebrity was about having the fast cars, the yachts, the luxury handbags... Then it was all about having the right small-yappy-dog to put in said handbags. And now? It's about having your own mobile game. At least, that's the conclusion to be drawn from the recently-released Paris Hilton's Diamond Quest, made by French mobile game publisher Gameloft.

A colourful puzzler that's closely inspired by classic casual game Bejeweled, it's the classiest celebrity-based mobile game yet (admittedly

against competition including games featuring topless shots of Jordan and Pamela Anderson). And if it sells well, it surely won't be the last.



While branded games have been a dominant feature in the mobile gaming world, they've usually been based on films, console games and sporting competitions rather than individual celebrities. Yet that's not always been a good thing: most movie mobile games have been underwhelming – and often rubbish – while those inspired by console brands have tended to be a let-down to hardcore fans of the original game.

2006 could yet be the year of the celebrity tie-in game though. Gameloft's effort stands out because a.) it's actually good (read reviews here and here for opinions), b.) the subject matter – spangly jewels – is well-suited to Paris herself, and c.) will appeal outside the measly 5% of mobile users who currently download games.

That's fans of Paris – and I don't mean mole-eyed mothers' boys who bought her DVD either. Mobile games publishers see celebrities like Paris as a way to appeal to more women, and more 'non-gamers' who watch The Simple Life, but haven't downloaded a mobile game before. It might just work, too, although one barrier is the fact that the strategy relies on these non-gamers going to their mobile operator's games portal and seeing it there.

So who'll be next? Cartoon hip-hop band Gorillaz signed up for their own mobile game earlier this year, with a sequel on the way. And, er, Busted had a game a couple of years ago where you could manage the band (sadly not by driving their tour-bus into a slavering pit of hyenas).

But there are plenty of stars out there who'd benefit from a clever mobile game tie-in, from Robbie Williams to Sienna Miller to Prince Harry to... well, whoever you like. And if Paris' game doesn't spark a wave of similar efforts from the likes of Lindsay Lohan and Nicole Ritchie, then I'll eat my hat. The Gucci one. Take the small dog out of it first though.

Posted by Stuart Dredge on July 26, 2006 in Gaming | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

BenQ-Siemens E81: stylish compact business phone



Presumably the business angle to this phone, the **BenQ-Siemens E81**, is about its look and compactness, because it still boasts plenty of cool media features as per the other two new phones from BenQ-Siemens. Fun *and* business?

Videos can be played back on the 1.8 inch colour screen, these and music can be streamed from the Net. It has a 1.3 megapixel camera with built in LED flash, plus ability to shoot video and make video calls. No direct specs on the quality of this but I'd guess it's based on the E71s abilities.

It's been ergonomically designed with comfort and intuitive operation in mind.

It too can dock with the SyncStation DSC-100 – though it's implied that it doesn't come as standard with the E80. We'll see what's bundled when it's released in late 2006.

The main thing BenQ-Siemens is emphasising with this phone is its 3G connectivity, which it says is the first device in this 'mini format' to offer such extensive 3G functionality. Of course, that's reliant on the operator services to back it up.

Looks pretty smart to me.

More BenQ-Siemens: E71 SL91

Posted by Andy Merrett on July 26, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

BenQ-Siemens E71, curvy mobile inspired by water

From a jet black phone in its shell, to a phone inspired by water, the **BenQ-Siemens E71** has curves designed to fit the hand, with a special coating that's supposed to minimise fingerprints and other grubbiness.



It has a 1.3 megapixel camera with 5x digital zoom - maybe a little meagre by today's mobile standards but not bad - which can also shoot 320x240 video in Mpeg4 format. There's an MP3 player, FM radio, and ability to take micro-SD cards. The battery gives 400 minutes of play time, though no word on how much talk time that gives you.

It comes with the SyncStation DSC-100 dock for charging and connecting to PC and stereo headset.

The keys are slightly raised above the handset body, and there's a 5-way navigation key.

Though it's not explicitly stated, I presume this is a Bluetooth-enabled phone as there are optional Bluetooth accessories for it.

It'll be available in two colour variations, 'Dark Silver' and 'Onyx Black', from late 2006, prices and networks to be confirmed.

More BenQ-Siemens: E81 SL91

Posted by Andy Merrett on July 26, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

BenQ-Siemens SL91, new slider phone



After we revealed Moto's slider yesterday, today it's **BenQ-Siemens** turn with their jet-black **SL91**.

SL for slider? SL for sleek?

Well, whichever, this phone 'looks and feels like smooth dark glass', and when it's touched it reveals their Force Sensitive Resistor (FSR) technology - in other words, the surface reacts to pressure and reveals navigation keys.

They seem keen to promote its aesthetics, encouraging you to show it off in its shell so that it becomes a 'design object' in your home or office, but let's leave that for a moment and look at the features.

OK, that shell is quite useful, functioning as a charger and a dock for synchronising with your PC. It illuminates if you receive a call whilst the phone's in it, or pulsates for a text message or missed call. Sweet. It's also a mobile hi-fi system (show off) and can be used for hands-free calls / conferencing.

The phone? Well, cameras, count 'em. There's a built-in 3.2 megapixel camera with autofocus and night shot mode, plus a VGA quality camera on the front for conferencing.

Topped off with an MP3 player and FM radio, and able to take Micro-SD cards for storage, plus a stereo headset thrown in. Surely it's too good for the office?

Available in the UK from late 2006, prices and networks to be confirmed.

More BenQ-Siemens: E81 E71

Posted by Andy Merrett on July 26, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1)

Review: STRTrk/QTEK 8500 smartphone



The Propaganda

Having seen a whole slew of Windows Mobile based smartphones and Pocket PCs this week, we've got a further review of the HTC STRTrk (otherwise known as the QTEK 8500) having had a bit more of an in-depth look at it. Essentially, it's a smartphone which runs Windows Mobile 5.0, masquerading as a mass market mobile. Available in pink, silver or black, Microsoft are hoping this will be the smartphone that will appeal to a broader selection of people than the corporate workaholics.

The Good

The handset itself is attractive, making it a contender for the many mobile phone users who have no previous experience with smartphones. It's just 15mm thick, and has an external display, as well as external MP3 player controls. These controls also work as call reject and ring silencer buttons when you get an incoming call. The display itself is 2.2" square, which means it's big enough to display a photo of the contact, as well as the name. The cover also features two LED lights, which tell you the battery level, Bluetooth status and network coverage at a glance.

It's loaded with Windows Media Player, which makes it easy to synch music, video and even TV programmes if you're using Windows Media Centre. It is also equipped with Stereo Bluetooth, which means you can listen to headphones without wires, and control the MP3 player from the controls on the headset. Alternatively, it comes with wired headphones.

Unsurprisingly, the STRTrk works primarily as a phone and then as a data device, so there's nothing to frighten off first time users on opening the phone. The typepad is similar to Motorola's laser-etched design, which some people love and others hate (I'm a hater, and obviously suffer from butcher's fingers). There's two soft keys which initially link to a Windows Start button shortcut, and another for contacts.

ActiveSync is easy to set up, as are POP3 accounts. This is fairly essential when you bear in mind the market for this phone which is not confined to those using corporate servers.

The Bad

Although the Windows Media Player is easy, in it's current state it can't hold any more than three songs. You can expand the 64Mb of internal memory via a MiniSD card. Unfortunately, the slot for this is tucked under the battery, and under the SIM card, making it fiddly to install. It also means that you have to take out the SIM card every time you put in or change the card.

The phone also isn't as nippy as you might like. There were occasions during the test when messages took a while to appear, and it seemed that the MP3 player suffered if you were using something complicated like the camera. That's the camera that doesn't have a light, by the way.

The messaging is also a bit clumsy. Unlike many phones, there aren't any shortcuts. For instance, if you want to compose a new message, you've got to go to Start/Messages and then swop out of whatever view you were previously in (Email message from the boss for instance) and then trail back through your email inbox, *then* choose your text message inbox and *finally* you can choose 'new message'. By which time, you wish you'd just called the person.

Connectivity wise, there's no Wifi or 3G support which many other Windows Mobile devices now include.

In our opinion

It seems that this phone doesn't really know what it is. It's not intuitive enough to rival a mass market handset like a Sony Ericsson W700i, despite having the credentials there in theory (different colours, MP3 player externally, 1.3 megapixel camera). On the other hand, the lack of QWERTY keyboard and awkward controls makes it hard to make the most of what Windows Mobile can offer. It seems like it will appeal to those who occasionally want email and internet access, but won't be bothered with the lack of easy shortcuts you'd normally expect from a similar looking phone. It's available for £305 SIM free, or free on certain O2 contracts.

Three_stars_1

Posted by Shiny Media on July 26, 2006 in Mobile phones | PDAs | Reviews
Permalink | Comments (0)

Motorola launches the entry-level MOTOFONE



Not content with launching three handsets and two Bluetooth headsets yesterday, **Motorola** has released yet another phone - the entry-level **MOTOFONE**.

Talk of the look and feel of the handset is big, but specific detail on the technical side is very thin on the ground. Motorola is selling this phone as a stylish mass-market handset (that means low price), with easy functionality that should make sense to most people - including, it would seem, those who struggle to read. That means a redesigned user interface with voice prompts in local languages to guide you through the menu, messaging, and other key functions. In addition, large graphical icons will highlight the menu features as well as your network status and battery strength. And if you're on a pay-as-you-go

account, the phone automatically reports the status of your account after each call or message.

There's no doubting it looks good, it's as thin as the RAZR and features what Motorola describe as "a revolutionary ClearVision display that leverages Electrophoretic Display (EPD) technology to provide users with a large, high-contrast screen viewable even in bright sunlight". That;s a logn way of saying a sharp, clear screen. The MOTOFONE also features a flush-fitting keypad and a dust-resistant design. Apart from that, we know it features polyphonic ringtones and speakerphone - but not much else, which I suspect means it's not going to have the most advanced of specs.

But you'll be able to find out in the near future, as the phone is set to launch in the second half of this year. Price to be confirmed.

Motorola website

More Motorola:
Motorola's new slider - the MOTORIZR mobile phone
Motorola unveils MOTOKRZR mobile handset

Posted by modculture on July 26, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

England's World Cup campaign skyrockets text messaging



Last month saw record figures for text messaging as the World Cup got under way and we all agonised with England.

On average, 112 million SMS's were sent every day during June, putting the monthly total at 3.37 billion.

The Mobile Data Association measured the message counts on 15th June (England v T&T) and 1st July (England v Portugal), where 140 million texts had been sent on each, second only to the 165 million sent on New Year's Day this year.

Shame we can't see the contents of some of those texts. I wonder what the key words were? Predictive text getting stuck on 'Ronaldo'?

Read

Posted by Andy Merrett on July 26, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Microsoft next generation smartphones previewed



I recently spent an afternoon being shown the latest and greatest smartphones and Pocket PC's, with a view to finding out what exactly it was that Microsoft were so damn excited about.

Essentially, we're now faced with more choices than ever before, as illustrated by the photo to the left. These are all the phones either currently in the UK, or expected to join us at some point this year. All of them run of Windows Mobile 5.0, so have Push Email, and the ability to remotely wipe the device if it's lost.

From bottom left - right:

Treo 700w: A controversial one, this. Palm have dumped the Palm OS in favour of the Windows Mobile platform, in a move that has incensed many die-hard Treo fans. Pictured is the US Verizon version, but the result of the recently announced partnering for the next UK Treo between Vodafone and Palm is not expected to be vastly different. The main addition to the keypad is predictably the Windows Start Menu button. As far as a launch date is concerned **'coming soon'** was all we got.

T Mobile MDA Vario: This has been **available in the UK** for a while now. It features a slide-out QWERTY keypad, WiFi, GPRS, EDGE, although no 3G. In fact. it's very similar to...

..The HTC Tytn: We reviewed this a few days ago. It's one of the first Pocket PC brought to us by HTC, who have traditionally manufactured handsets for people like Orange and O2 to stick their name on. It features WiFi, 3G and a slide out QWERTY keyboard. We found it for £50 on an O2 contract, or over £500 SIM free. **Available in the UK now**.

HTC STRTrk: Confusingly, this is known as StarTrek and as the QTEK 850. It's a quadband EDGE phone, which features Bluetooth, an MP3 player, a 1.3

megapixel camera and a MicroSD card. This is a departure from the previous phones, since this is aimed squarely at the consumer market – no touchscreen or QWERTY keypad, but available in black, silver and pink. Despite this, it comes fully loaded with Windows Media 5.0 so you've still got all the Direct Push and Windows functionality. **Available in the UK now** for £305 SIM free.

Top row left to right:

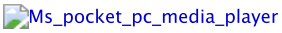
Samsung I320: This has recently launched in Italy and France, and we were told that a **UK launch was planned**. It's extremely thin when you put it next to something like a Treo, despite featuring a full QWERTY keypad. It's got 1.3 megapixel camera, Bluetooth and a MicroSD card, although no touchscreen.

HTC MTeoR: This is the more phone-centric offering from HTC. It's 3G, with a 1.3 megapixel camera on the front, and another by the screen for video calls. Again, no QWERTY keypad, or touch screen, but this one is in a candy bar style. This is going to be **available in the next 10 days** from O2, by the looks of Expansys.

iPAQ HP 6900: This isn't yet available in the UK, although it will be eventually (**no definite dates** yet, but we'll keep you posted). It's got both a QWERTY keypad and a touchscreen, WiFi, Bluetooth all built into a slim candybar handset. It's been billed as the Treo killer, because of its combination of keypad and touch screen.

So, we've got the handsets. And from the looks of it, we've got the apps. For instance, Slingbox have announced SlingPlayer Mobile, which is already available in the US. It's exclusively for Windows Mobile based PDAs and smartphones, and allows you to watch your home TV wherever you are, via an internet connection (WiFi USB or Bluetooth). It's not here yet, but watch this space.

The next launch for Microsoft is with Windows Live, which is currently in Beta testing. It plots your position on the globe, down to the nearest mm or something equally exact, and then gives you all the information you could possibly desire – nearest restaurant, reviews of nearest restaurant, map to the nearest restaurant, cash machine nearest to restaurant, great-aunt Gertrude's opinion of nearest restaurant, all seamlessly integrated with your phone functions. It's not dissimilar to something like Vodafone's Find and Seek service, but looks like it will be better integrated into the Windows Mobile 'experience'.



They're also keen to integrate Windows Media Centre into their devices. This to the right is the Toshiba Gigabeat S which features the Windows Media interface. It's so far only been released in the US, but with 30GB or 60GB of storage, a sharp colour screen and both coming in cheaper than the Apple alternative, it's a bit of a winner. There aren't currently any plans to bring it to the UK, but with previous models available here, all is not lost.

Posted by Shiny Media on July 25, 2006 in Mobile phones | PDAs
Permalink | Comments (2)

Motorola could topple Nokia as 2007's mobile king



Silicon.com have published an interesting article suggesting that, **if Motorola continue to produce great handsets at the same rate, they'll overtake Nokia as the largest manufacturer of mobile handsets in early 2007**.

That's quite something, given Nokia's dominance.

The report from Strategy Analytics showed that over the past year, Motorola's average growth rate was 52% compared to just 32% for Nokia. Though Nokia are still selling a greater volume of phones – 78m compared to Motorola's 52m in the second quarter of this year – they'll need to be on their guard and improve their entry and mid-level products if they're to maintain their top position.

Neil Mawston at Strategy Analytics suggests that both companies need to continue to improve and innovate. This will be an interesting race to watch, and some strong competition should provide us with even better gear from both companies.

Read

Posted by Andy Merrett on July 25, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Motorola's H601 and H800 Bluetooth headsets



Along with the the slimline MOTOKRZR and the MOTORIZR slider handset, **Motorola** also launched two Bluetooth headsets to compliment the new phones – the **H601 and H800 headsets**.

Both units reflect the new handsets look and feel – the headsets also apparently bring advancements in talk time and sound clarity – the H800 offers 6 hours of talk time and 8 days of standby, while the H601 can provide 8 hours of talk time and 8 hours of standby. Both work up to a range of 10 metres, indicator lights for incoming calls and an elevated speaker, which rests closer to the ear delivering louder audio.

Both units also feature upgraded finishes and laser-etched graphics. Like the new handsets, both of these headsets should be available in the second hald of this year.

Motorola website

More Motorola:
Motorola's new slider – the MOTORIZR mobile phone
Motorola unveils MOTOKRZR mobile handset

Posted by modculture on July 25, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Motorola's new slider – the MOTORIZR mobile phone



Along with the MOTOKRZR, Motorola has also joined virtually every phone manufacturer and unveiled its first slider phone – the **Motorola MOTORIZR**.

Yes, you have the option of sliding as well as flipping with Motorola. Again, with that glossy metallic finish you expect from modern-day Motorola, it also features a "chemically-etched spun metal" keypad and optional tattoo graphics (to match your own maybe?). The MOTORIZR has a 2 megapixel camera on-board, with the slider design improving on-the-go imaging by offering a landscape display. The camera is also programmed point-and-shoot keys. You also get a built-in music player, which supports a variety of formats and there's video shooting too, plus EDGE support and stereo Bluetooth.

Like the MOTOKRZR, a price is still to be confirmed, but you should be able to get your hands on the MOTORIZR in the latter part of this year.

Motorola website

More nobiles:
Motorola unveils MOTOKRZR mobile handset
Nokia's N93 camcorder phone now in UK stores

Posted by modculture on July 25, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

MOTORAZR maxx phone kick-starts Motorola's HSDPA charge

Besides announcing its sleek new MOTOKRZR mobile handset today, Motorola has also unveiled its first HSDPA-capable phones, to take advantage of the 3G broadband networks being rolled out by the operators.

Pick of the bunch is the MOTORAZR maxx, a tarted up version of the 3G RAZR that supports HSDPA and EDGE connectivity, but also boasts a 2.0 megapixel camera (plus another VGA one for video-calls), dedicated keys for its music player application, and a microSD memory card slot.

The handset is expected to be available in the run-up to Christmas this year, hopefully tying in with wider HSDPA launches by the mobile operators. In the UK, Vodafone already offers HSDPA – albeit for laptop users only at the moment – while T-Mobile has announced plans to launch in August. O2, Orange and T-Mobile won't be far behind.


Motorazrmaxx_1

Motorola website

Posted by Stuart Dredge on July 25, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Motorola unveils MOTOKRZR mobile handset


Moto_krzr

It's a busy day at **Motorola**, with a host of new products to the market – including this **super-slim MOTOKRZR handset**, which hacks more than a centimetre off the Motorola RAZR's width.

The MOTOKRZR is certainly a looker – with its metallic gloss finish, polished chrome and hardened glass. It's available for both GSM and CDMA networks, the GSM MOTOKRZR (which we'll see in the UK) featuring a high resolution 2 megapixel camera, stereo Bluetooth audio, an updated phone directory and new messaging applications, while both versions offer integrated music players and expandable memory up to 1GB. The CDMA MOTOKRZR also features touch-sensitive music controls, advanced EVDO data services and location-based services capabilities.

We can't give you a price for the MOTOKRZR as yet, but we can tell you it should be available from most networks in the second half of this year – which isn't long to wait.

Motorola website

More mobiles:
Nokia's N93 camcorder phone now in UK stores
Nokia's N73 3G handset hits the stores

Posted by modculture on July 25, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Nokia's N93 camcorder phone now in UK stores


Nokian93_3

Along with the N73, **Nokia** launched the **N93 camcorder phone** back in April. And like the N73, the N93 has **hit the stores this week**.

The N93 certainly turned heads on its launch because of one feature – video recording. It features a 3.2 megapixel camera with Carl Zeiss optics and offers DVD-like video capture at 30 frames per second, plus 3x optical zoom with video stabilisation and a 2.4-inch QVGA display. And you can connect it directly to your TV for widescreen playback.

As a phone/communication device, it's Wi-Fi and 3G and EDGE compatable. Internal memory is 50MB but this can be expanded via miniSD to 2GB – which should offer around 90 minutes of video footage or 2,500 high-quality photos.

The Nokia N93 is based on S60 3rd Edition software on Symbian OS and is avaialble to buy now. Price, as ever, is dependent on contract.

Nokia website

More Nokia:
Nokia's N73 3G handset hits the stores
Nokia launches UK online shop

Posted by modculture on July 25, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

SelfcastTV: New UK mobile-to-web video site



The makers of Blinkx have created a new site - **SelfcastTV.com** - to allow quick sharing and downloading of mobile videos online.

It boasts a simple registration process, 3-step upload system, and UK-specific operation. Upload happens straight from a mobile by MMS'ing a standard number.

> Whether you're filming your mates' antics down the pub, your own home-made movie or you're taking your first step to get on TV like Ron Atkinson's recent video blogs during the World Cup, SelfcastTV allows you to quickly and easily upload your video content to the site, from your mobile phone or PC so they can be searched and viewed by other users.
>
> SelfcastTV users can also create their own channel to select and view their favourite videos and can even use the MovieMode feature to combine their selected footage into one continuous video.
>
> "Just as podcasting was the craze of 2005, video blogging and sharing is what is taking the world by storm in 2006. Whether it's making videos or just watching them and sending them on to friends, everyone's got the bug," said Suranga Chandratillake, founder of SelfcastTV.com.

SelfcastTV videos are supposed to be easy to integrate into blogging and social network sites including MySpace and Xanga, as well as being downloadable in MP4 format to iPod, PSP, or mobile.

Additionally the service lets you create channels, share comments, link to and email videos, rate clips, and watch video in full screen.

The site's quite busy, with several videos and thumbnails trying to play as soon as you enter the page, so you'll need a good internet connection and PC to appreciate it without things stalling.

I don't know how SelfcastTV will be promoting themselves in order to get a critical mass of users. Time will tell if it catches on.

SelfcastTV.com

Posted by Andy Merrett on July 24, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Mobile phones: we're dependent and it's changing our relationships



Observe any train carriage, bus, pavement, pub, burger bar, shop, someone will be texting or chatting or taking a photo.

Brits are obsessed with their phones, to the extent that **90% said they couldn't go a whole day without using their phone**.

Hour, more like.

The mobile phone can also act as a deterrent: 54% of females under 25 said they had used one when out alone to put people off from approaching them.

1 in 10 people have had their handset stolen; at the same time, nearly half said they would use their mobile to record a crime in progress.

The Carphone Warehouse, who commissioned the survey, concluded that there are **six 'tribes' of mobile users**:

Generation Mobile: 18-24s students/1st jobbers
Phonatics: 18-34s - mobile very important
Practical Parents: young price-conscious families
Fingers and Thumbs: middle-aged - presumably not too tech-savvy
Smart Connected: 25-44s use mobiles for work and social life

Silver Cynics: approaching retirement

In related news, over half of mobile users aged 18-24 have used their phone to ask someone out (or be asked out) on a date, or exchanged sexually-explicit text messages.

Only half agreed that flirting via text message (with someone else, presumably) would be a form of cheating on their partner. "It acts as a kind of subliminal zone, an exclusive forum where the normal social rules are suspended," said Kate Fox, director of the Social Issues Research Centre.

Are you in the 90%? Could you go without your mobile for a day?

Posted by Andy Merrett on July 24, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Nokia's N73 3G handset hits the stores



You may remember we were suitably impressed with **Nokia's 3G N73 handset** when it was launched back in April. Well, we're pleased to report that you can now get your hands on one, as the N73 hits the shops this week.

If you need your memory jogging, the N73 was pitched as all-round multimedia machine, with an impressive 3.2 megapixel camera with Carl Zeiss optics, along with with auto focus and support to upload your images to Flickr.com. And for music lovers, there's integrated stereo speakers with 3D sound and an FM radio, along with 42MB internal memory, which can be expanded via miniSD. And if you need to do some work or just fancy a look round the web, the large QVGA display should make for good browsing and should improve viewing of Word, Excel, Powerpoint and PDF files. The N73 is based on S60 3rd Edition software on Symbian OS.

As ever with these things, prices are almost impossible to quote - check out your local mobile dealer to see what kind of package they're offering.

Nokia website

More Nokia:
Nokia launches UK online shop
Nokia's N93 camcorder phone

Posted by modculture on July 24, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1)

Mobile TV - consumer report finds ROK's 2.5G service out-performs leading 3G services



The first head-to-head consumer-based comparison between the existing mobile TV services in the UK has found **Vodafone Live! to be the best service overall** - but the biggest shock is **ROK's 2.5G service coming in second place** - ahead of big guns Orange 3G TV and 3. The tests were carried out by Strategy Analytics in June this year.

It was a particularly bad day at the office for Orange 3G TV - technical problems mean't that the service was unable to be evaluated fully - which saw it come bottom of the pile. But it's great news for ROK, the UK-based independent mobile technology and content developer. "It's all due to the technology we've created" said Jonathan Kendrick, Chairman and CEO of ROK "which allows for the delivery of multi-channel mobile TV to the mass-market right here, right now."

Vodafone's service came top in each category - usability, audio-visual quality, network performance and in particular, content. ROK faired less well in the evaluation with content - something the company is addressing. "We're learning all the time as to what content real, paying customers want to watch on their mobiles" said Bruce Renny, Marketing Director of ROK "and, as such, we are constantly addressing and updating our content offerings. Content is, actually, the easy part in all this - it's the technology foundation blocks which are the hard part and that's where ROK believes we are best of breed."

However, it is still early days for mobile TV. Users taking part in the survey still had their reservations about TV on the go, with issues about the current crop of devices, in particular with screen size and battery life, while a number of users wondered when they would have the opportunity or need to watch TV out and about.

Strategy Analytics website

More ROK:
ROK extends mobile TV coverage to Microsoft handsets
ROK brings TV to Sony phones

Posted by modculture on July 24, 2006 in Mobile phones | PDAs
Permalink | Comments (0)

iLane - send and receive email safely whilst driving



With our increasing reliance on data services, such as email, while we're on the move, it was only going to be a matter of time before manufacturers jumped in with a way of dealing with email hands-free in the car. And here it is - **iLane - the world's first hand-and-eyes free email solution for in-vehicle use**.

iLane is a small device that interacts directly with existing Bluetooth-enabled handheld devices, allowing drivers to fully access their email in transit. iLane notifies the driver of incoming emails and other important information by reading a brief summary in a "natural sounding voice". The driver can then listen to the entire email message; forward or compose a response using verbal instructions. Phone calls, SMS messages, and a number of email attachment types can also be managed. In addition, filters can also be set to prioritise mail, so you don't get hassled with that latest sales pitch from an online store.

All sounds promising for the busy executive - but you'll have to wait a little longer to take advantage. As yet, we're still awaiting a confirmed UK launch date and price - we'll let you know as soon as we hear more.

Find out more

More for your car:
Pioneer DEH-P75BT Bluetooth car stereo system
Harman Kardon in-car iPod sound system

Posted by modculture on July 24, 2006 in Mobile phones | PDAs
Permalink | Comments (1)

Samsung's two-way sliding SGH-B450 mobile phone



Forget one-way slider phones, it seems like the next 12 months is going to be all about two-way sliding. Following on from the LG-KH1000 comes the **Samsung SGH-B450**, described by the company as a "free folder" phone.

The SGH-B450 can open up vertically (clamshell-fashion) but also horizontally. Details on the specification are thin, but Samsung says it will incorporate a DMB (Digital Multimedia Broadcasting) satellite TV receiver, along with a set of 3D games. Hardly surprising, with gaming and TV viewing sure to benefit from the landscape screen. It will also feature VibeTonz - customised vibration that Samsung has used previously on the E770 in the UK.

More specific details will be available if this phone reaches the UK in some form. It's been launched with a price equivalent to £341.

Samsung website

Via The Register

More mobiles:
3 adds K610i and K800i Cyber-shot phones to its range
BenQ-Siemens' EF61 Mia Special Edition 'make-up phone'

Posted by modculture on July 24, 2006 in Mobile phones

Permalink | Comments (0)

Review: Plantronics Pulsar 590 Bluetooth headset



The Propaganda

Plantronics have got their foot firmly in the door of every call centre from here to India, but they do have one product that ticks all the sleek/stylish/superb buttons. The Pulsar 590 is a Bluetooth headset that is designed to work seamlessly between your phone and media player.

The Good

Out of the box you stick the headset and Bluetooth adapter on to charge. Whilst you can do this straight from A/C to headset, the base also acts as a charger when connected. From there it's simple to connect both the headset to the adapter (which comes with a standard audio jack) and the phone of your choice.

As far as working seamlessly between devices, I can't tell you anything to dispute this (once you've paired it - read on). If you're listening to music and a phone call comes in, a tone is played over the music and from here, you can accept, mute, change the volume and end the call all from the controls on the earphone. After the call, the music automatically cuts back in. Time wise, you get 12 hours talk time and 10 hours audio. There is also an external battery level indicator, which is in the form of several flashes when you first turn on the headset or adapter.

The Bad

If I was the kind of person to nit pick, which I guess is the purpose of reviews, I'd say not all phones are easy. Whilst my Sony Ericsson paired perfectly first time, the LG phone did no such thing. Whilst it looked paired, acted paired and smelled paired, it was impossible to actually pick up calls on it.

Other things that need work: it took a couple of times of turning the headsets each time to invoke the red/blue flash that meant it was ready to pair. Text messages also mean that the music is turned off for no apparent reason for a few seconds, but after it happens once you'll be expecting it. Finally, there was a scary moment when I was on the phone and noticed that the volume display on my iPod was going mental - it was picking up the levels from my phone call. Still, none of these things actually stop it from working or really hinder the experience (unless you've got an LG). One thing that was a pain was the fact that you can't skip tracks from the headset when you're using the universal adapter. This is exclusively available to those phones with AVRCP. Grrrr.

In our opinion

Put simply, these won't be returning to their rightful home. They're mine now. Despite the few problems encountered, when they work, they work beautifully. Whilst there are certainly smaller Bluetooth headsets available for phones, for those of us that miss calls because we're engrossed in Coldplay, these are great. And for £75, worth rewarding your long-suffering, little rewarded ears with.



Posted by Shiny Media on July 20, 2006 in MP3 players | Mobile phones | Reviews
Permalink | Comments (1)

Vodafone 3G Broadband HSDPA PC card review



After several years of the networks promising HDSPA (High Speed Data Packet Access or 3.5G as it is becoming known) products Vodafone has finally won the race to be first to deliver a device to market. Its new 3G Broadband card for PCs, which takes advantage of the new service's download maximum speeds of 1.8Mbps and uploads of 384kbps, went on sale last week.

Voda has pegged the price at between £49-99 depending on which tariff the user opts for, which is similar to the cost of its previous 3G data card. It is also offering a series of tariffs including a top-end one with a one gig cap for £45 per month. After you go beyond one gig a fair usage policy kicks in - which may mean extra costs or even suspension of the account. Here's hoping that Voda is generous though

as given the potential of the card it could be very easy to reach one gig of data.

Vodafone hasn't messed too much with the card and its interface though. Our sample, made by Belgian company Option, was very easy to install and features a PC interface that's virtually identical to previous 3G cards. The key difference is obviously when users get online and start downloading. There is a caveat though in that so far HSDPA is only available within the M25 and a few other large conurbations like Birmingham and Glasgow. Voda hopes to roll it out across the UK by the end of 2007.

Anyhow in north London I got a good-ish HSDPA signal, found a huge file - one of Sky's HD trailers which is a whopping 60MB - and started downloading. Seven minutes later, after consistent data rates of well above 1.0Mbps, the file was sitting on my hard drive. The HSDPA network achieved similar speeds when grabbing emails with large attachments too. I tried some video streaming from sites like the BBC and MTV and noted that the video tended to be a lot more stable than it did when using the original Vodafone 3G card. Outside of the HSDPA network the card defaults to 3G and then GPRS.

Overall then the HSDPA card works well. It does feel though like a product without a real killer application. Sure it'll speed up the download of large files, but that really is its only key benefit at the moment. For Vodafone 3G card owners, especially those who spend a lot of time in cities, it is a no brainer of an upgrade. Anyhow Vodafone, and all the other networks for that matter, can we have those HSDPA handset now please?

Posted by Shiny Media on July 20, 2006 in Mobile phones | Reviews
Permalink | Comments (0)

Vodafone team up with Palm and Microsoft to create new Smartphone



Vodafone UK have claimed a world first as they partner with **Palm** and **Microsoft** to provide a new Smartphone: "Vodafone's high-speed network and delivering Palm's ease of use on top of the Microsoft Window's Mobile operating system".

Palm, makers of PDAs and more recently 'smartphones', will create the Treo 750v (v for Vodafone?)

Vodafone's launch page gives a few glimpses of what the system will do:

> The package includes the option of real-time, wireless push email using Microsoft's Messaging and Security Feature Pack available on Windows Mobile 5.0, with Direct Push Technology and enhanced security features.
>
> It will be a truly powerful tool for your business, allowing you and your team to be fully productive away from the office and make the most of business and personal time.

So, a little technical jargon and some non-descript business phrases.

There's no official launch date - "coming soon" is all you'll get - but you can register your interest and be notified when it becomes available.

Posted by Andy Merrett on July 20, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

3 adds K610i and K800i Cyber-shot phones to its range



3 has announced the addition of two new 3G handsets to its range - the **Sony Ericsson K610i and K800i**, both featuring the 3 Instant Viewer, which offers up-to-the minute access to the latest news, music, TV, games, videos and other media services.

In addition, the K800i, which we previewed some weeks ago, is the first Cyber-Shot phone with a 3.2 megapixel main camera, along with Xenon flash, auto-focus and imaging software. It also employs 'BestPic' technology allowing you to take 9 high resolution photos in a second, along with an image stabiliser.

The K800i also features Bluetooth stereo streaming, allowing you to play your music wirelessly in stereo.

The K610i, which we got hands-on with as this year's 3GSM, is an upgrade for the K608i model, but 20 per cent smaller than its predecessor at 17mm in depth. It does still pack in the features, including a 2 megapixel camera and Bluetooth stereo streaming.

The phones are available now - prices are dependent on contract.

3 website

More from 3:
MSN Messenger on your 3 mobile
3 pays punters to receive voice calls and text messages

Posted by modculture on July 19, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

BenQ-Siemens' EF61 Mia Special Edition 'make-up phone'



If you like the idea of a mobile phone with added style and maybe something to help you stay looking your best, you might want to head over to Shiny Shiny to check out the **BenQ-Siemens' EF61 Mia Special Edition**.

Described as 'the ultimate make-up phone', this clamshell handset adds some stylish design and other extras, including an integrated compact mirror to the more traditional additions, such as an MP3 player, 1.3 megapixel camera and SD card slot to store all your music tracks and photos.

If that sounds like your kind of phone, get the full rundown over at Shiny Shiny.

Posted by modculture on July 19, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Sandisk introduces 4GB SDHC cards



Sandisk has introduced a 4GB SD High Capacity (SDHC) card. It's rated Class 2 for speed and performance and can store around than 2,000 high-resolution images, more than 1,000 digital music tracks or up to 8 hours of MPEG 4 video.

The new cards are designed for the next generation of portable devices that will demand higher storage for our ever-increasing need to carry round our entire media collection. Next generation is the key here - although they look like existing SD cards, the SDHC cards, which could eventually be available with capacities up to 32GB, will only work with devices that are SDHC compatible - which are currently very thin in the ground.

If you want one, they're avaialble now, priced around $200 (around £110).

Sandisk website

More storage:
Memorex goes retro with storage devices
Sony's Micro Vault storage range

Posted by modculture on July 19, 2006 in Camcorders | Computers | Digital cameras | MP3 players | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Review: LG U890 music phone

The Propaganda

The U890 is billed by LG as a music phone for the fashion lovers. Or a fashion phone for music lovers - it's difficult to decide. With 3G capabilities, it's an upgrade from their popular U880 model, although this time available in blue and pink.

The Good



The music capabilities are well integrated into the phone. There are external controls, enabling you to turn it on, skip through tracks and adjust the volume without opening the phone. Alternatively you can use the 3 Player (when in 3G coverage), which is 3's music programme. This makes buying new tracks a piece of cake, making it tempting to part with significant amounts of cash on a regular basis. It's equipped with stereo Bluetooth, so you can listen through headphones without the wires. If you do want to use wired headphones, you have to use those supplied as it's not a normal headphone jack. Storage comes in the for of 71MB of internal memory, and a MiniSD slot for expanding this.

LG have also managed to squeeze on a surprising number of shortcut keys onto the keypad. There are buttons dedicated to Mobile TV, the 3 homepage, messages, recent calls, ringing profiles, phone list... the list goes on. This doesn't make the phone chunky though - it's one of the slimmest 3G phones out there, at 1.8 cm thick.

The Bad

The keypad. Seriously. It's horrible. Vaguely nodding towards the RAZR laser-etched pad, it's difficult to hit the right button first time. Or at least the right button exclusively. This is especially true with the shortcut keys - because there are so many, it's tricky navigating.

You also can't listen to music in the background whilst using the phone to, say, send a text. When the music is playing all your shortcut keys suddenly turn into controls for the player, making it impossible to do anything else.

The Truth

Design-wise, it's personal preference. I'm of the opinion that it looks like a chunkier but smaller in length phone put through a mangle - whilst it's thin, it's not small in the other dimensions. However, I know several people that really like the design, so I'm willing to compromise on that.

When it comes to functions, it's generally a good phone. The music features are well integrated and there are sensible additions, like stereo Bluetooth, and a MiniSD memory card. However, it won't compare to many other music phones on the market, such as the SE W850i, because of factors like not being able to have music playing in the background whilst you do other things.

Available free on contract with 3, it's a 3G phone with decent music credentials. However, with LG's launch last week of the U400, a seriously feature packed music phone, this model might find itself out of favour.



Posted by Shiny Media on July 19, 2006 in Mobile phones | Reviews
Permalink | Comments (0)

Virgin Mobile adds Lobster 544 budget clamshell handset to its range



If something small, practical and affordable is more important than the latest technology, the **Lobster 544** could be the phone for you. It features all the mobile basics for less than £70 on a Pay As You Go Virgin Mobile contract.

The Lobster 544 is a small GPRS clamshell handset with 262k colour screen, an integrated 1.3 megapixel camera, video capture and playback, picture messaging, games and MP3/polyphonic ringtones. It seems quite useful for music too, with a direct access music key, stereo headset and 64MB memory card, which I presume you can boost to a higher capacity if you so wish. You can drag and drop tunes via USB to your phone.

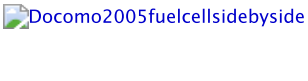
It comes with charger and £5 airtime for a price of £69.99 or free if you want to commit to a contract and should be available to order in the next couple of weeks. Virgin plans to launch a number of other Lobster-branded phones throughout the remainder of 2006.

Virgin Mobile website

More mobiles:
O2 to boost i-mode range with LG and Samsung clamshell handsets
New LG U400 phone for turntable junkies

Posted by modculture on July 18, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

DoCoMo + Aquafairy Co. = "micro" fuel cells



The delightfully named Aquafairy is teamed with the peculiarly-hypnotically named DoCoMo to develop even tinier fuel cells to run the FOMA 3G handsets under even more demanding situations (mobiles with built-in cameras, mp3 players, GPS, and toasters). The latest buzz is about a polymer electrolyte fuel cell (PEFC) that'll be unveiled at the Wireless Japan 2006 in Tokyo. It's another hydrogen cell, but twice as powerful as last year's methanol cell (shown here) and a quarter the size, since it uses Aquafairy thin film power unit technology (go go power unit!) and also their catalyst for turning water into hydrogen. So it's better for the environment, too! [GT]

PEFC story: Fuel cells aim to keep cellphones running all day

Related stories: H-racer - the hydrogen car is here! | Hot news from Japan: A palm-sized portable fuel cell | Toshiba promises 60 hours battery on MP3 players for 2007

Posted by gtaylor on July 18, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

$4.5bn wasted every year on "No Fault Found" mobile phone returns



A recent study suggests that **nearly two-thirds of mobile phones returned to the manufacturer by consumers are in perfect working order**.

Of these:

* 38% were from users who gave up after trying to use a specific application, and failing.
* 13% were from consumers who said they'd been mis-sold the device and it was unfit for purpose.
* 49% were from those who thought that a lack of pre-configuration was a fault.

Each returned phone costs the industry around £35, which adds up to £54m in costs to the UK mobile industry, and $4.5bn globally.

According to Doug Overton, Head of Communications for WDSGlobal, "The mobile phone has become the poor relation to its consumer electronics cousins; mp3 players, digital cameras and mobile gaming devices all generally provide a more fulfilling out of box experience to the consumer. The industry needs to look at the causes behind this trend and take positive action to improve the general out of box experience for the mobile subscriber; a simple analysis of support call trends and records provides all the necessary intelligence to work upon".

Once again, the industry also blames **poorly trained sales staff**, with a mystery shopper survey revealing that "40% of assistants were not accurately positioning or selling products". Bet they know what the latest ringtones are though...

Then again, some of the **responsibility has to fall on the consumer**. The terms "**research**" and "**RTFM**" spring to mind.

Posted by Andy Merrett on July 17, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Tech Digest One Minute Reviews: Nokia 6233 3G Phone

We've been doing some quick one minute video reviews of gadgets recently. Here's Ashley telling me all about the Nokia 6233.

Adobe Flash Player is no longer supported

Related: Nokia 6233 product info | Samsung E870 One Minute Review

Posted by Shinykatie on July 13, 2006 in Mobile phones | Reviews
Permalink | Comments (1)

One Minute Review: Samsung E870

Following the review of the Samsung E870 a few days ago, here is a One Minute Review, for those who would like to see it (almost) in the flesh.

Adobe Flash Player is no longer supported

Posted by Shiny Media on July 13, 2006 in Mobile phones | Reviews
Permalink | Comments (0)

Mobile phone data services get the thumbs down



The World Cup was the ideal shop window for mobile operators to sell their **data services** to first time users – and many took advantage of football on the phone. But **a new survey suggests a large number will not be going back again**.

According to a survey carried out by NOP, around 29 per cent of data users said they were trying the services out for the very first time, with text alerts, video clips and picture messages the most popular services to go for. However, almost half of these first-time users (44 per cent) said they will not use them again. And the main reason? Around half said cost, but one in five did also cite ease of use as an issue.

None of this bodes well for mobile TV, particularly as just 11 per cent of mobile users surveyed said they had an interest in TV on their phone.

More mobiles:
T-Mobile offers Push Email on MDA devices
Watch ROK TV on your mobile without data charges using Wi-Fi

Posted by modculture on July 13, 2006 in Mobile phones | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1)

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Posted by modculture on July 13, 2006 in Mobile phones | Mobile phones
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O2 to boost i-mode range with LG and Samsung clamshell handsets



According to The Register, O2 is set to increase its limited range of i-mode phones with two new handsets later this month - the **LG L343i and the Samsung SGH-S401i**.

The LG L343i (pictured) is a clamshell handset with a 262,144-colour screen, Bluetooth, a 300,000 pixel camera, speakerphone and tri-band connectivity. The Samsung SGH-S401i (pictured after the turn) is also a clamshell handset, with a 65,536-colour screen, along with Bluetooth connectivity and a VGA camera.



The new phones will bring the number of i-mode handsets up to six, with this increasing to seven when O2 adds an i-mode version of the Motorola SLVR in the near future.

The L343i should sell for around £100, with the S401 available for around £110.

O2's i-mode website

Via The Register

More i-mode:

eBay joins O2's i-mode service
Sony Ericsson unveils K610im - the i-mode 3G phone

Posted by modculture on July 13, 2006 in Mobile phones | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (2)

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Permalink | Comments (2)

New LG U400 phone for turntable junkies



LG has woken up to the fact that everyone but them has a music-focused phone, announcing the U400 this week. But whilst its contemporaries (Sony Ericsson W850i, Nokia 3250) went for music generally, LG have focused this firmly at would-be-DJs .

You'll notice the scrollwheel on the left, which acts in a similar way to that on an iPod. The menu is arranged in a circle, to optimise this. It also allows you to make silly scratching noises over any track you play on the inbuilt MP3 player, just one of the 'proper DJ' effects you can mess around with.

LG have partnered with DMC, who are best known for compiling music charts but also run the major DJ events, such as the World DJ Championships. They've provided several remixes from award-winning DJs which are preloaded as MP3 files and available as ringtones. Expect lots of LG promotion at the DJ tournaments this year, as this is going to be a big focus for them.

The phone also features a 2 megapixel camera, and a miniSD slot for expanding the memory. There are headphones provided, but the in-line remote can be disconnected from the headphones supplied so you can use your own, highly superior, ones (you being a DJ and all). It also features Stereo Bluetooth, which means you can stream music to wireless headphones or adapted speakers.

Obviously being exclusively on 3, it's a 3G phone, so will allow you to make video calls, as well as use their own 3G music services, such as the 3 player. It will be available free on many contracts from the end of July.

Posted by Shiny Media on July 13, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (3)

Pioneer DEH-P75BT Bluetooth car stereo system

With the expected introduction (in the UK) of points on your licence for driving with a phone in your hand, it might be worth considering an alternative if you need to stay in contact on the road - like the **Pioneer DEH-P75BT Bluetooth car stereo.**

Pioneer

The Pioneer DEH-P75BT combines a Bluetooth headset and fully-featured stereo system for handsfree calling through your car's music system. It supports both hands-free and audio profiles from your mobile phone, with voice playback of the caller through stereo and front speakers - there is, of course, auto-muting when a call comes through. Your complete address book can also be transferred into the stereo's internal memory.

Music-wise, there's CD/MP3/WMA playback, MP3 streaming from a Bluetooth phone to the stereo, fully-featured radio playback, an MOSFET 50W x 4 amplifier, 5-mode preset equaliser, a motorised detachable front panel and a remote control. And for iPod owners, an adaptor gives you access to your entire song collection on the move.

You can pick up the Pioneer DEH-P75BT now, priced around £275.

Find out more

More Bluetooth:
Parrot's car stereo with Bluetooth
Design your own Bluetooth

Posted by modculture on July 11, 2006 in Gadgets | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

T-Mobile offers Push Email on MDA devices

Tmobilemdacompact_3

T-Mobile is offering a business-friendly **Microsoft Push Email service** on its range of MDA devices, including the MDA Pro, MDA Vario and MDA Compact II.

The Microsoft Push Email service from T-Mobile, which works over GPRS, 3G and Wi-Fi, will be available to customers using Microsoft Exchange 2003 Service Pack 2. Users will be automatically alerted for access to incoming email, which will be delivered directly from the customer's Exchange Server as and when they arrive. Other security benefits of the new service include centrally controlled password protection - so that users have to unlock their device using a password, local data wipe - which enables you to decide how many incorrect logon attempts are permitted and remote wipe - which means that lost or stolen devices can be reset remotely over the web, removing company-sensitive data.

It's available to use via any of T-Mobile's data tariffs. For full details of the service and pricing, visit the T-Mobile website.

T-Mobile

More T-Mobile:
T-Mobile does unlimited web access
3G broadband from T-Mobile in August

Posted by modculture on July 11, 2006 in Mobile phones | PDAs
Permalink | Comments (0)

Review: Samsung E870



The Samsung E870 is big on looks. Which it needs to be, because it's fairly small on everything else. Strictly speaking, it probably falls into the catergory of 'lady phone', the type of which Samsung churn out at an alarming rate.

Looks-wise, it sports white paint on the inside, and a kind of brushed-silver on the outside. Whilst the silver looks classy, and stays scratch-free despite the paint job, the inner white is supremely plasticky and looking at it makes you think of white the way you would have done pre-iPod times. Picking it up, you'll notice that it's pretty damn light - about 80 grams they reckon. It's been a big point of debate here, split into those that like the Japanese-esque disposability feel, and those that are afraid their Sasquach-sized hands might accidentally break it.

As far as the functions available to you are concerned, it's fairly minimal. In fact, the main menu has only 9 options in it, and one of those is the calendar.

It does come equipped with an MP3 player, accessible from a shortcut key from the main screen. The internal memory can be increased via a micro-SD slot, the cards for which currently go up to 1GB.

The camera is 1.3 megapixels for still pictures and MP4 clips, and the pictures show up well on the bright and decent-sized screen on the phone. There's also an LCD flash you can use (I'm seeing dots in front of my eyes as we speak).

In a nod towards the more businesslike consumers, it is equipped to deliver and receive email, and also includes a document viewer. This is slightly bizarre, bearing in mind how low spec it is in other areas - will anyone actually use this?

Apart from this, there really isn't a lot more you could say about the phone. It's definitely a case of style over substance, but what it does do, is done simply and without a fuss.

It's available free on contract with O2 now.

Posted by Shiny Media on July 10, 2006 in Mobile phones | Reviews
Permalink | Comments (5)

Watch ROK TV on your mobile without data charges using Wi-Fi



I'm sure you're now aware of **ROK**. They've been offering TV to GPRS/EDGE mobiles for months now and more recently extended their coverage to a number of Windows-powered devices. We usually end our features on ROK's pricing with something like "...on top of that, you'll also have to pay your provider data charges too." But that might not be the caee anymore, with the news that you can now **watch ROK TV via Wi-Fi on your Windows device**.

Yes, instead of paying your operate the data charges you incur whilst watching ROK TV, you can now just pay your subscription (£9.99 per month for all channels or 99p per month for each one you choose) and watch live and on-demand mobile TV over Wi-Fi without worrying about the mounting data cost. Unless you're on a pay-as-you-go Wi-Fi connection obviously.

For more details on ROK, check out our recent feature on the service or take check the ROK website to find out if your phone or device is compatible with the service.

ROK TV website

More ROK:
ROK TV comes to Sony mobiles
ROK extends coverage to Microsoft handsets

Posted by modculture on July 10, 2006 in Mobile phones | PDAs | Wi-Fi
Permalink | Comments (0)

World Cup on your PC and phone - was it any good?



Technology made the World Cup was the first major sports tournament we didn't need to dash home for. From mobile TV to the BBC's broadband coverage - we had the means to keep up-to-date with the matches wherever we were.

But did the technology live up to the hype? According to a report at The Register, "self-appointed mobile TV referee David Frodsham" of Argogroup wasn't convinced. He used his Monitor Master system to compare clips from T-Mobile, 3 and the BBC over ADSL, scoring the quality of images received.

Who came out on top? Read the full story over on The Register.

Posted by modculture on July 7, 2006 in Broadband | Mobile phones | World Cup gadgets
Permalink | Comments (0)

Review: Sagem my700x



Sagem mobile phone handsets don't tend to be found alongside the likes of the Motorola Razr, the LG Chocolate or the Sony Ericsson W800i, but Sagem's latest release, the **my700x**, is making a good start towards changing all that. The guys over GadgetCentre have been trying out this latest flagship model and found that beneath the distinctive exterior, which comes in different styles for men and women, there's a solid feature set including an MP3 player making use of a removable MiniSD card slot. Menu navigation, call quality and overall design come out pretty favourably too. Tennis fans should also keep an eye out for the limited edition Roland Garros version as well. Read the full review here.

Posted by Shiny Media on July 7, 2006 in Mobile phones | Reviews
Permalink | Comments (3)

LG adds coloured versions to its Chocolate Phone range



I'm guessing you've heard more than enough about **LG's stylish Chocolate Phone** (also known as the KG 800) – but if you're still in the dark about the fashionista's favourite, check out our review. But before you rush down to the shops to buy one, you may like to know that LG is introducing **'premium' Chocolate Phones before the end of the year – in white and pink**.

We have managed to get hold of pictures of the new phone (see the pink one also after the turn), but the exact specifications of the new phones still aren't clear. The company does, however, mention "unique design variations" and "enhanced technical specifications". They also say the new models will get a UK launch across Q3 and Q4 of 2006 – which could mean anytime from August, with the idea of making a number of Christmas lists.



There's no doubting the success of the initial black model – with more than one million units globally in just eight weeks since early May, so it's odds-on that brightly coloured models will fly off the shelves to those who want to stay one step ahead of the crowd.

As soon as we get the new spec and full release details, we'll let you know.

LG website www.lge.com

Posted by modculture on July 6, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1)

Review: new Vodafone Simply VS4 handset



Vodafone Pay As You Talk customers are feeling the love at the moment. Not only has Vodafone launched a new Free Weekends tariff (spend £5 during the week and you get free weekend calls, £2.50 and they'll give you free texts), but this month sees the launch of a new Vodafone Simply phone – the VS4.

Whilst Simply phones aren't going to get the average tech-lover's heart pumping, you can't deny that they do their job well. Designed with my mother in mind, they are incredibly simple (see what they did?) to use. The interface of this and the previous models is very similar, so as not to scare off any upgrading. The home screen tells you the basics, including the battery life (Good), the signal strength (Good) and your own number (I'll keep that one to myself).

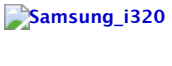
As far as additional features are concerned, unsurprisingly, it's been stripped down to the bare minimum – no camera, no screen changing, no MMS (although you can receive them), nothing you'd now expect in standard in most phones. Which is why it does so well, in it's own way. It's cheap at £60

on PAYT, and although originally aimed at the older market (the concept was launched with Richard and Judy) Vodafone must also be seeing a number of concerned parents buying them for their offspring.

The Simply design line has seen a subtle nod to changing phone fashions, whilst keeping to its original brief. It started as a chunky candy bar, which was apparently designed through focus group consultation about the perfect size of a phone, in relation to the average woman's handbag. Then came the VS3, which was a flip phone. Finally, the VS4, launched this month, is the slimmest of the handsets so far. At just 15mm deep, it comes at a time when phone manufacturers are all desperately competing to shed their puppy fat.

Posted by Shiny Media on July 5, 2006 in Mobile phones | Reviews
Permalink | Comments (1)

Samsung's SGH-i320 "BlackBerry-beater" heads to Europe



Samsung has announced it is to bring the BlackBerry-like **SGH-i320 Windows Mobile 5.0-based phone** to Europe later this month.

Weighing in at 95g and measuring 11.1 x 5.9 x 1.2cm, the tri-band phone with EDGE support features a 2.2-inch, 240 x 320, 65,536-colour display, a QWERTY keyboard, a 1.3mp camera and Bluetooth. It supports Windows Mobile 5.0's push email, along with all the expected phone, media playback and recording facilities, along with a speakerphone. There's 120MB of memory on board, with a MicroSD slot for more.

As yet, prices and networks haven't been announced.

Samsung website

Via The Register

More smartphones:
O2 brings BlackBerry 7130 to the UK
First Windows 3G phones launched by HTC

Posted by modculture on July 5, 2006 in Mobile phones | PDAs
Permalink | Comments (0)

Review: Vodafone/Sony Ericsson V630i



There's a lot going on with the V630i. The new multimedia phone from Sony Ericsson packs so much in, you're bound to be shocked when you hear it ring, reminding you of the reason phones were invented.

It's a feature-packed 3G phone, available exclusively through Vodafone. And this is no random partnership - the V630i has been kitted out with a menu that makes the most of what Vodafone Live! (its 3G service) has to offer. For instance, Mobile TV, launched last year, is now available through the main Entertainment menu on the phone, rather than through the browser.

Radio DJ is also available through the main menu. Announced in January this year, this is a Pandora-esque music service intelligent enough to learn your music tastes as you rate the tracks it selects for you. There are also additional services available, such as pre-defined compilations (Johnny Cash, Where's Summer?), and a 'Wishlist' of tracks you intend to buy, very much like a shopping cart. In practice, the phone I tested got a bit bogged down loading 'My Channels' (Indie/Rock/Powerful/All decades, since you ask) so whether it can truly distinguish between The Pussycat Dolls and Cat Stevens remains to be seen.

The speaker on the phone is adequate, if you want to annoy those around you, but the phone is bundled with headphones, indicating that Sony Ericsson expect this phone to be used as a personal MP3 player.

So, to the blogging. When you take a photo (with the 2.0 megapixel camera) it gives you the option of blogging it on Blogger.com. It takes about 5 minutes to initially set up the account (or link it to one you already have with Blogger) after which you're free to document a blow-by-blow account of your life. Fantastically easy, but sporadic in practice. I managed to submit one post (here), before it decided I was too boring to bother with. However, I am sadly in a 3G black hole, so I'm going to assume that it works perfectly for those with adequate coverage.

Other functions indicate that this is a phone for those who travel, particularly those who travel light. On switching it on, you're immediately given the option of 'Normal' mode or 'In-flight' mode, enabling you to write emails, but without actually being able to make or receive calls. Think of all the plane crashes that

will now be prevented. Or perhaps just the disapproving flight attendants who will no longer be disapproving.

So yes, it's got Push email. And another for the travelers is the ability to use it as a storage device - connecting it via USB to your PC you'll see it register as a drive, so you can simply drag and drop files. It's also got the ability to deliver RSS feeds direct to your phone. There is basically no escape from the world. Ever.

Which is kind of the problem - it does so much stuff, it's almost overwhelming. It's got all the business tools, as well as all the entertainment tools. And then it's got all the phone tools. And by the time you get to the end of it... well, you kind of crave the days when a phone made calls. However, in bitesize chunks, it's a wonder of modern technology.

The phone is available this month (July, duh) on Vodafone. Pricing will depend on your call plan, but expect to pay - it's a high-end phone. [Susi]

Posted by Shiny Media on July 4, 2006 in Mobile phones | Reviews
Permalink | Comments (4)

NTL completes Virgin Mobile deal



NTL has finally completed the takeover of Virgin Mobile after getting High Court approval. Virgin Mobile's shares have been delisted from the stock exchange, but the company will still exist as Virgin Mobile until 2007, according to NTL. After that time, the Virgin brand will be used to front a quadruple offering of broadband, TV, mobile, and fixed phone lines.

Virgin founder Sir Richard Branson is obviously pleased: "Today, we've created a unique organisation – a new, soon-to-be-branded Virgin company – which will offer the very finest in 'quadruple'. Through our new company, our aim is to offer consumers the very best, most sought-after choice available. You ain't, as the saying goes, seen nothing yet..."

The Virgin name offers NTL a "cool" brand to use when it competes with the other big quadruples players – Sky, Orange and BT, which are all intent on dominating the "one bill" market.

NTL website

Via The Register

More NTL:
NTL trials 100MB service
NTL's World Cup on demand

Posted by modculture on July 4, 2006 in Broadband | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Watch an Austin Powers movie on your mobile with ROK



Remember **ROK**? We featured the company earlier this week after it extended handset coverage of its mobile TV service for GPRS/EDGE mobiles. Well, apart from streaming TV, they've also been producing standalone full-screen TV shows and movies for phones – the latest of which is the Austin Powers International Man of Mystery movie.

The titles are available on copy-protected memory cards, almost like DVDs for your phone – just insert the card to a suitable phone or PDA, and you can any of more than 100 titles, including BBC classic comedies such as Little Britain and The Office as well as SpongeBob Squarepants and South Park and other movies such as Shawshank Redemption.

More than 30 leading smartphones including Nokia's range of Symbian handsets as well as Microsoft handsets are compatible with ROK Player technology. You can check if yours is at the ROK Player website. Cards are priced at £18. The Austin Powers will initially be available to buy from ROK online, then available in high street phone shops .

ROK Player website

More ROK:
ROK extends mobile TV coverage to Microsoft handsets
ROK offers full-screen movies on Microsoft handsets

Posted by modculture on June 30, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

LG unveils HSDPA two-way slider phone



LG has unveiled a new HSDPA (or super 3G) handset in Korea, with the big selling point being the ability to make video calls in widescreen or indeed for video playback in landscape.

The phone, which is Cyon-branded, goes under the name of either the **LG-SGH100 or the LG-KH1000**, dependent on the specification. It's a slider, but not just a regular slider, it also slides sideways for the widescreen effect. The phone features a 2.2-inch, 240 x 320 (or 320 x 240 if you hold it the other way round) display capable of showing 262,144 colours. There's a 1.3mp camera, a VGA video call cam and 2GB of Flash and 1GB of SDRAM, or 512MB of Flash and 256MB of SDRAM, depending on your choice of model.

No news of a UK launch for this, but it's due on sale in Korea for the equivalent of £464.

LG website

Via The Register

More mobiles:
BenQ-Siemens EL71 ultra-slim slider phone
Samsung unveils black E900 slider phone with 2mp camera

Posted by modculture on June 30, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

BenQ-Siemens EL71 ultra-slim slider phone



Another day, another slider phone. But as they're the fashionista's phone of choice right now, that's no bad thing. The latest candidate for your cash is the **BenQ-Siemens EL71**, a very slim phone with a decent specification behind the looks.

BenQ-Siemens describe it as "the cutting edge of design" with its compact shape, brushed aluminium finish and stainless steel keypad. It's certainly an attractive handset, but it's also got some nice features. There's a 2-inch QVGA display (262,144 colours). a decent integrated 1.3mp digital camera with LED flash and a video function for shooting and replaying short movie sequences. There's also a music player on board, which plays MP3 and AAC+ music files and by using the Music Cable IHM-100 (available sepearately), the EL71 can be connected to any hi-fi system. Memory is a less-than-great 16MB internal memory, but this can be increased up to 1GB by microSD cards.

The BenQ-Siemens EL71 will be available in July in the UK in "Quartz Anthracite" and "Opal Black" from free on contract and from £250 sim-free.

BenQ-Siemens website

More mobiles:
Samsung unveils black E900 slider phone with 2mp camera
LG U300 3G handset exclusively available on 3

Posted by modculture on June 30, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

3 offers Yahoo! content on its 3G phones

3 has announced a deal with net giant Yahoo!, which will mean **many of the Yahoo! services being available to 3's customers** in the near future,



including, for the first time, a full web search facility.

Under the terms of the agreement, the two companies will work together to offer Yahoo! Search, Yahoo! Mobile Web, Yahoo! Messenger, Yahoo! Mail, and Yahoo! Go for Mobile on 3's networks around the world. Additional Yahoo! services will also become available to 3 subscribers in the future.

The UK's 3 customers will be the first to receive the content. The Yahoo! services will all be accessible to subscribers either via the internet browser on the handset or through client applications such as Yahoo! Ready or Yahoo! Go for Mobile on select devices. 3 UK previously allowed its customers to access only specially selected websites due to concerns over user experience, but the agreement with Yahoo! signals a new policy of full web access, enabled by Yahoo's website adaptation technologies.

3 website

More from 3:
MSN Messenger on your 3 mobile
World Cup highlights on your 3 phone

Posted by modculture on June 29, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Samsung unveils black E900 slider phone with 2mp camera



Yet another slider phone to feast your eyes on – this time from **Samsung**, which has launched the **E900**, a hip looking mobile with a decent specification to match.

It's a slider phone with a black gloss finish and touch-sensitive keypad, so already the company is ticking the boxes for the fashion phone market. But it's more than a pretty face. There's a 2.05-inch 262K colour TFT display and 2mp camera with flash and video recording functionality on board – ideal for your night out clubbing. The E900's music player can playback MP3, AAC, ACC+, AAC+(e) and WMA files and features background play and track pausing as soon as you take a call. There's 80MB of storage on board, but this can be boosted via Micro SD card. There's also Bluetooth and USB connectivity,

The Samsung E900 should be available at The Carphone Warehouse, The Link, Phones 4U, O2, Orange, Virgin and Vodafone stores. Price dependent on contract.

Samsung website

More mobiles:
LG U300 3G handset exclusively available on 3
Samsung's Ultra Edition – the world's slimmest mobile phones

Posted by modculture on June 29, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

ROK extends mobile TV coverage to Microsoft handsets

Remember **ROK**? They've been providing **TV to GPRS/EDGE mobiles** for months now. Probably the main thing that's held them back is the number of compatible phones with the service. Recently, this was improved when the service became available to a number of Sony phones, including the W800i, but now it's been boosted further with the news that **12 Microsoft compatible devices have been added to the list**, bringing the total number of handsets up to 37. You can check the full handset list here.

What this means is that the chances of your handset being good to use the service have considerably increased, with the total far in excess of the five handsets that can view, for example, Orange 3G TV in the UK. If your phone is now compatible, you'll also need to be connected via O2 contract, Vodafone, T-Mobile or Orange. The service isn't available through 3 or Virgin.



ROK currently offers 13 channels to your mobile in its standard package, with "Premium" channels to follow soon. You can choose from Pop World, CNN, Cartoon Network, M-Music, ITN, National Geographic, Tidy TV, SNTV, XTreme TV, Movie Trailer TV, F3, Sci Fi or Snoot Toons for 99p per month, or pay a monthly fee of £9.99. But on top of that, you'll also have to pay your provider data charges too.

Find out more about the ROK

More mobile TV:
BBC and ITV to trial mobile TV
Virgin to launch live TV on your mobile

Posted by modculture on June 28, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1)

Google services now available to your mobile phone



Not content with dominating your PC, **Google** wants a bigger role on your mobile phone. The company has announced the availability of **free mobile services**, accessible through your phone's web browser.

From today, Google account holders can use their Gmail mail account, browse recent Google news stories and access their Google home page from a mobile phone. To access Gmail, go to the Gmail homepage through your phone's web browser and sign in to your Gmail account. Gmail will then optimise the interface for each phone. As well as browsing messages, you can also view attached photos and documents from your phone, and reply by call to people whose phone number is stored in their Gmail account. Gmail messages are automatically synchronised, regardless of whether Gmail is accessed from a mobile device or through the web.

Google News is also available on your mobile, with quick headline updates, the ability to search current news and browse the different new categories . To access Google News, visit google.com on your phone's web browser and click the link to Google News. There's also the option to browse through quick links, where content has been designed specifically for viewing on mobile devices.

You can also access a personalised Google homepage on your mobile and PDA, pulling in your selected news, business, weather and other feeds into one place. Information is optimised for smaller screens and slower bandwidth, presented in a format that reduces the need to click multiple links. If you've already set one up, just go to Google home via your phone brower and select the "Personalized Home" link. If you don't, you'll need to set one up via your PC.

More on Google for mobiles

More Google:
Google can sync your settings over multiple computers
Google's website creation tool

Posted by modculture on June 28, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Skull Candy Proletariat NC 635 noise cancelling headphones



Want to cut out the outside world - except maybe your mobile phone? It might be worth giving the **Skull Candy Proletariat NC 635 noise cancelling headphones** a look, especially with a sub-£100 price tag.

These gold headphones cancel out background noise, so you can enjoy the music, rather than haveing to deal with a one-sided mobile phone conversation about the length of a train delay. However, you can still use your own

mobile - the NC 635 headphones incorporate Skullcandy Link technology, which allows you to take mobile phone calls into the headphones.

The headphones fold up when not in use and run off 2 x AAA batteries. You can pick them up now, priced at £99.99.

Find out more

More headphones:
Aiwa UZ-PS128 recordable MP3 headphones
Saitek Audio bluetooth headphones

Posted by modculture on June 27, 2006 in Gadgets | MP3 players | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

UK trial for DAB music downloads



We seem to be going DAB crazy. First it was the radio, then there was talk of trialling TV to mobile via DAB, now the UBC Media Group, one of the UK's largest independent radio production companies, is testing a download service that allows **music downloads via the DAB network**.

UBC's system, which is being offered next month on a trial basis by the Heart radio station, allows digital radio listeners to buy the track they're currently listening to and have it transferred to a DAB-compatible music player. UBC's service broadcasts encoded and encrypted music files alongside a radio station's audio stream. These are cached for a short time in the mobile device and can be bought and kept immediately. The company said the purchase would also allow the transfer of the song to a user's web-accessed music library, allowing them to download the song to a PC and to copy it to a DRM-supporting portable player.

UBC are pricing songs around £1.25, bought through a pre-pay credit system. The company reckons mobile phones with built-in DAB receivers will appear later this year. The trial, support by the "big four" recording companies (Sony BMG, EMI, Warner and Universal), will run Birmingham next month, initially limited to 100 people.

UBC Media Group

Via The Register

More DAB:
Bug Too: Wayne Hemingway latest DAB Radio with EPG recording
Roberts retro Rambler 76 DAB radio

Posted by modculture on June 26, 2006 in Computers | DAB | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Mobile integratation for your Mercedes motor



As the owner of a laughably poor motor, a **Mercedes** is very much a car of my dreams. But I'm sure our more affluent readers might be in the market for one - and if you are, you should check out the optional **in-car mobile phone system**, which automatically conencts to your mobile, transferring the content of your phone's memory and sim via Bluetooth for handsfree use.

What does all this mean? Well, it means you can stay within the law, never having to touch your phone whilst driving. Just push the single button in the car and the unit grabs all your phone's information - contacts, call history, previous text messages - and as you drive, caller id and message will display on the unit's screen.

You can make handsfree calls, as wel las searchign the call register and phone book from controls on the steering wheel assembly. Incoming calls are played through the car's sound system. There is one downside - the system uses Bluetooth's SIM Access Protocol (SAP), which is currently supported only by a small number of handsets, specifically the Nokia 6230, 6230i and 8800, and Siemens' S65, SK65, S75 and SL75. More will be added as the technology extends.

Two versions of the system are available - one with an in-car cable-connected passive handset for €406 and a cheaper, handset-free version for €373. These are German prices - check with your Merc dealer for a UK price.

Mercedes website

More for your mobile:
Webaroo offline web search now available for Windows 5.0 devices
T-Mobile extends web'n'walk service into £1 per day pay-as-you-go

Posted by modculture on June 26, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

LG U300 3G handset exclusively available on 3



3 has announced the UK launch of the LG U300 clamshell handset, available in black, orange and "chameleon" (which I don't expect will change colour according to your surroundings).

It's a fairly attractive handset, with a reasonable specification. It features a 2-inch LCD screen, a rotating 1.3MP camera and a music player for AAC, AAC+, ADPCM, AMR and WMA formats, with music likely to be stored in Micro SD card (128MB card comes with the phone) with only 10MB of internal space. A plus for music fans is Bluetooth A2DP - so you can easily stream your tracks to wireless headphones. You can also download tracks directly to your phone from 3's music store.

In addition, there's video calling, email, SMS and video MMS, with talk time around 135 minutes and a standby time of 220 hours. The LG U300 is available now, price dependent on contract.

Find out more

More LG:
Hands on with LG's DVB-H TV phone
LG Chocolate Phone review

Posted by modculture on June 23, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

3 launches instant access email for mobiles



3 is launching **mobile email services** for both business and consumer users who want instant access to email.

3 Mobile Mail is effectively "push" email, allowing you to pick up and send emails on your handset exactly as you would on your PC without having to actively download it. If you sign up, you can send and receive emails from your existing accounts with the likes of Yahoo, AOL, MSN or indeed any POP3 service. Once the email account has been registered, emails are automatically delivered to the handset, accompanied by an on-screen alert, at the same time as being delivered to the PC. It costs £2.50 per month and has a usage allowance of 10MB.

Mobile Office Mail caters for business users who want instant access to emails from their own mail exchange server, such as Lotus and Exchange. It costs £5 per month with a 15MB usage allowance so that attachments can be downloaded. There are no set-up costs as no system integration work is required. The service will also synchronise contacts and calendar between PC and phone.

Both services will be available on the new Nokia E61 smart phone, launching this week, as well as the Nokia N80, Motorola A1000 and QTEC 9000 before rolling out across all of 3's handsets.

3 website

More from 3:
MSN Messenger on your 3 mobile
3 pays punters to receive voice calls and text messages

Posted by modculture on June 23, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Samsung's Ultra Edition - the world's slimmest mobile phones



Samsung are keeping ahead of the crowd when it comes to slim mobile phones with the launch of the **Ultra Edition series** over at CommunicAsia 2006, including one handset it claims is the thinnest phone ever made.

The **Ultra Edition 6.9** (AKA X820) is 6.9mm thin and is claimed to be the world's slimmest phone. But that's not all - the **Ultra Edition 12.9** (D900) is touted as the world's slimmest slider phone, with a depth of just 12.9mm. while the **Ultra Edition 9.9** (D830), at 9.9mm, is the world's thinnest clamshell. All three are tri-band models with EDGE compatibility, with between 60-80MB of flash memory onboard and with the exception the X820, can have storage boosted further via microSD cards. All are also Bluetooth-enabled and play MP3, AAC, AAC+, AAC +(e) and WMA music formats.

The X820 has a 2MP camera and 1.9-inch screen, the D830 has a 2MP camera and 2.3-inch screen and the D900 has a 3.13MP camera along with a 2.1-inch screen. All the phones come with viewers for Office documents, JPGs and PDFs, while the hardware has been designed using Samsung's Smart Surface Mounting Technology (SSMT), which cuts down on the number of components inside.

No news on a UK launch, but expect plenty of excitement when they do.

Samsung website

Via Digital World Tokyo

More mobiles:
Sony Ericsson unveils K610im - the i-mode 3G phone
Nokia 6151 - the budget 3G mobile phone

Posted by modculture on June 22, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Webaroo offline web search now available for Windows 5.0 devices



You may recall us featuring Webaroo a few weeks back - it's a program that lets you take areas of the web and browse it later, offline and at your convenience. Well, **Webaroo is now available to use with smartphones featuring the Windows Mobile 5.0 platform**, with the BenQ-Siemens P51 smartphone being the first device to be bundled with it when it launches later this year.

Webaroo means web searching without the need to connect at all. It features 'web packs' of content, covering a variety of subjects, such as world news, sport, major cities, Wikipedia and more - each containing thousands of relevant webpages identified by Webaroo's - sites that have broad coverage of a topic, but are fairly small in size.. In one simple step, you can also select and download your favorite web sites to save and search at your leisure by syncing your smartphone with a laptop.

The BenQ-Siemens P51 includes web packs covering Frankfurt, London, Paris, Milan, Taipei and Amsterdam, with more available free at the Webaroo web site.

More searching:
The search engine with a heart
Pico - search straight to your desktop

Posted by modculture on June 21, 2006 in Mobile phones | PDAs
Permalink | Comments (1)

T-Mobile extends web'n'walk service into £1 per day pay-as-you-go



Around two thirds of mobile users have pre-pay mobiles, which is probably the reason why **T-Mobile are extending their web'n'walk service** into what they see as the "mass market" at a cost of **£1 per day**.

From 1st August, pay-as-you-go customers will be able to pay a maximum of £1 a day to access web'n'walk - T-Mobile's 'real' (as in not cut down) mobile internet service. You can search the web or check your email, with each kilobyte of data charged at 0.73 pence. Once you reach £1, you'll pay nothing more for rest of the day.

The range of web'n'walk handsets on pay-as-you-go currently includes the Motorola V3, the Nokia 6131, the Nokia 6233, the Sony Ericsson K750i and the Samsung E870. The number of web'n'walk devices will reach 25 by Autumn this year, according to T-Mobile.

T-Mobile website

More mobiles:
Sony Ericsson unveils K610im - the i-mode 3G phone
Nokia 6151 - the budget 3G mobile phone

Posted by modculture on June 20, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1)

Who Ate All The Bratwurst World Cup mobizine



Ever heard of mobizines? They're mobile magazines - just like the magazines you buy from the shops, but custom-built to fit your mobile screen. You download each issue just once, but can read it as much as you like. Ideal if you're on a train or on your lunch hour and looking for something to keep you amused.

And as it's World Cup time, what could be better that taking a look through the latest **Who ate all the Bratwurst mobizine**. From the makers of the top footie blog, the mobizine also takes an alternative look at life in Germany - but with just one quick download to your phone, you can take with you everywhere, to enjoy anytime you need to raise a smile.

Find out more about the Who Ate All The Bratwurst mobizine

Posted by modculture on June 20, 2006 in Mobile phones | World Cup gadgets
Permalink | Comments (1)

Sony Ericsson unveils K610im - the i-mode 3G phone



You may recall we got "hands on" with the Sony Ericsson K610 3G phone during this year's 3GSM - and were suitably impressed. Well, a slight variation on the theme is about to launch in the UK - the **K610im**, Sony Ericsson's first phone to support the i-mode service, offered in the UK by O2.

Packed very neatly into a Carbon Black casing with a 1.9-inch QVGA TFT 260k, the K610im features a 2MP camera with 2.5x digital zoom and a VGA camera for video calling. Storage is via the supplied 64MB Memory Stick, which can be expanded to 1GB if you want to pack it with music, which you can transfer over via the supplied USB cable and software. The phone also supports over-the-air downloads and features the usual audio and video playback, along with games, plus Bluetooth and push email.

In addition, with the i-mode service, you get access to the enhanced mobile applications, including email, web browsing and MMS, faster downloads, plus access to over 150 i-mode sites currently available in the UK through O2. The K610im will be available from O2 in the final quarter of 2006 - price to be confirmed.

Sony Ericsson website

More i-mode:
eBay joins i-mode service
Sat nav for pedestrians with i-mode

Posted by modculture on June 19, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (5)

Nokia 6151 - the budget 3G mobile phone

Nokia has introduced the 6151 - a mobile phone that makes **3G affordable to the mass market**. The company reckons it well sell for around £164 sim-free when it becomes available to retailers later this year.

One thing the 6151 can't do is video calling - there's no front-mounted camera on the phone. But apart from that, it pretty much covers everything else adequately. Features include a rear-mounted 1.3MP camera with 4x digital zoom and video capture ability, music and video playback, an FM radio with Nokia's Visual Radio technology, Bluetooth ships as standard and push-to-talk for networks that support it.

There's 30MB of internal memory, which can be boosted by MicroSD card, while the battery provides 4.5 hours of GSM talk time, 3.5 hours of 3G connectivity and up to 10 days in standby. Expect it in the third quarter of this year in a choice of black, pearl white, orange, light blue and lime green for your £164 (or less with a contract).

Nokia website

Via The Register

More Nokia:
Nokia and Central Saint Martins design mobile phone of the future
T-Mobile offers World Cup Nokia N70 with CoPilot Live

Posted by modculture on June 19, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

BenQ-Siemens M81 - the mobile phone for the great outdoors



Nokia recently released the 5500 Sport - a mobile for those who enjoy thier outdoor pursuits. Now **BenQ-Siemens** has followed suit with a similar device - the **M81**.

The M81 features a blue and white water-resistant rubber and plastic casing, along with a scratch-resistant screen to protect the 132 x 176, 262,144-colour display. There's also a 1.3MP phone with an LED flash that doubles up as a torch, plus the usual music, video and gaming applications, along with EDGE support.

More unusually, the M81 ships with navigation software - Jentro's Activepilot - and a dedicated weather outlook application. A GPS receiver is extra, as is access to updated meteorological forecasts.

The M81 will be available in August, in blue and white or black and white. Price to be confirmed.

BenQ-Siemens website

Via The Register

More mobiles:
Sagem's My700x gets a colourful UK release
T-Mobile offers World Cup Nokia N70 with CoPilot Live

Posted by modculture on June 19, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Mosquito Sound Repels and Attracts Teenagers

In one of those bizarre technological twists a device that was originally designed to repel teenagers, stopping them clustering together and making



nuisances of themselves has morphed into something that teenagers are now clamouring for. The device is called Mosquito and it emits an irritating high-pitched noise that only teenagers can hear. Now the International Herald Tribune reports that the Mosquito sound or 'Mozzytone' has been transformed into a 17kHz ringtone, or Mosquitotone, audible only bats, teenagers, dogs and a very few supple-eared adults.

Posted by Shiny Media on June 16, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Sagem's My700x gets a colourful UK release



After the recent launch of Sagem's special edition My700x Roland-Garros handset, we did wonder if they'd bring out a Wimbledon version for the UK market. Well, guess what? They haven't - but **Sagem** have brought out **two new versions of the My700x for the UK**.

The ultra-slim My700x will be available here in a choice of pink and white or brown and blue. The specification seems to be the same as the previous French version. It's a quad band handset with EDGE technology, a 1.3MP camera and what Sagem describe as "iPodesque" music facilities with MP3 and AAC playback, an FM radio and 3D sound. There's also a video player on board, along with a selection of games.

It's got USB and Bluetooth connectivity, plus a Mini SD slot for storage. If you fancy picking one up, you'll have to wait a little longer as there's no confirmation of networks or price as yet, but that should be announced in the next few weeks.

Sagem website

More mobiles:
T-Mobile offers World Cup Nokia N70 with CoPilot Live
Motorola's Dolce & Gabbana-styled RAZR V3i now on sale

Posted by modculture on June 15, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Virgin Mobile extends free kebab offer to World Cup



Not content with filling our festival goers with high fat junk food, now the people at **Virgin Mobile** have extended the offer of a **free kebab** to anyone with a mobile phone who happens to be in Germany at the England fans' campsite in Achen.

Yes, if you've had a few beers before or during the game, simply text "kebab" to 26666 and you'll receive a voucher entitling you to a free doner. Then just cash it in at the local Virgin Mobile kebab van and you're fed and ready for anything.

Steve Rogan from Virgin Mobile said: "We want England fans to be match fit and ready to give our boys all the support they can muster. The post-match kebab has become a ritual in towns up and down the country so offering fans a taste of home while they are on foreign soil might help."

Virgin Mobile website

More mobiles:
T-Mobile offers World Cup Nokia N70 with CoPilot Live
Nokia and Central Saint Martins design mobile phone of the future

Posted by modculture on June 14, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Christina Aguilera available first to Orange customers



Remember Christina Aguilera signing a sponsorship deal with Orange and Sony Ericsson a while back? Well, now the companies are getting a bit of their investment back - you can only **download the new Christina Aguilera single and video from the Orange World portal directly from your Orange phones**.

The track, "Aint no other man", is exclusively available via the Orange World portal for two weeks from today, June 14th before being available to the rest of the world. Orange customers will also have four weeks exclusive access to the video clip from 20th June, with private concerts for Orange customers (that doesn't mean in your front room) over the summer.

As part of the deal between Orange and Sony Ericsson, Orange has first refusal on all Walkman phones, with the W800i, W810i and W300i already available and the W850i and W710i to follow soon.

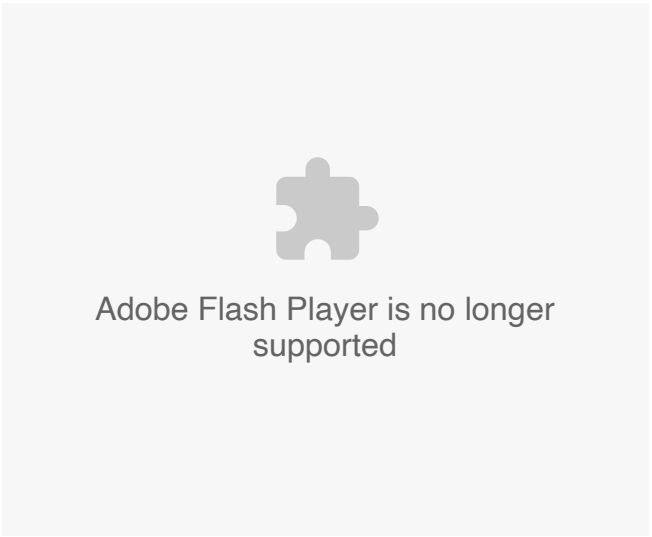
Orange website

More Walkman phones:
Sony Ericsson reveals W850i, new 3G WALKMAN phone
Sony Ericsson's sporty W710i

Posted by modculture on June 14, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Nokia 111 Concept Phone - Electronic Furniture

I went over to the Air Gallery today to see the Nokia design concepts (mentioned below), including the winning **Nokia 111** prototype designed by Daniel Meyer. Here's a video of him showing off his creation, which should give you more of an idea of what it would look like if it ever got past the prototype stage.



Posted by Shinykatie on June 13, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

IRIS mobile phone-controlled security camera

You might have an alarm on your house or flat, but what if you want to keep a close eye on the place - or the items contained within it? The **IRIS security camera** can keep a close eye on your things and if there's a problem, can stream video footage to your phone.

The IRIS camera is claimed to be the world's first network-independent wireless stand alone camera that sends live video to your mobile phone. Set-up is straighforward, so no need for any technical knowledge - you just need an EDGE or 3G phone. The camera features a standard sim card integrated within it, so connecting is as easy as a phone call and it can also be set up for use for a number of users to dial in and use simultaneously.



In alarm mode, the IRIS camera continually monitors for movement – if any is detected, the camera will automatically upload video of the event to a secure server, notifying the user via SMS, who can view the recording on their mobile phone – and call the police if necessary.

Sounds great – as long as you make sure you the cat isn't in the house when it's on.

Find out more

More security:
GuardRobo security robot
Linksys internet security camera

Posted by modculture on June 13, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (2)

T-Mobile offers World Cup Nokia N70 with CoPilot Live



We told you a couple of months back that **CoPilot Live** would be available for Symbian Series 60 phones, with the first model to benefit being the **Nokia N70**. Well, from today you can pick up this combined phone and sat device from your local T-Mobile dealer.

This special World Cup edition Nokia N70 World Cup is the latest phone to be added to T-Mobile's web'n'walk portfolio and includes the official FIFA 2006 World Cup football game from EA Sports, football themed icons, ringtones, wallpaper, access to World Cup highlights and of course, CoPilot Live.

CoPilot Live offers all the satellite navigation functionality you'd expect from a dedicated device, but with a few added extras, including real-time location tracking via the internet and live traffic information, delivered to the phone via web'n'walk. In addition, an Instant Detour button allows you to find a way around the side streets if they hit an unexpected hold-up. For more on CoPilot's functions click here.

Pricing for the N70 with CoPilot varies from free to around £300, dependent on your package. The N70 as a standalone is available from free to around £150.

More from the T-Mobile website

More mobiles:
T-Mobile streams Robbie Williams gigs to 3G phones
Motorola's Dolce & Gabbana-styled RAZR V3i now on sale

Posted by modculture on June 13, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1)

Nokia and Central Saint Martins design mobile phone of the future



What do you get if you cross a mobile phone giant with a London school of art and design? The **Nokia 111** – a fictitious phone that's now on display at the **Future of Mobile Design exhibition**.

For six months, 25 Industrial Design students from London's CSM College of Art and Design have been working to a brief from Nokia to create a mass market handset for 4 or 5G services up to the year 2015 – the winning design was made into a dummy handset by Nokia for the exhibition. The design finally chosen by Nokia was this one by Daniel Meyer – apparently inspired both by video calling and the traditional practice of carrying pictures of friends or family members with you (in other words, it sits on your desk).

In view of how mobile phones have changed in the last 10 years, I'd have expected something a little more radical for the coming decade. But if you

want to take a closer look at this particular vision of the future, you can see it at the Future of Mobile Design exhibition, which runs from 13th - 16th June 2006 at the Air Gallery, Dover Street, London W1S. Entry is free.

Nokia website

More mobiles:
Mobile ticketing could beat the touts, says Nokia
The Mobile Phone Of The Future is Here!

Posted by modculture on June 13, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

T-Mobile streams Robbie Williams gigs to 3G phones



Unless you've been living under a rock or don't own a TV, you'll know that **T-Mobile** are currently sponsoring **Robbie Williams**. And as a result of that tie-in, the mobile giant is offering exclusive Robbie content, including **live video streaming** of his current tour direct to your **3G phone**.

Throughout the European Tour, shows will be video live-streamed in their entirety to 3G handsets, while Tour TV, a new channel within T-Mobile's MobileTV service, will offer fans behind-the-scenes footage. And for those fans who havne't gone down the 3G path, the special edition Robbie Williams **W300i** Walkman phone, which I previewed back in April, will finally hit the shops this month.

The phone is Sony's recent clamshell handset, with customised content, including themed animation, mobile music content and an embossed Robbie Williams logo on the back cover. It also comes pre-installed with footage from the first show of the tour in South Africa, a behind-the-scenes video clip and six wallpapers.

T-Mobile website

More mobiles:
Mobile ticketing could beat the touts, says Nokia
Mobiles to wipe out cameras and MP3 players?

Posted by modculture on June 12, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

BCM WLAN800I VoIP Wi-Fi phone - without the need for a PC



Another interesting gadget to emerge from this year's Computex is the catchily-named **WLAN800I** phone from **BCM**, a multi-format VoIP Wi-Fi phone that allows you to use the likes of Skype, MSN Talk and MSN Messenger without the need to turn on a PC.

To use the WLAN800I, you just need an 802.11b/g wireless access point. It supports three-way calling, as well as the ability to connect via MSN Messenger to someone that has a web camera. However, there isn't one on the phone, so they can't see you. You can store 10 wireless profiles for quick access when you swap between access points and there's support for WEP and WPA encryption as well as DHCP and static IP addresses.

It's also a media player and has 32MB of flash memory, plus 64MB of SDRAM. There's also a vibration mode, true tones ring tones, a 250 contacts phone book, call history for your last 20 dialled numbers and an embedded web browser. Battery life is around 60 hours on standby, with up to three hours' talk time.

The WLAN800 is expected to be available from BCM in the middle of July, but as yet, there's no news of a UK distributor.

Via The Register

More VoIP:
Sony's hybrid mouse and VoIP phone
Jajah - a simple way to use VoIP

Posted by modculture on June 12, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Free ringtones? Just watch the ads

If you find yourself spending too much on ringtones, wallpapers and other mobile downloads, Pitch could be for you. Mobile Marketing reports that the mobile content provider is launching an advertiser-funded download service. In return for some personal details about you (your age, gender, interests etc.), plus your agreement to receive up to three marketing messages a week on your handset, Pitch will give you ringtones, games and graphics, completely free.

To sign up to the service, text the word 'Pitch' to the shortcode 87000 and you will be directed to a Wap site for the sign-up process. Pitch is available to users on all UK mobile networks, with the exception of 3.

Get the full story here.

Posted by Davidmurphy on June 9, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Mobile ticketing could beat the touts, says Nokia



Nokia's high-profile mobile ticketing trial at last night's Guns'n'Roses gig went seemingly without a hitch, which is more than can be said for the band's arrival on stage. Billed to start at 9pm, Axl and chums didn't appear until 10.40pm. I sincerely hope this was due to a backstage strop due to too many brown M&Ms or not enough cocaine-toting dwarves, rather than anything mundane like traffic.

Anyway, getting into the gig with my m-ticket went swimmingly - a quick scan followed by wristband attachment - and as a bonus, it also involved jumping the queue of paper ticket-holders. According to Nokia, 60% of the people who bought tickets for last night's gig through the Ticketrush website chose the mobile option.

Meanwhile, Nokia UK's head of marketing Simon Lloyd reckons that m-tickets could eventually kill off the hated ticket touts who hang around outside gigs. "It's removing the element of ticket touts," he says. "It's a secure environment, so you can't pass these tickets on and can't hack in. Paper tickets are always open to abuse."



Surely if the m-tickets are sent as an SMS message, you can just forward them onto a friend? Or someone you've just taken £100 from outside a venue. Well, yes you can. However, each ticket can only be scanned once - so if you were to distribute it to a bunch of friends, only the first person to arrive would get in.

It might not stop touting altogether then, but would you want to give a tout your phone number and run the risk that they hadn't already sold the same m-ticket to 20 people? Me neither.

So what happens if you buy a ticket, then can't make it to the gig so want to sell it to a friend? "You can go back to the site and set it up so the ticket can be sent out from the main site to your friend," says Lloyd.

In theory this means you can still sell tickets for a premium on eBay, but again trust is a big issue in terms of paying over-the-odds for a ticket that might leave you stranded outside.



At the moment, you can only buy tickets from the website, but Nokia is already plotting its next move. "The next stage is to pay for the ticket in one seamless transaction on the mobile," says Lloyd. "We want to move to total mobile ticketing, where you'll get an SMS alert about a gig, and then buy tickets on your phone."

Nokia also has ambitious plans for how the m-ticketing service can develop - although sadly not a feature for the crowd to send text messages direct to Axl Rose's phone telling him to get a move on. Instead, Nokia wants to offer gig-goers more goodies.

"Because it's mobile-oriented, we have people's number and know they'll be at the gig," says Lloyd. "We can push offers down to them, like another barcode to get a free drink at the bar, or a free t-shirt or even a free song or ringtone download from one of the acts that's playing."

A key part of the service is that it works on ALL handsets, not just Nokia mobiles. However, Lloyd doesn't rule out launching some kind of VIP features for Nokia users in the future. "You could have a separate queue for Nokia users, or more free drinks," he says.

"We can play it a little bit, but the important thing is that it doesn't prohibit, say, a Samsung user from buying a ticket and going to the gig. We wanted this to be available to all."

Posted by Stuart Dredge on June 8, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (6)

Tomb Raider slot machine for your mobile



Well, the cartoon action heroine certainly shifted plenty of games in her time, so why shouldn't she do the same for mobile gambling? Yes, Lara Croft has been licensed to tempt you to play the slots on your phone.

Tomb Raider is Wild Jack Mobile Casino's **first branded 'video style' slot machine** for mobile phones. But don't expect any console action, the character just highlights the slot jackpot - five Lara Crofts in a row wins the cash. There's also mysterious golden idols and exotic tigers, which, if found on a win line, will transport the player to a Tomb bonus screen for free spins and win multipliers.

Can't say it will tempt me to gamble on my mobile - but then again, I didn't rate the games all that much either!

For information on how you can play, visit www.spin3.com.

More for your mobile:
Tomb Raider slot machine for your mobile
HMV introduces Txt2Buy shopping with a mobile phone

Posted by modculture on June 7, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Take a picture - win a K800i camera phone!



You may recall a survey from yesterday that claimed around 44 per cent of people use their handset as their main camera - and it's on the rise. If you want an excuse to use yours, how about the chance to win a Sony K800i, not to mention the title of **Cameraphone News Photographer of the Year 2006**.

Sony Ericsson and The Times is encouraging photographers of all abilities to use their mobile handsets to capture images that would be worthy of gracing the pages of a top UK newspaper. All you have to do is snap and send your pictures via MMS to 07834 885 058. Images will then be uploaded onto www.timesonline.co.uk where the public can admire submitted entries.

Entries are divided into three categories - sport, current affairs and landscape/environment. Each week, the best will be chosen and the winner will receive a Sony Ericsson K800i cameraphone. A monthly winner will also be selected, with their image appearing in the pages of The Times T2 on a Monday. And at the end of the competition, each of the weekly winners' photographs will be displayed at a top London gallery, where a panel of credible and influential judges will come together to vote for the overall winner.

Along with the camera, the overall winner will win a day with one of The Times' photographers to learn the tricks of the trade, as well as an all expenses paid trip to a European destination to capture their very own news-based pictures. So what are you waiting for?

Times Online

Camera phones:
Nokia launches N93 camcorder phone

Sony's Cyber-shot K800 and K790 camera phones

Posted by modculture on June 7, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

BBC and ITV to trial mobile TV



The BBC and ITV are understood to be close to be finalising a deal to develop a **live TV broadcast service for mobile phones**, with a six-month trial of the service planned for later this year.

The trial, believed to be in conjunction with Samsung and LG, will test the viability of the service and will feature the BBC's News 24 service and an as-yet-unnamed ITV digital channel. If the initial six-month trial is a success, it is likely that the BBC and ITV will expand the service to its other channels. Eurosport and Cartoon Network have also registered interest in the service.

The mobile TV programmes will be broadcast using technology currently used by digital radio. It will be a subscription service provided by mobile phone companies, with a £10 a month fee expected to be the standard charge.

An official annoucement was expectedearly this week, but the BBC has so far declined to comment on the speculation. We'll keep you posted.

Via Digital Bulletin

More mobile TV:
Virgin to launch live TV on your mobile
Sky offers live football and cricket action to Vodafone 3G phones

Posted by modculture on June 6, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Nokia's m-tickets meet Guns'n'Roses' RAWK in high-profile UK trial



This Wednesday night, fans attending Guns'n'Roses' Hammersmith Apollo gig won't just be raising their mobile phones to snap photos of Axl Rose or give absent friends a taste of the opening solo to Sweet Child O' Mine. They'll also be digging their phones out of their pockets on their way into the venue, to get in.

The G'n'R gig is one of the most high-profile UK trials of mobile ticketing. Instead of being sent paper tickets, most concert-goers have had barcodes sent to their mobiles, which will then be scanned to gain entry to the gig.

Mine arrived last night, appropriately enough when I was having a load of shopping scanned at a Sainsburys checkout. It's not much to look at - no band photo or real-tone Welcome To The Jungle backing track. It's just a regular barcode plus a string of text confirming that the ticket admits one to the gig.

The technology is being provided by Nokia spin-off Ticketrush.co.uk, and comes amid growing activity in the m-ticketing space. Another technology provider, Mobiqa, is working with O2 to provide m-tickets to this month's O2 Wireless Festival in London - selling a cool £100,000 worth of m-tickets in their first week on-sale. Other firms touting their own technologies include ActiveMedia and mTicket. So will this sort of thing catch on?

Many of the arguments against m-tickets verge on the irrational. When my G'n'R ticket arrived, for example, I was gripped by a paranoid fear that I'd accidentally delete it while trying to manhandle courgettes into a carrier bag. What if my phone battery explodes between now and the gig? What if someone steals my mobile, spots the ticket and goes to the gig in my place? What if I get attacked by a giant puma walking home tonight and have to use my phone to jam its slavering jaws? It's all a bit worrying.

Of course, when you think about it, an m-ticket is no more perishable than a traditional paper ticket, which is liable to get lost / torn / stolen / dribbled on by a slavering puma. As long as I charge my phone up tonight and don't

spend hours playing Tower Bloxx on the way to work tomorrow, it'll be fine. It's just a case of 'Fear Of The New' syndrome.

Writing in The Guardian last week, Tim de Lisle pointed out that the rise of m-tickets is a sad day for anyone with a collecting urge. "Memory needs only a jog and there's something magical about the way a clerical little item can conjure up a pulsating night," he said, while also accurately pointing out that for most men at least, the ticket-collecting gene goes hand-in-hand with "the layabout gene" and "the haven't-quite-got-round-to-it gene".

Like Tim, I've got a box full of gig tickets from my chequered past that I haven't quite got round to organising properly - from the Black Crowes (1994) to Babyshambles (2006) via Blur, Ben & Jason and, er, Belinda Carlisle. And that's just the B's. But I'd argue that today's gig-goers - especially the younger or more gadgety ones - don't see paper tickets in the same way any more.

Instead, their concert keepsakes are digital - the photos or videos they take with their phone and then upload onto Flickr or YouTube. It's these that are the true 21st Century gig mementoes, so why not get rid of the paper tickets? By way of proof, Guns'n'Roses gigs are well-represented on both Flickr and YouTube.

Okay, so it remains to be seen how many venues upgrade their facilities to support m-ticketing technology, how quickly they do it, and whether they can retrain their door staff, who in my experience have barely mastered being able to simultaneously scowl menacingly and tear a ticket stub.

And it's ironic that a whizzy new mobile technology is being used for a gig by a band which arguably peaked in, ooh, 1991. Cock-rawk is clearly cutting-edge after all. Then again, while a Crazy Frog gig might've been a more appropriate trial for m-ticketing, *he* doesn't encore with Paradise City. At least, I hope he doesn't...

Posted by Stuart Dredge on June 6, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Mobiles to wipe out cameras and MP3 players?



According to a new survey, **mobile phones look set to replace the standalone digital camera and the MP3 player in the near future**. But before you ditch the devices, note that the survey was undertaken by Nokia.

Even so, with improvements in on-board cameras and with great storage and functionality for music, it wouldn't be a surprise to see integrated devices dominating. Around 44 per cent of people already use their handset as their main camera, while 67 per cent of those questioned said they expected their phone to replace their portable music player. Another growing area is web browsing on the phone - now done regularly by a third of those surveyed.

Even watches and clocks are under threat - 72 per cent of those questioned in the survey use their phone as their alarm clock, and 73 per cent use it instead of a wristwatch.

What do you think - is this just promotional nonsense by Nokia or will integrated devices see off individual gadgets in the near future? Let us know your thoughts below.

Nokia website

Integrated devices:
Sony Ericsson W850i - 3G WALKMAN phone
Nokia launches N93 camcorder phone

Posted by modculture on June 6, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Virtual World Cup pundit for Vodafone users

Vodafone users struggling to choose between Gazza's ramblings on ITV and Ian Wright's air-punching enthusiasm on the Beeb now have another choice, in the shape of a virtual World Cup pundit on their mobile phone, according to Mobile Marketing.

The mobile avatar launched on Vodafone live! on Friday, in preparation for the start of the World Cup this Friday. It will offer Vodafone users a daily package of updates, images, comment and key facts from the finals. The Avatar has been developed for Vodafone by mobile tech firm WIN (Wireless



Information Network). It's the first time an animated pundit has been used to provide mobile updates from a live sporting event. If it's a success, who knows, it might spread to the telly. It would certainly save a few quid on those highly-paid ex-pros...

Get the full story here.

Posted by Davidmurphy on June 5, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Cancer charity turns to text



There are very few things you can't do on a mobile these days, and thanks to mobile marketing agency Incentivated, donating to charity has just joined the list of things you can.

Mobile Marketing Magazine reports that the company has developed a solution for cancer charity Macmillan Cancer Support that enables members of the public to make a £3 donation via SMS. Not only that, the donor is then directed via a WAP Push message to a Mobile Internet Gift Aid form, where they can confirm that they are a taxpayer,enabling the chariy to claim an additional 28% (in this case, 84p) from HM Revenue and Customs. This is a first for the charity industry.

"Charities often miss out on this extra income because it is too expensive to process the paperwork on small donations" says Incentivated boss Jonathan Bass. "The mobile channel automates this process, and removes the need for manual processing on the part of the charity. The fact that the Gift Aid form is available on the mobile handset immediately after the text donation has been made means that drop-off should be less than asking someone to go online via their PC."

Get the full story here.

Posted by Davidmurphy on June 2, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Mobile usage shock: women are emotional, men are egotistical

At last, an answer to why so many men's phones are stuffed with photos of their ex-girlfriends. One of the more entertaining sessions at today's MEX conference came from Tracy Ross from the University of Loughborough, who revealed a bunch of research on how people use their phones - and how they'd like to use them - in the real world.

One project focused on what we store on our mobiles, and why. The results were grouped into five categories: Sentimental, Memorable, Informative, Comical and Entertaining (that photo of your best mate baring his arse with a party hat attached must fall under several of those then). But it also highlighted some differences between men and women.

"With females, it was a mixture of photos and texts which they tended to have an emotional attachment to, and spoke with great sentiment about," said Ross. "One girl had a text message stored from when she'd performed in a show, from a friend saying 'You were great, don't doubt yourself!'. She'd kept that as a real boost to her confidence and self-esteem."

So how about men then? Do they have a sensitive bone in their bodies? Er, no.

"With boys it's about social status and ego-boosting material, or for entertaining others," said Ross. "For example, ex-girlfriends. There's a lot of bragging going on there."

Of course, this isn't to say that a man has a great emotional attachment to and sentimental regard for his ex girlfriends. Isn't it? Either way, Ross says this kind of research can be useful when planning mobile applications and services for the future. Get set for the Nokia LittleBlackBook handset for men with a colourful social life, then...

Posted by Stuart Dredge on June 1, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Intrusive mobile advertising won't work, say experts

Does anyone really want to get advertising on their mobile phones? The mobile industry certainly hopes so, and is banking on ads as a big source of revenue in the years to come. Trouble is, mobiles are such personal devices, that if advertising is done badly, it'll just be seen as intrusive spam.

It's a dilemma, and one that was discussed today at the MEX conference in London. And the conclusion? Us consumers will be happy to have adverts on our phones, as long as they're relevant to us, don't get in the way of whatever content or application we're using, and if they allow operators to provide other cool stuff for free.

Jim Souders from Action Engine talked about some focus groups the company has run to investigate consumer attitudes, and pointed out that people are comfortable with the idea of watching TV shows or browsing websites for free because they come with adverts, so why should mobile be any different.

However, he also said that this doesn't just mean streaming TV ads to your phone, or having web-style pop-ups appear when you're using a mobile application. Instead, they've got to be optimised for the strengths and weaknesses of mobile - whether they're text messages, banner adverts, video ads or paid-for search results.

"For example, for a video advertisement, the optimum length is 7-10 seconds," said Souders. "People won't be watching 30-minute shows on their mobile, they're watching shows or clips in minutes, so 30-second commercials won't work."

Of course, there's plenty of other problems for the industry to solve before us punters will accept mobile ads. For starters, we don't want to pay for them, which includes data charges to download or access advertising content.

Reassuringly, everyone involved in the MEX debate seemed to agree that mobile users won't put up with spam or poorly-targeted advertising. However, with no mobile operators or advertising agencies taking part in this particular debate, it still remains to be seen if these noble sentiments will translate into actions.

Posted by Stuart Dredge on June 1, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (4)

Motorola's Dolce & Gabbana-styled RAZR V3i now on sale



Previously featured on Tech Digest, this gold-coloured version of **Motorola's RAZR V3i clamshell** handset, co-branded by Italian fashion house **Dolce & Gabbana**, is surely the must-have for the chav (or chavette) in your life. And now they can have one, as it's available from today.

Apart from the D&G logo and the gold colour scheme, the phone's just your standard V3i (not even the slightly upgraded iTunes-friendly V3im), which means a quad-band phone with video-capture capable 1.23-megapixel camera and Bluetooth.

But prospective purchasers aren't going to be buying for the technology, it's all about the look. And to go with it, you can pick up some D&G-themed and gold-colouredstereo headphones and an "eel skin" carrying case. Nice. These are available to purchase separately - the only extras you get with the phone are a D&G logo pendant, pre-loaded MP3 ringtones and matching screen themes.

Available from today at selected Dolce & Gabbana stores and all major Motorola stockists - but with no price confirmed as yet, enter at your peril.

Motorola website

Via The Register

More fashion phones:
LG's chocolate phone
Super hip Cavalli-styled LG U880

Posted by modculture on June 1, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1)

EU Tax on Emails and Text Messages

A tax on emails and SMS text messages has been floated once or twice in the past but now the Eurocrats seem taking the matter a bit more seriously by setting up a EU Parliament Working Group, chaired by French MEP Alain Lamassoure. According to a Reuters report in Yahoo News the proposals on

the table are for a levy of 0.8 pence (€0.15) for text messages and €0.00001 for emails. It doesn't sound like a lot but with billions of emails and text messages being sent every day it could raise a very tidy sum. No word yet on who pays -- sender, recipient or service provider -- how they're going to collect it and what they'll spend it on, but it looks like one way or another they're going to find a way to milk it.

Posted by Shiny Media on June 1, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Mobile TV "crap" and "like bad porn" says, er, a user

Just one, anyway. As part of design firm Alloy's presentation at today's MEX conference, they showed a video snippet of one mobile user trying to watch TV on a 3G handset. And you could say they weren't impressed:

"That is just crap! That is shit! I can't see anything, the sound's all distorted, the image is severely pixelated, and it makes you want to be sick. It's like when you get on one of those bad porn sites and you try and download something. If that's what streaming is, I'd never even think about going there, let alone paying for it."

Oof! This isn't picking on the networks or TV providers but it does cast some interesting light on the current hype surrounding mobile TV. And we certainly won't be surfing those bad porn sites any time soon...

Posted by Stuart Dredge on May 31, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

What's needed for the perfect mobile MySpace



Why is MySpace such a runaway success? Because it's a jack of all trades, apparently. This, at least, was the message from Frederick Ghahramani of technology firm AirG, speaking at today's MEX conference in London.

He was talking about mobile communities, but took time to explain why MySpace is such a hit, so that mobile companies can figure out how to emulate it. It's all down to the way it combines features of several other sites - Blogger's blogging, Photobucket's image-sharing, Match.com's dating features, topped off with a little bit of Napster's music preferences.

MySpace isn't better at any of these things than those sites, but the important thing is that it brought them all together in one service. "It's played the combination game of combining all these key building blocks, so there's a real multiplier effect which is what makes it sticky and successful," said Ghahramani.

Does this mean the most successful mobile communities will just look like MySpace? Probably not - mainly because MySpace can spread all these different elements over a PC-screen-sized webpage. Try doing that on a mobile phone.

"Screen size is a challenge for this combination play on mobile," he admitted. "How do you combine identity, presence and interaction on a mobile screen, as opposed to a PC screen? If there's going to be a combination play in mobile, its innovation will be a user-interface innovation."

Won't it all be about the online communities like MySpace extending onto mobile anyway? After all, MySpace has already signed deals in the US to be on handsets sold by MVNO operator Helio. Well, maybe, but as Ghahramani pointed out, these online firms face serious challenges making the leap to mobile.

"For them, it's a challenge of simplification," he said. "They've already figured out that consolidation makes success, but they'll also have to focus on user interface innovation to make this work on mobile."

He also pointed out that mobile handsets are a completely different world from the Web in terms of regulation. Online, anything goes on a service like MySpace - you can blog what you like, upload any photos you want, and even give out your home address and phone number if you like. Of course, these might get removed if someone complains, but the point is you can post them.

On mobile, the operators are so worried about complaints (think angry parents) that they impose a lot of restrictions. So often anything posted or uploaded to a mobile community has to be moderated before it appears by a computer, a human or both. Ghahramani said that the online communities have to decide whether they only offer a sanitized pre-filtered version of

their content to mobile users, or whether they go back and re-moderate everything from scratch. Ouch.

If this all sounds a bit high falutin', rest assured that it's evidence that the mobile industry is grappling with these issues to make it completely seamless if you're accessing one of your existing communities - whether it's MySpace, Yahoo 360 or MSN Spaces - through your phone, you don't get fed up with the experience.

Posted by Stuart Dredge on May 31, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (3) | TrackBack (0)

The Mobile Phone Of The Future is Here!



Design firm Alloy used today's MEX conference - it stands for Mobile User Experience - to unveil its latest concept phone, the Polygon. It's their attempt to design a handset that's actually half-decent for accessing multimedia content - whether it's TV, music, taking photos or surfing the Web.

And it looks.... like a normal phone, actually. It's a clamshell phone which replaces the buttons on the bottom half with a rugged touchscreen, which changes according to what you're using it for.

Multimedia_phon

So when you're playing music, the touchscreen looks like an iPod. When you're watching TV, you turn the phone sideways and the touchscreen morphs into channel-switching controls. When you surf the Web, it becomes a QWERTY keyboard. It's a neat idea - and in every case leaves the top screen completely free for whatever content you're viewing / accessing.

"People want a hi-res screen to watch TV on, but they also want a tougher low-res touchscreen to control it with," said Gus Desbarats, chairman of Alloy. "They don't like mixing the two - getting your grubby finger marks over the screen you're watching your TV programme on."

The phone has been designed with the aim of being feasible within 2-3 years, so don't expect to see this sort of thing on the shelves at Carphone Warehouse tomorrow. But it's an intruiging look at how handsets may develop in the future. Who knows, it may even persuade people that mobile TV is a good idea.

Multimedia_tvmode

One flaw picked out by the audience was that this morphable touchscreen wouldn't be very good for playing mobile games on - something Desbarats accepted as a fair point.

"Yes is the short answer," he said. "We had to take a view on whether we felt that this would be a hot gaming machine, or if games would be another incidental application. Looking back on it, it's probably an omission. What it came down to was we were very concerned about keeping this as a very practical achievable handset."

Well, at least you could probably play Tetris on it... We'll have more posts from MEX over the next couple of days, as a room-full of usability experts chew over what's wrong with mobile technology.

Posted by Stuart Dredge on May 31, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

HMV introduces Txt2Buy shopping with a mobile phone

Hmv

HMV, in conjunction with Digital Rum, has launched a new service allowing customers to **Txt2Buy CDs, DVDs and games directly from their mobile phones**. The Txt2Buy service allows customers to respond immediately to HMV adverts appearing in the press, using their credit/debit cards to buy products wherever you are in the world.

From 5th June, HMV will place a series of adverts in national magazines and newspapers with a unique ordering code for new music, film and games titles. Text back to a shortcode number, and receive a mobile internet link to a secure site where you can pay using your credit/debit card details.

With the order complete, the album, movie or game is posted out. No pre-registration is required, though there is the option of saving card details to a secure 'mobile wallet' to speed up subsequent purchases.

Visit the HMV website for further details

More for your mobile:
Make money from your old handset
Free beer and kebabs from Virgin Mobile

Posted by modculture on May 30, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Make money from your old mobile phone



It's always the same - as soon as you buy a new mobile, it's superceded by another model. So if you want to keep up, you could end up with a drawer full of **old mobiles** that are unlikely to see the light of day ever again. **So how about trading them in for some cash, in-store credit or a contribution to charity?**

One firm, **Envirofone.com**, has so far paid out more than £250,000 this year alone to people recycling their old mobiles since the beginning of the year. They pay cash, credit that can be used at Argos or you can nominate a charity to benefit. The firm then reconditions the handsets for use overseas, where the cost of new phones is too high for the average person.

It's estimated that around 15 million phones are upgraded each year in the UK, but fewer than three million are recycled or re-used - something envirofone want to change.

According to their chief executive Pete Petrondas: "Unlike traditional schemes, we recognised that we needed to encourage the general public to recycle so we decided to offer them either cash or credit from Argos."

Check out the envirofone website

Via The Register

More eco-friendly ideas:
Eco-friendly iPod case
Personal solar albums

Posted by modculture on May 30, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Sony Ericsson W810i, K510i and Z530i phones hit the stores



For anyone shopping around for a new handset in the coming weeks, three **Sony Ericsson** handsets should now be available with your operator of choice - the **W810i, K510i and Z530i phones**.

The W810i is a Walkman phone, featuring a digital music player, FM radio, music management software plus 20MB of memory for storage, which you can expand with a Memory Stick. In addition, this quad band EDGE phone with 262.144 color TFT screen features a 2MP camera, full internet browsing and Bluetooth. Talk time is up to 8 hours, with standby of up to 350 hours.

The tri-band K510i with 256k color TFT screen features a 1.3MP camera with digital zoom, video capture and player, 28MB of internal memory, MP3 ringtones, a ringtone composer and Bluetooth. It also supports push email - emails are pushed directly to your mobile without you having to request them.

The Z530i (pictured) is a more affordable tri-band clamshell, with 28MB of on board memory, Memory Stick expansion, 65k color internal display, VGA camera, Bluetooth and a full HTML browser.

Prices vary for all three, dependent on network and contract.

Sony Ericsson website



More Sony mobiles:
Sony Ericsson's sporty W710i
Sony Ericsson unveils Z710i and Z550i

Posted by modculture on May 25, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1)

3 launches first mobile World Cup tv show



There's no need to rush back home for your World Cup news and punditry – you'll soon be able to get it on your 3G phone, with **3** set to launch the first commissioned sports programme for Mobile TV – **Berlin or Bust** – which airs on 5 June.

The company claims it will be "an irreverent and entertaining look at the tournament", with previews and reviews of each day's World Cup action. Hosted by Sam Delaney, the show will feature celebrities, including the likes of the Kaiser Chiefs and Ray Winstone and everyone between, plus analysis from former England star Ray "Butch" Wilkins. Except he doesn't use the "Butch" bit anymore.

Berlin or Bust will be available free to all 3 customers throughout the tournament and will be on air from the 5th June, with a trailer available from 1st June.

In the meantime, don't forget you can get all the latest news from out fantastic footie blog Who Ate All The Bratwurst.

Find out more

More from 3:
3 offers highlights of all World Cup games
MSN Messenger on your 3 mobile

Posted by modculture on May 25, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

BT Glide – the UK's first Bluetooth home phone



BT has unveiled the **BT Glide** – the UK's first Bluetooth home phone, allowing you access to all your latest contacts on your phone as you enter your home.

Using Bluetooth technology, the Glide allows your landline handset to communicate with your mobile phone, headset, PDA, laptop or camera, so you can roam around your house and garden without having to carry additional handsets. You can also transfer contact details and updates quickly, so as soon as you enter your house, data from your mobile is synched onto the BT Glide – you might never lose a number again!

In addition, the BT Glide allows you to send and receive text messages using T9 predictive text It also features full graphics colour display, illuminated display, 200 name & number directory (3

entries per name), including mobile SIM copy to directory, caller ID, 300 metre outdoor range and an answering machine. In addition, there's 5 games, 8 polyphonic ringtones, 15 handset ringer melodies, 5 wallpapers and rather strangely, "mood lighting", which can apparently adapt to any setting.

The BT Glide is available for £199.99

Find out more

More Bluetooth:
World Cup Bluetooth headsets in your team colours
Parrot's car stereo with Bluetooth

Posted by modculture on May 25, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Pinpoint your pooch

Ever wondered where your dog has got to? Well you won't have to for much longer. According to Mobile Marketing, Finnish GPS company Tracker has just what you need in the form of My Way, a 3-in-1 GPS navigation system for your mobile.

The system consists of a Bluetooth GSP receiver which displays road, topgraphical (hills etc.) and nautical maps on your handset, providing you have a Symbian Series 60 (mainly Nokia) phone, though it will also work on some Sony Ericssons and Motorolas. Road maps for the country you buy it in are supplied on a memory card. The topographical and nautical maps are downloaded from a dedicated web or Wap site as and when you need them.

But where things get really cool is when you buy a second GPS receiver that attaches to a dog collar to enable you to keep tabs on the whereabouts of your pooch, or even the local Vicar come to that. There's also another version that attaches to a belt for child monitoring, and a magnetic one that fixes on to the underside of your car. And if a mate has the same system, you can use it to play find-a-friend. Handy if it's their round and they have misteriously disappeared.

My Way is expeted to go on sale in the UK in the next four weeks, priced at around £240. Get the full story here.

Posted by Davidmurphy on May 25, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Plantronics Voyager 510 USB Bluetooth VoIP headset

Plantronics_1

Plantronics has launched the **Voyager 510 USB Bluetooth VoIP headset**, aimed at busy business people who want a Bluetooth headset for their mobiles, but also something that will allow them to connect to VoIP services.

To use it, just plug the Bluetooth adaptor into your computer (or the USB port of your laptop) and you'll be able to take your VOIP calls without having to play around with an additional headset. When you're done, a push of a button will switch to incoming calls on your Bluetooth mobile phone.

The Voyager 510 headset features include a noise-cancelling microphone and Plantronics WindSmart technology. VoIP services (including Skype) are supported through a software application called PerSonoCall and the headset offers up to 6 hours talk time and up to 100 hours standby time

Expect to pay around £100 for the Voyager 510 headset.

Plantronics website

More Bluetooth:
iTech World Cup bluetooth headsets in your team colours
Body Glove XT all terrain bluetooth headset

Posted by modculture on May 24, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Flash Drive Peril - Protect your PC

We're all using USB flash drives these days, and very useful they are too, for transferring data from one PC to another. But the next time you plug your drive into someone else's PC just ask yourself, am I going to get infected?



The ease with which you can move data around also makes it simple for viruses and malware to hitch a ride on your flash drive and back into your PC. The first thing you should find out when copying data onto your drive is whether or not the PC you are connecting to has anti-virus protection, you will be surprised how many don't.

The **Propellerhead** solution is to carry some protection with you, the freeware anti-virus scanner AntiVir can be run from a flash drive and it only takes up around 30Mb of space, which is nothing in these days of 1 and 2Gb drives.

Select the Customise option during installation to load the program onto your flash drive, and you can run it from the Avcentre.exe file; to set up an immediate scan simply set one up from the Schedule tab and if there's an Internet Connection available make sure you download the latest updates. For hundred more great Windows tweaks head over to the archive at **PCTopTips**

Posted by Shiny Media on May 23, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

BenQ Siemens EF71 - clamshell music phone



Just as the BenQ Siemens E61 comes to the UK, the company announce a new music phone - the **BenQ Siemens EF71**, equipped with the company's 'Q-Fi' music system - a ten-band equaliser hooked up to a pair of built-in 3D surround-sound speakers.

The EF71 is certainly an attrative phone, housed in a brushed aluminium clamshell casing. It features a 2.2-inch, 176 x 220, 262,144-colour main display and a white, 128 x 64 OLED screen used when the phone is closed. There's also a 2MP camera with 9x digital zoom which can also be used as a webcam when the phone's hooked up to a PC's USB port.



The tri-band GSM/GPRS phone can play music in MP3, AAC or WMA format, but has a measly 24MB of memory on board. However, you can boost this via MicroSD card - BenQ said it will bundle a 256MB card with the handset. Bluetooth is also featured.

The BenQ Siemens EF71 will arrive in Europe in September, prices confirmed nearer to launch date.

BenQ Siemens website

Via The Register

More BenQ Siemens mobiles:
EF51 music phone
E61 music phone

Posted by modculture on May 23, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Virgin Mobile bring the BenQ Siemens E61 to the UK market

We covered the slightly quirky **BenQ Siemens E61 mobile phone** a couple of months ago, noting its similarity to an electric razor, but otherwise finding it quite an interesting music mobile. You'll be able to make your own mind up at the end of the month, as Virgin Mobile is bringing it to the UK market at a price just short of £100 as a pay as you go, or free if you pay monthly.



The phone itself can store up to 500 tracks, controlled by has its own music control panel with five dedicated music keys located on the top of the phone. There's also a 6 band graphic equaliser with 3D surround sound and on-screen lyric display for compatible tracks.

There's also a 65K colour screen, VGA camera, stereo headset and games featured. It's exclusive to Virgin Mobile from the end of May for 6 weeks, with the added bonus of a draw for five customers to win a year's worth of gig tickets with the purchase of the phone.

Find out more at the Virgin Mobile website

More BenQ Siemens phones:
EF-51 music phone
BenQ-Siemens announces first HSDPA mobile to market

Posted by modculture on May 22, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Sony Ericsson unveils new headsets for music mobiles



Sony Ericsson has announced some new headsets for mixing your music listening with call handling on your mobile phone.

The Walkman-branded **HPM-82** features a typical in-ear design, with different sized silicone ear buds provided to ensure a good fit and a clearer sound. You can leave your music phone in your pocket and use the black remote control to handle calls, direct your play list, play and pause, choose the next or previous song and adjust the volume.



If you want something a bigger in both size and sound, it might be worth looking at the **HPM-85** headset instead. It features high-energy neodymium magnet speakers, along with 30mm diameter driver units, which are positioned for a deep bass sound and lower distortion to your ears. It's also built for comfort, with a molded headband and ear cushions, which are reversible for single ear monitoring. The remote control lets you keep your phone in your pocket when handling calls and using the music functions.

Both headsets are available later this year, no price as yet.

Sony website

More Sony Ericsson:
Sony Ericsson reveals W850i, new 3G WALKMAN phone
Sony Ericsson unveils Z710i and Z550i

Posted by modculture on May 22, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Free beer and kebabs from Virgin Mobile



For anyone with a **Virgin Mobile** phone and slightly the worse for drink, here's an offer you can't refuse - **more beer and a kebab, absolutely free!**

Yes, the mobile company, recently acquired by NTL, is offering customers at what are described as "youth orientated" events the chance to text the word "beer" or "kebab" to a short code number to receive a text, containing a voucher for two free beers and a kebab.

Unfortunately, you can't just nip into your local or your favourite kebab shop to get your freebies, you can only redeem them at bars and kebab vans fitted with special

terminals. The company reckons the campaign was "a great way to reward customers". But only if you fall into the "youth" demographic obviously.

Virgin Mobile website

Via The Register

More mobiles:
Sony Ericsson's sporty W710i
Sony Ericsson unveils Z710i and Z550i

Posted by modculture on May 22, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Review: World Cup smartphone software



Smartphone users running the Windows Mobile 5.0 operating system can now download handy World Cup applications from Handango. Costing $4.99, Soccer Information Manager provides information about the fixtures, locations and starting times for each of the games. Just put the results of the matches in as they are played and the software will automatically calculate the tables and the details for the final rounds.

Also available for $4.99, FIFA World Cup 2006 provides detailed information from the last three World Cups (Korea/Japan 2002, France 1998 and USA 1994) including all the World Cup winning teams from 1930 onwards.

Other useful information includes the highest scoring World Cup games of all time (1954 – Austria 7, Switzerland 5) and the biggest margins of victory (1954 – Hungary 9 Korean Republic 0, 1974 – Yuglosavia 9, Zuyir 0). Best of all the FIFA World Cup 2006 application automatically updates results from the internet.

Neither piece of software is going to win any major awards, but if you want to appear smart in front of your mates and can't be bothered learning loads of World Cup trivia then they are quite useful.

www.handango.com

Posted by Shiny Media on May 19, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Sony Ericsson's sporty W710i



Another handset was revealed yesterday in **Sony Ericsson**'s new mobile line up. This is the **W710i** – a sporty clamshell also boasting **WALKMAN**'s good name. This unit also supports the new Memory Stick Micro (M2) format and comes with a 512MB card.

Sony Ericsson has put quite a lot of thought into making this handset perfect for sporty types – it even comes packaged with own armband so you can have easy access to the controls when you're out running. These controls, incidentally, will cover all the important things like FM and MP3 playback meaning you don't need to open it up and get at the main menu.

There is a new jogging application can be used to measure speed and distance covered while you're running. There is also a daily step counter that will display your progress as the day goes on.

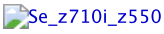
The W710i also has an interesting "motion sensor" feature which I'm guessing is related to those jogging applications but it hasn't been made entirely clear in the press release. On top of all that you have a 2 megapixel, FM radio and EDGE support.

Find out more

More sporty goods:
Sennheiser sporty headphones
Roberts gets sporty (sort of)

Posted by Shiny Media on May 19, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Sony Ericsson unveils Z710i and Z550i



Alongside the W850i, which I'll happily admit that I'm biased towards simply because it has a built in MP3 player and snazzy new sliding action, **Sony Ericcson** also wheeled out the **Z710i** and **Z550i** – two new clamshells aimed at business users. Each comes with a camera (2.0 and 1.3 megapixel respectively) and some manner of media playback thanks to an integrated FM radio and because each uses the new Memory Stick Micro (M2) storage format.

The Z710i (pictured right) offers a range of PC connectivity options to keep your phone organiser up to speed with your Outlook one and even supports push email if it is supported by E-maile service provider. Using EDGE connectivity you can use the handset to browse the web too. The Z550i (pictured left) is basically more of the same but with slightly more limited specs – there's no EDGE and the outer screen is quite a bit smaller.

Find out more

More Sony Ericsson:
Hands on with the Sony Ericsson M600
3GSM 2006: hands on with the Sony Ericsson W950

Posted by Shiny Media on May 18, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Sony Ericsson reveals W850i, new 3G WALKMAN phone



The **WALKMAN** brand has served Sony and especially its mobile division **Sony Ericcsson** incredibly well recently. Now there's a new WALKMAN branded handset to gaze at: the **W850i**. Most of previous offerings have been candy bar designs but this time around, Sony Ericsson is trying its hand at a slider.

The W850i is available in either iPod-esque white or smart black. This new model doesn't make much of a leap technologically speaking; it really only offers a sliding version of the existing W810i and with added UMTS (aka 3G) support. Memory capacity is still under the charge of the Memory Stick PRO Duo which now has the capacity to go up to 4GB, although that luxury will still cost you a further £100+.

Other features of the phone include the unique full horizontal camera mode intended to make it feel more like a real camera. It is still the same 2 megapixel, 4x digital zoom camera in there as many current handsets. More interesting is the new Gracenote Mobile MusicID service that allows you to record just a few seconds of a tune – either through the microphone or integrated FM radio – and send it off to the database to have it identified.

It looks like it's still worth holding out for the W950i hard disk phone if you want a serious mobile phone alternative to a dedicated MP3 player, but this is definitely one great looking handset and one that's making me reconsider my W810i.

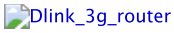
Find out more

More mobiles:
Sagem's special edition My700x Roland-Garros handset
Nokia 5500 Sport – the jogger friendly mobile phone

Posted by Shiny Media on May 18, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (5) | TrackBack (0)

D-Link's wireless 3G router

Here's an idea that could rack up a phone bill large enough to cripple a small nation quicker than you can say 'data fee'. **D-Link** has come up with a way



to let users share a 3G wireless internet connection through an ordinary 802.11g wireless connection using a special router.

The D-Link **Wireless 3G Mobile Router** comes with a built in Cardbus slot into which you insert your 3G notebook adaptor and away you go. The router also has four 10/100 Ethernet ports and two USB ports so that you can rig up an ordinary mobile phone to act as the modem instead.

Obviously this router is aimed squarely at the more serious users of wireless broadband services. It would also be very nice if someone saw fit to rig a few of these up on public transport. However, unless 3G connectivity spreads itself a little wider, this albeit clever idea is probably only going to have limited potential at the moment because it seems quite unlikely you'll find many places with no access to ordinary broadband and somehow yet covered by 3G.

This innovative gadget doesn't have a price or release date yet but is currently on show at The Wireless Event currently taking place in London's Olympia.

More 3G:
Averatec unveils 3G UMPC
WiMAX worries for UK 3G operators

Posted by Shiny Media on May 18, 2006 in Mobile phones | Wi-Fi
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (1)

Mobile World Cup wall chart

You know what it's like when a big footie tournament comes around. You cut out the wall chart, put it somewhere safe, fill it in diligently for the first three games, then never look at it again.

Well now, according to Mobile Marketing Magazine, software company mxData has come up with a solution in the form of Football Planner 2006, a World Cup wall chart designed specifically for your mobile. It works just like a normal wall chart, and it will work on most colour-screen mobile phones that can get online. It can be downloaded for just £2 by texting 'worldcup' to 60070. Every download comes with the chance to win a 27-inch LCD TV.

Get the full story here.

Posted by Davidmurphy on May 16, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

T-Mobile reveals Impactica ShowMate for BlackBerry



It's always nice to see an accessory which isn't for an iPod - this one is for the increasingly popular **BlackBerry** phones which, if somehow you haven't heard of them yet, made their way into our hearts by offering an up-to-the-minute email forwarding service called Push email.

Because BlackBerrys are now part of the business professional's very life blood, **T-Mobile** has partnered with **Impactica** to release a plug and play device for projecting PowerPoint presentations directly from your BlackBerry via Bluetooth without the need for a laptop. If that doesn't make your pitch look slick nothing will.

It uses Bluetooth to connect to the BlackBerry wirelessly and plugs straight into the back of the projector. The ShowMate itself is fairly small, weighing in at 255g and has easily pocketable dimensions. One potential drawback is that with the cheapest (£129.95) option you'll need to convert the presentations specifically for the device using desktop software, this does however retain all rich text, images, charts, graphs, animations and slide transition effects.

If you want an on-the-fly conversion tool you'll need to go for the business version which is actually better suited to groups of 20 users and costs a hefty £699.

Posted by Shiny Media on May 16, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Brits slow to adopt mobile internet



A survey has shown that just one in ten Brits actually use mobiles to access the internet. More worryingly, especially for those companies hedging their bets on the complete uptake of 3G, only a third of us would even bother to do so if a mobile internet was just like the real thing.

Research by **InfoGin** has also shown that the few of us that do use it, do so mainly to check sports results and emails. While InfoGin suggests that mobile networks are failing to take full advantage of mobile internet's advantage, I prefer to think that we Brits are just too cynical about excessive data charges to take up the service as it currently stands. And with Wi-Fi hotspots popping up nearly everywhere there is a strong 3G connection, I wonder if it may end up not being as much of a battle for mobile internet as one against VoIP.

More mobile internet:
GNER brings Wi-Fi to all its trains
O2's i-mode internet service launches in the UK

Posted by Shiny Media on May 16, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (2) | TrackBack (0)

Sagem's special edition My700x Roland-Garros handset



While many companies have quickly aligned themselves with the World Cup for sports related promotional activities this year, those of us not quite so enthralled by football might be pleased to learn that **Sagem** is using tennis to promote its latest handset. Named after the famous French Open, the **My700x Roland-Garros** handset has a very sharp design and boasts the more unique RG logo of the event.

The quad band handset has dimensions of 106 x 46 x 15mm, a 1.3 megapixel camera and boasts an FM radio, MP3 playback and EDGE technology for downloading more tunes. With it you get a tennis games (of course) and a sample of the of the Roland-Garros clay court - ideal for recreating the tournament in minature perhaps.

Needless to say, it's going to have a bit of a niche market here in the UK and so is going to be sold mainly in La Griffe Roland-Garros in France but it certainly is one smart handset - lets hope for a Wimbledon version later in the summer.

More handsets:
Motorola launches RAZR V3im iTunes phone in the UK
T-Mobile' Samsung E370 - the official England mobile phone with added Peter Crouch

Posted by Shiny Media on May 15, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Orange's new photography service



Orange has launched a new online photography service which allows its customers to upload and share pics from both camera phone and digital camera. There is a free one month trial period and you can download a free application which will prompt you to upload your camera phone pics as soon as you take them.

You get 200MB of space to use which can be viewed anywhere with an internet connection or by using a mobile web browser. After the trial period is up, it will costs a further £4 per month for the service and although that does include 30 MMS messages per month, that's what you use to upload the photos to the online album so if you want to take more than that you will presumably have to cough up extra.

UPDATE: I have been told that you use the data network to upload pics so the 30 MMSs are just a freebie - pretty generous.

This seems does seem like yet another attempt by mobile phone marketing departments to get us cynical Brits to actually use some of the many services mobile networks tack on instead of belligerently using phones as... umm... phones.

More Mobile Phones:

Motorola's Red SLVR Phone for Aids
Upload your mobile phone clips directly to YouTube

Posted by Shiny Media on May 15, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Sennheiser announces BW900 Bluetooth headset



To my knowledge, **Sennheiser** hasn't been involved specifically in the Bluetooth headset market much before, but it is certainly no stranger to headsets and wireless audio. After three years of development, the **BW900** is attempting to one up its rivals with a wealth of neat features and an all business visual design.

The BW900 uses 'adaptive intelligence', a form of noise cancellation, which adapts to the surrounding noise levels to optimise sound comfort and speech intelligibility. It can also memorise your preferred settings and adjust accordingly whenever the sound environment changes.

The headphones have a quite ridiculously long range of 100 meters from a desktop telephone but that drops to 10m when you're using a Bluetooth mobile. To switch between sources is apparently as simple as a touch of a button and makes it pretty clear that this headset is going to be aimed at the rigorous business users market.

Also pioneered in this headset is a concept called 'infinite talk time'. Sadly Sennheiser has not managed to create an infinite energy source but rather a 'hot swap' function that simply means you can change the batteries in your headset without losing that all-important call.

The BW900 is due out now in the UK

More Bluetooth:
Bluetooth transmitter for PSP
iTech World Cup Bluetooth headsets in your team colours

Posted by Shiny Media on May 15, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (1)

Motorola's Red SLVR Phone for Aids



Motorola has launched a special edition red version of the super skinny SLVR handset as part of a campaign to help fight AIDs, tuberculosis and malaria. The campaign, launched in association with Saint Bono's humanitarian venture, Product Red, will see a portion of profits from the sale of the handset, plus a portion of the call charges go to The Global Fund to eliminate AIDs in Africa. Gap, Converse, Armani and American Express are all in on the act as well, creating special red editions of their products to raise money for the fund.

It's available right now in the UK, and you can join the waiting list if you're not in the UK but still want to purchase the phone.

Moto SLVR in Red (Project Red page)
Purchase info (Motorola Website)

Posted by Shinykatie on May 15, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Motorola launches RAZR V3im iTunes phone in the UK

Motorola has unveiled an updated version of its V3i mobile - the **RAZR V3im**, this time featuring the missing ingredient from models previously available in the US - **Apple's iTunes music software**.

The deep red phone features 128MB of memory, which can be boosted to 512MB using TransFlash/Micro SD memory cards. However, no matter how many tracks you squeeze in, iTunes (for reasons known only to Apple and Motorola) will only list and play 100.

The V3im is a quad-band GSM/GPRS phone featuring Bluetooth, a 1.23MP camera with 8x zoom and a 176 x 220, 262,144-colour main display. A



singhle charge offers 200-300 minutes' talk time and up to 310 hours on stand-by. Prices range from free to £265, dependent on your contract.

Find out more from the Apple website

Compare prices for Motorola V3i mobiles here

Via The Register

More mobiles:
Nokia 5500 Sport - the jogger friendly mobile phone
HTC STRTrk smartphone with Windows Mobile 5.0 launches in the UK

Posted by modculture on May 12, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

T-Mobile' Samsung E370 - the official England mobile phone with added Peter Crouch



There may be mobiles out there sporting the England colours in readiness for the World Cup, but only one is officially endorsed and now owned by all the players, the **Samsung E370: Three Lions Special Edition**, available exlusively through T-Mobile.

The phone thankfully doesn't go overboard on the England thing, it just sticks with an embossed Three Lions logo. The phone itself is a tri-band slider with 1.3MP camera, Bluetooth, video and gaming functionality and an MP3 player.

There's also loads of England-related content, including start-up and switch-off England animations, Three Lions wallpapers and two great England moments - a video clip of Beckham's classic free kick against Greece in 2001 and another of Lampard's qualification-clinching goal against Poland in 2005.



The England team also have Geoff Hurst's winner from 1966 on their phone, which is probably what Peter Crouch is studying in our photo. If you can think of a caption for the picture, please add it in the comments section.

The Samsung E370: Three Lions Special Edition is available on both pay as you go and pay monthly contracts, price varies according to your contract.

T-Mobile website

More World Cup:
Sagem's limited edition myC2-3 England World Cup mobile
iTech World Cup bluetooth headsets in your team colours

Posted by modculture on May 12, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (1)

Upload your mobile phone clips directly to YouTube

This is an interesting little tip, courtesy of those folks over at Shiny Shiny about that much-loved video sharing service **YouTube**.

Rather than mess about with your home PC (which adds time to getting that embarassing clip of your mate online), you can now **upload your clips**



directly from a web-enabled phone or PDA. It's just a matter of adding something to your YouTube profile and away you go.

Just think - humiliation in seconds! Want to know more? Get the full story over at Shiny Shiny.

Posted by modculture on May 11, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Kowon personal TV glasses - 32-inch LCD viewing on the move



With widely-available TV on your mobile rapidly approaching, you could soon be watching the news instead of listening to the radio on the daily commute. But what if that person next to you keeps sneaking a peek? They can't if you plug in a pair of these **Kowon personal LCD TV glasses**.

Yes, nosey neighbours are apparently a big problem in South Korea, where TV on mobiles has really taken off. This head-mounted display should solve the problem. It features a 4.8 x 4.2mm, 320 x 240 LCD panel in front of each eye. According to the manufacturer, the glasses make you feel like you're watching a 32-inch TV from a distance of two metres. Each pair has its own rechargeable battery that provides eight hours' viewing.

The TV glasses go on sale next week in Korea for the equivalent of £116. Kowon is in talks with suppliers in Europe about bringing the glasses over if they're successful in their home country.

Via The Register

More for your mobile:
Vodafone to cut roaming prices
Body Glove XT all terrain bluetooth headset

Posted by modculture on May 11, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (1)

Nokia 5500 Sport - the jogger friendly mobile phone



Is it too much to ask people to leave their mobiles at home now and again - perhaps when they're out for a jog? Apparently so - and Nokia has nipped in to launch a mobile that with "athletic lifestyle appeal" in the shape of the **Nokia 5500 Sport**. And just so the athletes feel at home, it's been made out of trainers - or at least "with materials used in the latest high performance running shoes".

The phone is a tri-band GSM/GPRS device, packed into a liquid and dirt-resistant case with rubber grips. It features a work-out mode that will time your runs and plan your exercise schedule and also contains a pedometer if you're taking it a bit easier. And if you want a bit of music to keep you company, a push of a button flips the handset into music mode. Press again to go back to phone mode. Music (and general) storage is via MicroSD cards.

And don't worry about checking your text messages, the phone can read them out. It can also read out pedometer and work-out information too.

Available from the third quarter in Europe in a "sport" or "business" colour scheme, it should cost around £205.

Nokia website

Via The Register

More mobiles:
Pantech shows off PC-2800 mobile phone with finger writing texting
HTC STRTrk smartphone with Windows Mobile 5.0 launches in the UK

Posted by modculture on May 10, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Sky to trial MediaFLO mobile TV service: interview with Omar Javaid Senior Director MediaFlo international

Just when you thought you knew all about mobile TV along comes yet another platform. After DVB-H and DMB comes **MediaFLO** an innovation from Qualcomm a huge US company best known for making the chips for 3G handsets. Yesterday it confirmed a deal with **BSkyB** to trial the system in the UK in the summer. We caught up with the Senior Director for MediaFLO International, **Omar Javaid**, who gave us the background to the deal.

The Sky deal seems to have been a bit of a bolt from the blue. Is that the case?

Not really we have been working on it for a while. Sky is a progressive company that's very keen on emerging platforms. We are obviously keen on globally establishing MediaFLO too. We have deals in the US with Verizon's to launch MediaFLO USA in Q4 this year and we are keen to expand into Europe.

Is the deal exclusive? Sky weren't part of the DVB-H trial.

Not for either party. We can trial with system with other partners and Sky can experiment with other platforms. How will the trial work? Well it is a technical trial, but that means we are going to be testing the services using real world mobile phone handsets. It will run in Cambridge in the summer of 2006 and we are keen to see how MediaFLO works with Sky.

If it is successful how quickly could you launch a service in the UK?

The UK is an attractive market for us as the regulatory environment is very favourable. So if all goes well we could launch relatively quickly.

What are the key differences between MediaFLO and rival systems like the Nokia backed DVB-H?

There are a couple of key advantages. As MediaFLO is built from the ground up for mobile it has much faster channel switching time than its rivals. We can also offer up to 30 channels in QVGA standard at 25 frames per seconds which is a good video standard from mobiles.

So who is providing the handsets for the trial?

We haven't named them yet. There are MediaFLO handsets available though from eight partners including Samsung, LG and Pantech.

Do you think people from Europe will sample mobile TV in a different way than they do in the Asia and the USA?

I think mobile TV across the world will be very popular. As for the different regions I think trials like the one we are doing will help us find out.

Lastly, it might sound daft but how far are we away from HD on mobile phones?

Well you kind of have it already with MediaFLO in that the distance which a person watches from a handset coupled with the quality of the video is akin to a 1080i/p signal. Realistically though it will be a while before we see true HD on mobiles. In the far east the high end standard screen on mobiles used to be QVGA, now it is VGA, though realistically for true HD it will have to be at least XGA, so when we reach that standard we will start to see 1080i signals popping up on mobiles.

So there you have it. Sky's HD launch next week might be all about home TVs, but just maybe the broadcaster is already sizing up the HD mobile market. Mmmm.

Posted by Shiny Media on May 10, 2006 in Interviews | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Pantech shows off PC-2800 mobile phone with finger writing texting

South Korean mobile phone maker **Pantech** has shown off a handset featuring **"finger writing recognition",** which the company claims is "unique" and something that could change the way we text on our mobiles.

You can still text via keys with the **PC-2800**, but the clamshell's touch-sensitive keypad also lets you draw out characters with your fingers, with software translating your strokes into numbers and letters.

The phone itself is a fairly standard tri-band GSM phone with a 2-inch, 262,144-colour main display and a 1.2-inch, 65,536 secondary panel. There's also a 1.3MP camera.

As yet, there's no details on price or if this phone will make it to the UK.

Pantech website



Via The Register

More mobiles:
HTC STRTrk smartphone with Windows Mobile 5.0 launches in the UK
LG Chocolate Phone review

Posted by modculture on May 9, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Vodafone to cut roaming prices



With the EU breathing down their necks with the threat of legislation, one of the big mobile companies, **Vodafone,** has announced that **roaming charges will drop by 40 per cent in Europe**.

But it's not all good news – the new prices will not come into effect until next April and to get the deal, you'll have to register for a Vodfone passport. These are free and once you're registered, you'll pay a one-off connection fee of 75p per call in 14 European countries, then you'll be charged UK rates.

T-Mobile has also announced a cut in the cost of roaming charges to a flat rate off 55p a minute in Europe and North America from June 1st – a 45 percent cut on T-Mobile's current pre-pay European rates and a 27 per cent cut on current contract rates.

Vodafone website

More for your mobile:
3 to offer free mobile highlights of all World Cup games
Direct downloads with Opera Mini 2.0

Posted by modculture on May 9, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Body Glove XT all terrain bluetooth headset



With the British weather as changeable as ever (sunshine to storms in a matter of hours), it's perhaps as well to have a bluetooth headset that can withstand most of the elements, like this **Body Glove XT bluetooth headset**.

Made from durable rubberised material the headset is designed to withstand the outdoor elements of rain, snow, dust and sand without getting damaged. All the conditions you'd expect over a week in Blackpool. There are two sport loop wearing options which "fit like a glove" around the ear, so you can stay active whilst in conversation.

The headset has an operating range of 10 metres and weighs around 15 grams, with support for bluetooth version 1.2. It offers 14 hours talk time, a standby time of up to 500 hours and is compatible with most mobile devices.

You can pick it up now for around £50 from the Carphone Warehouse.

Find out more

More bluetooth:
Saitek Audio bluetooth headphones
iTech World Cup bluetooth headphones

Posted by modculture on May 9, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (2) | TrackBack (1)

HTC STRTrk smartphone with Windows Mobile 5.0 launches in the UK



Good news for all your Trekkies – the suitably named and much anticipated **HTC STRTrk** (which is also known as the **Qtek 8500**) has launched in the UK, offering smartphone capabilities and a decent music player in a very slim 16mm casing.

The main body of the STRTrk handset is matte black whilst the coloured metal outer shell has dedicated play, fast forward and rewind buttons for your tunes, plus a backlit 1.2-inch TFT LCD for viewing and controlling music playlists. A MicroSD memory slot boosts the 64MB storage, with tracks playing back in either ACC, WAV, WMA or MP3 formats.

When opened, the quadband STRTrk, which also offers support for EDGE connectivity, features a larger backlit 2.2-inch QVGA screen and uses Windows Mobile 5.0 for getting down to business. There's also a 1.3MP camera and bluetooth connectivity.

The HTC STRTrk is available from June, 2006, with a sim-free price of around £345.

Find out more

More mobiles:
LG Chocolate Phone review
Samsung's CGH-E900 slider phone heads to Europe

Posted by modculture on May 8, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

3 to offer free mobile highlights of all World Cup games



If work commitments are blocking your plan of sitting in front of the TV for the duration of the World Cup, help may be hand from **3**, which is offering **highlights of all World Cup games for free to its subscribers**.

3 has acquired the rights to all the World Cup matches and will be offering free extended highlights of the games 5 minutes after the final whistle, along with dedicated mobile TV channels and a daily magazine show, which the company claims is the first made-for-mobile programming of its sort.

In addition, to the highlights, 3 will offer "Today's Best of" content and a new "match centre" application, which will offer minute-by-minute text commentary and in-match stats from every game. There will also be premium content, such as video goal alerts, wallpapers, ringtones and games.

Find out more at the 3 website

More from 3:
3 pays punters to receive voice calls and text messages
MSN Messneger on your 3 phone

Posted by modculture on May 8, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

LG Chocolate Phone Review

LG's much talked about **Chocolate phone** made its UK debut on Wednesday to the popping of champagne corks and a flurry of excited LG execs. Tech Digest was invited along to the launch and what do you know? – we only managed to squirrel away our own handset to play with!

If you haven't heard the hype already, the Chocolate (aka the KG800 if you prefer codenames) is being sold as the next fashion sensation in the mobile



phone world. LG has every right be optimistic having already sold 300,000 Chocolate handsets in Korea, receiving general all-round approval for its slim, black, sliding design complemented by extremely slick, glowing red buttons.

Read the rest of the review on the turn.

It boasts a generally pretty standard set of features: a 2", 256k colour display, 1.3 megapixel camera and 128MB memory. The pleasant surprises come in the form of its smaller than expected dimensions (9.5 x 4.8 x 1.5cm) and particularly light weight (approximately 85g). You may also have read about the "hidden LCD" screen which had us confused for a while. It turns out that the red buttons on the front aren't buttons at all but in fact a touch-keypad section which lights up when you slide it open. The looks you can pretty much judge yourselves from the pictures, but it is most distinctive for the very subtle and minimalist style - interesting touches like the universal power/USB/headphone socket shows off the effort made to give it that cool, elegant design. As an LG spokesman observed, it is unusual in that it appeals to both men and women alike, however all the rest of the packaging suggests an expensive bottle of perfume or similar - a perfect present for the ladies.

But no phone is perfect and so we must get on to the handset's admittedly few failings. One annoyance is that you end up getting greasy paw prints all over the front screen; this polished surface also looks like it has the potential to scratch easily, although we haven't managed to do so yet.

The internal memory seems a little bit limited at 128MB; normally manufacturers tend to stick MP3 support on as an afterthought but the Chocolate is actually better than most. The sound quality is pretty impressive but what really appeals the most to us is the 3.5mm headphone socket attached to smart, matching remote. Digital audio support (MP3, WMA, AAC) and playback quality is surprisingly good but we can't help but wish for a little more capacity, maybe even a card slot.

The phone's interface retains a hint of LG's tendency to overcomplicate things slightly, but it is more simple to use than previous handsets like the U880. As you're still getting used to using it you may find that you'll bring the handset up to your ear too quickly and thus set off all manner of weird functions as your face presses all of the touch-keypad at once. Once you've got to grips with it things do get a lot easier though.

The verdict: We like this phone a lot and LG has good reason to expect the Chocolate to fly off the shelves. While it might not appeal to those who want their handsets to come brimming with technical goodies, there is no arguing that it looks fantastic and is sure to succeed on that factor alone.

More LG Chocolate

LG's KG800 "chocolate" phone goes on sale
LG's Chocolate phone goes on sale

Posted by Shiny Media on May 5, 2006 in Mobile phones | Reviews
Permalink | Comments (19) | TrackBack (3)

Sagem's limited edition myC2-3 England World Cup mobile

In case you've been living in isolation for the last 6 months, it's the World Cup soon and manufacturers are busy branding anything that moves with a St George's flag in the hope of adding a few sales over the coming weeks. One such item is this **Sagem myC2-3 mobile**, available for a limited time in the England colours.

As a phone, it's not all that - a colour screen, WAP, polyphonic ringtones and a couple of games is about all you get on this dual-band model. But think about it as a novelty phone for down the pub during the World Cup. And if it gets damaged during the crush at the bar or celebrations after England's opening goal against Paraguay, it isn't your expensive, fully-featured phone you have to replace.

The myC2-3 with a St Georges Cross facia is available now with a T-Mobile PAYG tariff at Woolworths for £59.99, but is only available until June.

Sagem website

More World Cup technology:
FIFA World Cup 2006 for your PDA



World Cup final ball goes hi-tech

Posted by modculture on May 5, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

iTech World Cup bluetooth headsets in your team colours



These technology companies, they never miss a trick. With the World Cup approaching, what could be better to boost the coffers than to brand your old bluetooth headsets in the colours of the finalists. That's what **iTech** has done by producing a **World Cup edition of its Bluetooth Clip headset**.

Available for England, Germany, Holland, Brazil and Italy (the rest didn't make the cut sadly), the Clip can be paired with most bluetooth mobile devices on your phone with call buzzer alert, single button control, adjustable volume and mute function.

It has talk time of 10 hours, standby time of 200 hours and weighs 20g. You should be able to pick up the team of your choice from selected Orange stores for around £40.

iTech website

More World Cup:
The ultimate World Cup notebook
World Cup portable speakers

Posted by modculture on May 5, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Samsung's CGH-E900 slider phone heads to Europe



Another stylish phone heading to Europe is **Samsung's CGH-E900**, a slim, slider phone in two-tone black and slate and featuring a touch-sensitive control pad.

As well as being a looker, Samsung's slimline CGH-E900 (just 16.5mm thick and weighing only 93g) has a decent spec too. This tri-band handset with EDGE technology features a 2MP camera with flash and video recording feature. There's also a 2.05-inch 262K color TFT display. There's 80MB of internal memory, whch can be boosted via SD card.

It's probably going to sell more on looks though, plus some clever functionality. As well as being a slider, the CGH-E900 features a touch key for quick and easy control, automatically distinguishing music mode from talking mode - illuminating only the necessary buttons and limiting accidental button touching. It also gives the phone a more minimlist look.

No news on pricing as yet, but Samsung says it'll be hitting Europe later this month.

Samsung website

More mobiles:
LG's U900 3G DVB-H handset - digital TV on the move
LG's KG800 "chocolate" phone goes on sale

Posted by modculture on May 5, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (6) | TrackBack (0)

Sky offers live football and cricket action to Vodafone 3G phones



The problem with the summer is that it's occasionally too nice weather-wise to site in and watch the TV. If you've got a 3G phone with Vodafone, you can keep up with the football and cricket action as it happens whilst topping up your tan.

Sky Sports and Vodafone UK will offer live international cricket and the Football League Playoffs to Vodafone live! customers through the Sky Mobile TV service. It's the first time in the UK that live football matches will be shown simultaneously live on mobile and on TV - and it starts with the Semi-Finals of the Championship Playoffs this Saturday (6th May).

In the first month, around 100 hours of coverage will be scheduled, including 15 live football matches and three live Test matches. Live cricket will continue through the summer until the final Test against Pakistan in September.

Sky website

More for your mobile:
Direct downloads with Opera Mini 2.0
Shazam music discovery engine

Posted by modculture on May 4, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Direct downloads with Opera Mini 2.0



Opera Software has released **Opera Mini 2.0**, a new version of the web browser that runs on almost every mobile phone, with enhancements including the ability to download MP3s, images and other web content directly to your mobile phone.

If you are considering joining the the 2.5 million users of Opera, you'll be pleased to know the new version of Opera Mini includes the aforementioned downloading direct to your phone, new skins to change the look and feel, multisearch, which allows you to select extra search engines for your home page, speed dial (faster access to your favourite sites) and visual navigation - quick and smooth horizontal panning when browsing backwards or forwards.

You can download the browser now via your phone's WAP browser at no cost or via SMS download for your country (small fee applies).

Find out more

More for your mobile:
PayPal launches mobile payments
Cartoons on your mobile

Posted by modculture on May 4, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

LG's U900 3G DVB-H handset - digital TV on the move

We previewed LG's DVB-H mobile at the recent 3GSM show, speculating if it would actully appear in the UK. Well, LG has announced the launch of the world's first commercially available UMTS (WCDMA) DVB-H phone in the shape of the LG-U900. The bad news? It's for Italy, with no plans to bring it to the UK.



The launch of the handset coincides with Hutchison Italy offering exclusive DVB-H broadcasting rights for the 2006 World Cup, with the company offering video footage of all World Cup matches from June 6th onwards.

The phone itself features a 2.2-inch 'wide-swing' screen for mobile TV viewing, along with premium digital broadcasting functions include ESG (Electronics Service Guide) and CAS (Conditional Access System). You can watch TV for up to three hours with an extended battery life. There's also a 1.3MP digital camera and an internal memory capacity of 58MB.

LG website

More mobiles:
LG's KG800 "chocolate" phone goes on sale
Nokia's N73 multimedia handset

Posted by modculture on May 4, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

LG's KG800 "chocolate" phone goes on sale



We previewed the much-hyped LG KG800 "chocolate" phone a few weeks back. Does it live up to the pre-publicity? You'll be able to find out yourself with the phone now available to order in the UK.

The **LG KG800** has become the fashion phone of choice in its home territory of South Korea - and LG will be hoping some of that hype translates into British sales. As a phone, it's a slimline 9.5 x 4.8 x 1.5cm slider phone with a 2-inch, 176 x 220, 256,000-colour display. It's a tri-band GSM/GPRS device sporting a 1.3MP camera with 4x digital zoom and nine-shot continuous shooting feature. There's 128MB of built-in memory plus Bluetooth and USB connectivity.

LG says the KG800 is available from all major phone retailers, but hasn't given a specific price point. So it's probably best to shop around and see what deals are out there.

LG website

Via The Register

More mobiles:
Nokia launches N93 camcorder phone
Sony Ericsson W300i - Robbie Williams edition

Posted by modculture on May 3, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (4) | TrackBack (2)

PayPal to launch mobile payments



With one on eye undoubtedly on those of us who now view the web via mobile device, eBay has confirmed that **PayPal payments via mobile** will be available in the UK by the end of April.

Anyone signing up for PayPal Mobile will be able to purchase goods instantly by sending a simple text message, as well as being able to make payments to other PayPal users. The company claimed it would be the first mass-market mobile-payments system in Britain, with around 10 million people in the UK, and another 105 million worldwide, already using PayPal.

Retailers who sign up for the Text to Buy service will publish product codes when they advertise their goods on the net. Customers will text the code to

PayPal, after which an automated service will call them back and ask for a Pin number. PayPal will then pay the retailer and the goods sent out. Customers who want to make mobile payments to other users will simply text the amount and the phone number to PayPal.

PayPal website

Via The Times

More eBay:
PayPal credit card
eBay on your mobile

Posted by modculture on April 26, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Nokia's N73 multimedia handset



Another new product unveiled by **Nokia** at the Open Studio even is the **3G N73 handset** – which seems to tick most of the boxes as an all-round multimedia machine

The N73 features a 3.2 megapixel camera with Carl Zeiss optics, with auto focus and support to upload your images to Flickr.com. But there's also integrated stereo speakers with 3D sound for playing back your music, along with 42MB internal memory, which can be expanded via miniSD.

The large QVGA display should make for good web browsing easy and should improve viewing of Word, Excel, Powerpoint and PDF files. The N73 also features Bluetooth and Infrared for connectivity.

The Nokia N73, like the Nokia N93, is based on S60 3rd Edition software on Symbian OS and should be in the shops around July 2006.

Find out more at the Nokia website

More Nokia:
Nokia launches UK online shop
Nokia AD-42W Wireless Audio Gateway

Posted by modculture on April 25, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Nokia launches N93 camcorder phone



Nokia has been busy this morning at the Open Studio event in Berlin, adding three new handsets to its **N-Series range** – the most eye-catching of which is this **N93 camcorder phone**.

As our title suggests, the big selling point of the Nokia N93 is video recording. It features a 3.2 megapixel camera with Carl Zeiss optics and offers DVD-like video capture at 30 frames per second, plus 3x optical zoom with video stabilisation and high definition display. You can even connect it directly to your TV for widescreen playback.

And if you fancy a game, the N-Gage game System Rush: Evolution comes bundled. As a phone/communicator, it's WiFi and 3G and EDGE compatable. Internal memory is 50MB but this can be expanded via miniSD.

The Nokia N93 is based on S60 3rd Edition software on Symbian OS and should be in the shops in July 2006. We'll pass on details of any operators offering them as soon as we have them.

Find out more at the Nokia website

More Nokia:
Nokia launches UK online shop
Nokia AD-42W Wireless Audio Gateway

Posted by modculture on April 25, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Will 3 deliver the World Cup to your mobile?



With the Premiership season coming to its usual predictable end, all eyes are focused on the excitement of the **World Cup** – and we're still trying to work out if anyone's going to give us this feast of football on our mobile.

By far the most promising so far is **3**. They're still being a bit cagey with what's on offer, but recent noises from the 3 camp indicate we might – just might – get the goals to our handsets.

Marketing Director of 3, Graeme Oxby, was recently quoted as saying: "3 has a strong link with football – our customers already enjoy premiership goals and champions league goals. The World Cup is a huge event, so it won't be a surprise that 3 is planning a compelling world cup service, which we'll be announcing shortly. At this stage, we can share that it will include some specially-commissioned daily programming and a special 'World Cup' edition of 3's successful SeeMeTV service – where fans will be invited to submit their mini-movies and blogs."

"We will be announcing our full line-up in due course."

Which sounds to us like they'll probably have some action on the network. As soon as we find out for sure, you'll be the first to know.

In the meantime, if you can't live without a daily dose of the World Cup, I'd recommend you visit Who Ate All The Bratwurst – Shiny's dedicated World Cup blog.

3 website

More 3:
3 pays punters to receive voice calls and texts
MSN Messenger on your 3 phone

Posted by modculture on April 24, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Nokia launches UK online shop



Nokia seems intent on cutting out the middle man, starting up an **online shop** for the UK market to sell sim-free mobile phones to British punters.

As well as the usual high street selection of Nokia phones and accessories, the Nokia UK Online Shop will feature regular mobile device exclusives for customers, starting at the launch when the website will feature the black 8800 (pictured) – a new design that until now has not been available in the UK.

In addition to the latest Nokia products, the company says the shop will also be used to promote new "mobile experiences" – from games and music through to movie and photos. That probably means downloads.

There's clearly a market for sim-free phones, but it's perhaps worth noting that contract phones are usually heavily subsidised by the operators to get you to sign up to a contract. So expect to pay a premium for the pleasure of going sim-free with Nokia.

Visit the Nokia Online Shop

More Nokia:
Hands on with the Nokia 6136
Nokia's 6131 and 6070 handsets

Posted by modculture on April 20, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Cartoons on your mobi

Tired of sending the same old texts? UK company mixipix has launched a mobile WAP portal to enable users to create and send animated cartoon messages directly from their mobile phones to other handsets. There are lots of webites where you can do something similar – mixipix has offered such a service via its own website for the past 18 months – but this is



thought to be the first to enable the animated messages to be sent from handset to handset.

Users can choose from a wide range of different animations, and attach their own text to create the final message. The service renders the cartoon content dynamically on demand, ensuring that the recipient receives the animation at the optimum size and resolution for their handset. Messages are delivered via wap-push.

The mixipix mobile portal can be found at: mixipix.net/wap or by texting 'go mixipix' to 83055. The portal will be updated with new content on a regular basis. Messages are priced initially at an introductory 75p each, so if you like the sound of it, try it now before they revert to normal levels of around £1.50.

Mobile Marketing Magazine has the full story here.

Posted by Davidmurphy on April 13, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Shazam launches music discovery engine



Shazam, already loved by many music fans for its mobile music recognition service, has launched what it describes as the world's most comprehensive music discovery tool.

Using **Shazam's Ultimate Music Discovery Engine**, you can now not only recognise (or 'tag') tracks by pointing your handset at a music source when you're out and about, but also purchase related products. Once you receive the music recognition result by SMS, you can now choose to buy ringtones, music downloads, wallpapers, CDs or gig tickets through leading industry such as Amazon, Ticketmaster, i-Tunes and Kelkoo either via WAP or later on via your PC.

Details of all tracks tagged are stored on a personal page at the Shazam website, allowing you to build up a collection, share information and be part of a music community

The service is based on a subscription - tag unlimited songs for just £3 per month, or for £4.50 you can tag an unlimited number of songs and receive two additional products - either ringtones or full track downloads.

For more information visit www.shazam.com

More for your mobile:
Video eyewear for your mobile phone
Free push email from Emoze

Posted by modculture on April 13, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

ROK's 6-pack



Music, footie and comedy are among the highlights of new releases on ROK Entertainment's ROK Chip memory cards, according to Mobile Marketing Magazine.

Six new releases from ROK include V2's Best Indie Anthems, Premier League 'Greatest Moments' and South Park, along with Little Britain, The Office and League of Gentlemen. The new titles, priced at £16.99 each, will be available exclusively online via the ROK Player website, before going on general release in selected mobile phone shops within the next few weeks.

Get the full story here.

Posted by Davidmurphy on April 12, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Rabbit Point offers free international mobile calls



It is what us mobile obsessed types dream of – a phone that allows you to make and receive international calls but doesn't come with the after shock of those horrendous network call charges. Which is why we have been keeping close tabs on the UK firm Rabbit Point. It has developed a mobile phone and supporting technology that works via the web – yes it is a variant on VoIP – which offers free international calls to its subscribers.

Basically to make those cheap calls you need a wireless connection. You can use the phone from your own network, or take advantage of a free hot spot, or even a hot zone like those in Brighton or London's Canary Wharf . You can't use it in say a T-Mobile Starbucks hot spot as there is no way of logging in.

The company claims that it is compatible with 3000 sites across the UK and 700 across Europe. Rabbit Point is apparently rolling out its own hot sports which it calls Cell points. Once you have made a connection free calls to other Rabbit Point users are free and 1.5p per minute to landlines.

In case you were wondering it is different from the UMA technology pioneered by Nokia and others as those harness existing mobile phone networks to make calls.

The inevitable catch though is you need a Rabbit Point phone. It looks ok and is manufactured by UTStarcom, but it is no match for more fashionable/gadget-filled stuff from Nokia etc. Apparently a 3G/Wi-fi combi phone that works with the system is on the horizon too. You also pay £9.99 per month line rental.

It all sounds very interesting, but is the quality any good, and what battery life doe the phone have? Yep the jury is out until I have played with the phones.

Posted by Shiny Media on April 10, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (2) | TrackBack (0)

Sony Ericsson W300i – Robbie Williams edition



We were suitably impressed with Sony Ericsson's rather tasty W300i Walkman phone on its launch in February. T-Mobile has confirmed it's now coming to the UK – and if you're a **Robbie Williams** fan, this limited edition Robbie-fied version will certainly entertain you.

T-Mobile claims this special edition W300i has been "creatively influenced by Robbie Williams himself" – the first time a global artist has been directly involved in the design of a phone. It's also the first pre-pay Walkman handset to be launched in the UK. It comes pre-loaded with exclusive content, including a 'live' video clip, wallpapers, a ringtone, animations and the opening song from his world tour. It also features a Robbie Williams logo embossed on the back cover, plus two additional Robbie skins to personalise your mobile.

The W300i plays both MP3 and AAC music files, with up to 30 hours of listening on a single charge. As a music player, it has direct music keys, shuffle function, as well as an in-built FM radio with RDS. It's shipped with a removable 256MB Memory Stick Micro (M2) expandable to 1GB, as well as a stereo headset, USB cable and music management software.

In addition to the music side, the phone features EDGE technology, has a 128 x 160 262K color TFT main display with a second 1-inch 101 x 80 display for track info and caller display, a VGA camera with 4x digital zoom, 3D gaming and Bluetooth. Expect it in the stores in June. No price as yet.

Sony Ericsson website

More Sony Ericsson:
Hands on with the Sony Ericsson W950
Hands on with the Sony Ericsson M600

Posted by modculture on April 10, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (3) | TrackBack (0)

LG's KG225 and KG220 clamshells



LG has announced the impending release of a couple of rather attractive clamshells for the UK market – the **KG225** and the **KG220**.

In fact, you do get the feeling that looks are the big, if not the only selling point for these budget phones, as the spec for both is pretty basic. The tri-band phones have a 65k colour display and feature a camera – but only VGA. Apart from a voice recorder, there doesn't seem to be a great deal else worth mentioning.

But hey, they look good – and that means a lot to most people. The LG KG225 will be available on Orange in black and the LG KG220 on T-Mobile in black with silver trim from April 10th. No prices confirmed as yet.

Find out more

More mobiles:
Motorola's V3i RAZR in 3 new colours
Sony Ericsson's W700i Walkman phone

Posted by modculture on April 7, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Video eyewear for your mobile phone



We've featured video glasses before and we've talked at length about the possiblities for mobile TV. So we were very intrigued to see the **CP230 and CP920 Video Eyewear** from the **Icuiti Corporation**, unveiled at the CTIA Wireless Show.

Icuiti's Video Eyewear offers big screen viewing to the mobile phone, bypassing the problems of a phone's small screen. It provides a private virtual 42-inch digital quality screen as if the viewer was 7-feet away complete with integrated headphones. The CP920 features two VGA LCD panels each having 640 x 480 resolution and a 26 degree field of view. The CP230 has two QVGA panels with 320 x 240 resolution and a 24 degree field of view. The eyewear just plugs into the mobile phone's AV port.

Icuiti's eyewear has analog PAL, NTSC, and custom digital video interface options, with wholesale orders now being taken for summer delivery. The retail price will be around $299 (£170).

Icuiti website

Image and story via 3g.co.uk

More video glasses:
TV through your glasses
MPGlass 230M – home cinema glasses

Posted by modculture on April 6, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Free push email from Emoze



Push email has long been asociated with the BlackBerry, though latterly, other mobile devices have started to employ the technology. If you have a mobile device that doesn't yet push your email straight through, help may be at hand from Emblaze, which is offering the first free, downloadable push email service.

By downloading and installing **Emoze Personal Edition**, compatible mobile phones can receive emails, plus other data such as contacts and diary scheduling anywhere in the world. The technology itself is built to support any mobile device – the current release works with all Microsoft PocketPC or Symbian devices. Within the next few months, Emoze claims it will cover the vast majority of remaining mobile devices, plus new models onto the market.

The program works by installing a connector into your PC's email client which pushes received email to the emoze distribution network from where it is intelligently pushed to your mobile device. The connector currently requires Microsoft Outlook with Lotus Notes and Outlook Express support coming soon. The system is also able to retrieve email from webmail programs, including Hotmail, Yahoo Mail and Gmail via POP3 connections.

To download the free program, visit www.emoze.com

More for your mobile:
Photos to your blog with ShoZu
Comedy to your mobile

Posted by modculture on April 6, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (2) | TrackBack (1)

Photos to your blog with ShoZu



We like **ShoZu**. It's a great mobile utility that lets you send your mobile images straight to an online gallery. The program was recently upgraded so you can receive comments about your online photos straight to your mobile. And now they've **upgraded it again**.

In addition to the designated online galleries, it's now possible to upload photos and videos to multiple personal blog sites, such as Blogger, Typepad and Wordpress, along with citizen photo-journalism sites like CNN, the BBC and Scoopt.

Also, the comments functionality has also been improved - as well as receiving comments about your images, you can now reply to those comments via your mobile. And ShoZu is also introducing a new "blog-quality upload" option that enables you to save on your data charges by transmitting images at a resolution that is sufficient for online sharing rather than at "print-quality" level.

And it's still all free - but don't forget, you'll still be paying any data charges for sending your images or videos.

ShoZu website

More for your mobile:
Comedy to your mobile
Parrot Bluetooth Photo Viewer

Posted by modculture on April 5, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (8) | TrackBack (0)

Motorola's V3i RAZR in 3 new colours



Yes, it's that time again - time for Moto to release special edition colour variants of their popular RAZR brand. This time it's the V3i RAZR that's had its colours done, arriving in these darker, some might say more sophisticated shades.

The V3i is Moto's update to the V3 RAZR, and sports a 1.23mp camera, 262K colour screen and Bluetooth. Expect to see it in store in the next few months.

Moto 3 Colours press release

Posted by Shinykatie on April 4, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (9)

Mobile network 3 claims key role in Gnarls Barkley Crazy download story

You probably already know plenty about **Gnarls Barkley** the band who went from zeroes to heroes last week when their single topped the UK charts without any of their CD singles ever going near a record shop.

Well possibly the most intriguing part of this whole downloads beats CD single scenario is that mobile apparently had a huge role in the track's success. Phone company **3** is claiming that as much as **20 per cent** of the


Gnarls_barkley

total downloads were straight to mobile **through its network**. Apparently the track is the fastest ever moving audio download on the network with as many 6000 people grabbing it on a daily basis.

Hazarding a guess I reckon much of the success of the 3 download is because, unlike some rival networks, it offers dial downloads with people paying once for a track that lands on their phone the instant they choose it and can then be claimed for playback on their PC later. Also if 3 had 20% of the downloads, how much came from other networks? There's a real possibility that as much as half of the download of the track could have been via mobile phone companies.

3 is also offering tracks throughout April and May for 99p each – much better value than the rather extortionate prices it and some of its rival networks initially charged for audio tracks.

Posted by Shiny Media on April 4, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

NTL completes Virgin Mobile takeover


K700_face

NTL has finally completed its protracted **takeover of Virgin Mobile**, a move that could have a huge impact on the UK's media industry. The new group will be branded under the Virgin name and is likely to be the first in the UK to offer a four-way deal of cable TV, internet access, fixed line telephony and mobile phone services.

As a Virgin Mobile customer, it's unlikely you'll notice much difference in the short term. NTL has persuaded Virgin Mobile management to stay on and run the business and has agreed an exclusive 30-year licence for the Virgin brand, which it believes will help attract and retain customers. In light of the public's perception of NTL, this seems like a very shrewd move.

On a wider scale, Sky could at last have some serious competition on the pay-TV market, while the likes of BT and Vodafone might be a little worried about a bigger Virgin battling for the UK's mobile and landline services. We could be in for an interesting 2006.

NTL website

More NTL:
NTL trials 100MB service
NTL does the World Cup on demand

Posted by modculture on April 4, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (2) | TrackBack (0)

Sony Ericsson's W700i Walkman phone

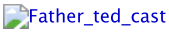

W700i_front_at_angle_with_headpl

My one slight criticism of the **Walkman** phones so far is that they have been a little on the dowdy side. **Sony Ericsson** is however trying to put that right with the debut of the latest addition to the music mobile range the **W700i**. It sports the traditional fairly understated design of previous Walkman handsets yet comes in not unattractive shade of titanium. I suspect SE might be targeting the ladies with this one.

Other than its design it is business as usual with 256MB storage on board which can be supplemented by the addition of a Memory Stick Duo cards – which these days go up to two Gigabytes. There's also a two mega pixel camera, FM radio, email and Bluetooth and a good deal more. It'll launch in Q2 and is apparently available in white in some countries. Personally though I can't wait for this one.

Posted by Shiny Media on April 4, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (2)

Comedy to your mobile


Father_ted_cast

Remember a while back we told you about Orange making ~~tired~~ classic clips from BBC comedies available to your mobile? Well, now **Hat trick Productions** has gone down the same route, **working with i-Rights to offer clips**, along with wallpapers and ringtones from their own stable of comedy greats.

According to TV Scoop, programmes to feature include **Father Ted, The Kumars and Have I got News for You?** First up for the download treatment will be the priests of Craggy Island. i-Rights is also working with Eddie Izzard, and the creators of The Fast Show - Paul Whitehouse and Charlie Higson - to bring clips of favourite characters Ted & Ralph and Sir Rowley Birkin.

Want to know more? Head over to TV Scoop now.

Posted by modculture on April 3, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Parrot Bluetooth Photo Viewer


Parrotphoto

Are you one of those people who quite happily snaps away with your camera phone, taking pictures of your mates, live bands or even the odd celeb in the street? It's easy enough to take them - but what about showing them off? If you want to display them quickly on the web, it's worth checking out ShoZu. if you want them on display at home, there's now the **Parrot Bluetooth Photo Viewer**.

The Photo Viewer, available in either leather or bleached oak, features a high-resolution TFT LCD colour screen, which can display up to 100 photos that can be uploaded from a Bluetooth-enabled phone in a couple of simple steps. You can decide which of the photos you keep on display or you can show as a slideshow at selected intervals. Software in the frame will automatically resize your photo to the frame size and re-adjust the image to portrait or landscape depending on whether the Photo Viewer is in a portrait or landscape position.

Sounds interesting, but at £156.99, it's probably the most expensive photo frame you'll ever buy. And in terms of image quality, I'd guess that it's only worth considering if the camera on your phone is a fairly high specification.

Parrot website

More camera phones:
Phlash to boost your camera phone
Sony's Cyber-shot camera phone range

Posted by modculture on March 31, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Doctor Who Tardisodes to your mobile


Doctorrose_2

The BBC are getting awfully excited about the new series of **Doctor Who**, due to hit our TV screens in April. In fact, you get the feeling they can't contain themselves - they already have adventure games, classic clips and past glories online, now they're offering additional **Tardisodes** to your mobile.

Tardisodes are 60-second mini episodes of Doctor Who. There's 13 in all - with one going out after each of the 13 brand new TV episodes. Each will be an addition to the main storyline, featuring back-stories about the characters and adventures coming up in the next episode.

Don't worry if your mobile isn't willing or able to download the clips, they'll also be available online. But if you do want them to your phone, you'll be able to subscribe to the Tardisodes from 1st April by texting TARDIS to 81010.

BBC Doctor Who website

More for your mobile
Become a pop star down the phone
Mobile downloads without the data charges

Posted by modculture on March 31, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Become a pop star down the phone



Want to be a pop star? Don't want to wait in a queue for 12 hours before being humiliated by Simon Cowell, Ozzy's wife and the bloke who inflicted Westlife on us? You could soon test out your tonsils down the phone instead with the **Ring 'n Sing service**.

The phone-based game uses a "pitch-tracking algorithm" to compare different voices. So, select your song from those on offer, listen to the song being sung by a professional crooner, then sing your version down the line. The system compares the two renditions before giving your effort a mark out of ten. As far as we know, you don't have to sit through 5 minutes of criticism about your hair, clothes and choice of song before the result comes through.

The system has been developed by UK speech recognition specialist VoxGen in association with Vocability, a leading provider of hosted speech applications. It's not available to call just yet, but expect to see the Ring 'n Sing service advertised like crazy during the next series of the X-Factor.

VoxGen website

More fun on the phone:
Liven up your mobile chat with Razz
How do you use your 3G phone?

Posted by modculture on March 30, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (1)

A Bluetooth Snake for the car



It's illegal, but people are still at it. Yes, talking on your mobile is still rife, but it might change when getting caught means points on your licence. Why not make an effort to change your ways with one of the numerous hands-free devices on the market - like the newly-unveiled **Snake**.

The Snake from Finnish firm **Iqua**, features a built-in microphone and speaker and is easy to use and install. It can be attached to the headrest of the car seat, with the Snake adjusting to fit your height perfectly and to improve the quality of your audio. It offers up to 10 hours talk time and 300 hours standby between charges.

And being in black leather and and brushed metal, it will fit in with the interior of most cars. It should be available in the UK in the very near future. As yet we haven't got a confirmed price.

More about the Snake

More for your mobile:
Buried with your mobile
EU to crack down on roaming costs

Posted by modculture on March 29, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Burials and cremations with your mobile

More people than ever are apparently asking to be **buried with their mobile**. The trend, which started in South Africa through fear of being buried whilst under a spell, has now moved onto Ireland, Australia, Ghana and the USA.



According to Martin Raymond, from trend-spotting think-tank, The Future Laboratory, the trend has moved from fear to a show of affluence, with people following the example of the ancient Egyptians, wanting to be buried with items that represent their lifestyle. They term these burials as "limelight funerals", with diamonds, jewellery, expensive suits, and gold watches also ending up in the hole.

In some cases, people are even taking their mobiles into cremation. According to Mr Raymond, this leads to explosions during the cremation process when the mobile battery heats up - which is how the trend was first noticed.

To get round this, some funeral parlours will now arrange for the phone put into the box with the ashes following the cremation. And one service in South Africa will put a number of batteries in the coffin just in case the dead person wakes up much later and finds their own battery has run out.

Via The BBC

More mobiles:
EU to crack down on roaming costs
Mobile downloads without the data charges

Posted by modculture on March 29, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (1)

EU to crack down on roaming costs



Mobile users could pay less for making and receiving calls overseas under proposals put forward by the EU to crack down on "**unjustified" high charges** for using mobile phones abroad.

EU Information Society and Media Commissioner Viviane Reding is behind the move, which could lead to call costs coming down to levels close to prices charged for domestic calls between different mobile networks. The proposed legislation will require the approval of the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers.

The moves will obviously be opposed by network operators, with roaming income said to account for 8% to 15% of operators' revenues. The companies claim they have already acted to keep prices down, but additional costs involved in delivering calls through foreign networks mean higher prices to the consumer.

It all sounds like the two sides squaring for a fight. We'll keep you posted.

Via The BBC

More mobiles:
Mobile downloads without the data charges
T-Mobile offers unlimited mobile web access

Posted by modculture on March 28, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Mobile downloads without the data charges

In what could be a very significant step for the mobile download market, **mBlox**, in conjunction with New Visions and record labels V2 and Ministry of Sound, is offering **'single price' full track music downloads** without additional data charges.

Currently, if you want to download a track, you're looking at the cost of the track and the cost of the data traffic to deliver it, which could mean a 1MB download costing £1.50 track plus an additional £8 in data charges - the cost of going buying the album at a supermarket.

mBlox has worked with **Vodafone** to agree on wholesale data tariffs, meaning Vodafone customers downloading tracks from the MoS or V2's WAP sites will not incur any data charges on their mobile phone bill beyond the list price of the song. mBlox claims it should also mean a wider variety of tracks available for download, with users not limited to the selection of hits offered through the operator's mobile portal.

Orange is expected to offer a similar arrangement soon, with the remaining UK networks following suit over the next few months.



More mobiles:
Unlimited web access with T-Mobile
MSN Messenger on your 3 mobile

Posted by modculture on March 27, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Nokia saddles up for N-Gage 2?



According to industry title In Stock, Nokia has announced it is preparing a range of new gaming handsets for release in early 2007. Nokia announced the range alongside a new toolset for developers to create mobile games at GDC, currently taking place in San Jose.

Take a peak at sister site Games Digest for even more gaming news.

Posted by Shiny Media on March 27, 2006 in Gaming | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Liven up your mobile chat with Razz



I can't think of any occasion when I would want to add a sound effect to a mobile conversation – or indeed a text or voicemail message. But if you're the office joker, you might well appreciate the japes you can have with the **Razz mobile headset**.

The Razz headset offers you 10 "funny sounds" that can be dropped into your calls, outgoing messages and voice mails with the click of a button. Just fix the Razz device to your mobile, then choose which of the sounds you want to use in your conversation via a scroll wheel.

I'm guessing the joke will wear thin in minutes, but if you want to annoy your mates with the sound of a baby, battery low, bugle, chicken, fart, moan, drum roll, silly laugh, shriek or cartoon, you can for around £5.

Find out more

More for your mobile:
T-Mobile's unlimited mobile web access
World Cup on your mobile

Posted by modculture on March 27, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

How do you use your 3G phone?

In a moment of great symmetry, the **3 network** has turned 3 – and to celebrate, they've conducted a survey about the trends in video conversation – or to put it plainly, **how people use their 3G phones**.

And the upshot is a series of new descriptions of phone uses which very much sound like they were dreamt up by over paid trends agency staff after a bottle of Chablis or two. Actually they were...

Nevertheless I can see potential for **Mobumentaries** and especially **The Andrew Marr Effect**.

The full list in all its glory is after the turn.

How do you use your 3G phone?



Proofing – using a 3G handset to video anything from a celebrity sighting to bad service in a restaurant to use as visual evidence later on.

Mobumentaries – using your phones to create a mini-movie documenting your lives.

The Andrew Marr effect – Men's tendency to adopt an alternative persona and give a running commentary in the style of a news report when recording on their phone.

Visual Vanity – Women turning their video phones on themselves for anything from applying makeup to trying on a new outfit for a more realistic view of how they look than in a mirror.

Talent scouting – the video mobile becomes the ultimate boy's toy on a Saturday night as groups of mates undertake reconnaissance missions at different parties to find the best 'talent' of the opposite sex.

Virtual phone box – the tendency for people to create their own personal space to make a video call even if it means marking out a phone box size space by pacing in a small rectangle while on the phone.

Icebreakers – When introducing someone to another group in advance, people would record a short video message or 'social passport'' to send in advance of the meeting to break the ice.

Night safe – Girls using their video mobiles to record a clip of a cab driver before they got in, to send to a friend as a 'safety bank'.

Video gloating – showing off via video covered everything from sending a clip of a new purchase to a football chant if their team had lost.

Citizen journalism – using 3's service that allows people to upload their own 'at-the-scene' reports or celebrity spottings, and get paid for it.

3 website

More from 3:
Chico Time on your 3 handset
3 pays punters to receive voice calls and text messages

Posted by modculture on March 24, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

T-Mobile offers unlimited mobile web access



for those of you who like the idea of browsing the net while you're out and about, this may well be of interest. **T-Mobile** will soon be the first mobile operator in the UK to offer **unlimited internet access** and email through their web'n'walk browsing service. For £7.50, you can browse away without download limits.

It's available as an add-on to their current 'Relax' and 'Flext' tariffs, but only if you use a Sidekick II, MDA Compact II, MDA Vario or Nokia N70 handset. T-Mobile says the range of phones will be expanded in June.

Expect a big ad campaign in the summer and some reaction from the other mobile operators in the coming weeks and months.

T-Mobile

More T-Mobile:
T-Mobile launches BlackBerry 8700g
T-Mobile first with flexible tariffs

Posted by modculture on March 23, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (1)

The World Cup on your mobile

If this had been a week later, we'd have been thinking April Fools, but according to Mobile Marketing Magazine, mobile technology company ROK Entertainment is to launch a set-top box in time for the World Cup, that will

beam the games, or anything else you can watch at home for that matter, to your mobile.

The box, codenamed BLCX, attaches to your TV and uses your broadband internet connection – what do you mean you don't have one? – to beam the signal on to your phone. According to ROK, the service will work "on the majority of new smartphones".
The box will go on sale at the beginning of June for around £250, or you'll be able to rent one for around £12 a month.

Get the full story here.

Posted by Davidmurphy on March 22, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (2)

Book a holiday through your mobile



I'd like to pass myself off as some kind of much-travelled, cosmopolitan bloke, but in truth, I'm more of a week in Wales kind of guy, with the occasion jaunt to Europe when time and money permit. Not sure why – with flights cheap and booking easy online, it's not exactly a rich man's pastime. In fact, you can even book via your phone now with **Handy Traveller** going live 02's i-mode service.

With Handy Traveller technology, you can browse holiday and travel options, select something at the right price and time for you, then book and pay for it on your mobile, simply by sending a one-word text message.

Handy Traveller joins a number of big names that have signed up to i-mode in the past few months, including eBay and Right Move.

Find out more

More i-mode:
Buy a house on your mobile
eBay joins i-mode

Posted by modculture on March 22, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Phlash to boost your camera phone



If ever there was a nice idea that was a little ill thought out, then **Phlash**, a turbo-charged phone flash unit, is it.

Phlash is designed to boost the light when you take a snap on a camera phone. Photos on phones can suffer if your mobile has a small lens, poor built-in flash or you just happen to be out somewhere with very poor light. It all can mean a memory card full of grainy, poorly-defined images.

Phlash uses a bright LED to light up your subject or area – attach the unit to your camera and get a boost of brightness for your picture – 12 times brighter than most phone flashes. But here's the problem. Phlash just sticks to your phone, it doesn't interact with it. So you have to press it momentarily for a quick flash or hold it for sustained period of light. It all seems a little clumsy and seems to require considerable finger dexterity to use.

Still – if you need some extra light, it's cheap enough at just under $20 to try out.

Find out more

More for your mobile:
MSN Messenger on your 3 phone
Sony MEX-BT5000 car audio head unit

Posted by modculture on March 21, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

LG's Chocolate Phone heads to Europe



Mobiles are as much a fashion accessory as a functional item – and **LG** is already hyping their new **Chocolate phone (LG-KG80),** as the one to be seen with when it comes to Europe in May.

They probably have some grounds for optimism – the phone is the market leader in Korea, having shifted around 300,000 units in the country since its launch. It has also won two European design awards – the iF Design Award and Red dot Design Award – for its looks.

But looks don't only sell a phone – what's under the bonnet that will make or break it over here. And details so far are very vague. LG has said that the model released in Europe will differ from the Korean model, without actually saying what the new specification will be. All we do know is that the phone will feature a 'hidden' LCD screen, along with touch-keypad controls that glow red when in use.

As soon as we get the full specification, we'll let you know. In the meantime, enjoy the picture.

LG website

More LG:
LG's DVB-H TV phone
Super hip Cavalli-styled LG U880

Posted by modculture on March 21, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

MSN Messenger on your 3 mobile



There's a very good chance that you are one of the 205 million people who have access to MSN Messenger, or one of the 230 million who have an active Hotmail account. If you also have a mobile phone with **3**, you will soon be able to access both your **Hotmail** and **Messenger** on your 3G mobile after the company signed an agreement with Microsoft to offer seamless access between PC and mobile.

Access to both Hotmail and Messenger is through a browser or by downloading a software client. Both services will have the same look, feel and basic functionality as your existing PC versions. After logging in, your full list of Messenger contacts will be available to you. Your existing MSN password will also give you access to your Hotmail inbox and all email functions.

Hard to see it replacing text messaging, but it does offer additional ways of keeping in touch with friends and family. Initially, the services will be available to 3's customers in the UK, Republic of Ireland, Hong Kong, Sweden, Denmark, Austria and Australia, with plans to expand the service to other 3 markets.

More 3:
Chico Time on your 3 handset
3 pays punters to receive voice calls and text messages

Posted by modculture on March 20, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (1)

i.Tech Clip M

Following on from the Blueband headphones, i.Tech has introduced another handy Bluetooth accessory to use with your music player and phone – the **Clip M**.

The Clip M can be paired with your mobile to act as a standard Bluetooth headset, so that when your phone rings, the Clip M will interrupt your music with a beep and let you answer your mobile phone through your MP3 headphones. Just insert your own headphones to the Clip M, then attach it to your MP3 player with an audio cable. Pair it up with a Bluetooth mobile



phone and never miss a call. It has up to 10 hours talk time, up to seven hours music playing time and up to 200 hours standby time.

It's available now for around £30.

More Bluetooth:
Seiko Bluetooth watch
Design your own Bluetooth

Posted by modculture on March 16, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (3) | TrackBack (5)

Sony MEX-BT5000 car audio head unit



Sony has entered the in-car handsfree market with the **MEX-BT5000 car audio head unit** - the first Sony head unit with Bluetooth, automatically linking to any Bluetooth mobile to deliver handsfree calls when you're out on the open road, plus a little bit more.

In addition to basic call functions, phone book data from the handset also appears on the BT5000's high-visibility screen, so you can make and receive calls during a journey without even taking your phone out of your pocket. Support for the Bluetooth OPP (Object Push Protocol) also allows the wireless transfer of up to fifty phone book contacts to the head unit itself. In addition, show it a compatible mobile phone (like the Sony Ericsson W950) or music player that supports Bluetooth and it will retrieve and play music too. The head unit offers basic playback control over the remote source, so you can just call up your favourite tune.

No price or release date available as yet.

Find out more

More Sony:
Hands on with the Sony Ericsson K610
Hands on with the Sony Ericsson W950

Posted by modculture on March 16, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (2)

Motorola unveils coloured PEBLs



Motorola has finally announced details and availability of its much-anticipated **coloured PEBL** range. The U6 PEBLs are available orange, pink, blue and green and should be in the shops by July according to the company.

For all you fashion victims out there, the full spec of the phone and a nice big colour picture of all four of the new models can be found over at Shiny Shiny right now.

Posted by modculture on March 16, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

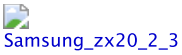
3 successfully trials HSDPA in the UK

It's very much looking like 2006 will be the year of **HSDPA**. If you don't know what that is, it's essentially a new technology that allows mobile operators to boost data speeds up - way in excess of current 3G speeds.

What does that mean in real terms? Well, faster data opens up new technology and applications. The obvious ones are super-fast downloads and audio and video streaming. You could even use your mobile as a powerful modem for your laptop or have better access to business tools and resources on your portable device of choice.

3 has announced that it has completed a **successful trial of HSDPA** on its network, with speeds over three times faster than current 3G and over 40 times faster than GPRS. The trial will be extended in May, with an eye on a rollout of HSDPA in the second half of this year.

However, they may not be the first to market. As previously reported, Vodafone has already undertaken a small scale trial, with a wider trial of


Samsung_zx20_2_3

business users set for April. And O2 has carried out trials in the Isle Of Man, with a provisional date of the third quarter of 2006 for a commercial roll out. Both Orange and T-Mobile have also committed to a service this year - Orange is currently trialling a French service with around 150 users in Lyon.

So who will be first remains very much open to debate. We'll keep you posted on all developments.

HSDPA mobiles:
BenQ-Siemens announces first HSDPA mobile to market
Hands on with Samsung's HSDPA mobile

Posted by modculture on March 14, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

CeBIT 2006: Jabra reveals new products for music lovers



Presumably after years of trying to convince us Brits that it's ok to wander around ~~talking to yourself~~ using a Bluetooth headset, **Jabra** has decided to change tack slightly and reveal some products for music lovers. This seems pretty sensible given the increasing number of MP3 players and music phones out there, many of which come with sub-standard packaged headphones.

Amongst its new line-up are the new **BT325s**: a pair of ordinary earphones but with an integrated Bluetooth headset. This means that you plug the 3.5mm jack straight into your player to listen to your tunes but, when your phone rings, your music will cut out so you can take the call. The BT325s will run for about 8 hours between charges and have helpfully been weather-proofed against the elements.

The BT620s are designed for the latest A2DP enabled phones, such as the greatly improved Motorola ROKR E2. These wireless headphones let you stream music straight from your phone and, when a call comes in, the music is paused automatically. A single charge gives a whopping 14 hours of play time *and* 16 hours of talk time. Either that or 240 hours of standby time. These will set you back £70.

If you already own a Bluetooth headset, neither of the above are much good to you, so Jabra has helpfully revealed a couple of gadgets that add Bluetooth functionality to your music devices. The A120s Bluetooth adapter plugs into anything with a 3.5mm socket, such as an MP3 player, and streams straight to you headset. The A125s is specifically designed for the iPod, including mini, nano and photo versions.

Read more here.

Posted by Shiny Media on March 9, 2006 in CeBIT 2006 | MP3 players | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (3)

CeBIT 2006: Samsung's higlights including ten mega pixel camera phone

Here's the quick heads up from **Samsung** as to what it intends to unveil today at Cebit. Obviously we'll give you more details on the products as we get them.

The **SCH-B600** the world's first **10 megapixel camera phone** - obviously only for Korea at the moment and aimed at professionals rather than happy snappers.

The **SGH-i310 8GB HDD embedded music smartphone** - as we predicted this last week. Let's hope they have solved the battery life issue which prevented the otherwise excellent hard disk endowed i300 from being a must buy.



The world's first large capacity flash-based jukebox player - the **YP-Z5** which is an ultra-slim, lightweight flash-memory player and puts DNSe 3D sound (whatever that is) in the palm of consumers' hands. Samsung hasn't said yet what its capacity is.

Flip over for a list of Samsung highlights culled from the release.

- Elegantly designed range of LCD TVs deliver 12.8 billion colours with a stunning clarity that other LCD TVs cannot match. Offered in 26", 32" and 40" sizes, new range of LCD TVs perfectly suits consumers who value both form and function.

- 82" LCD TV with LED backlight offers dramatically improved performance and viewing angle while decreasing thickness and power usage.

- Ultra Mobile PC, the Q1 with 7inch LCD including diverse functions like MP3, PMP, PDA, PSP, DMB and Windows XP tablet OS provides entertainment in every place with the highest technology.

- Dual core notebook range, the X60 and R65 features Intel's recently launched 2006 Napa Platform with Intel® Centrino® Duo mobile technology.

- Samsung leads the personalisation of laser printers with the world's smallest CLP-300 colour laser printer and the world's smallest laser-based multi function printer(MFP), the SCX-4200. At the same time, a new line-up for the office user is also unveiled including the compact & versatile colour laser MFP, CLX-3160N and ML-4551ND which offer fast speed at 43 pages per minute with proven reliability.

- The first large capacity flash-based music subscription-enabled jukebox player, the YP-Z5, is an ultra-slim, lightweight flash-memory player and puts DNSe 3D sound in the palm of consumers' hands.

- SyncMaster 971P premium LCD monitor's asymmetrical stand allows for 180o rotation and 65o back and front tilting features to ease tiredness and make a workstation as comfortable as possible.

- LCD monitor and network display solution, the SM400PXn 40" LCD monitor combined with its MagicNet XPe embedded network display solution.

- Samsung's first pocket sized, lightweight projector, the SP-P300M is one of the smallest and brightest DLP ™ LED mobile projectors on the market.

- Digital photo frame, the SPL-07 displays pictures taken with phones or digital cameras on its built-in LCD screen, and removes the need for printing or storing of hard copy photos in bulky photo albums.

- The world's first mass-market Blu-ray disc player, the BD-P1000 let consumers take full advantage of High-Definition displays, playing content at native 720p or 1080i video resolutions.

- The business card-sized 6-in-1 multifunction digital camera, the SC/VP-MS1x provides users with portability and huge storage capacity.

- Two next generation camcorders, the VP-X210WL and the CES Innovations Award- winning VP-X210L feature Samsung's signature hands-free lens that allows on-the-go consumers a quality picture and the flexibility that fits their active lifestyle.

- The HT-XQ100 home entertainment system provides a matching impressive performance with gorgeous aesthetics and a variety of features such as a high-power subwoofer, multimedia playback and USB Plug & Play support.

- Samsung's revolutionary HD A/V network solution connects HDTV and A/V and allows HD contents to be shared among information devices at home.

- Samsung will demonstrate a range of innovative wireless

industry firsts, from WiBro (Wireless Broadband technology fully compliant with Mobile WiMAX) and High Speed Downlink Packet Access (HSDPA) at speeds up to 3.6 Mbps to Samsung's Mobile TV.

- Samsung unveils two new World's First products: the SCH-B600 is the world's first 10 megapixel camera phone while the SGH-i310 breaks mobile storage limit with an immense 8GB HDD.

- Samsung's flagship handset for this year - the slimmest slide-up SGH-D870 for premium business professionals, the fashionably designed SGH-E900 for trendy seekers, the slim slide-up 3G SGH-Z350 for 3G users seeking the compact and elegant 3G handsets. Samsung's new flagship models not only look attractive but include all of the latest multimedia and business must-have functionality with elegant design.

At Germany's International Design Forum International Forum Design, Samsung Electronics was once again recognised for its innovative design and received 25 iF Design Awards in 2006 for products that were praised for their portability, intuition and minimalist design. Samsung Electronics has achieved an unprecedented 65 iF awards since 2001 more than any other company.

Posted by Shiny Media on March 9, 2006 in CeBIT 2006 | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (5)

Vodafone to start HSDPA trials

The race to roll out **HSDPA** (the next generation mobile phone technology which delivers true broadband like download speeds) appears to be hotting up. **Vodafone** today announced that following on from a trial in its home town of Newbury it is now going to try the technology on its network in April. It has signed up 100 business users who will be testing Vodafone UK's HSDPA-enabled Mobile Connect Cards for PCs across central and greater London.

Voda's version of HSDPSA can run at up to 1.8Mbps standard - almost four times faster than base level home broadband speeds - but it suggest that customers will experience peak downlink speeds of around 1.4Mbps (with an average of 400 - 700Kbps across all coverage areas) and up to 384kbps uplink. HSDPA will mean fast web access and download speeds for users on the move as well as delivering high quality video streaming and conferencing. Other networks have also been talking up the technology with Orange, O2 and T-Mobile all expected to launch HSDPA networks this year. In addition to the cards for PCs there are a small but growing number of HSDPA phones available from companies like Samsung and BenQ Siemens.

Tim Miles, CEO Vodafone UK said: "The start of our high speed 3G broadband trial marks our relentless commitment to offering the best possible experience to our customers. We have seen high demand for 3G since its launch two years ago and our customers are hungry for the improvements that HSDPA will deliver. These important trials are part of a continuing drive to lead the UK through superior network performance and a customer experience that is second to none."

Posted by Shiny Media on March 9, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (1)

Nokia AD-42W Wireless Audio Gateway

Not content with dominating the mobile market, the big phone firms now want to control your home audio too. Sony's MP001 dock offered "room-filling" sound from your phone, now **Nokia** has introduced the **AD-42W Wireless Audio Gateway**, a bluetooth device which streams to your home stereo.

The Nokia Wireless Audio Gateway AD-42W allows you to listen to music stored in compatible mobile devices (or a compatible PC) wirelessly on your home stereo. You can also listen via a bluetooth headset. The AD-42W connects to your stereo via RCA cables (included), with set-up claimed to be very simple.

Please note though, the AD-42W is only compatible with devices that have the Bluetooth Advanced Audio Distribution (A2DP) -profile. This is currently just the Nokia 8800/8801 phones (software version 3.94 or newer), but

Nokia claims that several devices supporting A2DP -profile are in the pipeline for later this year.

No price as yet, but expect it in the second quarter of 2006.

More mobile music:
Sony Ericsson MP001 phone dock
Sony Ericsson MDS-60 music phone stand

Posted by modculture on March 8, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

BenQ-Siemens EL71 slider phone



Looking not unlike Nokia's 6270 and 6280, **BenQ-Siemens** has launched the slim **EL71 slider phone** with brushed metal finish.

BenQ-Siemens cites a survey claiming one in eight people choose a phone purely through design. If that's you, you might be interested in the ergonomic design of the EL71 and the "ProSLIDE" slider mechanism, which opens up the full keypad at a light touch.

The phone also features a 2-inch QVGA display (262,144 colours), an integrated 1.3MP camera with LED flash and video function, along with a music player that can be directly connected to a hi-fi with a Music Cable IHM-100 accessory. The measly 16MB internal memory can be extended to 1GB via microSD cards. The phone will also have its own range of accessories, including a bluetooth headset and a bluetooth car kit.

You'll be able to pick up the EL71 in the second quarter of 2006 in either "Quartz Anthracite" or "Opal Black". Prices and networks to be confirmed.

More mobiles:
BenQ-Siemens E61 music phone
BenQ-Siemens EF51 music phone

Posted by modculture on March 8, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

BenQ-Siemens E61 music phone



We've previously covered BenQ-Siemens' first serious move into the music phone market with the EF51. Now here's another - the slighty quirky **BenQ-Siemens E61**.

The one thing that really jumps out at you is the music control panel - five buttons on the very top of the mobile phone, which give it a wedge shape, not unlike a dictaphone or possibly even an electric shaver. The E61 also features a 1.8 inch TFT screen which will (apparently) display the lyrics of your favourite song, 6-band graphic equaliser and a memory that can be extended to 1GB via SD cards. Not too great when you consider Samsung is unveiling a phone with 8GB of built-in storage, but on a par with Sony's entry-level W300i music phone. The music player can handle multi music formats, with file transfer via USB cable and BenQ QSyncer software.

The E61 will be available in bright orange and black or cool silver and white and should be in stores in the second quarter of 2006. No details as yet about price and stockists.

More mobiles:
Sony Ericsson W300i Walkman phone
Sony Ericsson 4GB W950i Walkman phone

Posted by modculture on March 8, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (1)

World Cup sim card



Heading to the World Cup? Taking your mobile? It should work without any problems if you have roaming set up, but the bill to text and call your mates (not to mention receiving both) in Germany might come as a nasty shock when you get back.

One enterprising firm has a way of getting round that - use a **pre-paid German sim card**. The card, from Gosim, means you'll not pay to receive calls or texts and you'll pay less to keep in touch with your mates abroad - the company claims you'll make a saving of up to 72%.

Gosim's World Cup sim package costs £24.99, which includes a German pre-paid SIM card, 10 Euros of calls plus a free ringtone and 'Three Lions' screensaver. Personally, I could do without the screensaver and ringtone and it isn't going to work on all phones, but possibly worth a look if you're heading over this summer.

Find out more

More for your mobile:
Sony Ericsson MP001 phone dock
Magazines on your mobile

Posted by modculture on March 7, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Samsung to unveil 8GB SGH-i310 phone



Samsung is to unveil a Windows Mobile 5.0-based smartphone this week, that also feature an 8GB hard disk, stereo speakers, digital amplifier and the ability to support Bluetooth-connected wireless stereo headphones.

The **SGH-i310**, which follows on from the 3GB i300, will be launched at the CeBIT show in Hannover, Germany, this week. According to the leaked specification, the SGH-i310 will feature a 2MP camera and a 2 inch, 240 x 320, 65,536-colour display. The handset will also feature a MicroSD slot to boost its 8GB storage capacity further. Music formats supported include MP3, AAC, Ogg and WMA.

No word on pricing, but the company intend to ship the phone in the second half of this year.

Via The Register

More mobile phones:
The world's smallest smartphone?
Sony Ericsson W300i Walkman phone

Posted by modculture on March 6, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Sony Ericsson MP001 phone dock



If Sony Ericsson's MDS-60 music phone stand doesn't give you the power you require, it might be worth checking out their **MP001 music dock**, which turns your phone into as home stereo.

Just place your Walkman handset in the cradle mount at the front and you get instant access to all the music stored on the phone. The MP001 contains stereo speakers and a hidden sub-woofer capable of delivering a room-filling 25W (RMS) of music power. Sound quality is good too, thanks to the 32-bit Sony S-Master Digital amplifier at the core of the system and clarity of the S-Master sound is complemented by sophisticated digital signal processing (DSP). In addition, there's also an integrated phone FM tuner, a remote control and the MP001 charges the phone while it plays.

The MP001 phone dock is due to go on sale in the UK around June. No price available as yet.

Via New Launches

More for your mobile:
Bluetrek water-resistant Bluetooth headset
Sony launches Memory Stick Micro (M2) for mobiles

Posted by modculture on March 6, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Orange gets new Sony Ericsson Walkman phones


Sonyw300_1

Orange and **Sony Ericsson** have announced a **joint marketing deal** which will see Sony Ericsson roll out their new Walkman phones first across the Orange network, starting with the W810i and the recently-announced W300i clamshell phone (pictured).

In addition, the two companies have announced an exclusive nine-month sponsorship deal with Christina Aguilera, who popped over to the UK for the launch. The partnership with the US star is built around her forthcoming album release and European tour - Orange customers will have access to exclusive mobile content, including music downloads, exclusive remixes, videos and ringtones from the Orange World site.

The new Walkman phones will be customised to fit Orange's signature strategy, an easy-to-use mobile interface. No specific date has announced for the new phones hitting the shops - but expect them very soon.

More from Sony Ericsson:
Sony's Cyber-shot K800 and K790 camera phones
Hands on with the Sony Ericsson W950

Posted by modculture on March 3, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

The world's smallest smartphone?


Axia308_1

Malaysian phone manufacturer Fifth Media has unveiled what it claims to be the world's smallest Windows Mobile 5 smartphone. Measuring 11.3 x 4.9cm and just 2.1cm thick, it manages to pack in quad-band GSM, GPRS and EDGE connectivity, along with Bluetooth 1.2 and 802.11b Wi-Fi.

The **Axia 308** will feature a 416MHz Intel PXA272 processor, 128MB of Flash ROM and 64MB of RAM, with a MiniSD slot to boost storage. It's got a 2.2in, 240 x 320, 262,144-colour display and a fixed-focus 1.3 megapixel camera. It also contains a 1500mAh battery, providing up to four hours' talk time and 120 hours in stand-by.

The aim is to sell the phone outside Malaysia, so expect to see it at the CeBIT show in Hanover next month, when hopefully we'll get more concrete details about the possibility of the phone reaching the UK and a price for it.

Via The Register

More smart phones:
Sony Ericsson M600
BlackBerry 8700g

Posted by modculture on March 1, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Sony Ericsson W300i Walkman phone

Lots of new product activity from Sony Ericsson today. After the excitement of the new Cyber-shot phones, the quad band **W300i clamshell Walkman phone** seems to have lost a bit of thunder - which is a shame, because it's quite a looker.

The W300i plays both MP3 and AAC music files, with up to 30 hours of listening on a single charge. As a music player, it has direct music keys, shuffle function, as well as an in-built FM radio with RDS. It's also shipped with a removable 256MB Memory Stick Micro (M2) expandable to 1GB, as well as a stereo headset, USB cable and music management software.



In addition to the music features, the W300 has a 128 x 160 262K color TFT main display with a second 1-inch 101 x 80 display for track info and caller display, a VGA camera with 4x digital zoom, 3D gaming and Bluetooth.

It's not the most feature-packed phone you'll ever see, but as a small and stylish music phone at the lower end of the price spectrum, it will definitely have mass market appeal

Expect to see it in the stores in the second quarter of this year, at a price of less than £200.

More Sony Ericsson:
Hands on with the Sony Ericsson W950
Hands on with the Sony Ericsson M600

Posted by modculture on February 28, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Sony's Cyber-shot K800 and K790 camera phones



If you like to snap away with your mobile, you'll want a closer look at **Sony Ericsson's new Cyber-shot range of mobile phones**, which pack a 3.2MP camera and allsorts of extras previously only found in a dedicated digital camera.

Both of the models unveiled today - **K800** and **K790** come in a "sleek black velvet" casing and feature a tasty 3.2 megapixel camera with flash and lens cover, dedicated shutter button, auto red eye reduction, printing without a PC with PictBridge, video and image stabiliser function and something rather impressive known as BestPic - press the shutter once and get 9 images, which are then available for you to browse and to select the best one(s). The phones are among the first to feature fully integrated Picture Blogging, which means you can create and update personal blogs directly from the phone in just a few clicks.



Oh yes, they're phones too. The K800 is dual-mode UMTS/GPRS while the K790 is tri-band EDGE. Both models have a two inch QVGA 262K TFT display, 64MB internal flash memory with Memory Stick Micro M2 expansion, Bluetooth, full HTML browsing with RSS feeds, support for standard push email, video recording and playback, a music Player supporting MP3/AAC plus FM radio and 3D gaming.

As yet, we have no exact release dates for either the K800 and K790, but we believe the phones will retail for around £300. We'll keep you posted on both.

More Sony:
Hands on with the Sony Ericsson W950
Hands on with the Sony Ericsson K610

Posted by modculture on February 28, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Sony Ericsson MDS-60 music phone stand



Mobiles are starting to rival portable players now as devices to house your favourite tunes on the move. But sooner or later you'll stop moving - maybe arriving at work, at a friends house or just back home. If you want to play your phone's music without the earphones, it might be worth looking at Sony's neat little solution - the **MDS-60 music phone stand**.

Tailor-made for the Sony Walkman phone range, just pop your music mobile in the cradle and crank up the noise. It looks good, so ideal to stick on your desk

in the office to show off, plus it folds up – so you can take it with you to stop it going walkabout from said desk. It operates from batteries or mains and has speakers covers available in different colours if you want to customise.

The MDS-60 should be in UK stores very soon, price and exact date still to be confirmed.

Via Uncrate

More Sony:
Sony launches Memory Stick Micro (M2) for mobiles
Hands on with the Sony Ericsson W950

Posted by modculture on February 27, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Orange offers fixed line phone service



Orange is to offer fixed line phone services to business users in the UK, opening up the possibility of it challenging BT for a chunk of the UK consumer market too.

Using the Cable & Wireless' network, Orange Landline for Business will offer fixed line services with call charges up to 20 per cent less than BT. Based on Wholesale Line Rental (WLR), it means firms will be able to get their fixed line and mobile services from a single supplier. It's the first stage of a major restructuring for Orange in the UK as it positions itself as an integrated communications operator. As part of this overhaul, the ISP Wanadoo will be rebranded in Orange colours, giving the enlarged group the ability to add broadband to the bundle of services on offer.

Today's announcement only deals with business, but don't be surprised if the telecoms group offers a bundle to consumers as well. We'll keep you posted.

Via The Register

More Orange:
BBC clips on your Orange phone
Orange launch EDGE

Posted by modculture on February 24, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

ROK offers full-screen movies on Microsoft handsets



The **Digital Video Chips** from ROK, which feature a selection of TV comedies, music videos and even full-length movies, are certainly nothing new and have been available for Nokia's Symbian-powered handsets for some time. But what is new is that they've now extended their coverage to include **Microsoft's PDA handsets**, which makes the Chips compatible with around 70% of all smartphones.

ROK's licensed content includes BBC comedies including Little Britain, The League of Gentlemen, The Office and Red Dwarf, plus full length movies including The Shawshank Redemption as well as music video albums and cartoons such as Spongebob Squarepants.

Digital Video Chips are available to purchase online at www.rokplayer.com and some mobile phone shops across the UK, costing around £17 each.

More ROK:
Watch Little Britain on your mobile
ROK brings TV to Sony phones

Posted by modculture on February 24, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Burnside Desktop Mobile Phone

There's a generally held opinion that a fixed BT line is cheaper for calls, but if you are a heavy user and choose the right package, you might be able to make a saving using one of the mobile operators for the bulk of your calls.



It's a limited market I'd say – but it's the one **that Burnside** are chasing with their **Desktop Mobile Phone**.

The phone could also be a good solution if you need to set up a temporary line or you can't fit a BT line, offering a fixed location to make and receive calls, so homes or offices can list its number and callers don't have to guess who is at the location before making a call.

The Desktop Mobile Phone works on all four mobile UK networks and uses a standard SIM card slot. On top of calls, you can compose SMS messages with it and view incoming through the large display. It also features speed dialling, a 100-entry phone book, call register and a rechargeable Lithium Ion battery.

You can pick one up for around £149 excluding delivery and VAT.

Find out more

More phones:
Barabu's free mobile to mobile calls
Virgin bring live TV to the mobile

Posted by modculture on February 23, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Bluetrek water-resistant Bluetooth headset



You know how it is, you're by the pool, fancy a swim and forget you've got your Bluetoth headset on. Or more practically, you get caught in the rain. Either way, it's not a good idea to go near water with electrics. However, **Bluetrek** claim their **water-resistant X2** headset takes away that worry.

Weighing just 15g and based on Bluetooth 1.2 technology, the X2 offers up to 14 hours of talk time and 500 hours of standby time, with an operating range of up to 10m. It is water resistant and shock resistant thanks to its use of highly durable, lightweight, splashproof materials. A customisable system of loops and hooks made out of a smooth, silicone rubber guarantees adaptability to various ear shapes and sizes, as well as an ergonomically designed fit for continuous wear.

It should be in the shops in early March, priced around £59.

Find out more

More Bluetooth:
Design your own Bluetooth
Saitek Audio Bluetooth headphones

Posted by modculture on February 23, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Sony launches Memory Stick Micro (M2) for mobiles

No more the simple phone, the average mobile is now more of a multimedia tool – with users demanding increased capacity for downloading and storing their music, video and images. So it seems only logical that companies will introduce more flexible means of boosting storage. Sony's answer is the **Memory Stick Micro (M2),** with capacities of 256MB, 512MB and 1GB.

M2 media is designed as an externally removable media with a controlled eject function to prevent loss of data. It's also dual-voiltage, so it will work with both phones and existing Memory Stick PRO compatible products.

The newly-launched Sony Ericsson M600i (pictured) is the first mobile phone compatible with the M2. Users of the UMTS phone can store various types of content, such as contacts and email attachments as well as multimedia files including music, pictures, video clips and documents. As the M2 is an external storage media, it allows users to exchange this content between the mobile phone and a PC with a Memory Stick PRO slot, using the supplied M2 adaptor.

Sony plans to ship the 256MB and 512MB versions of the M2 media from March, and the 1GB model from May 2006. Prices are still to be confirmed.



More Sony:
Hands on with the Sony Ericsson W950
Hands on with the Sony Ericsson K610

Posted by modculture on February 23, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Hunt For It on your mobile



Somehow, taking on eBay doesn't seem to be the best business model, but if you're successful, the financial benefits are certainly impressive. **Hunt For It** is the latest challenger, launching on March 1st and aiming to beat eBay by aiming its service at mobiles, even with the full eBay service being available on i-mode.

Over at Bayraider, they have all the details of this new online auctioneer, how you can bid and recieve auction alerts on your phone, how you can make money when someone places a bid for your item via SMS and the impressive prize draw if you sign up now.

Interested? Head on over to Bayraider now.

Posted by modculture on February 22, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Charge your phone with a windmill



Wind power - it's the future, or so a number of environmentalists argue. So why not harness the power of the wind to keep your mobile on the move?

The **Micro Windmill mobile charger** has been developed by NV Satyanarayana, a science graduate based in India. His device is basically a small fan with blades of 10cm diameter connected to a generator with an output wire which connects to a mobile phone. The components are weather proof so you can use it in any weather conditions and being lightweight it can be carried about easily. It can also even charge batteries of of laptops. handhelds and MP3 players. Though this might take a little time!

The Micro Windmill mobile charger is currently still in the development stage - no release date has been set as yet.

Via New Launches

More environmentally-friendly charging:
Solar-powered PSP charger
Wind-up charger

Posted by modculture on February 21, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (2)

It's Chico Time on your 3 handset



Ah, the X-Factor, the modern day Opportunity Knocks, bringing cabaret into our homes on a Saturday night. It's never the winner who makes a mark, it's the loveable loser - and this year's was Chico. If you want more Latino leaping in your life, you can now watch the man in the World's first ever made-for-mobile fitness video - **"It's Fitness Time Starring Chico"** - on your **3 handset**.

It's exercise and body toning on the go for those with "busy lifestyles". There's 10 90-second workouts with catchy names like 'Rearly Amazing', 'Abs Flabuless' and 'Banish the Bingo Wings'. Every workout is introduced by Chico, who then demonstrates and talks through each exercise with the assistance of ~~some dancing girls for the men~~ 'the Chicettes'.

The fitness videos will be available from Monday 20th February with a new routine each day, at a cost of 50p per clip.

Find out more

More from 3:
3 pays punters to receive voice calls and text messages
3's mobile dating service

Posted by modculture on February 17, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (5)

Barabu introduces free mobile to mobile calls



Free mobile calls? Yes, that's right, **Barablu** has launched the world's first free mobile-to-mobile calling between users using existing computer networks. Barablu's package runs on VoIP over Wireless LAN, and is available to anybody with a compatible GSM mobile phone (Wi-Fi enabled), which currently includes **Nokia's 9500** and the **i-mate SP5 SP5m**.

It's certainly one up on Skype - and that seems to be the point, as the company is desperate to gain ground on the VoIP giant. As well as the mobile calls deal, Barablu are also offering a free chat service and a free PC-to-mobile instant messaging service.

If you want to take advantage of the free mobile calls, you need to download a dialler from the Barablu website to your mobile, then register a username and password. You can then contact other people for free via PC or mobile, but only if they use the Barablu network too. Remember, calls outside their network are charged.

Over to you Skype.

Find out more

More VoIP:
Sony's hybrid mouse and VoIP phone
Netgear's Skype phone

Posted by modculture on February 16, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (6)

3GSM 2006: The Mickey Mouse mobile



I'm not sure if I like the idea of grown men and women with **Mickey Mouse mobiles** - it might get a giggle on first glance, but it can only diminish your standing in polite company over time. But if you've got a Disney obsession or you want a kiddie phone for your child (yeah, right), well now you've got the chance with the limited addition **Dmobo M900**.

I can't say I'm too familiar with Dmobo, but the phone spec is reasonable without being much more - it's a tri-band GSM phone with 1.3MP camera and 260k colour screen. But you'll not be buying for that, you'll want the Mickey head buttons on the front, the metallic Mickey cut outs and the "luxurious and soft feeling of Mickey Magic Leather". How can you resist?

The phone is currently widely available in Asia. No details of price or release date for the UK as yet.

More quirky mobiles:
Samsung P300 'calculator phone' arrives in UK in March
3GSM 2006: BenQ-Siemens EF51 music phone

Posted by modculture on February 16, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

3GSM 2006: CoPilot brings sat nav to Symbian mobiles



ALK used the 3GSM to announce that **CoPilot® Live** is now available for **Symbian Series 60 phones**. The first model to benefit will be the **Nokia N70**.

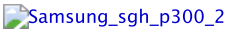
CoPilot® Live 6 turns a Symbian Series 60 phone into an easy-to-use satellite navigation system complete with door-to-door route calculation, turn-by-turn voice instructions and detailed street maps. Enter your destination by house number, street, town, point of interest or even a full UK post code, then select 'start driving' for your route. Advanced features include a choice of map views, planning mode to calculate trips in advance and a walking mode for finding the way on foot using your mobile. Live traffic information and over-the-air downloads of camera locations are available as an added subscription.

CoPilot® Live 6 Symbian will initially be available with the Nokia N70 through T-Mobile in the UK. The complete package is available from free when purchased with a monthly contract.

More mobile news:
Samsung P300 'calculator phone' arrives in UK in March
3GSM 2006: HTC and Orange launch the SPV M600

Posted by modculture on February 15, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Samsung P300 'calculator phone' arrives in UK in March



Sure to be a hit with retro-obsessed techies and also schoolies looking to smuggle mobiles into classrooms is the **P300** calculator doppelganger from **Samsung**. At 3GSM, the horse's mouth, also known as Yang-Hee Han - Senior Vice President, Sales & Marketing - confirmed that the P300 would be arriving in the UK in March. Scarily skinny at just 8.9mm the handset comes with its own wallet type case which further enhances its calculator impersonation.

The other really cool bit about the case is that it can double as a phone charger and can power the P300 for up to two days. In spite of slim frame the phone also has a 1.3 mega pixel camera with flash, music player and video recording capabilities.

Posted by Shiny Media on February 15, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (4)

3GSM 2006: Samsung SGH-Z710 with 3.2MP camera



Most phones on the market right now take photos around the 2MP mark, so it's good to see the **Samsung** launching the **SGH-Z710 3G phone** with a 3.2MP camera for those of us who like to capture the moment out and about.

In addition, the black Samsung SGH-Z710 with swivel screen features a 2.15" 262k color TFT LCD, QVGA screen plus an external screen, 128MB of in-built memory that can be boosted via micro SD expansion, support for

MP3/AAC/AAC+/e-AAC+ music playback, dual speakers, TV output and document viewing software.

The Samsung SGH-Z710 should be available in Europe during the second quarter of 2006.

Via Mobile Burn

More new mobiles:
3GSM 2006: hands on with the Sony Ericsson W950
3GSM 2006: hands on with the Nokia 6136

Posted by modculture on February 15, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

3GSM 2006: HTC and Orange launch the SPV M600



HTC has announced its latest compact PDA at the 3GSM - the **SPV M600**.

The M600 runs with Microsoft Windows Mobile 5.0 platform, so offers push email along with all the other Microsoft programs and functionality you would expect on your PDA. Initially available from Orange in the UK, the sleek looking quandband device supports EDGE, GPRS, GSM and features Bluetooth 2.0 and built-in Wi-Fi capabilities, with dual support of 802.11b and 802.11g. The device is also equipped with a powerful 2MP camera, music player and carries 128MB of flash ROM.

No UK release date or price available as yet. We'll keep you posted.

More PDAs:
3GSM 2006: Fujitsu Siemens launches Pocket LOOX T series
T-Mobile launches BlackBerry 8700g

Posted by modculture on February 15, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (2)

3GSM 2006: Virgin to launch live TV on your mobile



BT has announced that Virgin Mobile is the first mobile operator to sign up for its **Movio digital TV and radio service for mobiles**. The announcement coincided with the 3GSM unveiling of The Trilogy (pictured) - the first DAB-IP enabled Smartphone, which will host the service.

Unlike TV mobile services from Vodafone and Orange, which use 3G, the Movio service uses a special DAB radio and the existing DAB network, which is capable of transmitting high-quality TV images and DAB radio coverage. The handset itself has been developed jointly by BT, TTP, and HTC. It has a 2.2 inch screen, a 1.3MP camera and a micro SD slot for extra storage. It also features Windows Mobile, 5.0 - so expect push email, along with all the usual Microsoft functionality.

No start date has been announced and channel details are not yet available, but expect the service on a limited exclusive basis on the Virgin network around late summer.

More mobile TV:
3GSM 2006: hands on with LG's DVB-H TV phone
ROK brings TV to Sony phones

Posted by modculture on February 14, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (2)

3GSM 2006: hands on with the Sony Ericsson W950

Hang on a minute haven't we seen this phone before? Yep the latest **Walkman** handset from **Sony Ericsson**, the **W950**, is in fact a re-dress of the M600 smartphone SE unveiled last week. There are few differences between the two, which we'll get to in a minute but the chasis is pretty much identical.



The big story here is that the phone has four Gigabytes of flash memory storage built in. This means that user can stock up the handset with MP3, AAC and the phone friendly AAC+ format. SE also claims that it is the first handset that will display cover art. Apparently if Gracenote grabs the artwork it pops up on the handset's lovely screen. The phone sounds excellent too, far superior to the first generation of Walkman phones which were a little disappointing. SE is to ship the phone with standard earphones but users can buy an A2DP Bluetooth system for wireless streaming.

Also on board are a shed load of smartphone facilities and our favourite new feature for 2006 an RSS reader. Just like the M600 the phone is also very light and thin and is operated using either a menu interface controlled by a jog wheel or via touch.

The bad part is that the 950 is missing a few facilities. Firstly there's no storage card slot - so 4 Gigs is your lot. Bizarrely for a funky consumer phone the model doesn't include a camera. SE has also ditched the QWERTY keyboard of the M600 and offered standard slightly iffy keys. SE is also sticking with its existing and not especially intuitive software, though the connection between the phone and PC is now USB 2.0 which makes loading it up with tracks much faster.

Overall this is a classy looking phone and it is sure to tempt music lovers, however it doesn't launch until Q3, so even though that 4 Gig storage looks pretty good now, by then phones with 10 Gigs, Samsung has one on the cards apparently, could be available. It certainly isn't an iPod killer, but at the moment it is far and away the most desirable music phone we have seen so far.

Posted by Shiny Media on February 14, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (5)

3GSM 2006: More Nokia web tablets coming



Nokia's first foray in to the web tablet market, the **770**, has apparently gone down so well that the company is already working on follow up models. The staff at 3GSM obviously aren't giving too much away but did promise similar devices for later in the year possibly integrating a full QWERTY keyboard. The company re-affirmed that the tablet's potential killer app - VoIP which will use a Google system is coming in the summer.

Posted by Shiny Media on February 14, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

3GSM 2006: hands on with the Nokia 6136



Nokia's first phone to feature UMA support, which means it can seamlessly move between 3G and Wi-Fi connections without dropping a call, is a bit of a curious one. You would have thought that Nokia would have pulled out all the stops and offered a high-end Series 60 phone for us techies. But nope the **6136** is a lower-end Series 40 model aimed at more causal users.

The underlying technology is great, especially given the announcement by Rabbit yesterday that it is to offer a two cents call via Wi-Fi to anywhere in the world.

There are also whispers of Nokia deal with Skype which will probably go down like a lead balloon with the networks. The phone itself is a bit of an oddity though. It is a ok clamshell with a quality OLED screen on its facia. Flip it open and there are huge buttons which should make texting and sending emails at a brisk pace fairly simple. Everything else is fairly basic stuff with the handset offering the usual mid-range phone niceties, but nothing to excite the techies. I really can't see why Nokia's first UMA phone wasn't a top-end model. After all a decent smartphone that can easily toggle between 3G and Wi-Fi would be s superb addition to its product range,

Maybe Nokia is protecting its own interests and ensuring its keeps space free for its 770 web tablet and Communicators. But then maybe it is saving a UMA big gun for the upcoming CeBIT exhibition.

Posted by Shiny Media on February 14, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

3GSM 2006: Seagate launches 12GB 1-inch hard drive



Seagate's drives just keep getting smaller - and capacity keeps getting larger. At the 3GSM, they have announced their latest hard drive, the **ST1.3 Series 12GB 1-inch hard drive**, which enables more audio and video within mobile devices.

The new ST1.3 Series drive is 23% smaller than Seagate's current 1-inch drive, but using perpendicular technology, packs in 50% more storage capacity with 30% less power consumption. It also offers a new optional drop sensor for increased robustness - Seagate claims the drive can survive a 1.5m drop onto hard concrete when used in a handheld device. The drive's new size, 40x30x5 mm, allows for more streamlined media players product designs and fits nicely into current clamshell and candy-bar style mobile handsets.

What does this all mean? Well, mobile firms can easily fit in a 12GB drive into new mobile models when the drive is launched in the third quarter of 2006. Somehow I think we'll be saying goodbye to those storage cards sooner rather than later.

More Seagate:
Seagate's 160GB notebook drive
Seagate unveils a 500GB hard drive

Posted by modculture on February 14, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

3GSM 2006: Motorola launches budget W220



Certainly not as feature rich as many of the handsets launched at the 3GSM, the **Motorola W220** is a compact clamshell phone pitched squarely at the budget market.

The W220 still manages to fit in a built-in stereo FM radio. browser, picture messaging and downloadable media capabilities, lantern technology, large font capability, and an alarm clock. It also features an external display with colour icons for instant updates on your message, battery and call status. An expanded battery life allows up to 497 minutes of talk time and 293 hours stand-by.

Expect to see the W220 in stores during the third quarter of 2006.

More mobiles:
Motorola adds Windows Media
3GSM 2006: hands on with LG's DVB-H TV phone

Posted by modculture on February 14, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

3GSM 2006: Sony Ericsson 4GB W950i Walkman phone

If you thought the BenQ-Siemens EF51 was the phone for music lovers, think again - the **Sony Ericsson W950i Walkman phone**, with an impressive 4GB of storage, looks to be a far better bet when it comes to the phone/music player hybrid.

The W950i has a QVGA TFT 2.6 inch display with touchscreen navigation. Its 4GB drive can store up to 4,000 songs and supports MP3, AAC, AAC+, E-AAC+, WAV and m4a formats, which are transferred from your PC via Sony's Disc2Phone software. It also features an FM radio with RDS, graphic equaliser and Mega Bass. Music playback is around 8 hours from a full charge.



The UMTS-enabled phone is also packed with mobile multimedia applications, including web browsing with the Opera 8, push email, video playback and 3D gaming.

The stylish W950i is finished in "Mystic Purple" and should be available in Europe in the third quarter of 2006.

More mobiles:
BenQ-Siemens EF51 music phone
Hands on with the Sony Ericsson K610

Posted by modculture on February 14, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1)

3GSM 2006: BenQ-Siemens EF51 music phone



The first batch of jointly-branded BenQ-Siemens mobiles showed real promise, the new **EF51 music phone** shows that they're not afraid to produce something slightly off-the-wall either.

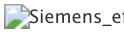
Rather than a phone with music capability, it's described as "a music device with an integrated mobile phone". From the outside, it does look like portable musuic player, with large keys for music functionality located below the 1.6-inch TFT color display. The EF51 features an FM radio and media player for MP3, WMA, AAC and AAC+ formats, plus you can record from radio to MP3. Best of all, it's got a voice-activated search function for your favourite tracks! Once downside is that storage seems to rely on SD cards, so don't expect a huge capacity.

Oh yes - and it's a fully featured phone with 1.3MP camera with all the keys hidden under the exterior flap. The EF51 will be available in both black and white in the second quarter of 2006, no price has yet been confirmed.

More mobiles:
BenQ-Siemens announces first HSDPA mobile to market
BenQ-Siemens unveils new range of mobiles

Posted by modculture on February 13, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

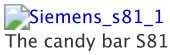
BenQ-Siemens announces first HSDPA mobile to market



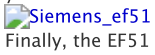
Having taken over Siemens and produced some rather nice looking mobiles, BenQ is really starting to warm up with three more releases. The EF91 (pictured) is going to be the first HSDPA mobile phone to reach the market. This is a miracle in itself, since Siemens was well-known for taking its own sweet time to respond to new technologies. T-Mobile and Vodafone have apparently already agreed to take it.

The S81 is one of the slimmest 3G phones around at 13mm, while the EF51 is music-focused mobile with a music player control pad that flips down to reveal the normal keypad.

The clamshell EF91 comes with an impressive 3.2-megapixel camera. 262K resolution screen, MicroSD card slot, MP3 player and Bluetooth. It'll be out this summer in a variety of colours.



The candy bar S81 3G phone has support for Bluetooth, MP3 music playback (and AAC+ and WMA), 1.3 megapixel camera on the back and VGA camera on the front for video calling and a MicroSD slot which bumps up the 30MB internal memory. It'll be out in black and silver in the second quarter of this year.



Finally, the EF51 has a high res, 262K colour screen, FM radio support for MP3, WMA, AAC and AAC+ formats and something called Speech-to-Music which means you can tell your phone which song you want it to play. It will also display the lyrics of your chosen tunes on the screen.

Posted by Shinykatie on February 13, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Got a licence for your mobile?


W800i_2

Big news at this year's 3GSM (and doubtless for many months to come) is TV on mobiles. So it's no surprise that **TV Licensing** is now considering forcing phone retailers to **pass on details of people who buy mobile phones**.

According to a report in The Times, if you watch live TV on a mobile phone, then you need a valid licence. Since the vast majority of people are already covered by their existing licence, it's not an issue. But, there is a small proportion of people who aren't covered by a TV licence – and TV Licensing want to make sure these people don't dlip through the net.

Anyone caught without a valid TV licence – which costs £126.50 a year – faces a fine of up to £1,000. Although TV Licensing has collared people watching TV via their PCs, it's not thought a mobile phone user has been nabbed as yet. But you have been warned.

Via The Register

TV on your mobile:
LG's DVB-H TV phone
ROK brings TV to Sony phones

Posted by modculture on February 13, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

3GSM 2006: hands on with LG's DVB-H TV phone


V9000_lg

The big story at 3GSM is **TV on mobiles,** with everyone from manufacturers through to networks hoping to convince punters that going square eyed watching Corrie on the bus is a good thing. However handsets that are specifically designed for mobile TV are still pretty thin on the ground.

I popped over to the **LG** stand and had a look at its take on the TV phone – the **V9000**. LG is keeping its options open as the phone is available in a trio of different versions; as the V9000 with a T-DMB digital TV tuner built in for Germany and some other European countries, as the **Media Flo mobile TV** for the US and as the **DVB-H** (the format most fancied by Nokia) which surprisingly enough has a DVB-H decoder built in.

At the moment no one really knows which standard will win in which particular territories. You'd have thought that DVB-H was the best bet for the UK, but there are some sceptics who think we won't see it until the great analogue TV shut off scheduled for 2012.

Nevertheless no matter which TV format it uses the LG whatever is a pretty nifty phone. It has superb quality 262K screen which cleverly flips into a T delivering a widescreen view. The quality of the images, which incidentally were taken from a video card and not live, were however very impressive. Personally I prefer the laptop style TV form format of the Nokia N92, but the T route is it a very clever way of keeping the size of the handset down.

Even so the handset is a chunky, especially when compared with all the slim mobiles at the show, and this ultimately might limit its appeal. A version of the phone, quite possibly without a TV tuner, will go on sale in Europe in June. If any of the TV formats launches anywhere in Europe this year LG says it will be ready and waiting.

Posted by Shiny Media on February 13, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1)

3GSM 2006: hands on with the Sony Ericsson K610



The first big handset out of the blocks at 3GSM proved to be the **K610** from **Sony Ericsson**. You can check out the basic spec here, however we did pop over to the stand and managed to grab a few minutes with it.

First up it is as billed, very slight for a 3G phone. The chocolate bar style handset is skinny and very light, though still significantly chunkier than say Moto's SLVR. The trade off in size means that the keys are small and a little fiddly especially the menu buttons at the top. The 262k screen is as you'd expect top notch and the images stored on the phone looked superb. The phone also sports an RSS reader integrated into its messaging section. No one at the SE stand knew a great deal about how this works, but loading RSS feeds appears a pretty simple process of just inputting an URL and grabbing the feed.

No one knew how many RSS feeds you can actually load. The phone is also compatible with push email with the option of the specific system apparently left to the operator, and it also has what SE bills as a mobile blogging solution built in. I wasn't blown away by it as I was by the M600 last week, but this is solid mid market 3G fare and should do well for the company. I expect it will be grabbed by most UK networks.

Posted by Shiny Media on February 13, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (2)

3GSM 2006: Motorola adds Windows Media

It may have brought you the **iTunes phone**, but it seems **Motorola** isn't above playing away with some of the Apple music download service's rivals. At **3GSM** in Barcelona it announced a deal to work with **Microsoft** to port a version of **Windows Media Audio player** on to its phones.

WMA players are standard on Windows Mobile devices such as the Orange SPV series and Nokia has handsets with Windows Media players on the pipeline. The new WMA friendly phones will apparently be able to download music both over the air via mobile phone networks and play back tracks in the format transferred from a PC.

Expect to see more joint deals in which a user gets at track on their phone and then goes to home to grab the same track as a file for their computer. It is not known whether we'll see more iTunes handsets from the company.

Posted by Shiny Media on February 13, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

3GSM 2006: Nokia to introduce 6136 through Orange



A busy day at the 3GSM for Nokia. With the launch of the Nokia 6070 and Nokia 6131 already under their belts, they have now unveiled the **Nokia 6136 handset**.

The quadband 6136 with a clamshell design supports UMA (Unlicensed Mobile Access) technology that allows for a seamless handover of voice and data connections between GSM and WLAN networks. The phone also features a 1.3MP camera with 8x digital zoom, MP3 player, an SD card slot (to store your MP3 favourites), radio tuner, MMS, email, push to talk and Nokia Xpress audio messaging.

Nokia has announced that Orange will be the first service provider to take delivery of the phone, which should be in the second quarter of 2006. No price details are available as yet.

More Nokia:
Nokia launches 6070 and 6131 handsets
Bluetooth headsets from Nokia

Posted by modculture on February 13, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

3GSM 2006: Nokia launches 6131 and 6070 handsets



Nokia has introduced two new mid-range camera phones at the 3GSM in Barcelona in the form of the **Nokia 6131** and **Nokia 6070**.

The stylish quadband Nokia 6131 (pictured) has a slim folding design and features high-resolution true color QVGA display that supports 16 million colors and an outer screen with 262k colors. As well as all the features you'd expect from Nokia, the Nokia 6131 also packs in a digital music player and FM stereo radio supporting Visual Radio, plus an 1.3MP camera with 8x digital zoom.

The triband Nokia 6070 is more basic and traditional in design, but still has a good range of functions, including SMS, MMS, Nokia Xpress audio messaging, email and instant messaging. Voice features include push to talk, a voice recorder and an integrated handsfree speaker. It's compatible with EDGE data communication and also features a stereo FM radio.

Both phones are expected to be available from the second quarter of 2004. The 6131 will retail for around 275 EUR (£188), with the 6070 selling for around 135 EUR (£92).

More Nokia:
6270 arrives in the UK
Nokia's business-style 3G phone

Posted by modculture on February 13, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

3GSM 2006: Sony Ericsson's K610 and J100 phones



Two new phones fresh out from the Sony Ericsson camp today: the K610 and the J100. First up, the K610 (pictured) is a very small 3G handset that's closer in size to a non-3G handset than most 3G phones out there. It's got a 2-megapixel camera as well as a standard VGA one on the front for making video calls. It's also got an HTML browser with RSS feeds included, while the Memory Stick Micro card slot allows you to bump up the storage space when you're using the media player.

The altogether less exciting J100 is a basic budget phone by the sounds of things. Not much to talk about by way of features, this one's stictly for budget watchers and people who don't want any fancy extras.

K610 press info
J100 press info
Sony Ericsson 3GSM flash site

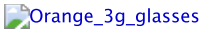
Posted by Shinykatie on February 13, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Samsung announces 30 Meg broadband for mobile phones

Samsung is to bring Wi-Bro, its take on mobile Wi-Max technology, to Europe. In conjunction with Telecom Italia it is previewing the mobile broadband service which can access the internet at speeds of up to 30Mb/s. The preview is taking place during the Turin 2006 Olympic winter games. Samsung intends to roll out wi-bro in Korea in the next couple of months. Wi-Bro offers higher quality video streaming and enables users to consult documents and images stored on their phone while they surf the web.

Posted by Shiny Media on February 13, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

3GSM 2006: Orange's video glasses



Over the past couple of years we have seen enough video glasses to make us go square-eyed, and frankly most of them have been awful too. However it is interesting to note though that they are now being championed by mobile phone networks.

Over in France **Orange** launched this pair of mobile goggles in November. The network says they are great for viewers who want to ~~draw attention to themselves in public~~ watch mobile TV or surf the web while on the move. They apparently retail for around 300 Euros and work in conjunction with a **Samsung D600e** phone - though I suspect they will work with other mobiles too. Orange is hinting that they will be on sale in the UK probably in the second half of next year.

Posted by Shiny Media on February 12, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

3GSM 2006: Barcelona here we come



By the time most of you read this on Monday I'll be wandering aimlessly round a hall desperately trying to keep up with latest in mobile phones. Yep today sees the start of the industry's annual bunfight **3GSM**, which alas this year is not in Cannes, but in the slightly less opulent city of **Barcelona.**

Almost all of the major handset makers will have big news stories to tell and you can bet that the networks will be falling over themselves to champion HSDPA, mobile TV and music via mobiles. So keep your eyes peeled for constant updates, hands on with the latest gadgets and plenty of the usual silliness.

Btw rubbish cathederal

Posted by Shiny Media on February 12, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

ShoZu adds two way sharing



Remember recently we told you about ShoZu? If you missed it, it's a mobile utility that lets you send your mobile images straight to an online gallery, saving you money on distributing your latest snaps to your friends. Nice thing - and now it's been improved with more functionality.

ShoZu still lets you add your pictures and video to online galleries and communities, but now it works as a two-way sharing device. When you send an image to web, you will receive any comments made about your photos on the web to your mobile. In addition, you will also be able to synchronise your mobile address book. So you can edit or add contacts from your secure ShoZu account or from your handset, with the details automatically updated at the other end.

Other additional picture features added include the changing of image titles, rotating of images and allowing descriptions and tags to be added before sending from the camera application.

And it's still all free - though you'll still obviosuly be paying the data charge for sending.

Find out more

More mobile imaging:
What is ShoZu?
3's Pupillo surveillance camera

Posted by modculture on February 10, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Text for a train



Well, it looks like our train service is finally entering the 21st century. Having finally completed a working train line from Manchester to London after three years digging (not that I'm bitter), you can now get **train details and route information via text messaging**.

Using technology developed by Kizoom and mBlox, National Rail has two text-based enquiry services available. If you want to know departure or arrival times, text 484950 and **Traintracker Text** looks up estimated train times, then texts the full details back to you. Calls cost 25p. In addition, **TextMe Journey Planner** is a free service that sends a complete itinerary of either the outward or return portion of a journey, so you know where to change without having to write it all down.

For a full explanation and demo of the service click here.

More for your mobile:
BBC clips to your mobile
Magazines on your mobile

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Posted by modculture on February 9, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1)

BBC clips on your Orange phone



If the endless re-runs on BBC3 and UK Gold aren't enough for you, you can now catch some of the **BBC's biggest shows** on your **Orange mobile phone**, thanks to a deal between the mobile giant and BBC Worldwide.

From this month, Orange World users will be able to watch video clips of classic scenes on the move. And if you really want to annoy friends and workmates, you can even use famous catchphrases from the shows as ringtones and images of BBC characters as wallpapers. Shows featured included The Office, Two Pints of Lager and a Packet of Crisps, Little Britain, The League of Gentlemen, Goodness Gracious Me and classic Doctor.

The first wave of shows will be live on Orange World from today.

Find out more

More mobile news:
Samsung Unveils SGH-P900 TV phone
Magazines on your mobile

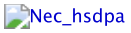
Posted by modculture on February 9, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

NEC's HSDPA mobile

So it isn't just Samsung who is taking **HSDPA**, the next generation mobile phone format seriously. **NEC** wants a slice of the action too. The Japanese company announced today that it has been working on a prototype of a HSDPA mobile with Japanese network **NTT DoCoMo.** The network is set to debut its HSDPA network in the 2nd quarter of 2006 and it appears that the NEC model will be its key handset.

In case you missed the hype HSDPA (High Speed Downlink Data Packet Access) is the exciting new technology which will enable mobile phone networks to ramp up data speeds to levels well beyond what we currently have with 3G. The new prototype downloads data at an astonishing 3.6Mbps – that's almost ten times faster than existing 3G phones. I say it's astonishing, but HSDPA's maximum speed is 14Mbps – that's so fast you could even screen high definition TV on a handset. Visitors to the 3GSM exhibition in Barcelona next week (and yep we'll be there) will get a chance to see the phone in action.

Posted by Shiny Media on February 7, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)



Blueye music and mobile integration



It's not new, see our recent coverage of myTalker, but the idea of integrating your phone and music player to avoid missing a call is gaining popularity with manufacturers. The latest pitch is from Mavizen, who have introduced **Blueye**.

Small and lightweight, Blueye plugs into any music player (or your PSP) and connects wirelessly to bluetooth-enabled mobiles. Accept calls with Blueye's control panel, listen to calls through the music player's headphones and answer through the Blueye microphone. Volume is automatically muted when the phone rings and there's support for Interactive Voice Control, so calls can be answered with voice only.

Available in three colours and with a battery life offering 10 hours talk time, you can pick it up for around £69.

Find out more

More Bluetooth:
Saitek Audio bluetooth headphones
Go Bluetooth with music headphones

Posted by modculture on February 7, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Hands on with the Sony Ericsson M600



Just back from **Sony Ericsson's** HQ in Hammersmith where I got to play with the company's latest take on the smartphone market the **M600**. In many ways the handset shouldn't concern consumers too much, this is aimed squarely at the corporate market – it hasn't even got a camera.

Basically Sony Ericsson is debuting what is in many ways a BlackBerry 7100 killer. It has two key things in common with that particular model. Firstly it has BlackBerry email. Or rather it can, the push email system is down to the network. T-Mobile will probably offer the phone with Blackberry, while Vodafone will offer Visto etc. The other key thing they share is the rather odd QWERTY – with two letters per key – keyboard. I found this a nightmare, but I do know some people who love it.

After those two similarities the differences between the two are fairly huge. While the Blackberry 7100 is large and bulky the Sony Ericsson is slinky and shiny. It comes in black and white too. It runs Symbian's 9.1 operating system and can be customised to include all manner of features. Also unlike the BlackBerrys it comes with removable and obvioiusly upgradeable storage, via Sony's just launched, and very tiny M2 card.

The phone is also a dream to use. The interface is obvious and not too cluttered and just like its sibling the Sony Ericsson P990 it can be used either via a scroll wheel or a small stylus.

The other key facility we like is an RSS reader. These are going to be big news on mobiles this year, though I must admit I didn't see it working. The phone also has the excellent Opera web browser, a media player (MP3, AAC, and ACC+, E-AAC + m4a) and of course essentials like Bluetooth. Overall this is a quality handset from Sony Ericsson. The QVGA 2.6-inch 262k color touch screen display is pretty impressive too. I am still not convinced by the keyboard, but for corporates looking for a light smartphone that's stylish has a decent screen and yet includes push email the M600 is a very good bet.

Posted by Shiny Media on February 6, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (3)

Samsung Unveils SGH-P900 TV phone



With the World Cup tantalisingly close, the corporate giants are battling for a large part of the spin-off market. **Samsung**, for example, has launched the **SGH-P900 mobile TV phone** in Europe in time for the 2006 FIFA World Cup. However, they don't mention if anyone is actually broadcasting the action for the phone!

The SGH-P900 is Europe's first T-DMB (Terrestrial Digital Media Broadcasting) phone and along with the TV & radio capabilities, it packs a 2 megapixel camera, MP3 player and a 2.2" TFT LCD screen that opens up to a horizontal position when the phone is flipped open. You can also record TV on it too, though I'd imagine you'll have to expand the standard 128MB user memory.

All sounds too good to be true for the average footie fan - and maybe it is. There's no word about anyone transmitting the World Cup in the T-DMB format, and certainly no mention of it being available in the UK. And before you invest, it might be worth considering that a rival format for watching live broadcasts, DVB-H, is currently being trialled in the UK and may be a better option in the long run.

No word on prices or networks for the SGH-P900 as yet for the UK.

More Samsung mobile:
Samsung goes for VibeTonz
Samsung's i300

Posted by modculture on February 6, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Magazines on your mobile



If you are looking to fill time on a commute or during your lunch hour, you might be interested in **Mobizines** - miniature versions of leading magazines straight to your mobile.

Unlike website content, Mobizines, which carry around 20 stories per edition, appear in a colourful magazine-like format on your phone and once downloaded, can be read without the need to be connected to your mobile service. Magazines already signed up for the service include Condé Nast titles GQ and Glamour, OK!, TimeOut, ITV, Daily Snack, TV Genius and sports news from TeamTalk.

The cost per edition varies by network but on average costs between 3 and 10p. Combined with offline reading, Mobizines have certainly got the potential to be a winner financially, but whether the content and the magazine format will work for the average mobile user remains to be seen.

Find out more

More for your mobile:
Watch TV on the move
Sat nav for pedestrians

Posted by modculture on February 6, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (2)

ROK brings TV to Sony phones



If you want to watch TV on your mobile via GPRS, then you really should check out **ROK**. We've spoken highly of the ROK service previously, but with one or two concerns – primarily the lack of phones that the service is compatible with. That's not as much of an issue now, with 19 handsets able to use the service, including **Sony Ericsson's hugely popular W800i** and 6 other leading Sony phones.

The service currently offers 13 channels in its standard package – Pop World, CNN, Cartoon Network, M-Music, ITN, National Geographic, Tidy TV, SNTV, XTreme TV, Movie Trailer TV, F3, Sci Fi and Snoot Toons for a monthly fee of £9.99 or 99p for individial channels. But don't forget, you'll have to pay your provider data charges too.

Find out more

More ROK:
ROK brings TV to GPRS phones
Best of 2005: ROK

Posted by modculture on February 6, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Nokia 6270 arrives in the UK



Nokia's 6270 mobile went down pretty well when it was shown to the Tech Digest team, alongside the 6280, some months back. So we're happy to report that it's now finally arrived in the UK.

If you can't remember Nokia's 6270 slider phone, it's a GPRS handset with 320 x 240 pixel screen, two mega pixel camera with 5x zoom, MP3 playback, stereo speakers with 3D effect and built-in FM radio. It also looks rather nice too with the brushed aluminium surface.

If you want to be one of the first with the 6270, you need to visit your local Vodafone dealer.

More from Nokia:
Nokia 6280 preview
Nokia Bluetooth headsets

Posted by modculture on February 3, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Motorola Q date slips



We've talked at length about the Motorola Q smartphone in the past, about how slim it is, how feature-packed it is and how much of a BlackBerry beater it could be – if it ever arrives that is.

The idea was for the **Motorola Q** to ship in the first quarter of 2006. However, according to a "reliable source" quoted on Engadget, that window has now been missed and the next date thrown up is April. Only a month late – if it arrives then.

If you haven't encountered the Q, it's the thinnest handset to feature a QWERTY keyboard, has a 1.3MP camera, Bluetooth, MP3, AAC, WMA and WAV audio file playback and video capture.

Find out more here

Via Engadget

More Motorola:
iTunes RAZR phone
D&G's RAZR

Posted by modculture on February 3, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

T-Mobile first with flexible tariffs



The battle for the mobile pound in your pocket shows no sign of receding, with **T-Mobile** launching what it sees as the latest leap forward with **"Flext",** Britain's first flexible mobile tariff, which it claims will offer a high amount of across the board credit for a signficantly smaller monthly rate.

So how does it work? Well, if you sign up to one of the packages, for example, "Flext 35", it gives you £180 worth of inclusive value for a £35 month charge. You can spend your £180 value on either calls, texts or picture messaging. Weekly text from the company confirm how much you have spent and you can adjust your tariff every 6 months of your 18-month contract.

Good thing? Well, anything that offers more for your money and more flexibility has to be a good thing. And when one mobile company jumps, they all jump, so don't be surprised if your mobile provider offers up a similar scheme in the very near future.

More mobiles:
Orange introduces Edge
3 pays punters to receive voice calls and texts

Posted by modculture on February 2, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Sat nav for pedestrians



Once, if you got lost, you'd ask a policeman. These days, you would probably need a map to find one. Which is probably why m-spatial has thought it a good idea to add its **MapWay Local Search** to O2's **i-mode** service.

Optimised for mobiles, the MapWay service is rather like sat nav for pedestrians. It features 'made for mobile' maps and directions showing the location of any address in the UK, plus a 'What's Nearby' function for local places of interest. m-spatial claims it offers information about 2.2 million businesses and amenities in the UK.

Downside? Well the big one is a £1.99 per month subscription charge. Might not sound much, but aren't you already paying for the i-mode service?

Find out more

More i-mode:
Find out about O2's i-mode service
eBay launches on i-mode

Posted by modculture on February 2, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Comment: yet another mobile phone format Orange's EDGE

One of the big problems that **O2** faces with its i-mode service is that it is yet again marketing another mobile phone format to customers who so far have had enough trouble getting their head round Wap and 3G. So I am kind of surprised by **Orange's** announcement today that it is to debut an **EDGE** service in the UK.



EDGE, or Enhanced Data for GSM Evolution to give its full moniker, is basically a hybrid between GPRS and 3G. It offers data download speed that are around three times faster than GPRS, but still less than half of those of 3G. So basically in areas where it hasn't got 3G coverage – 30 per cent of the population – users can still surf the web at reasonably fast speeds. Orange is also committed to EDGE internationally and at the last count has EDGE networks in France, Slovakia, Romania, Poland and Belgium (Mobistar). Fortunately for us confused punters Orange isn't going to market EDGE to its customers; rather the company insists it is just an added benefit for those on its GPRS and 3G tariffs.

So who is going to benefit. Well to start you'll need an EDGE phone. Ironically Orange's lead phone is the brand new Blackberry the 8700g. While it is a decent enough device it has very limited 64MB of non-upgradeable storage, so having the option of downloading lots of large files quickly isn't really much of a benefit to 8700g users. It will speed up web surfing, but as anyone who uses a BlackBerry knows the device has a really crap browser.

Orange is also launching a new Business Everywhere laptop data card later in the spring which includes EDGE compatibility as well as GPRS, 3G and Wi-Fi, and has a few other EDGE compatible handsets namely Nokia's 6280, 6630, 6680 and N70, and its own SPV M5000. So owners of these handset will benefit. The only real worry for Orange is the signal it sends out about 3G. The company insists it is 100% focused on 3G, and of course HSDPA, but nevertheless releasing a hybrid technology in areas where it doesn't have a 3G signal sends out mixed messages. The company insists that the only reason it has mentioned EDGE is because it has been upgrading old transmitters and the new ones, made oddly enough by Nokia, automatically have EDGE compatibility. We'll take them at their word for now.

Ashley Norris

Posted by Shiny Media on February 1, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Design your own Bluetooth



Fancy livening up your Bluetooth headeset? Well, the **Jabra BT160 Bluetooth headset** could be for you. The headset comes with 33 interchangeable design covers to suit your mood, some that even Bet Lynch would struggle to carry off.

The BT160, weighing just 16 grams and with support for Bluetooth 1.2, provides up to six hours of talk time and up to 110 hours of standby time. It also features a standard answer/end call button, voice activated dialling and volume control, both located on the headset.

But the big selling point here is design. Select one that matches your mood or style from the 33 included, including striking designs such as Zebra, Leopard, Ladybug, White Orchid, or Red Velvet. In addition, you can create your own design at www.jabra.com. I'd recommend one the colour of an ear.

The Jabra BT160 is available now for around £40.

Find out more

More Bluetooth:
Bluetooth with your music headphones
Saitek Audio Bluetooth headphones

Posted by modculture on February 1, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Tom Baker becomes voice of text



A **text message** – that's a short message, so named because it is a message of text. Not anymore; BT has introduced talking text to and from home phones and for the first three months, they'll be spoken by **Tom Baker**.

You can send a text from a mobile to a landline in the normal way – just enter the landline number as the destination instead. To send a text from a landline to another landline or to a mobile,

you need a text-enabled home phone, BT Caller Display and a compatible phone line.

If the recipient has got a text-enabled phone and has registered for BT Text, they will ordinarily receive texts in written format. If you want to surprise them with a Tom Baker text, you can force it to be delivered as speech instead by typing *tts# at the start of your message ('text to speech').

Find out more

More mobiles:
Mobile image sharing on the cheap
Live gigs on your mobile

Posted by modculture on January 31, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1)

Mobile image sharing on the cheap



It's all very well being able to take great photos with your ever more powerful camera on your mobile, but it can certainly sting financially if you send a snap to all your friends. Enter **ShoZu**, software that lets you take pictures and video on your phones and upload to photo and video sharing sites for free.

Download ShoZu from the website and you can send pictures to sites such as Flickr and Webshots - sharing the pictures you take rather than hiding them on your phone. Once your images are online, you can email them from these sites to anyone you like. Your network operator still bills you for charges incurred when uploading, but you pay to send one image that can be seen by many, rather than sending the image out to all your friends and being billed appropriately.

And it saves you the legwork of creating an online gallery.

Find out more

More mobiles:
Casino on your mobile
Feel the game with VibeTonz

Posted by modculture on January 30, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

The casino on your mobile



Fancy a trip to the casino, but don't have the dinner jacket ironed and ready? Well, now, if you're over 18, you can just switch on your phone with the launch of the **Wild Jack Mobile Casino**.

If you have a compatible Java mobile phone, you can take your pick from one of seven games via a secure gaming interface. The games featured in the mobile casino are Roulette, Blackjack, Video Poker, Fruit Fiesta, Double Magic Slot, Scratch Card and Treasure Niles - the world's largest mobile jackpot slot, with a minimum jackpot of £40,000,

It might not have the atmosphere of a real casino, but it'll cut down your cigar and Martini bill.

Find out more

More for your mobile:
O2 promises live mobile gigs
Orange offers VibeTonz games

Posted by modculture on January 26, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1)

O2 plans live gigs to your mobile



O2 has annouced a link-up with America Online, XM Satellite Radio and AEG, to provide O2 customers with **exclusive live video and audio mobile content** from acts such as Greenday, Bon Jovi as a taster for the mobile content it plans to transmit from the The O2 (formerly the Millennium Dome) when it opens in 2007.

O2 will create a Network Live as part of their O2 Active service. The site will include details of current music content available to stream plus information on upcoming live events.

The site has already been trialled when Madonna's album launch party for "Confessions On a Dance Floor" at the Koko Club in London was transmitted to O2 customers at the end of last year.

Find out more

More mobiles:
Orange launches a Snow-mobile
eBay joins O2's i-mode

Posted by modculture on January 25, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

VibeTonz hits the Samsung E770



We hinted at the arrival of VibeTonz last week - well now it's been officially unveiled in conjunction with **Orange** and Samsung, who are launching the **Samsung E770 phone** with **VibeTonz** compatability.

VibeTonz enables a mobile handset to produce 'vibro-tactile' sensations - so mobile gamers can experience the recoil of gunshots or the jolt of a punch, for example. To get you started, the Samsung E770 will include four games: Airship Racing from effusion, Bobby Carrot from effusion, Arch Angel from Wait4U, and Freekick Festival from Zio Interactive. More will be available via the Orange World service, with games companies such as Superscape, I-play, and Indiagames, all planning to release VibeTonz games in the near future.

And even if you're not a mobile gamer you can enjoy the feeling. The phone will also include 15 VibeTonz-enabled ringtones, which can be used for caller identification according to individual vibration.

Find out more

More mobiles:
Cavalli-styled LG U880
Ministry of Sound 3G mobile

Posted by modculture on January 25, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Super hip Cavalli-styled LG U880



Let's be honest, the right mobile is just as important for looking good as the shirt on your back or the shoes on your feet. So far, 3 has struggled to align itself with the beautiful people with any of its previous bulky 3G handsets - until now.



These **LG U880 handsets**, designed by trendy Italian fashion designer **Roberto Cavalli**, are now the fashionista's phone of choice. Just ask Victoria Beckham who apparently owns one of the hip handsets. On top of several cool points, the slimline LG U880, which weighs just 100g, also features a 1.3MP camera, Bluetooth, an MP3 player, the option of Dual Downloads and a 80Mb memory to store your favourite tunes on the move.

If you're a mere mortal, you can pick up a Cavalli phone in the near future from 3. Date and price yet to be confirmed.

Find out more



More 3:
3 offers Dual Downloads
3 launches mobile blogging

Posted by modculture on January 24, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

3 pays punters to receive voice calls and text messages



To be honest I am still getting my head around this one, but it appears that UK 3G network 3 is now going to start paying customers to receive voice calls and text messages. Of course they don't receive cash, but rather credit which allows them to make more voice calls, send messages or watch snippets of video.

It is all based around a new pay-as-you-go price service from 3 called '**WePay**'. Basically WePay customers receive 5p credit for every minute for calls and 2p per text message received. The credit is added to their account the next time they top up their card. For example, when a customer receives a five-minute call, they earn enough credit to send two texts, or send a picture message or watch the highlights from two episodes of Coronation Street.

Graeme Oxby, 3's Marketing Director, explains: "It pays to be popular. Anyone who regularly receives calls and texts could end up much better off by moving to 3. You pick up, we pay up; it's as simple as that. "The introduction of WePay means we've raised the bar on rewarding loyal PAYG customers and at the same time created a way for everyone to enjoy music and TV on their mobile."

The reward strategy might seem a little bonkers at first sight but there appears to be sound business logic to it. The pay-as-you-go market in the UK is very complex and many PAYG users have more than one handset and will use different phone sot make different calls at different times as the tariffs vary so much. 3 obviously hopes users bin their other handsets and focus on their network. It is clearly an interesting move. Let's just hope that 3 has got its sums right. The amount of texting that goes on round here could be enough to bankrupt the network.

How it works. A customer on WePay who receives 100 minutes of calls and 50 texts a month will earn £6.00 credit. He or she can claim their cash credit when they purchase a new WePay Top-up, and the credit can then be used to purchase any 3 services. WePay cash credits are valid for 30 days. As soon as a Top-up is purchased the 3 customer has 30 days to generate as many calls and texts as possible in order to earn maximum cash credits again.

Posted by Shiny Media on January 24, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1)

Locate your child with 'Find Me'



Services and mobiles that track your kids are becoming more prominent and more popular. The latest solution on the market is the **'Find Me'** service from **ChildLocate**.

If your child is lost or worried, he or she can text 'Find Me' to a central number when they feel they're in any danger. Within seconds parents receive an alerting text message followed by the location of their child. Once parents receive an alert, they can contact their child – or, if they are unable to establish contact, provide proof of where a child was when he or she last made contact.

The service is available as part of a ChildLocate subscription, which covers up to five mobiles and costs around £70 per year.

Find out more

More tracking:
Track your child with i-Kids
Sanyo's child-friendly mobile

Posted by modculture on January 23, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Ministry of Sound 3G mobile



I think there was a time in the nineties when the Ministry of Sound could have passed for "cool", but that was then and this is now. Don't tell that to Three though, they've teamed up with the clubbing giant to bring you the **MOS-1 3G mobile**.

The phone itself is a smart looking black clamshell handset with the Ministry of Sound logo and a Ministry of Sound key for fast access to music. It also features a high resolution colour display for video viewing and an independently rotating 1.3 Megapixel camera. In addition, you 'll get free stereo headphones, a couple of Ibiza club hits to watch and all the 3G features you'd expect.

You can pick up the MOS-1 via threePay.

Find out more

More mobiles:
Orange launch the snow-mobile
Are you ready for VibeTonz?

Posted by modculture on January 23, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1)

Orange launch the Snow-Mobile



In anticipation of the Orange sponsored British Ski and Snowboard Championships, held, strangely, in Switzerland, the mobile giant has launched an exclusive mobile package developed specifically for anyone on the piste.

Orange has teamed up with Samsung to create the **Snow-Mobile**. You get a Samsung X660 handset, a fairly basic but light tri-band phone with 4x zoom camera, a copy of the exclusive "Slide" magazine, plus access to the Snowsports section on Orange World. This includes live resort webcam views , guides to the best bars, detailed snow and slope information along with all the latest news. You can also download a snowboarding masterclass and play Snowjam 3D on your phone.

You can pick up the package for £89 on PAYG.

Find out more

More mobiles:
Is VibeTonz the next big thing?
Benq-Siemens unveils new range

Posted by modculture on January 20, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

eBay joins O2's i-mode service



We reported recently how you can now search for your dream home on your mobile phone via **O2's i-mode service**. Well now you can buy and sell the contents of your home, with **eBay** added to the ever-expanding service.

No more worrying about your bid on that Danish sideboard or the Sweeney board game - just get your O2 phone out to bid for goods in over 13,000 categories. The eBay service for i-mode has been designed specifically for the phone, with dedicated buttons to navigate

easily through the pages. You can even manage all your bids and purchases on My eBay - just as you would at home.

eBay is O2's 126th i-mode site, following the likes of Egg, Right Move, Interflora and Universal.

Find out more

More i-mode:
Right Move joins i-mode
O2's i-mode service launches in the UK

Posted by modculture on January 20, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Mobile TV trial promising for O2



The initial results of a user trial by Oxford Mobile of **multi-channel broadcast TV to mobile phones** have revealed a high level of consumer interest, with 83% of triallists satisfied with the service provided and 76% of triallists indicating that they would take up the service within 12 months.

The trial of 375 **O2** customers found, rather unsurprisingly that viewing peaked in the morning, midday and early evening - coinciding with the daily commute and lunch hours. Satisfaction levels were based on choice and quality of the 16 channels available, ease of use and picture quality.

The service is based on the new digital video broadcasting - handheld transmission technology and works by beaming a signal to a digital TV receiver, which is attached to Nokia's specially adapted 7710 smartphone, transforming it into a portable TV.

O2 expects to announce final results from the Oxford Mobile TV trial in the spring of 2006, when presumably the rest of us can give our opinion.

Vodafone and Sky do mobile TV
Sky by mobile

Posted by modculture on January 17, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Is VibeTonz the next big thing?



Coming to a mobile near you is **VibeTonz**, with the first VibeTonz-enabled phone from Samsung due to hit the market very soon. It could be be big - but what is it?

Well, VibeTonz is an embedded technology that enables a mobile handset to produce a huge range of 'vibro-tactile' sensations. Or in other words, you'll feel as well as hear. So, mobile gamers can experience the recoil of gunshots or the jolt of a punch, messaging could be personalised with vibration-based heartbeats and ringtones can give users the physical sensation of drum breaks and basslines.

All sounds interesting and possibly a little scary - more news about the technology and when you can get it very soon.

More mobiles:
The latest Benq-Siemens mobiles
Motorola RAZR in blue

Posted by modculture on January 17, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

BenQ-Siemens unveils new phones

The first fruits of BenQ's takeover of Siemens have been unveiled with the launch of three dual-branded **BenQ-Siemens** handsets in Berlin today.

The slim **EF81** with brushed metal finish and stainless steel keypad is a high-end handset with 2.2 inch QVGA display, 2 megapixel camera with 5x digital zoom plus MP3 and video player. The 64MB internal memory can be extended to as much as 1GB of storage capacity using Micro SD Cards. The



EF81 also features business applications including Microsoft Bluetooth® Remote Control and the usual selection of games.



The **S88** in titanium silver also features a 2 megapixel camera, but with 16x digital zoom and built in photo editing software, along with a high performance video camera that shoots in MPEG4 format – you'll probably have to extend that 16MB internal memory for that and the MP3 player, which comes with surround sound.



The slimline **S68** in brushed aluminium is a bit more basic – no camera or video here. What it does have is a large, 'transflexive' display, which allows the screen to be viewed easily in bright sunlight. It also features a voice recording feature, so you can dictate and send a short voice message via MMS, plus dual speaker system and 64-tone ringtones.

You can expect to see the phones on the high street sometime in the first quarter of 2006. For more information on these models visit Shiny Shiny.

Posted by modculture on January 17, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Moto RAZR in blue on sale



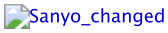
Pink RAZRs – well they are soooo 2005. Nope if you want the latest version of the slimmest phone in town you have to go blue. But then again...

Even its cool colour can't disguise the fact that in terms of features the blue **RAZR** is pretty old hat. The camera is just VGA standard, the handset is GPRS and not 3G and if you want smartphone style facilites you'll have to look elsehwere. Anyhow it is on sale now. You'd probably be better off with this though.

More RAZRs
RAZR review
The D&G RAZR

Posted by Shiny Media on January 13, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Sanyo's child-friendly mobile



We told you previously about the mobile phone that can track your child. Now **Sanyo** has introduced the toy-like **A5520SA** in Japan, which features a loud buzzer to call for help along with GPS tracking.

The buzzer is activated by a long press of a button. And by all accounts it is loud – very loud! . This will also trigger an alert to a nominated phone. This person can then locate the distressed child through the subscription GPS service.

These phones are sure to catch on, but as yet, there's no word of Sanyo releasing it in the UK.

Via Slashphone

More mobiles:
Netgear's Skype phone
Nokia's latest Bluetooth headsets

Posted by modculture on January 13, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

CES 2006: Netgear launches Skype Phone


Netgearskypeph

Skype and VoIP in general have been big themes this year and there's a lot of 'Skype Phones' kicking about. Technically I suppose this offering from **Netgear**, purveyor of a huge amount of networking products, has a little more right to that title than most others given that it is not dependent on a PC to work and is in fact a stand-alone phone. All you need to use it is a wireless internet connection and a Skype account, then you enter your details into your handset and make free calls. It also looks pretty smart although you would probably get it confused with your mobile pretty quickly. All **SkypeOut** functionality works fine too. No word on pricing or availability just yet.

Read

More VoIP at CES
Skype partners up for new products
The coolest VoIP gadget of the show

Posted by Shiny Media on January 7, 2006 in CES 2006 | Mobile phones | Wi-Fi
Permalink | Comments (0)

CES 2006: Hands on with Samsung's HSDPA mobile


Samsung_zx20_2

Potentially the most interesting exhibit in the whole of CES, from a UK perspective at least, is the **HSDPA** (High Speed Downlink Data Packet Access) **mobile phone** from **Samsung**. The **SGH-ZX20** is a clamshell mobile that will be able to take advantage of the much faster data speeds (up to 3.6Mbps compared to 384kbps of 3G) of the new format. If you want to discover who will be first with the format in the UK check here.

As for the phone the interesting part is that Samsung told us today that the phone is not for the US market, it is being lined up for Europe. Also that its first customer might not be Vodafone as has previously been reported, but that Orange could launch the phone first. Whether Orange has a more developed HSDPA network than Vodafone in the UK is a moot point, but it has certainly made more noise about the new format than its rival.

CES also marked the first time anyone had demonstrated a HSDPA phone running at speeds of 3.6Mbps. As for what consumers do with all that extra speed, well the phone can obviously link up with a laptop to act as a very, very fast modem. It will also enable really good quality video streaming – the clips we saw looked amazing, very steady and devoid of all the usual nasties like blurring that dog 3G video.

Apart from the HSDPA feature though the phone is a little disappointing. Sure it looks great – a very tidy clamshell, and yes it is very thin, but its line up of features is a little bit 2005. On the plus side it has great quality screen and very large buttons. However it runs using a propeitary operating system and has limited smartphone style applications. Worst of all it has a 1.3 mega pixel snapper, which seems poor show from the company that has a seven mega pixel camera phone on its books. Lastly it only has 256MB of internal storage, and again this from a company that has a phone with a three Gigabyte hard disk.

The Samsung rep also told us that the phone could come in several different guises, and there may even be different model numbers. This is because the chips sets required to reach the various HSDPA speeds (the first batch will be 1.8Mbps with later models reaching 3.6Mbps) are different. Samsung does have a habit of parading products at exhibitions only for them to be quietly forgotten about as the year progresses. Nevertheless if it sticks to its promise of launching this handset in Europe this year – network willing of course – it will have achieved a real European first. That is of course HTC doesn't get there first.

Posted by Shiny Media on January 7, 2006 in CES 2006 | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

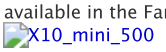
CES 2006: Cool speaker system/recharger for smartphones

So you're a manufacturer and you've churned out speaker system/rechargers for the iPod and the PSP, where do you go next? Well it has to be the music phone. Among the companies quick off the mark in this area are **Qool** which



has unveiled a pair of **Xensaxion** series devices that combine speakers with recharging facilities.

They aren't just good for mobiles though. The pair of systems can also be connected to any sound source via a mini jack audio input. The downside though is that the speakers system are limited to certain types of mobiles, in this instance Windows Mobile handset like the various versions of the XDA and MDA and Orange's SPV series. Both systems are available in the Far East but there are no detail yet on a UK or even a US launch. Particularly impressive is the **Xensaxion** X10 which not only looks great but should really help to turn your music phone into a serious bit of hi-fi. More details on Qool's innovative products can be found here.



Posted by Shiny Media on January 5, 2006 in CES 2006 | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

CES 2006: Parrot's car stereo with Bluetooth



Hybrid gadgets are all the rage - so **Parrot's Rhythm n' Blue**, the world's first car stereo with hands-free calling for Bluetooth-enabled phones should come as no surprise.

The Rhythm n' Blue is a top-end AM/FM/CD/MP3 stereo receiver with a powerful a powerful 4 x 45 watt internal amplifier that works in conjunction with most Bluetooth mobile phones on the market, allowing the driver to make calls, take calls and access a mobile address book hands-free via Parrot's voice-recognition technology. When a call comes in, a quick glance at your receiver shows Caller ID, your music source is automatically muted and the phone audio is routed through the vehicle's speakers - all with no hands.

Other features include a detachable faceplate for security, an integrated telephone keypad and address book and synchronisation with a mobile to access contact details.

The Rhythm n' Blue made its debut at this year's **CES**. No price or date for the UK market is currently available.

Posted by modculture on January 5, 2006 in CES 2006 | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (2)

CES 2006: Nokia's trio of Bluetooth headsets



Nokia has released details of three new Bluetooth headsets at the **CES**.

The tiny **BH-800** has a minimalist design and is available in two colors - coffee black and silver white, with optional ear loop and offering up to 6 hours of talk time. it is Nokia's first Bluetooth 2.0 EDR spec headset. It should sell for around 115 Euro, excluding VAT.

The new **BH-900** headset is a larger device, with up to 8 hours of talk time, and an ear hook that can be configured for both right and left ear use. it also has a noise and echo reduction system. The selling price will probably be 85 Euros, excluding VAT.

Finally, the **BH-200** is an entry-level device. Weighing in at 14g, it offers up to five and a half hours of talk time and should sell for a competitive 45 Euros, excluding VAT.

Posted by modculture on January 5, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

CES 2006: The coolest VoIP gadget of the show



eBay may have shelled out a an awful lot of money for **Skype**, but if CES is anything to go by it was cash very well invested. VoIP is everywhere, and **Skype** is making deals with everyone. One really cool new gadget which may helps to edge VoIP even closer to the mainstream is the **VoSKY Call Center** from **Actiontec**. Its big advantage over traditional Skype systems is that you don't have to be anywhere near a PC to use it. In fact you can use it to make free Skype calls remotely from any phone even your mobile.

The system revolves around a small device the Call Center which you connect to your PC and your phone jack. You can then use any phone anywhere (you don't need Wi-Fi) to access the Call Center and make free Skype calls. It also has a facility that will forward Skype calls to any number so in theory you could receive Skype calls on your mobile. It sounds like a real innovation to us and we are further cheered by a cheapo price of just $69.95. Given that Actiontec has a reasonable presence in the UK here's hoping we get it soon.

Posted by Shiny Media on January 5, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1)

CES 2006: 802.11g Wi-Fi phone



Wi-fi is a pretty standard features on smartphones these days, but the **HyFi-110G** from WNC has a couple of key advantages over its rivals. Firstly the clamshell design handset is pretty small for a Wi-Fi endowed phone - think Sharp/Toshiba style mobiles. Secondly it is the first mobile we are aware of to feature the faster version of Wi-Fi 802.11g. This makes it particularly nifty for video streaming or transferring files over a home network. It could also find a niche in streaming IPTV (TV via the web). The phone, which is due in the first half of 2006, also features email, voice recording and a USB charger. Talk time is three hours while the battery lasts 70 hours on standby.

Posted by Shiny Media on January 4, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

CES 2006: Motorola's tiny Bluetooth headset



The PR on the **Motorola** stand has been making jokes about how the company is working on Bluetooth ear-rings. Well they may be some way off, but Moto has just delivered a contender for the tiniest Bluetooth headset so far. The **H5 Minblue** really is minute. It sits in your ear and is so discreet that it is unlikely that people will realise you are wearing it. The downside is that even our ear-ring obsessed PR couldn't keep it in her ears and it kept popping out. Nevertheless it certainly looks the part. Available in the UK in the spring.

Posted by Shiny Media on January 4, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

CES 2006: Sony Ericsson's new Walkman phone

Engadget is reporting that the **Sony Ercisson** mystery **Walkman phone** is none other than the **W810i** which has been all over the web for a while. It is a slightly souped up version of the W800 with quad band support and a dedicated music button.

Also on board is a 512MB Memory Stick storage card, a two mega pixel snapper and 1.9-inch 176 x 220 pixel screen. It is due in March. It looks like a decent enough phone, but here's hoping we get something more exciting later today.

Update** Doh. The W810i is the only Sony Ericsson story in town. Maybe they'll have something really exciting for 3GSM in February.

Posted by Shiny Media on January 4, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)



CES 2006: Samsung's HSDPA phone



No sooner had we finished writing the previous Samsung post when up pops the first pic and the details of Korean company's HSDPA handset. It is called the zx20, will be available in the second half of the year and has loads of features including Bluetooth 2.0, a 1.3 megapixel camera, a MicroSD slot, and a 262k colour display. Must admit I thought that the first HSDPA would be a top-end smartphone with big screens - maybe they'll follow later. Pic from Engadget

Posted by Shiny Media on January 4, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

CES 2006: Better mobile phone reception in your home



If you have rubbish mobile phone coverage in your home - and let's face it anyone with a 3G mobi will know all about wavering signal strength bars on their handset - help is at hand. New company Spotwave has developed a system called the **Zen** that apparently works intelligently to ensure you get crystal clear reception throughout your home.

It consist of two units, one sited where the signal is strongest in the home usually on an inside wall. The other unit is then placed where the signal is at its weakest. All in all Spotwave claims to ensure that even in home with weak signals the user will get reception quality of five bars. The first unit, which gone on sale in the US inthe summer for $400 is designed specifically for GSM phones, but the company says it hopes to have a dedicated 3G model available for Europe in the second half of 2006.

Posted by Shiny Media on January 4, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1)

CES 2006: Samsung's HSDPA mobile

At last year's CES by far the most impressive stand belonged to **Samsung** who delivered a huge array of innovative and exciting gadgets. It looks like it'll be the same again this year and one of the devices we are most looking forward to seeing is the **first ever phone** with on board **HSDPA**.

If you are up to speed with your telecoms acronyms you'll know that HSDPA or (High Speed Downlink Packet Access) is a variant of 3G which offers data download speeds way beyond the 384Kbps we have in the UK at the moment. Several companies are trialling HSDPA, but they have been using HSDPA cards for laptops. At CES Samsung will deliver the first HSDPA phone which it is apparently earmarked for Vodafone. It'll offer download speeds of 1.6Mbps which should be more than enough for instant music downloading and quality video streaming. Ironically given that the US is normally pretty slow at new telecoms innovations, the first HSDPA system in the world was launched by Cingular last month. Americans can surf the web at speeds of up to 700Kbps via a HSDPA laptop card. More here.

Posted by Shiny Media on January 4, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

CES 2006: Motorola ROKR phone take two



So **Motorola** is back with another new **ROKR** music phone – the **ROKR E2** and the big story is not the features it has but what it is missing. For unlike the ROKR E1 there's no on iTunes compatibility. Instead the phone has its own music playing software.

So is it an improvement on the E1? Well it won't win any style awards and its storage is limited to smart cards – SD in this instance. It does however sport a 3.5mm earphone jack (the E1 came with an adapter) so you can pair it up with any set of phones you want. It also boasts A2DP Bluetooth compatibility so it can be used with wireless earphones like these. Moto has also added some new music control buttons, improved the camera – it takes 1.3 mega pixel images now rather than the VGA ones the E1 took – and has an excellent two inch, 320 x 240 pixel LCD display. It is expected to land in the UK in the early summer.

Posted by Shiny Media on January 4, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

CES 2006: Motorola's O ROKR music shades



Remember the Motorola Oakley Razrwire Bluetooth sunglasses? Well the two companies have teamed up again to offer an enhanced version of the Razrwire called the **O ROKR**. The basics are the same in that the system features a Bluetooth adaptor that clips on to the Oakley shades that then connects wirelessly via Bluetooth to a mobile phone.

The key difference with the O ROKR is that as well as enabling the user to make voice calls they can also listen to music from their mobile in stereo. The only downers are that the phone must support the A2DP version of Bluetooth – which kind of limits it as there are only handful of these mobiles available. Also battery life isn't great at just six hours. The design of the shades is also different from the Razrwire too. The O ROKR is expected in the first half of 2006 and will retail for around £200.

Posted by Shiny Media on January 4, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1)

CES 2006: New Sony Ericsson Walkman phone tomorrow

Big day for Sony tomorrow with a huge press conference scheduled for late afternoon ie when most sane Brits will be in bed. Anyhow we have had a tip off that there will be some new Sony Ericsson mobiles including a new Walkman phone. Our source claims it is the most exciting Walkman handset so far. Does that mean an integrated hard disk? iTunes compatibilty? Unlikely. Wireless stereo headphones is our best guess. We'll find out soon enough.

Posted by Shiny Media on January 4, 2006 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Best of 2005: Samsung SGH-i300

The first hard disk phone to hit Europe is a goodie. The Samsung SGH-i300 is not too big, performs the basics well, features a 1.3 mega pixel camera and has tons of room (well three Gigabytes to be precise) for your music. Shame Samsung didn't add a standard USB connector though or bundle it with some decent earphones.

Posted by Shiny Media on December 28, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)



Best of 2005: Rok



ROK is building for its US launch at CES next week. So far it has a great track record in its home UK market by being first with TV programmes/movies on memory cards for mobiles and handhelds and rolling out a TV services for GPRS phones. A company to watch.

Posted by Shiny Media on December 28, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Best of 2005: Nokia N70



The top-end camera phone the N90 and hard disk music playing N91 might have grabbed the headlines, but as innovative as they are both phones are a little too chunky for our tastes. **Nokia** did however get it spot on with the N70, a classic chocolate bar style handset complete with 3G facilities.

It has plenty of excellent features including a two mega pixel camera, solid web browser etc and images from Sky and Voda's TV service looks great on its fabulous screen. It is available on pretty much every 3G network too. If you don't fancy the Sharp 903 this is the phone to buy.

Posted by Shiny Media on December 27, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Best of 2005: Sharp Vodafone 903

In our books the **Sharp/Voda 903** is phone of the year mainly for its superb three mega pixel camera which takes images that really are something special. It could do with a decent web browser though. It'll be interesting to see if we get a version with a five mega pixel snapper this year.



Posted by Shiny Media on December 27, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Best of 2005: Spinvox



Over the next few days we are going to highlight a few gadgets, apps and websites that we rate as the very best of 2005. We kick off with possibly the coolest mobile phone app of the year – **Spinvox**

Why is it so cool? Well listening to your mobile phone messages is oh so dull. Fortunately Spinvox delivered a way of having all your voice messages transcribed and sent to you as text messages. Very clever and yes it does text your swear words too.

Posted by Shiny Media on December 27, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Gorillaz Christmas message to your mobile



If the Queen's thoughts at Christmas don't set your pulse racing, maybe a **message from Gorillaz' bass player Murdoc** is more up your street. Mobile company 3 is offering its customers this unique take on 2005 absolutely free.

Without giving too much away, the speech covers a range of subjects that are unlikely to be on the agenda for the traditional version. Donning a crown and perched on a throne, Murdoc rants and raves about the political, social and artistic highs and lows of the past year. From the ascent of James Blunt to the demise of the Routemaster bus, Murdoc weaves the landmark events of 2005 into his own "state of the nation" address. Predictions for the year to come include an imminent apocalypse and the advent of the age of giant mental human mouse!

The 3 minute speech will be available to download free on 3 from Christmas morning until the end of the year. To access the speech, click the Planet 3 button on your handset and then click on the Gorillaz icon on "Today on 3".

More from 3:
3 does mobile blogging
3 gets the 3G Motorola RAZR

Posted by modculture on December 22, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

More Hello Kitty kit

Over at our sister site, Shiny Shiny, yet more Hello Kitty technology has been unearthed – this time, the slider Hello Kitty phone.

The OKWAP A236 mobile isn't actually being launched in the US or UK, but that's not stopped some shrewd entrepreneurs from picking a few up to sell on outside Japan. The handset not only comes with a rather tasty HK carry case, but has handwriting recognition and a stylus pen.

Excited? you can get the full story over at Shiny Shiny.



Posted by modculture on December 21, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

House hunt on your mobile



Looking for a new house? Finding your perfect property could be as as easy as switching on your mobile phone. If you have an **O2 handset with i-mode**, you can now access all of the properties currently for sale with **Rightmove.co.uk**. That's a whopping 660,000 places to rent or buy both in the UK and overseas.

It's not a static list either. You can get notifications of the latest houses on the market in with full colour photographs, plus instant access to the estate agent, so you can arrange a viewing of that dream home in seconds.

For more information on i-Mode visit http://flash.o2.co.uk/imode/index.html

More i-mode:
Europe's first 3G i-mode phone
O2's i-mode service launches

Posted by modculture on December 21, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

The law catches up with the Crazy Frog



The legal system has finally caught up with the **Crazy Frog**. No, it isn't for crimes against music or decency, but for misleading advertising and a lack of clarity when it came to the cost of downloading the little fella.

Telecoms regulator ICSTIS hit service provider mBlox with an official reprimand and a £40,000 fine. And that's bad news for content provider Jamba. Due to a contractual arrangement between the two companies, the fine will be passed onto Jamba.

Read the full story at Mobile Marketing.

More Crazy Frog:
Crazy Frog on the PS2
Kids to spend over four grand on ringtones

Posted by modculture on December 21, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

The waterproof mobile

I'm no Man From Atlantis, so being waterproof isn't high on my list of requirements when upgrading my mobile. Still, many people do work and spend time by our rivers and sea - and if that's you, it might be worth checking out the **LG canU 502S mobile phone**.

The shell has rubber-sealed seams and all jacks can also be sealed. The phone also features a 1.3 megapixel camera and a 2.2 inch LCD screen.

Just one problem - how do you actually hear a call underwater?

Via Engadget



More mobiles
Samsung i300 hits the shops
Self-destructing SMS

Posted by modculture on December 15, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1)

Interactive football phone in



It's funny how all the best footie shows are on either when you're at the match or on the way down to the ground. Wouldn't it be better if they were on in the week – or you could get them on your mobile?

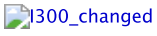
O2 and Buongiorno are offering just that for 3G mobile owners with an O2 contract. Their new four minute weekly show, **Soccer Addicts**, is hosted by ex-Prem hardman turned minor celeb Neil Ruddock and incorporates studio footage and interviews with a bit of real fan interaction. Send in your angry post-match rants and you can appear on the show next to your heroes. Fame at your fingertips!

The first Soccer Addicts show will be goes out live on 19th December 2005 and is available to download or stream to mobile phones for the entire week, with a new show going live every following Monday. Visit www.o2.co.uk for more information.

More 3G
Nokia's business style 3G phone
3 gets the Motorola 3G RAZR

Posted by modculture on December 15, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

The Samsung i300 hits the shops



We told you the first mobile with hard drive was imminent and now it's here – the **Samsung i300 wth 3GB hard drive** is available on the O2 network, combining a phone, digital camera, music player and mobile communication in one rather neat little package.

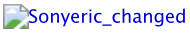
Music software of choice is Microsoft Windows Media Player 10, which should be familiar to most. Mobile communication is handled by Windows Mobile, allowing easy communication via MSN Messenger, SMS and MMS or through email via Outlook. The i300 is also "plug and play" – so sharing information between phone and computer is a doddle. You can even use the i300's hard drive to back up critical data on your PC.

Add to that a 1.3 mega pixel camera with both still and video recording capabilities and high-quality dual stereo speakers with Bluetooth capability and you have the most integrated mobile device yet to hit the market. The Samsung i300 is available at O2 now. We're just hoping it's taken up by the other networks very soon.

More mobiles
UK tops the download league
Track your kids by mobile

Posted by Shiny Media on December 15, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

UK tops the download league



Who need a World Cup win? Why worry about success in the Eurovision? We're best at something far more prestigious – downloading.

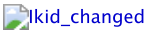
People in the UK **download more music than other Europeans**, spending around 75p per month on average. According to the survey undertaken by **Motorola**, this is three times more than downloaders in Germany, Italy or France. A quarter of the 1,000 Britons questioned owned a digital music player – that's the second highest ownership of the European states surveyed, behind Spain. Oh well, we can't come top at everything.

The research also found that the UK also had the highest percentage of people aged over 50 using digital players – a rather respectable 21 per cent. So you know what to buy granny this Christmas. And as our sister site Shiny Shiny will tell you, there's no longer a digital divide between men and women, with an equal number of each sex feeling comfortable when using a mobile phone, digital TV, 3G or mobile email. Time to re-think the phrase "boys toys" then?

More downloading
Downloads get Real
Sony Ericsson W800i Walkman phone reviewed

Posted by Shiny Media on December 14, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Track your kids by mobile phone



Back in the day, most kids played out on the street. But if recent research is to be believed, nearly a third of children now miss out on playing outside because of parental fears for safety. If you worry everytime your child leaves the house, mTrack has launched the **i-Kids phone**, which can pinpoint a child's location to within 20 metres via phone or net.

The phone, which is endorsed by children's charity Kidscape, has limited call capabilities and just four numbered buttons – three can be allocated to the phone by the parent together with a additional button that the child can use to get help at any time from all the stored numbers. Once subscribed to the service, parents can track their child in three ways – free through a map online or on a mobile which tracks the child every 10 minutes, instant tracking via a 'ping' (costing 50p per 'ping') or through a safety zone alert, which notifies parents via sms if their child has strayed from their specified area (50p per text).

To get the service you first need to sign up to i-Kids. The price is £49.95 for the handset (which comes in a range of colours), plus a monthly cost of £11 for a 1 year contract (or £5.23 for 2 years). You get 10 free location requests to start you off, after which they'll revert to 50p each. Find out more at www.i-kids.net/uk.

More child safety
Tracking with KidsOk
Anti-bullying mobile

Posted by Shiny Media on December 14, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (2)

Fancy a three grand mobile phone?

Fancy going one better than your mates? You'll go around 100 better if you pick up this new limited edition **D&G Moto RAZR V3i mobile phone**.

Bayraider has spotted this beauty on eBay – and what's better – you don't even need to bid. Just stump up the "Buy it now" price of $2999.99 and it's yours.

If you can't contain yourself with excitement or that early Christmas bonus is burning a hole in your pocket, you can find out more about the phone and



the auction at Bayraider.tv.

Posted by Shiny Media on December 13, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Predictive texting for ubersexuals



You'd think that working your way through the school system, your head would be full of enough words to see you through the rest of your life. Think again – new words keep appearing – and if you're not aware of a vlog (video blog) or a Puggle (a Pug/Beagle cross breed), you need the latest **T9 predictive text dictionary**.

Just imagine how much wear and tear you'll save on your fingers if your mobile recognised words such as ASBO, Europop, smlirt (flirting in the smoking room if you didn't know), ubersexual or podcast.

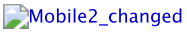
T9 is available for the majority of phones offering speedy predictive texting, and with more than 34,000 words now in the English language T9 dictionary, you'll never be lost for words.

Find out more at visit http://www.t9.com. And if you find predictive text a chore, fine tune your fingers at http://www.textfast.T9.com.

More on mobiles
Samsung's hand warming mobile
Shiny's mobile of the year

Posted by Shiny Media on December 12, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Self-destructing SMS



Most of the time our text messages are nothing more than idle gossip, sent in a moment of boredom in a café or at a bus stop.

But what happens when you send a personal or work-related text. Can you be sure it will only be read by the intended recipient? If you don't want the stress of a trail of damaging SMS, you could try StealthText.

When a message is sent, the recipient receives a text notification showing the sender's name and providing a link to the message. Once opened, the message disappears after a short period of time – enough time for that person alone to read it.

With the memory of Rebecca Loos still strong, celebrity agents are already queuing up for this text killer, along with a number of businesses and government departments. If you want your texts to remain private, StealthText is launched in the UK in early 2006 at a cost of 50p per text.

Find out more at www.stealthtext.net.

Posted by Shiny Media on December 12, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

3's Pupillo surveillance camera

While you are out of the home your living room is a real hive of activity. Clocks tick, your DVD player's LED display flickers, spiders crawl across the floor and the toys stashed away in your cupboard stage their own mini Olympics on your rug. Well if you are a **3** customer you can now capture



teddy versus Roboraptor in the all age pole vault as the network has unveiled the **Pupillo**, a surveillance camera for your home. Basically it lets you make video calls so you get to see exactly what is happening in your room. As it is battery powered you can site it anywhere too and it is Night Vision equipped as well so you can capture images in the dark. Yours for £150

More spy stuff
Camcorder clock

Posted by Shiny Media on December 9, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (5)

Motorola and D&G;'s RAZR



So is the **Motorola RAZR** the 'Chav mobile du jour' or the coolest phone around? Well the jury is still out round here, but even those who are itching for the Burberry RAZR (for comedy reasons rather than aesthetic ones) quite like the look of the new model **Motorola** has cooked up with **Dolce & Gabbana**.

Limited to just 1000 models it's a version of the **RAZR V3i** (the one with the decent spec 1.23 mega pixel camera etc) that has a distinctive liquid gold finish which makes it look just about the right side of bling to us. Less memorably it also boasts a personalised background with screensaver, a tailored sound for power up and down, an exclusive polyphonic ring tone and, for those idle moments when you are waiting for your chauffeur to show, you can view a video clip illustrating 20 years of Dolce & Gabbana brand history. No news on pricing yet (you pre-order it via D&G stores), but we have already pawned a few family members to secure the deposit.

More RAZR-ing

RAZR review
iTunes RAZR phone
RAZR V3i details

Posted by Shiny Media on December 9, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Dead wood media day 2: The Phone Book



Over the last few days we haven't been able to go anywhere, not even to the bathroom, without taking **Henrietta Thompson's** fabulous new tome The Phone Book with us. Billed as a handy guide to the world's favourite invention it is in fact soft porn for mobile phone junkies with pics and descriptions of all those mobiles you loved and lost (invariably on the 73 bus) yet wished you still had.

It'll take you back to the days when phones weighed more than briefcases and indeed you needed to carry round a briefcase of notes to actually pay the tariff. The brilliantly researched book also picks up on lots of really cool far eastern handsets, fast forwards into the future and predicts the rise of the phone as the uber-gagdet and has some interesting case studies on recent handsets like the ~~Chav's~~ nation's fave the Motorola RAZR. If you enjoyed Gordon Laing's amazing Digital Retro and you love your mobi this has to be top of your Xmas shopping list.

Posted by Shiny Media on December 8, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Bark home

So Fido is getting a little too frisky with the bitches in another postcode and is missing out on his din-dins. So what do you do? Well last year a US


Petcell_petsmobility_dog_phone

company called Pet Mobility came up with the genius idea of a GPS collar for dogs, so you could see on your PC exactly where the mutt had wandered.

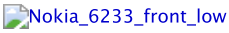
In March the same company will go one better and debut the first mobile phone for our canine chums. The PetCell is a bone shaped device that hangs off the hound's collar. It has its own number and after dialling the owner can speak to their dog via its two way speakers. The dog can of course bark back too.

The PetCell also has an option called GeoFence that will alert owners whenever their dog wanders beyond preset parameters, and built-in temperature sensors to indicate if the dog is too hot or cold. Owners can even attach a camera to the collar and get a wireless feed of exactly what their dog is looking at. Given that this is often like to be the rear end of another hound it is perhaps not too enticing a prospect. It'll sell for around $400 in the US, though there's no news yet on a European launch.

More dog gadgets
Doggie doorbell
GPS for dogs

Posted by Shiny Media on December 7, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Nokia's 'business style' 3G phone


Nokia_6233_front_low

What with all the excitement of our awards last week we were busy nursing hangovers when we should have been delivering the scoop on **Nokia's** new 3G business phone the **6233.** Due to launch in spring 2006 the 6233 (Voda subscribers get their own version in the guise of the 6234) is a light choccy bar style handset complete with a two mega pixel snapper, 320 x 240 QVGA colour screen, digital music player and stereo speakers.

It has one of those stainless steel finishes that Nokia does so well and is obviously compatible the usual slew of 3G video downloads and streaming options, though funnily enough not person to person video calling (is there anyone still doing this anyhow?)

Although Nokia apparently has the business market in mind, the phone is clearly aimed more at those who aren't too concerned about fancy frills as it runs Nokia Series 40 interface rather than Nokia's smartphone Series 60 front end.

Nokia-ing
Nokia's TV to go phone
Nokia's iPod rival

Posted by Shiny Media on December 5, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Orange's latest SPV arrives


C600_1

The **SPV**s have always been popular around the Tech Digest office as they are among the most compact smartphones to use **Windows Mobile** and actually make for surprisingly manageable web browsing. The latest, the SPV **C600**, is a very similar candy-bar style to its predecessors now with a 320 x 240 colour screen, as well as a 1.3 megapixel camera and 64mb internal memory. Not following the C550, it has opted away form music playback button and returns to a style more similar to the C500 but this time imbued with the latest Windows Mobile 5.0 operating system. This means that applications load up a lot quicker and has a generally more handset friendly interface. Also improved over the C500 is the new joystick control system that has proved itself to be a much needed addition.

More smartphones
HP's hw6500 PDA/smartphone

MS Peabody smartphone

The Orange SPV C600 has pretty much ticked all the boxes; but there's no escaping the fact that it's hard to make such a small unit very easily useable with internet browsing, emailing and so on. Plus the connectivity options seem a little limited and more worryingly there is no mention of removable storage; but it still remains one of the most compact smartphones out there. The SPV C600 has landed in the UK now and is available from free on phone contracts.

Posted by Shiny Media on November 30, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Jabra JX10 Bluetooth headset



Even though **Jabra** has been striving to turn Bluetooth headsets into fashion accessories for some time now, I can't say I particularly agree with its description as "the ultimate in headset design and beauty". But whether you think it's possible for any earpiece to even be truly stylish or not, you have to give the **JX10** credit for being very compact and discreet. It is only 4cm long and won't be much of a burden on your ear, weighing in at 10g. Audio quality is enhanced by using Digital Signal Processing (DSP) and the battery life is an impressive 6 hours talk time or 200 hours standby. Needless to say that kind of combination of quality features is going to cost you; the JX10 costs a weight £99 and is now available in the UK.

More headsets
Motorola's Skype headset
Jabra's latest Bluetooth headset

Posted by Shiny Media on November 29, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

N-Gage slips away



Nokia has announced that it is planning to withdraw from the mobile gaming scene for a couple of years and that the N-Gage itself will be receiving no new incarnations. I'm left with mixed feelings about this development; though nothing brought more joy to my day than being able to fire a few vengeful insults at the hybrid device, its passing leaves me with little to vent my spleen on. It was high time that Nokia gave up on the mobile gaming charade as sales of the **N-Gage** and its successor, the N-Gage QD, only reached a third of the sales forecasts which must have been quite a shock to Nokia after it managed an admirable feat of marketing and hype building prior to the phone's 2003 launch. This failure was largely due to phone's laughable design flaws and though they were mostly corrected in the QD version, by then it was too little too late. If you still have an unnatural desire to own one Nokia is still planning to keep on producing the N-Gage in limited numbers for foreign markets.

via Gizmodo

Posted by Shiny Media on November 28, 2005 in Gaming | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Coronation Street on your mobile

ITV has signed a deal with UK phone company **3** that will let you watch Corrie on your mobile phone handset. Highlights from Coronation Street and Emmerdale are both promised for next year as are one-off specials. 3G handset owners can already watch I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out of Here highlights on their mobile before they are shown on terrestrial TV.

More Corrie stuff at our newest blog here.

Posted by Shiny Media on November 25, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Samsung launches gaming phone

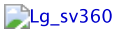


I'm sure this was supposed to be called the GPANG way back when we first caught wind of it. Anyway, given the success of the Nintendo DS and Sony PSP, mobile phone companies are beginning to realise that portable gaming ought to be on a bit more of their turf. That said, Nokia already tried the idea once with the N-Gage and that proved exactly what handheld gaming was not about.

Mercifully **Samsung** has thought up its own take on a mobile/console and come up with the **SPH-G1000**, which really isn't as cool as 'GPANG' sounded. It has sensibly tackled the problem of being a phone first and worked on the console aspect second. The quality of games remains to be seen, but it is noted that Samsung's offering isn't trying to step on the big boys toes. At the moment its main competitor is the LG SV360 (pic on the turn), which seems to have to taken the N-Gage path. Oops. The Samsung SPH-G1000 is only available in Korea at the moment but if we root for it enough, it may eventually make it to these shores. I think they can keep the LG though.

via MobileMag

More gaming phones
Gaming Phone that may even work
Nokia's N-Gage price cuts



Posted by Shiny Media on November 25, 2005 in Gaming | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Vodafone V1240 - its mystery phone

Among the long list of phones that are or will be compatible with Vodafone's push email service is one handset that's a complete mystery to us and our friends at Google search. Apparently coming soon is the **Vodafone V1240**. We know it runs Windows Mobile 5.0 and is almost certainly manufactured by HTC in Taiwan, but beyond that we know nowt. Perhaps it means that after taking all HTC's PDA style devices it is now taking a Windows based smartphone. Maybe it is the Voda equivalent of the Orange SPV 600. We'll find out more lately today.

Posted by Shiny Media on November 25, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1)

Vodafone first network to offer its own push email solution



In what is very likely to be the start of a trend **Vodafone** has become the first phone network to offers its customers a push email solution. Starting from next month small business subscribers to its network, along with smartphone crazed consumers, will be pushed those all important messages in real time courtesy of a system from **Visto.**

Interestingly the service offers push email on a wide range of handset including both **Symbian** as well as **Windows Mobile** handsets. The full list includes the Sony Ericsson P900i, Nokia 9300, Nokia 6680, Vodafone V1620, Vodafone VPA Compact, HP hw 6510 and Motorola MPx 220. Vodafone is making it fairly cheap for consumers too with the tariff running at £12.77 per month for the service or less if a user spends more than £34 per month on voice calls. Voda is also souping up its **BlackBerry** option to enables its users to access **BlackBerry2** facilities which include attachment viewing and secure encryption on a broader range of handsets. The network also has a Windows Mobile based push email service which debuts in 2006.

Just in case your IT department is worried about all that vital info being carried around on handsets Vodafone is also ramping up its smart devices support so that now it has a lock and/or wipe facility for lost or stolen

phones. Vodafone will also be able to remotely configure, interrogate, diagnose and mange devices connected to its network.

Posted by Shiny Media on November 25, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Vodafone and United - it's over



Last week it was Roy Keane, this week it is **Vodafone** who have done the dirty on Manchester United. The once mighty English football club, which is now battling for its Champions league survival, is to lose its shirt sponsors at the end of this current season with two years left on its contract.

Voda is apparently shifting its sponsorship to the Champions League and it plans to offer video highlights and goals from the premier European club competition to its 3G customers across the world. When the Voda/United deal was first inked back in 2000, Vodafone execs talked excitedly about offering video content from the club to its legions of fans. So it is kind of ironic that it has pulled the plug less than a year after finally making the footage available to its mobile customers.

Whether Vodafone is responding in any way to fans' pleas - United supporters had urged Vodafone at its annual investors' meeting in July to end the sponsorship deal as a way of protesting about American tycoon Malcolm Glazer's 790 million pound takeover - is a moot point.

As well as the Champions League Voda has lucrative sponsorship deals with the England cricket and rugby union teams.

More Voda
Voda and Sky mobile TV a hit?
Voda makes mobiles simple

Posted by Shiny Media on November 23, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Hulger phones go Bluetooth



The girls at Shiny Shiny have a real thing for these retrotastic **Hulger** phones. We can't quite fathom out why especially as they are always wibbling on about tiny mobiles. It just seems really odd then to go and connect them up to the huge Hulger handsets. Anyhow it is good to see that Hulger is moving with the times a little and embracing new technology of sorts. Its two latest handsets, the **PIP** and the **Penelope**, both sport Bluetooth, so you now longer have to wrap that sixties style cord around your neck each time you answer the phone. The PIP is an 80s style model while the Penelope is thirties art deco-ish. Both sell for £50 for the wired versions and £90 for the Bluetooth jobbies.

More retro mobiles
Hulger's P phone
The original Pokia

Posted by Shiny Media on November 23, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

O2 X2i

More nice and simple phones from **O2**. This time it's a new addition to the exclusive O2 X-range and sports a clamshell design. There's nothing groundbreaking here: Bluetooth, 65k colour screen, polyphonic ringtones, VGA phone camera, etc. Thankfully this economy on gadgets is reflected in the price; £80 on pre-pay or free on a contract which isn't bad. The other benefit to opting for a feature thin mobile is the boost in battery power. The **X2i** should yield enough charge for a decent 237 hours standby time which

is well over a week, or 5 hours talk time. And if you're getting one for your kid then the new T9 dictionary will predict all the latest in text slang, including "l8r", to help impair their literacy.



More O2
O2's X4 3G phone
O2 launches Xda sp

Posted by Shiny Media on November 22, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (3)

PingAlert anti-bullying system



In conjunction with the national anti-bullying week, **KidsOK** has launched its latest mobile phone system to help protect your offspring from the seemingly ever-growing threat of bullying. It's a pretty simple concept which is an obvious benefit in this situation; first off, your child can set up a quick dial number that can be discreetly pressed (assuming the keypad isn't locked I guess), then the phone will link up to the KidsOK service which immediately sends an SMS to the parent's phone with a map showing their exact location. Either that or an anxious parent can send a simple text which will be answered with the same data, without any real intrusion to the child's phone itself.

More child tracking
GPS phone tracker for kids
Mother is watching you

While it looks like a pretty useable system, there is a slight drawback in that the location has to be calculated from phone mast data and, as a result, the location pinpointing isn't enormously precise, but it does provide an outline covering not too huge an area - as demonstrated in the pic. Another potential problem is setting it up on a mobile phone; this probably won't be a vast obstacle to a technology savvy user but you should be aware of the types of phone service providers that are compatible (notable exceptions are Virgin Mobile and 3) and that your handset must be able to accept GPRS and WAP messages. If you're after this kind of piece-of-mind applications you're looking at a standard retail pack including a year's subscription, PingAlert for three mobiles and 10 free pings for £39.95. Subsequent pings cost an extra 50 pence.

Read

Posted by Shiny Media on November 22, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Push e-mail for RAZR V3 users



Motorola RAZR V3 users can now check, receive, send and delete e-mails in an instant rather than having to dial into their mobile phone network each time. Rogers Wireless and Motorola Canada have announced the availability of the very first **Java-based push e-mail service** for a GSM handset.
By downloading the MyMail application over the air, business-centric users will be able to stay in touch with the office/friends etc. on the move. Powered by Visto Mobile, MyMail is available on the Motorola RAZR V3 with a Rogers Wireless Data Service Plan (DSP). Data service plans begin at $15 a month and are available in packages up to $60 a month. More info from here.

Posted by Shiny Media on November 22, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Motorola's Skype headset



Now that **Skype** had done the big deal with eBay expect to see plenty of other big name companies starting to back it. Like **Motorola** which today announced the first Skype-certified Bluetooth headset solution, the **Motorola Wireless Internet Calling** Kit. The system, which comprises a Motorola **HS815** Bluetooth Headset and **PC850** PC Adapter, enables users to make Skype calls, which as you probably know are free to other Skype users.

It also comes with 30 SkypeOut minutes so the owner can chat away to people on landlines or mobiles for free for half an hour. The system has six hours of battery talk time and can be used up to 30 metres away from the PC. It is in the stores today. Incidentally Skype now boasts more than 66 million registered worldwide users, which is quite astonishing growth by anyone's standards.

More Skype:
Skype phone reviewed
Skype and DECT in one

Posted by Shiny Media on November 21, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Jamie Oliver on your moby



Personally I can't think of one single reason why you would want clips from one of Jamie Oliver's shows on your mobile phone (it's not like you're going to prepare some porcini mushrooms or toss a salad on the bus is it?). But maybe the guys at Vodafone have thought of an application we haven't, because they're offering film clips of 100 of his recipes as downloads for **Vodafone Live! with 3G** customers. The footage has been taken from Oliver's Twist, a show filmed for the US which has never been seen in the UK, and each recipe has been edited to three minutes. Can't wait to watch them.
Jamie Oliver's official website

Posted by Shiny Media on November 18, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Watch Little Britain on your mobile



You probably saw Little Britain on BBC1 last night (was it just me or was it a little disappointing?) Anyway now you can watch old episodes of the comedy series on your Nokia mobile phone too. The BBC has signed a deal with Rok Player - the company that bils itself as offering 'DVDs for your mobile' (well actually they're stored on an MMC card which they call a Digital Video Chip, but you get the idea.) However it's not exactly a cheap way of watching your favourite characters like Marjorie Dawes, Vicky Pollard and, of course, Lou and Andy. Three full episodes of Little Britain will set you back a rather steep £17.00. Also available in time for Christmas is the League of Gentlemen DVC (also £17.00). The chips are available to buy directly from the Rok Player store.

Posted by Shiny Media on November 18, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

T-Mobile MDA Vario and O2 xda Mini S go on sale

If you like the look of one of those **HTC Universal** (like the T-Mobile MDA Pro and Orange SPV M5000) devices with their sizable keyboard and great connectivity options, but are put off by their pocket-bulging size then O2 and T-Mobile might have something for you. This week both have launched the latest in the seemingly never-ending series of Windows Mobile devices from Taiwanese manufacturer HTC which they are billing as the **MDA Vario** (T-Mobile) and **Xda Mini S** (O2).

Both phones, which are virtually identical, sport a much smaller form factor than the Universal, yet they do boast a full QWERTY keyboard which is accessed via the user sliding the bottom half of the unit. Unlike the Universal

there's no 3G connection, but the phone features Wi-Fi as well as GPRS and comes with the full suite of MS applications that are served up by the Windows Mobile 5.0 operating system. Other niceties include Bluetooth, a 1.3 mega pixel camera, a 2.8inch 64K-colour TFT-LCD touch screen and an external Mini SD card slot. The O2 Xda Mini S is available from £260 for pay monthly contract customers, while the MDA Vario sells for from free to £149.99.

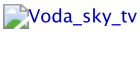

Tmobile_mda_var

More Windows Mobile

Orange's music phone MDA Pro review

Posted by Shiny Media on November 18, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Vodafone and Sky TV a hit?


Voda_sky_tv

Vodafone and **Sky** are claiming a successful debut for the launch of Sky Mobile TV on the Vodafone 3G network says Mobile Marketing Magazine. Apparently customers have accessed one million streams of mobile TV channels in the two weeks since the service launched on 1 November. With Vodafone having 341,000 Vodafone live! with 3G customers at 30 September, this equates to just under three streams per 3G customer, though the figure does include viewing of additional 'variety' channels, including Channel 4, which are not part of the Sky Mobile TV service.

Sky Mobile TV offers 19 mobile TV channels, including 24-hour news, sport, entertainment and documentary programmes to all Vodafone live! with 3G customers. The channels come in two 'packs' - a News, Sport & Factual pack and an Entertainment & Music pack. The service is free to all Vodafone live! with 3G customers until 31 January 2006, £5 per pack per month thereafter. The service is exclusive to Vodafone UK until 31 March 2006. More here.

More TV on your mobi
Voda and Sky offer mobile TV
Nokia launches TV to go

Posted by Shiny Media on November 17, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

T-Mobile Sidekick II finally goes on sale in UK


Tmobile_sidekick_ii_2

T-Mobile finally confirmed today that the **Sidekick II**, also known as the Hiptop II, will go on sale wearing the network's colours in the UK this week. We have written about the device many, many times before, but we are fans of its superb keyboard and excellent messaging facilities. We just wish it had a music player and better camera.

Anyhow maybe our dream will come true soon. Anyhow if you fancy it the Sidekick II is available from T-Mobile from between free and £49 depending on your tariff. It also works with T-Mobile's recently launched Web n'Walk service.

More Sidekicking
Sidekick II review
Sidekick III?

Posted by Shiny Media on November 17, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1)

Nokia N92 review

The folks over at sister site Gadget Centre recently got chance to have a hands on with the **Nokia N92** - the first mobile phone to feature an integrated DVB-H receiver that delivers digital TV on the go. Read how it could change the shape of mobile phones.

From my brief play with the N92 I can vouch for the following.



It has a superb screen – the video images looked startling – way beyond another mobile. It is large – kind of like a cross between the Nokia N91 and a HTC Universal. The keyboard is excellent – very tactile and responsive. We won't however see its key features – such as on the fly video recording and interactive TV – until a DVB-H service launches next year.

More TV on your mobi
Voda and Sky offer mobile TV
Nokia launches TV to go

Posted by Shiny Media on November 17, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (4)

Who will be first with HSDPA in the UK?

As you may or many not know **HSDPA** (High Speed Downlink Data Packet Access) is the exciting new technology which will enable mobile phone networks to ramp up data speeds to levels well beyond what we currently have with 3G. Quite who is going to be first to deliver HSDPA remains to be seen though. **O2** has been making a big noise about the technology and has been trialling it on the Isle of Man. Its HSDPA system has just gone live there offering users speeds of 1.4Mbps. It also hopes to have HSDPA available across the UK by the end of next summer.

Orange is also keen on HSDPA and stressed how important it is at the 3GSM show in Cannes earlier in the year. The dark horses though could be **T-Mobile** which cunningly committed to its HSDPA roll out in a press release about its Web'n Walk tariff last month. It is promising to deliver a service in 2006 which will offer data speeds of 1.8Mbps – over four times faster than its existing 3G network. Today T-Mobile confirmed that, in collaboration with its partner Nokia it had completed HSDPA calls in the UK, the Netherlands and Germany.

"The HSDPA calls demonstrate T-Mobile's commitment to raising the bar for the quality of broadband mobile data services," says Hamid Akhavan, Chief Technology Officer, T-Mobile. "The calls are a good example of the successful cooperation that is taking place between T-Mobile and Nokia in the field of high speed mobile access and broadband applications."

Quite what the networks, and indeed us consumers will do with all that extra bandwidth remains to be seen. HSDPA PCMCIA cards for laptops are a cert though and maybe for the first time, we'll have really smooth video streaming. Don't expect HSDPA speeds to stop at around 4Mbps either. According to O2 download speed is set to rise to 7.3Mbps in 2008 before hitting 10.2Mbps in late 2009.

Posted by Shiny Media on November 15, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Is this the Sidekick III?



Well the **Sidekick II** hasn't even gone on sale in the UK yet, but those Yanks are already speculating about what the **Sidekick III** is going to be like. There are numerous posts all over the web, but most seem to agree that the new model will be out in the US before Christmas and include a music player, better storage and Bluetooth.

The slightly more bonkers rumours include that it will run on the Windows Mobile operating system – which is odd as the Sidekick's current OS seems perfectly respectable to us – that it will include a three mega pixel camera and feature on board Wi-Fi. Well if it ticks all those boxes, let's just say that T-Mobile better get one over here double quick as we WANT ONE. Pic courtesy of Engadget.

Sidekick-ing
Sidekick II coming to UK
Sidekick II review

Posted by Shiny Media on November 15, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (2)

New Opera 8 for Symbian S60 handsets

Operalogo_1 For the uninitiated, Opera is an industry leading, award winning internet browser originally designed for **Symbian S60** handsets and later **Windows Mobile**. The thing that really sets it aside from all its competitors is the Small-Screen Rendering (SSR) technology which turns ordinary webpages into smaller versions fit for a mobile phone screen and stops you having to scroll wildly around looking for the right bits. Obviously this can lead to some serious squinting on smaller phones, so **Opera 8.5** now helpfully comes with a zoom function. On top of that there is also enhanced support for quick web browsing with a new password manager, meaning you can quickly log into websites without needing to battle with passwords on your keypad. Opera 8.5 is currently only available for Symbian S60 devices such as the Nokia N-Gage, 3230 and 6600 (full list here) but you can bet the upgrades will also make it to Windows Mobile devices soon.

Read

More Opera
Opera 8.0 released
Opera browser for Microsoft phones

Posted by Shiny Media on November 14, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Sagem my300x series mobiles

Black_perspective_image

Another day, another ultra slim mobile handset; it's **Sagem**'s turn to show off its take on the idea with the **my300x**, **my301x** and **my302x** phones. They have a very practical 350 hours standby time, 4 hours talk time and dimensions of 105 x 46 x 14 mm. Apart from that, they come with the usual set of features including GPRS, WAP 2.0, Java, MMS and so on, but what makes these models stand out from the crowd is what is *not* integrated. Unlike nearly every other mobile phone on the market, none of these handsets comes with a phone camera. There has been quite a few cases of companies wanting to exclude phone cameras from the workplace so these may catch on well as smart, practical work phones. Time to start pestering the boss I think.

Read

More Sagem
My-S7
My-X8

Posted by Shiny Media on November 14, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Sony Ericsson's noddy phones

Sony_ericsson_j230_front_cherryre

Well there may have been plenty of rumours about a cut down version of the P990 smartphone, but instead **Sony Ericsson** has this morning chosen to launch a trio of new phones aimed at basic consumers. The new handsets are the company's answer to the Vodafone Simply phone which the network launched in collaboration with Sagem earlier in the year. Largely bereft of features - there's no camera, MP3 player or email - they are designed so that even the most tech-unsavvy users can find their way around them. Sony Ericsson's big idea, for the two of the phones the **J220** and **J230**, is to include an option that allows the user to customise the interface to make it even simpler to use. They can either opt for the traditional multi icon interface or go for a single icon menu. This enables them to access their core features - and on these phones there aren't a great deal to chose from anyhow - with one click. The chocolate bar style handsets also include a 128x128 pixel, 65k colour display, embedded games and a calendar and the

J230 has an FM radio, but that's all. The pair have a battery standby life of 280 hours.

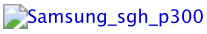
More noddy phones
Vodafone's Simply
LG's even more simple


Sony_ericsson_z300_closed_front_

Even more basic is the **Z300** is a small clamshell with fewer features than its siblings. It doesn't even sport the speaker phone that's found on the other two new phones and there's no single icon user interface option. It does however feature a 128x128 pixel, 65k colour display, embedded games and a calendar. The Z300 will be on sale later this year with the J220 and 230 slated for early 2006.

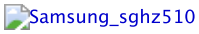
Posted by Shiny Media on November 14, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1)

Samsung's credit card thin SGH-P300 lands in UK


Samsung_sgh_p300

Yesterday it was Motorola, today it is **Samsung's** turn to grab the mobile spotlight. It has launched no fewer than five mobiles for the European market two of which are 3G models. The one likely to get all the attention is the **SGH-P300**, which is basically Samsung's attempt to out skinny the Moto RAZR. It is 8.9mm thick, or is that thin? Yet Samsung has managed to pack a 1.3 mega pixel camera with flash, music player and video recording capabilities. Looks a bit like a calculator though...

The 3G-ers, the **SGH-Z510** and **SGH-Z540** look pretty decent too mixing small (for 3G handsets) frames with the usual full whack of features. Both tout a 1.3 mega pixel camera and 4x digital zoom, video telephony, real-time video streaming and video messaging.


Samsung_sghz510

The **SGH-Z510** has a very cool looking 2.2-inch QVGA screen display and includes MP3 playback, while the **SGH-Z540** is aimed at the fashion conscious buyer (aren't we all?) and sports a similar set of features as well as Bluetooth and storage of a pretty impressive 150MB.

Samsung also debuted the **SGH-D800**, a 14.9mm slim slide-up phone with a 1.3 mega pixel camera, document viewer, Bluetooth, PictBridge, and TV-out, and the slightly chubbier **SGH-D820**, another slide-up phone. It features a wide (2.12-inch) and high resolution (QVGA) LCD screen and 1.3 mega pixel camera. All will be available in European stores before the end of the year.

More Skinny phones
Moto's new RAZR
NEC's ultra thin mobile

Posted by Shiny Media on November 9, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

World's first interactive drama from 3

Viewer controlled telly has existed in theory for some time but has yet to be properly implemented. Now **3** is behind a new **Channel 4** gritty urban music drama aiming to achieve the lofty heights of TV interactivity. **Dubplate Drama**, shot in the style of a music video, tells the story of a young MC and takes place over six 15 minute instalments. After the first episode 3's customers will be able to vote on the events of the next episode and share

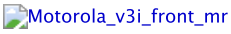


their opinions personally via 3 video blogging technology. Customers also get access to exclusive extra footage, extended story lines and so on. Given the brevity of each episode, it remains to be seen just how much extra content can be drawn out of it but, in the end, this is a very unique idea and could be worth a look. Dubplate Drama will be shown first on Channel 4 on 12th November at midnight, it is also shown later on MTV Base, MTV UK, E4 and with special edits available to 3 customers.

More 3
3 gets the 3G Motorola RAZR
3 launches mobile blogging in the UK

Posted by Shiny Media on November 9, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Motorola's iTunes RAZR phone



We have just had it confirmed by **Motorola** in the UK that the latest version of the RAZR phone, the **V3i**, is in fact **iTunes compatible**. Apparently it won't work in all Moto's markets, but hazarding a guess here, we reckon that the UK and the US are pretty safe bets. As we mentioned earlier the phone uses Transflash storage cards which go up to 512MB, so you'll be able to get your 100 tunes on there.

So why Moto didn't launch this as the iTunes phone in the first place? It would have saved the company, and Apple, a lot of grief.

Update

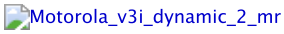
Here's the official word from Motorola in the UK. 'iTunes will be available on the V3i in certain markets. For those markets a press announcement will be made shortly.'

More

Ok, here's another clarification. The initial V3is won't be iTunes compatible. However there will be iTunes versions of the V3i which will be on sale in some countries in the new year and these will be announced seperately. Got that!Phew!

Posted by Shiny Media on November 8, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1)

Motorola's new RAZR - the V3i



Motorola has been at it again updating its ultra skinny and ultra ~~chavvy~~ covetable **RAZR** handsets. The big news is a brand new RAZR in the guise of the **V3i.** This keeps the RAZR's anorexic form but has a better selection of features than its predecessor. So you get a decent-ish 1.23 mega pixel camera, expandable memory (Transflash cards) and bonus audio facilities though apparently no iTunes as was widely rumoured.

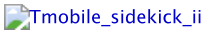
Moto is also offering a pair of coloured versions of its original RAZR - one in pink and one in ice blue (opposite). They both have a rather iffy selection of features including the rather poor quality VGA camera. All three phones will be in the stores by the end of the year. Pic of the V3i after the turn.

More RAZRs
RAZR goes 3G
RAZR review

Posted by Shiny Media on November 8, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (5)



T-Mobile to bring Sidekick II to UK (at last)



We hear through the old mobile phone grapevine that **T-Mobile** is going to bring the **Sidekick II**, aka the Hiptop version two, to the UK. Now we have had a run in with the Sidekick before and kind of liked its kooky design, A1 messaging facilities and not at all bad web browser.

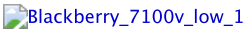
But it was a nightmare using it as a phone and is there any point in bringing out a youth-ish mobile these days which doesn't have an MP3 player? And as for its VGA camera that's sooo 2004.

Anyhow we'll be intrigued to see what, if any, tweaking T-Mobile has done to the device to get it ready for the UK. We suspect it may be taking version two to prepare the ground for version three, rumours of which you can read about it here.

More Sidekicking
Sidekick for UK?
Sidekick II review

Posted by Shiny Media on November 7, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1)

BlackBerry is cool: official



So what's cool with British young people at the moment? Beat heavy urban jungle grooves? Ironic retro rock stylings. Nope it is in fact pug ugly emailing devices. Yep our old fave the BlackBerry actually scooped third spot in a survey to name the coolest technology brands conducted by market research company **YouGov**, on behalf of **Superbrands.**

Only the PlayStation and Sony Ericsson beat the BlackBerry in the poll which was voted for by 1,100 18 - 35 years olds. You can read about the rest of the poll here.

More BlackBerry
O2's BlackBerry
Nokia does a BlackBerry

Posted by Shiny Media on November 7, 2005 in
Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1)

Palm to launch mid-range Treo smartphones?

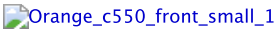
Analysts from Caris & Co. have released a statement indicating that there is good reason to believe **Palm** will be unveiling a smaller, more affordable **Treo** smartphones in the second half of 2006. Many PDA smartphones, although looking pretty neat, remain unattainable due to their premium prices, however these forecasted models are expected to have a much more reasonable retail price somewhere around $200 (about £115). There is no further information on these new Treos, nor is there much detail of how these analysts come up with their predictions; I just hope that it involves more bone casting and tea leaves than poring over spreadsheets and technical readouts. A long awaited higher end Treo is also due out in the second half of 2006 and features the Windows Mobile operating system.

via The Register

More smartphones
HP's hw6500 PDA/Smartphone
Qtek S110 hitting UK shelves

Posted by Shiny Media on November 7, 2005 in Mobile phones | PDAs
Permalink | Comments (0)

Another 'phone to eat iPod' report



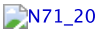
Here's yet another report predicting that pretty soon we'll be saying iPod who? and listening to music on our mobiles. The study, Global Tech Insight 2005 from **TNS**, surveyed 6,800 adults aged 16-49 who own either a mobile phone, PDA or laptop and who access the Internet every week. It found that 19% of all mobile phone owners listen to music on their phones, and that 13% of all mobile users use MP3 or digital music players on their phones daily or weekly. This rises to 18% among mobile users in the UK and to 26% among users in South Korea.

Apparently the factors deterring mobile users from downloading more songs onto their phones are 'insufficient memory', 'poor quality' of the listening experience and difficulties in downloading, compared to transferring music from other devices. Sound familiar? There's loads more on the report here

More music mobiles
Nokia's hard disk music phone
Sony Ericsson's new Walkman phone

Posted by Shiny Media on November 4, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Nokia's N71 and N80



In Barcelona **Nokia** also unveiled two other N series phones. Also set to launch in Q2, the **N71** features the N series signature facilities of 3G connectivity, web browsing and PDA-style applications. Its headline feature is a unique web browser that Nokia calls minimap. This delivers two screens on the device, the main close-up screen and a second transparent navigation screen that provides a snapshot of the entire page the user is seeing. This lets you quickly access and scroll around various parts of the page. The browser is also compatible RSS and XML feeds and has up to two Gigabytes of storage via a miniSD card.

Completing the line up is the **Nokia N80**, a slider handset and the first mobile phone to feature Universal Plug and Play (UPnP) so that it can network wirelessly with any device in the home. For example, users will be able to stream MP3 tracks wirelessly from the handset to a hi-fi system. The phone is also the first quad band phone with dual band 3G. Nokia's CEO Jorma Ollia also predicted an explosion in sales of convergence phones during 2006 forecasting that over 100 million devices would be sold.

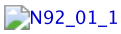
Posted by Shinykatie on November 2, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (2)



Nokia launches N92 TV to go mobile



In Barcelona today at its annual Mobility Conference **Nokia** took the wraps off its first phone with an integrated digital TV decoder. Set to launch in Q2 2006, the **N92**, which runs using Nokia's Series 60 interface, features a DVB-H TV tuner that in the future will be able to receive as many as fifty TV channels. DVB-H is a variant of the digital TV standard as used in the UK by Freeview, which has been optimised for mobile devices. It is set to launch in Italy in time for the 2006 World Cup with other European countries following later in the year. There's no official UK launch for the service, but it could theoretically arrive as early as 2007. Nokia, along with O2 and NTL, recently conducted a DVB-H trial in the Oxford area. Similar to other N Series phones, the N92 runs using Nokia's Series 60 interface and features a suite of high-end facilities. The clamshell-style device includes integrated Wi-Fi, web browsing and music playback.



Its super-bright 2.8-inch16 million-colour screen is probably the best we've ever seen on a phone. The neat little design means it can be flipped round so that it looks like a tiny DVD player making it ideal for TV viewing on the go. The handset can also record TV programmes on to an SD card and deliver an on-screen electronic programme guide. Some innovative interactive facilities are also in the pipelines, allowing you to cast votes on live TV shows, for example.

Posted by Shiny Media on November 2, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (8)

Vodafone and Sky team up for mobile TV

Not wishing to be outdone by its rivals - most notably Orange - Vodafone has teamed up with Sky to offer mobile TV to its Vodafone Live 3G customers. Initially 19 different channels will be offered free of charge to customers. However, from February 1st subscribers will be charged £5 a month for each of the packages they subscribe to. Some channels will be broadcast 'as live' while others will be dedicated 'made for mobile' channels, featuring regularly updated blocks of programming. In order to attract customers to the service Sky is giving all Vodafone Live 3G customers exclusive live coverage of the England cricket team's tour to Pakistan, starting with the first test in Multan on 12 November. Sky also claims that it will offer both breaking news and sports headlines to Vodafone's 3G customer base.

More Mobile TV stories:
Orange TV on a mobile reviewed
Samsung shows mobile TV at IFA

Vodafone 3G customers will be able to choose one of the two following packages:

News, Sport & Factual: Sky News; CNN; Bloomberg; Sky Sports News; At The Races; Discovery Factual; National Geographic Channel; History Channel.

Entertainment & Music: Sky One; Sky Movies; MTV (two channels*); Living

tv; Discovery Lifestyle; Nickelodeon; Paramount Comedy**; Cartoon Network; Bravo;

* **One MTV channel will be available at launch. The second MTV channel and Paramount Comedy will join the line-up later in the year.

Posted by Shiny Media on October 31, 2005 in Mobile phones | Satellite TV
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Vodafone tries out phone vending machine

Manchester's Vodafone stores are currently trialling the new QuickPhone kiosks in an experiment which could eventually see similar machines become commonplace in public places throughout the UK. The QuickPhone has a pretty simple concept: it can sell you anything from cheap pay-as-you-go mobiles to sim card packs costing between £5 and £30. The machine also showboats some of Vodafone's other telecommunications technology; 3G technology is used to monitor stock levels and arrange refills. Plus, if you're worried about having to pump £30 in small change into a machine, they even come imbued with a 'chip and pin' system. I'm not particularly sure that there is quite enough demand for instant access to cheap mobiles to support a nationwide network of these vendors, especially with all those pesky phone boxes about, but we'll wait and see.

via The Scotsman

More vending machines
Music downloads from a vending machine?
The iPod vendor

Posted by Shiny Media on October 28, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

LG helps prevent drink-driving



LG has unveiled plans to integrate a breath analyser into a phone handset. This will come in pretty handy if you think you may have had a couple too many wine spritzers somewhere outside the UK, but I think under this country's somewhat tighter legislation it might be worth using if you've been standing too close to a bar maid. The LG-SD410, LG-KP4100 and LG-LP4100 handset are set to come with this unique feature out in Japan and I think the odds are pretty good of something similar reaching these shores eventually. It would also be especially useful if it could speed dial a taxi company in the event of an unacceptable level. Then maybe order you a kebab and work out where the hell you left your house keys.

via Akihabara News

More quirky handsets
Samsung's hand warming mobile
Samsung SCH-S350 Sci-Fi Phone

Posted by Shiny Media on October 28, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1)

Kids to spend over four grand on ringtones

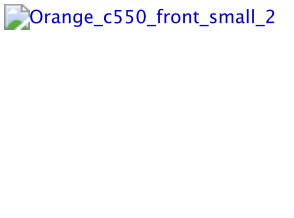


Parents: it may be high time to confiscate that mobile phone. A survey carried out by company Xingtone has found that, on average, youths will spend a phenomenal £4,320 each on ringtones in the next 15 years! Perhaps we should have seen the warning signs in the Crazy Frog fiasco. A lot of this spend has also been put down to the both the high cost of the ringtones themselves and the fact that downloading them often ties you into a contract which is next to impossible to escape. People with daughters aged 10-14 ought to be especially wary of the lure of this most sinister phone fad, with some of those surveyed boasting as many as six downloads per month. Yikes.

More ringtones
Avanquest seek to kill the Frog

Posted by Shiny Media on October 26, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Orange takes on the iPod (again)



So are music downloads via mobile phones taking off in the UK? Well yes and no. While some networks seem to now be only offering a half-baked service, others are going from strength to strength. **Orange** today has announced a few little tweaks to its music download system **Music Player** which should help make life a bit easier for its users.

The big news is the **Orange Music Converter**, a rather nifty bit of software for your PC which enables users to convert tracks they have stored on their PC's hard disk into the AAC+ format which is compatible with the Orange Music Player. It works with MP3s and WMAs, but obviously not DRM-ed WMA and AAC tracks downloaded from Napster, iTunes et al. The reason you might want to do this is that the AAC+ tracks take up just 700k of space on a storage card as opposed to 3/4MB of a full MP3 track. So your 512MB SD card instantly now holds the same as a two Gig card would if loaded with MP3s. There is obviously a slight trade off in terms of sound quality though not as much as you might think. Probably the best comparison is MP3 at 96kbps.

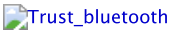
More music

Orange's music phone

From now on users will also be able control the tracks they have downloaded via Orange (they start at £1 a shot) using a web page. The page lists the tracks they currently own and enables the user to take the music to and from their mobile. Even if their handset is stolen they can automatically transfer the tracks they have paid for to their next phone. Orange also let on that it was currently looking at the two hard disk based phones - the Nokia N91 and the Samsung SGH-i300 and that Orange subscribers might be able to take delivery of them in the New Year. The Music Player is currently compatible with eleven phones, though Orange has promised to roll it out to cheaper, more youth-oriented handsets next year.

Posted by Shiny Media on October 20, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Trust reveals USB Bluetooth adaptor with EDR technology



Bluetooth has seen a few shaky periods, not to mention the wealth of bigger nastier networking alternatives constantly trying to muscle in on its turf. In spite of that, the technology is still going strong, mostly in thanks to its presence inside a vast proportion of mobile phone handsets as well as many other portable devices and its easy-to-use nature. Trust's development of EDR or Enhanced Data Rate technology could help to expand the capabilities of the networking tool. EDR is boasts the ability to create connections between up to seven devices simultaneously and offers up to three times faster data transfer.

This USB adaptor should provide a useful networking connection between Bluetooth enabled phones, headsets, printers, PDAs and will the increased transfer rate will reduce the amount of power sucked up by elongated connection times. The Trust Bluetooth 2.0 EDR USB adapter will be available from the end of this month for around £17.99

Read

More Bluetooth devices
Nokia does a BlackBerry
Palm adds a pair of PDAs

Posted by Shiny Media on October 20, 2005 in Computers | Mobile phones | Wireless home
Permalink | Comments (0)

Europe's first 4G network (and we are very jealous)

Forget **3G** - it's old hat now with its sluggish connections, rubbish quality TV and video and snail-like downloads. Nope we are moving to the Czech Republic where, as from yesterday, the inhabitants of a country previously best known for top quality lager, Franz Kafka and not especially politically correct football fans have Europe's first 4G service to play with. Installed by T-Mobile it uses UMTS TD-CDMA technology to deliver download speeds of up to 1Mbps - two and a half times faster than the UK 3G networks. T-

Tmobile_4g

Mobile says it hopes to attract subscribers who will stick the 4G friendly PCMCIA card in their laptops (there's no 4G phones available for Europe yet) and surf like there is no tomorrow. Interestingly T-Mobile is only charging 34 Euros per month for the one Meg service, which is a lot cheaper than its 3G rates over in the UK.

The service is only available in Prague at the moment, but it is being rolled out across the Republic. Is it a Wimax killer? Maybe, and when are we going to see that HSDPA 1.5 meg technology the networks in the UK promised us not that long ago?

More 4G
South Korea goes 4G

Posted by Shiny Media on October 20, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Nokia's new fashion collection



Nokia_7380_2

Nokia's calling its latest batch of fashion handsets the "L'Amour Collection", though why exactly is not entirely clear. First up is the 7380 which has a keyless dial similar to its Art Deco predecessor, the 7280. It's got some decent features including a 2-megapixel camera and MP3 player. Next comes the 7370 with a swivel design a 1.3-megapixel camera and a choice of two colours - coffee brown and warm amber. Finally, the 7360 comes with a standard VGA camera and an FM radio - as well as those two colour choices.

Read

Similar Stories:
Nokia's Art Deco Fashion Phones
World's skinniest phone reaches UK

Posted by Shinykatie on October 19, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Motorola's new 3G handsets

Moto_e770v

You know all about Moto's **3G RAZR**, the **3x**, because we told you how 3 had snaffled them up the other day. **Motorola** does however have another pair of 3G phones which it intends to launch in the UK and Europe in the next month or so.

The one you'll probably be seeing most of is the **Motorola E1070** which should be available from 02 and Orange. Its is a compact clamshell with a 1.3-megapixel camera with digital zoom, Bluetooth, Transflash/Micro SDmemory card, a QVGA display and video. There's also the Vodafone only **Motorola E770v**, a chocolate bar style handset which has video calling and access to the Vodafone Live! 3G portal. Also on board is 176x220 pixel display in 262,000 colours, VGA resolution camera with 4X digital zoom, Bluetooth, video calling, MP3 and video playback, stereo output via plug-in headphones, email client and web browser.

More Moto
3G RAZR
RAZR review

Posted by Shiny Media on October 19, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

3 offers cash for zany clips

Threelogo_1

3 today also unveiled a service that suggests to us that a few of its top execs have spent a little bit too much time recently watching re-runs of You've Been Framed. It is offering its customers (it now has 3.2 million subscribers) cash to share their video clips. Users send in thirty second video clips which are then uploaded to the **'See Me TV'** channel for other 3 customers to view. Each time a clip is downloaded by a 3 customer the performer gets paid 1p, and 3 is promising that some contributors could make thousands of cash for their efforts. Credits are paid by PayPal.

See Me TV is accessed via the 3 Services menu and is updated daily. To help viewers navigate through the thousands of mini-movie clips that will be available they are divided into categories, from 'Stupid Stuff' to 'Cuddly' and 'Dead Impressive'. The most popular clips appear at the top of the browser to help cut straight through to the top talent. All clips are presented with the name of the 'director' and a title to encourage performers to add attention.

More 3
3's top new music service
3 goes Mobile blogging

Posted by Shiny Media on October 18, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

3 first network to offer dual downloads

Sonyericssonk60(

We have been saying for ages now that phone networks should offer **dual downloads**, so that when someone buys the track over the air they can also download it to their PC. And guess what that's exactly what 3G network **3** has announced today. The tracks go for £1.50 a shot and are ordered from and turn up on your mobile and then you get a PIN code that will enable you to access the track at home.

At the present time we can't confirm which format the tracks are in, but our guess is that they will be in AAC+ for the phone and WMA for the PC. It surely won't be too long before other networks offer a similar service.

More 3
3 Goes mobile blogging
3 offers cash for zany clips

Posted by Shiny Media on October 18, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Sony Ericsson's W900 Walkman phone

Sonyericssonw900i

So here it is - **Sony Ericsson's Walkman phone** take 2 (take 1 is here) and let's just say that it eats the Motorola ROKR iTunes phone for breakfast. Not that the **W900** is the ultimate music phone though. Sony Ericsson hasn't still solved the thorny issue of storage, but it has improved things a little in that area. The phone packs 470MB of internal memory which of course can be supplemented by a Memory Stick Pro Duo card. There's no news on whether one will be bundled with the one, but if SE is generous you could have nearly an Gig storage. Or more if you are feeling rich.

It has also added 3G connectivity to its list of features which is good news for networks who want to use the phone to offer over the air downloads. They almost certainly will too as the phone is compatible with the AAC+ format as well as AAC, WMA and MP3 ones. There's still no sign of support for Sony's own ATRAC format, which makes us believe that Sony isn't exactly pushing the format. Other features include a two mega pixel camera, a 2.2 inch QVGA 262K TFT screen, video capture at 30 frames per second and of course dedicated music playing buttons. It will be available in black or white and should be in the stores before the end of 2005. Our top music phone? Well it is still this one...

Other music phones
Nokia's N91 hard disk phone

Nokia's 3250
Sharp 902

Posted by Shiny Media on October 17, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1)

3 gets the 3G Motorola RAZR



There's a huge announcement from the UK phone network **3** tomorrow, but as a taster for what might becoming, today it gave details of a quartet of new handsets it is to offer to its subscribers - and there are some goodies.

Undoubtedly top of the 3's customers' shopping list this Christmas will be the 3G version of **Motorola's** iconic, and some might say Chav-tastic, RAZR phone. The **RAZR3x** is a sizeable leap from the original models, for in addition to offering video calling and video download via 3G it also packs a two mega pixel camera (the original was a paltry VGA one).

3 has also snapped up Nokia's 3G biggie the Nokia 6280 as well as the company's just launched high-end series phone the N70. Completing the range is the latest handset from LG the U880. Its USP is that it is apparently the thinnest 3G clamshell to reach the UK so far. It has a 1.3 mega pixel camera, Bluetooth, an expandable internal memory of 80 MB and, this is an important one for LG, an internal aerial. All four models will be in the stores between now and Xmas.

More skinny phones
Motorola RAZR review
NEC's world's skinniest phone

Posted by Shiny Media on October 17, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1)

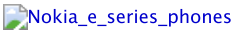
Qtek 910 hits UK



HTC's long -promised **Wizard** should now have arrived in the in the guise of the **T Mobile MDA Pro**, **Orange M5000** etc. Should you want to buy one without committing to a network, then there's the option of the Qtek 910. Available now from Smart Devices and Expansys, the 910 is almost identical to the Wizard in that it features Wi-Fi, a very usable keyboard, a 1.3 mega pixel camera and runs using Microsoft's Windows Mobile 5.0 operating system,. The key difference is that the Qtek is GPRS only and doesn't have the Wizard's 3G capabilities. Anyhow if that's no mater then Smart Devices has it here for a pretty competitive £345 plus VAT.

Posted by Shiny Media on October 17, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (4)

Nokia does a BlackBerry



Maybe it's a sign of the times, but it appears that for one of its latest smartphones announced today **Nokia** is taking its design cues from (ulp) BlackBerry. The new **Nokia E61**, all three phones are the first in the company's E series of smartphones, is a deadringer for the BlackBerry with its large-ish monitor and so large even chubby fingered business blokes can use it QWERTY keyboard. This being Nokia though the handset is pretty slim, has a good quality screen and is compatible with all manner of mobile email clients like BlackBerry Connect, GoodLink, Nokia Business Center, Seven Mobile Mail, Seven Always-On Mail and Visto Mobile. Like both other phones in the E series it

also feature packed boasting the Series 60 Nokia interface (which means at least it is compatible with the excellent Opera web browser), and comes with Bluetooth, 3G facilities, IP telephony and push to talk.

Nokia is on more familiar ground with the **E60** which is in the chocolate bar format and is without a keyboard. It does however boast many of the facilities of the E61, though isn't quite as well endowed on the email front.

Finally there's the latest in Nokia's pull open messaging device series the **E70.** It sports the company's twist out mobile keyboard, has plenty of email support and its Series 60 interface means that you can gadget-ise it to your heart's content. All three phones will launch in early 2006.

These are important handsets for Nokia. Sales of Blackberry devices, as opposed to devices that are compatible with BlackBerry, are likely to decline and Nokia wants to be the company with the hardware that corporates aspire to. In the E61 it has a similar product with arguably a superior design and better line up of features. The fact that it is compatible with a wide range of push email clients helps its appeal too. Interesting stuff.

Posted by Shiny Media on October 12, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

First TV service to GPRS (2.5G) phones

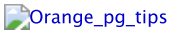


If you fancy watching a bit of TV on your mobile and don't yet have a 3G phone, here is some potentially good news. **Rok**, who you may remember as offering storage cards for phones pre-loaded movies and programmes, is now offering a TV streaming service to GPRS handsets. I'll believe the quality when I see it, but the company says that once the user has downloaded the ROK player they can stream up to 10 live and on-demand channels including the Cartoon Network, CNN and ITN.

Similar to Orange's rival 3G TV service it is free to try Rok TV, but after a month or so unless you pay £9.99 per month your screen goes blank. While it sounds great in theory there is a drawback or two. Firstly the service is only available on certain Nokia phones. Also users will also have to pay their network for the data they download on top of the £9.99 per month. Apparently it is around 10MB of data per hour of viewing at a claimed 15fps. Hopefully I'll have a go with the service shortly. More here.

Posted by Shiny Media on October 11, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (3)

Text message powered kettle



You know the story. It's cold wet and you are gasping for a cuppa, yet as you enter your front door you know it'll take a couple of minutes for the kettle to boil and that's without taking into account the time it'll take for the tea to brew. Nightmare! Well it appears **Orange** has heard your pleas for, in collaboration with Great British tea maker PG Tips, it is to launch a new service called **ReadyWhenUR**. It is based around a regular silver teapot that's cleverly been kitted out with a radio receiver, As soon as it gets the word 'switch on' via text it does just that ensuring that by the time you reach your abode the water is piping hot and ready for that tea bag. It goes on sale in January and costs £100.

Posted by Shiny Media on October 11, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Is a four Gig Sony Ericsson Walkman phone imminent?

It's a bit of **Sony Ericsson** frenzy today as we have got word that the company is going to take the wraps off its **latest Walkman phone** on Monday 17th. The first phone, the W800i, was a good all rounder that was slightly compromised by a poor quality speaker and limited (512MB) storage. The obvious upgrade would be to offer the phone with a much greater level of storage - the Memory Stick Duo cards it contains now goes up to four

Gigabytes. This would certainly trump Samsung and Nokia both of whom are readying mobile phones with hard disks of three and four Gigabytes respectively, for launch in Europe in the next three months.

Maybe the phone will also be compatible with Sony's Connect music download service - though how the UK networks would feel about this remains to be seen. They did swallow their pride and take on the ROKR iTunes phone though.

Posted by Shiny Media on October 11, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1)

Sony Ericsson unveils P990 adds 3G and Wi-Fi


Sony_ericsson_p990_flip_open

Sony Ericsson has unveiled the latest upgrade of its long standing series of smartphones. The latest model, the **P990** keeps the basic form factor of its predecessor in that it sports a large screen and has a flip open tab with the keys on it, but has several key amendments. The biggie is that it now boasts on board Wi-Fi, which is also apparently compatible with VoiP (Voice over Internet Protocol) calls. Sony Ericsson has also improved the display so the new model sports a 320x240 resolution screen and added Blackberry Connect support.

The most controversial change is the adjustment of the size of the screen to accommodate a larger QWERTY keyboard. The 910 was criticised for having a keyboard than was small and unusable. The amendment at least brings the keyboard size in line with other smartphones like the Treo and the HP Mobile Messenger.

Unlike previous Sony Ericsson smartphones this one is also 3G compatible which makes it a smaller rival to the recently launched HTC Universal, which is available in the UK as the T-Mobile MDA pro and Orange M5000. It also has a two mega pixel camera, will offer video calling and features the Opera 8 web browser. It goes on sale early next year.

Posted by Shiny Media on October 11, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Nokia's Camera Phone Compo


Nokia_pic_1

It's always good to see a decent compo to emerge from new technology and Nokia have hit the spot with this one. Like a standard photo competition all you need to do is take a pic on your mobile phone and submit it via the website. Obviously it will help if you've got a particularly snazzy camera phone that hasn't lived for too long in a trouser pocket effectively sealing the lens in a light-proof layer of pocket lint.

Five winners from each of 4 different regions (China, India, Europe and America) will be picked by a panel of expert judges; the winner gets to go and have some real life commercial photo shoot experience, runners up get free plane tickets and all have the chance to get their pic put in a line up of new phone backgrounds.

Read via BBC

Posted by Shiny Media on October 4, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Orange pioneers live sports mobile channel

Orange customers fortunate enough to be at the forefront of new **3G** Mobile TV technology can now enjoy what may be the first in terms of live sport on a mobile. It has been revealed that, from today, eight new channels are available on its **Orange TV** service. The sporting event being broadcast is the **ICC Super Series**, presumably because it's one of the very few not already assimilated by Sky, which takes place over the three on-dayers 5th, 7th and 9th and with the test on 14-19th October.

Fortunately if you aren't a cricket fan then you can also sample the delights of seven other channels consisting of ITN Weather, Bloomberg, Kiss, Kerrang, Bravo, The Reality Channel, Shorts TV and Maxx Sports. This new content will provide a welcome boost to the service which has been depleted by the seasonal nature of some earlier channels such as Big Brother and Glastonbury 2005. Obviously the ICC channel won't provide great viewing after the 19th either.

Posted by Shiny Media on October 4, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

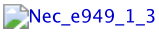
O2 launches Xda sp



O2'a latest Xda smartphone has arrived in the form of the Xda sp. Sporting a look that's pretty different from the usual Xda PDAs (ie, it's got a number pad), the sp is still aimed at professional types – just ones with smaller pockets. Powered by Microsoft's Windows Mobile 2003, it's got all the usual Personal Information Management (PIM) features you'd expect, and there's 64MB of ROM and 32MB of SDRAM to tide you over on memory. If you need more, you can always bump it up via the miniSD slot, saving images and MP3s to your heart's content. The 2.2-inch screen is just the usual 65K colour TFT and the camera is the standard VGA as well, making this a pretty average phone, with above average software on board. The O2 Xda sp costs from free on business tariffs and is available now in O2 stores or online.

Posted by Shinykatie on October 3, 2005 in Mobile phones | PDAs
Permalink | Comments (0)

World's skinniest phone reaches UK



Remember that ultra skinny **NEC** camera phone we tipped you off about last week? Well apparently the **L1** is on its way to the UK. Luxury retailer Bamford and Sons has apparently scooped a load of the handsets, which is super model skinny compared with its now comparitively bloated **Motorola RAZR** rivals, and is selling them at a rather pricey £595 a pop.

With the RAZR series being touted by every Tom Dick and Chav now it might be money worth spending. Read

Posted by Shiny Media on September 30, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1)

Mobile Choice Awards: Samsung wins Phone of the Year



I was at the glitzy Mobile Choice Awards last night in Old Billingsgate Market. The lovely Bill Bailey was on hand to present the awards. He did a great job and took delight in mocking us ("right, better get on. After all, for some of you, this will be the best night of your life").

Sony Ericsson were the night's big winners, scooping up three awards for Best 3G Phone (the V800), Best Music Phone (the Walkman W800i), and Manufacturer of the Year. Best network went to Orange, though Virgin once again took the prize for best Customer Service, while 3 walked away with best 3G network and Best Prepay Package ("for people without an address" according to Bill). Our jocund host renamed the Readers' Dream Phone award the "Muggers' Choice" award, which went, of course, to the Motorola V3 RAZR. Motorola also took the award for Best Fashion Phone thanks to the lovely V6 PEBL. Phone of the Year was the one voted for by the charming, talented and erudite panel of judges (yes, I was one of them). We spent a day locked away deliberating over a stack of phones that included the Sony Ericssons W800i and V800, the Sharp 902 and the Moto V6 PEBL. But ultimately, the prize went to the excellent Samsung D600. A great night all round, which is why

I'm off for a little lie down now. For the full list of winners and nominees, check out the next issue of Mobile Choice magazine. [Katie Lee]

Posted by Shinykatie on September 30, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Samsung's hand warming mobile



Samsung was also parading a few protos yesterday including this little gem which it is billing as 'literally the hottest phone on the market.' Developed in Russia, in the Ural State Academy to be precise, the **handset** features a **built-in hand warmer** to ensure that even though the Siberian wind might be blowing your hands are still nice and toasty and ready to text. Anyhow I am sure my long deceased grandmother would approve. In her day it was standard practice stave off the cold by carrying round hot potatoes in pockets. Apologies for rubbish pic, but that glass casing was nailed down.

Posted by Shiny Media on September 27, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Samsung's hard disk phone to debut in UK very soon



It looked like it would be a close race to launch the first mobile phone with hard disk in the UK, but it appears now that the contest is over. **Samsung** has confirmed that its three Gigabyte Windows based **SGH-i300** will be in the stores before Christmas - early November appears to be the likely time - well before Nokia's four Gig N91. I had a few minutes hands-on with the phone yesterday and have to say it is one impressive handset. Sure it is large and its chocolate bar design isn't exactly cutting edge, but it feels smaller and more comfortable to use than Nokia's hard disk phone the N91.

Accessing music via the fiddly Windows interface is a pain, but Samsung has incorporated a neat scroll wheel which significantly sped up finding and choosing the various tracks. The phone features the Windows Mobile 5.0 operating system, a 1.3 mega pixel camera, Bluetooth and of course Outlook and Pocket Explorer. It sounds really good too, up there with the Sharp 903 and Motorola ROKR, which to these ears have the best MP3 playback.

Given the amount of storage the phone has and all its features I can't imagine why any gadget lover would want another handset this Christmas, except maybe the Sharp 903 or the Nokia N91 for their superb cameras.

Posted by Shiny Media on September 27, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Nokia's ace new music phone



We were going to do a long post about **Nokia's** new music phone the **3250**, but ShinyShiny got there first. Suffice to say that it looks great, sports a really cool twisty design that makes it easy to use both the music player and the camera, features a cool two mega pixel camera and has one Gigabyte of memory - which mobile spotters will tell you is twice as much as the Motorola/Apple ROKR and the Sony Ericsson W800i Walkman phone. It also has a neat 262k colour screen, Bluetooth and an FM radio. Music playback is ten hours per charge and users drag and drop tracks on to the device (hurrah).

Doh! That's almost a long post. Over to your Sony Ericsson and Motorola/Apple...

Posted by Shiny Media on September 26, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

O2's i-mode internet service launches in the UK



O2's long awaited i-mode Internet service has finally been unveiled in the UK. offering users the chance to experience a fast and cost effective internet service. Already the world's most widely-used mobile Internet service with more than 50 million users in 22 countries, i-mode is supposed to be an easy-to-use service, which runs significantly faster than most services. Available in the UK exclusively from O2 on 1st October, the service will launch on Pay as You Go and Pay Monthly and will be on both 3G and 2G services.

Around 100 international and local mobile Internet sites have been unveiled at the launch, with brands such as Egg, Interflora, lastminute.com, Rightmove.co.uk and Monster.com getting involved. As well as advanced internet services, with banking, shopping, email, ticket bookings and news all available, a push email service will also be included, allowing you to get your emails straight to your phone instantly.

Four unique i-mode handsets, with more to follow, have been unveiled: Samsung S500i (£249 Pre-pay, free Post Pay); NEC 411i (£99 Pre-pay, free on Post Pay); the NEC 343i (£79 for pre-pay, free on Post pay) and the Samsung Z320i 3G slider phone, which will cost £249 on pre-pay and from £79.99 on contract (Full details after the jump)

In countries where it has already been launched, i-mode has proven to be far more popular than WAP servies, and because it employs commonly used open Internet technology, companies are already equipped to create and update their sites. Another difference is that i-mode site providers, such as lastminute.com and Egg, can do things like charging customers directly for any additional services they buy, rather than O2 adding the costs to the bill.

More info from release:

O2 UK will sell the i-mode service and handsets at its 300 retail stores in the UK, the O2 online shop (www.o2.co.uk) and through popular retailers like P4U, Carphone Warehouse, The Link, Argos, Woolworths and other channels.

Browsing and downloading is priced at £3 per megabyte, with each megabyte equal to approximately 100 pages, which is the same rate that O2 charges for other consumer data services. In addition, customers can save more than 50% on their browsing cost by adding simple data bundles known as O2 Bolt On's. These Bolt On's have been tailored for the regular and heavy users to make it easy for customers to plan and control what they spend.

Emails without an attachment will be charged from the outset at the same price as standard text messages. Furthermore, if an email is sent to more than one recipient (up to 5), it will only be charged as one message.

Samsung S500i
1.3 mega pixel Camera with flash
MP3 player with external controls
80 MB internal memory with optional Transflash removable memory card
Dual external speakers
Tri-band
Large 262k QVGA internal TFT screen
Stereo Bluetooth headset support
Weight - 98g

NEC 411i

- 1.3 mega pixel camera
- Large 65k colour screen
- Bluetooth
- MP3 player
- Still image and video capture playback
- 26mb of user memory
- Downloadable games and ringtones
- Tri-band

NEC 343i

- Slim and stylish design
- VGA camera
- Large 65k colour screen
- Tri-band
- Downloadable games and ringtones
- 1.3mb internal memory

Samsung Z320i

- 3G Slider phone
- 262k Colour Screen
- Video calling
- 1.3 Megapixel camera
- Multimedia Player with Dual external speakers
- 100mb internal Memory
- Stereo Bluetooth

- Internal Antenna
- Quadband
- Weight - 105g
- 97 x 48 x 22.5mm

Posted by Shinykatie on September 26, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (7)

Nokia postpones N91 until after Christmas - gets WMA support too



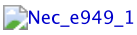
Big news from **Nokia** in that it has decided to delay its N91 hard disk based music phone until the start of next year. It was expected that the handset would be in the stores just before Christmas.

Interestingly Nokia puts the delay down to its plans for ensuring that the **N91** 'will work on the widest range of music platforms and be a true "jukebox" mobile phone.' "What we basically decided is that we will postpone it a few weeks, push it out to Q1 and do this Microsoft DRM implementation solidly," Jonas Geust, vice president of music in Nokia's Multimedia division, said in an interview with Reuters. This means that that the N91 will almost certainly be compatible with DRM protected WMA files such as those offered by Napster and Virgin Digital.

It will also be customizable so that different networks such as Vodafone and O2 can offer their own music download services on the phone. Nokia said it wanted consumers to be free to choose how to get their music - from CDs copied to a PC, directly from Internet stores, or from their mobile network operator - and be able to harmonise their collections at the click of a button. In case you missed our earlier story the N91 has a four -gigabyte hard drive capable of storing up to 3,000 songs.

Posted by Shiny Media on September 21, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

NEC delivers world's skinniest camera phone



Mmm. It appears that it isn't going to be **Motorola's iTunes ROKR** phone that's going to set the template for 2006 mobiles, rather it is the US firm's **RAZR** phone. Not only does Moto have a new range of ultra thin handsets available, it has also spawned a RAZR lookey-likey in the **e949** from **NEC.** Alas only available at the moment in Hong Kong, though a European launch is planned, the e949 is billed by NEC as the world's thinnest fold type camera equipped mobile. By our reckoning then its dimensions of 11.9mm when folded makes it even skinnier than the RAZR.

The GSM/GPRS mobile also has a 1.9 inch (176×220 dot) 65,000 colour display, a 1.3 mega pixel camera, an OLED sub-screen, PictBridge, MP3, Java and Bluetooth. No definite UK launch yet but fingers crossed. Could do wonders for NEC's image in the UK.

Posted by Shiny Media on September 21, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

O2's i-mode goes live in the UK on Monday



O2 is to launch its **i-mode** service in the **UK** next week. Already huge in Japan and gaining popularity in Europe i-mode is a mobile internet system that is compatible with both 2.5 and 3g phones. Via the i-mode platform users will be able to access what O2 claims is a 'rich range of content' from Wap style news pages through to animation and video. As i-mode is a more secure system than Wap O2 is also likely to offer a form of internet based banking via mobile with users able to check their balance and make transactions via their phone.

The first set of O2 i-mode phones come from NEC, Panasonic, Samsung, Siemens (BenQ) and Motorola. However industry observers believe that it

won't be too long before Sony Ericsson and Nokia i-mode mobiles are available too. More next week.

Posted by Shiny Media on September 21, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Nokia 6630 Music Edition



Crikey, it appears everyone want to launch a music phone today. For after **Tosh's** new 803 for Vodafone we now have **Nokia** which has unveiled a new music-friendly version of its 3G phone the **6630**. Nokia says its **6630 Music Edition** has been 'designed with enhanced music functionality to make it convenient for you to take your music collection with you while on the move.' Essentially this means it now comes with a 256MB RS MMC card, a USB MMC/SD reader and the Nokia Audio Adapter and its 3.5 mm stereo jack. It is also available in a few different colours including Rustic Red or Aluminum Grey. The rest of the phone, with its 1.3 megapixel camera, mobile broadband access via 3G, mobile email and streaming video is the same.

To further confuse matters Nokia is also foreign the Nokia Music Pack, which has the Nokia Audio Adapter, the Nokia 256 MB MMC Card, the Nokia USB MMC/SD reader and Nokia Stereo Audio Cable as a kit.

Of course the real Nokia music phone is this one.

Posted by Shiny Media on September 19, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1)

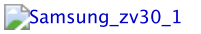
Are Vodafone and Sky about to launch TV to your mobile?



Is **Vodafone's TV** on your mobile service imminent? And will it carry Sky's TV channels? Well given the number of handsets in its new 3G range which it is billing as TV compatible it seems very likely we'll see a service sooner rather than later. In the summer Voda promised to launch TV in the UK before Christmas. It has also been trailing a service in Germany which offers CNN, Eurosport, Fashion TV and a weather channel. The German service also has a series of looped channels including a special mobile version of a popular German soap which is transmitted on mobile before it is broadcast on terrestrial TV. It is just speculation now, but given Sky's announcement the other day, and the fact that the pair work closely together on content for Voda's 3G mobile serves, maybe Sky Sports live via Voda is just weeks away.

Posted by Shiny Media on September 19, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Vodafone's Christmas 3G line up



Vodafone has announced a host of exclusive 3G handsets for Christmas. We already know about the superb three mega pixel camera phone the Sharp 903 but here are the others. The **Samsung ZV30** is a compact 3G-er which weighs in at just 110 grams. It has a display with 262,144 TFT colours and a resolution of 176 x 220 pixels, includes a 1.3 mega pixel camera, Bluetooth and a large 40 MB internal memory which can be extended to up to 256 MB with Trans-Flash cards.

Then there's the **Motorola E77V** which has access to mobile TV, video telephony, an MP3 player and Vodafone Music Downloads. It also features a digital camera and a Bluetooth interface for use with a wireless headset.

Designed as a 3G starter phone the **Sagem my V-85** has a large display with 26 2,144 colours for mobile video telephony and TV. Also on board is a 1.3 mega pixel digital camera and synchronisation via infrared interface, USB or Bluetooth. Vodafone is also adding the **Motorola V3x**, **Nokia 6280**, **Nokia N70** and **Vodafone VPA IV** (which is its version of the HTC Universal) though these handsets are mostly Voda exclusives, Pre-paid 3G phones include **Motorola C980**, **Motorola V980**, **Samsung Z140V**, **Sony Ericsson V600i.**

Posted by Shiny Media on September 19, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1)

Vodafone and Toshiba's 3G music phone



In case you were wondering why **Vodafone** had decided to pass on the Apple Motorola iTunes ROKR music phone, here it is. Due to go on sale in the UK shortly is Voda's own music phone, the **Toshiba 803**. Nicknamed by the company the UMTS (3G) jukebox it is a clamshell handset with MP3 playback and integrated music playing control buttons. In typical style though it is very short on memory. It comes with 20MB built in which can be supplemented by a mini-SD card. Though if previous form is anything to go by it is likely to be 64MB. Suddenly those 512MB cards bundled with the Moto and Sony Ericsson phones look pretty generous. Also on board is 2.3 mega pixel camera with 20 x digital zoom (which is previous Tosh cameras on phones are anything to go by should be cracking), a display with 262,144 colours and Bluetooth.

Alas the Tosh 903, which includes most of the above and integrated GPS is only going to be on sale in Japan.

Posted by Shiny Media on September 19, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (5)

Sky first to offer 24 hour mobile TV



Sky TV looks set to become the first broadcaster outside of the far east to offer its TV channels to **mobile** viewers. In a speech given at the Royal Television Society conference today in Cambridge COO Richard Freudenstein confirmed that its news, sports and movie channels would be available to 3G mobile phone owners 24 hours a day. The service, which is slated to start in months, will be paid for via monthly subscription.

There's very little flesh to put on this particular bone at the moment other than to say that we suspect that Sky has done deals with networks, and that the service will be available initially to Orange subscribers via its already up and running mobile TV service (pictured above), with Vodafone and possibly 3 to follow soon after. Its seems that Sky will stream the channels using the web rather than opt for one of the new digital TV services that are being developed such as DVB-H. It seems highly likely though that the services will migrate to DVB-H and possibly even DMB (which Samsung was championing the other week at the IFA exhibition).

Sky also confirmed that it has major plans to offer its services online. 'New Ethernet connections will allow us to deliver services such as video on demand (VOD) over a broadband pipe as well as over satellite,' Richard Freudenstein, the company's chief operating officer, said.

'Over time we'll have a hybrid model, satellite augmented by broadband,' a Sky spokesman told The Times on Friday.

Interestingly Freudenstein added that while a date has not been set for the new VOD services, the newest Sky+ boxes have extra memory that is currently not used, suggesting that some of the hardware requirements are already in place. As we already know Sky is also preparing the release of a VOD service that would let subscribers watch movies and sports on their PCs.

Posted by Shiny Media on September 16, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

T-Mobile MDA Pro/O2 XDA Exec review

Is this the smartphone you have all been waiting for? **HTC's Universal** finally arrives in the UK this month in at least two different guises. **T-Mobile** claims to have got the device first offering it as the **MDA Pro**. Not to be outdone **O2** is also offering the phone this time calling it the **XDA Exec**. Vodafone and Orange will have their own version shsortly. So why all the excitement? Well the Universal is certainly a special phone and it likely to be a huge hit with both corporates and high-end prosumers. Its big story is that it is the first top-end Windows Mobile powered handset to offer 3G connection, so users can download large files to it or surf the web at broadband-like (or maybe



that's broadband-lite) speeds. It also has Wi-Fi for when a person is in range of a hot spot and GPRS as a fall back.

The device is also the first to offer the latest version of the Microsoft operating system for mobiles - Windows Mobile 5.0. The big news here is that it now features persistent memory, so when the phone battery dies you don't lose all the data you had on it - a major weakness of previous MS phones. There's also enhanced push email facilities and a few other minor tweaks. And of course the cut down version of Excel, Word, etc are sure to be a hit with IT departments who want to play safe and keep all their PCs and devices on the same platform.

The clamshell type device - it has a touch of the Psion Series 5 about it or even a Nokia Communicator, also features a large and very usable keyboard which is light years away for the thumbapad offered by its rivals. I had a reasonably long play with the MDA pro and to be honest I can't see why any mobile worker wouldn't want one. Its only real weakness is its bulky size, but hey it is still much smaller and more pocketable than a laptop.

Posted by Shiny Media on September 16, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (2)

Motorola and Virgin Mobile launch iTunes ROKR phone



Bored of hearing about the **iTunes** phone yet? Well even if you are sick of the hype surrounding the **Motorola ROKR E1** it seems that the great British phone industry can't get enough of it. Motorola had its big launch shindig for the phone today enlisting the aid of Mylo - who, if I was down with the kids rather than listening to nothing but Brian Jonestown Massacre CDs, I'd know is one of the UK's leading new dance acts.

Meanwhile **Virgin Mobile** has been giving details about its ROKR launch claiming that it'll be ready for the punters on September 26th, presumably a week after it goes on sale via O2 which has a week long exclusive on the handset. Virgin Mobile is charging £189 for the phone which seems roughly what the other networks are suggesting it will go for on pre-pay tariffs. **Orange**, the surprise network to take the phone, hasn't said a great deal about the handset but you can presume it will be available via that network sometime in October.

Posted by Shiny Media on September 15, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

3 allows subscribers to check out the web - well sort of



Well, here's a day I never thought I'd see. It appears that **3**, which has always been the mobile network most committed to ensuring that its customers don't use their phones to surf the web, has finally caved in and gone net crazy. From mid-September it is to offer a pair of services which will enable user to escape 3's walled garden of sites and trawl the real web. And get this, even use their handset as a 3G modem to enable their laptop to grab a bit of those 3G speeds.

The basic **Mobile Web** services, costs £2.50 per month enabling customers with a contract on 3 to download up to 5 MegaBytes of content, or an average of 500 pages each month from the 'Mobile Web.' This being 3 though there has to be a bit of a get out clause and this time users can only access pages that have been 'optimised' for mobile. So while you should be able to peek at the BBC and Amazon, don't expect to be able to check out pigbreedersfortonyblair.com just yet.

Gareth Jones, COO of 3, said: 'We are about offering the best of the web on mobile and ensuring the customer experience. Currently only a fraction of the internet works well on mobile - but the good news is that many of the UK's most popular sites, including the BBC, eBay and Amazon have now been optimised. We are committed to extending the choice of high-quality video mobile services - this service means the best of internet is now available to our customers over their mobiles.'

Perhaps more exciting is the Wireless Web option, which provides internet access for laptops via the phones at a flat rate of £45 per month. Again there's a limit of 512MB of data, so no cheeky MP3 or video files. To be fair I

cant see massive take up on either service, but at least 3 has knocked a couple of bricks out of its walled garden.

Posted by Shiny Media on September 12, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Is over the air downloads to iTunes phones the real reason for the ROKR?:



Is the real story about the **ROKR** phone that it is a precursor to Apple offering over the air music downloads via iTunes? Well maybe, and the interesting news is that the UK networks don't seem as down on having iTunes as a rival to their music services as you might have thought.

It was always assumed by UK mobile phone analysts that had Apple and Motorola offered a direct over the air music downloads via iTunes to its newly launched ROKR music phone, that the UK networks wouldn't have touched the phone. For after all this would make iTunes a direct competitor to the network's own music download options. Vodafone, which isn't offering the phone probably sees it this way but not other networks.

Speaking for O2, which has an exclusive on the phone for a couple of weeks, Head of Music Graeme Riddell told Tech Digest that this was never an issue. 'We took the phone because it fits in with our core plan and that it is to get people using their mobile to listen to music. We acknowledge that it is a competitive market place out there and we have a strong offering and we would be able to offer services that iTunes couldn't such as video downloads, ringtones, ticketing and community features.' Nevertheless were Apple to offer a mobile-friendly version of its iTunes music store, which surely has to be high on the company's agenda, the UK networks own services would find it hard to compete with a system that has already taken such a huge leap in PC-based music downloads. Tellingly Riddell admitted that the networks would still benefit massively from the service 'as consumers would be using our phone network to download the tracks.'

Riddell also argued that it didn't take long to decide to take the phone as it is 'obviously a high profile phone and O2 wants to maintain its position as offering the widest and best range of handsets on the High Street.' Asked what he thought about the backlash against the phone - reviews haven't been too kind so far - Riddell said that 'consumer electronics is a very fast moving market' and he expected Motorola and Apple would offer better specified versions of the phone in the near future.' 'Although Apple has done extremely well with its iPod,' concluded Riddell. 'There are still many more phones out there that can play MP3 than Apple music players.'

Posted by Shiny Media on September 9, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Sharp 903 review: this month's coolest phone



So what's this month's hottest new phone? The Nokia N90 camera phone? Mmmm. The Apple Motorola ROKR? Don't make me laff! Nope by some clear distance the gadget phone for September has to be the **Sharp 903** available via Vodafone.

I managed to get my hands on one the other day and have to say that if the 903 is anything to go by the days of the budget digital camera are numbered. It is fairly similar to the equally groundbreaking 902 but with some neat additions.

Sharp has tweaked the style a bit so now it comes in black (haven't seen the red in the UK yet) and has slightly bevelled edges. It doesn't sound like much of a makeover but it is one that's actually pretty impressive. The SD card slot is gone replaced by one of those annoying mini SD ones. Though at least the phone does come with an SD card adaptor.

The big change however is that Sharp has upgraded the camera from 2.0 mega pixels to 3.2 mega pixels and judging by the images the handset takes

that is one huge leap. Colour is enhanced, contrast level are significantly better but obviously the big difference is that you see levels of detail that on the 902 and all other camera phones would have just been something of a blur. Sharp has also worked hard on the camera's facilities which now include a very effective auto focus, a highly useful 2x optical zoom and a variable exposure option.

The rest of the phone is every bit as good as the 902. In particular I like the MP3/AAC player which is not only one of the best I have heard so far on a phone, but also sounds great through the 903's integrated speakers. The phone's two and half inch 262k colour screen is also a wonder – still the benchmark which rival phone makers have to aspire to. There's also person to person video calling, video capture and access to Vodafone's Live! 3G services. The downsides, well the interface is fine but nowhere near as elegant as say a Nokia Series 60 handset. Also while Sharp has included POP3 email, it is a bit tricky to set up and use. There's also a web browser on board, which, to say the least is fairly basic. Finally the phone is, just like the 902, a bit of monster. If you want something small and slinky to pull from your pocket buy a Moto RAZR or a Nokia 8800. Finally Voda hasn't been at all generous with the storage, the phone is bundled with a 64MB card which, given the size of 3.2 mega pixel images, should fill up in moments.

Overall though this is a cracking phone. Forget your iTunes and Walkman handsets, they are just trying to sucker you in via their branding, this is the real deal. If you want a better camera, better screen, tons more features and a pretty good music player to boot the 903 is for you.

Posted by Shiny Media on September 8, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (3)

iTunes phone: no O2 UK exclusive

Ok we have the final word on networks now. According to the horse's mouth; 'It is available first with Carphone Warehouse, expected in mid-September and then with O2, followed by Orange, Virgin Mobile, BT Mobile and other top retailers through September and October.' So no Vodafone... Interestingly there's no French or Italian networks lined up. The rest of us can still buy the phone via the Apple website and Apple store and use it with whichever network we prefer. It'll probably cost around £200-250.

Posted by Shiny Media on September 7, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

iTunes phone: the basics

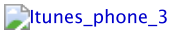


Many of the UK's tech press are holed dup in some arty fartsy building just off the north circ, but not me, so like the rest of you I am tuning into Engadget's fantastic on the spot coverage. And here comes first few details. We'll give you the UK angle as soon as we get it, but we do know the following. It is the **Motorola/Apple ROKR phone.** It has a (pathetic) 100-song storage capacity and users load the phone in the same random way they do the iPod shuffle or do it the boring manual way. So no over the air downloads then – what a surprise! It works with both Macs and PCs. It costs $249 from the Apple Store (US) and is available in North America via Cingular.

You'll forgive me if I am not dancing in the aisles with excitement at this point. More in a mo.

Posted by Shiny Media on September 7, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

iTunes phone is imminent



Unless you are stuck somewhere under a log you are probably well aware that later today, at 6pm UK time in fact, **Apple** is set to take the wraps off the **iTunes phone** it has developed with Motorola. I remain very positive about the future of music phones, but not really convinced about the iTunes phone. Especially if, as predicted, its battery life and storage capacity is significantly less than rivals like the **Sony Ericsson W800i**, or even handsets like the awesome **Sharp 903**.

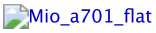
The big question that we'll find the answer to soon enough is whether the phone will download tracks over the air, or whether it will just enable users to sideload AAC tracks from their PC. I expect it to be the latter as most UK

networks have their own music download services up and running. As for which UK network will take the handset, well the big money is on O2 with Virgin Mobile a possibility. Of course the wonderful thing about all this is that I could be made to look rather stupid in less than a couple of hours time. One last thing. Don't except Apple to have all its own way tomorrow. There's a rumour buzzing round the UK of an imminent worldwide launch by one of Apple's rivals. We'll be bringing you the details on that one as soon as we have them.

Check out Engadget's last minute rumours here

Posted by Shiny Media on September 7, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Mio unveils GPS smartphone



GPS. It's cool, useful and as close as your ever likely to get to having a FPS style objective compass in real life. GPS is great, so it's understandable that Orange wants to get into the market (as reported below). Those who want an alternative should check out Mio's new toys: new versions of the dedicated GPS handset 268 and 269 series, a new PDA with GPS functionality dubbed the A201 and a new smartphone with integrated GPS, the A701.

The A701 looks to be a combination of PDA, smartphone and GPS navigator, with a windows smartphone as its starting point. It runs using the Magneto (snigger, insert X-men reference) operating system from Microsoft, has a 2.7 inch TFT touchscreen, as well as a 520 MHz processor and 192MB of internal memory, in addition to bluetooth and a 1.3 MP camera.

The new versions of the 268 and 269 (dubbed the 'plus' series) will come with faster processors, better GPS linkp, door-to-door directions as well as compatiblity with the Traffic Message Channel service. The 269 plus comes with maps for 27 European countries pre-installed, and both the 268 and 269 come with inbuilt MP3 players. The 269 will also come with a photo viewer.

The A201 PDA version comes with a rotating antenna, letting you use the device in both landscape and portrait mode. The A201 comes with all the standard current generation PDA features, as well as bluetooth, and also runs with the Magneto operating system from Microsoft.

Phew. The 268, 269 and A201 will be available in from September in Europe. The A701 is expected to arrive towards the end of the year.

Posted by Chris Cornwell on September 1, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

First UK Push To Talk review



For a couple of years now our American cousins have been banging on about the delights of **Push To Talk**, a smart little system that enables your mobile to moonlight as a walkie talkie. The cool thing though is that unlike trad walkie talkies it isn't limited by a range of a few miles. Instead you can bark roger, roger into your handset and wake up your rellies down under. Well Push To Talk has finally arrived in the UK in the guise of **Orange's Talk Now** and with new handsets and a pay as you go tariff the company is now targeting consumers, as well niche buyers like small businesses, with the technology. We had a lot of fun with the phones and you can read about it here.

Posted by Shiny Media on September 1, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Motorola's GPS A780 phone

Seems like we are on for a bit of rush on **mobiles** with built in **GPS satellite navigation systems**. There's a new model from Mio on the cards, but until then **Motorola** is claiming it got there first with its clamshell style **A780.** Moto has sensibly incorporated a large colour touch screen to display the

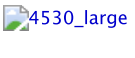


maps which cover the UK and Ireland. If you want to add other European countries you have to invest in another TransFlash memory card.

The phone uses CoPilot Live software to guide users round the country features a 1.3 mega pixel camera with an 8x digital zoom, Bluetooth and quad band reception. Motorola has also announced the V360, a budget clamshell handset with a VGA camera, Bluetooth and push to talk facilities. Both models will be on sale within the month.

Posted by Shiny Media on September 1, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (2)

Samsung trials new 2GB MMC cards



Samsung has just announced that it's currently trialling its new MMC plus memory cards on consumers. These 1GB and 2GB cards are a little faster then their smaller brethren, allowing data transfer of up 52 Megabytes a second. That's apparently up to twenty times faster than older generations of MMC memory and three times faster than SD memory. Also of note is that Samsung are testing out a new 1GB MMC mobile card, which is of course much smaller and able to fit into the slightly smaller MMC port on your mobile phone. No word on pricing or availability yet.

Posted by Chris Cornwell on August 30, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Apple and Motorola preparing to release phone?



Well, its been a long road to release, but Apple has announced a major press conference on September 7th, gently hinting that it's going to reveal the hottest product since the original iPod. Analyst Roger Entner, who says he's been talking to Apple, claims that the company is preparing to release the iPod phone. The phone, he says, will come with iTunes pre-installed (no surprises there), be made by Motorola and marketed by Cingular Wireless. With any luck we'll finally get to see Apple's new toy in a week.

Posted by Chris Cornwell on August 30, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Orange gets pushy - take two



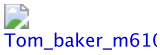
Push to talk, the system which lets mobile phone users chat away walkie talkie style, was big news last summer. However only one network, Orange, launched a service and that turned out to be a fairly low key roll out. Well it appears that **Orange** is ramping up its **Talk Now**, PTT service by extending its list of PTT handsets by offering the Sagem my-C5-2T and LG 2250T (the original service used the Treo 600), and is rolling out Talk Now to its pay-as you go customers. Users are given a three month free trial, after which they pay 20p a session (which can last up to thirty minutes). We'll be having a play soon, so watch this space for more.

Posted by Shiny Media on August 25, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Doctor Who and Red Dwarf coming to mobile

Good news for Red Dwarf and Doctor Who fanatics: the BBC has agreed with Mobile Media Player company Rok (that we took a look at earlier on Tech

Digest) to licence full episodes of both series for show on mobile phones, the first foray into the mobile TV market for the BBC. You simply buy a DVC card from the Rok Website and plug it into your phone. At the moment only the Five Doctors episode has been announced, with Cassandra, Marooned and Quarantine also available soon for Dwarfers. The are only compatible with newer Nokia phones that come with an MMC slot, and are expect to go for £17 a pop. Release is expected in about a month



Posted by Chris Cornwell on August 24, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Mobile Manga



In a move aimed at putting Sony Pictures Entertainment Inc. at the top of the growing mobile comic market, the company has announced plans to roughly triple the amount of comics made available for Japanese viewers. Mobile Manga has been around for about a year thanks to the development of technology to encode pictures for rapid transfer to the mobile phone screen. Customers currently have access to a selection of these comic books, pages of which are navigated around using the phone controls. It costs around £1.60 to buy around 5 new titles per month and Sony is set to expand the market by signing up a range of popular artists to exclusive contracts. Surely it is just a matter of time until this technology hits these shores as looking at graphic novels seems a more feasible use of mobile technology at its current stage, rather than lofty plans of streamed TV and so on. Anyone else thinking Mobile Marvel?

via Wireless Watch Japan

Posted by Al on August 23, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Podcasting goes off the pod, onto the phone



Mobile phone company Melodeo, who normally deal in software that allows you to listen to music on your mobile has just made an announcement that it will offer a program that lets you select and download podcasts to your mobile phone. Podcasts, for those in the dark, are radio-style shows that you can download and listen to on your media player. The program, dubbed 'Mobilcast' will let you browse podcasts and let you download them direct to your phone for free (not including airtime charges of course), without messing around with that whole PC and digital player nonsense. Good news of supporters of Podcasting: looks like radio might be making a comeback, on a mobile near you, soon. The software is currently scheduled for a late September release.

Posted by Chris Cornwell on August 22, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Nokia n91 to be compatible with iTunes?



Here's an interesting little snippet for you: Swedish newspaper Taloussanomat reported on Thursday that the Nokia n91, a 4GB phone previewed earlier on Tech Digest, will apparently be able to run iTunes music store. And although it looks like there's no agreement between Apple and Nokia, the phone is apparently going to be open ended enough to be compatible with lots of programs, iTunes Music Store among them.

While the phone was known to support MP3 and Apple's AAC format, iTunes compatibility was previously thought to be a no-go. The phone is due to hit the shelves sometime before Christmas.

Posted by Chris Cornwell on August 18, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

AOL go mobile in US

AOL is trying to get its mitts into the ever-expanding mobile market as well, with the launch of AOLmobile.com. The service, intended for PC access, will allow users to browse the price of phones, contracts and other shopping in their area. In a nice little touch, you can customise the site to show information relevant to you in your area (mobile phone accesories available



near you, for instance). AOL has also announced an update of their WAP based AOL portal. The new AOL service isn't a massive split from the existing WAP services already out there. Subscription, which is also available for non-AOL customers, will kit out your phone with a set of interesting new features, such as international news and weather, sports and entertainment. The site is US-specific at the moment: no news on whether we can expect to see this feature in the UK yet.

Posted by Chris Cornwell on August 16, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

3 boasts first Sony Ericsson handset



Sony Ericsson's debut on the **3** network shows some really neat handset design. The **K608i** shows off the sleek styles that SE has built up a reputation for and also manages to slip 3G technology into a handset that weighs no more than and ordinary 2G or GSM phone. It also has a 1.3 megapixel camera and a huge battery life allowing 150 hours of standby or over 2 hours talk time. It has a 1.8" 262k colour screen with a resolution of 176x220 pixels and can obviously make and receive video calls with the front mounted camera. All round it looks like a slim, stylish mobile that could have potential 3 customers queuing up get it and if you sign up before the end of the month you get it free.

Read

Posted by Al on August 12, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Naysayers put Nokia N90 in doubt



The **Nokia N90** is perhaps one of the most eagerly awaited handsets of 2005. Billed as much as a camera as a phone the clamshell design handset takes 2.0 mega pixel images, features advanced Carl Zeiss optics (the first for a camera phone), a macro option, an autofocus, flash and a 20x digital zoom. The phone also grabs video too in MPEG4 and 3GP formats and will record and make video calls. It also boasts a media player and some decent connectivity options; it pretty much has all the sought after mobile accessories. But, when it launches in the not too distant future, will the sales reflect this anticipation? Analyst **Mako Analysis** thinks not and claim the hefty dimensions of the feature-packed mobile will put consumers off. The device has a pretty sizeable weight at 173g and though the dimensions of 112x51x24mm maximum don't seem too huge, even when closed the N90 is bigger than the Nokia 6680, and recent successes like the Motorola V3 Razr show that less can be more.

The Sharp 902 offered a similar combination of substance over style with a 2.0 megapixel camera and did not receive the sales figures Sharp hoped for. Plus with a Sharp 3.2 megapixel phone promised for later in the year Mako Analysis might have made a good point. Everyone wants 2 megapixel cameras with video recording and MPEG4 support on a hard disk drive but unfortunately, being fickle beasts that we are, no one wants a brick in their pocket. We'll have a preview of the phone early next week.

Posted by Al on August 12, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Sharp/Vodafone's three mega pixel phone

Fancy a sneak preview of the next **Vodafone**/**Sharp** mega pixel 3G camera phone? Well the pair has just taken the wraps off a new handset in Japan which we are sure will be landing in the UK very shortly. It seems that the 903SH is basically a revamp of the 902SH which Voda launched earlier this year. Now the jury is still very much out on the 902. Sure it is has a fantastic screen and its two mega pixel snapper takes great pictures, but some critics moaned that it was a little too bulky.



The 903 keeps the 902's camera style form factor and many of its features including stereo sound (the 902 has one of the best MP3 players on a phone and superb stereo speakers too) and its swivel round head. Voda has however upgraded the camera to now take three mega pixel rather than two mega pixel images.

There's no word on whether Voda has improved on the 902's other notable weaknesses – its lack of email and its very poor web browser. It'll be interesting to see if it wins the race to become the first three mega pixel camera phone to go on sale in the UK.

Posted by Shiny Media on August 12, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Sony Ericsson W800i Walkman phone review



It's a big day today for **Sony Ercisson** for as from midnight you will be able to rush down to Carphone Warehouse, or at least a couple of its central London branches, and buy the company's first Walkman branded phone the **W800i**. I have had a quick play with one – you can read the full review at The Guardian here – and I am not entirely sure what all the fuss is about.

The handset, which is basically a revamp for the rather good K750i, has loads going for it including a cracking two mega pixel camera and Bluetooth, Its music features are good too especially battery life that lets you play music with the phone off for around 20 hours – though when playing MP3s we reckon it was more like 20. Storage at 512Mb is pretty generous too. But bizarrely for a company with such a heritage in the audio industry there are issuea with the performance of both the speakers (too soft) and the earphones (too fiddly and not great quality).

Posted by Shiny Media on August 11, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

15 second short shot entirely on cameraphone



Camera phones are heading into bold new territory: Shane Meadows, who you might remember as the director of Brit revenge flick 'Dead Man's Shoes' has just shot the world's first short completely shot on mobile (a Nokia N90 to be exact). And when I say short I mean short: 15 seconds to be exact. The film called '**The Stairwell**' and featuring, yup, you guessed it, a collision on a stairwell, showcases Nokia's mobile shorts competition: you can submit your 15 second films at www.nokiashorts.com. Makes you wonder doesn't it: bold new art form or marketing fad? Time will tell.

Posted by Chris Cornwell on August 10, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Toshiba launches TS921 in UK



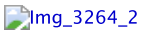
The mobile phone handset markets definitely the one to be at, and it looks like Toshiba is about to try and get a little of the market that Sharp, Samsung and many others have got so much out of. **Toshiba's TS921** 3G phone is hitting the streets now via Vodafone and here's what you can expect from it: the phone comes packing a 1.92 mega-pixel camera, which has an integrated flash and can record videos in MPEG-4 to be sent over on Vodafone's UMTS network.

The phone is no slouch in the battery depatment either, with 300 hours of standby or 160 minutes of talking time. As you might expect, the camera

comes with bluetooth and infrared. Guess we'll find out soon if this phone signals a new era of Toshiba mobile phones.

Posted by Chris Cornwell on August 10, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

3 launches mobile dating service



You're feeling blue. Your girlfriend has just left you and you're desperately trying to get back into the dating game. So, you do what any self respecting gadget geek would do and turn to technology for a quick fix, in this case the new mobile dating service from 3. The service lets you sign up and record a video ad for yourself, as well as view ads from other people. Sort of like a blind date, but without the blind bit.

After setting up an account, you can browse other profiles for 25p a min for the first month and 75p thereafter. You could make a bad pun about the terrible pricing of love here. But that would be immature. The service is available now for customers on the 3 network.

Posted by Chris Cornwell on August 9, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Sony Ericsson show off W550



It's easy to get cynical about the high number of mobiles that now incorporate an MP3 player in a half-arsed way. But it looks as if we could have a pleasant surprise soon, with the announcement of Sony Ericsson W550 camera phone. This neat looking tri-band phone features a 1.3 mega-pixel camera with 4x digital zoom, a gaming console, an MP3 player, two stereo speakers and a 176 x 220, 262k colour screen. The phone has 256MB of internal memory for holding songs and on a full charge can keep playing for a considerable 30 hours, apparently.

The phone can also be tilted sideways to play handheld games, with titles such as Wormforts: Undersiege and a new version of the classic Gauntlet on the way. The phone comes with all the normal features of current generation phones: GPRS, bluetooth and a USB connector to connect to your PC.

The W550 will be available in the UK around November. No word on pricing yet though.

You can find oodles more on this phone on Camera Phone Zone, hosted by the living room.

Posted by Chris Cornwell on August 8, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (1)

iTunes phone from T-Mobile?



Barely a day goes by without me hearing wicked whispers about the **iTunes Motorola** mobi. Today's rumour, from a pretty reliable source, is that it will launch in the UK in September, but it won't just be wearing **Virgin Mobile's** colours. Apparently another network has also signed the phone up. As O2 and Orange already have their own music phones we reckon it is most likely to be **T-Mobile** which has already offered Moto music phones to its customers before. Maybe it has signed a worldwide deal with Moto so perhaps it will also offer the handset in the US? Well we'll all know soon now.

Posted by Shiny Media on August 1, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

V Festival to see launch of iTunes Phone?

Seems a good time to be an industry analyst; just about any piece of unsubstantiated conjecture will happily get reporters (like me) stirred up. Here's another in a long line of analyses which promises that the mysterious and highly anticipated **Motorola iTunes phone** will make its debut at the **V festival** this summer. The fact that a representative of Virgin mobile, sponsors of the event,said "there is no confirmation of when this phone will



be launched" and that "it is not being launched at the V festival" is of little consequence.

Motorola CEO, Ed Zander made a speech on Monday, presumably to quell the baying for the iTunes phone coming from just about every attendee, explaining that it would be launched "on one of the 66 days left in the quarter". Therefore it absolutely must be at the V Music festival, because, well, it's got music, and it's got something to do with mobile phones. So let's put this analysis to the test and if on the 20-21st August I'm proved wrong I will happily bow down and herald industry analysts as the soothsayers of the modern era.

via iLounge

Posted by Al on July 29, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Amp'd release details of first youth orientated mobile

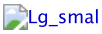


It had to be aimed at youths with a name like Amp'd, who apparently shun the unnecessary use of vowels, choosing instead to indulge in the much more extr'm' inverted comma. Amp'd Mobile has now revealed its first phone, called the Jet (not the J't then?) from Kyocera. It turns out to be a decent looking slider-phone, which, in my opinion have been underrated in the past, that features MP3 and Video playback from TransFlash memory. It is nice to see some new thinking in the mobile market but I think it will be a long time before these reach this side of the pond. There's no details on prices or launch dates yet, but check the Amp'd website if you want to experience one of the most demanding Flash animations ever implemented for commercial use.

Amp'd via Wireless Watch Japan

Posted by Al on July 26, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

LG launches SB120 DMB Phone



LG's latest offering demonstrates what us Brits can probably expect in about three years time. The SB120 has just been unveiled in Korea, and is boasting DMB (Digital Media Broadcasting), which, for the uninitiated, will someday allow you to catch TV shows whilst enduring public transport and board meetings. Plus it even has a handy little stand to prop it up so you can sit in the office quite obviously watching telly at your desk innocently claiming that it's just you mobile.

Somehow LG has also managed to squeeze a 2 megapixel camera into the device on top of the MP3 player and GPS system which probably explains why it appears to be a little bulky. Details of the other features and accessories are a bit scarce on the ground at the moment but we'll keep you posted as more info arrives.

via Akihabara News

Posted by Al on July 26, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Motorola debuts revolutionary Q smartphone

Could it soon be time to bin your Blackberry? In a surprise move **Motorola** has extended its ultra skinny **RAZR** range into the corporate zone with the debut of **Q**, a Windows Mobile powered smartphone. The thinnest handset to feature a QWERTY keyboard, the mobile mimics the design of the BlackBerry with the keyboard underneath the (320 x 240 pixels, 65K TFT) screen, but it is obviously significantly slimmer. Moto has kept the feature count high too including a 1.3 mega pixel camera, Bluetooth, MP3, AAC, WMA and WAV audio file playback and video capture. The device is also Motorola's first to

Motoq1tm_1 run on Microsoft Windows Mobile 5.0 and so includes Outlook, Pocket Explorer and compatibility with Word and Excel.

It has also been optimized to work with a range of email solutions, though there's no mention if it BlackBerry compatible. Might this be the mobile phone that corporate America finally ditches their BlackBerry for? Much depends on the quality of that QWERTY keyboard and whether it works with a push email solution. Still with a launch date of Q1 next year it won't be long before we find out. More pics and full details here

Posted by Shiny Media on July 26, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Video blogging on your mobile

Mobalia_videopost We have been waiting for video blogging on mobiles to arrive for a while and now it appears it will be launched soon in the UK by 3 as its Italian counterpart has just announced a service which has been developed by a company called **Mobalia**. Apparently the video blog – which is being billed as a cross between a video diary or personal magazine – is simple to use. Users key in a code number to access the service which then gives them the option of updating their own entry or viewing other people's blogs.

3 has signed up some celeb bloggers including Elio e Le Storie Tese, which as all Euro pop lovers will know is one of the biggest Italian artists of all time. Given that 3 has already dabbled with picture blogging can't imagine that it will be too long before it hits the UK. It will be very interesting to see much it will cost to upload those videos though. More here

Posted by Shiny Media on July 25, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Adult entertainment on mobiles a bit of a flop?



Analysts Informa Telecoms & Media has just published its predictions for the future of mobile phone content sizing up how much the market will be worth in 2010. It reckons that the global market fuelled largely by music, games, gambling and adult entertainment will be worth $42.8 billion by the end of the decade. It's a monster report, but click on for a few of its many interesting findings including...
Phone not to kill iPod
Adult entertainment a bit of a flop
Music downloads not huge business for phone networks
Mobile gambling to grow from US$1.2bn of annual revenues in 2005 to US$7.6bn by 2010

Phone not to kill iPod – By 2010 music playing features will be part of most mobiles and many will have dedicated storage (hard disks) for music. But just as camera phones did not suddenly destroy the digital camera business, the report finds that MP3-enabled phones will not seriously damage the digital music player market in the immediate future.

Adult entertainment a bit of a flop – The market for erotic content for mobile devices is predicted to be worth $2.3bn by 2010, but realisation of this is highly dependent on mobile phone carriers and content providers working with regulators in order to determine solid controls and age verification procedures. Much of this depends on networks who seem to have an ambivalent attitude towards online adult entertainment. Overall Informa thinks adult entertainment on mobiles will be a lot smaller than has previously been thought.

Music downloads not huge business for phone networks – Even by 2010 ringtones will continue to dominate music market. Downloads via the web will be more than double the downloads via mobiles. And most music phone downloads are likely to be in Asia.

Total gaming revenue from mobile games is forecast to increase from $2.6 billion this year to $11.2 billion by 2010. Much of this will come from multi player gaming. The US will be the main market for mobile gaming with the European market significantly smaller than either America or the Far East. Many console games will debut first as teasers on mobiles as gaming companies seek to generate a buzz around the games.

There's potential for growth in games which use other phone features (such as camera/GPS).

Mobile gambling to grow from US$1.2bn of annual revenues in 2005 to US$7.6bn by 2010, by which time there will be more than 200 million consumers gambling using their mobiles. Europe will be the big market with lotteries, online poker and basic casino games attracting the highest number of users.

Posted by Shiny Media on July 25, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Sony Ericsson Walkman W800i phone hits UK in August



Ok, so we might not yet have the Apple/Motorola iTunes phone yet, but the other most talked about music playing handset – the **Sony Ericsson W800i Walkman** – is set to land in the UK on Friday August 12th. Sony Ericsson is publicising its launch by enlisting old Jay Kay from Jamiroquai to perform at a private gig on the eve of the launch.

Presumably when it is all finished the attendees will then dash out to the Orange store on Oxford Street which is staying open on Friday night so it can be first to sell the handset at midnight. Orange is predicting huge demand for the phone. Maybe, but we reckon there will be a longer queue that night at our local Kebaberie.

Nevertheless the phone certainly looks the part, comes stacked with music and other entertainment facilities and has an astonishing music battery life of thirty hours if you stick with the Atrac files. Its only downer is that its 512MB Memory Stick just isn't enough storage.

Posted by Shiny Media on July 20, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

BlackBerry rival heading for Nokia/Windows phones

From a consumer perspective we have never really been convinced by BlackBerry. Sure it works as push email solution, but in the UK at least you can wait anything between 5-15 minutes for the message that's landed on your server to be ported to your device. Obviously it works in a totally different and rather amazing way in the corporate space, but consumers are best advised to look at other phones and maybe other email solutions.

One serious contender is **SPROQIT** which has been around for a few months now and works in an really interesting way. It acts as a kind of remote control for a person's PC with messages forwarded to their mobile device as soon as they hit Outlook on the home computer.

Users can also send huge files via their device and not get stung with large phone bills for them as they instruct the computer to send them, not the mobile device. Another neat trick is that SPROQIT gives users the flexibility to download any part of a document, so if a user wants to access only the end of a presentation they can just grab that section of the document and once again save on data costs.

The big flaw with SPROQIT though has been that it has only been limited to the consumer space and only available with a small number of devices. Now the company has launched its Work Group system which enables corporates to set up multi-user systems. More importantly for us punters though is that it is now ready to phones that use the Windows Mobile and Symbian platforms to its list of compatible devices (it currently only work with Pocket PC based handsets). So you'll be able to use the system on your SPV or your Nokia with a few months. More details here.

Posted by Shiny Media on July 20, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (2) | TrackBack (0)

Mother is watching you

A couple of weeks back we brought you news of the **Verify Location Sazo** that reigns in the power of multiple satellites in order to make sure that little



Jimmy can not step out of sight without a loving parent having intimate knowledge of his every move. If you thought that the Sazo was a bit pricey and have also already given your child a mobile phone, then **KidsOk** provides a decent alternative. Rather than a separate unit, the **Kidscape** charity endorsed service is a simply addition to existing mobile phone technology; you enter the numbers you want as a tracker, the one you want tracked and then for the subscription period you can check up on your kids location via GSM.

A two word text then acquires immediate feedback of the child's location with an overlaid street map, which is known as a 'ping'. The RRP of £39.95 includes a one year subscription, a £1 donation to the Kidscape charity and 10 pings. Subsequent pings are bought in blocks of 20 for £9.95 which will hopefully ensure that paranoia doesn't set in too heavily. Additional mobiles can be added for £4.95.

So how does this compare to the Sazo service? As explained, KidsOk is a lot cheaper, but the cost is in accuracy. Sazo uses GPS technology, which, though not explicitly stated by the company, has the potential for a great deal more accuracy than the GSM alternative. KidsOk state that its service will give accurate results to within 500m, and that, especially in the confines of a city, is quite a long way as the massive red circle on the pic indicates quite well.

Posted by Al on July 19, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Bluetooth Squirrel to handle calls



It seems that soon secretarial work will be delegated to stuffed animals if pioneering work from the MIT Media Lab comes to fruition. The pic shows a 6" tall novelty toy that can be responsible for handling incoming phone calls. The squirrel is aimed at solving the problem of mobile phones interrupting important conversations by ringing at the least convenient moment. The solution is two-fold: firstly, the squirrel is capable, through extensive animatronics, of attracting attention to itself by sitting up, opening its eyes and gyrating manically. Secondly, and this is the more alarming aspect, the squirrel will engage in *conversation* with the incoming caller to establish the importance of the call based around keywords and the caller ID (presumably saying "answer the phone or you're fired" will get the call put straight through).

There's no indication of how exactly the squirrel will converse with the caller but I really hope it's nauseatingly cute. The clever part is that, in order to fit all this ability into so small a device, the squirrel is Bluetooth enabled so that the real processing aspects are handled by the computer and not the squirrel itself. So it is effectively just a computer program and a weird alternative to a ring tone or vibration function, oh well, at least there's a rabbit version in the works too...

Read via Blueserker

Posted by Al on July 18, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Vodafone's cheap international roaming calls



So are mobile phone networks starting to wake up to the fact that their ludicrously expensive international roaming charges are pushing people to making country to country calls via Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP)? Possibly, for **Vodafone** has just unveiled a new international roaming tariff and it seems like a pretty good deal. Customers pay a one-off connection fee of 75p for each call they make. After that, they will pay the same rates as they would at home. For example making a five minute call from Spain back to a UK mobile or landline using home inclusive minutes will cost just 75p compared with £3.75 previously.

The only bad news is that Voda subscribers have to set up a **Vodafone Passport** system and also while the tariff covers most of Europe, Australia, NZ and Japan, it doesn't include calls to the US.

Posted by Shiny Media on July 18, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Orange SPV-C550 music phone arrives



Orange has confirmed that the next version of its SPV smartphone - the **SPV C550** will go on sale at the end of the month and will be free with some tariffs. As we reported earlier Orange is billing the Windows Mobile platform phone as a music handset. In the same way that Sendo took the bones of the X smartphone and morphed it into an X2 music phone so the SPV C550 will feature all the Windows Mobile staples (email, Outlook, Pocket Explorer) but will sport a quartet of dedicated music buttons. The device, which is codenamed Amadeus, is a tri-band model with a 176 x 220, 64,000-colour screen, Bluetooth support, 32MB of RAM and 64MB of ROM. It has a 1.3 mega pixel camera on board too. Storage is via a 128MB mini SD memory card which apparently has enough space so Orange claims for around 170 tracks. Not quite sure how they worked that one out though.

Posted by Shiny Media on July 14, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Mobile blogging goes mainstream



It seemed that almost everyone in London last week was snapping away with their camera phones whether it be archiving the joyous celebrations that followed the Olympics announcement or capturing the aftermath of the awful events that took place this time last week. **The Guardian** has a piece here on how many of those images are now landing up on mobile blogs and why it is a phenomenon that ironically hasn't gone down too well with the mobile phone networks. For what it's worth there are Shiny Media staff's extremely self-indulgent mobile blogs here and here, and we definitely recommend here and here as good places to get into moblogging

Posted by Shiny Media on July 14, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Dot mobi domain for mobiles

The scale of mobile internet is growing every day and this will only be increased by the introduction of the **.mobi domain** announced yesterday. mTLD is spear-heading this initiative with support from some major companies including Microsoft, Nokia, Vodafone, Samsung and T-Mobile. Although there aren't any .mobi sites accessible just yet, you can expect to see mobile orientated pages popping up around the end of this year. It's great that mobile internet will be getting a decent kick in the right direction and a new investment of funding, though I can't help but fear a fresh onslaught of cutesy animated characters vying for monthly subscriptions and becoming the bane of the advert-break once again.

Posted by Al on July 12, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

JuicePoint über phone charger

Any Gadget obsessive will understand the need to take serious risks with multiplier plugs. The fact is that, until someone builds a house with at least ten sockets per room, we technophiles will probably continue to pose a serious fire risk. If you are in the habit of appraising mobile phones or are simply fickle for the latest shiny goodie then you may soon find you finite supply of sockets overloaded with the myriad of charger varieties that different companies demand. Lucky then that **ChargePoint** has come up with the **JuicePoint**, a device that can charge 5 different types of mobile and at the same time! I imagine that ChargePoint

was probably thinking of conference rooms and hotel suites above the technology geek's lounge but it's still a sensible idea. The best part is that one of these will only set you back as much as an officially branded charger from a major phone company so that's got to be good value. The JuicePoint is available now for £24.99 from here.

Read

Posted by Al on July 12, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Virgin to launch Apple/Motorola iTunes phone?



After writing off the **Moto iTunes** phone's chances of a UK launch last week, it looks like we might soon be forced to chomp on our words. **The Register** reports that the phone will make its debut at the V music festival which takes place over the weekend of the 20-21 August. Seeing as the V festival is sponsored by Virgin it doesn't take a genius to work out that the network is almost certainly going to be offering the phone. Unlike its rivals Virgin Mobile has no music download service and therefore no issue with the handset's iTunes link. Also Virgin Mobile would clearly love to have the phone as its hero music handset for the late summer.

Posted by Shiny Media on July 11, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Moto's high-end Bluetooth car kit



Forget furry dice, go faster stripes and personalised plates. If you want to seriously chav up your motor what better than a full-on top-end hands-free Bluetooth car kit. Urban chemical distributors, err that should be mobile professionals, don't know what came over me, should check out the **IHF1000** - **Motorola's** highest specced car kit to date. The rather funky looking system is of course voice activated so it will announce incoming calls and text messages and tip the driver off if the phone battery is running low. Users can also make voice activated calls and Moto claims that the system performs accurately regardless of accent, languages and background noise. Designed to work with any Bluetooth endowed phone the IHF1000 is on sale now for a rather hefty £200.

Posted by Shiny Media on July 8, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Orange's SPV music phone



The British networks love affair with Windows Mobile platform phones manufactured by Taiwanese company HTC goes from strength to strength with T-Mobile due to confirm the launch of its MDA Pro 3G top-ender any day now and Orange adding a couple of HTC mobiles to its portfolio. According to The Register the big news for **Orange** is that its next generation SPV smartphone is going to be billed as a music phone.

In the same way that Sendo took the bones of the X smartphone and morphed it into an X2 music phone so the **SPV C550** will feature all the Windows Mobile staples (email, Outlook, Pocket Explorer) but will sport a quartet of dedicated music buttons. The device, which is codenamed Amadeus, is a tri-band model with a 176 x 220, 64,000-colour screen, Bluetooth support, 32MB of RAM, 64MB of ROM and a MiniSD slot for expansion. It has a 1.3 mega pixel camera on board too.

Orange is also going to offer the **SPV M500** - aversion of the mini PDA phone that has been fairly successful for T-mobile and i-mate. We are also still waiting for Orange to officially announce its 3G SPV. There have been rumours about a product for some time now, though whether it is a 3G version that uses the existing SPV chocolate bar style design, or whether it is actually the same phone as T-Mobile's MDA Pro remains to be seen.

Posted by Shiny Media on July 8, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

The growing power of Mobiles



Mobile technology has recently been performing a new role in the news media; at the Gleneagles G8 summit/protests **ITV News** has been encouraging its viewers to make a record of their thoughts and send them in via a **3G video messaging** provided by All New Video. If you manage to put across a coherent and educated opinion then ITN editorial team may single it out for play on the live news programme. Mobile technology is making it easier for reporters to get opinions of the general populace without having to wade through packs of masked hoodlums to do so. Further more, Sky News' reports of yesterday's tragic events in London featured, maybe for the first time, a video shot from a mobile phone in the underground during the incident. There were also a number of phone-camera pics on various other news stations. The past few days have, if nothing else, showcased the growing power of the mobile phone as a medium for communication on a scale far beyond simply calling friends and relatives.

Posted by Al on July 8, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Nokia N91 hard disk phone on eBay



Nokia's iPod-busting **N91** hard disk based phone is due in the stores sometime in the autumn, So we were a little surprised to see a flood of N91s popping up on the British eBay site. The phones seem legit too and we feel pretty confident that this is not some sort of dodgy phone scam.

The N91, which features a four Gigabyte hard disk, Wi-Fi, two mega pixel camera, MP3 player and much else is certainly top of our wants list and if prices don't rise much above the £100 the phones are currently being offered for we'll certainly be investing in one. More detiails from Bayraider.

Posted by Shiny Media on July 7, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (2) | TrackBack (0)

Vodafone's 3G newbies



We haven't read many stories recently about how **Vodafone** is doing in trying to tempt subscribers to upgrade to its 3G services. It seems a little quiet at the moment which might mean that sales of 3G handsets are short of what was expected, but then again it might not. Nevertheless the range of 3G mobiles the network is offering gets better all the time. The latest to arrive is **Sony Ericsson's** rather stylish looking **V600i** (a 3G T610?) and **Samsung's Z500** mobiles. Available to buy now both models feature video calling facilities and can access Vodafone's Live! 3G video portal. The Sony Ericsson is a chocolate bar style phone that's one of the most compact 3G models to date. It features a 1.3 mega pixel camera, FM radio, MP3 player, large 262k colour screen and video capture. The clamshell Samsung's Z500 includes a one mega pixel camera and flash, a 262k colour screen and Bluetooth. Both mobiles are available for free if users sign up for an eighteen month contract.

Posted by Shiny Media on July 7, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Nokia 6680 review

The Guardian has been playing with **Nokia**'s latest 3G phone the **6680**. Nokia's first phone with two cameras and person to person video calling has been in very short supply recently in the UK with handsets flying out the



door of all the major retailers. Almost all the major networks have signed up for it and most are offering it free on contract.

The phone itself is a goodie, a neat evolution of the 6630. The key enhancements are a more rectangular chocolate bar style design and a home screen that offers instant access to key applications. The only real quibble is that it is a little heavy.

Posted by Shiny Media on July 7, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Moto iTunes phone not coming to UK?



Must admit that we are starting get bored of endless **Motorola iTunes** phone stories. Sure we don't know for definite what the phone looks like or its spec, but thanks to the stuff that has popped up online we have a very strong clue. We certainly won't be queuing up to buy one, especially if, as reported, it only comes with a paltry 128MB of storage on a Transflash card. Annoyingly the largest Transflash card is a pathetic 256MB anyhow.

That's if we can buy one anyway. The Guardian points out that as British mobile phone networks have their own music download services they are unlikely to offer a phone whose key feature is compatibility with a rival service, no matter how much pull the Apple iTunes branding may have. Of the big four networks O2 and Voda won't touch the handset and it appears Orange isn't interested either. So unless T-Mobile surprises us (and again it has its own music download service so why bother?) the only way you'll get the phone is SIM free.

I think we might have another eBay import situation brewing as the phone will be available in the US and other territories and will probably be available unlocked to UK buyers via the auction website. Given the choice of iTunes compatibility and low storage on a phone or a four Gigabyte hard disk on a handset with MP3 playback I know which one I'd choose.

Posted by Shiny Media on July 7, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

O2's music phone - the XM



With all the hype surrounding the upcoming launch of the Motorola/Apple iTunes phones it is easy to forget that there are other music mobiles out there. One of the smartest comes from UK network **O2** which has just unveiled its debut dedicated music handset - the XM Designed to work seamlessly with O2's over the air music downloads service the **XM** apparently lets users search, preview, download and play the latest tracks direct to their mobile. The tracks are available in the AAC+ format which means that the 64MB memory card that comes with the mobile can hold up to 64 songs. Incidentally O2 Music currently has 185,000 tracks available for download. The phone itself is a neat looking compact clamshell, which we suspect was made for the network by BenQ. It features an integrated 1.3 megapixel camera, tri-band functionality and a Video and Audio Player as well as access to O2's Active wap services.

O2 also claims it is the first GSM/GPRS mobile to be brought to the market with Intel technology on board - though we have our reservations about that. O2 XM costs £199.99 on Pay & Go or from free (dependent on tariff) for pay monthly contract customers and is available in O2 UK stores or online from www.o2.co.uk/.

Posted by Shiny Media on July 6, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Spinvox voice to text now on 3



We are big fans of the **Spinvox** voice to text service. It basically lets you set your phone up so when someone leaves a message you don't have the hassle of ringing up a message centre, rather it transcribes what's been said and sends it to you as a text message. So it's good news for **3** customers who are now being offered the Spinvox service by their network. The system which cab also convert voice messages to emails, is available freely for a week, and then after that it costs from 19p per message. The service is actually available across all networks, but the 3 deal is the first time an operator has plugged the service. More from Spinvox

Posted by Shiny Media on July 6, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Gaming phone that may even work



I was once an unfortunate owner of an N-Gage; not the proudest moment of my life and one I'm glad to have put behind me, yet I still like the idea of a dedicated gaming phone. To make a gaming phone seems simple, first make it a good phone, then make it good for gaming. Sounds basic but Nokia managed to fall on its face on both counts with the N-Gage. With that in mind let's take a look at Korean operator, **KTF**'s concept of the gaming phone. This is the **Samsung GPANG**, which is possibly the best name for a phone in recent years. Other details are scant as yet but a very entertaining video found on the link below gives a good impression of the how it manages to be a gaming device and look decent as a phone. Better yet it seems to have some fairly original games for it. Expect to see plenty more details on the GPANG as they emerge here and on our indispensable sister-blog, Games Digest.

via Akihabara News

Posted by Al on July 4, 2005 in Gaming | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

First i-mode 3G phone for Europe



One of the big weaknesses with the **i-mode** mobile platform (see here for more), which **O2** intends to launch later this year, is that it is a bit short on cutting edge phones. **NEC** hopes to change all that by introducing the **N600i**, the first 3G i-mode phone for Europe. Already signed up by Greek network Cosmote, and you can bet it is on O2's radar too, the N600i is a compact (94.4mm x 47.5mm x 24.5mm, 113g, 90CC) clamshell- video-phone with a 1.3M pixel-integrated-camera.

The N600i also features a 2 inch 65K QVGA main LCD, capable of displaying both high-resolution pictures but also MPEG4 movies. It also has 72 tone polyphonic ringtones, is compatible with JAVA Applications and a connectivity suite that includes Bluetooth and USB. There's 20MB embedded memory and a Trans-Flash memory card slot.

Posted by Shiny Media on July 1, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

HP's hw6500 PDA/smartphone

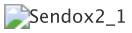
HP's latest **iPaq** PDA-style phones goes on sale this week. With a design that brings to mind a certain Canadian made email device the **iPaq hw6500 Mobile Messenger**, sports a three inch 64k colour screen and a full Qwerty keyboard. It runs using Windows Mobile 2003 special edition phone software and features 64MB of Ram, of which 55MB is available as storage for the user. Other features include an on-board Tom Tom GPS satellite navigation



system, Bluetooth and voice control facilities. The device is also available to both corporate customers and consumers with a push email solution. It is set to retail for £366 excluding VAT without a SIM card, or available for a little less to Vodafone users with a contract.

Posted by Shiny Media on June 30, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Motorola acquires Sendo



Well, not all of it, but Motorola has just announced that it is acquiring "key assets" from Sendo Ltd. What it's actually purchasing is the Brit company's UK- and Singapore-based research and development team as well as any of the design and test equipment that team may need. It will also be buying Sendo's "intellectual property portfolio" which in effect means it will own 90 patents - 50 existing and 40 pending. The Sendo team is made up of around 200 engineers - with nearly 170 of those based in Birmingham and the rest based in Singapore. According to the release "Motorola will integrate the engineers into its Mobile Devices business while preserving the team's focus on designing solutions that enable wireless operators to deliver value-added services to consumers." We're told that "Motorola is not acquiring the larger business of Sendo Ltd. or any of its manufacturing or supply relationships, or any of its capital or real assets, handset inventories, sales offices, liabilities or financial obligations."

Posted by Shinykatie on June 29, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Nokia 6280 preview



Nokia recently provided us with a couple of upcoming slider phones to play around with. Sadly they weren't working samples, but we can venture an opinion or two about their design. We really do like the look of the **6280**/**6270**. The phones are pretty similar - the key difference being that the 6280 is a 3G handset, while the 6270 is GPRS and has a polished metal finish as opposed to the black of 6260.

The 6280 is a pretty good size for a 3G phone, though it is still a little bit chunky, and feels simple to use with just five controls on its main facia. There are also large easy to press buttons underneath the slide - you'll be able to text/email quickly on this phone. It works horizontally as a camera too taking two mega pixel images. Obviously we can't say for certain how good the phone is in practice, but if it works in a similar way to Nokia's current 3G handset the 6630, it should definitely appeal to those for whom the rather chunky hard disk endowed N91 is a bit too hefty.

Posted by Shiny Media on June 27, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (17) | TrackBack (0)

Nokia 6111 preview

We also got to play briefly with the **6111 Nokia's** low-end GPRS slider. Phone buyers who feel that Siemens has yet to properly replace its SL55 slider will love this phone. It's very small with just the five buttons and the screen on the facia, neatly compact and not too chunky. The buttons underneath the screen (they slide out) are ok, though nowhere near as



responsive as **Nokia's** 3G **6280**. Like that model it can be use horizontally to take pictures courtesy of its on-board one mega pixel snapper. Once again Nokia has delivered a really strong phone that is sure to be a hit with those who think modern mobile are just too large and complicated. It goes on sale in autumn 2005.

Posted by Shiny Media on June 27, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Avanquest seek to kill the Frog



Anything that can put an end to the tyranny of the Crazy Frog has a place here, be it a useful piece of software, a blunt instrument or a high powered hunting rifle. In this case it's a piece of software which helps personalise your phone with ringtones, backgrounds and videos so that you can decide exactly what you want your phone to say about you, assuming it's not "I'm a sucker for childish noises and computer generated advertisement characters". Until now most of the software that allows you to alter the settings of your mobile phone from a PC has been made by the phone manufacturer and is often difficult to use and pretty half-baked. **Avanquest** seeks to put an end to that; **Ringtone Media Studio**, although not having a particularly catchy name, is able to let you modify a variety of media to suit your mobile phone.

The primary feature is the Melody Studio that allows the user to take an MP3, MIDI or Audio CD format track and adapt it with a mixing console to add effects, voice and so on before converting it the phones format for use as a ringtone. Then if you want to improve your background the Image Studio allows digital images to be cropped to appropriate sizes and manipulated to suit the phone before they are uploaded. Finally there is a Video Studio that lets you combine video and audio media with effects and text to make swish videos to send via MMS. The programme comes with a large library of free media too and you can't really argue with a £19.99 retail price. Ringtone Media Studio will be available form the July 1st from Avanquest.

Posted by Al on June 27, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

iTunes hard disk phone coming next year



We don't know how it got the scoop but huge French newspaper Le Figaro has got some pretty interesting stuff about the upcoming **iTunes/Motorola** phone. Some of the stuff we know - that it is likely to be a version of the **E398** Motorola handset (in white if the pic is right), that it will have 512MB of flash storage and that it will be compatible with tracks downloaded form the iTunes online music store.

The interesting bits are that one US carrier has signed up for the phone - the implication being that, as we have long suspected, no European networks have rushed forward to take the phone. More importantly that a hard disk version of the phone will be available next year. Given that Hitachi, which may or many not produce the hard disks for the iPod, has a one inch eight Gigabyte hard disk lined up for phones which should be released about that time, it all makes perfect sense. The phone apparently goes on sale on July 4th - that date rings a bell can't think why.

Posted by Shiny Media on June 27, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Orange launches Glasto TV channel for your mobile



Ok, so we didn't get a ticket for **Glastonbury** this year, but are we bitter? You bet we are. And we were overjoyed to hear that the unseasonably sunny weather is going to give into huge rainy storms in the Somerset area this weekend. Enjoy your mudbath. Besides we'll be tuning in on our mobile phone. **Orange**, which launched the UK's first TV on a mobile service the other week, is offering a dedicated **Glasto channel** not just for the duration of the fest but for much after too. It promises to 'access festival footage including artist interviews, festival life, and music experiences from the event.'

While we are not sure how much live stuff that will mean it could be good for reminding yourself what a great fest you have as you try and stave off your pneumonia this time next week. The downside is that you have to own a Nokia 6680 3G handset on Orange and have a subscription to the service (it is free at the mo) which kind of limits its reach, but it does show that networks are at least coming up with cool video applications for mobiles

Posted by Shiny Media on June 23, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

LG Electronics releases compact Bluetooth phone



Looks like you people who crave the small in your tech life will have something new to get excited about, with the announcement by LG Electronics of the latest clamshell handset, the F2400. The phone is available with Orange in a silver and grey exterior, and boasts a modest 65k colour TFT screen, as well as an outer colour screen and comes with bluetooth, the smallest phone yet to do so. The phone also comes with WAP connectivity (although only the most twisted gadget nut would enjoy it on a phone this small). The phone also comes with a VGA camera, and 4MB of user memory (really not much). The phone operates in dual band GPRS.

OK, it's a little lacking in features. But it is fairly compact as bluetooth phones go. The phone will be available from July for £119.99 on pre-pay or free on a contract.

Posted by Chris Cornwell on June 23, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Samsung's lightest 3G phone so far



We can't say for certain who has the smallest and lightest 3G phone so far, but one of the contenders has to be the **SGH-Z500** from **Samsung** which has just gone on sale in the UK via Vodafone and O2. The clamshell phone is just 95g which these days isn't a great deal more than most standard GPRS models. The trade off though is the rather paltry battery life of just 260 hours standby and three hours talk time. Nevertheless it has plenty of features including a pair of cameras (one VGA and one 1.3 mega pixel) that enables users to capture still and moving images and make video calls, a high quality 176 x 220 pixel TFT 256K display, Bluetooth, MP3 playback and Java. The phone has 50MB of internal storage which can be supplemented via its TransFlash card slot.

Posted by Shiny Media on June 23, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

O2 announces i-mode (just don't mention WAP)

In a briefing to journalists in a lovely old fashioned West End pub this morning, O2 announced details of its plans to launch a new mobile internet service by the end of the year. The new service, which uses Japanese company NTT DoCoMo's i-mode technology, will be available via 2.5 and 3G handsets from Alcatel, LG, Motorola, NEC, Panasonic, Sagem, Samsung and Siemens. Details of specific handsets, prices and content providers have yet to be announced but O2 promises that its customers will be able to access

content in an instant just by pressing a yellow 'i' button on their phone. O2 claims that users will be able to uses i-mode straight out of the box without the configuration that WAP requires.

In the briefing, the company was extremely keen to distance the new service from its ongoing O2 Active service which uses very similar WAP technology. According to 02, i-mode pages are much quicker to load and easier to read than WAP. Importantly visited i-mode pages will be cached in the memory making navigation much easier. Whereas WAP services are geared around entertainment (ringtones, games etc.), iMode will be more about 'lifestyle'. Hence O2 is currently talking to banks about providing mobile banking services and transport companies for local travel information.

However, the launch of the new i-mode service, which will be exclusive to O2 in the UK, is sure to create even more customer confusion about mobile internet services. One of the likely causes of concern is pricing. Though some content in the iMode portal - or ecosystem as some O2 people were calling it - will be free, much of it will be charged for. O2 customers will also have to pay the GPRS charges just to find the content they want to download.

Launched in 1999 in Japan by NTT DoCoMo, i-mode now has 42 million subscribers in Japan and more than 80,000 content sites. There are now nine operators outside Japan in France, Spain, Greece, Netherlands, Australia, Taiwan, Italy, Germany and Belgium.

Posted by Shiny Media on June 22, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Hitachi promises 20 Gig hard drives in mobile phones by 2008



Hitachi execs have just been running me through the various advantages of perpendicular technology in hard drives. I'll spare you the physics, which to be frank some of which zoomed over my head, and just say that the company reckons the technology will enable them to increase capacity of hard disks by between 20-40% per year.

The big news for us mobile phone addicts is that we should see a one inch Hitachi drive (codename **Mikey)** in a phone with a 8/10 gigabyte capacity by the end of the year. Hitachi then promises that by **2008** the **one inch** drive will have capacity of around **20 Gigabytes** which for some of us it will mean it is time to ditch the digital audio player.

The company is also expecting large hard drives on phones to archive video, possibly taken direct from a digital TV source transmitted to the handset. Hitachi is very excited about the market but admits that at the current time it really can't say how huge the hard disk market for phones will be.

Interestingly the company says that it won't go smaller than one inch disks leaving the smaller capacity market to flash memory producers and other hard disk makers.

Posted by Shiny Media on June 22, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

O2 Wireless Festival gets interactive



This weekend sees the opening of London's massive **Wireless Festival** in Hyde Park. Now bigger than ever before and sporting some of the most popular bands around, this promises to be an unmissable event to anyone with £35 to blow on a single day ticket or £100 for a four day ticket. The sponsor **O2** is keen to see that as much of its latest mobile technology is showboated around and that subscribing festival-goers are not distracted from firing off text and multimedia messages for longer than the time it takes to say "Oh look, NEW order" during the whole event. The list of headline acts, including Basement Jaxx, Keane, and Kasabian, is only rivalled in scale by the volume of 'interactive' experiences O2 is encouraging the crowd to enjoy. Funny, there was me thinking that festivals were about watching bands, drinking warm cans of cheap lager and getting covered in mud, but apparently you're actually meant to follow your mobile phone around entering numerous competitions, picking up more lame ring-tones and using your electronic barcode to explore the "O2 Bubble".

But wait, that's not all, you can also have your witless expression transmitted before the crowd's mirth using O2 MMS and the huge screens, though fortunately control of these will be left to O2's 'Angels' ensuring that the screens aren't subjected to four long days of photos of people's backsides. There's also a dedicated WAP site (but if you're already at the festival... oh I give up), a series of reverse auctions, SMS backstage gossip, Hypertagging, and loads of other compos. So brace your thumbs, for this weekend they belong to O2.

Posted by Al on June 21, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Jabra BT205 Bluetooth headset



Us Brits never have taken to handsfree headsets as much as many companies hoped probably because you end up looking like something out of an IBM advert, which isn't really our thing. **Jabra** however, continues to woo us into the handsfree era with its ever increasing lines of smart Bluetooth headsets. Now it has revealed the sleek **BT205**, which does exactly what it says on the tin: it's a headset, its Bluetooth 1.1 and that's pretty much all you would want from it. It has a behind-the-ear design for both comfort and to make people look at you strangely whilst you chat away merrily to thin air. Calls are controlled by single button or you can use voice activation. The microphone and speaker have improved clarity thanks to Jabra's MiniGel and to make sure its not much of a burden it only weighs 23 grams and is capable of 4 hours talk-time or 5 days on standby. The Jabra BT205 is available now at a recommended price of £39.99

Compare Jabra BT205 prices

Posted by Al on June 20, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

A bluetooth enabled crimewave



Uh-oh. According to the South Manchester Reporter, thieves have begun to use bluetooth phones as a way of finding expensive laptops and cellphones in parked cars. Local police claim that 20 recent thefts have been carried out by crooks strolling around with bluetooth enabled phones to find expensive laptops. Police claim that there have been twenty bluetooth thefts. Although how they figured that out is beyond me. Well a simple way of avoiding this type of crime would be to not leave your bluetooth enabled gear in your car, I guess.

via engadget

Posted by Chris Cornwell on June 17, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Napster and Ericsson partner to offer mobile napster



Napster and Ericsson announced today that they have partnered up in a bid to bring an integrated digital music service to mobile phone customers. The two companies are offering mobile network operators a chance to offer musical downloads to their customers. The service will be a Napster branded one, and you will be able to download music either via PC, or just straight to your phone. The service is slated to come out in Europe sometime next year, and a release in the Americas and Asia is planned.

Looks like the long delayed Motorola iTunes phone is going to have some competition. It's a good bet that this parnership could be the first of many as mobile phone operators try to get some of that lucrative music market.

Posted by Chris Cornwell on June 16, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Sendo X2 review

The Guardian has got its mitts on the second smartphone from Brit maker Sendo. Only rather than delivering a bog-standard smartphone, the X2 has



all the usual top-end mobile staples like email and the top Opera web browser, but also has a shed load of music playing facilities.

It comes out pretty well with the paper praising its compact size and music playing performance. However it has some distance to go to catch up with rivals from Sony Ericsson and Nokia in terms of music playing battery life or storage for tracks.

Posted by Shiny Media on June 16, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Sony Ericsson's quartet



Sony Ericsson has delivered a quartet of new mobiles aimed at very different market segments. With under 25s in mind the company has unveiled the **S600**, a kind of distant cousin of the S700, which majors on multimedia features. It has a superb screen, which can go widescreen for image viewing and more importantly gaming. It also features a 1.3 mega pixel camera and an MP3 player.

Also unveiled this week was Sony Ericsson's latest 3G handset. The **K608** sports an upright design that the company claims is roughly the same size and weight as GPRS phones. It has a 1.3 mega pixel camera, a large 1.8inch 262k colour screen and push email facilities.

Sony Ericsson also debuted the **Z520**, a compact clamshell aimed at young women (you can read more about this on Shiny) and the entry-level **J210**.

Posted by Shiny Media on June 16, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Nokia's new 3G slider



It has been a busy week for **Nokia** who launched seven new phones, four of which are heading for these shores. The big story is the **6280** which the company is billing as its most sophisticated 3G handset to date. Aimed at gadget lovers the high-end mobi boasts video calling facilities (still unusual for a Nokia phone), a two mega pixel still camera, Bluetooth and MP3/AAC music playback. The phone is a sliding style and runs using the Series 40 interface. It also features a removable mini-SD card and a radio.

The **6270** is a pretty similar handset but is GPRS rather than 3G. It has a two mega pixel camera, music playback and stereo speakers. It also has the same 320 x 240 pixel screen, and built-in FM radio as the 6280 but is a tad smaller and lighter.

Nokia also launched a basic slider in the **6111** which nevertheless boasts a one mega pixel camera and a 128 x 160 screen. Completing the range is Nokia's take on the noddy phone as pioneered by Vodafone/Sagem/LG etc. The **6060** is a very basic clamshell with a 65k colour screen All the phones will be on sale in late 2005.

Posted by Shiny Media on June 16, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

3 passes 30 million music downloads/streams

While we at TD have been predicting for years now that the mobile phone will be the music playing gadget of the future, we must admit we've had the odd moment when we wondered if we'd be chomping on our own words. After all at least one member of the TD team was adamant that DVD wouldn't catch on until it had a record button – so our track record ain't that great.

So good news for us and amazing news for mobile phone network **3** which is claiming that so far an astonishing **30 million** full versions **music clips** have



been downloaded or streamed over its networks. Of course that isn't just the UK, but also Australia, Austria, Denmark, Hong Kong, Israel, Italy, Sweden and Thailand. Also rather sneakily the figure includes audio tracks true tones and ringback tones downloads and streams as well as music videos. And two million of those clips alone have been downloaded in Hong Kong.

Still it is very impressive and probably will have Vodafone execs gagging on their bacon butties this morning.

Posted by Shiny Media on June 15, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Cameraphones get first shoot 'em up game



Excellent, it looks like the boundaries between reality and gaming are beginning to crumble in a slightly worrying way with the announcement of Camblaster, coming to a camera phone near you soon. The game paints crosshairs on the viewfinder of your phone, encouraging you to go and blast objects projected by your phone over the picture. You have to move the phone around to find new targets, which is neat.

So the next time you see someone creepy pulling out a cameraphone, try not to worry. They're only imagining themselves in a gun-filled-mayhem fantasy. No word on release date yet.

Via engadget.

Posted by Chris Cornwell on June 15, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Moto RAZR on BT Fusion



We are quite excited about **BT's** upcoming **Fusion** phone service (see here) and in particular the way it will let you use your mobile to make voice calls via your land line using Bluetooth. However we suspected that the handsets lined up for launch in late summer would be pants.

Proving us wrong is **Motorola** which has lined up a version of its ultra skinny **RAZR** handset for the service, in addition to its already announced v650 clamshell. Apparently the Unlicensed Mobile Access (UMA) version of the RAZR has all the features of the original handset plus of course the Bluetooth Calls 1 system which will enable it to toggle between mobile and land line networks.

As BT says as you imagine travelling home from work, the phone rings and your conversation is in full swing. You walk into your house the call is seamlessly passed to your landline without the inconvenience of changing handsets. Sounds great in theory, though whether it will end up being little more than a niche product remains to be seen.

Posted by Shiny Media on June 15, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

BT and Motorola debut combined mobile/landline phone service



Today's big news is that **BT Fusion**, the much talked about service that enables users to toggle between their mobile phones and their landlines is go. It trial is set to start soon and the service will rollout properly in September. Basically the service uses customized mobile phones which can switch between mobile and land lines accessing the latter via Bluetooth.

So, for example if a person makes a call on their mobile while on the move, they can switch to their landline when they get home without dropping the call. The system works using access point installed in the home, called a BT Hub, will switch the mobile phone to a broadband line using Bluetooth.

So far only Motorola has committed to delivering a phone for the service in the guise of the Motorola V560, but other makers are expected to offer handsets soon. BT Fusion would be offered in two price plans of £9.99 and £14.99 a month.

Though confusingly the company added that BT Fusion would enable customers to make calls to UK landlines at its off-peak landline rate of 5.5 pence for up to an hour, and 3p a minute at peak hours. The BT hub also works as a wireless router, providing users access to PCs, laptops and games consoles wirelessly around the home.

Posted by Shiny Media on June 15, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Apple and Nokia to develop open-source mobile browser

Nokia and Apple have announced that they are developing a new open-source web browser for mobile phones. If all goes according to plan, the browser is expected to run on Nokia's Series 60 platform, scheduled for release next year. The browser will include some of the components found in Apple's Safari browser, such as WebCore and JavaScriptCore. Love or hate 'em, you have to admit that Apple has a knack for designing simple but effective programs. It would be nice if mobile phone browsing were just a *little* easier.

Posted by Chris Cornwell on June 14, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

eBay auction watching on your mobile

Bayraider has the latest on a new mobile phone application for eBay obsessives called **Mobile Auctions**. It lets you manage your eBay account from your handset, including a scrolling ticker bar and alarm settings to tell you when a bid has been beaten, an auction is closing, or an item has been won. Created by Moonlight Mobile, it'll work on any Java-enabled mobile (most that have come out in the last year or two, in other words). But you can get your hands on it until July.

Posted by Shiny Media on June 13, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Nokia and Intel to develop mobile WiMAX

Although details are thin on the ground at the moment, it looks Nokia has joined up with Intel to develop WiMAX, a long distance broadband internet technology, which would bring broadband to the humble mobile phone. Nokia's move means that WiMAX might be closer to mobile phones then many think: Nokia reportedly lost interest in WiMAX when it was seen as just an alternative to fixed location cabled broadband, but has been attracted back by WiMAX variant 802.16e, which would allow for mobile access. Probably be a while before we see it anywhere near us, though.

Posted by Chris Cornwell on June 10, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Sony Ericsson's V600i 3G handset



Sony Ericsson's latest 3G handset is set to launch in early ~~Q5~~ Q3 (oops!)and is coming out exclusively with Vodafone. Unlike the

company's flagship 3G models, the V800 and Z800i, the V600i is a candybar model with a 1.8-inch 262K colour screen for streaming video and making video calls. There's a 1.3-megapixel camera with LED flash, Bluetooth, an FM radio and an MP3 player. You'll also be able to use a push email service similar to BlackBerry and there's 32MB of built in user memory. No word on pricing yet, but here's hoping it won't be as much as the V800 was at launch.

Read [via Mobilemag]

Posted by Shinykatie on June 9, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Orange's TV on a mobile service reviewed



Ok, so the rest of the world may have been watching **TV** on their **mobile phones** for years, but it has only just landed in the UK courtesy of **Orange.** The Guardian has a review of the new service saying that while it works reasonable well (there's the odd picture drop out) it still has a long way to go in terms of channel choice. Read the review here.

Posted by Shiny Media on June 9, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Yahoo launches cheap mobile mail stateside



Good news for those of us lucky enough to be on the sunnier side of the Atlantic, with the announcement that Yahoo, in conjuction with telecom giant Sprint, has launched an ultra cheap mobile mail service, going for a mere $2.99 a month. The service allows users to access and manage their Yahoo account without a Blackberry or other PDA-like phone. However the phone will only work on models compatible with sprint PCS vision, mainly Samsung and Sanyo handsets. No news on a UK plans yet.

Posted by Chris Cornwell on June 8, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

TiVo officially on Windows Mobiles



Looks like TiVo is coming to a Windows Mobile device near you, with the announcement by TiVo, Intel and Microsoft that the latest upgrade to the TivoToGo service would mean that people would be able to move TiVo media from Windows XP to your Windows Mobile based Media Centres, as well as to your Pocket PCs and smartphones (if it's based on the Windows Mobile OS). Hardly revolutionary, but a nice touch for TiVo fanatics nonetheless, meaning that you can now cut out all the file format conversion malarchy.

via Pocket PC Thoughts

Posted by Chris Cornwell on June 8, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Sky goes mobile



Looks like Murdock's media empire will soon be invading a phone near you, with the announcement by BskyB today that it's launching a new mobile service. The service, shockingly called Sky Mobile, will allow access to news and video updates from Sky sports, live sports scoreboards, and weather forecasts, among other things. Those with the inclination can also check odds and place bets with the equally imaginatively titled Sky Bet. Sky Mobile is available for free for a limited time, if you sign up here.

Posted by Chris Cornwell on June 6, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Coldplay promoting album with Bluetooth

Coldplay are going bluetooth for the advertising of their latest album *x & y*. If you happen to be in one of the London mainline stations over the next little while, you may see some of the giant transvision screens promoting the album and single 'Speed of Sound'. The screens will also allow the download of screensavers, photos and a few tracks from the album via bluetooth to your mobile phone.

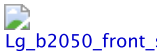


A cool idea. Could this be the start of bluetooth spamming on a serious scale?

via Digital Bulletin

Posted by Chris Cornwell on June 2, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

LG's rival to Voda's Simply phone



We had an inkling this might happen. Following on from Vodafone's unveiling of its Sagem-made Simply fuss-free mobile last week it appears that almost every handset maker/network is going to hop on the easy phone bandwagon and try to pass off basic handsets as Simply phone rivals. **LG** has a slightly better claim than most with its **B2050** which goes on sale shortly via T-Mobile.

Billed as a text and talk phone only the chocolate bar style B2050 does however feature Wap facilities, games and an alarm. But there's no camera, Bluetooth or music player. Everything is controlled by a four way rocker switch and large-ish buttons. Perhaps the coolest thing about the £39.99 handset is just how small and light it is - you almost don't notice it in your pocket.

Posted by Shiny Media on June 2, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Waterproof housing for mobiles



When we heard about a waterproof casing for a mobiles we got all excited and imagined making voice calls while poring over sunken wrecks or checking (or maybe that should be surfing) the web while taking a break from lengths at the local pool. Alas the **WaveCase** water proof casing or mobiles doesn't let you do either of those things, instead it is designed to house camera phones - it can accommodate about 95% of them - enabling their owners to snap away at creatures under the sea. The casing, which is impervious to a depth of around 20 metres, also comes with a strap that hangs around your neck. The case works with any phone that is no larger than 110 mm long, 55 mm long and 22mm wide. It is available now for 49.90 Euros from here.

Posted by Shiny Media on June 2, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Virgin's targets the young with new mobile range

Back in the old days - err last year - manufacturers made mobile phones they hoped would appeal to a large cross section of buyers. That's history now and if you want more proof that segmentation is now the name of the game here comes **Virgin Mobile** with a brand new youth-oriented (well 16-30) brand called **Lobster**. In a typically bald way the company says that 'all Lobster phones will offer desirable new products and technology at breakthrough prices.' We take that to mean fairly decent though not exactly cutting-edge products at not high-end prices.

Virgin Mobile is kicking off the series with the Lobster 485 which it is billing as one of the smallest flip handsets available in Europe. The phone, which has been made exclusively for Virgin by Bellware, features a 262k colour screen and an integrated VGA camera. It will retail for £89.99 and be available across the UK from early June. The company adds that a number of further Lobster-branded phones will be launched throughout 2005 and beyond, and they will all feature a Virgin-branded red shortcut key, giving fast access to Virgin Mobile's entertainment content service, BITES.

You can check out the spec after the turn

Lobster 485 Specification: The Lobster 485 comes with £5 airtime, battery and charger * Built-in VGA camera * Internal screen - 262k colours; 128x160 pixels * External screen - 65k colours * Dimensions: 75 x 38 x 21.5mm * Weight: 68g * Handsfree headset included * Photo phone book * Downloadable games * Picture messaging (MMS) * Enhanced WAP (GPRS) * Polyphonic ringtones * Calendar, calculator & clock alarm



Posted by Shiny Media on June 2, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Hulger's P* PHONE



Remember **Pokia**, that team of retro-obsessed neo-fogies who took a conventional home phone complete with curly wurly lead and resurrected it as an attachment for mobile phones? Well the team are back and they have ditched the Pokia name, have re-christened themselves **Hulger** and are offering their **Hulger P*PHONE** through their own website.

Although it keeps the style of the Pokia, the team has updated the handset improving the answer / call button. The team reckons that after people have got over the shock of the phone actually working they borrow the P*PHONE to phone their mums. The phones are available in a variety of colours for £40.

You can also bid on an exclusive designer P*PHONE here

Posted by Shiny Media on June 1, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

New Orange SPV set for July launch?



There's no official word yet from **Orange**, but it seems that the whole online gadget community, or CoolSmartphone at least, is convinced that the next version of the SPV, the **Orange SPV C550**, will be delivered to stores on July 11th. Don't expect to see a major revamp of the rather excellent Windows powered smartphone. Instead manufacturer HTC has tweaked the specification to include a 1.3 mega pixel camera and a dedicated media player button on the phone's fascia.

On the downside the phone will probably run the old version of Windows Mobile Windows Mobile 2003 SE, not Windows Mobile 5.0 which was announced a month or so ago. Also while the phone has a top class 240x320 QVGA display, apparently it only boasts 65k colours.

We'll wait until the official spec sheets land before we make our judgments but this does appear to be a bit of a missed opportunity.

Orange is likely to deliver its first 3G SPV – which is the eagerly awaited PDA the HTC Universal – to the stores in July.

Posted by Shiny Media on June 1, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Skype wi-fi phone release 'later this year'



Although competitor Vonage has already stated that it's working on a wi-fi phone, as reported earlier, Skype CEO Niklas Zennstrom has reconfirmed that we can expect to see a wi-fi Skype mobile and see it later this year. The phone will provide Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP. Tranlsation: cheap internet calls) available without having to tether yourself to your machine. Good news for us, bad news for almost every mobile phone network.

via Wireless Net Design

Posted by Chris Cornwell on May 31, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Casio's super tough mobiles



The G'zOne TYPE-R not only has one of the most god-awful names we've ever seen, it's also one of the most rugged mobiles around. The clamshell is waterproof up to one metre, shock resistant (thanks to the protective foam rim and magnesium alloy case) and it comes with a number of features designed to aid outdoors types, such as 3 types of navigation system (including a digital compass), a stopwatch, flashlight and buzzer. There's no fish hook or tweazers, but it does have an "extension mode" which lets you check emails and use your address book when the battery is dead. It's also got a 1.28-megapixel camera so you can do a spot of snapping while you're out in the wilderness.

Read

Posted by Shiny Media on May 30, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Phone Flash Drive



If only you could use this little dongle to turn your mobile into an actual USB Flash Drive – that way you could transfer all your photos and tunes and save all manner of other stuff simply by plugging the phone into your computer. Unfortunately, the Phonebook Flash Drive is purely for transferring the contents of your

phonebook (both phone and SIM info) onto your computer. It's still a neat idea – that way you can edit your addressbook and also keep a copy backed up on your computer – but going the whole hog would have made it perfect for these new music phones and hard drive phones that are beginning to crop up. Available for Nokia, Samsung and Sony Ericsson for $20.50.

Read [via The Gadgeteer]

Posted by Shinykatie on May 26, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Channel Four's plans for your mobile



The other day we told you how live footage from the **Big Brother** house will be beamed direct to **3** mobile phones. Well it seems like BB is the tip of multimedia iceberg and that Channel Four has huge plans for getting its footage on to mobiles. A company called Volantis has announced that it has been chosen by **Channel 4 New Media** to develop and host the first dedicated Channel 4 branded mobile portal. The new video portal called Mobile.channel4.com goes live on 27th May 2005 and doesn't only feature BB, it will also have other Channel Four programmes including Channel Four news. According to C4 the service can be reached by anyone with web access via their mobile, and it will offer video for 3G users, alongside the usual mobile web staples like news stories and downloads.

Posted by Shiny Media on May 24, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

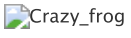
3 launches mobile blogging in the UK



Seems like everyone round here has suddenly got obsessed with Moblogging, or Mobile Blogging as us Brits prefer to call it. Now it could be set to go mainstream as UK mobile phone network **3** has become the latest company to offer its subscribers a mobile blogging service. 3's **My Gallery** enables users to upload images and video shot on their camera phones to their own dedicated website. Once the files have been uploaded users can then add a comment or a description of the image. The files are transferred to the website via Multimedia Messaging (MMS) and not email, which limits the size and quality of the images. Users can also specify whether they want their gallery to be private or public. The picture hosting service is free to all 3 subscribers, though users pay standard MMS rates for each picture they upload.

Posted by Shiny Media on May 24, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

The Frog's Bollocks (but still outsells Coldplay)



Well, it may have been inspired by that Funnyjunk page originally recorded by a 17-year old (more junk than funny in this particular case) but believe it or not, the Crazy Frog Axel F remix is currently heading directly to the top of the charts, outselling Coldplay by four to one. What this means for the future of humanity is anyone's guess, but all I know is that I never thought anything would actually make me want to buy a Coldplay single.

The story of Crazy Frog

[Via Shiny Shiny]

Posted by Shiny Media on May 24, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Motorola iTunes phone; more details

There we were starting to think that the **Motorola iTunes phone** was in fact vaporware so it is encouraging to hear that Moto's CEO Ed Zander has been parading it at the D: All Things Digital conference this week. There's still plenty of confusion surrounding the phone. No one knows whether it will be the ROKR phone that has been spotted before at Moto events, or if it will be branded Motorola, Apple or a hybrid of the two.

It will however boast a one mega pixel digital camera (not exactly big bananas as we are already seeing two mega pixel models in the UK) and that it will have integrated speakers (just like all Moto music phones). Must admit

the whole iTunes Moto project is becoming a bit of a chore, and as for its USPs of being able to play tracks downloaded from the iTunes music store, as well as syncing with iTunes, well you can keep them. Most rival music handsets are drag and drop and we can live without the three songs we have nabbed from Apple's online store.

Besides the big issues with music phones are likely to be storage and battery life and in both of those areas, Nokia with its four gig hard disk handset and Sony Ericsson with its W800 which plays for twenty plus hours battery will probably have the Motorola iTunes handset licked.

Posted by Shiny Media on May 24, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

What we really want from our mobiles

Impaq group has recently concluded a MOBILE LIFE 1 survey of what we really want from our fancy new 3G phones: an answer to the niggling questions like how important is bluetooth in a phone? How about cameras? The web? In any case, the survey is available in its full glory below, courtesy of Impaq. Top of the list for current features is, unsurprisingly, voice (good to know the mobile phone generation hasn't been completely seduced by the dark side of techno-gimmicks), followed by SMS.

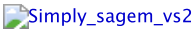
Gracing the list of tomorrow's features are using your phone to pay parking meters and using your phone as a key, as well as a credit card. Great to know that soon you'll be really screwed if you lose your phone.

Today's Top Mobile Functions
1 Voice
2 SMS
3 Switching to silent mode
4 Calculator
5 Taking pictures
6 Surfing WAP sites
7 Using operator portals
8 Mobile search
9 Bluetooth pairing
10 Alert subscriptions

Tomorrow's Top Ten 3G Wish List
1 Mobile coupon redemption
2 Parking meter payment
3 Loyalty cards
4 Season tickets
5 Credit/Debit cards
6 Flight check-in
7 Vending machine payment
8 Retail checkout
9 Marketing communications
10 Using your mobile as a key

Posted by Chris Cornwell on May 23, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Vodafone makes mobiles simple


Simply_sagem_vs2

It might seem odd in an age of 3G handsets offering video calling, music playback and even TV, but **Vodafone** is getting back to basics. Announced on Friday were the first pair of mobiles in its range of handsets titled **Vodafone Simply.** Made in France by Sagem, the new phones (the **VS1**, a silver, stylish handset, and the **Sagem VS2**; a simple black candy bar design) are noddy devices, all big screens and large buttons that are aimed at those groups (we wouldn't dare to suggest an age, sex or demographic here) who might find other mobis difficult to use. Voda's big idea is that the phone doesn't need fewer buttons, rather it needs more of them so the Simply has switches for everything from contacts to a ringer setting. They are all large, neatly labelled and generally pretty simple to use. The integrated voice mail service works in a similar way to a home answering machine; the message button will light up when a new message is received. To listen to messages the customer just needs to press the messages button Voda has also kept the features- list to a minimum, so there are no fancy ringtones, no cameras and not even a MP3 player. The models are set to go on sale this week and will cost £80 on pre-pay or free if you have a voda

contract. Incidentally Nokia is also rumoured to be working on a noddy phone.

Posted by Shiny Media on May 23, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Big Brother on 3 Mobiles



Blimey, no sooner do I do a story about Orange having the cultural delight that is Big Brother available to view on 3G mobile phones, then 3 goes and sticks it on its handsets as well. To access the live stream broadcasts, 3 customers just need to SMS 31010

3

Posted by Shinykatie on May 19, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

N-gage platform to hit smartphones



Do you remember Nokia's n-gage? Possibly the worst conceived handheld console in the history of gaming. I don't even want to begin to go into the series of design flaws that went into this travesty of a hand held (like having to remove the battery to play a game. Or having to push it sideways against your face if you want to make a call. But most of all the early games really sucked).

Still, looks like there's hope for the format (sort of, anyway) as Nokia has announced that the n-gage is being expanded to Nokia's next generation of smartphones out in 2006. Of course the phones will have to have the right screen dimensions, but personally I'm hopeful about this one. The n-gage game library has recently improved with "Splinter Cell", and the promising "The One" on the horizon and phones could do with some better games.

Posted by Chris Cornwell on May 19, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Orange Launches TV on mobiles



Well, they've all been talking about it for ages, but Orange has just become the first of the 3G networks to offer television on its mobiles. Orange TV will initially feature 9 channels (amongst them, ITN News, CNN, Cartoon Network, and a dedicated channel for both Big Brother and Celebrity Love Island - only the highest quality shows, in short) and it launches next week for a £10 monthly subscription. It's only available on the Nokia 6680 at present, but more handsets will be added throughout the year and you'll just need to download the free TV application from Orange World to get going. No mention of how much this will rinse the battery life, but we're guessing it's not going to give you a huge amount of time to gawp at self-regarding media-wannabe scrotes on the Big Brother channel before your enjoyment is cut short by power failure. A couple of the TD team have witnessed the delights of mobile phone television in Japan and they tell me it's a most enjoyable experience.

Orange

Posted by Shinykatie on May 19, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Sonic to go mobile

During all of the technological wonders currently being exhibited at e3, it's easy to forget that small addictive games often trump over boring, repetitive, nice looking games. Panasonic are sweetening the deal for their new phone models, as featured earlier on Tech Digest: Sonic the Hedgehog (Mega Drive edition) will come pre-installed on six of Panasonic's new



phones, including the flagship VS3 model(in case you're interested, the other models are the VS7, SA6, SA7, MX6 and MX7.) The game will feature an all new ranking system and difficulty settings. A sign that the PSP's days are numbered?

Well let's not go that far. Yet.

Posted by Chris Cornwell on May 18, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Nokia N-Gage games now on its smartphones too



Nokia has announced a scant few details about its future plans for N-Gage at its E3 press conference says the team at our sister blog Games Digest. N-Gage gaming will be extended to Nokia's raft of "mobile smartphones" in mid-2006.

Whether this means most of Nokia's high-end phones will now come with an N-Gage card slot, or whether it simply means they'll be able to play games as good as an N-Gage (ie take the 3D graphics processing and networking capabilities, but not actually emulate an N-Gage) remains to be seen. As does what this means for handset design - will all smartphones be laid out for gaming, or just some? What it doesn't appear to mean is a folding of N-Gage into smartphones.

Posted by Shiny Media on May 18, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Is Cate Blanchett a 3 subscriber?



3's 3G phones- they are the preserve of Burberry-clad chavs attracted to the company's ultra competitive pay as you go tariffs right? Well perhaps not, for it appears that arguably the world's most complete, intelligent, glamorous and not forgetting drop dead gorgeous actress is a 3 subscriber. In this month's issue of Vogue, Oscar winner **Cate Blanchett** describes how she stays in touch with hubby and two kids while travelling by making video calls from her phone. Seeing as Cate mainly jets between Brighton in the UK and Australia - both prime 3 territory - it seems likely that in among all those super chic accessories in her handbag is an LG phone.

Posted by Shiny Media on May 16, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

The Kids are OK

Waiting in a queue to drink large amounts of champagne and see Astra's latest HD demonstrations at the Saatchi Gallery the other day (it's tough this publishing lark), I found myself doorstepped in the nicest possible way by an extremely ebullient marketing guy in half-rimmed glasses. Normally I would feign complete disinterest by looking at my feet or claiming Portuguese as a first, and only, language, but this time I was actually quite interested in what the chap had to sell. A former marketing director of Astra, he's now involved in a service called Kids OK which uses simple cellphone technology to locate the little people in your life. It's not a new idea (similar Internet-based services exist already) but what struck me about this service was that it worked and worked well using simple text messages and easy to view maps.

The downside? It ain't exactly cheap. You have to sign up for £39.95 for the starter pack (this will enable you to register three phones - one 'master' phone for the adult and two 'target' phones for the ankle biters). This will give you ten 'pings' (location maps). After that you will have to pay £9.95 for a bundle of 20 pings.

Each time you want to know where the kids are you send a text message with their name to 60777 and around 60 seconds later a map of their location appears on your screen (assuming you've got a picture phone that is). You can even try the service for yourself by texting KidsOK to 60777 to see if it can work out where you are (this will cost 75p though). Accuracy depends on how far away your nearest cell is but is usually between 750m to 2km.

Call 0845 456 4408 or go to KidsOK to find out more.

Posted by Shiny Media on May 13, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

PDD reinvents the mobile phone



Mobile phone designs, or form factors to use the wanky term so beloved of marketing managers, haven't really moved on a great deal over the past few years. There's your chocolate bar, your clamshell and, courtesy of Siemens, your slider.

British product consultants PDD now claims to have come up with a completely new design for mobile phones. Christened the Helix, the prototype clamshell style handset features a multi-purpose screen that can revolve 180 degrees on its vertical axis. PDD claims the advantage of this features is that when the Helix is closed and is being used as a camera or an MP3 player phone, users not only have a compact phone but they can also see a large screen. If the user wants to make a call or text they open the clamshell hinge in a traditional way and then flip the screen around. All very clever, and it'll be interesting to see if any makers go for it. More here

Posted by Shiny Media on May 13, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Vodafone's digital TV phone



It is not just us Brits who are eagerly awaiting the arrival of digital TV via a mobile. Over in Japan **Vodafone, Sharp** and **NHK** have just taken the wraps off a phone that can receive digital TV transmissions. Phones that tune into analogue TV, along with media player style device that access satellite telly, are big news among Japan's millions of commuters, so the slightly beleaguered Voda network has high hopes for the new handset.

As well as TV programmes users can access interactive games and quizzes, etc. One really cool facility is that it has a multi-sectioned screen, allowing the user to watch TV as they write e-mail or use the web. Battery life for the clamshell style handset is rated at about two hours of users are tuning into the TV. There's no news on a launch yet.

Bearing in mind that Sharp is Voda's key partner for UK phones you wouldn't bet against the first TV phones from the network - rumoured to be launching in late 2005 - looking a lot like this.

Posted by Shiny Media on May 13, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

First Windows Mobile 5.0 phones



There are no big surprises as to what are going to be the first two mobile phones to feature the just unveiled **Windows Mobile 5.0** operating system. Both have already been announced and both are exciting high spec models with unique features. Likely to land first is the **HTC Universal** - better known to you and I as the **T-Mobile MDA IV**.

It is a PDA style handset with a horizontal clamshell design, really cool screen and apparently very usable keyboard. It also boasts 3G compatibility and includes Wi-Fi. I should imagine that all the UK networks will have it in one form or another and that it is likely to be a huge hit with the corporate market.

Aimed slightly more at consumers is the upright design **Samsung SGH-i300** which was announced a couple of months ago at CeBIT. As you remember it includes all the traditional Microsoft bells and whistles plus a three gigabyte hard disk. You can read more about Windows Mobile 5.0 and its whizzy range of features here.

Posted by Shiny Media on May 13, 2005 in Mobile phones

Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Mikey's review: O2's X4 3G phone



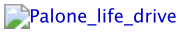
You know how 3G phones are always big, bulky beasts with huge batteries. Well O2 has attempted to buck the trend with this, the smallest and most pocketable 3G phone so far. In spite of its diddy dimensions the O2 X4 is a somewhat masculine mobile, following the now-standard 'big screen inside, little screen outside' clamshell form factor. It's no surprise that the X4 is essentially an updated X3, a 'phone which met with a somewhat mixed reaction from users.
The main difference lies in the addition of 3G services, which are lovely assuming that (a) you want them and (b) you can get them: coverage is still pretty much confined to the major conurbations and I was recently shocked to discover that there are some people living outside London. The other features are pretty much what you would expect; Currency converter for inveterate roamers, Java games for bored commuters, alarm for chronic oversleepers, and a respectable 1.3 megapixel camera for Charlotte Church. There's only one camera, so if you want to indulge in a bit of video calling - tough.

The big news is the provision of a Mini-SD card slot allowing users to upgrade the storage capacity very easily. If you have a card slot on your PC, it's also your simplest method of feeding the built-in MP3 player, as O2 has inexplicably omitted Bluetooth connectivity. That's something of a disappointment, as GPRS is all very well, but remembering the USB cable everywhere you go is slightly too much bother for most people and there's nothing so handy as short-range wireless for syncing your calendars. In fairness, there is infra-red for all you old-school infra-red fans.

I also found text input a trifle fiddly, although teenagers will doubtless master it in minutes. The MP3 playback, especially with a larger-capacity SD card is a pleasing bonus, the camera is pretty decent (although I couldn't persuade the flash to flash) and the basic telephony is fine. I can't help thinking, though, that the missing Bluetooth is something of an oversight and all in all the X4 suffers in comparison with similar offerings currently available.

Posted by Shiny Media on May 13, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (3) | TrackBack (0)

European Treos on their way



Shedloads of interesting stuff from **palmOne** this week. The big news is that the company has increased the number of staff in the UK with a view to ramping up its European operations. According to Marketing Manager for Northern Europe, Colin Holloway, this will mean dedicated **Treos** for the European market, and possibly even phones without smartphone features or keypads.

palmOne has also rather reluctantly given out a little bit more info on its **Mobile Manager** PDA series - see here for more. Last week Amazon inadvertently listed the first model in the series, the **Life Drive**, and the company says it will give full details of the device next week.

Apparently it not pitching the device as a media player, though obviously it can play back audio and video files, rather the Life Drive is a top-end PDA aimed at business users who want to cart round with them large file with them. palmOne insists that the units are not really laptop replacements, rather laptop accompaniments. There's more on palmOne's plans in this feature from The Guardian.

Posted by Shiny Media on May 12, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

The TV channels now transmitting to your mobile...

NTL and **O2** today revealed what those lucky punters who are trialling digital TV to mobile phones in Oxford are going to be watching. And if they were



expecting live football or blockbuster movies on their **Nokia 7710** handsets they are going to be sorely disappointed. For in the first six months of the trial our TV to go guinea pigs are going to sampling the delights of The Cartoon Network, CNN, Discovery Channel, Sky Sports News and Sky Travel.

Overall 16 channels will eventually be lined up by NTL and O2 in the trial which has been designed to test and showcase the televisual capabilities of the next generation of mobile phones. Apparently the trial will look at how people choose to catch up on their favourite TV shows, watch the latest music videos and keep up to date with the news and sport when on the move.

The six-month trial will use the DVB-H broadcast transmission standard, specially designed for handheld reception. With its low battery power consumption and robust reception, DVB-H allows an efficient 'one-to-many' method of delivering TV content in a way that complements the one-to-one video streaming which is already possible via GPRS and 3G networks.

To enable a commercial service to be launched in the UK, Ofcom will need to license spectrum, and the results of the trial are seen as valuable in proving ongoing consumer interest. NTL Broadcast is currently building a new broadcast network of eight DVB-H transmitters, using existing structures, to cover 120 square km centred on Oxford that will enable the participants to receive digital television on the move.

O2 will soon begin the process of recruiting triallists from the specified catchment area within the Oxford ring road: triallists will be between 18 and 45 years of age, and spend the majority of their day (i.e. live, work or study) in Oxford. Initially, handsets will be provided to all 350 triallists by Nokia - the new 7710 which, for the purposes of the trial, will come with a special DVB-H receiver.

Posted by Shiny Media on May 11, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Microsoft takes on the iTunes phone

Shedloads has already been written about the big Gates announcement yesterday of the launch of **Microsoft's Windows Mobile 5.0**. So rather than wibble on about what we think here's the potted version plus a few links for you to find out more. Basically the new operating system for mobiles/PDAs offers; more flexibility to customize devices and solutions, productivity enhancements that include updated Microsoft Office software and persistent memory storage for more efficient data management. It also has space for BlackBerry style push email facilities.

But the stuff you probably want to know that it is compatible with Windows Media Player 10 now which means copyright protected Windows Media Audio (WMA) files from sites like Napster and My Coke Music can be ported on to your phone, so phones that compete with the illusive Moto/iTunes handset are on their way. Another announcement was support for hard disks, but we'd kind of guessed that anyway seeing as Samsung has already promised a hard disk based Microsoft phone very shortly. Check out the press-release here. The Windows Mobile 5.0 site here and there's a decent round up here

Posted by Shiny Media on May 11, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Vodafone secures deal for Juiced mobile



Juiced is a highly anticipated street racing game from games publisher **THQ** that the creator hopes will be challenging the likes of Electronic Arts' Need for Speed: Underground and Rockstar's Midnight Club for the moniker of king of the street racing games. And as well as playing it on PC, Xbox and PS2 when it launches in May you'll be able to give it a spin via Vodafone Live! Voda claims that this is the first time there has been a simultaneous multi-format release of a game on PC, consoles and phones so here's hoping it could be the start of a trend.

Loads more games news here

Posted by Al on May 6, 2005 in Gaming | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Orange and Vodafone to offer TV on your mobile?

Samsung_tv_mobi

O2, along with **Nokia** and **NTL,** might be trialling digital TV for mobile phones in Oxfordshire this summer, but there are whispers that it might not be the first network to offer TV via a mobile. **Orange,** which has a TV via 3G service in France with viewers able to see up to 20 channels, is rumoured to be considering a summer launch for the service in the UK, while **Vodafone,** which offers analogue TV via mobiles in Japan is mulling over an Autumn launch. For more info check out this excellent feature by Richard Wray in today's Guardian which outlines where the networks are with TV over 3G.

Posted by Shiny Media on May 5, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Nokia 7710 review

Nokia_7710_2

So the future of phones is, errr, big, bulky and devoid of a number pad... Sounds like the work of madmen, but if the 7710 smartphone is anything to go by it is in fact how the world's leading mobile maker Nokia is planning on developing tomorrow's handsets. And while the 7710 has plenty of quirks, we are smart enough to realise that its widescreen will come in mighty handy when digital TV tuners for phones arrive next year. You can read a review of the 7710 at The Guardian.

Compare prices

Posted by Shiny Media on May 4, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Sanyo's new 3G mobi

Sanyo_s750i_1

The Sanyo S750 was first unveiled back at the end of 2004, and despite a somewhat cumbersome shape the clamshell handset was pretty well received. Now Sanyo has given the 3G phone a facelift, making it lighter, sleeker and more streamlined and re-badged it as the **S750i**. It still manages to incorporate that massive 2.4" screen, one of largest currently available, capable of over 260K colours. The phone also boasts a 1.3 mega-pixel camera with a flash, and a second camera enables the phone to make video calls.

Unlike its predecessor, the S750i now comes complete with a 32MB SD card (as opposed to an empty slot) but is capable of handling up 256MB, which is much more useful if you want to make real use of the phone's MP3 compatibility or store long videos. Connectivity consists of Bluetooth, Infrared and a USB connection to a PC or Direct photo prints if you are using a Pictbridge printer.

The Sanyo S750i is available now through Orange

Sanyo

Posted by Al on May 4, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

3's election video nasty

Politicians get everywhere. When they are not kissing babies in High Streets (note you have to live in a marginal constituency to get this one) they are helicoptering themselves round the country frightening farmers and pestering school children. Now horrors of horrors, they are going to start popping up on your mobile.

3G network **3** has lined up representatives of the three leading parties who have delivered mini video manifestos you can access via the 3 web portal. Blair and Howard passed up on the chance and sent in Alan Milburn and Liam Fox respectively. But good to see old Ronnie Redface Charles Kennedy banging on about Student tuition fees, the Iraq war and green issues.

If you can't face the prospect of the video you can read what they said after the turn.



Liberal Democrats (Leader) Hi, I'm Charles Kennedy and the reason for backing the Liberal Democrats, particularly if you're a younger or first time voter in this election, I think is three fold. We opposed that war on Iraq and we're the only party speaking consistently, still, against it and wanting to bring our troops home, we care about the green agenda more than the other two and we want to get rid of top up fees and student tuition fees.

Labour (former Health Secretary, current election co-ordinator) Hi I'm Alan Milburn from the Labour Party. We want to keep the country moving forward with a rise in minimum wage, more people in work, investment in our hospitals and schools and more child care facilities. Lets keep Britain moving forward and don't let it go back to the Tories, when people were out of work, interest rates were out of control and they were kept in public services. That's the choice on May the 5th, if you value it, vote for it.

Conservative (Dr. Liam Fox - Shadow Cabinet Minister, Co-Chairman of the Conservative party) Firstly people have a choice. They can vote for five more years of talk from Blair, or they can vote for the Liberal Dems who only have 55 per cent public uplift, or they can Conservative and the issues that can really matter. We want to see cleaner hospitals, more police, lower taxes including scrapping tuition fees. We want controlled immigration, we want more disciplinary articles and the things that matter to hard working people and our country.

Posted by Shiny Media on May 4, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

The Shawshank Redemption released for Mobile Phones



Those of you out there owning phones with MMC slots might be pleased to hear that Nokia, Granada Ventures and ROK Player have teamed up to start releasing films on memory card. The first to come out is the classic "Shawshank Redemption" (see it if you haven't), which comes preloaded on a memory chip for £16.99 from mobile phones stores or is available to order online for a slightly pricier £19.99.

Posted by Chris Cornwell on April 29, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Samsung release the MP3 friendly E720 phone



Samsung has released the new MP3 friendly E720 phone. Apart from featuring an intergrated megapixel camera with a 4x zoom, an internal 260k TFT screen measuring176x220 pixels and an external 65k one measuring 96x96 pixels, the phone will feature an MP3 player. Although a lot of phones try to be MP3 players as well, Samsung seems to making a more determined effort with the availability of external player controls on the phone.

The phone has an OK 88.5MB of memory and can play music in MP3, AAC and AAC+ formats. It hooks up to your PC via USB. The phone also comes with the regular current generation phone features: GPRS and bluetooth among them.

Posted by Chris Cornwell on April 29, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Join the political debate (yawn!) with 3G

Less than a week to go to polling day and perhaps the most interesting thing to have come up out of the election campaign so far. No it's not the party differences on health, education, the economy, taxation (let's face, there aren't any), but the fact that you can use your 3G handset to send a video mail to the BBC. Just make a video call to 07888 100100, watch the greeting from that strange looking Andrew Marr fella then leave your comment - the temptation to bare your bottom or flick the Vs might be overwhelming, but it probably isn't a great way of getting your views across. Click here to see what other people have got to say about what must be the most dull election campaign ever.

Posted by Shiny Media on April 29, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

The RAZZ Star Wars headset

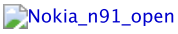


Wow! Another piece of Star Wars merchandise? Surely not! The Star Wars Razz headset comes with ten preloaded Star Wars dialogue clips, all from different characters, that you can seamlessly splice into any mobile phone conversation. No word yet on whether this gizmo, retailing for $19.95 in the States will make it over to the UK. All together now: "You underestimate the power of the dark side...".

via Engadget

Posted by Chris Cornwell on April 27, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Nokia's N91 four gig hard disk music phone



At a press conference last year **Nokia** acknowledged that it was working on a hard disk based music phone – and here it is the **N91**. Probably the most eagerly awaited of all the new Nokia N series handsets, the N91 trounces rival music phones not just in storage (it has a 4 Gigabyte hard disk on board) but also in terms of looks thanks to its elegant chocolate bar style design with music playing buttons that pull down to reveal the numeric keypad.

The N91 boasts MP3 and AAC (though it isn't compatible with songs downloaded from the iTunes music store) playback, has a remote control in its accompanying earphones and features an FM tuner. Unlike any other phone it sports a 3.5mm headphone jack, so users can team up the handset with some seriously large cans if they fancy. Battery life is reasonable with the phone running for 12.5 hours as a music player, though this way short of the 30 hours offered by the Sony Ericsson W800. It is 7 days standby and 3-4 hours talk time.

The hard disk is also shock proof, Nokia staff have apparently been throwing them around to test this, and the company is saying that users can store up to 3000 tunes on the hard disk. The N91 will also playback AAC+ files – which are used by European networks as over the air music downloads and also has an audio out so you can hook it up to external speakers etc.

The phone has loads of other facilities including a two mega pixel camera, web browser (made by Norwegians Opera? Nokia isn't saying), email, and, unusually for a phone of this size, integrated Wi-Fi. It runs the Series 60 interface and is compatible with both 3G and EDGE networks.

From the spec sheet it looks like like Nokia has taken the music phone to the next dimension. Whether people start ditching their iPods and Walkmans in favour of their mobi though remains to be seen.

Posted by Shiny Media on April 27, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (7) | TrackBack (0)

Nokia N90 – camera phone with Carl Zeiss optics

After seeing rivals Sony and Ericsson and Sharp steal a march in the camera phone market the **N90** is **Nokia**'s attempt to grab the high-end back. Its headline facility has to be its integrated two mega pixel camera which features apparently **Carl Zeiss optics** – a first for a Nokia phone.

The handset itself is clamshell style with a rotating head like other Nokia and Sharp phones. Nokia has stacked the phone out with many photographic features so the N90 boasts a macro option, an autofocus, flash and a 20x digital zoom. The phone also grabs video too in MPEG4 and 3GP formats and has an 8x digital zoom. There's a second camera too so the phone can be used for person to person video calling.



The 3G/Edge handset also features MP3 and AAC music players and has good quality speakers. It runs on Nokia's Series 60 platform and boasts a whole host of 'prosumer' facilities including email with attachments and a full HTML web browser. Battery life is up to 10 days in standby and 4.5hours talk time. It goes on sale in the summer.

Posted by Shiny Media on April 27, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (3) | TrackBack (0)

Nokia N70 3G phone



It might be the least exciting of the trio of phones **Nokia** has unveiled today but that's only because the other two boast such innovative features. The **N70** is in fact a good all round 3G/Edge handset in a small fairly smart upright style.

It boast all the N Series core features, so is kitted out with music playing facilities, a two mega pixel camera with a 20x digital zoom and web browsing facilities. Running on Nokia's Series 60 platform it supports email, can open many file types and comes with an FM radio on board. It has two cameras so it can deliver 3G video calling, features an integrated speaker and has Bluetooth connectivity.

The only fly in the ointment is that it uses the rather pesky cut down MMC card, which the last time we looked was only available up to a pathetic 64MB.

Posted by Shiny Media on April 27, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (3) | TrackBack (0)

Nokia takes wraps off N Series phones including its 'iPod killer'



Nokia today launched its first new series of phones in years. Aimed squarely the top-end gadget-loving/business user market. All handsets in the new **N Series** will sport music playing facilities, feature at least a two mega pixel camera and come with web browsing facilities, quite possibly from ace Norwegian company Opera.

They will all be 3G compatible and run using the Series 60 Symbian based interface. If the first three phones, the **N70**, **N90** and **N91** (pictured), are anything to go by they will also combine traditional Nokia designs with rather classy components. Next year N Series phones will almost certainly also be kited out with digital TV tuners.

First to market is the N90, a classy 3G camera phone, which is slated for a summer launch. It will be followed later in the year by the N70 and N91. Read more about the phones on their individual posts.

Posted by Shiny Media on April 27, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Yahoo! mobilizing

Nokia has joined forces with Yahoo! to provide a mobile internet solution and hopefully one that is a little more practical than previous incarnations of WAP. Email, entertainment, including ring tones, wallpapers and games, plus Yahoo! search for mobiles are amongst the features that will be pioneered on the Series 60 platform accessible through Nokia's smartphones.

The Nokia 6680, 6681 and 6630 are the models that will be first to enjoy the Yahoo! mobile service, but more will be announced tomorrow, April 27.

Posted by Al on April 26, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Blue is the colour for Samsung

It is hokey cokey time in Premiership football sponsorship. After Arsenal nabbed **Chelsea**'s sponsor, Emirates, the Blues have now bounced back and pinched one of Arsenal's key sponsors - **Samsung**. As from next season the Korean company's logo will feature on Chelsea's shirts in a deal which is apparently the biggest ever sponsorship deal signed by Chelsea and the second largest by Samsung after its sponsorship of the Olympic Games. The deal, which should ensure that Arsenal and Tottenham fans ditch their Samsung phones in their thousands, lasts for five years.

Press release on turn

Chelsea Football Club announces Samsung Electronics as Official Club Sponsor London, U.K. - April 25th, 2005 -

Chelsea Football Club is delighted to announce Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd as its new Official Club Sponsor. The agreement was signed today at Stamford Bridge, Chelsea's stadium, by In-Soo Kim, Samsung European President, and Peter Kenyon, Chelsea FC plc Chief Executive. The five year deal, which starts on June 1, 2005, is the biggest ever sponsorship deal signed by Chelsea and the second largest by Samsung after its sponsorship of the Olympic Games. The logo of 'Samsung Mobile' will appear on the new Chelsea Centenary shirts for the first time on its pre-season tour this summer.

Chelsea Chief Executive Peter Kenyon said: "We are absolutely delighted to have Samsung as our new official club sponsor. The company is one of the world's largest brand names, and we are excited about what it can offer Chelsea. "Samsung has a key part to play in the future global development of Chelsea and we believe we can play a similar role for it in its strategic aims. There is a great synergy between the two brands in terms of recent dramatic growth and success, levels of performance and market targets. "As a company it has already shown a strong commitment to sport through sponsorship of the Olympic Games and in football through its ownership of Suwon Bluewings, the champions of Asia. We look forward to a long and fruitful relationship."

The agreement gives Samsung exclusivity with Chelsea in product categories such as mobile phones, AV, white goods and IT equipment. "Samsung and Chelsea Football Club are organisations with a huge presence in their respective global markets," said In-Soo Kim, President & CEO of Samsung Electronics Europe. "Samsung is already a leading global brand in digital technology and is enjoying dramatic growth in Europe, success that is being replicated by Chelsea's impact in the UEFA Champions League and the English Premiership. "Chelsea is making its mark on the world stage as one of the rising stars of football, and the association with the club will not only help drive and enhance Samsung's image on a global scale but also allow us to get even closer to our customers. Samsung is an equally ambitious company, and we are looking forward to sharing that drive and momentum to build on our success and boost brand awareness." In-Soo Kim added: "Chelsea Football Club has a stylish heritage that is reflected in Samsung's passion for design and innovation. Samsung has highlighted its leadership in mobile and therefore has chosen this to appear on the Chelsea shirt. Samsung Mobile is already a leading brand globally. I am convinced that the association with Samsung Mobile will create a positive spill-over effect for other product categories. We will be undertaking a range of marketing activities to support this partnership and will look to strengthen the value of both brands as well as drive product sales on a global scale."

Chelsea Football Club Manager and First Team Coach, Jose Mourinho, was also present at the announcement, and posed for photographs with In-Soo Kim and Peter Kenyon, as was Chelsea's Business Affairs Director Paul Smith, who made the opening press conference address. Paul Smith said: "Our relationship with Samsung is the next, and very important step, in the Chelsea business plan of working with global, blue-chip partners at every level. "In the last two years Chelsea's UK fan base has increased by 300 percent to an impressive 2.9 million. Worldwide, the fan base is approaching 20 million. That represents amazing growth. The Chelsea brand is seen as dynamic, cosmopolitan and successful which represents an attractive platform for our partners."

Sponsorship activities between Chelsea and Samsung will run in the UK and across Europe, Asia as well as in North and South America. This will drive further sales and marketing activities, starting with Samsung's Mobile division. Samsung will promote the company's expertise in telecommunications and digital convergence, and grow its position in Europe as leading design and development for consumer technology. About Samsung Electronics Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd. is a global leader in semiconductor, telecommunication, digital media and digital convergence technologies with 2004 parent company sales of US$55.2 billion and net income of US$10.3 billion. Employing approximately 123,000 people in 93 offices in 48 countries, the company consists of five main business units: Digital Appliance Business, Digital Media Business, LCD Business, Semiconductor Business and Telecommunication Network Business.

Recognized as one of the fastest growing brands, Samsung Electronics is the world's largest producer of colour monitors, colour TVs, memory chips and TFT-LCDs. For more information, please visit www.samsung.com For more information, please visit http://www.samsung.co.uk/

Posted by Shiny Media on April 25, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

NEC releases touchscreen for smartphones

Smartphone_touch

Ahh! Somebody's finally twigged that using incredibly small screens to browse the net on your new smart phone is amazingly annoying. To this end,according to an article on TechJapan, it looks like Japanese company NEC has developed a 2.7 inch touchscreen with QVGA (320 x 240) resolution. The screen has a low power consumption of 220 milliwatts, while retaining a contrast ratio of 400:1 and a brightness of around 180cd/square metre. According to the report, it's only shipping in small numbers in Japan for 9,000 yen (£45) a pop, although NEC does plan on selling this for popular smartphones and PDAs in Europe and the States.

Posted by Chris Cornwell on April 25, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Xmas target for BT's hybrid handset

Although we are still eagerly anticipating the Bluephone that was hyped for imminent release a couple of weeks back, BT has just announced another hybrid device set to be ready by Christmas. This new roamable system will rely on Wi-Fi instead of Bluetooth to make landline calls although will automatically switch to GSM if you wander out of the hotspot. At a Wireless LAN event, BT's chief executive for wireless broadband, Chris Clark promised "We'll have a seamless roaming GSM/Wi-Fi phone by the end of the year" and also hinted that the Bluephone might actually emerge around June.

via vnunet.com

Posted by Al on April 22, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Siemens revives the lady phone



Siemens certainly loves its lady phones. After dabbling with the unusual and sadly ill-fated Xelibri range last year the company is at it again with the **CL75** handset it unveiled today in Paris. Billed as the first mobile phone designed by women, for women it apparently has soft, smooth contours and a "Silk Flower" motif. It weighs a handbag-friendly 90g, and opens to reveal a large colour display with 262,000 vivid colours. The display also doubles as pocket mirror so women can check their make-up on the move. Siemens has kept the gadget count high kitting out the phone with a built-in digital still//video camera, 11MB memory, Push and Talk technology and Instant Messaging.

To reflect the femininity of the phone, Siemens has commissioned one of the world's leading experts on perfume, Roja Dove, to create a bespoke fragrance inspired by the handset. Representing the femininity and floral design of the CL75, Roja has combined a blend of lemon oil, lavender,

sandalwood, geranium and camomile to develop the CL75 scent. The phone is expected to launch into the UK market this summer. No details about anywhere else yet

Posted by Shiny Media on April 22, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Motorola iTunes phone not taking off in US



Looks like it might be tough times for Apple's music download service: first they get the DRMS protection system hacked by pymusique, and now it looks like several US mobile phone carriers have opted not to support Apple and Motorola's iTunes phone. According to The Register, it seems that iTunes is being passed over by major US carriers for a number of reasons: mobile phone carriers might want to sell directly to mobile phone handsets, whereas the Motorola iTunes phone worked by copying songs bought on a PC.

There is also pricing (iTunes are already under pressure to increase the price of their tracks, and downloading songs on your mobile phone already costs several times more than downloading it off iTunes), and the fact that many carriers don't think that a large music library can be navigated easily on many phone handsets. The bad news for iTunes music store fans is that we can expect to see a similar situation in the UK, as most major UK mobile phone carriers already operate their own download service.

Posted by Chris Cornwell on April 21, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Memory cards to hit supermarket shelves

Milk... Check... Eggs... Check... 64MB MMC memory card... Check. Not normally what you expect to see on your list of groceries, but a partnership between Catalus and Tesco will soon see a wide variety of memory formats filling supermarket shelves. Catalus supplies M+ digital memory and the product line up includes Multi Media Card, Compact Flash, Smart Media, Secure Digital, Memory Stick, xD Picture card, Mini SD and RS MMC which can all be employed in a wide variety of electrical devices such as mobiles, digital cameras and MP3 players. This move shows that portable memory media has become big business of late and we can expect to see bemused housewives picking through racks of colour coded packages to find the right format for their new camera-phones in the coming months.

Posted by Al on April 20, 2005 in Digital cameras | MP3 players | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Skype going mobile



Skype technologies co founder, Niklas Zennstrom announced in a recent Voice on the Net conference (VON) that a mobile version of the widely adopted VoIP software will be available later in the year. That said, it seems unlikely that many major telecommunications companies will rush to adopt the new application, as Skype benefits the user by allowing free telephony to other Skype users. However, now that SkypeOut (Skype's lowcost service that allows connections to land and mobile lines) has hit the 1 million subscribers mark, its corporate muscle must be growing and we could someday see a mobile version allowing free calls between users through Wireless IP connections. Recent mobile phone models, such as the Neonode, have started to become equipped to connect to a Wi-Fi network, though I just can't see phone companies clamouring to let Skype reduce the scale of their airtime revenues, but here's hoping...

Skype via MobileMag

Posted by Al on April 20, 2005 in Mobile phones | Wi-Fi
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Green energy for your mobile

Its no wind up, festival time is here again and many of us can look forward to a summer spent in mud drenched tents with minimal access to the less-than-sanitary facilities and the only electricity for miles is being employed only to make certain our permanent ear damage. Though our peace loving hippy friends might love the lack of mod cons, the modern festival-goer has discovered that mobile phones can be of huge advantage when looking for friends amongst the crowds of bong-smoking students. But alas, over a 3 day event one or both of these mobiles will run very short on juice, which is



where the Wind-up mobile phone charger could prove a godsend writes sister blog Hippyshopper. Ok its not exactly that efficient: "crank for as little as 2 minutes for approx 5 minutes of talk time" and it'll certainly never get your battery up to full power, but when faced with extreme conditions this little gadget could show real merit. The Wind-up mobile phone charger is available now for £9.95 from Paramount Zone

Parmount Zone via Hippyshopper

Posted by Al on April 20, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Samsung SCH-S350 Sci-Fi phone



Most phones now have all the same features like an MP3 player, digital camera, GPS and colour displays, so getting your new mobi to stand out from the crowd takes some doing. Samsung's cunning plan to make sure you choose its phones is to enhance its mobiles with, err subliminal concentration aids.

Apparently its new SCH-S350 uses Alpha waves to improve memory and concentration, which are transmitted through 'functional music'. Whether this does any more than blast contemporary polyphonic tones in your ear is anyone's guess, but these crackpot handsets are soon to hit the shelves in Korea.

No sign of the Samsung SCH-S350 reaching these shores yet sadly. Despite their alternative functionality this is actually a good-looking handset; it is 85mm long weighing just 85g and is available in 4 colours.

via I4U

Posted by Al on April 18, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Motorola and the phone that mends itself

Here is another dispatch from **Barry Fox** of the **New Scientist** who has been keeping tabs on the latest innovations from **Motorola** as filed away in the UK Patents Office.

If you drop your phone or PDA, and the plastics casing cracks, no matter. Another new Motorola patent tells how it can self-mend . The casing is moulded from polymer, with two extra additives, like the two components of DIY resin adhesive. One component is powdery, evenly distributed through the polymer. The other component is polymerisable goo, sealed in very small capsules which are also evenly distributed. When the casing cracks the shearing action breaks open some of the capsules to release their goo, which mixes with the powder and hardens. So the crack is bonded almost as soon as it opens up.

Posted by Shiny Media on April 13, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Cinema-friendly Motorola mobile innovation

It is amazing what you can dig up at the Patents Office. New Scientist's Barry Fox has been snooping around the UK office and come up with a few innovations Motorola isn't quite yet ready to talk about.

It's happened to most people; your cellphone rings in a meeting, theatre or concert hall, and goes on ringing until you have struggled it out of a pocket or purse, and pressed the right buttons to silence the wretched thing. But there could soon be a very simple answer. Moto reminds that any loudspeaker can also work in reverse, as a microphone. So tapping a phone hard can make the speaker generate a pulse of electric power. The new phone will sense this pulse to switch off the ringer. So when the phone rings it can be silenced simply by hitting the pocket or purse.

Posted by Shiny Media on April 13, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Wireless LAN Mobile from Neonode



Neonode has been making some very smart looking handsets recently and announcement of new models with integrated Wi-Fi shows they've got the best features too. In cooperation with Philips Semiconductors, Neonode has been able to reduce power consumption and enable wireless networking in a Wi-Fi hotspot. Though sparse on technical details, Neonode revealed some of the benefits to be gained from a WLan enable mobile; cheap internet access at faster rates than is available on 3G or WAP (11 Mbit per second, about 25 times faster than current technology) and VoIP calls being the main highlights. When the mobile leaves the Wi-Fi zone, ordinary GSM will take over once again.

Neonode founder, Thomas Eriksson says "The WLAN expansion takes place everywhere in an explosive speed and offers real broadband to a small expense, which often already is covered by the user's fixed broadband subscription!" Details of price and availability are expected later in the year.

Neonode via I4U

Posted by Al on April 12, 2005 in Mobile phones | Wi-Fi
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

DMB technology in new Samsung handsets



Digital Multimedia Broadcasting (DMB) has been in the pipeline for a while now and soon video broadcasts to mobile phones might be a reality to Korean mobile users as Samsung begins field-testing their new technology later in the year.

The Samsung SCH-B200 DMB handset has the new swivel screen feature and packs all the peripherals one could wish for: 2 megapixel camera, MP3 and MPEG4 playback, 260k LCD 2.2 inch screen, battery life that supports over 3 hours video playback and upgradeable TransFlash memory.

Although the Korean version uses satellite technology, a European model is also in the making; the SCH-B1200 will use terrestrial transmissions instead. There is no official line yet on when it will arrive here or how much it will cost.

Samsung via MobileMag

Posted by Al on April 12, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Pacman Celebrates 25th!



Hooray! Celebration! You know whose 25th birthday it is today? Yes, that's right- Pacman! You're just kicking yourself aren't you? Pacman was one of the best selling mobile games in 2004, partly because Vodafone offered the game for download to mobile users. To help celebrate his 25th, here are six Pacman facts courtesy of Pocket Lint:

In its initial year of release over 100,000 PAC-MAN arcade cabinets were sold.

Estimates place the total number of times PAC-MAN has been played at over ten billion.

In the original Japanese arcade version, the Ghosts were called Akabei, Pinky, Aosuke, and Guzuta

In the American (and European) versions, the Ghosts were renamed Binky, Inky, Pinky and Clyde

It took until 1999 for the perfect game of PAC-MAN to be played. Florida resident Billy Mitchell cleared every screen, ate all four ghosts with every power-pill, got every power-up and cleared all 256 screens, scoring 3,333,360 points. With one life.

PAC-MAN moves 20% faster on areas with no dots.

[Via Pocket Lint]

Posted by Chris Cornwell on April 11, 2005 in Gaming | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Exclusive Handsets for Virgin Mobile

Virgin has announced efforts to break the trends in mobile handsets by offering its own range of alternative handsets alongside the major brands. This will mean an exclusive deal with a selection of OEM companies from the Far East to be hand picked by Virgin. Jim Powell, Virgin Mobile product controller says "Our new exclusive brand will reflect our brand values here at Virgin Mobile, offering our customers a mobile phone with great functionality, excellent design and above all value for money." And of course the opportunity to own something that your friends on other networks can't have. There's no info yet on which handsets will start being shipped over to these shores but we can expect their arrival sometime in the summer, with prices varying with each model.

Posted by Al on April 8, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

The Bluephone from BT



Face it, most of us are never more than 3 feet away from our mobis at any one time and if it wasn't for the few pounds saved,we'd probably do without landline phones entirely. Realizing this, BT started work on convergent technology with the aim to build a cordless phone that when used at home will automatically dial from a landline using Bluetooth. Heading off to work? The phone will then switch over to GSM and act like any ordinary mobile.

This will require a special handset, which BT has promised to unveil at some point soon; Ben Verwaayen, BT's chief executive said "We said we'd launch it in spring. Look around, spring is in the air today". Also on the horizon is the Bluephone 2 with added Wi-Fi support for Voice over Wireless Local Area Network (VoWLAN).

Posted by Al on April 8, 2005 in Mobile phones | Wireless home
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Grand National streaming to 3 mobiles



Marking the first ever live TV streaming to mobiles in the UK, 3 customers will be able to view the year's biggest horseracing event live on their handsets. All the races between April 7th - 9th in the Aintree event are being streamed live and can be accessed by dialling 62750, then pressing the Video Call button, coverage is being provided by the BBC.

This isn't the first live event covered by the 3 Network; recent mobile streaming has included gigs by Rooster and Natasha Bedingfield. Although the BBC are not charging for the privilege, 3G users can expect to pay approximately 50 pence per minute for the video call. Streaming starts at 1330 on 8th April and at 1530 on the 9th.

Posted by Al on April 8, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Wigobyte releases combined USB flash drive and emergency mobile battery

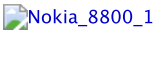
In a neat little bit of digital convergence, Korean company Wigobyte has started offering a new spin on the old USB flash drive theme. The new Mvolt-200 USB thumb-drive is at once a neat little flash drive, ranging from 128MB to 1GB in size and an emergency mobile phone battery, providing about 10

Wigobyte

hours of standby and 40 minutes of talk time off of a nifty 3.7V li-polymer battery. The device uses a USB 2.0 connection weighs in at a conservative 17 grams. A word of warning though: the battery complies with the Korea TTA Standard 2400S 24 pins. We'd bet that you might not have one of those on your phone.

Posted by Chris Cornwell on April 8, 2005 in Computers | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Nokia 8800 Fashion Phone



Nokia has unveiled its new fashion conscious handset set for the second quarter of 2005. A sleek stainless steel body, metal injection moulded keys and a reinforced screen employed using glass techniques more commonly found in watches than on mobiles, is designed to make sure the 8800 stays looking pristine for as long as possible. However, this does give the phone a little extra weight at 134g with dimensions of 107 x 45 x 17mm and an ultra-cool sliding mechanism.

The functionality seems a little limited for a premium phone; the camera is only capable of 0.5 megapixel but can record video, although there is an FM receiver and supports both MP3 and AAC playback. Unlike the entry level 3230, itself capable of 1.23 megapixel pics, the 8800 has 64MB of fixed memory arguably less efficient than the 3230's upgradeable/removable 32MB MMC memory.

However the Nokia 8800 has a 208 x 208 pixel display capable of 262k colours and handsfree speaker, WAP 2.0 microbrowser along with exclusive graphics and UIs, which combined with the distinctive design will help ensure the 8800 is a must have accessory, but with a European RRP of 750 EUR, it's one that won't come cheap.

Nokia via InfoSyncWorld

Posted by Al on April 8, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Wind up Radio, Torch and Phone Charger



A neat little eco-friendly gizmo, the Personal Power Charger, available for £14.95 at IWantOneOfThose will let you use wind up power to power an onboard torch, radio, and essentially for today's mobile generation, a phone charger for your Nokia, Ericsson and Motorola phone. So, the important question, how much winding to put through a call to your mates? Well, apparently 30 minutes of winding will get you six hours of standby for six hours, or 10 to 15 mins of talk time. A slightly more reasonable 5 minutes of winding will get you a light for 2.5 hours.

Product Page

Posted by Shiny Media on April 6, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Black Moto V3 on sale now



The Moto Razr V3 is definitely one of the more desirable phones on the market. Apart from its slim design, it sports MPEG4 video playback, Bluetooth(r) wireless technology, a digital camera. The black finish edition of this phone (the one they were giving away to

celebs on oscar night) is now available in the UK, in limited quantities, which is sure to raise demand. And price. The phone is available from onestopphoneshop.co.uk, Buzz Mobile and at acemobilephones.co.uk

Posted by Shiny Media on April 5, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Shazam now added to Motorola phones



You know the problem right? You listen to a song, you really like the sound of it. But you don't know who did, when they did it or what it's called. The solution used to involve you trying to remember the song, then making a tit of yourself in front of a excessivly hip music shop guy.

Then along came Shazam which allowed you to play the tune to its service down your mobile and then it would text you its details. Now however, Shazam has been developing a new service with Motorola (www.motorola.co.uk), to embed its software into Moto handsets which will let identify any music that you point it at.

As soon as you hear something you like, you point your phone at the source of music and hey presto, it's tagged. Once it has been identified, your screen will come up with artist, album and track info. The technology will soon be packaged on select Motorola phones, although of course any mobile phone can use the technology now, by pointing your mobile in the right direction and dialing 2580.

Posted by Shiny Media on April 5, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Nokia's low-end 3230 smartphone hits UK



After a parade of wacky designs **Nokia** has returned to more conventional styling for its new entry-level **3230** Series 60 smartphone. Sporting a compact chocolate bar design with a 176 x 208 pixel, 65k colour display, the 3230 has a 1.23 megapixel camera and can capture up to an hours of video.

The handset's dimensions are 109 x 49 x 19 mm and it weighs 110grams. The battery will provide 100-150 hours standby time and 4 hours talk time. Annoyingly it uses a mini MMC card (it comes with a 32MB one) which limits the amount of storage it can offer via the card to a pathetic 64MB.

The 3230 lso comes with a further selection of entertainment features including an FM receiver, multiplayer Bluetooth games and also the interesting Agent V game, which like the amazing Mozzies on the Siemens SX1, uses the camera's viewfinder. It is available now via Orange from £30.

Posted by Shiny Media on April 5, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

R2D2 speaks your text messages

What could possibly make text messaging more fun? Obviously having an avatar of your choice garbling the message for you. Of course having static or animated characters punctuate your typed conversation has been commonplace on the Internet for some time and now **Orange** is offering a new **Avatar Messaging** service available through its **Orange World** mobile phone system.

In line with Orange's Star Wars promtion: Episode III promotion R2D2, Pit-Droids, Stormtroopers and other characters can now become bearers of your text messages by 'speaking' them to your friends (we assume that involves a speech bubble or R2D2 might be a poor choice). This gimmick could add some novelty to SMS; picture the scene... "The thirst is strong in this one". "Mmmm, to the pub must we go". Btw each message costs 50p to create.



Posted by Shiny Media on April 5, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Pathfinder – finds the cheapest calls automatically



The most practical bill saving feature on your mobile since dual sim card holders may be coming your way soon, due to Burnside Telecom's Desktop Mobile, called Pathfinder. This clever little gizmo at once combines the attributes of a house phone and of a mobile phone, so you have both a fixed line and a mobile line. When making a call, it will automatically decide which line would be cheaper to use, and features a more sophisticated forwarding system, meaning that people who can't get through to you can get through to other contacts that you program in (other family members or colleagues at work for example).

Burnside Telecom

Posted by Shiny Media on April 1, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Orange boxsets targets music lovers



It looks like music lovers are Orange's next target audience with the release of three new boxsets – Nokia's 6680 and 3230 handsets, as well as Sony Ericsson's K300i. The basic models of the phone include the 6680 which comes preloaded with Orange's music player and Fireplayer, a music player that lets you remix songs – but beware that songs for Orange's music player cost £1.50, whereas the Fireplayer tracks cost a notably steeper £3.50. For those not familiar with the phones in question, the rather funky Nokia 6680 features a two way videocall, and photosharing. The Nokia 3230 and the Sony Ericsson K300i both feature video recording facilities.

Orange

Posted by Shiny Media on April 1, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Port Camera Case

If you feel that all your digital camera wielding friends are making fun of your manufacturer's standard case, then look at this new offering from Port Designs. These compact little camera pouches come with additional pockets, adjustable shoulder and belt straps, metal buckles and perhaps best of all, a camera saving pull out rain cover.

Port Link

Posted by Shiny Media on March 30, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Port_phone_case_1

Orange gets ready for Episode 3

Orangewookiee_phone_pouch Uh-oh, the marketing behemoth that is Lucasfilm is really getting into full lightsabre-like swing with the release of Orange's Star Wars Episode 3 box set. Apparently if Luke had decided to make a phone call during the trilogy, he would have chosen the Orange network, because inside the box set you not only get a Nokia 3320, you also get a Darth Vader phone holder and wookiee phone pouch (both have to be seen to be believed), a Star Wars Lenticular featuring Yoda, Darth or new baddie General Grevious, free Yoda wallpaper and limited edition Yoda top-up card for pay-as-you-go boxsets. The set is expected to retail for £89.99. For those already on the Orange network, Orangeworld has also put up some brand new Star Wars related content. Crap shameless marketing? Or so kitsch its genius? You decide, I'm off to get my wookiee pouch holder.



Orange

Posted by Shiny Media on March 30, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Toshiba to lead mobile battery (re)charge?

Toshiba Good news on the horizon for mobile phone users: The Register reports that Toshiba has just developed a lithium-ion battery that will charge to 80% capacity within one minute. A full charge will apparently only take a few minutes more. The battery will also last longer, losing only 1% of its capacity after 1000 charges. The battery will come out sometime next year, and although it's only been planned for use in industrial and automotive industries, we're guessing it won't be long after that it makes its way into your mobile phone.

Read

Posted by Shiny Media on March 30, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Samsung SCH-V600

Samv600 Samsung has announced the SCH-V600, launching shortly in Korea but with no word yet on a US or European release date. The V600 is an updated version of the clamshell V5009 (not the candybar swivel screen Z130 as seen at CeBIT), which featured a twistable screen for viewing video. This breakthrough is considerably more efficient than simply rotating the handset by 90 degrees, which can lead to severe wrist injuries. Sarcasm aside, this allows the SCH-V600 to retain a compact design (92.5x48.7x29.3mm) and allows video files (which are normally wider than they are tall) to be navigated to and viewed easily. The phone also comes with two games that use the widescreen display and a 1.3 megapixel camera. It supports MPEG4 format videos and MP3 audio.

Read

Posted by Shiny Media on March 29, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Tosh 4Gig mobile phone hard drive

Toshiba debuts a 4Gigabyte hard disk for mobile phones. The company has unveiled a 0.85inch disc that could deliver the large amounts of storage

tomorrow's phone users will require. With phones increasingly being used to play MP3s, video, and with TV tuners even coming to some models, the hard disk will enable users to store their own music and movies, and could even record TV programmes. However, competition is hot on the heels of Toshiba's breakthrough, as Samsung has recently revealed its own 3Gigabyte music phone, the SGH-i300. Nokia too is set to debut a new phone in 2005 that also promises to incorporate a hard disk. Could this spell the end of MP3 players and USB disks?

Posted by Shiny Media on March 24, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

MTV Hijacks Motorola phones

MTV has teamed up with Motorola to produce limited edition **Hijacked by MTV** handsets. The concept, claims the press release, brings 'a brilliantly rebellious mobile experience that rewrites the rules of ringtones, alerts and screensavers' (and there we were thinking that it was a money making exercise between two huge corporate brands). One novel idea is SMS templates that "speak a universal language shared by young people - not their parents". Awww, a secret code, very cool. There are also interchangeable skins to create different moods from bling to camouflage and brand new MTV mobile games, including the latest in the Plastikulture series. The Hijacked by MTV range will soon be available worldwide.

Posted by Shiny Media on March 24, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Motorola's internet radio to go

Sounds like Motorola has debuted some really cool stuff at the M3 music festival in Miami. We really like the sound of iRadio solution, which apparently enables the user to tune into Internet radio channels as well as their personal music collection, while on the move or in the car. Details are sketchy at the moment but the service apparently uses an Internet connection, Bluetooth technology, and a mobile phone. The system also has a few neat tricks, apparently allowing the users to start a song on their car radio at exactly the point where they stopped it on their living room stereo. The system was first announced last year, but is apparently ready for launch now.

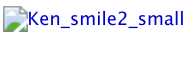
Posted by Shiny Media on March 24, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

3 to offer multi-player gaming over 3G

3, the British 3G mobile phone operator is to start offering **real-time multiplayer gaming** in April, allowing up to four players to play each other over a network. How developers use this will be interesting; so far mobile phone games have not taken advantage of the fact that every system that they work on has a built-in network link. The first game out will be No Refuge, a tank battle game. Coming soon are games of 'console quality' (although which console remains to be seen), including a shooting title called Lock and Load. Players can choose to pay 25p per play, 50p for three days or £3-7.50, depending on title, for permanent access to a game.

Posted by Shiny Media on March 24, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Ken says 'he's on the tube'

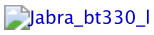


Well our dream is coming true - it looks like the **London Underground** is to go **mobile phone friendly** by 2008. That's the plan if the technology gets OK'd in coming trials, slated for 2007. Mayor Ken Livingstone has announced that the plan will see wireless transmitters installed underground to enable both mobile phone and wireless laptop internet connectivity. "We know that many Londoners would like the convenience of being able to use their mobile phones at Tube stations throughout the Underground network," said Mayor Livingstone. "We also want to see how the technology could be taken even further, for instance wireless Internet so passengers could receive up-to-the-minute travel information via their laptop or mobile phone." Sounds great to

us, we always appreciate using our mobi in tunnels while on the Heathrow Express.

Posted by Shiny Media on March 23, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

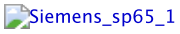
Jabra's Bluetooth earful



After its innovative, and rather funky **BT200** Bluetooth headset, **Jabra** is back with yet another new model in the **BT330**. This compact headset is light and comfortable (weighing in at a mere 17grams) and has a battery life that apparently rivals even the more costly models in the range (7 hours of talk and 200 standby). Featuring an over the ear hook and supporting Bluetooth 1.2, the BT330 will be available very soon for £59.99

Posted by Shiny Media on March 23, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Siemens camera-free business phone



Siemens is targeting business users with a brand new mobi - the **SP65**, and its killer feature? Well it is more about what it doesn't have than what's on the spec sheet. Notable for its absence is a built-in camera. It seems that many businesses are getting more security conscious, and are hoping that disallowing camera phones will put off more casual attempts at company espionage (think snapping sensitive company documents), voyeurism and other such misdemeanours. It isn't Siemens first snapper-free handset this year. Last month it delivered the Blackberry powered SK65, which was also camera-less. Apart from that the phone appears to be have the standard business phone package: Tri-band, synchronisation with Lotus Notes and Outlook Express, a 65k screen with 176 x 132 pixels, among other things.

Posted by Shiny Media on March 23, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Poker on your mobi



PokerRoom.com, Sweden's massive online poker site is going mobile. From April, the site, which apparently has over 3.5 million users, will be available to Sony Ericsson K700i owners. And what's more you'll be able to gamble with real money too, although you'll still have to the option to practise with play money or against a computer player. The game offers an experience interactively that has not been available in any mobile poker games before. Players can choose between three different views; Normal View which has graphics similar to those seen on PokerRoom.com, Symbol View which gives a view over the whole table with simplified graphics or the Text View which also gives history of how the hand was played. Additionally, there is a chat function allowing players to text one another during the game.

Posted by Shiny Media on March 22, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

First ever free TV station for 3G mobiles

Details are sketchy but it appears that Luxembourg-based **Tele2** looks set to win the race to deliver the first worldwide free TV station that's accessible from 3G mobiles. **Tango.tv** is set to launch imminently, though quite what it is going to show is anyone's guess .Tele2 has also unveiled Sunshine Radio, which it is billing as the first net radio station for 3G phones. If you're in the mood for bland inoffensive pop grooves coming at you straight out of Luxembourg, get out your mobile and rock on here.

Posted by Shiny Media on March 22, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Carphone claims phones will kill off cameras


Sony_ericsson_s7

Yup, you heard it here first. The digital camera is apparently an endangered species, so says **Carphone Warehouse's** UK Chief Executive, Andrew Harrison. 'People just don't want or need two devices,' says Harrison 'and as no-one leaves home without a mobile phone, this is how people will take photos in the future.' Naturally this would all be seen as PR fluff were it not for the fact that The Register is reporting that shares in leading camera retailer Jessops have dropped on account of predictions of more moderate growth in the digital market.

Carphone Warehouse chose the story to highlight its **Photography Proposition** which will see more in-store staff with knowledge of camera phones, a range of interactive guides to help with camera selection and a facility that will allow customers to upload and print off photos.

Posted by Shiny Media on March 21, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Is the iTunes phone a non-starter?

Net Imperative has an interesting perspective on the non-appearance of the Motorola iTunes phone at the CEBIT exhibition in Hanover the other week. While the standard line that has been trotted out revolves around Apple's view of products appearing one day and in the shops the next, which contrast with the Moto view that products have to be shown to the industry and then launched later, Charles Arthur takes as slightly different slant. He argues that while Apple is brilliant at marketing product, when it comes to technologies it doesn't always get it right. Arthur cites as his example Firewire, which is considerably better than its rival USB 2.0 but was poorly promoted by Apple.

And while the iTunes handset is a phone, it is mainly being sold on its technology - iTunes. One other point worth noting, especially from a UK perspective, is that the British networks might not be in as much of a rush to bite Motorola's hand off and adopt the phone as Moto had hoped. Each network has its over the air music download system, which is many ways are direct competitor to Apple's iTunes service. So why launch a handset that may cannibalize some your own revenue?

Posted by Shiny Media on March 21, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Sony Ericsson's Music Mobile W31S

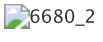

Sony_ericsson_music_phone_w31s

Over in Japan, Sony Ericsson has just announced a music phone produced especially for KDDI. The W31S music mobile phone is a CDMA mobile phone with a 2-megapixel digital camera, high res screen, FM Tuner and music player. As with the W800 Walkman Sony Ericsson recently accounced for the UK market, the music player has been designed to work independently of the rest of the phone's functions so you can continue to use it while the music's playing. Unfortunately, it doesn't sound as though the crazy ears come as standard.

Read press-release (Japanese) [via I4U]

Posted by Shiny Media on March 21, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Nokia 6680 3G imaging smartphone on sale


6680_2

Nokia's 6680 imaging smartphone, its first to boast two cameras and offer person to person video calling, has started shipping in Europe. The 3G handset has been designed primarily as an imaging phone, which basically means it's got 2 cameras (VGA on the front 1.3 megapixels to the rear), a flash and a high res 262K colour screen. It also supports PictBridge for easy photo printing as well as Bluetooth. Besides all the usual 3G network services - video calling, music downloads, live streaming and all that kind of thing - the phone also has the distinction of running the Symbian Series 60 OS so it's a smartphone as well.

This means you'll be able to access your emails and all manner of other PIM facilities such as Calendar and Contacts, as well as get to work on some text files and documents. Phones of this ilk often lack a decent printing facility, but spurred on by the need to provide photo printing services, Nokia has extended the application to work for data as well, making it a bit smarter than the average smartphone. We expect O2 to get it first in the UK.

Read

Posted by Shiny Media on March 21, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Vodafone struggles with 3G

We continue today's Guardian love-in by bringing to your attention a great piece from Richard Wray about the way in which **Vodafone** has been struggling to attract punters to its new **3G** service. Apparently it has so far secured around 200,000 subscribers - less if the gossip-mongers are to be believed - which is pretty small beer seeing as it invested so heavily in its 3G marketing and advertising campaigns.

The piece points out that very few of those customers are new to the network, but rather they have bought 3G phones to replace existing Vodafone Live! handsets. Persuading consumers to invest in bulky, less sexy phones with battery life that is less than their existing handsets on the premise they can watch a bit of video or make a video call was always going to be tough. And Vodafone hasn't made it easy for itself by not pitching its 3G service competitively, a lesson that O2 and Orange has quickly learnt.

We are sure that come the end of the year Vodafone will be accelerating towards its proposed ten million subscribers across Europe and Japan, but it is going to have to rustle up a few carrots to achieve this. Incidentally the Sharp/Vodafone 902 is the favourite phone of some writers in this parish (initials AN) - but hey that isn't much of a recommendation now is it!?

Posted by Shiny Media on March 16, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Sanyo S750 3G phone review



Over at The Guardian there's a quick review of **Orange's** flagship 3G handset the **Sanyo S750**. The verdict; great screen, cool collection of features but shame about the bulky size.

And no you shouldn't swap their Sharp Vodafone 902 for one.

Posted by Shiny Media on March 16, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Music downloads to your phone and your PC



One of the reasons why downloading music directly to mobile phones has been a slow starter is because when a person buys a track they can only play it on their phone and not on their PC too. Seattle based **Melodeo** hopes to change all that with a secure download system that will allow user to purchase songs which they can then store on both their computer and their mobile.

The company's **Mobile Music Solution** includes a Music Store which resides directly on the user's mobile phone, allowing consumers to shop for, preview, purchase, play and store full music tracks over the air. They can also download the songs to a PC and easily swap songs between their PC and their mobile. The system works with all kinds of phones too including Series 60, UIQ, Windows Mobile, BREW, and Java-based handsets, as well as an embedded client.

Interestingly the service uses the aacPlus format from Coding Technologies, which produces music files in the 500 to 750K range, significantly smaller than a typical MP3 file, for phones, but offers them as WMA files for the PC. There's more info here.

Posted by Shiny Media on March 16, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

O2's X4 3G on a budget arrives


O2_x4_tiltedjpg_final_1

Fancy trying out 3G but not too fussed about making video calls? Well **O2** has unveiled the first in its series of home-grown 3G phones in the single camera only **X4** handset. Much smaller and lighter than the average 3G Behemoth the X4 is in fact a deadringer for previous O2 handsets like the its X3. O2 has gone to the same manufacturer to produce the phone too which we think, though we can't prove it, is likely to be Taiwanese maker BenQ.

In terms of features the X4's big story is that it is compatible with O2's range of video facilities, which means it can download or stream, music, sports and comedy clips.

It also boasts a 1.3 mega pixel camera, which we really hope is better than the one on the X3, features neat 262k colour screen, MP3 player and is compatible with WAP and Java. There's 10MB of storage on board though this can be upgraded via a memory card. Curiously there's no Bluetooth so we suspect you won't be able to use it as a modem for a laptop PC. It is on sale now from free.

Posted by Shiny Media on March 16, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Nathan's Wasp T12



Of course we knew about Nathan Barley's Wasp T12 Speechtool long before anyone else, because that's how bleeding edge and down with pop culture we are. It's taken us till now to actually post it, however, because we've spent so much time at the hairdresser's getting a Geek Pie cut. If you too would like to "hoot your trap off", the Wasp T12 comes with a compressed widescreen, MP3 decks with subjockey interface, an urban orienteer that will pinpoint your "x-zac" location (on the moon or earth) and, of course, an extra large 5. Available to import right now from Trashbat.co.ck. It's well bum.

Posted by Shiny Media on March 15, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (3) | TrackBack (0)

Samsung's girly phones


D600

Samsung unveiled a shed load of phones at CeBIT last week. And while we have brought you the highlights, like the **SGHi300** hard disk based music phone and the **SCH-V770**, that's the one with the seven mega pixel snapper, there are so many in fact that we can't be bothered to list them all here.

Fortunately our sister site, Shiny Shiny, has done the donkey work for us picking up on two more handsets, the **E350** and **D600**, both of which are targeted more at the girls than the fellas.

Posted by Shiny Media on March 15, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

CeBIT: iCare mobile for kids

I bumped into the people from Mymo whilst traipsing the halls of CeBIT. The people at the children's phone manufacturer weren't best pleased with UK company Communic8 for pulling out of the UK distribution of the phones after all the hoo-hah about the dangers of mobiles for young brains. It hasn't deterred other companies from trying their hand at pre-teen mobile making, however. The i-Care Baby Bear cell phone from GuideTek Technology is even more cutesy than the Mymo, but has the disadvantage of only being at plastic prototype phase rather than plastic finished product

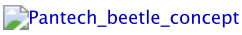
phase. The cheerful Taiwanese people running the stand talked me through the handset, which is so simple even an adult could use it. No screen, four speed dial keys on the hands and feet and that's about it. The upcoming model will also include a GPS locater so anxious parents can keep track of their wandering tots.



Guidetek

Posted by Shiny Media on March 14, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

CeBIT: Pantech Mobiles



Korean manufacturer Pantech had a fair few phones on show, including some smartphones and some rather impressive concept handsets. The ST3 is the company's DMB (Digital Multiedia Broadcasting) handset (picture after the turn), with a swivel screen for watching widescreen. Since this technology is just getting going in Korea, we're assuming it'll be a while before something like this arrives over here. But not as long as it will take something like this beetle phone to arrive. This was over in the concept section, a staple of CeBIT, which seems to consist mainly of far-fetched plastic creations plucked from the mind of a slightly crazed designer. The keyboard on this handset opened up to reveal stereo speakers underneath, making it a three-tiered phone.



Pic via Phonemag

Posted by Shiny Media on March 14, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

CeBIT: Plantronics' fashion headset



We've got a few stories still to catch up on from CeBIT which we'll be bringing you throughout the day. First up is this Bluetooth headset from Plantronics. It's not just Jabra that's gone all fashion conscious on us, Plantronics' latest consumer headset - codenamed Tahiti - has been designed to appeal to those not normally enamoured with the idea of striding about the place talking to a lump of plastic attached to their ear. The tiny headset (it weighs less than 9g) not only looks rather appealing, it's also got a number of nice little features that set it apart from the crowd. Arriving in a travel case (complete with mirror so you can check your headset isn't wonky or anything horrifying like that), the Tahiti comes with a choice of charging options.



The first charging unit plugs onto the bottom of the headset. It's actually a selection of 4 different adapters, allowing you to use your phone's power plug instead of having to carry a separate one with you. Siemens, Nokia, Sony Ericsson and Motorola adapters are the chosen ones.

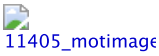
In another moulded storage compartment comes a dock that you can stick in your bag or pocket to top the power up any time. This uses an old fashioned AAA battery to boost you up to a 25-hour battery life. There's also a storage dock that keeps the tiny headset safe when out of use.

A vibrate alert lets you know when a call is coming through, letting you know when it's time to lift the headset out of its dock to take a call. Lifting it out answers the call immediately. Now it just needs an LCD screen and you'll be all set.

The headset comes with3 different earbud sizes as well as an optional ear loop for added security, and should be out in the summer of this year.

Posted by Shiny Media on March 14, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

CeBIT: Motorola's RAZR style 3G phone


11405_motimage

We still aren't entirely convinced by **Motorola's** recent 3G phones, but the **V1150** unveiled at CeBIT looks like a big step in the right direction. It has a two mega pixel camera, Moto's first model with this, as well as a second VGA second camera for video calling. An 8x digital zoom and macro mode are also on board and images are saved on a Transflash Memory card.

Like almost all Moto phones it playbacks MP3 files and unlike all of them WMA ones too. Interestingly it is not compatible with AAC ones – that iTunes phone sure is going to be special). There's also Bluetooth, SyncML for connecting the phone to PCs and much else. The phone's killer feature though is its size. Its RAZR-like skinny (it has that phone's natty flat keypad) and weighs just 130g which is pretty light for a 3G phone. Expect to see it in the UK in a couple of months.

Moto also unveiled another 3G phone in the guise of the **V1050**. A Vodafone exclusive which will go on sale in the next couple of months the clamshell model has a 1.23 mega pixel camera with zoom, video download and calling facilities and POP3 email compatibility.

Posted by Shiny Media on March 11, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Samsung's UK bound hard disk music phone


Samsung_3_gig

Huge news from **Samsung** (again) which at CeBIT has unveiled the first mobile phone with a hard disk for the European market. It already sells hard disk phones in Korea. Set to debut in the second half of 2005 the **SGH i300** is a clear rival to Sony Ericsson/Motorola music phones with its MP3/WMA player and of course storage for around sixty hours of tunes.

Crucially Samsung had added a scroll navigation which wheel which the company says makes it easier to choose your music. It runs using Windows OS, no details as to which flavour yet, and includes a 1.3mega pixel camera with a flash.

The three Gig hard drive certainly makes the 512MB offered by Sony Ericsson seem a little small potatoes. Incidentally Nokia is expected to launch a hard disk based mobile in 2005. We have a sneaking suspicion that it might be announced at a press conference in April.

Posted by Shiny Media on March 11, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

CeBIT: Samsung's seven mega pixel camera phone


200503090018_01

While we Brits go all a quiver over our fab new Sharp Vodafone two mega pixel camera phones, **Samsung** has metaphorically kicked technological sand in our faces by unveiling a phone with a seven mega pixel snapper on board.

Paraded in front of disbelieving Germans at CeBIT this week the **SCH-V770** not only takes pictures that other camera phones can barely dream of, it also comes with a 3x optical zoom that is arguably superior to many existing budget standalone digital cameras.

Other niceties include a 5x digital zoom, auto focus and a proper, whatever that means high quality flash. There's no news yet on launch anywhere (Samsung is rather limply saying first half of this year), bit don't expect to see seven mega pixel camera phones in the UK for some time yet.

Posted by Shiny Media on March 10, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

VoIP and GPS at CeBIT

The Guardian has a quick round up of the latest **CeBIT** news, highlighting the latest developments in key technologies like VoIP and GPS.

Check it out here

Posted by Shiny Media on March 10, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

CeBIT: Webracer mobile accessory



As mobile phone accessories go it's a pretty unusual one. The WebRacer is a dedicated web surfing device that you can hook up to your mobile via Bluetooth, using its GPRS access to get online. The idea is that for those who want to browse the web when they're out and about, but don't want to suffer the smaller screens of a mobile phone, this is a kit to do it on. And, if a laptop's too large and bulky for your needs, this presents a happy comprimise, with a full VGA-width, 640-pixel, color display that lets you view unsquidged webpages. The only fiddling that goes on is to the file size of the images on sites, reducing them for faster upload times. Apparently, pages take just 5 to 7 seconds to open.

The WebRacer also gives you the benefit of its decent sized keyboard and, at just 15mm thick, it's a pretty portable design. There may not be a huge market for a device like this, but I'd definitely be able to put it to good use. Stick a basic word processing feature on there as well and I'd be more than happy. Only slight quibble: isn't it the wrong way round? With such a big thick lid, and such a skinny keypad, it looks like it's going to topple over. Previewing at CeBIT now. It will cost around €167

Planon

Posted by Shiny Media on March 10, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

CeBIT; LG's 3G clamshell gets an update



At CeBIT **LG** was also parading the latest versions of its hugely popular (in the UK at least) clamshell 3G phones. Likely to arrive in the UK first is the **U8180**, another new clamshell which features a multimedia player with MP3, AAC and MPEG4 and video telephony with a dual TFT display. It will be available via the 3 network shortly.

Also on the cards is the **U8200**, the first LG 3G handset to sport a 1.3 mega pixel camera phone. Other features include Video Telephony, Video/Audio streaming and Bluetooth.

Posted by Shiny Media on March 10, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

CEBIT: LG's TV phone



LG is to treat Europeans to a sneak preview of some of the phones it has been parading across the globe in the last few months. At CeBit it is displaying the **LT1000**, its first digital terrestrial TV mobi, its **SV630** gaming handset and the **F9100** a slider phone that is already a hit in the USA.

The most impressive of the trio is arguably the F9100, which packs a colossal number of features into a very pocketable frame. As well as its TV features which are displayed on its QVGA screen it also boasts a 1.3 mega pixel camera and an MP3 player.

Posted by Shiny Media on March 9, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

CeBIT: Siemens Com-Badge



Isn't this just what every self-respecting geek has ever wanted?! A badge that lets you communicate like Jean-Luc himself. The Com-Badge is another of Simens' concept devices and as far as I'm concerned the sooner they make it the better. The idea is that you pin this "personalised acoustic device" onto your jumper and use it to control any number of home appliances via the power of speech. It's also for handsfree calling. Apparently Siemens is planning on making them as fashion accessories, with special designs pencilled in for future devices.

Read

Posted by Shiny Media on March 9, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

CeBIT: Siemens CL75



The Siemens CL75 is a phone that's definitely been designed for the female population. But just because it's aimed at the fairer sex, that doesn't mean that Siemens has scrimped on the features. The little clamshell comes with a high resolution 262k colour screen (this is becoming a recurring theme from SIemens - at last) and a VGA camera. It may have some decent specs, but it's still a fashion phone - and a ladies' one at that - which is why the internal screen turns into a mirror when it's inactive. There's also a push and talk walke talkie technology. The "Silk Flower Red" colour scheme is the first one due out, with three more designs to follow along with a limited edition version which will, no doubt, have something to do with Escada.

Read

Posted by Shiny Media on March 9, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

CeBIT: Siemens' elegant clamshell

Difficult to believe that Siemens was recently rumoured to be pulling out of the mobile phones market given the number of new products announced at CeBIT. Latest to be unveiled is the CF75. Described rather lyrically as the 'embodiment of understated elegance' (it's a phone isn't it, not a flipping supermodel?) it's certainly a neat-enough looking number.

Finished in 'Ocean Blue' and with a 65K colour screen, it incorporates a VGA video and stills camera with attachable flash - handy for those incriminating nightclub shots of drunken friends etc. It also comes with a 3D Virtual Assistant (that's a diary then) and push to talk facility.



Available in the UK, the CF75 is a tri-band model offering, apparently, 250 hours of standby and 150 minutes of talk time. It will be available in the UK from the summer. Price has yet to be announced.

Siemens

Posted by Shiny Media on March 9, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Blue (tooth) Monday



New Order, the band who made the world's best selling 12inch single in the 80s, for which they actually made a loss, has come up with a really cool way of promoting their new CD **Waiting for the Sirens Call**. Using a series of digital interactive posters in HMV in London and Manchester fans of the band will be able to download music clips, photos and ringtones on to their mobie via Bluetooth.

"Technology has always been a driving force for us and we want the promotion of our new album to reflect that," said drummer Stephen Morris in a statement. "The convergence of music and (cellular phones) is a hugely important development in the way that people consume music; being the first band to hand out free music clips direct to mobile means we are in the vanguard of this industry shift."

More here

Posted by Shiny Media on March 9, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Jabra JX10 designer headset



While not exactly a rare sight in the UK, Bluetooth headsets have yet to go mainstream - you don't see an awful lot of average Joes and Joannas wandering about in them. Jabra's decision to get a design agency on the case is either going to get the masses hooking one over their ears, or it's going to appeal only to the Nathan Barleys of the populace. The JX10 has been designed by well-known Danish design company, Jacob Jensen Design. It weighs less than 10 grams, which puts it in line with the tiny Bluespoon headsets from Nextlink, and it will be available later this year. No details on pricing.

Posted by Shiny Media on March 9, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Siemens M75 for rugged types

Manly phones are something of a speciality for Siemens, and the M75 is it's latest handset designed for people who enjoy a lot of time in the great outdoors. Not only is it encased in a protective layer of rubber and metal to make it shock, splash and dust resistant, it's also got a number of nice features including a 1.3-megapixel digital camera and a 262K colour display (another high res at last from Siemens). The MP3 player has the optional accompaniment of battery powered portable speakers to plug in. Plus, there's Bluetooth and Push to Talk so you can use your phone like a walkie talkie when performing manly tasks on building sites and the like. It comes bundled with a 32MB MMC and stereo headphones and it'll be out in June.

Read

Posted by Shiny Media on March 9, 2005 in Mobile phones
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Siemens Video Broadcasting (DVB-H)



Is TV on your mobile the next big thing? Siemens certainly seems to think so. It's showing off a prototype of this DVB-H (Digital Video Broadcasting for Handheld) phone at CeBIT, which will pick up signals from DVB Satellites, providing interactive television to your mobile. Stereo sound and VGA touchscreen allow you to watch TV and buy things online.

Read

Posted by Shiny Media on March 9, 2005 in Mobile phones
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Siemens Runster



Designed for runners, the Runster is a music device that Siemens is talking about making in the future. Music is selected and programmed to keep the beat with your running pace, while training programs and 'Voice Coach' functions keep an eye on training profiles, providing feedback on your performance. Not entirely sure if you're supposed to plug this into something else, or just pop in some headphones, but I'm assuming it's something you hook up to your mobile since it's Siemens.

Read

[Update: Gizmodo has more about it - sounds like that unit pictured above is a clip on belt sensor that controls the tempo of music playing on your mobile via Bluetooth]

Posted by Shiny Media on March 9, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Siemens SXG75 3G GPS handset

The Siemens people did say that they'd be launching a whole load of new products at CeBIT this year. And sure enough, here they are. First up, the SXG75 is a 3G handset - the company's first - which finally puts them in line with the other main phone manufacturers in the UK. It comes with a 2-megapixel digital camera, MP3 player, video calling and a built-in GPS navigation system. Finally, Siemens has grasped the concept of high resolution screens as well, sticking a 256K colour display onto this candybar handset. Also on board is an FM radio, MP3 player or video player and Bluetooth. The built-in GPS module is a pretty unique feature, providing directions and details of local features, such as restaurants and tourist sights. There's also a built-in translator for English, French, German, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish. 128MB of internal memory, 64MB of which is yours to play with, can be expanded via the mini MMC slot So, having waiting all this time, Siemens has finally come out with handset jam packed with



features. And, if you're not averse to slightly stark, hard edged design, the pic suggests it's a pretty good looking phone as well.

Read

Posted by Shiny Media on March 9, 2005 in Mobile phones
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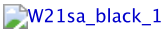
GPS on your phone



GPS on smartphones has been around for a while now, but bog standard mobile phones have lagged behind in the mapping stakes. But it seems that the humble mobile has at last found its way, with a satellite navigation system that will work with Java handsets. The people at Map&Guide and Falk Marco Polo Interactive are at CeBIT this week to tell everyone about their Falk Activepilot service. The off-board navigation service can be downloaded to your mobile like a Java game and has been designed to provide directions to motorists and pedestrians. Register the service and a text message will arrive allowing you to download the software. The GPS receiver comes included in the starter pack, leaving you good to go pretty much straight away.

Posted by Shiny Media on March 7, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Sanyo Spacephone



It's hard to believe that someone didn't think of calling a mobile the "Spacephone" a long time ago. Using the word space immediately supplies any bit of technology with instant desirability. Sanyo kind of let itself down by not making the W21SA and W22SA mobiles look like silver sleek spaceship style mobiles of the future, but at least there's some decent specs on board. The W21SA has a foldable and twistable 2.4 inch LCD display which acts as a viewfinder for the 2-megapixel camera. There's an FM Radio tuner and a navi walk with an integrated compass - handy for confused walkers and those who need to find east come prayer time. The W22SA is the same, but also comes with a built in MP3 player and stereo speakers. It also come with something called 'Feather Touch Key', which lets you control certain phone features with the lid closed. Sanyo will also be showing everyone at CeBIT their Digital TV phone. We saw it at CEATEC and became very excitable after getting a demo. The phone, which also features TV recording , will be launching in Japan this year. Meanwhile, a 3G phone with wireless LAN is also still in prototype stage.

Posted by Shiny Media on March 7, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Virgin Radio on 3G



Those who just can't get enough of soft rock will be delighted to learn that Virgin Radio has become the first radio station available on 3G. The radio station, which is available globally, has paired up with Sydus, mobile music streaming specialists, to provide radio on demand to 3G phone owners wherever they can get a signal. You'll need to download special software onto your phone in order to access the station, but it's free. As well as normal Virgin Radio, Virgin's two digital channels are also available - Classic Rock and Virgin Radio Groove. Mmm, Nice.

Read

Posted by Shiny Media on March 7, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

E-Ten's M500 hits UK



E-ten's Microsoft Windows-powered smartphone, which we wrote about a couple of months back, has just gone on sale in the UK. The **M500** is an upright handset with a 2.8in 240x320 pixel, 64K colour screen. It runs on Microsoft's Windows Mobile 2003 second edition operating system, which incorporates versions of Word, Outlook, Windows Media Player and Internet Explorer etc.

It also sports a 400 MHz processor, 130MB of memory, a 1.3 megapixel camera with a flash and video shooting capabilities, and Bluetooth. It retails for about £350 Sim-free from Smart Devices.

Posted by Shiny Media on March 4, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (3) | TrackBack (0)

T-Mobile SDA and MDAs available to buy



T-Mobile's two latest Microsoft smartphones have gone on sale. The MDA, T-Mobile's compact PDA, runs on Window's Pocket PC (Phone Edition) operating system. It comes with a 1.3 mega pixel digital camera with 2x zoom, MPEG4 capability and Bluetooth. The more phone sized SDA uses Microsoft's Smartphone OS, making it T-Mobile's first Smartphone-based handset. It's got a standard VGA camera, 64MB of memory and Bluetooth. The MDA has a price range of £120 to £170, while the SDA goes for £20 to £90.

T-Mobile MDA
T-Mobile SDA

Posted by Shiny Media on March 3, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Sony Hi-MD PHOTO Walkman announced



Well, here's a nice surprise for a wet Wednesday morning. Sony's announced the Hi-MD Walkman, a player that comes with a built in 1.3-megapixel digital camera and support for it's new "Hi-MD PHOTO" standard. Hi-MD is a new format that supports up to 1GB's worth of digital music (and images now as well presumably).

As well as support for music playback, the MZ-DH10P Walkman includes a 1.5-inch colour LCD for viewing album art or photos

you've shot. There's a dedicated shutter release button for operating the camera. Open the lens protector and the player switches to camera mode, shut it and the Hi-MD reverts to music playback. It should be out in Japan on 10th March and is priced pretty high at around 53,000 yen. Available colours will be black, silver or red.

Read

Posted by Shiny Media on March 2, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Nokia adds another 3 to its lineup



What with all the excitement and thrills of the Sony Ericsson launches yesterday (including the new Walkman phone), we entirely omitted to tell you about Nokia's latest additions to its handset range. The three new handsets are kind of overshadowed by Sony Ericsson's 2-megapixel and Walkman offerings, but there's a couple of notable features. The 6230i is an upgrade which now includes a 1.3-megapixel camera and comes with an MMC memory slot that will store MP3 and AAC files as well as pics and movies. It's also got an FM radio and Bluetooth. Like the 6230i, the Nokia 6021 is a push to talk handset which means you can connect to callers over GPRS in walkie-talkie style. It's also a entry level candybar with Bluetooth, while small Nokia 6030 is a basic handset with FM radio. The Nokia 6230i and the Nokia 6021 are expected to start shipping in the second quarter and the Nokia 6030 in the third quarter of 2005.

Read

Posted by Shiny Media on March 2, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

SyncBuddy Firewire for your iPod



UK based distributer, Disruptive Technology Channels has just launched this SyncBuddy Firewire cable. The retractable cable is designed for use on the latest iPod mini and iPod Photos, which now only come supplied with USB 2.0 cables. The sync and charge cable plugs into the iPod's dock connector and can be combined with the company's PodGear FirePower AC adapter for powering and charging your music player. It's available now from all sorts of locations.

Check the PodGear site for details on where to buy.

Posted by Shiny Media on March 2, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Sony Ericsson Walkman phone



So here it is: Sony Ericsson's first Walkman mobile phone. The first of many, we're told, offering music playback courtesy of the 512MB Sony Memory Stick Duo. The W800 is branded Walkman, with the logo decorating the orange edges of the handset. Fifteen hours' playback is what you'll get off the battery - and thirty if you play your music with the phone switched off. There's also a 2-megapixel camera with a light designed in the same style of all Sony Ericsson handsets (ie so that it looks like a camera from the back and a phone at the front. Although there are already handsets out there that playback music, Sony E has tried to make things a bit easier with the Disk2Phone software for

tranferring files (that said, give me boring old drag and drop file transfer any day) as well as high quality stero headphones. Being able to use the music player with the handset switched off is an added bonus, and the Direct Music button lets you control the player independently of the phone. It'll be out in the third quarter of this year. The SE people weren't giving any pricing details, but said that it will be pitched cheaper than the S700.

Posted by Shiny Media on March 1, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Orange SPV C550

Orange_spv_1 Engadget has totally unconfirmed reports of a successor to Tech Digest's most indispensable phone of the year, the Orange SPV C500. The new SPV C550 has a 1.3 megapixel digital camera, 240 x 320 QVGA resolution screen, a mini SD memory card slot and Bluetooth. Extremely similar to T-Mobile's SDA Music Smartphone, it's built by HTC in Taiwan. More details as and when the rumours are confirmed.

[Via Smartphone Thoughts]

Posted by Shiny Media on February 25, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

3G to help stargazers


Faulkes Orange tells us that its 3G Mobile Office card is being put to unusual use by scientists in the UK. Researchers over here are using the cards to let them access and control one of the largest fully robotic telescopes in the world based over in Hawaii. They can access the internet from their laptops to connect to the Faulkes Telescope, allowing them to check out and download images received from the star gazer wherever they may be. Great PR story for Orange, and one that certainly sparked our interest.

Posted by Shiny Media on February 22, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Newgen phone running next gen Windows Mobile


Newgen There's still some slight doubts as to its authenticity, but if this GSM Newgen D2000W is real, we want one. Running Windows Mobile 2005 - currently codenamed Magneto - the slider handset boasts a QVGA screen, MP3 and MPEG4 playback and an FM radio. Readers will also be thrilled to learn that it supposedly also suppports 802.11b WiFi and a 1.3-megapixel camera. We're not quite up to translating the Czech site, but we can see the words Bluetooth, MiniSD and WAP 2.0 as well. Very nice looking phone indeed. And if those specs are correct, it's going to be a peach.

Read [via Engadget]

Posted by Shiny Media on February 22, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (2) | TrackBack (0)

First scanner for cameraphones

Realeyes3D not only has a great company name, it's also the first to come up with a commercial scanner service for cameraphones. Digitizer3 (pronounced Digitizer Cubed) can scan, fax, email or store printed documents, enabling high resolution camera phones to receive data from a page. The service has been demoed at 3GSM World Congress in Cannes and the first version of Digitizer3 is available for Series 60 Symbian smartphones. Versions for other platforms, such as Windows Mobile, and clientless versions will be available in the coming months.

Read

Posted by Shiny Media on February 22, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Push to View gets an airing at Cannes



Push To View (PTV) is being hailed as the latest "killer app" for 3G mobiles. The technology is currently being previewed at 3GSM in Cannes, courtesy of LG Electronics. The company showed off the mobile service, which works on the same principle as Push To Talk, allowing multiple users the opportunity to share live audio and video feeds in real time. The PTV service also provides a chat engine that's being likened to text messenger services, allowing you to invite people to join in a video conference with you and other contacts.

Read

Posted by Shiny Media on February 21, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

10 million music downloads on 3

3's attracted so much publicity of late for its cheap pay as you go calls that sometimes you forget it's actually a mobile phone company offering pretty decent 3G applications. Particularly popular, the company tells us, is its **video jukebox** service which has just racked up 10 million downloads (not as if we'd ever be able to prove otherwise).

'That's over 50,000 per day since the service launched' the press release helpfully tells us. That's quite impressive especially when you consider there are daytime shows on satellite music that are only watched by the same number of viewers and they're not paying per download!

3's top 5 UK video downloaded artists are:
1) Natasha Bedingfield
2) Dizzee Rascal
3) Groove Armada
4) Faithless
5) Kasabian

Posted by Shiny Media on February 17, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Motorola's iTunes phone to be unveiled in March?

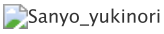


We were ticked off today by **Motorola** for perpetuating the urban myth that the E1060 (pictured here), which was unveiled at 3GSM earlier this week is the iTunes phone. Apparently no matter what Reuters say it will not play back your AAC tunes.

Instead the real iTunes phone will definitely be unveiled by Motorola in late March at a big bash in Miami.

Posted by Shiny Media on February 16, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Sanyo's messaging device

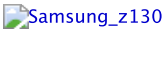


This WiPOQ messaging gadget is on display at 3GSM at the moment. The Sanyo device is based on IXI Mobile's operating system, IXI-Connect, and has been designed to connect to a Bluetooth phone to send emails and messages - and nothing else. A range of handhelds are expected, with the first device scheduled for launch in Q2 2005 (which we're guessing means in the Far East, not here). The first unit will have a Java browser, large screen and a QWERTY keypad. The idea seems to be that if you don't want to carry a messenger device such as Blackberry or Sidekick, you can simply connect this to your phone as and when you need it. The IXI-Connect OS comes with PMG (Personal Mobile Gateway) technology. This means that you can use your mobile to connect all sorts of different companion devices to the internet, such as watches, cameras or MP3 players. Sanyo seems to be keeping the WiPOQs as glorified keyboards, however.

Press release [via Newswireless]

Posted by Shiny Media on February 16, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Samsung's swivel screen mobile



Sounds like Samsung is having a gay old time at 3GSM, announcing all sorts of super high tech phones. Unfortunately, there don't seem to be that many pictures doing the rounds, but we're told there are 3 new 3G handsets - the SGH-Z130, the SGH-Z300 and the SGH-Z500 - and a Symbian smartphone, the SGH-D720, which features both MP4 and MP3 playback. Engadget managed to get hold of a picture of the unusual 3G handset, the SGH-Z130. This features a rotating screen as well as Bluetooth and a megapixel camera. Engadget's guess that the screen rotates for movie playback seems like a pretty sensible one to us.

Read

Posted by Shiny Media on February 16, 2005 in Mobile phones
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Philips 5 phone line up



Philips has struggled to find a handset that grips the nation with, but the company keeps ploughing on anyway, coming up with some innovative ideas and designs. We're not convinced any of the 5 new handsets out are going to take the world by storm, but they look decent enough and will no doubt appeal to pay as you go customers looking for a cheap but stylish handset. First up, the **Philips 162** is a candybar handset that's certainly aimed at entry level users. There's no exciting features to speak of, but it does come in four different colours. The **568** is "a potent combination of phone, (video) camera, entertainment console and personal organiser".

The **Philips 760** is a clamshell number that offers the most powerful specs of the group, including a 1.3-megapixel camera. The **Philips 655** clamshell's main selling point was the built in mirror for self-portraits. Although this is hardly a novel feature, nobody can deny that the 655 does have a far larger mirror than most. The **Philips Xenium 9@98** is another basic candybar similar to the other Xenium phones. It's major selling point is the extra-long battery life - 7 hours' talk time and 4 weeks on standby apparently.

Read [via Gizmodo]

Posted by Shiny Media on February 16, 2005 in Mobile phones
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Jazz up your Treo 650



These guys don't waste any time. No sooner do we put up a story about the new Treo 650 coming to the UK then we get a press release about some new cases for it from Innova Cases.

They're available in several different colours, including pink, green, orange and red-ish and they look OK - if you're the sort of person who feels the need to accessorise your smart phone. But with prices starting at around £50 they're not exactly cheap. Here are the features:

* Semi-rigid flip cover
* SD cards slot
* Charge and sync cutout
* Optional ultra clip
* Headphone access
* Easy re-set access

Compare PalmOne Treo prices
Innova Cases
Vaja

Posted by Shiny Media on February 15, 2005 in Mobile phones | PDAs
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Sony Ericsson announces two new handsets



As if getting everyone all fired up with promises of a Walkman range of phones wasn't enough, Sony Ericsson also announced two new 3G handsets: the K600i and the Z800i. The Z800i will look familiar to those who know the V800. The phone itself remains pretty much unchanged, except for a rather nice respray. As before, the handset comes with a rotating 1.3-megapixel camera, large screen and Memory Stick slot. The K600i, meanwhile, is a candybar handset, sporting a similar design to Sony Ericsson's other popular candybars. There's a 1.3-megapixel camera on board and a music player. As ever, it's been designed to look like a camera from the back - so you use it horizontally when taking snaps - and a normal phone from the front.

Sony Ericsson press page

Posted by Shiny Media on February 15, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Nokia's 3 new handsets



Nokia has announced three new handsets. The 6680 is the a 3G smartphone; the 6681 an EDGE 2G version for ; while the 6101 is to be the company's latest budget offering. The 6680 comes with two integrated cameras, one of which is 1.3-megapixels, a flash light and a 262k colour high resolution screen. The 6681 doesn't have the front camera, but retains the high res camera on the back. The Series 60 6680 will be available next month. The budget clamshell 6101 is a compact handset with built in VGA camera. Its will be out later this year.

Nokia

Posted by Shiny Media on February 15, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Sony Ericsson announces Walkman phones

It seems bleeding obvious to us but now Sony Ericsson is actually doing it: producing Walkman, or should that be Walkmen, phones. According to Engadget, the new range of Walkman/men mobiles, announced at the 3GSM conference in Cannes, will be launched in March.

There aren't too many details at this stage, suffice to say that they will work with Sony's Connect online music store (obviously), will come with decent quality headphones and will have large amounts of memory. Could this be the hit that Sony desperately needs - or will the company's weird predilection for favouring proprietary standards like ATRAC3 doom it to failure?

Posted by Shiny Media on February 15, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

LG's Gaming handset

LG has announced a number of new phones at 3GSM, the most exciting of which is the SV360. This is a gaming handset that features the world's fastest graphics accelerator chip. The 3-D game phone has a 1 million polygon per second chip that can process data five times faster than current chips. Users will be able to play far more demanding games on the SV360 handset. Plus, the phone includes motion sensors (similar to the ones on-board the Samsung SCH-S310) that lets you wave it about to control games. The handset also comes equipped with a 2.2-inch LCD and a landscape design for better game-playing.



LG Release

Posted by Shiny Media on February 15, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Orange lures in 3G custom with "Try Before you Buy"



Orange could well be rueing its late entry into the 3G sphere, since 3 and now Vodafone have had the benefit of a head start. The company's planning on catching up, however, by offering some tempting deals including a test drive service that lets you try kit out before committing to a purchase. Three different initiatives are being launched: buy one get one free, Try 3G and Test Drive.

The buy one get one free tariff is designed to appeal to couples (and there are also a number of buy one get one free on 3G handsets), while Test Drive lets you play around with the 3G phones and services for a week. It's not actually a completely free service - customers will have to pay a deposit for the phone and £4 to access 4mb of data and 15 minutes of video calls. After that, you'll have to pay for any additional voice calls or downloads.

Try 3G is an attempt to get those already coverted to 3G to use the 3G services. Sign up for a 12-month contract and you get 3 months' free data up to 1000Mb; 30 minutes of free video calls to UK phone; and three music track downloads. Finally, Orange also annouced an agreement with Wanadoo that would see a 3G WiFi datacard arriving in coming months.

Posted by Shiny Media on February 15, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Panasonic launches 9 new phones



Panasonic is certainly keeping busy, with nine new phones announced at 3GSM in Cannes. As you'd expect, there's a wide selection of phones on offer, including the company's first 2-megapixel camera handset and an upgrade for the X700 smartphone in the form of the **X800**. So we're expecting Panasonic to be getting a bit more active in the mobile market this year.

First up, the **VS7** 2-megapixel phone (top left), is joined by the **VS3** (second left), a 1.3-megapixel cameraphone. Both VS Series clamshells have high resolution screens that support 16 million colours. The VS3 is evidentally aimed at the youth market, since the phone can read emoticons in text messages and flash different coloured lights depending on the mood of the message. A feature that leaves us almost entirely crippled by a wave of bitter tutting and eye-rolling.

The MX Series, the **MX7** and **MX6**, are "maximum endurance" phones - or at least their batteries are, providing almost double the battery life of the VS handsets. The MX7 is also a 2-megapixel handset, with a 2.5-inch, 16 million-colour screen, while the MX6 is, same as the VS3, a 1.3-megapixel cameraphone with a 2.2-inch LCD. In fact, if they sound similar to the VS series it's because they are, arriving in the same chassis the first two use. It seems just the battery and some of the extra features are different.

The SA Series handsets are pretty familiar looking as well (pictured above), sporting a different paint job in an otherwise identical casing. The SA handsets are being aimed at outdoorsy types, hence the more outrageous colour. **SA7** is as above: 2-megapixel camera, 2.5-inch display and a longer battery life. The **SA6** is identical to the MX6, but a different colour (it's like they're purposely trying to complicate matters).



On to the **SC Series**, which is the 'stylish camera or colour' range (shorthand for minimalist black or white phones). Finally we get to see a different chassis. These handsets are candybar in black or white. The **SC3** is a basic fashion phone, with 65k colour LCD, VGA camera and an emoticon feature that lets you put proper smiley faces into your poorly expressed texts. The

A210 is also part of the SC series, despite not having the right name, and it's pretty much identical to the SC3 apart from the white colour and a more rounded design.

The end is nearly in sight. Just need to mention Panasonic's **X800** – the updated smartphone, running on Symbian's Series 60 OS and featuring all the usual PIM stuff.



So, there may not be *quite* as many phones on offer as it initially sounds, but this is a strong new line up, with a couple of nice cases and some appealing features. But wouldn't it have been easier just to have called all those clamshells the same thing with "sport" and "endurance" versions instead of all these different series numbers. You just think about that, Panasonic. I need a lie down after all that.

Posted by Shiny Media on February 15, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

T-Mobile extends business range



T-Mobile continues to gun for the business market with two new products, the **MDA IV** and the **Blackberry 7100t**.

Undoubtedly the most interesting of the two is the new MDA. Announced by Microsoft earlier in the month, it aims to provide the complete Internet/e-mail package with 2.5 and 3G coverage plus wi-fi compatibility (T-Mobile provides wi-fi access via Starbucks cafes).

More like a mini laptop than a mobile, it comes with an Intel 520MHz processor and Microsoft Windows Mobile Operating System. Software installed on the MDA IV includes Internet Explorer, Pocket Outlook (for synching mail, contacts and schedules from a PC running Microsoft Outlook) and Pocket PC versions of Word, Excel and Powerpoint.

Other useful business features include tri-band coverage, large rotating 640 x 480 pixel screen (reminiscent of the Sony CLIES) plus a large QWERTY keyboard. The only possible fly in the ointment is T-Mobile's 3G coverage which is slower and less extensive than that of its rivals.

Meanwhile T-Mobile confirmed it is launching the **BlackBerry 7100t** which looks a little nicer than the brick-like 7100v supplied by Vodafone but has the same incredibly difficult to use interface.

T-Mobile

Posted by Shiny Media on February 15, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Simple secure music downloads on your mobile

Symbian phone owners will soon be able to download music tracks far more easily using a "tag to download" service that will let you get music in 3 steps. SDC, the company responsible for SDC Music Player for Symbian handsets has joined forces with Shazam Entertainment to develop a new service. This allows subsribers the ability to tag, purchase and download licensed tracks over mobile networks for playback and storage. The users don't even need to know the name of the artist or song to access tracks since the service comes with music recognition features. Songs can be tagged on the music player app, and that data is then sent via the Shazam Server to the carrier's mobile music shop server. The tune is then matched to the shop's database and a buy button appears on the phone player. Tracks can then be copied and shared legally. The service will be extended to all OEMS and Operators who want to integrate the service directly into mobiles.

Posted by Shiny Media on February 15, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Motorola debuts i-mode

i-mode is massive in Japan and other tech-savvy areas (46 million subscribers in 22 countries) but the mobile internet service which offers customised games, online shopping, messaging services etc. hasn't made much of an impact in Europe yet. However, that could be about to change, especially with 02 set to launch an i-mode service in the UK and Germany this summer.

Not content with announcing a 3 Megapixel camera phone and a 3G model at 3GSM in Cannes, Motorola has also found time to knock up its first phone

with a dedicated i-mode key. Dubbed the E378i, this less than inspiring looking phone can download games from the i-mode portal and comes with a built in MP3 player too.



Other features include:
* Triband global roaming
* Integrated VGA camera (640 x 480)
* 5Mb of memory
* Digital zoom (up to 4x)
* Built-in hands free speaker

Posted by Shiny Media on February 15, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (2) | TrackBack (0)

Palm tarts up Treo



I wanted to love the Treo 600, I really did. It had a pretty good QWERTY keyboard for a smart phone and looked like a model that said 'take me seriously, I mean business' - a sort of quiet man or woman's Blackberry.

The problem was though that the screen and camera were both pants and it was quite fiddly to use. Now palmOne has come along with a new replacement model, **the Treo 650**. Set to launch summer 2005 in the UK (exclusively to Orange), France and Switzerland it promises a raft of new and improved features.

Compare palmOne prices

These include:
* 320 x 320 pixel display
* Integrated Bluetooth
* Improved camera for better low light shots
* Improved QWERTY keyboard
* Suppport for direct corporate email access to Microsoft Exchange
* Instant voice communication with Orange's Talk Now push to talk service

For more info see Treo 650

Chris Price

Compare palmOne prices

Posted by Shiny Media on February 15, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

3G, 3-megapixel, Smartphone - but no mention of iPod phone from Motorola



Believe it or not, there are other phones being launched in Cannes today, it's just that Motorola seems to be doing the best job of getting our attention. We'll get to the others later, but first just to tell you about Motorola's latest new line-up.

Three handsets have been added to the company's current releases, but there's still no confirmation of which one, if any, is going to include the iPod funtionality they've all been harping on about. The **E1060** seems like the most likely candidate since it's the one being pitched as the music fanatic's handset. The 3G handset offers all the usual third generation multimedia capabilities and comes with a 1.3-megapixel camera. Meanwhile, the **E1120** is a candy bar handset with a 3-megapixel camera on board, no less.

There's also an 8X digital zoom (no optical by the sounds of things), 30 lux lamp for lighting and video recording at more than 25 frames per second.

E1120



Finally, the **A1010** is the smartphone handset that's shown up on a number of sites already. The handset includes all the top-notch PIM features you'd expect, with 48MB of memory, push email and web browsing facilities. It's no slouch in the multimedia department either, offering a large colour touchscreen and 1.3-megapixel camera.

Motorola Press Centre

Posted by Shiny Media on February 14, 2005 in Mobile phones
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MS Peabody smartphone

Peabody

Microsoft is set to work with Flextronics Corp, one of the largest mobile phone manufacturers, to create a cheap mobile that will carry Microsoft's Windows Mobile Smartphone platform. The mass market device is currently being called the Peabody, which it must be said isn't quite in Motorola's "Royal Blade" class when it comes to code-naming a product. Microsoft is evidentally hoping that a handset suitable for mass roll-out will help it to conquer the smartphone OS market currently dominated by Symbian-based handsets from the likes of Sony Ericsson and Nokia.

Posted by Shiny Media on February 14, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Moto's Oakley Sunglasses

Razrwire

As if the excitement of all those skinny little phones wasn't enough, Motorola has also been making plans with Oakley - creators of the award winning Oakley Thump MP3 Sunglasses. The two companies have unveiled a new line of Bluetooth sunglasses. The RAZRWire high-tech specs are designed to allow wearers to take and place calls with the touch of a button. The Bluetooth glasses are available in three colours and have been designed for outdoors types - cyclists, skaters, rock climbers and golfers. And men who like to customise their car stereos.

Motorola

Posted by Shiny Media on February 14, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Motorola's super skinny new line up

Moto_slvr_v8

Motorola's 3GSM annoucements were leaked a few days early, but the grainy photos weren't really that revealing. Now the press releases have gone out, the handsets that have been confirmed are the SLVR V8 (codenamed the "Royal Blade", PEBL V6 and the special edition Black RAZR V3. All three handsets are based around the original V3 RAZR and Moto is hoping to build on the success of its superslim handset with these similarly badly spelt phones. Keep reading for the full blurb.
[Pic via Engadget]

Details from the press release follow:

Motorola PEBL V6

The Motorola PEBL is indisputably elegant with its round and smooth shape. This unique clam has a responsive opening mechanism that allows users to operate and open the phone one-handed and comes in a highly polished metal finish adding to its effortlessly cool appearance. With integrated Bluetooth® wireless technology, a 5MB memory and VGA camera, this

triband phone is an understated hi-tech package.

Motorola SLVR V8

Introducing the SLVR V8, a razor-thin candy bar that weighs in at only 85 grams. Crammed into its sleek blade-like form is an integrated VGA camera, Bluetooth® connectivity, digital audio player and EDGE high-speed data exchange. A spacious 176 x 220 pixel TFT display with up to 262K colours lets you see your pictures and videos at their very best and then save and remove them on a Trans Flash memory card. The SLVR V8 is the anchor product in a new series of SLVRs coming soon.

Motorola Special-Edition Black RAZR V3

Building on the outstanding success of the RAZR V3, Motorola has introduced a special-edition RAZR V3 in jet black. The phone was provided to the top acting and directing nominees of this year's Academy Awards and will not only grace the red carpet, but will also be coming to stores worldwide very soon.

Posted by Shiny Media on February 14, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Sendo X2 and the first 3D screen



Sendo took its own sweet time launching the X onto the market, which left what was once an exciting new mobile looking pretty much the same as the competition by the time it actually reached the buying public. So forgive us for our less-than-enthusiastic reaction to the X2. Not because it sounds like a useless phone - quite the opposite - but because we're waiting till it actually goes on sale before we pass judgement. If it comes out soon, this will be an appealing handset, offering a 1.3-megapixel camera and a casing that's just 4mm thicker than Motorola's V3 RAZR - plus Symbian's smartphone functionality of course.

Meanwhile, the is set to be the first handset to feature a "photo quality 3D effect display". The candy bar phone comes with a high contrast, 3D feature screen that displays colour backgrounds using Sendo's Sendo ScreenZ technology. It's not entirely clear what the company means by this. But since the handset is being pitched at the entry level market, we're guessing it's not going to look the same as the 3D screens sported by some of Sharps super high tech gizmos over in Japan.



In fact, we're guessing that the company just means it's got a very bright screen on it. Also announced was the K1 - a Bluetooth handset and headset kit that comes ready-made for people who don't want to faff about pairing devices.

You can read more about the phones, and also about Sendo's new cherry logo (which is going to help them to take over the world, apparently) on the Sendo site.

Sendo

Posted by Shiny Media on February 14, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

TV on mobiles by end of the year

Well, 3GSM is well under way, so we'll be beavering away, getting those stories up as fast as our fingers can type. First up, Philips has announced System in Package, a service that connects consumers to live television on the move. The service, shortened to SiP, will allow customers to get television on mobiles by the fourth quarter of 2005. The service is based on the DVB-H standard which allows the creators to cram complete digital TV capabilities into a thumbnail-sized receiver. This not only means that you'll be able to access live digital television, you'll also be able to access pictures, movies and music while out and about. The service is being previewed at Cannes over the next few days and the system board the supports the service will be rolled out to handset vendors in the second quarter of 2005, kicking off the next phase of trials. Following that, all being well, the SiP for

DVB-H service will be offered on a chip with a reduced footprint and lower power consumption later this year.

More details from the press release follow:

To further enhance the offering, Philips has partnered with Silicon & Software Systems (S3) to integrate its onHandTV software into the solution, an advanced DVB-H-compliant product that complements the Philips SiP. As part of the agreement, S3 will join the Philips' Nexperia Partner Program, an initiative to enable Independent Software Vendors (ISVs) and Integrators to deliver middleware, applications and reference designs based on the company's Nexperia family of semiconductors.

To enhance the user experience of TV on mobile, Philips Software offers a complete application that supports H.264 video and AAC audio for high-quality viewing and listening. It also incorporates Philips' world-class picture and audio enhancement IP from its proven consumer electronics products, including Natural Motion for smooth, easy-to-watch images and 'smart color mapping' for attractive colors on LCD displays. High-performance features such as these will play a critical role in creating sustained consumer demand for mobile TV services.

"This is a revolutionary development, integrating all the components of a digital TV receiver into a space small enough to fit into a mobile phone," said Mario Rivas, executive vice president Communications Businesses, Philips Semiconductors. "As a broadcast technology, watching TV on the mobile phone is the natural progression from listening to radio and downloading video clips. Our work in the Broadcast Mobile Convergence (BMCO) trial, in Berlin, showed the impact for the consumer will be much more spectacular."

As part of the Berlin-based BMCO project, Philips was the first semiconductor supplier to be involved in mobile TV trial transmissions, working with industry leaders from the content and mobile industries. The project studied the use of DVB-H to broadcast conventional TV, as well as innovative interactive content designed specifically for the platform, to mobile phones and portable digital TVs. In addition to implementing the technology, the trial also looked at user acceptance of the services, finding that participants extensively used and enjoyed the services offered - at home, on the road and at work. Of the 512 users that took part in the survey, 78% stated that they thought TV on mobile was a good idea, with 82% willing to pay for content.

About DVB-H
DVB-H builds on DVB-T and is a system where data (typically digital multimedia data) is transmitted in IP datagrams. In order to reduce power consumption in small handheld devices, DVB-H employs a technique called 'time-slicing', where the IP datagrams are transmitted as data bursts in small time slots. The front end of the receiver switches on only for the time interval when the data burst of a selected service is on air. Within this short period of time a high data rate is received which can be stored in a device buffer. This buffer can either store the downloaded applications or play out live streams.

Posted by Shiny Media on February 14, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

No Cannes do



Europe's leading annual mobile phone-fest, **3GSM**, kicks off in Cannes today, but sadly we are stuck in grey and rainy London. We do however have a few spies at the show and we'll be watching the wires all day, so rest assured we will have some superb coverage over the next few days.

The BBC has a quick prequel here. Our money is on the following grabbing the headlines.

Tiny phone from Nokia, plus stylish new 3G handsets
New versions of the RAZR from Motorola
Wi-Fi endowed phones from just about everyone
Loads of announcements about music download services
New 3G phones from NEC and Samsung
Lots of talk about HSDPA
Plenty of excellent canapes and champers on luxury yachts
Us wishing we were there

Posted by Shiny Media on February 13, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Motorola's V3 going candybar

Engadget has a great little scoop up today about Motorola's plans to launch a candybar version of the V3 Razr phone. There's some sneaky peek of a

selection of new next-gen handsets, including the "Royal Blade" candybar RAZR. There's also the PEBL V6, a clamshell handset that's rounded like, well, a pebble. A 3G smartphone called the A1010 is also on the cards, as is a 3G multimedia handset with a 1.3-megapixel handset. Check out the site for some (sadly pretty ropey) screenshots. (The Italian site that put the pics up initially doesn't seem to have them up anymore. We're guessing they got a telling off from the people at Moto.)

Read

Posted by Shiny Media on February 11, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Nokia's 9300 goes on sale



Nokia's latest Communicator has just gone on sale in the UK. The 9300 (they seem to have done away with the old Communicator moniker) is the company's business smartphone based, as always, around a Symbian operating system (Nokia owns the majority share in the platform). Previous communicator devices have been renowned for their brick-like qualities, but while the 9300 uses the same design, this one is a lot less brickish in its dimensions and weight. For those that still hanker after the Psions of yester-year, this is pretty much the only solution you've got, with a fold-out design that reveals a mini qwerty keypad and screen. As well as the usual PIM functionality, there's Bluetooth, 80 MB of memory and an MMC slot. Email solutions supported include: BlackBerry Connect, Visto, Smartner, Good Technologies, IBM Websphere and Oracle Collaboration Suite.

Product Page

Posted by Shiny Media on February 11, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Sharp 902 two mega pixel camera phone first review



The Guardian has what might well be an exclusive review of the first two mega pixel camera phone to arrive in the UK - the **Sharp Vodafone 902**. We'll have our own review later this week, but for now, let's just say that as a camera phone it takes images that are significantly better than any of its one mega pixel rivals. It works well, has an abundance of features, including video calling and video downloads via the Voda 3G Live! service and even sports a basic HTML web browser. It is however fairly bulky and that iPod style white finish looks dated now.

Posted by Shiny Media on February 10, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Music file swapping via Bluetooth



Quick story over at The Guardian about how an innovative new service call Melodeo is coming to the UK. Already a hit in Spain Melodeo enables phone users to swap music files with each other sending them either via Bluetooth or as MultiMedia Messages (MMS). Melodeo, which currently has a deal with the Spanish network Telefonica, is expecting to launch a similar service in conjunction with a UK network. Obviously it isn't saying which network but all things point to O2.

Once users have the software on their phone they can send a track, or part of a track, to their friend. If the person who receives the track likes it and wants to keep it permanently they simply pay the network to buy it. The inevitable bad news is that the service doesn't use MP3s, rather the files are in the AAC++ format.

Posted by Shiny Media on February 10, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

3G phones take 20% of the market



Some good news for 3, Vodafone and anyone else mulling over whether to launch a 3G network for consumers. Apparently 3G handsets are big hit with the buyers down at the **Carphone Warehouse.**

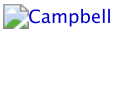
Responding to a report published today by Netonomy which suggested that only 4% of mobile owners were thinking of upgrading to 3G Dunstone said the following...

"In the last quarter, 20% of our sales were 3G phones. We expect that competition will really take off by the middle of this year, when all the networks will have fully launched their services. Next Christmas will be the big 3G Christmas. 3G is really starting to accelerate now and for the first time, our customers have the choice of four of the main networks; Vodafone, 3, Orange and O2. Once you're comfortable with the technology, it's hard to imagine why anyone would choose 2.5G."

Traditionally Carphone has done pretty well out of 3G. It managed to scoop quite a chunk of 3 subscribers when the network launched in early 2003 and since then even offered its own 3G phone, the Nokia 7600 (which 3 had passed on) which proved to be a huge hit.

Posted by Shiny Media on February 9, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Campbell's Blackberry cock-up



Good story in last night's London Evening Standard (if it's true). The Labour party may be running the country for the forseeable future, but when it comes to technology they are about as switched on as Blackpool Illuminations - during a power cut.

First Tony Blair shows his total lack of mobile phone know-how at a Downing Street 'Texting Tony' publicity stunt designed to show he's down with the kids. Now his election strategy supremo Alastair Cambell has shown he's completely inept when it comes to using a Blackberry.

An e-mail supposedly meant for the ad agency TBWA was mistakenly sent to the BBC with the sign-off 'Now f*** off and cover something important you tw***."

Realising his mistake he then sent out another e-mail to the BBC, saying: "Not very good at this email Blackberry malarkey. Just looked at log of sent messages, have realised email meant for colleagues at TBWA has gone to you." Uh-Oh.

No doubt he'll be made technology minister in the next government then. Or maybe given a job as PR for Blackberry.

Posted by Shiny Media on February 9, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Mobiles not set to take over Music Players

So says the findings of JupiterResearch (a division of Jupitermedia Corporation). The company has just released a report that states mobile phones will not be replacing portable media players "in the immediate future, despite industry initiatives". The report "Music Mobile Phones - Will They Replace Portable Media Players?" concludes that because mobiles are "hampered by a trade-off between size, battery life and ...power demands" their hope for a musical future is ultimately doomed - for the time being at least.

We're not so sure about this, but we're basing that on gut instinct rather than a European survey (like JupiterResearch). It's not clear how many people they quizzed, but we do know that 50% of them said that size was the most important factor when choosing their next mobile phone. Add to this the fact that mobiles are already choc-full of multimedia services such as video playback, megapixel cameras and games, and the result is that battery life cannot keep up with the demands. The upshot of all this is that mobile operators are wasting their time pursuing a mobile music strategy. Barriers such as music licences, positioning of tru music ringtones, and limited storage capacity on handsets, further hampers manufacturers. Sounds like a

fairly disheartening report, but we're not ready to believe it just yet. The increase of music players on mobiles seems like the next logical step to us. But maybe we're just hopeless optimists. Grab the full report here.

Posted by Shiny Media on February 9, 2005 in MP3 players | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

15 New handsets from Siemens

During the SK65 launch yesterday, the guys at Siemens spent a good deal of time insisting that the company is not about to get sold off or shut down. They did admit that things hadn't gone too well for them in the past year, though - what with software issues, handsets that were late to market, and (we're guessing) the disappointing standard of some of the phones, especially the SL55's chunkier SL65 upgrade. To reassure us of Siemens Mobile's rude health (number 2 in Europe, number 5 in the world), they announced that 15 new handsets would be heading our way between now and Christmas. So what can we expect? They weren't giving much away, but we know that there will be more slider phones (hopefully to rectify the SL65 chunkiness), a clamshell and at least two 3G handsets. Siemens wouldn't be drawn on whether a Wi-Fi handset is on the card, saying only that more announcements would be made at Cebit (so that's a yes then). A 3G handset will be on sale in time for the Christmas market.

They admitted that they'd been a bit slow on the 3G side, but had always planned for a 2005 launch. While Italy and GB have apparently been fast on the 3G uptake, other countries are still catching up, and Siemens is aiming at the whole European market. They've apparently taken into account previous criticisms that they have been too lower tier in their handset output and are planning on broadening the spectrum of handsets on offer - with more business-focused handsets on the way as per the SK65. It doesn't sound like there's any more X2Type handsets on the way just yet though.

Posted by Shiny Media on February 9, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Siemens Sk65 arrives in the UK



Siemens got us up bright and early for a breakfast launch of their latest handset today (and also to assure us that the company is still fighting fit). The SK65 was previewed a while ago, but the handset was officially launched today, allowing us to get our hands on one. The phone is being launched with all 4 major phone networks with the main focus being on business users. Aside from the phone's obvious main feature - the cross to type swivelling QWERTY keypad - the SK65's major attraction is set to be the full BlackBerry support it offers. As well as the prosumer version, which doesn't rely on a corporate server to work with, Siemens is also offering the normal version using the company's very own BlackBerry Enterprise server. This is the first time a handset's had full BlackBerry capabilities in the UK (aside from the actual RIM handsets, of course) and Siemens is expecting this to be the big selling point for corporate users. There's no camera (again, this is something corporate types have apparently requested) but there's Bluetooth and a 65K colour screen with room for 11 lines of text. Initial impressions of the handset are pretty good, with a reasonably slimline chassis (though it's long!) and an innovative keyboard that looks like it might actually work.

Product Page

Posted by Shiny Media on February 8, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

GPS for your Smartphone

Software apps are rarely the most exciting things to write about - there's nothing exciting about a screenshot compared to a pic of a shiny new gadget. But we like to keep a bit of diversity going on TD and thought it only right to tell you about this GPS navigation software for smartphones. Destinator SP works on Microsoft Windows powered smartphones such as the Orange SPV C500 or Motorola's new MPx220, turning the handsets into portable sat nav devices. Of course, you need more than just the software to get it working, and the kit also includes a Royaltek Bluetooth GPS antenna. The pocket-sized GPS receiver connects to your handset wirelessly, and the mapping software provides spoken commands for your route. The software comes pre-installed onto a memory card (SD/MMC/MiniSD/RC-MMC). A nice little phone-related feature is that you can text the mapping details to a fellow Destinator owner. And those without the software will still be able to view the address and geo data on the text. The app is out this month with an RRP of around £173 plus VAT.

Posted by Shiny Media on February 8, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Two-megapixel mobile on sale today


Sharp_902_closed_2

It's hard to believe, but Sharp's two-megapixel cameraphone has gone on sale in the UK today. The Sharp 902 was announced in the initial lineup for Vodafone's 3G service and we thought it was too good to be true at the time. But sure enough, here it is. It'll cost you a bit - retailing at from £119.99 - but some might see it as a small price to pay for the feature set you get in return. As well as the 2-megapixel camera, there's a 2x optical zoom lens, autofocus and swivel mount screen that lets you turn the screen round for easier snapping. And of course, the phone also handles Vodafone's 3G service: video calls, music downloads and live TV highlight clips. Initial impressions are that the camera is very good indeed. The Guardian's got an exclusive review coming up on Thursday.

Carphone Warehouse

Posted by Shiny Media on February 7, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

O2 delivers Windows PDA/smartphone


X_factor_iii

They really must be busy over at the Taiwanese HQ of phone manufacturer **HTC**. For in addition to T-Mobile confirming today it is going to ship HTC's MDA IV 3G Windows powered mobile, another network has announced that it is bringing that model's predecessor to the UK.

Already on sale in a number of guises including the MDA III (T-Mobile), the device will now be available to **O2** subscribers as the **XDA IIi.**

The feature count stays the same though. So the XDA IIi boasts both GPRS and Wi-Fi, an Intel PXA272 processor that runs up to 520MHz, a 1.3 mega pixel camera, Bluetooth and much else.

The device runs on the Windows Mobile 2003 Second Edition for Pocket PC, phone edition platform and offers all the Windows staples such Outlook, Pocket Explorer, Windows Media for audio and video and Messenger. The XDA IIi is on same now from around £179 with a contract, which is significantly less than the amount you would have originally paid for its predecessors.

Posted by Shiny Media on February 3, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Siemens outdoor mobile


M75_twi

Here's a sneak peek at the latest in **Siemens** its indestructible series of mobile phones. Announced yesterday and set to debut at CeBit the **M75** is the dirt, dust and water resistant M75. No news yet on other features, but, and we are guessing here, there's a good chance it will sport a one mega pixel camera, a video player and recorder and maybe some software that will enable you to spin your MP3s. It looks pretty scarey too.

Posted by Shiny Media on February 3, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

T-Mobile debuts Microsoft 3G smartphone


Tmobile_mda_iv

It won't come as a massive surprise to TD regulars as we mentioned it a few months back, but HTC, makers of Microsoft Windows Mobile phones, has officially taken the wraps off its first 3G device.

We say HTC, but actually T-Mobile Germany got there first in not only parading the phone, but also giving it a name - the MDA IV. Seeing as just out every UK network has taken the model's predecessor you're bound to be seeing a lot of it come this summer when it launches.

Anyhow the details are this. The MDA IV apes previous phones from HTC – like the O2 XDA2 in that it is large and horizontal. However the key difference is that it now split in half so that the top of the device is a very large VGA touch screen while the bottom features a full QWERTY keyboard. In many ways it is like a larger version of Motorola's MPX.

It boasts a huge range of facilities including two cameras to enable video calling, 3G, GPRAS and Wi-Fi compatibility and a 520 MHz Intel processor. And not surprisingly it features all the usual Microsoft applications such as Pocket Explorer, Outlook, and Windows Media player on board.

There are no details yet on the storage, but presumably if you are using 3G to download large files you are going to need plenty of it.

Posted by Shiny Media on February 3, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Now Siemens has a digital TV phone



If you thought **digital TV on your mobile** was just a little wheeze cooked up by Nokia and O2 to flog Nokia's odd shaped widescreen 7700/7710 phones think again, for **Siemens** has unveiled its version of a digital TV phone.

Set to debut at CeBit the its phone includes **DVB-H** (Digital Video Broadcast for Handheld Devices) compatibility, which in theory should mean that in a year or so's time (in the UK at least) it will pick up around half a dozen digital TV and about 30 digital radio channels.

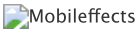
Already huge in Japan and Korea, TV on a mobile phone is likely to be enormous in Europe, and we are utterly convinced that it is the killer application your mobile phone has been waiting for. Factor a hard disk into the phone for recording programmes (and also storing your fave video clips you may have transferred from a PC) and you really do have personal TV to go. The only other facts we know about the phone are that it has a VGA screen and stereo sound.

Almost as intriguing is a phone from Siemens home fixed line handset division – the Gigaset S35 WLAN. As its name suggests the phone can latch on to a wireless network, both at home and at a wi-fi hot spot, to make and receive VoIP telephone calls. It'll also pull in your email and allow you to indulge in IM conversations.

Seems as if Siemens' impending demise in the mobile market has been somewhat exaggerated.

Posted by Shiny Media on February 3, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (3) | TrackBack (0)

Send your pics to your mobile



Not that we're normally given to covering ring tone downloads stories, but this one seemed interesting enough to get a mention. A new website from BVRP (Avanquest's parent company) called Mobileffects has just gone online, offering free ringtones, realtones, wallpapers, games and other content to the first 10,000 registered users to the site. But that's not the interesting bit. The company is also offering the opportunity to send your own digital images directly to your mobile. Since none of the TD team are much given to downloading content for our phones (what with us sadly not being teenagers anymore), we'll have to take the company's word for it that this is pretty unusual. Users can customise and send personal photos or images from their PCs to their mobiles. The site's been designed for a worldwide audience and can deliver content to most the major networks and most the major handsets in Europe, Asia and North America.

Posted by Shiny Media on February 1, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Motorola MPx220 on sale

We've been going on about the imminent arrival of the Motorola MPx220 since December 2003 – but only because Motorola's been talking about it since then as well. Maybe the company's been having that difficult second album problem, because the MPx220 has only just gone on sale. The handset is the update of the popular MPx200 Microsoft-based Smartphone, the second handset in the UK to take on the MS platform (after Orange's SPV range). The clamshell design of the original has been carried into the MPx220, which is being sold through O2. (The company has the exclusive on



it for the next few months or so.) The good news is that the handset now comes with a camera – 1.2 megapixels no less – and Bluetooth connectivity (which was the downfall of the MPx200). The bad news? It's bigger and less appealing than the its predecessor.

Read

Posted by Shiny Media on February 1, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Moto's Black Razr



Mindful that many celebrities are living on the bread line, Motorola is doing its bit by handing out free special edition V3 Razr handsets at this year's Oscars. A special black version of the super-skinny model will be gifted to all the super skinny models – winners and presenters – in attendance at the Academy Awards ceremony on 27th February. It's not clear whether the phone will also be offered for sale to the general public. More news as and when, etc.

More here and here.

Posted by Shiny Media on January 28, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Panasonic's Smartphone

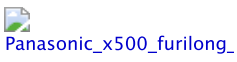


Panasonic has just launched its first smartphone onto the UK market. The X700 handset is based on Symbian's Series 60 platform and comes with all the usual PIM features associated with that OS. It's also a camera phone, with video capability, as VGA camera and a flash light for nightime shooting. Support for Mini SD memory cards will come in handy for storing music, images and video files, but there's no mention of the phone's built-in memory capacity. There's a 65K colour main display and a colour outer display on the clamshell chassis. Other features include Bluetooth, voice recognition and tri-band frequency range.

Read

Posted by Shiny Media on January 28, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Panny goes slidey



Siemens may not be having too good a time in the mobile phone handset market, but the slidey design it patented on the much loved SL55, goes from strength to strength. The latest company to offer a SL55 tribute/rip-off (delete as you see fit) is **Panasonic** with its just launched **X500**.

It might attract a few SL55 fans on account of its cute design and pocketable size (it weighs only 96g and measures 85x47x22.5mm). Also like the SL55 it is pretty low-end in terms of its features with just a VGA camera, video capture, Java and not a great deal else. No idea yet who is going to take it in the UK but Virgin Mobile is sure to be a contender.

Posted by Shiny Media on January 27, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

O2 unveils 3G handsets



At a not especially glitzy bash **O2** this morning confirmed its **3G launch** for consumers, announcing a February 1st roll out date for the handsets and services.

The company seemed keen to stress that 3G was an evolution rather than a revolution and this was reflected in its choice of handsets. Some we have seen before, notably the Nokia 6630 (available through Orange and Vodafone and without a video calling facility, the Samsung Z107 (another Voda handset) and the Sony Ericsson SE V800 (Voda's lead 3G handset). Others, like the Nokia 6680, are new.

Yet **O2** has chosen to launch 3G to its consumers with an own-branded handset that bizarrely doesn't feature video calling facilities. Available from February 1st and retailing for either £30 or nothing, depending on which contract you choose, is the **X4**. A deadringer for the O2 X3, although it is a little bulkier, the X4 features a 262K colour screen, a 1.3 mega pixel camera with 8x digital zoom, an MP3 player and video downloading and streaming facilities via O2's newly launched 3G O2 Active site.

The handset which like the X3 is made by Taiwanese manufacturer BenQ has 10MB of storage, though this can be upgraded via a memory card.

Posted by Shiny Media on January 27, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (2) | TrackBack (0)

O2 confirms Nokia 3G phone - before Nokia



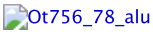
Allright so we haven't actually seen one and **Nokia** still isn't acknowledging that it exists, but O2 in the UK today announced it would be first network to sell the new Nokia 3G handset, the **6680**.

The company promised that the model, Nokia's first to boast two cameras and therefore offer full video calling facilities, would be in the stores soon after it launches its 3G consumer service on February 1st. Naturally we don't believe O2, especially after the press office failed to furnish us with a pic.

Nevertheless we have a very good experience with the Nokia 6630 3G phone on Vodafone, and like the look of the 6680. Still can't see us making any video calls though. The only other stuff we know about the 6680 is that it has Series 60 interface like the 6630, features a 1.3 mega pixel camera and, rumour has it, a 3D menu system.

Posted by Shiny Media on January 27, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (10) | TrackBack (0)

Alcatel back in UK phone market



Alcatel, which has a bit of an okey cokey attitude to the UK mobile phone market, seems definitely to be back 'in' after announcing a deal with leading Chinese phone manufacturer TCL, and the imminent arrival of the **One Touch 655**.

On sale now via its website and you'll be able to pick it up through Virgin and The Carphone Warehouse later in the month, the OneTouch 756 is a chocolate bar style camera phone with a 262k colour screen. Other features include a VGA camera with an 8x zoom, video capture of up to 30 seconds and JPEG and GIF image format support. There are also MP3 ringtones, Java for downloading games and WAP and email compatibility. The triband handset has a talk time of nine hours and standby of 250 hours. Expect to pay in the region of £120 on a pay as you go contract for one.

Posted by Shiny Media on January 27, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Fairly funky Bluetooth car kit



We seem to have become so paranoid about getting three bonus points on our licence for chatting on the mobile while driving that all Carphone Warehouse seems to sell these days is Bluetooth kits for the car. Although it has bog-standard features we kind of like the look of the **Bluetooth Car Kit LCD HS-8200** from Dutch maker **Trust**.

Essentially the pack features a semi-circular, well, blob, with a blue LED screen that flashes the number up of the person who calls you. It also has two fairly hefty looking speakers on the side an integrated mic and a volume control. Like most of its rivals it is powered via the motor's cigarette charger. It goes on sale at the end of January for £80.

Posted by Shiny Media on January 26, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

SK65 nearly here



The SK65 will be hitting the shops in the next couple of weeks. Despite countless rumours, Siemens still seems to be committed to the phone market for the time being at least, and the SK65 offers enough innovation to be a big hit. The fold out full size cross-to-type keyboard is the first of its kind, while BlackBerry push email is likely to make it very appealing to business types. Those not bothered about BlackBerry will be able to buy the basic handset which requires the usual logon and download to pick up mail. There will also be the more consumer-friendly BlackBerry service which we're assuming is the same as the one seen on the 7100 handsets. This doesn't require a business server to hook up with but, if the 7100 range is anything to go by, it also means you don't always get immediate push on emails. Worse case scenario, it can be anything to 3 right up to 15 minutes. (Having said that, we've always found the 7100s have always been instantaneous).

Posted by Shiny Media on January 26, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Sony PSP to feature on mobile



Ken Kutaragi has told business media site Bloomberg that an add-on turning the PSP into a mobile phone will surface "in the near future". Sony had already demonstrated mobile phone capabilities at a prototype stage at E3 in LA last May.
Games Digest Simon M

Posted by Shiny Media on January 25, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

BatMax: Extend your battery life



A sticker that extend your mobile's battery life? It may sound unlikely, but that's what BatMax claims to have come up with. The sticker is compatible with all mobiles and can extend your battery's life to up to twice as long, we're told. It's based on IonXR "nanoceramic material" whatever that may be. This slows down the rate at which batteries lose their juice-storing capacity, extends power from each charge and also speeds up the charging time. It will work on pretty much any type of battery and can be used on older batteries to rejuvinate them. It elimates battery "memory" effect and regulates the current supplied from power sources to protect against variations. It costs $12.95.

BatMax

Posted by Shiny Media on January 24, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (2) | TrackBack (0)

Mobile Saver battery pack



Here's a more environmentally friendly version of the Cellboost disposable battery pack for mobiles. The Mobile Saver from STC Global is a rechargeable power source that you can carrry with you as a back up should your mobile battery run down. The Mobile Saver MSC-1000 can apparently recharge a mobile 3-4 times before it needs recharging itself. Eight LED lights give you a more accurate idea of how much power is left. The power pack itself takes 6-7 hours to recharge (although it's safe to leave overnight with no risk of overcharging, we're told). It's obviously not as fast at recharging your mobile as the usual wall socket, but at 2-3 hours for a full charge, it's a good solution for those times when you're away from a power source. There's also the Mobile Saver MSD-2000 for digital cameras. Prices aren't cheap, however, starting at $59.99.

Read

Posted by Shiny Media on January 20, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Control your PC via mobile



Toshiba's Ubiquitous Viewer software provides you with the power to control your computer straight from your mobile phone. The service works on Windows PCs and you can operate software such as the MS Office applications, as well as gaining access to email, web browsers and other software. The software includes a special mobile menu that is supposed to make accessing and controlling programs on your PC easier (although you're inevitably going to be limited in what you can achieve by the small screen on your mobile). Advanced data compression technology makes it possible to transfer a lot of information at a pace described by Toshiba as "rapid".

Secure socket layer (SSL) encryption ensures that the data transfers are safe and the connection is also password protected. The service is set to make its debut on the KDDI au network in Japan but the plan is to extend the application to other carriers very soon, including networks outside Japan.

Press release

Posted by Shiny Media on January 19, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Motorola pushes Push to Talk (again)



Motorola is once again hoping to interest British mobile phone networks in **Push to Talk** (the system that enables mobiles to work like walkie talkies) by offering a pair of new POC (Push to Talk over cellular) endowed handsets. Ready for shipping now the duo includes the **C698p**, a chocolate bar style phone with a 65k colour screen and a VGA camera and the **C381p**, a low-end mobile that's primed to take POC to the mass market.

Although Motorola insists that it is talking to UK networks about Push to Talk (and it has been for over a year now) it faces an uphill struggle to get UK networks to sign up. The system, which enables mobile phone to work like walkie talkies with users able to talk simultaneously to several people at the same time, has not really had much impact in the UK with only Orange offering a Talk Now service aimed at small business.

Push to Talk is however big news in the US where networks like Nextel and Sprint have successful services targeting both small business and consumers. Many phone analysts argue that in Europe text messaging operates in the same space which Push to Talk has filled in the US.

Motorola is however at the forefront of the push to talk market with 23 network operator contracts covering 27 countries around the world. The company hopes the two phones will attract even more subscribers -- from mass market to high-end -- and help pave the way for future "Push-to" services like video and data. Neither phone will apparently be launched in the UK unless a Push to Talk service is up and running.

Posted by Shiny Media on January 19, 2005 in Mobile phones

Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Movement recognition handset from Samsung



After months spent getting excited every time someone releases a phone with specs slightly higher than the one before ("it's got a 1-megapixel camera on it!"; "it's got a high res screen") it feels like Samsung's marketing team have just started making stuff up, leaving us feeling dizzy and disorientated. First a phone that converts voice to text, then a 5-megapixel handset that actually looks like it might be coming to the West and now the SCH-S310, a handset that includes "3D movement recognition". What next? A handset with built in binoculers that automatically takes photos of everything you put down and shouts out in warning if you try to leave the house without it? After this, nothing would surprise us.

The SCH-S310 responds to the movements your hand makes, allowing it to respond to commands. This means you can dial numbers and write text messages by spelling the letters and numbers out in the air. You can also do things like shake the phone twice to end a call and move it to the right to scroll through the menu list. The phone is set to hit the Asian market in March.

Read press release

Posted by Shiny Media on January 17, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

BlackBerry 7100X released



Obviously BlackBerry decided to ignore those negative reviews of its redesigned QWERTY keypad (the TD team was split, with some of us hating it and some of us rather liking it) and plough on with another handset sporting the same doubled up key design. This time the company's 7100x will be released in partnership with O2, the company that usually specialises in the more businessy side of smartphone/emailer devices (like the Xdas and the chunkier BlackBerry handsets). This time, however, O2's in pursuit of a more consumery market (presumably in response to Orange's SPV c500 and Vodafone's 7100v BlackBerry). The 7100x looks similar to the 7100v, but comes in a 'piano black' chassis, with a slightly different styling to Vodafone's grey handset. It's got 32MB flash memory and 4MB SRAM. Like the Voda unit, the phone can be used without RIM's dedicated BlackBerry email server so it can be used straight out of the box, but business users can also get it set up with the BlackBerry Enterprise Server if they want immediate push email and all the other benefits that come with it. Out this month.

Posted by Shiny Media on January 12, 2005 in Mobile phones | PDAs
Permalink | Comments (2) | TrackBack (0)

MyMo Withdrawn after health fears



Poor old Communic8, the company that masterminded the first mobile phone aimed directly at children. The MyMo phones may have been designed for the children's market (4-8 year olds), but the phones were aimed more at worried parents wanting to keep track of their offspring's whereabouts (after all, young kids want the same trendy, feature rich mobiles the older kids have got). However, before the phones really had a chance to stand or fall on their own (we were expecting the latter, but maybe we're just getting too curmudgeonly in our old age) they've been pulled from the market after the recent report about the dangers of mobile phones for children.

The National Radiological Protection Board report published today by Professor Sir William Stewart did not actually claim that mobile phone emissions are dangerous. The professor did say, however, that he believes

that mobiles may well be a health risk despite the lack of current evidence. He said that "if there are risks – and we think there may be risks – then the people who are going to be the most affected are children, and the younger child, the greater the danger."

MyMo evidently believes that pulling the phone from the UK market is the only solution, and the basic phone with its limited functionality looks unlikely to make a come back. Still, there's always its Silver phone – the handset designed for old people. Fame and fortune may still await them after all.

Posted by Shiny Media on January 11, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Moto's iTunes phone revealed

Motorola's mobile phone with onboard **iTunes** made a sneaky debut at CES, but only as part of a speech delivered by Moto's executive VP Ron Garriques. The snappers from Engadget however were on the case and you can see a snap of the handset here. Sadly it looks to us as if it is a rehash of Moto's not especially attractive yoof phone the E398.

Posted by Shiny Media on January 7, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Disposable phone charger


Cellboost1

Not entirely sure if they appeal to our environmentally-friendly side but a company called **Cellboost** is offering the first ever disposable battery recharger for mobile phones. As soon as your handset battery goes blink you plus the cigarette lighter style charger into the socket and you have power. Might be worth keeping a few handy in your bag for emergencies.

It has been on sale in the US for a while, but completely slipped under our radar. More here.

Posted by Shiny Media on January 6, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

LG's new messaging phone


Lg_f9100

No news on whether it will be on sale in the UK but the just unveiled **LG F9100** phone is likely to be a huge hit Stateside. It is basically a chunky candy bar style handset that sports a pull open full QWERTY keyboard.

LG is obviously aiming the phone at personal rather than corporate users as the handset features IM, Java and basic personal organiser features rather than the usual smartphone staples.

Posted by Shiny Media on January 6, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (3) | TrackBack (0)

Nokia 6820 gets an upgrade


6822_02

Nokia's 6822 has just been announced. The company's latest messaging phone comes with that full fold out keyboard the 6820 introduced that lets you type away in full QWERTY layout. The model also comes with a VGA camera and a 65K colour display (is it wrong of us to always expect a megapixel camera on new phones?). Designed as a kind of smartphone-lite, the 6822 lets you synch your PIM data with your PC. It's only got 3.5MB of memory, so you won't want to be ditching your PDA just yet. Bluetooth is present and correct, and there's also support for BlackBerry push-email service. The handset should be out any day now all over EMEA and the Americas.

Posted by Shiny Media on January 6, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (4) | TrackBack (0)

Moto's new clamshell



Just like almost every **Motorola** phone, the **V635** was all over the web a few weeks before its official announcement. Anyway at CES the company took the wraps off the handset which is likely to debut in the UK in the spring. Like all Moto's 600 series mobis, the V635 is a clamshell model with a large-ish outer screen. Headline features include a 1.23 mega pixel camera with an 8x zoom and video capture, Bluetooth, MP3 playback, information manager facilities and Java.

Posted by Shiny Media on January 6, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

More on Samsung's new phones



Here's a little more information about **Samsung's** revolutionary phone which converts speech into text enabling users to dictate text messages emails etc. It is called the **P207** and is scheduled for a spring launch in the US. As it is also GPRS, in theory it should be available in the UK at around the same time. It is clamshell model finished in black with a 262k colour inner screen and 65k colour outer one.

Other features include voice recognition for number and name dialling, email and Instant messaging support. Also due in spring is the **a795**, a clamshell business style phone that, almost uniquely is compatible with both GSM networks (Europe and part of the US) and CDMA ones (the US and the Far East). It too has a 262k colour screen and voice recognition facilities. There's a detailed description of the phone and plenty of pictures on Engadget.

Posted by Shiny Media on January 5, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (2) | TrackBack (0)

Emergency pendant phone



Hopefully it'll be a few years before we think about investing in one, but US pensioners will soon be able to make instant 911 emergency phone calls using a wearable mini phone. Designed to be worn as a pendant the **911 Guardian Phone** has a range of around 400 feet, a battery life of a year on standby and is water resistant so it can be worn in the shower or the bath. Users simply press one button to connect to the emergency operator. It is coming to the US in May 2005, and we'll bet a European launch isn't too far behind. More info here

Posted by Shiny Media on January 5, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Two mega pixel camera phone imminent



Well you haven't got long to wait. The phone that is currently top of our shopping list – the **Sharp V902sh** two mega pixel 3G camera phone – has been launched in a few territories and should be winging its way to the UK next week. As well as being the highest resolution camera phone (though not for long if Samsung gets its way and hits us with a five mega phone snapper) the **Vodafone** exclusive is also among the first camera phones to sport an optical zoom and include an auto focus system. Other features include a rotating 262k colour screen, Java, MP3 playback via both earphones and an integrated stereo speaker, an AV out connector for displaying images on a TV and 24Mb of internal memory. Naturally the phone is also compatible with Vodafone's Live! 3G applications.

Posted by Shiny Media on January 5, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (2) | TrackBack (0)

Samsung's 5-megapixel handset

Samsung's American arm will be unveiling 25 to 30 phones to be launched on the US market in 2005, including a 5-megapixel handset with a 3X optical zoom. It's unclear if the phones are going to have European equivalents as there's no actual spec list at present. We're hoping they will be heading our way, however, since there's some exciting new features on offer, including the world's first speech-to-text dictation phone. This allows you to speak your messages to your handset, which converts them into text for your automatically. Handy if you're in the car - although it would be better if your phone then read your received texts out to you as well.

Other handsets on offer include a 2-megapixel handset with a QVGA screen and a TF-R memory card. Multimedia capabilities seem to be the order of the day, with the new line up of phones supporting the next-gen high speed wireless network, EVDO. This will make sending and receiving pictures, video and data far faster - comparable to cable modem or DSL connectivity apparently. Music on demand (MOD) and Video on demand (VOD) phones are also part of the planned portfolio. These give instant access to digital music and video, allowing users to download and stream music and video straight to a handset. Phones with Bluetooth and Wi-Fi are also planned for launch and BlackBerry push email will be available on some.

There's no pictures at present (although check out Gizmodo's coverage of leaked concept handsets for an idea of what to expect) but it sounds like they'll be available in a wide variety of form factors.

[Update: see more info here]

Posted by Shiny Media on January 5, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Grow your mobile's screen

As we know all too well the trouble with mobile phone screens is that they are too darned small to do anything useful like deliver readable internet pages or videos of footie goals. So we are dying to get our hands on a new solution from the brilliantly named US company **Bart 1**. It has developed a mini **magnification screens for mobiles** which it claims significantly increases the size of the on screen images. It apparently works with all phones, though we suspect that it is best with clamshells. It is also incredibly cheap to at just $8.99. You can check it for yourself here.

Posted by Shiny Media on January 4, 2005 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Motorola's iPod phone coming along nicely

Latest reports on The Register suggest that a Motorola-built iPod phone is well on its way. Apple is apparently "very happy" with Moto's decision to build an iPod-style mobile that will be able to play music downloaded from iTunes. Apple is developing a version of the iTunes jukebox for Motorola phones and the rumour mill has been working over time on when a handset will actually appear. Some time during the first half of 2005 seems to be the official line, but hints that the phone might be flashed about a bit sooner than that is causing speculation that Steve Jobs might produce one from his pocket at the Macworld Expo in January. The Register has also pointed out that Motorola is set to make some sort of announcement on 6th January at CES in Las Vegas so there's a chance the phone might get a mention then as well.

The likelihood of rival Napster producing a service for Windows Smartphone devices (such as the Orange SPV C500) means that Apple will need to get cracking if it wants to beat the company to market. Meanwhile, The Register is speculating that the rumoured Flash iPod and the Moto phone could actually be one and the same - especially since the companies seem to be viewing this as an actual music player and not a GPRS music download service.

Read

Posted by Shiny Media on December 20, 2004 in MP3 players | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Stupidly cheap 3G handset



Vodafone may have some rather nice handsets in its 3G portfolio, but since you'll have to fork out around £200 for them on pay-as-you-go they're suddenly looking rather less appealing.

Good job 3's on hand to offer you a deal you can't refuse, then. The company's already gained a reputation for its splendid value tariffs and now it's got a deal going with The Carphone Warehouse that means you can get hold of a Pay As You Go 3G Motorola C975 for £29.99. To get the deal you just need to purchase £15 of airtime with the handset, so it's still only costing you £44.99.

The phone itself is a pretty basic one, but it's got all the stuff you need – VGA camera with digital zoom, MP3 player, video streaming capabilities and speakerphone. Full marks to 3 for this one.

The Carphone Warehouse

Posted by Shiny Media on December 20, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Panasonic X500



Just got time to tell you about Panasonic's latest handset. The X500 uses that tried and tested sliding design favoured by all fashion handset manufacturers (it's the sincerest form of flattery, Siemens, honest). Panasonic does a good line in tiny handsets, and the X500 is no different, with credit card-like dimensions. Its major selling point seems to be the VGA camera and flash light for night time shooting. The handset's been designed to be turned sideways and held like a camera when taking pics (imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, Sony Ericsson, honest).

Inevitably, the red one's not available in the UK, but you can get the silver handset for free on contract from Phones4U.

Keep reading for a full list of specs.

Panasonic

65,536 colour TFT display
Built-in VGA digital camera with photo light
Multimedia messaging
Java MIDP 2.0
10sec motion jpeg
40-Polyphonic ring tones
Sliding Design
WAP 2.0 browser
Dual-band

Product specifications:
System - GSM/GPRS Class8
Frequency Range - 900/1800
Dimensions (hxwxd) - 85x47x22.5mm
Volume - 79cc
Weight - 96g
Talk Time* - Up to 7 hours
Standby time - Up to 200 hours
Battery time - 730mAh Li-ion

Features: 65,536-colour TFT LCD screen, VGA camera with photo light, video capability (up to 10 seconds), 2 types of menu screen - scroll launcher or 9 launcher, MMS, SMS, Short video clips, Java MIDP2.0, Infrared, phonebook - 300 +SIM, Downloadable content, Quiet mode, WAP 2.0, calculator and currency converter, clock, alarm, vibration alert, scheduler + to do list, 10 pre-installed polyphonic ring tones, 2 pre-installed games

Posted by Shiny Media on December 16, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Sagem My X-8

The My X-8 from Sagem certainly has a look that's all it's own with that big screen and those skinny little buttons. It's slightly on the large side, but that's to be expected from a handset that's got a 1.3-megapixel camera and a 262k colour screen. An 8X digital zoom on the camera plus a flash makes this a rather nifty handset for snap happy types and the white finish keeps that torch burning for iPod's minimalist design. A music player, Wap browser, Bluetooth and SD card slot finish off the specs list nicely.

No pricing as yet, but the phone will be out in the new year from Sagem's site.

Read



Posted by Shiny Media on December 10, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Orange debuts 3G for consumers



After 3 and Vodafone **Orange** is to become the third British mobile phone network to launch a **3G** offering for consumers. It will debut four new phones next week with two models set to arrive early next year.

To be fair there isn't a huge amount to choose between what Orange is offering and the services already delivered by 3 and Vodafone. Unlike 3 and Vodafone Orange is, however, offering full web browsing via both the handsets and laptops (with the phone functioning as a modem) as part of its tariffs. Subscribers pay £30, £50 or £70 a month for which they can download up to 50MB data. This includes web browsing as well as email and film and news videos from the Orange World site. The pricier tariffs include more voice call minutes. Football videos also cost extra.

We have written about some of the phones before, most notably the Sanyo S750, which will be the service's signature phone and is available free no matter which tariff punters choose. Other handsets include Samsung's Z107, a fairly small clamshell which features a large protruding battery; Sony's Ericsson's Z1010, which has been available to networks for the best part of two years now; and the LG U8150, which is pretty much the same phone as the LG U8120 as offered by 3. Nokia's excellent 3G smartphone, the 6630, and Motorola's C975 will follow shortly.

Subscribers can make video calls – to any 3G network – and watch downloads of sports and movie clips. Orange has also confirmed that it will unveil a 3G version of its SPV smartphone in the spring.

Posted by Shiny Media on December 9, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

TD Award for Indispensable Mobile

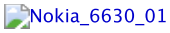


This was a toughie – everyone's got their favourites when it comes to mobiles and one man's top spec, top notch phone is another girl's ugly cumbersome brick. In then end, though, the winner was pretty obvious to all of us. The Orange SPV C500 was a surprise when it was first announced – after all those big, ugly handsets we were expecting more of the same, but the C500 defied all expectation with its tiny size and some rather nice styling. A phone this size that let's you send emails, sychronise with Outlook and browse the Internet – and looks good while it's doing it – is truly indispensable. Nokia's 7610 was our runner up. It may look a bit funny, but the screen and the 1.3mp camera got the judges vote.

Posted by Shiny Media on December 8, 2004 in Mobile phones | Tech Digest news
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Orange's 3G blitz starts Monday

Well the rumours turned out to be true. **Orange** is set to announce its 3G offering for consumers on Monday when it will give journos a quick spin with its new handsets.



Some of us have already been there and done that with Orange's lead 3G mobile - the Sanyo S750.

Orange has also lined up **Nokia's** key 3G phone the **6630**. There's no word yet if web browsing beyond the Orange portal will be included in Orange's 3G tariffs. If surfing is included the Nokia 6630 will be a very attractive option for web obsessives - we should know because we have been using it on the Vodafone 3G network all week. Also on board is LG with the 8150, a slightly different take on the handset that has been doing great business for UK 3G network 3. Completing the range are the rather podgy Sony Ericsson Z1010 and Samsung's Z107.

As for the network Orange is now claiming that it 3G coverage will be available to 66% of the population - slightly more than Vodafone but still a long way behind 3.

Posted by Shiny Media on December 3, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Why Which? is wrong about 3G



If you're looking to buy a 3G phone this Christmas, **Which?** would advise you otherwise. The company has pronounced 3G not suitable for human consumption since there are too many problems with network coverage. The bulkiness of 3G handsets was also given as a reason to ignore 3G and stick to smaller, more reliable 2G handsets.

Thing is, it doesn't sound like they've tested any of the newer 3G handsets, which are far smaller. Considering the extra stuff they can do, we've been more than happy to carry round handsets like the Sony Ericsson V800, the LG U8120 and the Nokia 6630. Our experience of the 3G networks in recent months has been really good, with both 3 and Vodafone providing reliable service. Granted, we all live in London, which makes things a lot easier, and if you live in the deepest darkest countryside you might have trouble making video calls. But if you're a city dweller and you want a 3G phone for Christmas, don't let Which? put you off. One thing to bear in mind, though, is that the tariffs and phone prices will inevitably go down in the new year. We also don't really rate the phones they do reccomend. There's no mention of the Nokia 7610, the Orange SPV-C500 or Motorola RAZR V3 handsets - in our book the best trio out there.

Read

Posted by Shiny Media on December 3, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (4) | TrackBack (0)

Pen-sized mobile phone



This is what we like to see on a Friday: a bit of wacky design innovation. **Haier** has come up with the **P7** mobile phone - a handset that's pen-like in its proportions. The GSM/GPRS phone also includes a VGA camera. According to I4U, the Chinese company has already had the P5 and P6 Pen Phones in the past and the P7 is ready for sale in Europe. There's no details of who's going to carry the handset as yet, but we're hoping it makes it over to the UK soon so we can have a play with one. It looks a bit too much like a remote control for a sound system for us to actually covet one, but we'd love to see how well those keys work and if the screen is actually usable at all.

Read

Posted by Shiny Media on December 3, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (2) | TrackBack (0)

O2 is turning Japanese



In a move that has surprised many in the mobile phone industry **O2**, which is active in the UK Germany and Ireland, has announced its intention to launch a service next year that use Japanese **i-mode** technology. T

The reason behind the move is that i-mode customers have a good track record of spending more on services like downloads, shopping, video clips, ticketing services. NEC, Panasonic and Samsung are being lined up to provide the handsets.

As ever The Register has some top quality coverage here.

Posted by Shiny Media on December 2, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

HP iPAQ h6340 on T-Mobile



You can now get **HP**'s hunky chunky super-connected PDA on **T-Mobile** with a special little connection pack full of goodies. The **iPAQ h6340** leaves you spoilt for choice on the connectivity front, including Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, GPRS, GSM and infrared. The T-Mobile deal means you start using all the connectivity options straight out of the box. The £9.99 package includes 2 hours of Wi-Fi access (ie. 2 T-Mobile vouchers for T-Mobile hotspots), 30 days unlimited GPRS and £5 of voice and text messaging included with the SIM card. After that you'll have to go back to top up cards or a monthly tariff, but it's a good way of getting the customers on board.

The only slight downside is that the h6340 is a big ugly brick of a thing. Still, if you can live with that (and can afford the £479-odd you'll have to pay for it) it does offer an alternative to the Nokia Communicator.

Read

Posted by Shiny Media on December 2, 2004 in Mobile phones | PDAs
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

LG and Samsung in mega pixel phone scrap

Samsung and **LG**. Both seem to be taking the words of Annie Get Your Gun's 'Anything I can do you can do a better a little' a bit too literally, for after scrapping for the world's biggest plasma screens the pair are now getting all fitey about who can add the most mega pixels to a mobile phone camera.

Samsung took the lead with its five mega pixel **SCH-S250**. Now however LG has fought back telling Korean journalists that a six, or maybe even a seven mega pixel camera phone is on the cards. The module for the camera will be supplied by Canon.

three mega pixels is surely going to be enough for most phone users. Besides snappers will need huge hard disks on their phone to store all those enormous images. Surely the Korean ought to be getting their R and D teams to work on improving image processors, lens, flashes etc.

Still can't beat a good scrap though.

Posted by Shiny Media on December 2, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Flashing Mobile Christmas Stickers



Here's a nice bit of gaudy, tat for your mobile phone this Christmas. Just what we like. Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without annoying flashing lights everywhere, and we'd certainly be chuckling with idiotic delight every time our little phone stickers lit up if we had some. Stick a Flashstick on the back of your phone (so long as you've got an internal aerial) and when a call comes through the LEDs light up. Once you've answered the call, the flashing stops to be replaced by a more migraine-friendly glow.

Read [Via SiteSpecific via Textually]

Posted by Shiny Media on December 1, 2004 in Mobile phones

Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Sanyo's slider for Orange 3G



There's still no official launch date for Orange's 3G service in the UK. But with the mobile phone operator having slated a pre-Christmas roll-out, and with manufacturers announcing new 3G handsets, it can only be a matter of days.

Latest to join Orange's 3G camp is Sanyo. Though a newcomer to the UK mobile phone market, the company has actually been producing handsets in Japan in exclusive partnerships with operators since 1994 and in the US for several years.

At a press conference, all of Sanyo's top brass were wheeled out to tell us that they now plan to break into Europe.

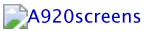
But while the talk was confident - bordering on aggressive - the product announcement was decidedly modest. Just a single, lightweight slider style phone dubbed the S750. First impressions are generally positive. It's not going to rock the design world but the 2.4inch 262K colour screen and 1.3 Megapixel camera with 4x zoom seemed quite good. So too did the user interface which was particularly easy to navigate around.

Sanyo

Key features:
* 2.4 inch QVGA screen
* Dual camera: 1.3Mb with flash, 310K pixel CCD
* 72 polyphonic ringtones
* Bluetooth, infra red, USB, Pictbridge
* Talk time: 170 mins (UMTS), 190 mins (GSM)

Posted by Shiny Media on December 1, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (2) | TrackBack (0)

Gamble on your mobile



It seems that the subject of gambling is never out of the news at the moment. And now we're adding to that by reporting on a story about gambling on mobiles. Never let it be said that we don't jump straight on those bandwagons. Zone4Play is launching a virtual casino on Hutchinson 3G for **3.** The application allows gamblers to play for real on fixed odds so they can lose real money more efficiently wherever they happen to be. There will also be play-for-fun games as well as the real gambling ones. Still, this has got to be better than having to go to Blackpool, right?

Read

Posted by Shiny Media on November 30, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Text Tony today

O2's gets the benefit of a fantastic publicity stunt today. From 1pm you'll have the chance to text Tony Blair to ask him a question. He'll be texting people back with his answers. The session will be transmitted live from Number 10 and will go on for 45 minutes. You can start texting now on 80202 and can ask about anything you fancy - including fox hunting, gambling, the Iraq war and the smoking ban. If you want to join in the chat you can go to the O2 Active Chatroom to read Tony's answers.

Tony said, "every week I take questions from MPs. This is the chance for everyone else to use their mobile phones to ask me the questions they want answered."

You can send normal texts or picture messages (remember, it's neither big nor clever to text Tony pictures of your backside people. Imagine what your mother would say). We're not sure if Tony's well-versed in txt spk, but it will be interesting to see him try to explain what happened to those WMDs in less than 160 characters.

O2

Posted by Shiny Media on November 25, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Retro phones for sale



The British obsession with nostalgia continues apace. While Stuart Maconie is no doubt somewhere working on the first draft of the script for "I Love the Noughties" you can feed your love of all things 80's and 90's with an old mobile from Retrofone. The UK company has gathered up all your discarded 8210s and Z7s and is now hoping to sell them back to you to grab its own slice of the nostalgia pie (probably Black Forest Gateau - remember those?! Ah, those were the days. etc).

Prices start at around £15 for a handset like the Nokia 2110 up to about £125 for a Nokia 6310i.

Get yours here. [via CoolHunting]

Posted by Shiny Media on November 23, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

BT announces 3G plans

BT should be launching a 3G service next year. Its partnership with Vodafone means it will have a number of technologies at its disposal, including the 3G/wireless cards that you can use a laptop in hotspots or over the 3G network. The service will be separate from 02, BT's old mobile wing, since the two companies split a few years ago. BT's aim is to get business users on board, and 3G will be part of a wider wireless plan, which includes the use of WiMax and 802.11 connections. A phone that can be used over wireless hotspot broadband services is also in the pipeline apparently.

Read

Posted by Shiny Media on November 22, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Vodafone Vs 3 - Head to Head

Our very own Ashley Norris has been hard at work fiddling about with 3G handsets to bring you a head-to-head comparison of the two UK 3G services currently available. **Vodafone and 3** are pretty even when it comes to handsets - Voda may have the natty Sony Ericsson V800 and the impressive Sharp V902, but not all the range is available yet, and 3 does a pretty good line in LG handsets as well as the tiny new NEC e338 and the Moto A1000. Tariffs are cheaper from 3, but there's more limits on them - 3's better for pay-as-you-go though as Voda's handsets are too pricey. Content's pretty comparable and network coverage difference will be negligible this time next year. So, it's pretty much down to which advertising campaign you prefer.

Read the full article on the Guardian

Posted by Shiny Media on November 18, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Nokia Communicator on Sale



Nokia's 9500 Communicator, the phone maker's first handset with built in Wi-Fi, has gone on sale in the UK. The handset is far less brick-like than the original Communicator handsets, and now comes with a built in VGA camera and a 16-bit colour display. The Symbian 7 platform is present and correct, while there's 80~~GB~~ MB (oops!) of memory for your application-adding pleasure (along with a MultiMediaCard slot for adding more, transferring pics etc). There's Bluetooth and Nokia's Pop Port USB connection for connecting to a PC. You can get it SIM-Free for £529.95 or on contract for around £294.95.

[Edit: We forgot to mention its killer feature! How careless of us. It's also got Wi-Fi connection,I making it a highly attractive prospect indeed.]

Posted by Shiny Media on November 17, 2004 in Mobile phones | PDAs
Permalink | Comments (3) | TrackBack (0)

Quality 3G howler

Ok, so over the course of our less-than-glittering journalistic careers we'll admit to having penned a howler or two. Fortunately though none of our little ferk ups are quite as spectacular as the story on Voda's 3G launch on page 2 of today's Daily Mirror.
The piece reads 'Mobile users will be able to see each other for the first time thanks to a new generation of phones launched yesterday. Vodafone switched on its 3G services in 13 countries, promising new handsets would be "mini entertainment centres".'
'Mobile users seeing each other for the first time!?' Someone had better tell 3 subscribers who have been able to make video calls for the best part of two years now. The evidence is here.

Posted by Shiny Media on November 11, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Voda 3G launch - where's the killer app?



After ploughing the best part of £7 billion into 3G you would have thought that **Vodafone** would have come up with a killer application for its new phone service. Apparently not, for at the launch of its **Live! 3G** service for consumers yesterday Vodafone's bosses conceded that there isn't actually a single killer app. Instead, Chief Marketing Officer Peter Bamford argued that 3G in its totality was a killer application for phone users - which sounds like areal cop out to us.

Overall though it was a good day for Vodafone with the new services, handsets and even tariffs getting a warm reception. The only really cynical comments came from the Notebook column in The Guardian, which argued that the launch fell between an all out attack on both 3 and the UK market with heavily subsided headsets and services (the city certainly wouldn't like this) and a softly softly launch which would fall flat.

Anyhow, here are a few of our thoughts on the launch. The Guardian has a really good round-up here.

The handsets 8/10 - Overall a very strong line up. We were particularly pleased to note that the first two-mega pixel camera phone, the Sharp V902sh would be in the stores by Christmas. Vodafone is however launching with a trio of handsets, the key one for us is the excellent Sony Ericsson V800. This undertakes all the 3G basics yet features an superb mega pixel camera and is housed in a reasonably sized and compact frame. Our choice however would be the Nokia 6630, which will launch in the second brace of handsets just before Christmas. It might look a bit of a turkey, and because of where the camera is sited you can't actually use it to make video calls. Nevertheless it is easy to use, sports a great still image camera and will feature all our favourite Series 60 (its interface) compatible facilities such as Opera's wonderful web browser and Cognima (via BonusPrint) instant image upload to website facility.

The content 7/10 - You can't argue with Voda's content which includes Premiership football highlights, 3G games and lots of news and magazine content. Trouble is that line up is eerily reminiscent of what 3's customers have been enjoying for a while. Voda is also offering full music downloads (same as T-Mobile, O2 and Orange) and has mini TV episodes, which it is billing as Mobisodes. To be honest we would have been far more excited had Voda stuck an analogue TV tuner in one of its handsets. It would certainly deliver a compelling reason to upgrade to a 3G device even if it has nothing to do with 3G. Suspect battery life might have been an issue here.

The tariffs 6/10 - For all Voda's bluster about how they are reinventing the charges for data, the actual costs of 3GLive! are similar to 3's. While Voda has been very generous with voice minutes, and free browsing of its Live portal is a plus, does it really expect anyone to use all those video calling minutes? Given how much of a damp squib it has been for 3 it seems like users will end up paying for bandwidth they will never use.

Business users 5/10 - Asked whether business users would gain anything from the new 3G handsets, the best answer the gathered Vodafone execs could come up with was along the lines of estate agents using video calling to show customers properties. While the phones are squarely aimed at consumers, some business users would appreciate the browsing speeds of handsets like the Nokia 6630. However, while browsing of Voda's 3G Live! website if free, go anywhere lese and users start paying the GPRS data rates of a £1 per 100 pages for the privilege. Connect the mobile to a laptop and use it a 3G modem and you pay GPRS download fees for everything you

download. With the large emails 3G is capable of grabbing that fee (£2.35 per MB) could soon add up. It does seem a little churlish that this wasn't included in the bundles. I am sure there are consumers and businesses who would gladly swap video call for data downloads.

Pay as you go 3/10 – Voda's cheapest pay as you go handset is likely to be £200 at launch. How it expected to compete with 3 which offers the similarly specified handset for around a quarter of that figure remains to be seen. Those prices are likely to tumble though next year.

Overall

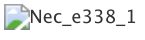
Great handsets, great content and hopefully a great network. Yet you can't help feeling a that many of the YAF (young active fun) people Voda is chasing are more likely to be pay as you go customers than monthly payers, and that by ceding that market to 3 means Voda will struggle to establish 3G early on.

In addition, there really is no compelling reason for most consumers to upgrade. The services are attractive, but that lack of as killer application (it is essentially offering a similar service to 3) could mean 3G gets a little ignored while consumers stick with what they know and continue to snap up smaller, and in many instances sexier 2.5g handsets.

10 million 3G customers worldwide by 2006 isn't much of a target, but if Voda struggles in key markets, like the UK and Italy, that figure could come back to haunt it.

Posted by Shiny Media on November 11, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

3's new handsets


Perhaps in response to Vodafone's 3G launch, which marked the arrival of 6 new 3G handsets onto the market, **3** has gone and announced a load of new phones as well. The company has added another six handsets to its range, including the **Motorola E1000** – a phone also launching with Vodafone. While the E1000 is more for the youth market, Moto's **A1000** is a high-end handset and the **C975** is its low-end offering.

A pair of clamshell handsets from **LG** – the **U8130** and the **U8138** – will be joining the rest of LG's 3 line. The **e338** from **NEC** is the smallest 3G phone to be launched so far. In addition to the usual 3 video facilities, these three handsets will also offer MP3 music players and an email app.

3

Posted by Shiny Media on November 11, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Voda's 3G Announcement in



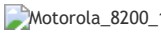
Looking at the press release for Vodafone's 3G service, there's no surprises or exciting new revelations. The 6 phones that we reported on last month are all set to be part of the 3G launch: Motorola V980, Motorola E1000, Nokia 6630, Samsung Z107, Sharp 902 and the Sony Ericsson V... well, Vodafone's called it the V980 in the release, but the picture's the same as the V800, so we're guessing they've made a mistake on that one.

According to the release, four of them will be available immediately, though it doesn't actually specify which ones. All of them, however, will be out by Christmas. The line up includes the 2-megapixel Sharp 902, which is excellent news. Out of the handsets on offer, we've had a chance to review early samples of the Motorola E1000 and the Sony Ericsson V800 (V980, whatever). The Moto's nice and small, although it's not the prettiest handset out there. The SE V800 is a very nice looking handset, however. Lightweight, easy to use, excellent camera and flash light. We want one.

Full press release (along with pricing plans).

Posted by Shiny Media on November 10, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Ancient Relic from Mobile history


Here's a little blast from the past. This is the Motorola 8200 that launched ten years ago to the day (actually, we don't know about that "to the day" bit, but it sounds more impressive if we say that). It

had the undoubted distinction of being the first GSM mobile handset ever to feature vibrating ring tones (insert your own fruity comment here). Give it 20 years and people will start showing up on Antiques Roadshow with 8200s in their original box. If you want a phone that has no support for WAP or JAVA, no polyphonic ringtones, no colour screen, no camera, no infrared or Bluetooth, and a talk time of just 60 minutes, this is the handset for you. Apparently, they come up every now and then on eBay.

Posted by Shiny Media on November 9, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Vodafone: The Next Generation



Big day for Vodafone tomorrow. The world's largest phone company is launching its 3G service over here in the UK. Its got more 3G handsets than any of its competitors some of which look very promising indeed. The handsets are already pretty well established (start getting excited about the Sony Ericsson V800 and the 2-megapixel Sharp V902sh which we're hoping will be among the first launched) so we're not expecting any big surprises.

According to The Reg, the advertising and marketing campaign is set to cost the company £100 million, a fair portion of which, we're hoping, has been spent on the champagne for tomorrow's launch party. After forking out £14 billion for 3G rights in Europe, and with further investment taking that figure up to £22 billion, Vodafone's going to have to make this work if it wants to stay around.

Posted by Shiny Media on November 9, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Review: Danger Hiptop 2

£tbc
The lowdown
The Danger Hiptop 2 was launched in a blaze of publicity in the US a couple of months ago and now it's being pencilled in for UK launched some time in the new year. A kind of cross between the Nokia N-Gage and the BlackBerry, this is a handset that's aimed squarely at hip phone buyers.

What's good?
Push the front and it flips up to reveal a 3.5-inch screen above a surprisingly spacious and usable QWERTY keyboard. There's a good selection of messaging features, including an intuitve POP3 compatible email system and an instant messaging service courtesy of AOL. Most of the usual smartphone facilities are also on board including a PIM suite, VGA camera and a fast and effective web browser.

What's bad?
It's far larger than most smartphones available in Europe and while the design is unusual, it's not a pretty handset. The absence of key features, such as MP3 playback, Bluetooth and flash memory card compatibility limits its appeal, while battery life is relatively poor.

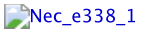
Do you need it?
Despite its flaws, the Hiptop 2 is sure to find favour among text and email addited 18-40 year olds.
7/10

Danger

Posted by Shiny Media on November 5, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

3 nabs NEC's smallest ever 3G phone

Alas it seems that the days of gargantuan 3G phones with their huge batteries and chunky clams are gone forever. For even low-end 3G handsets are getting smaller. **3** has just announced the imminent launch of the **NEC e338** clamshell, which it claims is the smallest 3G phone on sale anywhere.



Aimed at the lower-end of the market and sold ostensibly to pre-pay customers, the e338 is actually pretty much the same phone as the current NEC low-ender, the e616v, yet shoehorned into a neat clamshell.

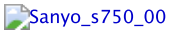
The handset does all the usual 3G tricks; person to person video calling, access to 3's portal with all those cool music and footy downloads, MP3, AAC and even WMA playback, and it even allows users to check out POP3 email.

It is wrapped in a stylish shell and crucially boasts battery life of 180 hours standby and 2 hours and 30 minutes talk time.

We think it could give 3's champion handset the LGs a run for their money.

Posted by Shiny Media on November 5, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Orange confirms 3G launch by end of year



With 3 unveiling a bevy of new handsets (details later today) and Vodafone naming its 3G launch day next week, we had been wondering how the other UK networks would respond. No surprise then that **Orange** today confirmed it would launch its **3G services for consumers** by the end of the year and that it would offer **five 3G handsets**.

The big news is that Orange will be first to offer the rather natty **Sanyo S750** mobile. A regular at exhibitions and trade shows over the past year the handset is the first 3G phone to feature a sliding mechanism as popularised by Siemens and Samsung. It also has a mega pixel camera on board, a striking QVGA screen and offers all the calling card 3G features like person to person video calling and video download. There will be more on the handset later.

Orange has also lined up Nokia's key 3G phone the 6630, which has started shipping to suppliers this week. Also on board is LG with the 8150, a slightly different take on the handset that has been doing great business for UK 3G network 3. Completing the range are the rather podgy Sony Ericsson Z1010 and Samsung's Z107.

As for the network Orange is now claiming that it 3G coverage will be available to 66% of the population - slightly more than Vodafone but still a long way behind 3.

Posted by Shiny Media on November 4, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Electronics Boutique BlueSpam



American shoppers can look forward to receiving spam when they go out shopping during the Christmas period. Walk past any **Electronics Boutique** stores in the US during the Christmas shopping period and you might want to switch off the Bluetooth on your phone. The company is planning on BlueSpamming any unsuspecting passers-by who go within 30 feet of its Bluetooth kiosks. The messages will ask shoppers if they'd like to access game content. The in-store kiosks are providing downloadable content, including games and trailers. Lucky for us EB seems to have died a death in the UK. We're always hearing stories about how shoppers get spammed in Bluewater mega shopping centre by all and sundry, but we've never experienced it first hand. That's probably because we don't hate life enough to ever go to Bluewater.

[Via Blueserker]

Posted by Shiny Media on November 4, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Bluetooth headset for phones without Bluetooth

If your mobile is a bit old, or if you've eschewed those little technological extras in favour of a pretty little fashion phone, all is not lost. Jabra is now selling a Bluetooth Adapter that lets you add Bluetooth capabilities to your



phone. The **Jabra A210** can be plugged into any phone that supports the standard 2.5mm headset socket, supplying the necessary technology for you to connect a Bluetooth headset. The unit provides 8 hours of talk time and 240 hours of standby time. There's voice dialling support and the usual distracting flashing LEDs. It's not a pretty solution, but it would do the job if you're using a headset in a car. Not sure we'd want to clip it to our belt and skip out onto the street with it though. It's not entirely clear whether you can use this for data transfer or to connect your phone to a laptop, so it's most likely for headset pairing only. £39l.99.

Jabra

Posted by Shiny Media on November 4, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Nokia to launch hard disk mobile

Just in case you needed any more evidence that your phone is going to morph into a serious music and video playing entertainment device **Nokia** yesterday confirmed that it will launch a 'media type' phone with a hard disk sometime during 2005.

Exec VP and General Manager Multimedia, Anssi Vanjoki wasn't prepared to offer any more details- but hazarding a guess, we reckon that it will debut on the next model on from the 7710, which Nokia unveiled in Monaco yesterday.

So far the only phone with a hard disk on board is the Samsung SPH-V5400 which launched in Korea a couple of months ago.

A load more Nokia innovations tomorrow.

Posted by Shiny Media on November 3, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Jabra's latest Bluetooth headset



Jabra's BT800 will be out at the end of this month with a street price of £99.99. The company's latest headset comes with all sorts of fancy features, including a choice of ringtones, vibrate mode and noise reduction courtesy of the DSP (Digital Signal Processing) feature that helps to improve audio quality in windy or noisy environments. The design is a bit of a change for Jabra, which usually goes for the over ear loop design (that's not its official name, that's just what we call it) and the headset weighs just 25g, making it nice and lightweight. The built in LED display is a bit of an odd addition, providing you with caller ID info. Why you'd need that when the headset is in your ear is anyone's guess, but it does mean you can pick who you pick up to when the headset's sat on a car seat or something.

Read

Posted by Shiny Media on November 3, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Three more from Nokia



Nokia used the swanky backdrop of Monaco to launch three new phones and confirm that it is to produce a handset with a hard drive in 2005.

Most interesting of the new line up is the **7710** - a product that has been rumoured for some time (pictures have been widely circulated around the web). A semi-oval **'media device'** designed for TV and video applications, it offers support for push email based on Smartner solution, 90 MB integrated memory plus 128 MB on the MultiMediaCard (MMC) that's provided. Other handy features

include onscreen keyboard, handwriting recognition, Bluetooth and megapixel camera.

Perhaps most interesting is that it comes with a built in 'moblog' client which means that bloggers like us can upload images and text to their blog without having to have a computer perched on their lap. It's even possible to edit images on screen.

The widescreen display provides 640x320 pixel resolution but it is quite a hefty device tipping the scales at 189 grammes (that's heavier than the Sony Ericsson P910).

Also announced in Monaco were the 3230 smart phone with megapixel camera and the 6020 camera phone. The new line-up brings the total number of handsets unveiled by the Finnish company this year to 27.

More information to follow.

Posted by Shiny Media on November 3, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

NEC TV Phone



NEC has some pretty neat phones out in Japan but they've yet to make their way over here (natch). In the meantime, the company just keeps on bringing out more and more to make us feel ignored and unloved. The latest two handsets out are more powerful than most of the PCs we've got in the UK. OK, that's not strictly true, but the phones certainly aren't doing much for our self-esteem. The first, the N940 has a TV tuner built in, while the N840 has Bluetooth, a 2-megapixel camera, Mini SD Card slot and MP3 support.

[Via Soroban Geeks]

Posted by Shiny Media on November 2, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

First gig to be broadcast on 3G

We assumed that, with a name like Rooster, the band's sound would best be described as "Cock Rock" (ho ho*), but apparently, Music Week describe them as having 'the swagger of Oasis with Aerosmith's riffs' (so it is cock rock after all). Well, whatever they are, they're about to make mobile music history when their gig at London's ICA is streamed live across **3's** 3G network. Fans will be able to sign up to a free alert service that let's them know the show is about to start 10 minutes before the curtains open. A thousand people will then be able to buy tickets from 3's Live Music box office and access the live video footage of the concert. You can leave and return to the gig whenever you like, presumably so you can complete the experience by buying weak, expensive pints of beer and queuing to use your own toilet.

After the show's over, all of 3's 1.2million customers will be able to watch highlights of the 45-minute performance and get access to behind-the-scenes footage. The event is the first commercial trial of the service for 3, so expect many more to come if it proves a success.

3

*This joke only works if you know British english. Even then it's not that funny. Apols.

Posted by Shiny Media on November 1, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

BenQ P30 smartphone



We somehow managed to miss this one off last week. **BenQ's** continuing its spate of innovative gadget releases with the launch of the P30, the company's first Symbian-based smartphone. The handset, just 17mm thick, comes with a 262K-colour TFT touchscreen, built-in VGA digital camera with 3X digital zoom, an application bundle that includes Picsel Viewer for MS Word, Excel, Powerpoint and Adobe PDFs, and PhotoBase photo editing software. The excellent Opera Browser comes already installed, and users can synch via USB, Bluetooth or infrared. There's also a music player supporting MP3, AU, AMR, WAV and MIDI file formats.

Release

Posted by Shiny Media on November 1, 2004 in Mobile phones | PDAs
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Panasonic 3G handset



Panasonic's Z800 3G handset has just been announced over in Asia. The phone has a 1.3-megapixel outer camera (no mention of the internal camera's resolution) with auto-focusing and Panasonic's proprietary AV technology. The 2-inch internal screen is only 65K colour unfortunately, while the outer colour screen display 56K colours. There's a miniSD slot, Bluetooth, MMS, USB 2.0 and infrared. No mention of a UK launch, but we're not bothered: the Sony Ericsson V800 will be here soon. We've had a go with it and first impressions are that it's fantastic - and it beats the Panasonic for specs as well with 262k colour internal screen, 65K external screen, 1.3-megapixel camera that rotates so you don't lose quality by using an inferior internal camera and blindingly bright and effective flash light.

Press release

Posted by Shiny Media on October 29, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

See through clothes using your mobile

Not content with a bit of friendly groping on the underground during rush hour, Japanese phone owners can now see through people's clothing using an add-on for Vodafone handsets. Yamada Denshi, third party developer, has come up with a night filter with the added side effect of x-ray vision. The night vision plug in is apparently highly effective on dark bikinis, so beach party goers had better beware. Bad news for would-be pervs over here, though, the £100 filter doesn't work on any UK handsets.

Read

Posted by Shiny Media on October 26, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Treo 650 not heading our way soon



The **Treo 650** is launching in the US today, but there's no news of when it's likely to reach these shores just yet. No carriers have been announced in the UK so we'll have to wait our turn to see the new handset. According to reports, the 650 will be similar to its predecessor, the 600, but will have rounder edges and a flatter keyboard. A high resolution (320 x 320 pixels) will accompany the VGA digtial camera (not 1.3 megapixels as rumoured). There will also be a faster processor on board and Bluetooth capabilities.

Read

Posted by Shiny Media on October 25, 2004 in Mobile phones | PDAs
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Mobile phones powered by jet engines

It sounds like crazy talk to us, but according the the New Scientist, engineers are well on their way to batch producing miniturised jet engine-based generators. These "microengines", it's suggested, could be used to power mobile devices such as phones and PDAs. To quote the NS "by spinning a tiny magnet above a mesh of interleaved coils etched into a wafer, David Arnold and Mark Allen of the Georgia Institute of Technology, US, have built the first silicon-compatible device capable of converting mechanical energy - produced by a rotating microturbine - into usable amounts of electrical energy."

The benefit of a tiny generator like this is that it can produce 10 times more energy than normal batteries on the same amount of fuel. Wonder if the jet engines will also get the miniature equivalent of bird-strike? Gnat-strike maybe.

Read

Posted by Shiny Media on October 25, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

T-Mobile's latest smartphone



We haven't had a new Pocket PC-based smartphone out for a while, so it's nice to have a bit of a break from all those Symbians and Smartphones for T-Mobile's latest addition to its smartphone handsets. The **i-mate Jam** (to be called the MDA Compact under T-Mobile's branding) is reminiscent of the Eten P300 in that it's a smaller-than-usual Windows Mobile device. In fact, it's even smaller than the P300, measuring 108 x 58 x 18mm. It's got a 1.3-megpixel camera 64MB of ROM and 64MB of SDRAM. There's also Bluetooth (though it sounds like this could be an optional addition for carriers) and SD(IO)/MMC expansion. All that's missing is wireless and you'd have a perfect little smartphone. Pricing from T-Mobile is still to be confirmed, but you can buy it unlocked and SIM-Free from Expansys for £399.95 right now.

i-mate

Posted by Shiny Media on October 25, 2004 in Mobile phones | PDAs
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

T-Mobile ramps up business Wi-Fi/3G offering



T-Mobile went launch crazy yesterday unveiling a slew of new handsets, announcing a new Wi-Fi roaming deal with **BT OpenWorld** and promising 3G handsets on the streets before Christmas.

Under the banner of **'office in your pocket'** the network gave details of a roaming agreement for its Wi-Fi services with BT OpenWorld. T-Mobile was one of the pioneers of the Wi-Fi hot spot in the UK partnering Starbucks. With BT OpenWorld's hot spots on board T-Mobile subscribers now have access to 1,900 sites in the UK and over 10,500 worldwide.

In tandem with the announcement T-Mobile unveiled a second data card for laptops - the Fusion card. Unlike its first 3G card the Fusion card has integrated Wi-Fi as well as 3G and GRPS facilities. The company also released new hot spot pricing. On prepay users can now get 15 minutes for a pretty reasonable £1.50, an hour for a fiver and a day for £13. If you have a 3G data card it is £70 per month for 3G.GPRS and Wi-Fi providing you don't exceed one Gigabyte of data.

More on T-Mobile's new handsets and its 3G strategy for consumers later this afternoon.

Posted by Shiny Media on October 22, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

T-Mobile to offer 3G BlackBerry next year

In its London press conference this morning T-Mobile's UK Managing Director Brian McBride confirmed that the phone network expects to be taking delivery of a 3G version of the BlackBerry sometime before the summer next year.

It is kind of hard to imagine the core benefit of a 3G version of the BlackBerry other than it will enable users to download large files more quickly.

It could also speed up web browsing and will hopefully spur BlackBerry maker RIM into improving, or, even better, offering another web browser with its devices.

We are guessing now but we'd expect that the 3G BlackBerry would have significantly more storage than existing models. The most recently launched BlackBerry in the UK, Vodafone's 7100v has just 32Mb of memory built in.

Loads more T-Mobile stories tomorrow.

Posted by Shiny Media on October 21, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Motorola's Bluetooth bonanza



Lots of new Bluetooth toys at the Motorola press conference the other day. These include a Motorola pendant headset (pictured) which lets you make/take calls on your Bluetooth mobile without looking like a tosser with a huge growth on your earlobe. Also shown was a headset for bikers which can be mounted inside your helmet with strong 3M adhesive (oooh sounds painful). Both devices provide around 100 hours of standby time or 5 hours talktime.

Concept devices were also shown including a wearable keyboard for texting (mmm, how fashionable) and a Bluetooth adaptor for taking sound from iPods and distributing it around the house. Further details to follow very soon.

Posted by Shiny Media on October 21, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

The end of annoying voice mails



Don't you just hate it when your mobile phone is clogged up with wingeing old voice mails from your boss, partner, gym instructor, plastic surgeon etc? And how annoying is it when someone leaves a message with a number and you don't have a pen handy to write it down? Well UK company **SpinVox** has come up with a tidy solution. Its new product, the imaginatively titled SpinVox, is a system that converts all your voice mails whether they be from mobile or land line, to text. You can then receive the aforementioned moans by text message, or if you are feeling brave, e-mail.

We have been trialling the system for a few days now and can report the following. Firstly that that certain members of the Tech Digest team can barely string a sentence together (but hey you knew that) and secondly that it does actually work with texties popping up on our mobile a few minutes after the message was left. We even tried it with a few naughty words and it nearly got them right too.

If the message is in a foreign language or too noisy to translate you have the option of listening to it by voice.

The only downside is that it isn't exactly cheap working out at between 18-25p a message which is probably a little pricier than accessing your voicemail. If you fancy a go SpinVox is offering a week's free trial. You can either sign on at the website or pop down to your favourite High street phone store.

Check it out here

Posted by Shiny Media on October 20, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

3's video dating stunt

Looking for lurve? Then get yerself down to Selfridges in London to leave your own video dating message.

Mobile phone company 3 may be making most of its money out of cheap voice calls at the moment (see 3G story here) but it hasn't given up on the potentially lucrative video messaging market just yet. For this week only you can leave a message on a 3 phone in Selfridges window - you can even get a bit of a makeover at the same time so you look half decent for the camera. Alternatively, you can send in your own video dating message using your own 3 phone to www.endoftheblindddate.com .

Visitors to the website can vote on the best 'contestants' with the top 50 men and 50 women selected for a special video dating event at the ICA in London in November.

Posted by Shiny Media on October 19, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Robbie Williams gets his cards



There's something of a rift at TD towers at the moment over today's launch of the **Robbie Williams Greatest Hits** album. While some of the crew have been know to serenade their loved-ones with the chorus of Angels and have even spluttered their way through karaoke versions of the rap in the middle of Supreme others argue that Robster was never the same after he stopped being the supersized member of Take That.

Still, digital music lovers can make their own minds up for the album is set to become the first ever in the world to be released not just on CD and vinyl, but also on MMC memory card.

Available exclusively through The Carphone Warehouse the card, which is compatible with most high-end Nokias, apparently has all the tracks in CD like quality and is deigned to slip neatly into a person's mobile phone.

While we welcome such innovation, surely it would make more sense to buy the CD, rip it to MP3 and then transfer it to a blank card. Sure users might have to buy a smart card reader, but aren't these now essential items for any camera phone owner.

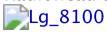
Also will you be able to transfer the tracks from the card on to a PC? Carphone doesn't know.

Now where did we leave those tiger pants?

Posted by Shiny Media on October 18, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

3G's killer application

Remember those distant days when we imagined a golden age of **3G** phones would mean person to person video calls to Australia, downloading the new Radiohead album on the bus, and e-mail on tap everywhere.



How naïve we were. For if research agency **EMC World Cellular Data Metrics** is to be believed the killer application for 3G is in fact, err Voice calls.

It seems that in an 'unprecedented' way 3G phone users are actually using their phones for the purpose they were originally designed for - making voice calls.

'Despite the hype surrounding its new data services, traditional voice calling remains the principal revenue earner for Hutchison 3G' owners of Europe's' largest 3G network 3, states the report.

'3's aggressive strategy may have been successful in terms of subscriber recruitment, but it remains to be seen whether these new customers will ultimately turn out to be heavy data users,' it concludes.

In the UK at least, if 3 maintains its current levels of growth (there's whispers of three million subscribers by April next year), it could well become the largest phone networks within a year or two. How many of these admittedly very price-conscious users, gravitate towards the data facilities like video downloads is another matter.

Encouragingly for 3 the report does acknowledge that 3 has the best ARPU (average revenue per user) in both of its key markets the UK and Italy. The trick though for 3 will be getting more of its users to experiment with advanced data services such as video calling. Tough.

Posted by Shiny Media on October 18, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Text while driving - no really

It may be illegal to make voice calls while driving in the UK, but it seems that the readers of **Mobile Choice** magazine have found a neat way to keep in contact while at the wheel - text.

Over a third of those surveyed in the mag's annual questionnaire said that they have actually written and sent text messages while driving, a feat that might even pose UK F1 driver Jenson Button a few problems.



Seems the readers of Mobile Choice magazine are also a rather fruity lot. Obviously inspired by England footy captain David Beckham, around 40% of those questioned claimed to have started a relationship via text, while almost a third (28%) admitting to having 'text sex', the term applied to couples that indulge in a serious bout of textual flirting.

Texting comes in handy too at the end of relationship with as many as 285 admitting to have twiddled their thumbs to conjure up a Dear John text.

Yet while Mobile Choice readers enjoy a bit of textual intercourse it seems they are rather prudish in other areas. A hefty 50% of readers believed that privacy laws should be attached to the use of camera phones to ensure they don't get used in gym changing rooms etc.

Finally third (34%) of motorists have admitted to using a handheld mobile while driving, according to a new survey, despite the fact that it has been illegal to do so since December of last year.

Posted by Shiny Media on October 14, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Motorola launches six handsets



Motorola's just had a mass phone release, with six new handsets announced for the coming months. All the phones are part of Motorola's clamshell line. The two we've got photos of at the moment are the **E550** and the **V620** [edit: and now the v550 as well]. Full details of all the phones follow and we'll add photos as and when we get them. The E550 (far right) is a T-Mobile handset that's being aimed at the entry level market - and is thus inevitably being described as "fun and funky". It's not too shabby on features, however, with Bluetooth, video playback, VGA camera and picture caller ID. The V620 is pitched more as a stylish, fashion phone and much is made of the "beautifully tactile matte black and silver" finish. The phone comes with a VGA camera, video playback and capture, Bluetooth 262K colour screen and lots of games.

Despite the fact that the company has shown several megapixel phones - both 3G and GPRS - we've yet to see one over here in the UK. We can't say we're not disappointed that this latest batch of releases doesn't include a megapixel handset. Maybe Moto's biding its time to release something that will wipe the floor with the Nokia, Siemens, Sony Ericsson (etc) handsets, but there's a chance it could also get left behind.

Details of the other handsets follow.

(details from the press release)



The Motorola V550
The popular V525 has restyled itself as the silky smooth Motorola V550. This
little clam has the ability to capture video clips up to 12 seconds each
which can be shared via MMS, so there may be mobile video evidence of
Christmas parties this year! Key Features include VGA camera, video capture
and playback, Bluetooth®, quad band and new games such as Wakeboarding and
Golf. Available exclusively to Vodafone Live! customers very soon.

The New Motorola V547 - The Hard-Working Handset, perfect for today's
business calls. The slim and stylish V547 has EDGE for high speed data
exchange, Quad-band capabilities coupled with integrated Bluetooth® wireless
technology, speakerphone, conference calling and e-mail support ensuring that you always have seamless connectivity. For the lighter side of life, the V547offers an integrated camera, dedicated photo button for quick shoot
and send power, video capture and playback, and large 176 x 220 colour display capable of supporting up to 65,000 colors. Users also will find

Multi-Media Messaging Service (MMS) and MP3 ringtones - creating endless options for keeping boredom at bay.

The Motorola V545
This little clam, available in soft touch black with silver, has the ability to capture up to 12 seconds of video to share via MMS. Key Features include VGA camera, video capture and playback, Bluetooth®, new games such as Wakeboarding and Fotofun Pack 2. Available exclusively to Orange customers
very soon.

The Motorola V535
Available in a choice of tactile back or blue, the stylish and appealing V535 is a fun and funky phone that lets you capture and share moments of your life on video. Key Features include Video playback and capture, Bluetooth®, VGA camera, picture caller ID

Posted by Shiny Media on October 14, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Samsung's mega pixel camera phone slider



Must admit to not being too taken with **Samsung's** first mega pixel camera phone the **SGH-D415**. Although it has a brilliant screen and that ever so fashionable pull down flaps as pioneered by Siemens, it was short of a few features and its camera wasn't quite as good as it rivals.

The company is obviously listening as it has just launched the **SGH-D500**, an enhanced version of the D415 that rights a few of those wrongs. The handset, which is finished in black, features a mega pixel camera with an integrated flash and a 7xz digital zoom. Images it takes displayed on its 176x220 pixel TFT LCD unit in 262,000 colours.

Other features include Bluetooth, an MP3/AAC player and storage of 80MB - significantly more than rival handsets. There is however no storage card slot.

It goes on sale in November with prices from free to £70 apparently via most networks.

Posted by Shiny Media on October 14, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Five-megapixel phone

There's us getting all excited about the possibility that we might one day get our hands on a cameraphone with two whole megapixels, and the Koreans are getting ready for their first 5-megapixel handset. Samsung Electronics has apparently announced plans to launch a phone that will be able to compete with powerful consumer digital cameras. According to the report, the company is aiming to release the first handset by the end of this year - although there's a chance that someone else might beat them to it.

Read

Posted by Shiny Media on October 12, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Sanyo TV phone

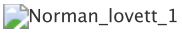


One of the more exciting things we saw at CEATEC was Sanyo's prototype mobile phone that includes a TV tuner for viewing digital TV. Although we were pretty sceptical about why anyone would want something like this, having seen it in action, we've become complete converts. The EX-DO handset enables viewers to watch up to two hours of programmes and there's also an MPEG4 video decoder. The handset, which has not been given an official launch date in Japan yet, also comes with a 260K screen and a 2-megapixel camera.

Sanyo

Posted by Shiny Media on October 11, 2004 in Mobile phones | Show news
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Comedy clips on your mobile

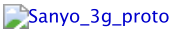


Zoo42 Productions is a offering new service called **Funnybone** that allows you to download comedy content straight to your mobile phone. The idea is that writers and comedians, such as Tim Vine (The Sketch Show), Norman Lovett (Holly from Red Dwarf) and the writers from Have I Got News For You and the Graham Norton Show, write up-to-the-minute topical comedy that's then available to download from the Funnybone WAP site. The video clips will feature real comedians as well as the first animated WAP comedian. Each clip should take around 30 seconds to download. To subscribe to the service you'll need to text 'Go Comedy' to 87121 at a cost of £1.50. For this price, those with video phones will get 24 hours' access to all content; colour picture-capable phones will get access to all non-video content for seven days; while those with text-only phones can access all text-based content for 14 days.

Find out more

Posted by Shiny Media on October 8, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Sanyo's Wi-Fi 3G mobile



At Ceatec **Sanyo** has been titillating Japanese phone-aholics with a prototype of a forthcoming 3G phone.

The as yet un-monikered device is unique in that it sports a double rotating hinge with two flip open sections which can be customized to suit the user's requirements. So in theory one could be a QWERTY keyboard while the other offer access to a set of short cuts.

The phone's other most notable feature is that it apparently includes integrated wi-fi.

Sanyo wouldn't say if the phone will become a real world product but we suspect it has plans for something along the lines of the model for late in 2005.

Posted by Shiny Media on October 7, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Sharp's budget clamshell



If the **Sharp** team at Ceatec is to be believed apparently heading for the UK at the end of the year sporting Vodafone colours will be the **Sharp GX25**.

Basically a riposte to all Sharp's critics who argue that it camera phones are too bulky the GX25 is a light and slim clamshell that feels not too unlike some recent Samsung mobiles.

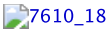
It is not the most highly specified phone either with a VGA rather than a mega pixel camera. It does however boast a rather neat 262k colour screen and has Bluetooth for connecting headsets but alas not for sending images to PCs. More details soon.

Posted by Shiny Media on October 7, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Nokia cleans up at the Mobile Choice Awards

We're feeling a little tender this morning after last night's **Mobile Choice Awards**. The sound system was booming, the champagne was flowing, and the phone companies were all vying to offer the best after party area, making it a fun evening all round for us freeloading journalists.

And there were some surprises on the night as well. After a pretty lean period for the once-great **Nokia**, the company seemed to be back on form, winning Best Camera Phone and Phone of the Year for the fantastic 7610. Nokia also won Best Mobile Gaming Device with the Nokia N-Gage QD as well as the most coveted award of all: Manufacturer of the Year. But probably the biggest surprise of the evening was the winner of the Best Smartphone category. While everyone assumed it would be the SPV C500, Mobile Choice readers voted the **Sendo X** their favourite handset. It seems Sendo has taken on the bigger boys and won.



Read on fo a full list of the winners.

(Judges' Award) Phone of the Year: Nokia 7610 (apparently both the LG U8110 and the Motorola V3 weren't far behind)
Best Network: Orange
Best Customer Service: Virgin Mobile
Best PDA: Dell Axim X30
Best Fashion Phone: Motorola V3
Best Smartphone: Sendo X
Best Prepay Package: 3
Best Mobile Gaming Device: Nokia N-Gage QD
Best Network Portal: O2 Active
Readers' Dream Phone: Sharp GX30
Best Camera Phone: Nokia 7610
Best High St Retailer: Carphone Warehouse
Best Mobile Service: Any Question Answered
Best Mobile Game: Fatal Force
Best Accessory: Motorola Bluetooth Speakerphone
Best Ad Campaign: Virgin Mobile - Idle Thumbs
Manufacturer of the Year: Nokia

Posted by Shiny Media on October 1, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Bluetooth keyboard



Looking for a proper wireless keyboard for your Symbian or Pocket PC based smartphone? Now available from Widget UK is the **Stowaway Universal Bluetooth Keyboard** .

Manufactured by Think Outside , it's a full size unit with 18mm spacing between the keys. Its folding design and light weight (just six ounces) means you can slip it into your trouser pocket (though you may get a few funny looks). It costs £99.

Posted by Shiny Media on September 29, 2004 in Gadgets | Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Blackberry goes Bluetooth



O2 customers in the UK, Germany and Ireland can now hook up the Blackberry to **Bluetooth** headsets and car kits for the first time.

As well as integrated Bluetooth for wireless connectivity, the new Blackberry 7290 features a quad-band phone (GSM/GPRS 850/900/1800/1900 MHz) for US and European roaming, brighter colour display and enhanced memory (32Mb flash memory and 4Mb SD RAM).

Other features include high resolution (65,000 colour) screen, QWERTY keyboard, SMS, organiser, Internet/Intranet capabilities and support for corporate and personal e-mail.

For more information click here

Posted by Shiny Media on September 29, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Ogo Messaging device

The **Ogo** messaging device is a strange little machine that uses mobile phone technology without actually being a mobile phone. Instead, it's designed to work as a text only device that lets you send Instant Messages, emails and text messages without including any voice capabilities. The intended market is the youth market, since they're the ones sending all the IMs and texts. The qwerty keyboard means you'll be able to knock out an awful lot of text at a reasonable rate, which should keep the service providers happy. There's no definite news on which companies will be carrying the handset, but it definitely looks set to appear on the UK market fairly soon. Pricing in America is currently $99 for the handset and $17.99 a month for the messaging plan.

Ogo Key Features & Highlights

Details from the press release:



Ogo is packed with features, including:
▪ "Clamshell" design unfolds to display large, color screen and keypad;
▪ Full QWERTY keypad and 8-way navigation joystick pad;
▪ 4K color display;
▪ Compact size and weight: 11.5 cm x 7.5 cm x 2.5 cm (closed) and 4.8 ounces;
▪ Special "hot keys" for simple navigation --- including a special "emoticon" button for inserting emoticons into IM chats and an "Ogo" button to view all active messages and chats on one screen for easy multitasking;
▪ Instant messaging on all three leading providers --- enables users to view and conduct unlimited chat sessions with buddies on Yahoo!, MSN, and AOL® instant messaging services;
▪ E-mail on all three leading providers --- send and receive unlimited email from Yahoo!, MSN and AOL® accounts;
▪ Text messaging or SMS (Short Message Service) --- send and receive unlimited text domestic messages to and from standard wireless phones;
▪ Consolidated inbox --- view all e-mail and text messages in a consolidated mailbox or sort by individual account;
▪ Special animated features --- Assign unique sounds and visual animations to different IM friends/contacts so users hear a different sound when each IM contact comes on-line or sends a message;
▪ Access to e-mail from other select Internet Service Providers and POP3 accounts at no additional charge;
▪ No annual service contract --- automatic credit card payment for new activations;
▪ "Grab-n-Go" self-activation --- on-device activation wizard gets users up and running themselves.

Posted by Shiny Media on September 28, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Get bigger boobs using a mobile phone!

In what must be the best story we've heard for a long time, the Inquirer is reporting on a Japanese man who claims that the correct ring tone can "subliminally increase the breast measurement of anyone who listens to it". Hideto Tomabechi is already famous in Japan as the counsellor responsible for deprogramming brainwashed members of a doomsday cult. According to him, the special tune encourages the brain and body to move unconsciously, causing breasts to grow larger. Who knows what happens to fat blokes' man-boobs, but we're keeping an ear open for the willy extending ringtone that we hope will be Hideto's next best-seller. Apparently, the website selling the ringtone at 300 yen has had more than 100,000 hits.

Read [via The Inquirer]

Posted by Shiny Media on September 24, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Review: BlackBerry 7100v



£from free

The lowdown
The original BlackBerry had a pager-style design befitting its role as a corporate email tool. With an eye on consumers, Vodafone is offering the BlackBerry 7100v, which keeps the push email system but looks and feels like rival smartphones such as the Orange SPV E200.

The Qwerty keyboard has been jettisoned in favour of keys in which one button houses two letters. Users press the button and, in theory, the SureType predictive text system works out the words. However, the keyboard is slower than the original.

What's good?
The 7100v, which costs from nothing to £82.50 plus monthly fee, boasts more storage (32MB), an effective web browser and is relatively easy to set up. It is a superb email device - especially for corporate customers who get messages forwarded the moment they hit the company server.

What's bad?
However, it is hard to recommend to consumers, since messages are only forwarded every 15 minutes and there's no way of instantly accessing messages by pressing a receive button. The keyboard is also big drawback. The other Blackberry devices may not be the most attractive handsets around, but a major selling point was the ease with which you could compose emails on the qwerty keypads. The decision to double up the letters on each number keys makes typing far more confusing, and it is likely to reduce the 7100v's popularity in the long run.

Do you need it?
You're a lot less likely to reply to every email that gets sent your way on this model, which isn't going to make Vodafone too happy. If you just want to check your emails on the road, it's ideal, but those hoping to compose long messages on a regular basis will be disappointed.
6/10

www.vodafone.co.uk

Posted by Shiny Media on September 23, 2004 in Mobile phones | Reviews
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Nokia remote camera



Along with the replacement for the 6600 smartphone – the **6670** – Nokia has also upgraded its **Remote Camera**, the strange digital camera for the more security-conscious among us. The Remote Camera, which now offers 1-megapixel shots and a flash, allows you to keep an eye on your home when you're out by monitoring for any movements and snapping a picture as soon as it senses anything. The images are then sent over to your phone via MMS or email using the in-built GSM transceiver. The updated camera also includes video and audio capturing, a zoom function and Bluetooth for controlling the unit.

The camera can also be set to just send you regular pics at set intervals, or you can text it telling to send you one. One of its weirder features is that it can send you a notification when a minimum or maximum temperature has been reached and view a graph of the past 24 hours' temperature history. Not sure why you'd need that, unless maybe you're keeping your greenhouse at a specific temperature in order to cultivate very rare flowers, but that seems like a pretty niche audience for Nokia to cater to. Maybe we're missing something.

Read the press release

Posted by Shiny Media on September 23, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Nokia unveils 6600 replacement

In spite of its pug ugly design and dull grey finish **Nokia's 6600** has gone on to become one of the most successful smartphones so far.

Well the good news is that its replacement – the **6670** – has all its functionality of the 6600, plus a few extra features yet is wrapped in a casing that's a slightly smaller and thicker version of the gorgeous 7610.



Like the 6600 the 6670 is aimed ostensibly at the corporate market – but just like its predecessor there ought to be plenty of consumers takers too.

The 6670 runs the Symbian operating system with the Series 60 interface. It has a comprehensive selection of e-mail facilities including the ability to read most attachments. It also offers personal information management apps and its web browser is compatible with PDF files. Annoyingly, unlike the 7610, the wonderful Opera web browser isn't fitted as standard.

Other features include the same one mega pixel camera as the 7610 (arguably the best on a phone at the moment), new editing facilities for the shots users take, music and video courtesy of a Real player, a 65k colour screen and Bluetooth.

Nokia recently claimed that the 7610 was the best selling one mega camera smartphone – which we found a tad amusing as in our books it is the only one mega pixel equipped smartphone on sale in the UK. Nevertheless, judging by the amount of 7610s we see being used it certainly seems to have chimed with consumers. Can't see any reason why the 6670 isn't also a big hit, though, like the 6600 chances are that many of its buyers will only use a small proportion of its features.

It goes on sale in Europe in October.

Posted by Shiny Media on September 23, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Sony Ericsson's clamshell 3G handset

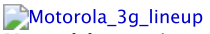


More Vodafone 3G handsets. This time it's **Sony Ericsson's** turn. The **V800** has a rotating 1.3-megapixel camera with an integrated flash for taking night shots. (It's not clear if you can also use it for shedding some light on night time video calls, however.)The clamshell design is slimmer that Sony Ericsson's previous 3G behemoth, the red Z1010. We're quite partial to that nice flared bottom, which helps to make the big barrel camera look less ungainly. It's got a small external colour screen, Bluetooth and Sony's Memory Stick Duo expansion card slot. We're hoping that, like the Japanese, we get the choice of three different colours as well, but we're not holding our breath.

Product Page (Japanese)

Posted by Shiny Media on September 22, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Motorola's 3G Vodafone handsets



Motorola's contribution to Vodafone's newly-announced 3G service may look familiar to regular readers, since the company announced a range of 3G handsets back in February. First the E1000, which which we ran a story on after the Cannes launch in Feb(read). The phone's one of the smallest 3G handsets you're likely to see for a while. It's candy bar style with a 1.2-megapixel camera and Bluetooth. There's also an MP3 player and integrated AGPS services for mobile location.

The **V980** has a clamshell design with a colour external LCD and is supposedly an entry-level handset aimed to attract more customers to 3G services. Finally, the **C980** candy bar phone looks about as compact as the E1000 and, judging by the picture of the girl with bubblegum, we're guessing it's also aimed at the entry-level market.

E1000 press release

Posted by Shiny Media on September 22, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

First 2-megapixel cameraphone for the UK



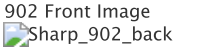
Vodafone is fairly slim on the details when it comes to what features its new 3G handsets will include. However, from what we can gather there will be at least one 2-megapixel cameraphone in the group. Sharp's **V902sh** handset includes a 2.02-megapixel digital camera, which makes it the first to be launched in the UK. The inclusion on an optical zoom means you'll actually be able to take proper close up images without the usual crappy blown-up pixel effect you get on the digital zoom cameras. We're also pretty sure that it's got a swivel screen, so you'll be able to use it like a proper LCD preview screen. Somewhat unusually for a modern clamshell, the V902 has no external LCD screen for caller ID info. Looking at the design, Sharp seems to have gone down the Sony Ericsson route of making the phone look like a camera on the back. The idea being that you hold the phone in landscape rather than the usual portrait when taking shots. It's also got an SD card slot on the side of the casing.

The **V802sh** handset joins the increasingly growing lineup of 1.3-megapixel handsets on the UK market. From the shots it looks like the 802 will share the 902's swivel screen design – although there's no sign of an optical zoom lens. Again, there's no external LCD. Both handsets will include Bluetooth.

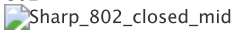
[UPDATE: Looks like the 902 does have an outer screen after all – the camera is on the front of the handset along with a tiny LCD screen, although it's unclear if it'll give much more info than the time and signal strength.

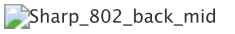
Click on the link for more images.

902 Front Image



802


Sharp_802_closed_mid


Sharp_802_back_mid

Posted by Shiny Media on September 22, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

November launch for Vodafone's 3G consumer service


Sharp_902_2

Vodafone has announced that the UK launch of its **3G Live!** service for consumers will be in November. The network also announced details of ten new 3G handsets that will be available across its group (though not necessarily the UK) before Christmas.

Apart from offering details of the handsets the release says very little about how Vodafone intends to launch and market its 3G services for consumers in the UK. The handsets, which include models from Nokia, Motorola, Samsung , Sony Ericsson and Sharp have apparently been developed to enable consumers to make the most of the 3G video services which we presume means music and video downloads and streaming and person to person video calls.

Among the highlights are the first phone with a two mega a pixel camera and also optical zoom and autofocus, and phones designed for audio and gaming applications.

More details of the handsets shortly.

Posted by Shiny Media on September 22, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

At last - a good role for 3G


3gsweden

We hadn't really considered the implications that video calls could have for some people. Until we got a press release from **3** in Sweden, that is. Apparently, the company has an awful lot of deaf customers, thanks to the opportunity video calls give those with hearing impairments to use sign language over the phone. Because of this, the company has just launched a special web page with sign language pages (see here) and is working with the Swedish Deaf Organisation (SDR) to evaluate and develop 3G services that will help signing people over in Sweden. Nice to know that 3G can be useful after all.

Posted by Shiny Media on September 20, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

3 prepares for Vodafone 3G launch by cutting tarrifs


bluethree

3 may have struggled to drum up quite as much interest as it would have liked for its 3G video features like person to person video calling, but the company has done a decent job of tempting people in with its extremely attractive tariffs. This has developed a weird situation where the company that offers the most high tech services on a mobile phone, has a fair proportion of customers who couldn't give two hoots about all that 3G nonsense and just want to save their pennies.

The rumour doing the rounds that Vodafone is soon to launch its own 3G service for consumers could very well be the reason that 3 has announced plans to shave even more off its already very competitive tariffs. With the deals the company's offering now, it will be very difficult for Vodafone to offer similar prices for 3G since it would mean dramatically undercutting what it charges existing customers for the normal service. Over to you Vodafone.

Read on for full details of 3's new pricing plans.

All three new contract plans cover any network any time for calls and now also text messages.

Talk and Text 200. This offers 100 voice minutes and 100 text messages for £20 a month for 12 months.

Talk and Text 600. 500 voice minutes and 100 text messages for £30 a month for 12 months.

Talk and Text 900. 750 voice minutes and 150 text messages for only £40 a month for twelve months.

Posted by Shiny Media on September 17, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

New Palm-based Smartphone surfaces



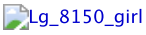
Group Sense has never launched a PDA over here, but a couple have turned up via import in recent months (on Expansys, for example). We're hoping that the company's latest will show up on these shores at some stage so we can play with one. Pictures of the device have just appeared on the company website. The **Xplore M28** is a Palm-based smartphone running Palm OS 5.4, which many are assuming is PalmSource's 'Garnet' platform for smartphones.

Other specs for the device include a Texas Instruments' OMAP processor with 32MB of SDRAM and 32MB of Flash ROM. The 2.2-inch LCD is a touchscreen panel, and the front panel slides up to reveal a keypad, as with previous models. A VGA digital camera and MP3 player are also included, along with an SD/MMC slot for adding a bit more memory.

Read [Via The Register]

Posted by Shiny Media on September 16, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

LG/Orange 3G phone unveiled



We might be easily confused, but nevertheless we do wish that **LG** would stop releasing 3G mobile phones that have virtually identical model numbers. After the arrival of the groundbreaking 8110 on Three - the first half decent 3G mobile - LG then unveiled the 8120 - the same phone with a little more storage.

Now the company has taken the wraps off the **8150**. As far as we can tell the phone is the same as the 8120 with two crucial differences.

Firstly LG has upgraded the screen from 65k colours to 262k. Perhaps more importantly the handset won't be available via UK network 3, instead it is likely to be sold over Europe as the hero handset of Orange's 3G offering. Needless to say Orange hasn't confirmed a date for the launch of their handsets, or the consumer part of the 3G network for that matter, but the company did say that it would have some big news about 3G in September.

The well specified handset features video calling and playback, a VGA camera, MP3, POP3 e-mail and personal organiser facilities.

Posted by Shiny Media on September 16, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Philips re-invents the camera phone



Philips has confirmed that its innovative camera phone will debut in the UK in January 2005 retailing for around £100.

The small candy bar shaped handset is the first to feature the Snap, Tag and Send system that gives users the option of adding handwritten notes or drawings to multimedia messages.

It also boasts a TV out mode that enables users to view images stored on the phone on a TV screen - an appliaction that is likely to widely copied.

Other facilities include a VGA camera, 7MB memory, a 65k colour screen, e-mail and voice command/dial. Battery life is rated at 250 hours standby and up to five hours talk time.

Posted by Shiny Media on September 16, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Vodafone first with new BlackBerry


Blackberry_7100v_low

Vodafone is to become the first UK network to offer one of the new breed of BlackBerry devices.

Due for launch in early October the **Vodafone BlackBerry 7100v** jettisons the pager style of existing devices for a more phone like form factor. The phone is also styled differently to the BlackBerry 7100t which T-Mobile unveiled in the USA last week.

It keeps that handset's controversial keyboard, which features two letters per key and works in conjunction with a predictive text type system called SureType, but sports a more compact more stylish design.

In addition to the now infamous Blackberry push e-mail system, which sends a message straight to the device as soon as it hits an ISP's server, the 7100V also boasts a calendar and contact storage.
Blackberry/Vodafone has also improved the storage capacity of the device which now boasts 32MB of memory.

Other facilities include compatibility with variety of formats including Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Adobe Acrobat, Bluetooth, Quad band and an integrated speaker phone.

It also sports a Vodafone developed interface and is available in both consumer and business versions. There is however no integrated camera and very few entertainment applications.

The device price will range from free of charge to customers on Anytime 400 or
1000 to £82.50 for Anytime 100 customers.

Vodafone, which has also recently added the Nokia 7610 and VPA III to its smartphone portfolio stresses that it wants to offer its customers a range of choices in the high-end business phone area.

Posted by Shiny Media on September 16, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Siemens iPod style phone

The all pervading design influence of the **Apple iPod** seems finally to have reached mobile phones.

With its white finish and rectangular shape **Siemens** new clamshell, the **SF65**, certainly bears a passing resemblance to Apple's ubiquitous music player.

The phone breaks new ground for Siemens in that it features a swivel action screen that according to the maker enables it to function like a proper digital camera.


Siemens_sf65

The phone matches its billing too in that it sports a 1.3 mega pixel snapper with an integrated flash and a 4x digital zoom.

Also on board is a 65k colour screen, a pretty generous 18MB of memory, gaming options and polyphonic ringtones.

Those who might mistake for an iPod will be disappointed to discover that it doesn't actually play MP3s. There's also no POP3 e-mail compatibility or Bluetooth.

It is set to launch in the UK in January 2005.

Posted by Shiny Media on September 15, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Now it is file swapping via mobile phones

Nokia has announced its has developed a **peer to peer** system for phones that enable users swap image, video and even music files with other people's mobiles.

Apparently Nokia's research centre in Budapest has developed a system that works on the company's 6600 handsets. At present it only works with image



and text files, but the company is optimistic that soon large files such as MP3 music and video could be added.

I might be missing something here, but personally I can't see networks welcoming this move. They already have a system for swapping image files between phones called Multimedia messaging. Can't see the networks also ceding the potentially lucrative music download market to peer to peer technology at this stage without a huge fight either.

The key for consumers anyway is not about swapping images between handsets but getting those pictures off the phone and on to a PC or printing them out. Hopefully in this sphere we'll see more solutions like the one offered by Cognima/Bonusprint

The company has also confirmed that it will finally start to offer the Secure Digital (SD) card, or more likely the mini version of the card, on its mobiles.

Most mobile manufacturers, with the obvious exception of Sony Ericsson handsets which sports Memory Stick slots, use SD and with Nokia's backing the card looks set to become an industry standard for handsets.

Posted by Shiny Media on September 15, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Amstrad debuts home videophone



As we predicted several weeks ago the new **E3**, the third generation **e-m@iler** internet phone from **Amstrad**, turns out to be a videophone with users able to see as well as hear the person they are calling.

The device, which goes on sale later this month for £99, or £179 a pair, features an integrated camera and a full colour screen as well as offering the e-mail, and internet functionality of previous e-m@ilers.

According to Amstrad the devices are simple to set up and operate and users can also send images from the phone to PCs and mobile as well as other E3s.

The video calls, which are paid for by the person who initiates the call, cost 50p plus the price of the existing phone call.

Interestingly the E3 will work with all telephone providers and not just with BT. There is however no international calling and users can't use the device to make video calls to PCs or mobiles, just other E3s.

Another interesting snippet is that Amstrad says it subsidises the E3 via advertising, so users can expect to receive Amstrad approved junk mail filling up their in boxes.

Whether the E3 will be as mass market as Amstrad hopes is a moot point. Person to person video calling hasn't really been a huge hit for 3G video mobile company 3. Initially this was because there simply wasn't a large enough installed base of customers for it to work. More recent sluggish figures are possibly explained by a reticence on behalf of shy and retiring Brits to make video calls.

While there is undeniably a market for grandparents cooing over their children's offspring it remains to be seen quite how popular video calling, via both landline and mobile, will prove to be in the UK.

Finally one other quick point. The 50p charge for the video calls seems fairly reasonable, however on top of this users pay the fee for the call. It'll be interesting to see if cable companies and smaller phone operators get wise to this and charge extra for this facility. At present many offer very cheap or even free calls to certain landlines.

Posted by Shiny Media on September 15, 2004 in Mobile phones
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Bluetooth headset helmet for bikers

Nice to see that while bikers may be born to be wild, they're not so wild that they can't ring their mum's while they're off feeling the wind in their hair. Momo's Fighter Prestige Helmet is currently in production. It's the first



helmet with a built in Bluetooth headset allowing bikers to make calls while they're weaving dangerously in between cars on streets. Motorola is supplying the necessary gadgetry, which will also be available to buy separately so you can stick it on any helmet. The HS810 headset works both on and off the helmet so you don't have to continue wearing the hard hat after you've parked up just to finish off your conversation.

Battery life is quoted at five hours' talktime and 100 hours of standby time. The helmet will be available at the start of next year from the Italian company. No pricing details as yet.

Read [Via Blueserker]

Posted by Shiny Media on September 15, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

ntl and O2 to trial TV to mobiles

The first ever UK user trial of **multi-channel TV** to mobile phones is set to launch spring next year. The usability trial is being conducted by ntl and O2 and will start with nine broadcast transmitters covering the areas in and around Oxford.

500 customers will be supplied with a multimedia mobile phone with a built-in digital TV receiver. The testers will then be able to watch 16 TV channels covering the whole spectrum of different tastes - from sport to cartoons, comedy to news. The idea is that the two companies will be able to evaluate consumer interest in mobile TV services to see whether there's a demand for it.

Ntl and O2 are being aided in their research by Sony Semiconductor & Electronic Solutions (SES) and Nokia, who will be providing their prototype DVB-H receivers for the purpose of the trial. The DVB-H broadcast transmission standard has been designed especially for handheld devices, which means it has low power consumption and, according to ntl, "robust reception".

Posted by Shiny Media on September 10, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Nokia's new fashion phones



Nokia's latest phone range, launched at the Totally Fashion event in Shanghai, is a strange-looking fashion range. The Nokia **7280, 7270, 7260** phones apparently "blend old world art deco styling with an edgy, modern day twist".

Nokia has evidently decided to ignore the fact that Siemens' fashion range, Xelibri, just recently died a death, with sales of the strangely-styled handsets at disappointing levels. But most of the big phone companies have a couple of handsets that can be said to worship style over content in the hopes of making some big branding statement. However, we're not convinced with Nokia's attempts. Maybe they look better in the flesh.

The press release really has to be seen to be believed, which is why we've pasted parts of it in below (hey, it's Friday, ok). Click on the link to read on.

Nokia 7280: Lean, Sublime Lines
The sleek and sexy Nokia 7280 offers a completely new mobile phone design, foregoing the traditional keypad for a discreet keyless dial. A fine lacquer-inspired high-gloss finish, complemented by leather and mirror accents, add sophistication and style making this device as much a work of art as an advanced piece of technology.

Perfect to whip out at cocktails, the Nokia 7280 is geared to attract attention and become the talking point at any high glamour soiree. Its VGA camera can snap the latest and greatest while the active slide means calls can be answered or ended with a flick of a wrist.

The handset's chic strap and carrying pouch keep this hot accessory close at all times. Using the Nokia Collector, you can transfer your favourite photos, ringtones, wallpapers, music and videos from the Nokia 7280 to and from your Mac. For a fashionable handsfree experience, style mavens can plug in the Nokia Wireless Image Headset, also introduced today. Truly, the Nokia 7280 is the fantasy phone for the fashion-conscious.



Nokia 7270: Detailed Deco
The boldly stylish Nokia 7270 draws its design inspiration from the Garbo-esque glamour of the 1920s. Encased in an etched stainless steel housing, this fold design accents your wardrobe with a matching textile wrap, carrying strap and pouch to reflect your personal style and mood.

Whether shopping in New York, Paris or Shanghai, a second opinion is merely clicks away thanks to the Nokia 7270's VGA camera. Converting clothes or shoe sizes is a snap with the clever Converter application. Tune out in style with the FM radio and fashion headset or tap away on games like Chic Pinball.



Nokia 7260: Flamboyant Fashion
Materials, graphics and colour palette set the Nokia 7260 apart. Featuring chrome and steel accents, this Art-Deco-meets-Industrial-Design concept is certain to be a favourite of fashion-minded crowd. To stand out in a crowd, consumers can enhance the style of their Nokia 7260 with daring accessories, like stylish straps and carrying pouches.

Jetsetters can easily call home with the Nokia 7260's tri-band capabilities, or send celebrity sightings using the VGA camera. The Nokia 7260 allows users to step out in style every day.

Posted by Shiny Media on September 10, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

New Xdas announced from O2



O2 has announced that it will be releasing an updated version of its Xda II later this year - the **Xda IIs**. The smartphone is to include a slide out QWERTY keyboard as well as the long-awaited 802.11b wireless connectivity.

Although it won't be available immediately, O2 has revealed that the handset will also feature BlackBerry push email service. O2 is suggesting that RIM's Connect software should be added to handsets at the start of next year (and presumably you'll be able to download the software for free if you've already forked out for the new handset).

Expect to see the updated phone over here in November for around £449. A further model, the **Xda IIi**, will follow the upgraded model. This will include a faster 520MHz Intel PXA270 processor and a 1.3-megapixel camera. Pricing for the Xda IIi is still to be set.

Xda IIs specs:

- Windows Mobile 2003 2nd Edition Software for Pocket PCs
- 3.5" Transflective TFT-LCD 240 x 320 pixels, 65K Colour,
- Size: 125(L) x 72(W) x 19(T) mm
- Processor - Intel PXA263 400 MHz, memory - 96MB ROM, 128MB SDRAM
- GSM/GPRS
- Internal antenna, Quad band, 850/900/1800/1900
- GPRS class 10
- Infrared, USB, Bluetooth and Wireless LAN (802.11b)
- Colour CMOS 0.3Megapixel camera, with mirror
- 205 grams with battery, expansion: MMC/SDIO
- 12 buttons, 5-way rocker, slide-out 39-key QWERTY keyboard
- 1490mAH LP battery
- Standby/PDA/Recover/Talk: 168/17/72/4

Posted by Shiny Media on September 10, 2004 in Mobile phones | PDAs
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Now you can blog every. single. thing.

Nokia and blogging software firm, **Six Apart**, are collaborating to provide "a new blogging experiences for people who want to share their lives online as they happen". You too can validate your existence by blogging with both a mobile phone and a PC, uploading photos, videos, text messages and MMS picture messages to a TypePad account.

Nokia's Lifeblog service is a mobile phone and PC application that keeps a "multimedia diary of the items collected with a mobile phone". Data is collected chronologically and downloaded onto a computer where it gets turned into a timeline. Of course the time you spend cataloguing every minute of every day will be well worth it, even if the only people reading it are your mother (to check you've been eating right) and a couple of your equally data-loving geek friends.

Read

Posted by Shiny Media on September 9, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Nokia's new 9300 smartphone review

Nokia 9300



£250-ish with contract

The lowdown
Nokia has taken its Communicator brick 9500 smart phone shed a bit of weight and size, and re-packaged it as the **9300** - a smartphone for busy professionals. It keeps some of the 9500's core features such as its excellent QWERTY keyboard and its high contrast wide screen.

What's good?
It is arguably the first pocketable smartphone (it'll just about squeeze in) with a decent-ish QWERTY keyboard. Slap it flat on a desk and you can not only thumb type you can also speed things up by using a finger too. The phone also boasts a huge number of features including Blackberry push-mail, Opera's superb web browser and a Real player for replaying video and MP3 audio. It is also compatible with many Microsoft Office files formats (Word etc) and is compatible with VPNs.

What's bad?
There's no camera, which although might not be top of the busy execs wants lists would still have been a decent touch. The Communicator style flip open form factor might not suit everyone and the screen isn't the most suitable for web browsing. Unlike the 9500 there's no Wi-Fi either.

Do you need it?
In our book top of the smartphones key features list has to be a decent keyboard and the 9300 has one of the best around. It also has a good line up facilities Opera, Blackberry etc and a great operating system and interface. It will be well worth forking out £250 or so needed to secure one when it arrives in January 2005.
8.5/10

www.nokia.co.uk

Posted by Shiny Media on September 9, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

3G video voicemail and video portal from Openwave



Openwave's latest piece of software will enable 3G customers to record their own video greetings on their mobile phone for specific people in their address book. Examples the company give include recording a special greeting for your child or partner who's going away for the night. There's also the option of using cartoon characters, such as a player in Doom, to create an animated message with your voice lip-synched onto the animation. Alternatively, you can choose a celebrity greeting option, such as Clint Eastwood doing the "Do I feel lucky" speech in Dirty Harry.

If you don't pick up when they ring they'll get the personal message like a voicemail message. This is actually a really nice idea that will come in very handy for letting friends know which pub you're in and leaving work misleading voicemail messages about where you'll be at any given time. It doesn't say how many you can create, so we're assuming your only limited by your phone's memory capacity.

Openwave

Posted by Shiny Media on September 9, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Teens get into textual intercourse

Orange is extending its Free Weekend Text offer until October this year. The offer, available to pay-as-you-go customers, is being targeted at 16-18 year olds since they're the ones who are text fixated apparently. It provides 500 free texts between 7pm on Friday until 7am on Monday.

A recent survey commissioned by Orange found that 51% of boys questioned use text messaging for dating and dumping. Who said romance was dead, eh?

Orange

Posted by Shiny Media on September 9, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Mobile phone to kill iPod? Samsung debuts hard disk handset


samsung_hdd_ph

Just the other week we predicted that phone manufacturers would soon be giving up on stupidly expensive flash memory cards and kitting out their handsets with hard disks. These are of course significantly cheaper and, most importantly for the consumer, offer a great deal more storage.

They could in theory also render hard disk music devices like the iPod redundant as users can store their tunes on the handset's hard disk and have no need for a secobnd device. Motorola's recent deal with Apple to offer iTunes on its mobiles shows that the iPod's manufacturer is also sensing that this could be the way in which the market, at least in Europe and the far east, is likely to develop.

Anyhow it seems we were right for **Samsung** has just announced the world's first ever mobile with an integrated hard disk.

Unveiled yesterday at a Japanese telecoms show the **SPH-V5400** is a clamshell type phone with a **1.5GB hard disk.**

It comes with an integrated mega pixel camera, MP3 player and a TV out connection.

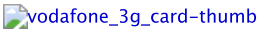
Another first is that the SPH-V5400 also features an FM transmitter to enable users to stream music from the phone to nearby FM radios. Sadly at the moment this type of feature is illegal to use in the UK thanks to the 1949 Wireless telegraphy act.

The main screen is a TFT screen - 240 pixel by 320 pixel - and the sub screen is an OLED - 128 pixel by 128 pixel.

We expect the first mobiles with hard disks to reach the UK by the middle of next year with Motorola along with the Japanese/Korean makers leading the way.

Posted by Shiny Media on September 6, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

3G card for Macs


vodafone_3g_card-thumb

Good news for **Mac** owners. **Vodafone** has made its **3G** data connect card available for Apple users.

According to the company the dashboard (or the interface of the card) is now compatible with Macs and Apple users will be able to surf the web remotely at speed of up to 384 kbps.

The company thinks that Mac users are an ideal target group for the 3G card. Bill Morrow, CEO Vodafone UK, said, "Users of Apple Macs have a rich variety of working habits that we believe are ideally suited to the 3G environment. From business people through to designers and photographers - all of these professional communities have sub-groups, characterized by heavy and frequent mobile data use, that are devoted to the Mac."

Neither Orange or T-Mobile's 3G cards are compatible with Macs.

Vodafone reckons that its 3G services are available to up to 50% of the UK population. When the card doesn't find a 3G signal it automatically latches on to a GPRS one.

Read on for details of costs.

Tariffs by user profile:

Mobile Connect Low
Card Price RRP (ex VAT): £169
Monthly Access (ex VAT): £127
Inclusive Data per month: £5MB
Out of Bundle Price per MB (ex VAT): £2
Roaming (ex VAT): £5

Mobile Connect Medium
Card Price RRP (ex VAT): £127
Monthly Access (ex VAT): £20
Inclusive Data per month: was 50MB, NOW 75MB
Out of Bundle Price per MB (ex VAT): £1.50
Roaming (ex VAT): £5

Mobile Connect High
Card Price RRP (ex VAT): £110
Monthly Access (ex VAT): £45
Inclusive Data per month: was 300MB, NOW 450MB
Out of Bundle Price per MB (ex VAT): £0.75
Roaming (ex VAT): £3.50

Mobile Connect Power
Card Price RRP (ex VAT): £84
Monthly Access (ex VAT): was £85, NOW £75
Inclusive Data per month: 100MB
Out of Bundle Price per MB (ex VAT): £0.50
Roaming (ex VAT): £3.50

Posted by Shiny Media on September 6, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Opera browser for Microsoft phones



Good news from Norway! **Opera**, which makes one of the most highly rated web browsers for Symbian Series 60 based smartphones, has announced that a version of the browser for Microsoft Windows Mobile handsets will be available shortly.

The browser's killer feature is something called Small-Screen Rendering (SSR) technology which enables users to browse regular Web pages on mobile screens by reformatting the page eliminating the need for time-consuming horizontal scrolling.

As anyone who has ever used the Internet on a MS phone will know this gives it a massive advantage over the standard MS browser Pocket Explorer.

The company hasn't yet set a price for the browser, but if it retails for a similar fee to the Symbian Series 60 version it will cost around £20.

More here

Posted by Shiny Media on September 2, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Orange's Push To Talk launch imminent

Orange will become the first UK network to launch a **Push To Talk** service when it delivers its **TalkNow** offering later this month. The system, which enables mobile phones to double as walkie talkies with users able to hold instant conversations with anyone with a similarly equipped phone/tariff, will be available to business users from late September with a roll-out to consumers in October.

Similar to Push To Talk system in the US the Orange service TalkNow enables users to chat to both individuals and groups at the press of one button on their handset.

TalkNow also uses a 'presence' system that gives the users the opportunity of seeing which of their friends/business partners is available for instant conversations and who has the phone off or is incommunicado. With the TalkNow team list users can speak up to ten people simultaneously.

The service will initially only be available with the Treo 600 handset. However Orange has confirmed that other manufacturers including Alcatel,

LG, Nokia, and Sagem are readying handset that are compatible with the service. The upcoming Treo 650, which will be on sale in the UK before the end of the year also boasts a dedicated Push To Talk button.

Orange UK is to initially offer a promotional Talk Now tariff, allowing corporate customers to make group calls for the price of a standard voice call. Following this, TalkNow customers will have the option of choosing either a bundle or a pay-as-you-consume tariff. Full commercial tariff details will be available once the promotional period has ended.

In addition to the UK TalkNow will also launch across Europe in France, then in Switzerland, the Caribbean, Romania, Slovakia, The Netherlands, the Dominican Republic, Belgium (Mobistar) and Jordan (Mobilecom).

Although originally launched as commercial service in the US Push To Talk has also proved popular with consumers. Yet analysts have mixed feelings about whether it will be as successful in the UK as in the US it taps into a tradition of walkie talkie usage and appeals to culture that hasn't really embraced text messaging.

For more on Push to talk read here

Posted by Shiny Media on September 2, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Nokia ships one million N-Gage handsets



Contrary to what you might think, the Nokia N-Gage is apparently in quite high demand. The company has just announced that it has shipped its one millionth game deck globally. This includes both the N-Gage and the newer N-Gage QD handset, starting from when the platform was first released 11 months ago.

While we're tempted to suggest that Nokia may have shipped that many, but the consoles are now languishing in boxes in a warehouse in Slough, the company is claiming it's actually sold a million of them.

Nokia has also signed up over 100,000 N-Gage Arena members, a service that allows gamers the chance to play against opponents from around the world. Obviously, this is only 10 percent of the N-Gage owners out there, but Nokia seems to be fairly pleased with this figure, so we won't rain on its parade.

Posted by Shiny Media on September 2, 2004 in Gaming | Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

3's got Balls



For those who like a flutter on the gees-gees, or regularly indulge their passion for scratch cards, **3** is now offering the attractively-named **Ladbroke Balls!** (charming) so gambling fans can feed their habit wherever they happen to be.

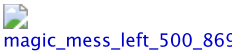
The Balls! game is already a firm favourite on the Ladbrokes.com website, apparently. It's basically a lotto-style numbers draw, with 6 balls being drawn from a total of 48 every minute, every day of the year. If you're really serious about your gambling you can bet on every minute for a 24-hour period - so up to 1440 bets in one day.

You need to be a member of Ladbrokes.com to use the service. Once signed up, you can access the game on your video mobile using your Ladbrokes log-in details. Users of the service can gamble on a variety of different outcomes, such as the number of balls of a certain colour that will be drawn, or the total of the drawn numbers.

Posted by Shiny Media on September 2, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Texting device for your home phone

If you're so antisocial you can't even be bothered to speak to people when you're calling from your home phone, **BoysStuff** is selling just the gadget for



you. The £19.25 **Magic Messenger**, which lets you send texts using your landline, means you may never have to bother talking to anyone ever again.

The unit, which plugs directly into your phone, includes a QWERTY keypad, so there's no excuses for txt spk when you message your mother to wish her happy birthday. Texts cost 10p and you just need to register with BT's Caller Display Service to get it up and running.

The phone book can store up to 95 contacts, with the last 40 numbers you texted stored automatically for future reference. Up to 10 units can be plugged into one phone line and there's a text dictionary with a selection of emoticons, to let you stick in winking smilies for those friends who don't catch the subtle ironic tone of your messages.

BoysStuff

Posted by Shiny Media on September 1, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

3 makes a deal with Emap



Here's one for the kids. **3**'s just made a deal with **Emap** that means customers can download ringtones and pictures from Emap's most popular titles. Brands such as FHM, Kiss, Kerrang!, Smash Hits!, Q, Empire, Heat, New Woman, Mojo and Mixmag.

For £2.50, you can download a selection of tunes and pictures, with 75 new selections added every week. Music from Smash Hits! and Kiss should appeal to the youth market – the ones who are responsible for keeping the ringtones and wallpapers market alive – but we're not entirely sure how popular the Mojo offerings are going to be. What are they going to come up with? Jimi Hendrix ringtones and a Fab Four picture for wallpaper? Not exactly target audience is it?

Posted by Shiny Media on August 31, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

MPx220 to include Blackberry service



It has come to our attention that Motorola's new smartphone, the MPx220, is going to come with Blackberry push emails. The quad band MS Smartphone-based handset is definitely due out later this year (despite rumours to the contrary, Motorola in the UK has just confirmed this.) It's already a pretty appealing phone, including features such as a 1.2-megapixel camera with flash and a mini-SD card, but the Blackberry functionality will add that little bit extra.

Since the lovely MPx handset appears to have been delayed indefinitely for the time being, we'll have to content ourselves with getting excited about the 220 – no great difficulty. We're easily excitable.

Moto

Posted by Shiny Media on August 27, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Smallest smartphone on sale now



The lovely Orange SPV C500 goes on sale this week. It will be available for free on some contracts up to around £80. Weighing just 100g and measuring 108 x 46 x 18mm, it both the smallest smartphone and the smallest MS Smartphone-based handset currently available.

Read

Posted by Shiny Media on August 26, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Bonusprint to kill off MMS?

The introduction of photo messaging onto UK networks two years ago was touted as the next big thing by the service providers. And while the networks themselves haven't been forthcoming with the figures, analysts reckon that the revenue from these has been more than a little disappointing.

It turns out that people in the UK like to use their phones to take photos, but they have no interest in sending those photos to all and sundry via MMS. Instead, they're just storing them on their phones to look at later, or show to friends when they see them in flesh.

Now that we're starting to see one-megapixel camera phones, companies are eager to find new ways to cash in on consumer habits. *The Guardian* has an piece on Bonusprint's new Mobile service, designed especially for mobile snappers.

The idea is that each image that you take is automatically uploaded to a personalised website (once you've downloaded the necessary software to your phone), allowing your to store and order prints online from there. Unlike MMS, which compresses the images sacrificing a little resolution, the Bonusprint image are the same resolution as when they were taken.

We have nothing but praise for the service which has been developed by UK company Cognima. The only downside is that the service is currently only available with Symbian phones like the Nokia 7610 and Sony Ericsson P900.

Cognima hopes to roll out a version for Java version later in the year.

Read the full article here.

Posted by Shiny Media on August 26, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

My M8 Fncies U

It seems if you're a teenager in the multimedia world you need to get yourself kitted out with a mobile phone if you want to get lucky while hanging around outside Blockbuster video.

According to a study conducted by the University of Oslo, teenagers who use mobile phones are more likely to have sex than their phone-free counterparts. Researchers questioned more than 10,000 teens, between the ages of 13 and 18. They discovered that 60 percent of those who use mobiles had a lot of sex, while among those who seldom or never use mobiles, only 9 percent had done the dirty deed.

Apparently, those who own mobiles also start earlier, with many of them starting at the tender age of 13. This is all due, according to researchers, to the ease with which youths can flirt and make contact with fellow teens via text message.

The report in the *The Mirror* asserts that the researchers, who questioned more than 10,000 youngsters between the age-group of 13-18, found that 60 per cent of teenagers who use mobiles a lot had sex, whereas, only nine per cent of the children who seldom or never used mobile phones had had sex.

Researchers also found that children with mobile phones often started having sex at the young age of 13. They are attributing this disturbing behaviour to the fact that children often flirt on SMS and can also make "speedy contact" with their phones.

The report in the Mirror isn't that forthcoming with the specifics, such as the actual number of those with phones having sex at 13, so we'll take this one with a pinch of salt. But if we were teenagers, we'd be off to Argos for a pay as you go at the earliest possible opportunity.

Read

Posted by Shiny Media on August 25, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Keep you girlfriend in your pocket



Ok, we know that gadget lovers have a reputation for being bereft of any social skills, but surely it hasn't come to this? Hong Kong company, **Artificial Life**, has developed a 3G "game" for the lonely 3G phone-owner: **Virtual Girlfriend**.

Based on Simms-like 3-D animated characters, the virtual girls can be contacted or spied on using a 3G phone whenever the mood takes you. The characters in the virtual world get up to all sorts while you're off in the real world: shopping, going to work, visiting friends, or just chilling out in

their virtual homes. A daily and weekly schedule guides the lives of the characters and this changes over time to keep you interested.

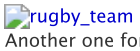
So you don't feel like a complete sad loser, watching a couple of cartoon characters on your phone all day, you can "interact" with your virtual lady friends by sending them texts and picture messages. A J2ME client will allow you to chat to the girls in real time and you can send your girlfriend/s virtual gifts to stop her from virtually cheating on you.

A Virtual Boyfriend version is being launched at the start of next year, while the Virtual Girlfriend will be available in December of this year. No doubt Virtual Husband/Wife, Virtual Children, Virtual Affair and Virtual Divorce will follow shortly. It's like some creepy update of Pygmalian.

Read

Posted by Shiny Media on August 24, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

O2 sponsors the England Rugby team


Another one for the sports fans, **O2** has just announced that it is renewing its rugby union sponsorship deal of the England team. The four year deal is worth £3 million a year to the rugby team, who swept to World Cup victory back in 2003.

O2 seems to be in the habit of backing winners, as the company also sponsors current Premiership champions Arsenal.

Posted by Shiny Media on August 24, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Footie text alerts from Carphone Warehouse

For those who can't bear the thought of having to wait until they get home to find out the footie scores this season, **The Carphone Warehouse** has come up with the winning idea of offering text alerts for all the teams you could possibly want to know about.

OK, so we admit this is hardly a new concept, but the price is right at £4.99 for the package, giving you the codes for all the teams in the Premiership right through to the Conference leagues as well as the Scottish Premier League. You just need to pick your team to get all the goals, news and fixtures sent straight to your mobile phone.

Carphone Warehouse

Posted by Shiny Media on August 24, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

MYMO kid's mobile


Soon you'll be able to set up wireless hotspots in utero and embed mobile phones directly into the ear canal at birth. In the meantime, however, there's the **MYMO** mobile phone, made especially for children between the ages of 4 and 8.

The bright coloured plastic mobile has been designed to appeal to children and, with just 3 buttons controlling all the functions, it should be easy enough for adults to work out how to use it before handing it over to their far more tech-savvy offspring.

The headset also doubles up as a necklace, so kids don't have to carry it around in a bag. Because it only works with a pay as you go SIM, parents don't have to worry about phone bills. Plus, the phone can only hold 5 pre-programmed numbers, so kids will be limited in who they can call. Loc8tion services mean you can locate the MYMO (and the child) wherever they happen to be.

The phone costs £60 with an O2 SIM card.

MYMO

Posted by Shiny Media on August 23, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

3G LG comes to 3



3's been doing a good job recently of getting some decent sized (by which we mean small) 3G phones onto its network. The **LG U8120** is its latest addition, an upgraded version of LG's U8110 video mobile that comes with some additional features.

The LG8120 has had a bit of a redesign, but it's the same dimensions and weight, measuring 96 x 50 x 23mm, and weighing 126g. The memory capacity has been increased, with 32MB of space now available for storing videos, music and photos.

The VGA camera is of the rotating variety, with self-timer and light that acts as a flash indoors. A speakerphone is also included so users can make video calls without having to involve a headset.

Read

Posted by Shiny Media on August 19, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Nokia 7610 V Sharp GX-30



The Guardian has a short-ish feature on the future of the camera phones. It looks at the pair of one mega pixel models currently on sale (**Nokia 7610** and **Sharp GX30**) and gauges whether they can give digital cameras a run for their money.

Posted by Shiny Media on August 19, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Review: Motorola V3 RAZR



We've managed to get our hands on Motorola's V3 RAZR. Here's our review of the super sleek handset.

If it's true you can never be too thin or too rich, then perhaps you should be spending all that money on something thin enough to be seen with, like the newly announced **Motorola RAZR V3**.

Out next month, it's a catwalk model among phones, anorexically just 14mm thick, and made from magnesium and aluminium, so it's light and tough. Motorola stresses that it's using aircraft-grade aluminium, whatever that means in the real world, but certainly it feels great and looks even greater. There are two screens, shortcut keys for the Internet and messages (they're engraved on the metal so you can't change that), and the usual configurable softkeys.

It's only recently Motorola has got round to putting its call and end call keys in the right places - that is, like the rest of the industry - but thankfully it was in time to prevent the V3 from having a fatal flaw. Despite the fact that it has an internal antenna, there's also room for a camera (VGA with digital 4x zoom) and Bluetooth.

Price to be confirmed, but they'd be mad if they didn't charge a load for it - it's by far the most opulent phone out there (the titanium of the Nokia 8910i notwithstanding) unless you include the Vertu. And this, at least, will cost thousands less.

David Phelan

Posted by Shiny Media on August 18, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Motorola E398 on sale now



Motorola's E398 music phone is available now for £199.99 on **T-Mobile** pay as you go. The mobile's major selling point is its built-in MP3 and MPEG4 player and the stereo speakers that's supposed to endow the handset with superior music playback.

The E398 has become one of the key handsets in T-Mobile's music download service (more about that here) which allows users to download a few tracks to their mobile handset. The E398 also includes a stereo

headset so you don't have to advertise your Britney obsession to the world.

The E398 has 5MB of internal memory and uses the new smaller-than-SD TransFlash removable storage card, available in up 128MB capacity. This will store around 34 MP3 tracks. It's also got Bluetooth and a camera with flash.

More here

Posted by Shiny Media on August 17, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Vodafone launches 3G trial in UK

It's all very well selling 3G PC cards to laptop owners, but selling 3G handsets is sure to be something of a nightmare for **Vodafone**.

Especially as the 3G handsets the company has got just can't compete with the slimmer, sexier LG and Nokia phones on offer from 3. Vodafone will also struggle to compete with the attractive price deals 3 has come up with, for if it offers those budget prices its GPRS customers are likely to be more than a little peeved.

Although the company has already launched its 3G network in Germany and Spain, Vodafone knows the UK market will prove to be a ertough nut to crack. Its cunning answer is to turn the tables and find out exactly what its punters want and expect from 3G.

So it has decided to start a consumer trial of its 3G network before rolling it out across the UK. The trial will be targeted at Vodafone Live! users with a few thousand customers in London, Birmingham, Manchester and Glasgow able to try the 3G service using either the Samsung Z105, or the Sony Ericsson Z1010.

Still, even with a huge amount of feedback Vodafone will still have to sell not very sexy handsets that offer services (video calling, video downloads) it seems consumers aren't yet ready for. Tough job.

Posted by Shiny Media on August 12, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Budget phone company from easyGroup

Master of no-frills (or should that be thrills?) airline easyJet, Stelios Haji-Ioannou, has confirmed that he is launching a budget mobile phone company to compete with the likes of Virgin and T-Mobile.

The company, which is almost certainly to be called easyMobile, is being launched in partnershop with Danish telecom, TDC, owners of a successful budget mobile company called Telmore.

If Telmore's business strategy is anything to go by, easyMobile will make its money selling just SIM cards without handsets, with customers paying bills and buying extra minutes online. All purchases will be made online as well, removing the expense of running high street stores. This technique certainly worked for Telmore, which can now claim 11 percent of the Danish market share.

The company could be in operation as early as December and, if successful, will be launched across other parts of Europe. Orange already is already girding its loins for a court battle over the use of orange in the easyMobile logo. All of easyGroup's subsidiaries use the colour, but Orange has stated that it will do whatever is necessary to protect customers, who will inevitably become confused if easyMobile use the colour (because we're all a bunch of morons, right?)

Anyway, this seems like the perfect phone company for the thieving chavs who whip mobiles from unsuspecting tourists outside the London tube stations.

http://www.easymobile.com/

Posted by Shiny Media on August 12, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

BT converts txts into speech :)

Some of the newer landline phones have texting capabilities, but if you're still using the old faithful plastic phone from the pre-privatisation days that was already in the house when you moved in, you'll have had to actually speak to someone in order to communicate.

Well actually, not any more you won't. **BT** has launched a text service that will convert texts sent from mobiles into automated speech, delivering them into voice messages. Vodafone, T Mobile, BT Mobile and 3 customers can all

send texts to landlines, while O2 should be introducing the service in the coming weeks. BT customers can send texts to mobile phones and other fixed lines already, and the text to speech service is also being licensed to Telewest and Kingston Communications.

The best thing about this service is that, apparently, smilie symbols are also somehow translated and turned into voice messages. Surely it can't be long before all the kids are holding conversations littered with spoken smilies? The mind boggles. But if the service relies on people giving up their hideous txt spk ways, we're all for it.

Posted by Shiny Media on August 11, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Pay using your mobile


FujitsuF900iC

This story will come as welcome news for the pickpockets on Oxford Street. Over in Japan, 3G mobile phone owners can now pay for things using their mobile phones, saving thieves the trouble of stealing both your phone and your wallet.

NTT DoCoMo is offering the Felica service that allows those with compatible handsets to get cash and make payments using the 3G network. The system is based on Smart card technology, with a credit card-sized smart card (developed by Sony) holds all the necessary personal information.

Some sort of subscription to the service is required before users can start binning their wallets and special readers need to be built into cash machines and tills in order to make a transaction. Data is sent securely via the 3G network and, in a bid to deter theft, handsets can be password and even fingerprint protected.

Obviously it's years before a similar service could ever reach these shores. The fact that the 3G network isn't even up and running yet is partly to blame. There's also the question of how much demand there would be for the service over here. The Japanese may see new technology as second nature, but we still know some Brits who haven't even used an ATM machine before.

Posted by Shiny Media on August 10, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Nokia to offer music downloads service


6260_02

Nokia may be lagging behind in the multimedia stakes, but the company seems intent on doing something about its slipping popularity. After Motorola's recent deal with Apple to get iTunes onto its handsets, Nokia has struck a similar deal with Loudeye.

Loudeye doesn't actually offer a music downloads service itself, but it does help other companies to set up online music stores. While this may mean that Nokia is intent on creating its own music downloads service, the chances are that it's an attempt to encourage network providers to develop their own stores. Which will in turn encourage the networks to buy more Nokia handsets.

Many of the networks, such as O2 and Orange, already offer a music download service and this is obviously something they see as a growth market worth pursuing. Offering music downloads to subscribers represents an appealing extra service to customers, as well as a nice little extra earner – especially if a company like Loudeye is doing all the hard work setting it up for you.

With phones already offering music storage and playback facilities, how long is it going to be before iPods and their ilk are an endangered species? While some manufacturers still firmly believe that people will still want to keep their gadgets separate, there's strong reasons to believe that hybridised mobile handsets will be the way forward – especially if phone companies continue to pursue that market.

Loudeye press release

Posted by Shiny Media on August 10, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Samsung outstripping Nokia



Samsung is apparently the "clear market leader" in terms of the number of its handsets that come with an integrated camera and MMS capabilities, according to EMC's latest edition of World Cellular Handset Tracker.

Research based on 17 handset markets (including the UK, Korea, China, Japan, France, Germany and the USA) reveals that Samsung currently has over 60 camera phones on sale. This compared to a paltry 18 handsets from the once-mighty Nokia.

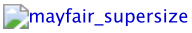
In the second quarter of 2004, Samsung launched 9 camera and MMS-enabled phones, compared to four from Motorola and three each from Nokia and Sony Ericsson.

Nokia may still be the market leader, with a global market share of 29.2 percent, but this is down from 34.9 percent and there's no doubt that the company is beginning to slip. No longer the company that has all the nicest, most up-to-date handsets, Nokia's is facing stiff competition from the likes of Motorola, Sony Ericsson and Siemens - as well as Samsung.

Read

Posted by Shiny Media on August 9, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Retro Mobile



Here's one for all the Nathan Barleys of the world. Nicholas Roope from London has hacked a load of mobile phones and added a retro handset. He then sells the handsets - which have already got him on the cover of an Italian style magazine and in the New York Times - on eBay.

Apparently, one **Pokia** (as he is calling them) has been sold to a Hollywood producer for his limo. It's a BT signal checker's handset in a grey metal box. There's a wide variety of handsets available with names like "The Peckham Cottage" and "The Holborn Exchange." The Peckham exchange just sold for £110.

Read [Via Reuters]

Posted by Shiny Media on August 6, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

V3 RAZR available now!



Well, not quite. **Motorola's** new ultra-skinny **V3 RAZR** won't be in the shops till September, but if you're desperate to get your hands on one as soon as they come out, you can pre-order one now.

Carphone Warehouse is taking pre-orders for the handset, with the price at just under £500 for a SIM-Free version. When you consider that, for that price, you can get yourself a powerful smartphone, you've probably missed the point of the RAZR.

This is not a phone for people wanting the most powerful specs and most impressive feature set. The V3 is for the fashionistas who want to be seen with the slickest looking phone around - preferably before anyone else is seen with it. The question still remains to be answered, however: are there enough of these people around to make the V3 RAZR a success?

Posted by Shiny Media on August 5, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Danger's Hiptop2 destined for UK?



Danger was always threatening to launch its **Hiptop** smartphone communicator over here in the UK. However, its remained out of reach over the Atlantic for so long that it's now been superseded by a smaller, lighter model. Perhaps the Hiptop2 will be the one to make it over, and then we can see for ourselves what all the fuss is about.

Over in the US, the Hiptop2 has just been announced for an Autumn launch by T-Mobile (renamed the Sidekick 2 for the purpose). 25 percent smaller than the first Hiptop, it measures 130 x 66 x 22mm and weighs 184g. Sliding up the front screen reveals a QWERTY

keyboard, while a new external directional pad means you can now navigate the handset with the screen down.

The built in camera has been improved and now offers VGA (640 x 480 pixels) images as well as an LED flash for close range illumination. There's 32MB of RAM and 16MB of Flash memory – although we couldn't find any mention of an expansion slot. There's also improved support for synchronisation with Outlook and Exchange.

Danger

Posted by Shiny Media on August 5, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Siemens Blackberry-equipped smartphone



Here's yet another smartphone with a built in keyboard. **Siemens** has unveiled the **SK65** with a keypad housed in the base of the phone and is rotated into position when required. Due to launch in October, the SK65, is also the first to integrate BlackBerry's push email technology, which sends messages to the phone the moment they are received on a server.

Other features include Bluetooth, Java games and video playback. The phone, which weighs 144g, is a tri-band model with 250 hours' stand by and 300 minutes' talk time.

Posted by Shiny Media on August 5, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Orange 3G card test

There's the first UK test of the new **Orange 3G** card for laptops at *The Guardian*. Orange has more developed 3G network than its main rivals, but as the reviewer discovers that network is still very much a work in progress.

Read it here

Posted by Shiny Media on August 5, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

3 steals the show from BBC



The **BBC** may have spent £105million on the Premiership football highlights, but it looks like they've had their thunder well and truly stolen by mobile phone operator, **3**. All the best bits from each of the Premiership matches will be available to 3 customers hours before they appear on BBC's *Match of the Day*.

3 customers will be able to download video highlights, including all the goals from 5.15pm on Saturdays and five minutes from the final whistle on all other days. Match of the Day doesn't air until 10.30pm, so apart from the live broadcasts of games, 3 will be showing footage from the matches first.

This has got to be a very good incentive for football fans to buy a 3 phone – even if it is shaky low-res sub-camcorder video quality. And with pretty reasonable pricing, we can see it being a pretty popular service.

Two payment options are available to 3 customers: unlimited access to match highlights costs £5 a month with 3's Sports Add-on service; while individual games highlights can be downloaded at a cost of 50p per game. The Sports Add-on package also provides access to the UEFA Champions league games and other big sporting events, such as the Olympic Games.

3 Website

Posted by Shiny Media on August 4, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Sharp GX40 on its way?

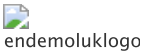
We're not usually ones to give into idle gossip here at *Tech-Digest*, but murmurings on the Internet of a possibly imminent replacement for the **Sharp GX30** have got us all excited. The GX30 is a great phone – the first megapixel camera phone on the market, SD card slot, MP3 player and a whole lot more.



So what will Sharp do with its successor (presumably called the **GX40**)? We're expecting big things, not least a 2-megapixel camera. Being able to take proper digital images on your camera may get you banned from every concert venue in town, but you might actually come away with some decent shots before being manually ejected from the premises.

Posted by Shiny Media on August 3, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Endemol taking over our mobiles



Not content with dominating our summer schedules with the likes of **Big Brother** and **Restoration**, **Endemol** has announced that it's to launch the first soap opera in the UK... for your mobile phone.

The soap, which is to follow the story of a DJ in Ibiza (how 1990's!) who has lost her identity and is trying to find it again. The fabulously misspelled "FanTESStic" will be an 80-episode comic strip that will run for 16 weeks. Followers of the story will receive an MMS of the strip every day, which will cost £1.50 for five weekly instalments.

Apparently, the soap has already been a success in Spain and is aimed at the 10- to 24-year demographic (slightly depressing for the 20-somethings to be lumped in with tweenagers). The soap has been shot with real actors and then rendered into a virtual world by computer graphics. Endemol seems confident that it will be able to flog ads on the back of it - probably as sponsorship or product placement.

Watch out for the inevitable MMS spin-offs of your favourite TV shows.

Read.

Posted by Shiny Media on August 2, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Virgin Bites back with funky Wap service

Years after Vodafone live! and O2 Active British phone network **Virgin Mobile** has finally got round to launching its own WAP service.

Only unlike its rivals it has a funky feel and is targeted at the young.

Available to all Virgin customers with a GPRS handset **Virgin Bites** promises to banish the boredom by offering a cross between a celebrity magazine and an infotainment service on the phone.

Free to customers until January 2005 Virgin Bites includes a mix of celebrity news, games and gags, plus entertainment and sports.

The service is apparently highly interactive and offers customers the chance to publish their own contributions via text or picture message.

From now on all Virgin phone will feature a Bites button.

The service is supported by a free 28 page magazine that will be shipped monthly to all Virgin customers.

Celebrity: For the latest salacious gossip on the crazy world of celebs by the BITES gossip queen, need to know tittle-tattle and latest news on who's hot and who's doing what...with whom, as well as top celebrity screensavers and wallpaper

Laughs: Get your mates to have a giggle trying one of these:
How Bizarre! Man or woman? Celebrity or wannabe? Arse or elbow? Just take a guess. Play saucy `What is it?' quiz and put your powers of observation to the test!
Beauty or Beast - This flirty interactive quiz gives you the chance to see a great looking girl or guy in various stages of undress.
Sin to Win - Got a confession to make? Then tell all! The best sin wins a top prize. And if you love secrets, you can have the juiciest ones sent straight to your phone.
Pulling Pal - On the pull? Get chat-up lines, icebreakers and flirt tips so good, the opposite sex will be powerless to resist your charms. And if you need rescuing - get a crafty excuse sent straight to your phone and leave!
Strange But True facts - Your encyclopaedia of trivia. Bring a little joy and happiness to everyone's day with a well-placed fascinating fact.

Music: Three hot channels dedicated to Urban, Dance & Indie. Find out the latest tracks, news and gossip, club and gig listings and recommendations, reviews, voting and competitions, and the latest ringtones.

News and Views: Includes tips on the next big thing in Most Wanted and weekly customer polls - Which trainers are funky? What's the most popular

colour this season?

Sport: A humorous take on the latest sports news and results plus the latest java games. Get the best guide going to the new Premiership season. Who are the newbies to watch? Who has the wildest fans?

Posted by Shiny Media on July 30, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

3 to offer video downloads

T-Mobile, Orange and O2 all already offer music download services via mobile phones, but **3** has gone a step further today by announcing that it is to start a mobile video jukebox. In what could be the future for downloads services, 3 customers will be able stream the latest music videos straight to their video phones.

This is the first time a service like this has been available in the UK, which goes live on 2nd August. As well as the music videos, users will also be able to watch the latest video releases via "Today on 3" - the live mobile news and entertainment channel that launched back in March.

3 has paired up with record label, BMG to provide the service, so users will no doubt be subjected to a torrent of lite pop courtesy of the likes of Dido, Britney, Justin Timberlake and Will Young. Music videos will cost £1.50, either as QuickPlay live streaming, or as a download. There's also the option of paying £10 a month for unlimited services.

Posted by Shiny Media on July 29, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

T-Mobile launches newspaper

So is it time to ditch your newspaper and catch up with the latest news and goss on your Mobi? **T-Mobile** thinks so. It has just launched what it is billing as the first newspaper for phone users.

Slated to cost £6 per month, although it is free until October, the **News Express** service features news, sports and entertainment gossip along with regional weather maps of the UK.

The news is actually pushed to your phone (there are two editions one in the morning and one in the evening) and stored on it. So unlike Wap pages you don't have to go on line to access it, which makes it great for place with no mobile coverage like the tube.

The company hopes to extend the service so it offers editions of proper newspapers online. Maybe soon you'll be able to customise the paper too taking Guardian news coverage, Mirror Sport and, ahem Tech Digest technology reports.

So far the service is only compatible with Symbian phones like the Nokia 7610 and 6600 and Sony Ericsson P900 although it will be available on Microsoft and Java-based phones next year.

We think the service works pretty well, and we like the way the paper (it is the first UK use of Macromedia Flash on a phone) is put together. Subsidising the paper through advertising and bringing the price down would help make it a very worthwhile feature.

Posted by Shiny Media on July 29, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

New 3 phone from NEC



The **NEC e228** has just been announced for the 3G network operators, **3**. Although the UK wing of the company hasn't confirmed a definite launch date. Fittingly, 3 different colours are available for the video mobile phone - silver, white and blue. The e228 is the upgrade for the 313 and is smaller and lighter than its predecessor, weighing 125g.

The 313 might not have set many gadget lovers hearts racing, but it has been a huge seller in the UK on account of the fact that it is one of the cheapest pay as you go handsets.

The phone boasts two cameras - one on the front and one on the back, allowing you to make video calls and snap pictures. A Sony Memory Stick Duo slot is enabled for up to 128MB if the 19MB of internal memory doesn't suffice.

All NEC's 3 phones are constantly connected to the Internet and you can synchronise it with your computer to get your Outlook Calendar and other PC apps.
More specs:

40 tones polyphonic ring signals
Downloading capacity of 384 kbps
Video calls, MMS
Java games
Support for video streaming
Media player (video and sound)
Speaker phone
Battery time: 132 h Standby, 136 min voice, 106 min video
Weight: 125 g
Size: 129×53×21,5 mm
Volume: 120 cc
Colours: Silver, white, and blue

Posted by Shiny Media on July 28, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

HP goes launch crazy



HP has announced four new iPAQ models, the most interesting of which is the company's **h6340** smartphone. The Pocket PC-based smartphone is obviously designed to be a direct competitor for O2's xda II, and comes with quad-band GSM/GPRS, WLAN and Bluetooth.

Judging by the pics, we're not convinced that the h6340 is going to be good enough to loosen the xda II's grasp on the smartphone market - especially not if the rumours about the xda III are to believed.

The design is pretty boxy - and that protruding aerial leaves a lot to be desired. It uses a 200 MHz Texas Instruments OMAP 1510 processor, compared to the 400MHz Intel PXA263 processor on the xda. The 64MB of memory can't compete with the xda II's 128MB, but the VGA camera and 16-bit TFT display match the xda II's.

The other PDAs announced are the high-end **iPAQ hx4700**, the consumer-friendly **iPAQ rx3000** series, and the entry-level **rz1710**. Expect to see them in the UK in September. The h6340 should cost around £470 SIM-Free.

Posted by Shiny Media on July 28, 2004 in Mobile phones | PDAs
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Motorola MPx220 finally confirmed

mpx220

Along with the launch of the **V3 RAZR**, **Motorola** also finally confirmed the release of the **MPx220**, the company's upgraded smartphone.

The MPx220 looks likely to be an improvement on the MPx200, the company's previous Windows Mobile clamshell. The MPx220 has added the features lacking in its predecessor, namely: a 1.23 megapixel camera and Bluetooth capabilities. There's also a miniSD card slot and 10MB of available memory. It will be available at the end of Q3 which in our book means October.

Judging by this news release, it also sounds like the MPx220 is going to have RIM's Blackberry capabilities as well. Having push emails is likely to make it a far more tempting prospect. Having said that, most of the handset manufacturers seem to be jumping on the Blackberry bandwagon at the moment (the latest rumblings are coming from the Siemens corner), so it might not be such a unique selling point after all.

Motorola

Posted by Shiny Media on July 28, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Motorola super slim RAZR phone



In terms of iconic phone designs, **Motorola** certainly leads the way and it looks like the company has just done it again with the release of the **V3 RAZR**.

The clamshell phone is incredibly slim – just 14mm – which is about a third of the depth of rival phones like the Sharp GX30 and Motorola V600. It is also very slight weighing in at a very pocket-friendly 95g.

Motorola has also pulled off some pretty neat tricks with the keypad which features illuminated keys sitting flush on the casing. Amazingly, the keys are incredibly easy to use.

The internal 2.2-inch TFT screen has support for 260k colours, and the external display is also in colour.

Motorola has managed to squeeze in a VGA camera as well as Class 1 Bluetooth technology. MPEG4 Video playback, along with a 3D graphics engine, means it's not too shabby on specs – although obviously the slim design means it's not the most fully featured phone on the market.

No pricing info as yet, but expect it to be at the top end of the market when it launches in October.

More on the Motorola website.

Posted by Shiny Media on July 27, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Siemens gets on its bike



Funny, as the UK government has outlawed talking on a mobile phone while driving a car, we'd kind of thought the same rules would apply to other modes of road transport.

Apparently not. In fact **Siemens** is positively encouraging cyclists to make and receive calls while on their bikes by offering a super-tough mobile handset the **M65**, which comes with an optional Bike-O-Meter.

The phone itself is finished in metal and rubber and is designed to withstand a knock or two as well as coping with splashes of water and puffs of dust. It also sports a toughened, hard to scratch screen.

Features include a VGA camera with a 5x zoom and an attachable flash, triple band facilities, a 65k colour screen and a range of pre-installed games.

The bit cyclists will be most interested in is that it can be bought with a £39.99 **Bike-O-Meter** that includes a mobile holder that functions as cyclometer displaying information such as distance travelled and speed. All this info can apparently be downloaded to a PC.

Sadly the phone doesn't include a speaker or come with a hands-free kit, so let's hope that, just like the rest of us, cyclists pull over when their ringtone goes.

The phone and Bike-O-Meter are on sale now via **O2**.

Posted by Shiny Media on July 21, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

XDA III, or is that XDA IV?

When push comes to shove our favourite connected PDA of recent times is the **O2 XDA II**. We like its size, ease of use, upgradeability and big screen for web surfing. An Opera web browser (which is so much better than Internet surfing than Pocket Explorer) and a push e-mail for the XDA II would make us very happy, though we are told these aren't far way.



It isn't just us in the XDA II fan club though. According to **O2**, which incidentally unveiled some pretty impressive figures today (click here for more) the XDA 2 accounts for more than third of the UK wireless handheld market.

Not entirely sure what O2 means by that. In its release it says 'Handheld device is defined as a pocket-sized device aimed primarily for data and integrated wireless communications.' So does this include the Sony Ericsson P900, Orange Treo, Nokia smartphones? Only O2 knows.

As the device is selling so well O2 now has something of a problem. That's because HTC, the Taiwanese company that makes the devices, has already lined up what should in theory become the **XDA III**.

The new model is similar to the XDA II, yet includes integrated Wi-Fi, twice the amount of storage and a pull down QWERTY keyboard.

Overall it sounds like a pretty impressive upgrade. However, the first XDA IIIs which are wearing T-Mobile's colours are about to go on sale in Germany as the **MDA III**, have received pretty indifferent reviews. Apparently the keyboard is rubbish, the battery life is severely tonked by the Wi-Fi and reviewers are a little miffed that HTC hasn't upgraded the screen.

So O2 may choose not to slay its golden goose and miss out on the XDA III all together.

Instead O2 might plump for the next generation XDA which was unveiled recently by HTC. The XDA IV, which O2 may confusingly call the XDA III, also features Wi-Fi, the keyboard and more storage, only this time it will have a better screen, faster processor, and crucially be compatible with 3G networks. It ought to have a mega pixel camera too.

Sadly it won't be available anywhere until at least early 2005.

Posted by Shiny Media on July 21, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

One month standby phone from Philips



Philips has taken an Okey-cokey attitude to the mobile phone market, in that it has been in, out and shaken it all about more times than anyone could care to remember.

There are signs that it is taking it seriously though with its latest release the **650**. The small business-like clamshell boasts battery life of an astonishing one month - way more than most of its rivals. Talk time at 8.5 hours is pretty good too.

Another neat feature is a TV link accessory which enables viewer to see images stored on the phone on their TV set. This would be much more useful though if the phone had an integrated snapper - instead there's a camera accessory that can be attached to it.

We also like the phone's OLED front display and its perky, bit relatively sensible styling.

It is available across Europe, though knowing Philips not necessarily the UK, in September.

Posted by Shiny Media on July 21, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

O2 re-invents the X1

After all the controversy surrounding the **X1** handset (we've received hundreds of complaints here at TD Towers) you might have thought that UK network **O2** would have been happy to put that particular phone behind it.



It seems not for the company is lining up a new version of the X1, called the **X1i**, for launch in September.

To be fair the phones have little in common other than the fact they both sport cameras and are very competitively priced.

They even have a different shape as the X1i is also a chocolate bar style phone - a little bit like the Sony Ericsson T610 - whereas the X1 was a clamshell.

Other features include a 65k colour screen, tri-bad facilities (so it works in the US), and simple access to O2's Wap portal O2 Active.

The X1i costs £69.99 for Pay & Go customers or free for Pay monthly contract customers and is in UK O2 stores and from O2 Online.

Posted by Shiny Media on July 21, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

SMS know-it-all

Ever woken up in the night wondering what the meaning of life is? Whether all religions lead to God or how they get jam into the middle of doughnuts? Well thanks to a new text message service your beauty sleep can now be undisturbed.

Any Questions Answered, which can be contacted by texting queries to 63336, reckons its can deliver an answer to any question within ten minutes of you asking it.

In what must be painfully slow news week at the Mirror, journalist Damien Fletcher spent several hours asking the service everything from why the weather is rubbish at the moment to whether Nancy should dump Sven.

You can read the service's replies here.

Personally we want to know if Patrick Vieira is really going to leave Arsenal, oh and Keira Knightley's mobile phone number might be useful too.

Posted by Shiny Media on July 19, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Sony Ericsson's youth phone

Sony Ericsson's final phone of the day is a mini candy bar style handset aimed at the youth market.

Chocka with multimedia type facilities the **K500** has been designed so that when its owners take images using its VGA camera they can hold the phone horizontally as they would a traditional camera. The camera also features an integrated 4x digital zoom and Sony Ericsson's QuickShare facility which apparently speeds taking and sending images.

The small-ish phone features a 1.9inch TFT 65k colour screen. Underneath this is an array of small buttons and a multi-way joystick designed to enhance the phone's gaming facilities.

Other features include 12MB of memory and Sony Ericsson's new PlayNow service that is designed to speed up the downloading of ringtones.

The K500 goes on sale in the UK, and across the world, in the autumn.

Posted by Shiny Media on July 15, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)



Mini Windows clamshell comes to UK



Mitac is to bring its **Mio 8390** smartphone to the UK.

A clamshell phone not dissimilar in size to the Motorola Mpx200 the Mio 8390 runs Microsoft Smartphone 2003 operating system to deliver applications such as Outlook, Pocket Explorer and Windows Media player.
The phone, which is fairly light at 125g, sports a 256k colour main screen with a second LCD display on its fascia.

Other key facilities include 16 MB SDRAM, 32 MB ROM an MMC/SD card slot, Java, voice dialing and a Intel PXA262 200MHz CPU.

Similar to the Motorola MPx200 it doesn't feature Bluetooth; however unlike that handset it does at least boast a VGA camera. Motorola's next Windows Mobile handset, the MPx220 which will debut in the autumn features both Bluetooth and a 1.3 mega pixel camera.

There's no details yet on the Mio's price or which network is taking it.

Posted by Shiny Media on July 15, 2004 in Mobile phones
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Sony Ericsson's EDGE phone

Sony Ericsson's launch today wasn't solely about smartphones. The company also unveiled the **S710a** and the **Z500** – versions of existing camera phones that have the added bonus of EDGE technology.

EDGE is a variant of 3G that enables users to download data at speeds of to 240 kbps (3G in the UK is 384kbps) and uploads speeds of 120kbps.

The S710a is aimed at the American market while the Z500 is slated for Europe and Asia.
So far none of the networks have expressed a great deal of interest in launching EDGE in the UK.

Sony Ericsson also paraded a pair of Bluetooth headsets, the HBH-660 and HBH-300. Both are due to go on sale in September.

Posted by Shiny Media on July 15, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)



Sony Ericsson smartphone now with keyboard



Sony Ericsson today unveiled the **P910**, the latest in its series of top-end Symbian smartphones.

Due in September the P910 is very similar in terms of features and form factor to its predecessor the P900 except for a pair of key new upgrades.

The most important is that It now boasts a full QWERTY keyboard on the reverse of its flip-open number pad.

This makes the P910 the most complete handset for data entry with users able to type using the keyboard, enter data via its handwriting recognition application or use the phone's T9 system.

The new handset is also compatible with a wide range of push e-mail systems (these automatically send an e-mail to a phone the moment it arrives on an ISP's server) including market leaders BlackBerry and Smartner.

For what it's worth we found the keys too small to type accurately and quickly. However one of the female members of the TD team, with more slender thumbs, rattled through several lines of text very quickly.
Overall though the keypad clearly isn't a patch on that offered by the Treo 600 or even the Blackberry.
The other key upgrade is that whereas the P900 sports a 65k colour screen, the P910 now has a much more impressive 262K screen.

Sony Ericsson has also expanded the internal memory of the phone from 32Mb to 64MB and bundled the device with a 32MB Memory Stick Duo storage card.

As the handset runs using Symbian V7.0 operating system it is compatible with a wide range of phone applications. The company has included a host of these on the phone including the acclaimed Opera Mobile HTML web page browser, Avantgo for offline browsing and Wayfinder, which, when connected to a Bluetooth GPS receiver turns the phone into a satellite navigation system.

Posted by Shiny Media on July 15, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Sony Ericsson 3G phone's August launch



Carphone Warehouse has announced it is to begin selling **Sony Ericsson's** first **3G** phone, the **Z1010,** next month. Yet it is still not entirely sure which 3G network it will be paired with. With Orange announcing that its consumer 3G launch details won't be before September, Vodafone or Three are the obvious choices.

The Z1010, which features person-to-person video calling, video download and playback, an MP3 player and Bluetooth, is likely to partner Samsung's Z105 as Vodafone's launch 3G phone in the UK.

A recent sample of the phone sent to What Cellphone magazine featured access to Vodafone's 3G version of its Live! portal.

The Z1010 may also be available via Three too. Yet why the rush of interest in a phone that is been around for a year and a half beats us.

More from Carphone

Posted by Shiny Media on July 15, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Orange 3G plans in detail



The jury is still out as to which mobile phone network will be the second to launch in the UK after the trailblazing Three.

While the hot money is still on **Vodafone**, **Orange** has recently been outlining its **3G** strategy while giving details of its upcoming handsets and PC cards.

Last week in London Orange took the wraps off its 3G plans unveiling a high speed data (384 kbps) 3G/GPRS laptop PC card for both consumers and business users.

Yet in spite of delivering 3G after both Vodafone and Three Orange's execs insisted that the network was in no way playing catch up.

'We have got 3G right in every area,' argued Orange UK's exec VP John Allwood. 'In terms of coverage, roaming and the product itself we are offering the best service. Sixty six per cent of the population are able to access the network. It will be 90% by mid-2005. This is more than Vodafone which currently only has 42% coverage.'

Orange is also offering a slightly more competitive pricing structure than its rival with users charged £20 per month to download up to 65MB of data - 15MB more than Vodafone's similarly priced package.

There's also a pay as you consume tariff that works out at £2 per MB and an unlimited download tariff for £75 per month. Although this 'unlimited download' actually has a cap of one Gigabyte per month.

Roaming fees, for when the service is used outside of the UK start at £8 per MB, while the price of the card ranges from £225-85 depending on which tariff is chosen.

A joint 3G/Wi-Fi card will arrive soon while a 3G card boasting download speeds of an astonishing two Mbps is slated for next summer.

Sadly upload speeds are likely to remain a sluggish 64 kbps for some time.

The network was, however, not keen on giving too much away about the roll out of 3G services to consumers.

Online did manage to grab a sneaky play with the two 3G phones Orange is likely to launch in September. The hero handset, LG's U8150, is virtually identical to the U8100, a small (for 3G) clamshell that has been hugely successful for Three. It scores over almost all its 3G rival in terms of size, battery performance and usability.

Less impressive is the Sony Ericsson Z1010, which offers a solid range of facilities including XHTML web browsing, person to person video calling and POP3 email compatibility, yet is housed in a rather bulky clamshell case. It is widely rumoured that the Z1010 will also be one of Vodafone's launch 3G handsets.

Investing in a 3G card for a laptop PCs is an obvious upgrade for mobile business users. However selling 3G handsets to consumers will prove a much trickier proposition.

Orange, and its rival networks, not only have to market core 3G applications such as person to person video calling and video downloads/streams of

football matches and music videos. They also need to persuade customers to swap existing quality GPRS phones for larger, less attractive 3G handsets with poorer battery life.

Factor in the need to compete with Three's very aggressive pricing and it is no wonder both Vodafone and Orange opted for the business 3G proposition first.

They have to launch 3G to consumers in the UK at some point, but it'll be a brave network that goes first.

Posted by Shiny Media on July 13, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Moto's second Windows smartphone

mpx220

Motorola's second Windows Mobile-based clamshell phone will be launched in the UK in the autumn. The **MPx220** features a 1.3 megapixel camera with a 3x zoom and flash, Bluetooth and 64MB Flash Rom, as well as Microsoft applications such as Outlook, Windows Media and Pocket Explorer.

Moto's previous Windows Moble clamshell, the MPx200, was a very impressive handset that was slightly compromised by its lack of a camera and Bluetooth.

Posted by Shiny Media on July 8, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

2Mbps 3G broadband to go card from Orange

One quick postscript to this morning's **Orange 3G** launch. Apparently Orange's 3G card for laptop PCs is the first of a series.

Later in the year it is promising a joint 3G and Wi-Fi card made, we are guessing here, by either Nokia or Motorola.

The really exciting news though is that coming next year is a **3G card** with download speeds of **2 Mbps**. Yes you read that right. The card will work at four times faster than the average British broadband connection. It apparently uses the HSDPA version of UMTS (3G) technology.

The company seemed at a loss to imagine what mobile workers will do with all that extra speed though, citing only that it would be very useful business travelers downloading huge files.

Here's hoping that it offers faster upload speeds (as opposed to the impressive 384kbps downloads) than the PC card it launched today, which runs at a pathetic 64kbps

Posted by Shiny Media on July 1, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Siemens SX1 with integrated music player



The gloves are off in the mobile phone music market. Just as T-Mobile announces its somewhat strange two-minute music download service, O2 responds with details of its long awaited integrated 02 music player. The limited edition **Siemens SX1** mobile will feature a built in **02 Digital Music** player so you don't need to use a separate device to download tracks.

Built into the SX1 is 128Mb of memory, allowing storage of up to 128 full length tracks. It also comes with an integrated VGA camera, video and audio player, FM radio, MultiMedia card slot and tri-band functionality. It is available for £79.99 or will be free on selected pay monthly tariffs.

Launched in November 2003, 02's music download service offers 100,000 tracks from Sony Music, Warner, Universal, BMG and several independents.

Posted by Shiny Media on July 1, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Orange confirms 3G launch for UK

Orange today firmed up the details of the **UK** launch of its **3G** service.

We've posted the press release below, but the main points are



Mobile Office Card: first 3G product launched across UK in July
FreeMove alliance: roaming in Spain, Italy and Germany at launch
SonyEricsson and LG named as first 3G handset vendors in UK & FR

Orange is also claiming the most extensive integrated GPRS/3G networks going with over 60% of the population covered.

It'll be interesting to see how the card differs from Vodafone's 3G pc card offering.

There's a full report from today's conference plus mini reviews of the phones, cards etc in next Thursday's Guardian.

ORANGE LAUNCHES UK?s LARGEST INTEGRATED HIGH-SPEED 3G NETWORK

· Mobile Office Card: first 3G product launched across UK in July
· FreeMove alliance: roaming in Spain, Italy and Germany at launch
· SonyEricsson and LG named as first 3G handset vendors in UK & FR

London. 1 July 2004. Orange, the mobile arm of the France Telecom Group, today

announced the launch of its first next generation high-speed network, products

and tariffs, designed to take its UK customers toward a ?mobile broadband?

experience across the largest integrated network in the country.

At launch on 19 July, Orange will have the most extensive integrated 2.5/3G

network in the UK, with 66% of the population covered by its high-speed network,

ensuring that even if customers move out of 3G coverage, they will not lose

their connection to the network. Orange has 3G coverage in major cities

including London, Manchester, Edinburgh, Bristol, Belfast, Glasgow, Sheffield,

Birmingham, Liverpool, Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Leeds. Orange will also be taking

advantage of its position within the FreeMove alliance, giving UK business

customers the ability to access 3G services in Spain, Italy and Germany at

launch, as well as the 3G network of Orange in France. Orange and its FreeMove

partners have licences in 14 markets across Europe.

Orange is developing a range of business services, leveraging the high-speed

network, to give companies a faster and more productive way to work on the move.

The first of these to market will be the 3G Mobile Office Card in the UK.

Targeted at corporate and small business customers, it will be available to buy

in the UK from 19 July, complete with a transparent tariff structure and

offering speeds of up to 384 kbps. Already tried and tested by over 60 corporate

and medium-sized businesses (over 500 individual users) in the UK, it comes

complete with an easy-to-use ?dashboard? interface and will be compatible with

the majority of laptop PC?s offering faster access to email, the Internet and

intranet services as well as specific sales-force and business critical company

information.

Orange will be launching its next generation services in France this Autumn

(2004) with coverage available in over 20 cities. Almost 5,000 Orange customers

in France are already trialling video calling, video messaging, video answerphone, fixed-to-mobile video calls, web conferencing and live video services in many cities across France, including Toulouse, Lille, Bordeaux and Cannes.

Sanjiv Ahuja, CEO of the Orange Group, said: ?With the launch of our first high-speed network, we?ve begun to light up our map of Europe. This is a milestone event for our customers, for Orange, and for the entire France Telecom Group. We are now mobilising the broadband experience, delivering world class products and services across our high-speed networks throughout Europe, leveraging the experience we have gained through trials with thousands of customers in the wireless environment, as well as the five years experience the group has gained providing fixed broadband services.?

He added: ?Today brings us a vital step closer to realising our vision of a truly integrated communication offering, giving our customers simple and convenient ways to access the people, places and content they want.?

The Orange 3G Mobile Office Card solution utilises the Merlin U530? data Wireless PC Modem Card from Lucent Technologies and Novatel Wireless. It offers an intuitive software interface which is used to access high-speed, wide area, wireless connectivity on the UMTS network. A range of competitive tariffs will be available from Orange in the UK, including a flat rate tariff for just £75 per month. The 3G Mobile Office Card is available from £85 (excluding VAT). See appendix for full tariff details.

Business customers will benefit from the support of a ?3G data card start-up team? who are tasked with ensuring that the 3G Mobile Office Card is correctly activated and configured to work smoothly with a company?s own network and security systems. Once up and running, ongoing 24-hour customer support will be available from a new specialist data support team. The Orange 3G Mobile Office Card is the first solution of an extensive range of products and services for corporate customers which will be launched this year across Europe as part of France Telecom?s integrated ?Business Everywhere? offering.

John Allwood, Executive Vice-President of Orange UK, said: ?The Orange network in the UK now provides our customers with the most comprehensive integrated 3G coverage in the country, as well as the best value tariffs available and services that can be used in more places than with any other network.?

?We began testing our next generation network in Bristol five years ago. Back then, Orange became the first mobile company to make a call across a next-generation network. Now, with half a decade of rigorous testing and experience behind us, we are launching our new services to customers offering them the most effective, compelling and integrated solution available.

?By focusing on every aspect of the customer?s interaction with us, we are

setting the industry bench-mark, delivering the best network coverage, the

smoothest network handover, transparent pricing, fast access to compelling

services and the most comprehensive after-sales care.?

The Orange 3G Mobile Office Card will be compatible with the majority of laptops

PC?s, providing the flexibility and choice Orange business customers require.

Nick Eades, Marketing Director for Fujitsu Siemens Computers Ltd, said: ? The

growth of mobile data solutions based on new 3G services is certain to enable

competitive advantage for many businesses. Early experiences of our LIFEBOOK?

range of notebook computers confirms the levels of performance and simplicity of

operation from the Orange 3G package which users have been waiting for.?

Orange will be launching next generation handsets and services in the UK and

France later in the year, with SonyEricsson and LG announced as its first 3G

handset vendors.

ends

Appendix

Orange UK Tariffs for 3G data usage

	Pay as you consume	Low	Medium	High	Unlimited
Data Card (ex. VAT)		£255	£170	£128	£110	£85
Monthly access fee		n/a	£10	£20	£45	£75
Monthly bundle (Mb)		n/a	7Mb	65Mb	400Mb	n/a (fair usage*)
Out of bundle rates (per Mb)		£2.00	£1.50	£1.00	£0.50	n/a

* Fair usage policy: up to 1 Gb per month

Posted by Shiny Media on July 1, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Now its music downloads via your mobile



As we have been predicting for some time, **T-Mobile** has joined Orange and O2 in offering music downloads direct to mobile phones. Its **Music Jukebox** service went live this week offering users 500 truncated tracks (they are about two minutes long) to choose from.

T-Mobile's player is integrated into a range of phones and the company has promised to have 250,000 full length tracks available with a large number of Muisic Jukebox equipped handsets for Christmas.

Bizarrely T-Mobile's subscribers in the UK pay £1.50 per two minute track, a third more than subscribers in the network's home German market who will pay 1.50 Euros and much more than PC-based download services.

O2 has responded by announcing that its first handset to access its digital music service will reach the stores in August. Its Digital Music Player software has been incorporated into the tiny Siemens smartphone the SX1.

O2 is way ahead of its rivals in terms of tracks with up to 100,000 ready for download.

There's more on this story here from The Guardian.

Posted by Shiny Media on July 1, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Orange spoils cross-channel ferry fun



We don't get out much at Tech Digest, but when we do we sure know how to have a good time.

An old favourite of ours used to be playing mobile phone Russian Roulette on cross-channel ferries. The game involves everyone placing their mobis on a table and watching to see which network on which phone is the last to disappear. The unlucky owner of that handset is then dispatched the bar to get the drinks in. Believe us Euro 2004 penalty shoot-outs can't touch it for nail-biting tension, honest.

Anyway trust **Orange** to spoil our fun. As from now its customers on customers on cross-channel ferries can make voice calls and use GPRS data services all the way over to France. The phone company is rolling out the service exclusively on **SeaFrance's** range of ships which operate on the Dover to Calais route.

There is a bit of a downside though. Orange has split the channel in two with Orange UK subscribers charged standard UK call rates until the vessel reaches the mid-way point between the two countries. Thereafter they are transferred to Orange France and pay pricier international roaming tariffs to make and receive calls.

Posted by Shiny Media on June 30, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Blackberry's Euro rival targets consumers

smartner While we love the idea of the Blackberry and especially its push e-mail systems which makes collecting messages on your phone the same as picking up your text messages, we certainly wouldn't give it its rather nasty looking devices home space.

We are mightily cheered to discover this week that Blackberry's big European rival in the push e-nail field, Smartner is rolling out a version of its Duality e-mail system for Euro consumers.

Starting in August for just 4 Euros a month you can have e-mail pushed to your message inbox on any Symbian or Windows Mobile smartphone.

The system is also going to be incorporated into future versions of Sony Ericsson's P900 smartphone and Smartner is also angling for deals with European networks.

Cleverly all the actions of the Duality are duplicated on the user's main desktop PC, so, for example, if a user chooses to delete a message on their handset it is also deleted on their computer.

Versions of the Duality Always-on system are already available to business individuals and companies.

More from here

Posted by Shiny Media on June 30, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Orange SPVs reviewed



The Guardian takes a sneak peek at the two SPV smartphones from **Orange**, the tiny **SPV C500** and the XDA 2 clone the SPV M1000.

Read the reviews here

Posted by Shiny Media on June 30, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Another LG handset for Three?



It has been rumoured for some time now that **Three** is about to deliver yet another new **LG** handset. Buoyed by the success of the **U8100**, which for a while was the UK's best selling mobile phone, even out selling that other consumer electronics colossus the iPod, Three is apparently set to deliver the **LG U8120**.

Already on sale to Three's subscribers in Hong Kong the U8120 keeps its predecessor tiny (for a 3G phones clamshell styling, and mirrors almost all its features (POP3 e-mail, 65k colour screen, VGA camera etc). The key difference is that the upgraded model has much more storage, thereby addressing the weak point of the U8110.

Looks like another winner to us.

Posted by Shiny Media on June 30, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Orange 3G launch imminent

Big day for **Orange** tomorrow with the UK launch of its **3G** service for consumers. The service wad due to be up and running earlier in the year, but problems with the handsets delayed its delivery.

Quite what Orange will major on remains to be seen. 3G for consumers seems to be a technology without a killer application. As Three has discovered person to person video calling hasn't chimed with the UK population, and unfortunately for Orange, its rivals seem have to snapped up the best sports video content.

It'll be interesting also to see which handset Orange leads with. It appears that the **LG U8110** which has been a huge hit for Three, will be one of its key phones along with a model from Motorola.

Click here for the launch details Orange gave in February

Posted by Shiny Media on June 30, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Sharp camera phone first with optical zoom



It is always worth keeping tabs on what **Vodafone** is up to in Japan, largely because what it launches there tends to find its way over to Europe a year later.

So we note with interest that **Sharp** has unveiled a new camera phone that's the first in the world with an optical zoom.

As any photographer will tell you digital zooms are largely a waste of time. Optical zooms however do let users get closer to subjects without sacrificing too much image quality.

The phone, the **V602SH**, is surprise, surprise, a clamshell models that features a two mega pixel camera. Another neat feature is the 'Swivel Style' design that allows the LCD screen to be reversed 180 degrees.

A rather more frightening facility is that the V602SH boasts a karaoke mode that enables its owner to hook the phone up to a TV for sing-along sessions. Also on boards is a music player and Bowlingual's wonderful dog bark translator.

We reckon that Vodafone will have one more major Sharp GPRS camera phone launch before it really starts to shove subscribers in the direction of 3G. So, maybe the Sharp GX40, due for arrival in, let's hazard a guess, Spring 2005, will feature a two mega pixel snapper and an optical zoom.

Posted by Shiny Media on June 30, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Japanese reinvent payphone

The Guardian reports that the Japanese have re-invented the concept of the pay phone.

NTT DoCoMo has unveiled four new handsets that will allow users to pay for lunch, go to the theatre, book a flight or even open their front doors using their mobile phones. The handsets have an integrated **FeliCa** smart card from Sony. Customers can pay for things wirelessly by holding their mobiles next to compatible cash registers and vending machines. The payment is then taken directly from the user's bank account or charged to a credit card.

So far, about 40 suppliers are supporting the system, including All Nippon Airways, am/pm convenience stores, and McDonald's. DoCoMo is planning to license the technology to other mobile phone operators. Sony's FeliCa is already used in transport applications around the world, including the Hong Kong underground.

Posted by Shiny Media on June 28, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Siemens' new slider



As reported a few weeks back **Siemens** has unveiled the successor to its popular SL55 phone. Due in August, the **SL65** keeps its predecessor's design, including its slide-down flap, which features the phone's keypad, but adds more features. These include a VGA camera with a 5x digital zoom, attachable flash, video capture, Java for downloads and a 64K colour screen.

The SL65 is apparently a touch bigger than the SL55, and according to our spies at the glitzy launch in Barcelona last week, not quite as sexy as its predecessor either. Siemens has also had its thunder stolen a bit by the Samsung's SGH-E800 which is a similar phone in a similar form factor. We quite like the concept of the attachable flash though.

Posted by Shiny Media on June 28, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Becks in divorce? (from Vodafone not Posh)



We certainly don't like to kick a man when he's down, but it appears England's off-form footy captain, **David Beckham** may soon be a few pounds poorer. It is rumoured that **Vodafone**, who pays Becks 31 million a year to plug its camera phones, is not sure whether to renew the contract.

Maybe it is thinking of offering the gig to some big-eared jolly-faced scouse teenager.

Life's tough at the top David...

Posted by Shiny Media on June 28, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Will the mobile phone kill the iPod?



And on the day that Apple's iTunes music download service launches in the UK comes news from Japan which could spell the beginning of the end for the iPod.

If, like us, you are fed up of lumbering round with a pocket full of gadgets, be cheered. For you'll soon be able to jettison your PDA and your iPod and just take your mobile phone with you.

For the word on the streets of Tokyo is that **mini hard disk drives less than one inch in size** with storage capacities of as much as **20Gigabytes** will soon be incorporated into **mobile phones**.

According to JP Morgan's Japanese analyst Kazuyo Katsuma a phone capable of storing thousands of music track and images could be hitting the Tokyo market as early as spring 2005.

The hard disk devices will also store video footage as many new Japanese phones now incorporate TV tuners.

The arrival of a hard disk in a phone is what we European gadget freaks have been waiting for. Over the next few years we will have TV tuners, video recorders and three mega pixel cameras in phones. All the phones needed was a decent amount of storage and that's where Tosh, Seagate and Hitach, who will all have sub one inch hard disks available by the end of the year, step in.

Having effectively killed off the PDA is the smartphone now going to capture the personal music market? Well, in the US they might have a slightly different take, but in Europe it seems like a dead cert.

Posted by Shiny Media on June 15, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Nokia's 3G take three



Nokia is upping the ante in the 3G phone market once again. With LG selling huge quantities of its 8110 in the UK and Motorola and Samsung with new phones on the horizon **Nokia** has responded by unveiling its third 3G handset the 6630.

Billed as the world's smallest 3G mega pixel camera phone, the **6630** boasts a form factor not unlike Nokia's 3660 - the key difference that it is slightly smaller than that rather bulky handset.

The 6630 is also Nokia's first 3G handset to feature the video calling facility so beloved of both Three and Vodafone. Other facilities include a 1.3 mega pixel camera, Symbian OS with Series 60 smartphone interface including e-mail, 74Mb storage, MP3 player, Realone video player and Bluetooth.

Annoyingly the phone features an MMC, rather than SD card slot.

Our first impression is that the handset's screen looks great, but we aren't entirely convinced by either the design or the small-ish odd shaped keypad.

It is probably best seen as a 3G upgrade to the Nokia 6600 another phone with a design we weren't especially impressed by.

Nokia launched four other phones and you'll find details of them here later. In the meantime here's the release.

Helsinki, Finland - Mid-range clamshells and products for new growth markets took center-stage today, as Nokia revealed the latest additions to its product portfolio at the annual Nokia Connection conference. Held simultaneously in Singapore and Helsinki, the conference also witnessed the launch of the world's smallest 3G GSM/WCDMA phone.

Chairman and CEO Jorma Ollila launched the products, including three clamshell phones and a 3G WCDMA smartphone aimed at bringing 3G to the broader market. Introducing the products, he said, "We have now sharpened our product portfolio in key areas, bringing new phones to the market in the mid-range, and adding more clamshells to our offering." Nokia's ongoing commitment to growth markets was also evident, with the launch of two new color-screen phones tailored for these areas.

Nokia's newest 3G phone, the Nokia 6630 featured prominently at the conference, combining the benefits of 3G, EDGE and Series 60, the world's leading smartphone platform. The Nokia 6630 boosts personal information management in 3G WCDMA networks with secure access to corporate Intranet and email at mobile broadband speeds. Uniquely, the Nokia 6630 is the first dual-mode, tri-band handset designed to work on 3G (WCDMA), EDGE and 2G networks in Europe, Asia and the Americas. Combined with the power of customization enabled by Series 60, operators will be able to deploy successful services across different networks and across the world.
Read more about the Nokia 6630 at
http://press.nokia.com/PR/200406/948877_5.html

Nokia also launched the Nokia 6260 phone, a high-performance business phone designed for mobile professionals. It offers the latest mobile technology features and applications, including push to talk, email, Bluetooth connectivity and a VGA camera in an innovative fold design. The tri-band Nokia 6260 smartphone is based on the Symbian operating system and Series 60, the world's leading smartphone platform. As for the design: it is more than just a clamshell, it's a fold with a twist!
Read more about the Nokia 6260
http://press.nokia.com/PR/200406/948876_5.html

In the mid-range, the Nokia 6170 is an attractive, clamshell camera phone that combines modern, stainless steel design with a feature set that emphasizes quality of life. The strength of this phone is its flexible messaging options: e-mail, instant messaging, MMS and push to talk all in one handset. Push to talk brings GSM subscribers a totally new way of using mobile phone for one-on-one and group communications. Several operators

around the world are likely to launch push to talk services this year, introducing an enticing option for operators, business users and consumers. Read more about the Nokia 6170 at http://press.nokia.com/PR/200406/948875_5.html

The remaining two phones announced today enhance Nokia's product offering towards mobile subscribers in growing markets. The Nokia 2650 is an affordable, small and stylish clamshell phone with a color display and balanced functionality. It is Nokia's first color display phone in the entry category. The Nokia 2600 is a classically designed and easy-to-use phone which is ideal for small business owners and professionals. Of particular interest is the spreadsheet application for bookkeeping and customizable converter. Together, the Nokia 2600 and Nokia 2650 bring color displays to new price points. Color is now reaching entry-level phones.

Read more about the Nokia 2650 and the Nokia 2600 at http://press.nokia.com/PR/200406/948871_5.html
In addition to the phones, Nokia launched a foldable keyboard with wireless Bluetooth connection. It serves an an extension to Series 60 phones like the Nokia 6260 and Nokia 6630, enabling easy text input to phone applications, including e-mail. The wireless keyboard is compatible with Series 60 phones with Bluetooth support, and is addressed towards business users.
Read more about the Nokia Wireless Keyboard at http://press.nokia.com/PR/200406/948873_5.html

In summarizing the new releases, Ollila also touched on Nokia's plans to strengthen the focus on R&D; and renew its product portfolio: "Earlier this year we said we would renew our product portfolio by introducing a range of new products. This has not changed. During the spring, we have conducted a thorough analysis of our roadmaps; we have reviewed the timings and pruned our portfolio, adding some new products and accelerating others - and during this process, we have even killed some product plans. As a result of this work, I feel that we will have a much sharper and competitive product range to meet the expectations of both consumers and operators. All in all, we expect to launch a total of approximately 35 products globally this year."

Posted by Shiny Media on June 14, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Orange SPV shrinks again



We wondered how long it would take **Orange** to get to the point where its next generation of SPV phones would be small enough to be truly pocket-friendly.

Well it appears the network has cracked it for it is set to launch what it is billing as the smallest smartphone so far in the summer

The candy bar style **SPV C500** weighs 100 grams and boasts frame measurements of 108mm x 46mm x 18mm. Like previous SPVs it runs using Microsoft's Windows Mobile 2003 2nd edition software delivering applications such as Pocket Outlook (Email, Calendar, Contacts), Pocket Internet Explorer and Windows Media Player.

Other features include a 65k colour screen, integrated VGA camera, Bluetooth and an external SD card slot. The phone also includes an integrated handsfree speaker and comes with polyphonic ringtones and access to a host of Orange applications and services.

Posted by Shiny Media on June 14, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Movies on your GPRS mobile



You don't need 3G to get movie clips on your mobile. MyMovies.net and Stream have just launched a service called **Go! Movies** (www.go82020.com) that enables you to get the latest film news, reviews and behind the scenes stuff on your GPRS mobile.

Information is updated daily from MyMovies, which claims to be the largest source of movie content online, and you can view highlights from the latest movies, including The Day After Tomorrow, Troy and the latest Harry Potter caper - just don't expect cinema quality pictures.

Until June 12 the service is free. After that movie buffs can subscribe for £3 a month, though you will have to pay 50p for some video clips (much the same as the 3 package). Just text the word movies to 82020. For customer service phone 0871 212 0250.

Posted by Shiny Media on June 11, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Orange nabs XDA 2



We are huge fans of the O2 XDA 2 - in our book the best connected PDA out there. However the one problem with it is that to get the best out of it you have to sign up with O2.

Well now **Orange** had done the decent thing and taken the XDA 2 rechristened it the **SPV M100** and launched it at its corporate market.

Features-wise the two are very similar in running Microsoft's Windows Mobile 2003 edition for Pocket PC with all its apps like Outlook and Internet Explorer. Also on board are Bluetooth and a VGA camera.

The key differences are the Orange flavouring namely Orange Update and Back Up which stores all you key contacts online - handy should you ever lose the phone. There's also access to the Orange wap portal and various e-mail solutions aimed at corporate users.

It costs £375. More here.

Posted by Shiny Media on June 9, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

BlackBerry on your Palm

Looks like **Research in Motion**, the company behind **BlackBerry** is committing Hari Kari at least in terms of its own hardware. For after agreements to roll out its innovative software, which automatically pushes e-mail to the mobile device, to Sony Ericsson and Nokia it has now inked a deal with the company behind Palm's software PalmSource.

The company is expected to make the Palm OS Mail Client that supports **BlackBerry Connect** available to Palm OS licensees, which includes PalmOne PDAs and smartphones from Samsung and Orange, in the second half of 2004.

If you can get push e-mail on all these phones why on earth would you want to buy a pug ugly and feature-poor BlackBerry phone?

www.rim.net

Posted by Shiny Media on June 3, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

O2's X2 goes on sale



O2's second budget clamshell mobi, the **X2**, hits the stores today available via O2 retail stores as a pay monthly handset for free.

The X2 boasts a better screen and camera than its predecessor the X1, is triple band so it can be used in the US and comes with Java for downloading games and ringtones. It also sports a really cool OLED display on the front screen and is generally a much sexier handset.

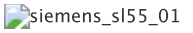
It will be available as a "Pay & Go" handset as of June 4 2004, at a cost of £149.99.

Posted by Shiny Media on June 1, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Siemens SL55 successor unveiled soon

One of our favourite phones of recent years has been the original slider- the dinky **Siemens SL55**. Ok so it might have been short of a few features, but it looked great and has become a firm favourite with discerning mobile buyers, especially women.

So we are very excited about the news that Siemens is to unveil a successor to the SL55 in Berlin in June.

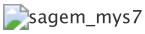


There's no details on the phone yet, but we'll be amazed if it doesn't have a camera (with video too), come in a variety of colours and feature a decent screen.

Expect hardcore SL55 fan David Beckham (who really ought to know better given the amount of dosh he gets from Sharp/Vodafone), to have one glued to his ear soon.

Posted by Shiny Media on May 26, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

The new SPV? Not quite

Ok Orange network users, fancy a new smartphone? 

French company **Sagem** is the latest company to offer a mobile that uses Microsoft's Windows Mobile for smartphones software.

Due in the UK in the summer on an as yet unspecified network (it is available via Orange in parts of Europe so it doesn't take a huge leap to work out who is stocking it in the UK) the Sagem **MY-S7's** big USP is that it is slightly smaller and more pocketable than Orange's existing smartphone the SPV. Weirdly enough both are made by Taiwanese company Mitac.

Features-wise the two are pretty much the same with the Sagem boasting a very similar 65k colour display, a VGA still camera with a digital zoom, MPEG 4 video capture and playback and Java. Of course there's the usual Microsoft applications such as Outlook, Pocket Explorer and Windows Media.

The phone also has 32Mb storage built-in which can be expanded via its SD/MMC card slot.

More here

Posted by Shiny Media on May 26, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Sony/Vodafone - back in black



Interesting news from **Sony** and **Vodafone**. The two huge companies have apparently inked a deal whereby Sony is to licence its music to the phone networks to be used on real music ringtones, polyphonic ringtones, artist images, video streaming and short video downloads.

Apparently international Sony Music artists including AC/DC, Anastacia, Incubus, Nas, Sertab, Jessica Simpson and Train will have their content featured on Vodafone live!

So is Vodafone set to launch a music service to rival that offered by O2 with its over the air direct to phone music download system? If it is it doesn't mention it in the press release. More likely Vodafone will be plugging music video downloads to its subscribers via its 3G service.

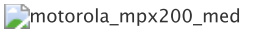
Posted by Shiny Media on May 25, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Wi-Fi cards for MS phones

Wi-Fi is set to be this year's must-have feature for your mobile phone with upcoming models like Nokia's 9500 Communicator and Motorola's MPx all able to access the web at high speeds via wireless networks.

But what if you already own a smartphone you have no intention of parting with?

SD/IO Cards from both **Sandisk** and **Socket** are apparently compatible with O2's Microsoft based XDA II, although users report difficulties setting them



up.

We hear rumours too that Socket is readying an SD/IO Wi-Fi card that will work with Microsoft's Windows Mobile phones like the Orange SPV and Motorola MPx200.

It is apparently in later stages of testing and is likely to be launched in the summer.

Arguably the most useful thing about having a Wi-Fi card on a mobile is not for the speed of downloads of e-mail or web pages, but for knowing you can always get a decent connection rather than having to rely on occasionally flakey GPRS systems.

Posted by Shiny Media on May 24, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Three mega pixel camera phone



Here in the UK we are still agog at the one mega pixel images taken by camera phones like the Sharp GX30 and the Samsung D710.

It is a different story over in Japan where phones with cameras capable of taking significantly higher resolution two mega pixel images have been available for almost a year.

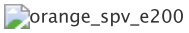
Now Casio has upped the ante yet again buy delivering the first mobi capable of snapping three mega pixel images. To put that in some kind of perspective, there mega pixel digital cameras where considered state of the art as recently as 2001.

As well as taking 3.2 Mega Pixel resolution (2048×1536) images the **Casio A5406CA** also boasts an auto-focus and has nine settings for taking photos including night scenery, twilight, food and person.

It has a 2.3inch screen, stereo sound and weighs 125g with battery.

Posted by Shiny Media on May 24, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

RSS on your SPV



Fancy having the latest news one click away on your smartphone? Tech Digest recently saw a demo of software from Teleca that enables Microsoft smartphones (Orange's SPV, Motorola MPx200 etc) to access news feeds via RSS (Really Simple Syndication).

Sure there is already software that enables users to read RRS feeds on mobiles. However the **Teleca** system breaks new ground in the way it presents the RSS feed as a kind of news ticker.

Users simply choose their news provider whether it be the BBC, CNN, or (cough, cough) Tech Digest) and then the latest headlines, which can appear on the home screen, are updated each time they go online.

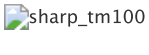
To find out more users click on the headline and they are taken straight to the site.

At the same demo we witnessed Microsoft's impressive Voice Command for its Pocket PC PDA. It is impressive only in that, unlike countless other voice systems, it actually worked. The company says that a version with voice recognition that enables users to dictate e-mails documents etc and then converts the speech into text could be less than a year away.

More here very soon.

Posted by Shiny Media on May 24, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

Sharp TM100 review



Over at The Guardian there's the first review of the **T-Mobile's Sharp TM-100** slider camera phone.

While the handset shares its 240x320 pixels and 256K colours screen with the wonderful Sharp GX30 available from Vodafone it lacks that model's Bluetooth, mega pixel camera and MP3 player.

Nice to note that POP-3 mail is at last sneaking on to Sharp's phones too.

Overall it is a thumbs up, though not worth changing networks to buy one.

Posted by Shiny Media on May 24, 2004 in Mobile phones | Reviews
Permalink | TrackBack (0)

O2 reinvents the postcard



Sent any postcards recently? Probably not. Well **O2** is hoping to use the camera phone to resurrect the British tradition by offering personalised cards.

Subscribers to the network can now send hard copies of their photos accompanied by a short message simply by sending the image, text and address details via SMS to O2. The network then creates a postcard that's sent first class to be delivered the next day in the UK no matter where in the world the picture was taken.

Compatible with all O2 cameraphones , the O2 **PhotoCards** can be sent in over 50 countries. The bad news is that they cost a rather pricey £1.50 per card plus the cost of sending a photo message (usually about 30p).

Posted by Shiny Media on May 12, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Text your tent



Really great story in the Mirror on Saturday

Anyone who even wallowed in the mud at Glasto/V/Reading has been there, stagering home in the dark without a clue which of the thousands of tents in front of you is yours.

Well Orange has come up with a neat idea. Its **Text Me Home Dome** has a built in receiver and its phone number. All you need do is text it and a light on the end of the main tent pole flashes orange enabling you to pick it out.

It's a neat idea, but alas not a commercial product just yet. The Mirror has a few to give away though so if you fancy one check out Shiarz's i next Saturday.

Posted by Shiny Media on May 9, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Sony Ericsson's not that impressive T610 revamp



We have taken a quick peek at the successor to one of the biggest mobiles of last year - Sony Ericsson's T610.

The **Sony Ericsson T630** addresses one of the key problems of its predecessor in that it boasts a half-decent 65k colour screen as opposed to the much poorer quality display of the T610. The phone is also slightly smaller.

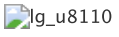
The other big change is that the T630 is availble in black or white, which we think is a retrograde step as we liked the two-tone black and silver of the 610.

The onboard camera is VGA (SE is obviously keeping its powder dry as it has a mega pixel camera phone the K700 coming later in the year) and storage is a rather paltry 2MB.

In spite of its success we weren't that enamoured with the T610 and we certainly don't rate its predecessor a great deal. In many departments the two most recent Sharp phones; TM100 (T-Mobile) and GX-30 (Vodafone) easily wipe the floor with it.

Posted by Shiny Media on May 9, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Three's smallest 3G phone



Last night 3G network **Three** finally confirmed the worst kept secret in the mobile phone industry that it is to offer **LG** phones on its network.

As regular TD readers will know we are huge fans of the first mobile it will offer the **LG U8110**.

The handset which features all Three's headline facilities like person to person video calling and video downloads is one of the most compact 3G handset so far. It is significantly smaller and lighter than all the other models in Three's portfolio bar the non-video calling Nokia 7600 handset and looks and feels much more like a GPRS phone than a 3G one.

It is available from £49.

There will be a full review of the phone in The Guardian and here next week. Until then suffice to say that with the LG phone and the excellent Nokia 7600, it seems at last that Three has finally overcome its handset issues.

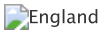
Now how about offering POP3 e-mail on the phones?

Incidentally Sony Ericsson has told a TD regular that it will debut its Z1010 3G phone in the UK in June. There's no word yet about which network, but we know that Three has been trialling the phone for some time. Then again it could be available via Vodafone whose 3G service is expected to begin the next month.

More from here

Posted by Shiny Media on May 6, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Euro 2004 goals live on your mobile



Well almost. In a major leap forward for sport on mobile phones **T-Mobile** has today announced that it is to offer near live footage of the goals scored at Euro 2004, the year's major footy fest which begins in Portugal in June.

Subscribers will be sent a video clip of their team's goals within ten minutes of them being scored. They will also be able to watch a series of highlights of each game and check out controversial incidents such as penalty appeals and red/yellow card fouls.

In what sounds great value too the videos will cost just £5 per team for the whole tournament with the fee not depending at all on how far the team progress.

It marks the first time that phone owners are able to see video clips of highlights while the game is still playing. 3G network Three currently offers video clips of Premiership games, but these are not available until several hours after the game has finished.

Users without video phones can receive a series of pictures from each game for £4.

According to T-Mobile once the video/photo has been sent to person's phone it is up to them what they do with it. Users can send the clips on to their friends for just a few pence.

The video/photo innovation is just one part of a series of features T-Mobile, one of Euro 2004's key sponsors, is offering European footy fans. Another innovation is the option of turning a phone into a news desk ticker with the

latest news and scores pushed directly to a phone (which must have Java) as they happen. This will cost users £4.50 for the tournament.

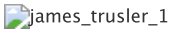
T-Mobile is also offering SMS alerts ringtones (including New Order's Legendary World in Motion), video downloads of classic Euro goals and Java games.

It all kicks off in the middle of May.

There's an in-depth feature on football on a mobile in next week's Guardian.

Posted by Shiny Media on May 6, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Fststs Txtr in Wrld



Fifty years to the day that Roger Bannister astounded the world by running the first ever four-minute mile another Brit has been proclaimed as the fastest in the world.

According to the Daily Mirror, text mad James Trusler is the world's fastest text messenger after he took just 1min 7secs to key "The razor-toothed piranhas of the genera Serasalmus and Pygocentrus are the most ferocious freshwater fish in the world. In reality they seldom attack a human," in to his mobi.

James, who works as an engineer for Vodafone and currently lives in Australia attributes his speed to his constant texting claiming he sends up to 4,000 messages a month - more than 130 a day.

The Guinness World Records book has now recognised his feat, in which he beat his previous best by 59 seconds.

Not surprisingly James prefers to send messages than talk to people. "I text all the time," he said. "I text colleagues whenever I have a question. I even book haircuts by text.

"If you call someone you're likely to get stuck on the phone for a while. Texting is easier, faster and more flexible."

You can find out how James manages to text so quickly on his website

Posted by Shiny Media on May 6, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (3) | TrackBack (0)

Sharp's TM100 on sale



We make no bones about the fact that here at TD we are huge fans of Sharp's camera phones. In particular we love the Sharp GX30 with its mega pixel camera and MP3 player.

So it's no surprise that we reckon that the company's latest phone, the **Sharp TM100**, is likely to be a huge hit.

This handset is a real break from its previous models. Firstly it is available exclusively from **T-Mobile** rather than Vodafone and O2, which have taken the company's previous mobis.

Secondly it is not a clamshell phone like the GX30, rather it is like the offspring of the Sony Ercisson T610 and the Siemens SL55. With its piano black finish it certainly looks like the SE model, the key difference being the pull down Siemens SL55-style pull down number pad.

The phone's key feature is its large 240 x 320 pixel screen with 256K colours - the current standard is 64K. It is quite possibly the best screen we have seen so far on a camera phone.

Other features include a VGA still and video camera, 40 polyphonic ringtones, Java, infrared and POP3 email. Sadly there's no MP3 player or storage card slot (it has 2.5MB of memory built in)

We'll have a full review on the model next week. It is on sale now as it available for free on some tarrifs.

Posted by Shiny Media on May 6, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (6) | TrackBack (0)

Vodafone's first 3G phone reviewed



We recently got the chance to play with the **Samsung Z105,** which is being groomed by Vodafone to feature as its launch phone for its consumer 3G service that's expected to be announced at the start of May.

Overall we were impressed by some aspects of the phone but a little cool on others.

The good stuff

Size - Well the clamshell phone is about average for 3G phones. It is roughly the same size as the NEC e616 (available via Three) and slightly larger than LG's upcoming U8100.

Design - It is very simple to use. The buttons are kind of half Samsung and half Vodafone (the lay out is a little reminiscent of Voda's Sharp phones). The interface is fairly simple to use and access to Vodafone Live! service is a one-button press.

Battery - At 240 minutes talktime and 110 standby time, it is good for a 3G mobile.

Video Calling - This is the phone's strong point in that it sports an excellent 256k colour screen, which delivers top quality moving images. It does seem a bit bizarre though that Vodafone appears to be majoring on person-to-person video calling when it has been a comparative flop for Three.

The bad stuff

No features - There's no Bluetooth, POP3 e-mail or MP3 playback. The LG U8100 has all three.

Headset - To make video calls you have to don a headset, which is highly annoying as you have to carry it around with you everywhere.

Storage - There's only 3MB and no expansion card slot. I imagine that the 3MB will fill up very quickly with videos and images.

Overall

This isn't a bad phone. The screen and the video quality are great. However I think it will have sand kicked in its face by upcoming handsets from LG and Motorola. If you are Vodafone customers and are thinking about upgrading to 3G it might be good to hang on a while until other handsets are available.

Incidentally we have taken Vodafone's 3G Mobile Connect Card to several areas of the UK. We had a great 3G signal in both north and south London, but strangely not in the centre of town.

There was no 3G signal at all in Yorkshire, North Lancashire, Derbyshire and Sussex.

Posted by Shiny Media on April 29, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (9) | TrackBack (0)

Treo 610 confirmed - kind of

It appears that the successor to the **Handspring Treo 600** Palm based smartphone, which is sold in the UK by Orange, is on the cards reports The Guardian.

A slip by US bank in a communication to its investors confirmed rumours that have been across the web for months that the **Handspring Treo 610** does exist and is likely to launch in late summer.

The device will keep the form factor of its predecessor including its mini thumbpad, but will sport a higher resolution screen, boast more memory and offer Bluetooth connectivity. Some reports suggest that the 610 will also jettison the 600's integrated VGA camera.

Posted by Shiny Media on April 29, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (2) | TrackBack (0)

Samsung's smartphone hat-trick



For a few months now we have been wondering why **Samsung** has a range of impressive GSM smartphones on sale in the US, but not in the UK. Well we need wonder no more as it appears that the two models, the **i500** and **i700**, will reach the UK in the next few months.

The intriguing thing is that they will be launched at roughly the same time as another new Samsung handset, the **D710**. This puts Samsung in the unique position of offering a trio of smartphones that all use different operating systems, namely MS Windows Mobile, Palm and Symbian.

Our fave is likely to be the i700, which is an upright phone (it is like a smaller version of the O2 XDA 2), which uses Microsoft's Pocket PC phone edition software to deliver applications like Outlook and Internet Explorer. Samsung is also claiming the phone can access the Internet via wireless (802.11b) networks if an SD/IO card is added.

We have written about the D710, which uses the Symbian operating system with Nokia's Series 60 interface, before. It is like a larger version of the Siemens SL55 in that the bottom half of the phone slides down to reveal its keypad (see also the Sharp TM100).

Its key feature though is a 1.0 mega pixel camera (a first for Samsung). Other features include capture and playback and MP3. Annoyingly the phone only has a 65k colour screen, which put it behind the rush of new phones with superior 262k colour screens.

Finally Samsung is pandering to Palm fans with the i500. It is a small-ish clamshell phone with a swivelling screen that runs Palm's 5.2 operating system. It features a 65k colour screen, VGA camera and is compatible with the Graffiti handwriting recognition system.
Samsung announced several more phones this week and we'll fill in the gaps in a couple of days time.

Posted by Shiny Media on April 29, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Familiar-looking MS smartphone



Here's yet another Microsoft Windows Mobile 2003 smartphone we haven't seen before, yet curiously this one sports a rather familiar design.

Retailing for £500 without a contract the **AnexTEK SP230** features a flip up/down keypad, which we reckon could well have been inspired by the Sony Ericsson P800/900.

According to the UK distributor Sword Services, the handset which boasts a 320x240 pixel screen with 65K colours, a 400Mhz Intel PXA22 processor and 64MB ROM and 64MB RAM is pitched up against current champ MS phone O2's XDA 2.

While the phone boasts the usual Microsoft applications like Outlook, Internet Explorer and Word, Sword has added a USP. It claims that the SP230

can be configured to receive live video transmissions from a security camera using its proprietary software.

Hope to have a review of this mobile very shortly.

Posted by Shiny Media on April 22, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Moto updates its mini smartphone



We know that **Motorola** has another new phone in the offing as there's a press conference already in our diary for late May. Yet there are no clues yet as to what it might be and the company is adamant that so far the new handset hasn't yet appeared on the web.

We are pretty confident though that one phone Moto will officially unveil very shortly is the much-rumoured **MPx220** .

US website Gizmodo has already reported that images of the phone have appeared, and then promptly disappeared from some of the company's websites.

Hazarding a very educated guess here, the MPx220 is likely to be an update of Moto's rather cool Windows-based clamshell smartphone the MPx200.

It'll keep its predecessors versions of Outlook and Internet Explorer, but will also add the two key elements missing from the original phone a camera (one mega pixel we hope) and also Bluetooth. It also has better battery life too.

We are big fans of the MPx200 here at TD, but we don't half miss that camera when we take it out and about at the weekend.

Posted by Shiny Media on April 19, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Germans outed as text maniacs



A new report by the Global System for Mobile Communications has crowned the **Germans** as the world's **top texters**. Apparently they send in the region of 200 million messages a day – three times more than the second place Finns. Here's the photographic proof that even the country's chancellor Gerhard Schroeder enjoys a good text.

In spite of David Beckham's best efforts the UK could only finish a disappointing third with around 70 million texts a day.

Apparently it is the former East Germans who have the nimblest thumbs in Europe. According to the report many don't have landlines and rely on their mobiles. They obviously prefer texting over voice as it is cheaper.

Posted by Shiny Media on April 15, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Nokia 7200 clamshell phone review



The Guardian has one of the first reviews of the Nokia 7200 - the company's first clamshell camera phone.

Overall the handset, which is aimed at women and stylish blokes, gets the thumbs up. Although the paper does suggest that it can't quite compete in the fashion-stakes with the Motorola V80.

It is also available in white. Click here for more.

Posted by Shiny Media on April 15, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Nokia N-Gage 2



In a bid to address many of the design problems that have severely limited sales, Nokia has launched a new - and much improved - version of its **N-Gage** game player.

The new model, dubbed the **N-Gage QD**, is about 20 per cent smaller than the mark one model and, unlike the old unit, has the speaker and microphone mounted on the front so you don't have to hold it sideways to make a call.

Whereas with the previous version you had to remove a back panel and pull out a battery to insert a new game card, the new model has an easy to reach multmedia card slot for game cartridges.

Another criticism of the original N-Gage was that few games exploited the device's connectivity options for multiplayer gaming. Nokia therefore intends to launch 50 new N-Gage titles on the market by the end of this year, three quarters of which will offer multiplayer gaming.

Due to be officially unveiled at the E3 show in Los Angeles, the N-Gage QD is expected to be priced between E99 (contract) and E199 (SIM Free) when it is launched across Europe in May.

http://www.n-gage.com

Posted by Shiny Media on April 15, 2004 in Gaming | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (3) | TrackBack (0)

Nokia clamshell 7200 hits UK this week



One of the year's biggest mobile phones is apparently on its way to UK stores this week.

Nokia's 7200 is the company's first clamshell model - except of course Nokia, which insists it doesn't make clamshell handsets, won't call it that.

The 7200 has been dubbed the 'Louis Vuitton phone' for the way one of the phone's designs features beige-coloured fabric padding on its outside, which is reminiscent of the French fashion company's products. It is also available in several other colours including a more masculine blue.

Nokia has also kept the gadget count high, packing in an integrated VGA camera with a video option, an FM radio and XHTML browser (which offers an enhanced form of Wap).

It is expected to retail for around £200 with contract. Look out for a full review next week.

Other features include

65,536 colour TFT display
Delightful design experience: coordinated covers, soft pouch and wrist strap, with matching wallpapers and screensavers
Presence-enhanced contacts
Integrated hands free speaker
5 lines for text in basic mode with 16-pixel font
Java
Wap
Currency converter

More from here

Posted by Shiny Media on April 7, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (2) | TrackBack (0)

New Microsoft smartphones



The number of phones using Microsoft software continues to grow. For after the XDA II and the SPV E-200 comes a pair of connected PDAs/smartphones (it is hard to tell the difference nowadays) that use Microsoft's Windows Mobile 2003 platform from **E-Ten**.

Available now in the UK from Peripheral Corner the **P300** and **P700** are both triple band, GPRS devices that offer standard Windows Mobile features such as Outlook, Pocket Word and Pocket Internet Explorer.

The more expensive (£461 without contract) P700 sports a 3.5inch screen, features an Intel PXA255 400MHz processor and has integrated Bluetooth.

The smaller and cheaper (£351 without contract) P300 has an ARM 9 200 MHZ processor, sports a 2.8inch display and includes an integrated camera.

We'll have a review of the P300 next week.

Cheers to What Laptop's eagle-eyed newshound Katie Lee for the tip.

Posted by Shiny Media on April 7, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Moto V600 arrives at last



Motorola's long-promised **V600** camera phone (we first heard of it nearly a year ago) is finally making an appearance in UK stores. Available via Orange, O2 and T-Mobile, the top of the range clamshell handset features a VGA camera with a 4 x digital zoom, video capture and playback and POP3 e-mail compatibility.

Other features include Bluetooth, Java, MP3 and Polyphonic ringtones, voice activated dialling and an integrated speaker phone. Expect to pay between £150-200 for one on contract.

Posted by Shiny Media on April 7, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (3) | TrackBack (0)

Panny's tiny mobi



One of last year's surprise hit phones, especially with young women apparently, was the ultra-tiny **Panasonic** G50 distributed in the UK via Virgin Mobile.

Now Panny has updated the handset, kept its compact size and added a few extra features to deliver the **G51M**.

It is not only one of the smallest and lightest phones available (it weighs just 74 grams and has dimensions of 80x43x90mm), the G51M is a tri-band handset finished in brushed metallic silver. The phone also boasts a 4K-colour display (which looks a little dull now we are get8ign used to 56 and 265K displays), a pair of built-in games and a selection of polyphonic ringtones.

Other features include T9 text input, vibration alert and a melody ringtone composer. Battery life is rated at 2.5 to 6 hours talktime and around 200 hour standby. It is available now.

Posted by Shiny Media on April 7, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Vodafone 3G card won't work with Macs

Bad news for Europe's Apple Mac laptop-owners. It appears that the **Vodafone 3G card**, which enables its owners to surf the web wirelessly at speeds of up to 384kbps, is not Mac compatible.

We have yet to receive official confirmation from Vodafone, but the system requirements section on the card's brochure/web pages only mentions Windows software.

This will mean iBook and Powerbook owners will have to find those elusive Wi-Fi hot spots should they want fast internet access on the go.

You can read The Guardian's review of the Vodafone 3G card here.

Posted by Shiny Media on April 5, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (2) | TrackBack (0)

TV on a mobi - you'll be waiting for a while yet



Some interesting stories in the UK press about the arrival of what is being billed as the '**tellyphone**.'

Both the Evening Standard and the Mirror ran with a tale that mobile phones that could access digital TV channels would be on sale in the UK by Christmas 2005.

The Mirror even managed to show a picture of the phone, which was in fact a Motorola A920, a product that to our knowledge certainly can't pull in any telly channels.

It seems the rumpus has been inspired by **Nokia's** recent round of press interviews for it upcoming **7700** media phone. As far as we understand the handset, which is compatible with the digital TV hybrid format DVB-H, goes on sale in early summer.

As for actually viewing programmes on the 7700. Well there's a trial going on in Finland, and err that's it. The trial is linked to Finnish radio station Kiss and apparently is more about delivering still images and data content to the handset rather than video.

A spokesperson for Nokia told TD that it was of course talking to broadcasters and operators in the UK, but it could be a very long time before we are watching Coronation Street (that's a quaint old British soap for our American readers) on a mobile. And I suspect that when this momentous event happens the Nokia 7700 will be long gone.

We should add that DVB-H is actually a good format to watch TV on your mobile as, unlike say the streamed video from Three, it doesn't use exiting network bandwidth.

How much TV you watch on your mobi is a moot point anyway. We reckon that you probably wouldn't be able to catch a whole episode of Corrie before the battery packed up and died. Ho hum.

Posted by Shiny Media on April 2, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Vodafone 3G PC card launches in UK



It could be just what your laptop has been waiting for. **Vodafone** has today launched the **Mobile Connect 3G/GPRS** data card for laptops.

So in theory, laptop-owning Britons can access the web on the go at speeds of up to 384kbps.

Vodafone hopes the card will help claw back some of the £13 billion pounds it has invested in 3G networks across Europe.

The demonstration the company gave at today's press conference certainly looked impressive with good quality video streamed on the PC via 3G at

around 300kbps. Vodafone also claims that a file as large as 10MB could be transferred to a PC in less than ten minutes.

The tariffs aren't bad too. The card costs between £50-80 depending on which payment option the user chooses, while monthly fees range from £20 a month (for downloading up to 50MB) to £85 per month, which gets you a whole Gigabyte.

3G card owners will also be able to roam with their laptops in eight European countries still downloading data at 3G speeds.

But inevitably there are limitations to its performance

1 Vodafone's 3G coverage is just 30% of the UK population - This includes major cities like London, Manchester Cardiff and Birmingham. It promises that around 60% of the UK population would have access to its 3G services by the Autumn.

2 Changeover between 3G and GPRS - Apparently the card automatically diverts to GPRS, yet maintains the connection which is essential if the user is in the midst of a download. However, given the difficulties Three has had with its GPRS to 3G handshake we will wait to be convinced if this works in practice.

3 Speed - At the demo in the Savoy Hotel in London, it was easy to display streaming at speeds of 384kbps, because no one else was using the 3G network. When that bandwidth starts to be shared among many users speeds could slow significantly. Voda does however promise it won't dip below 200kbps.

4 Upload speed - Just 64kbps - about half the speed of broadband.

5 Battery life - Just like Wi-Fi the 3G card seriously saps your battery.

Still it works as billed the Vodafone 3G Mobile Connect card should be a no-brainer for anyone with a laptop who spends more than a couple of days a month out of the office.

Posted by Shiny Media on April 2, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Vivienne Westwood Moto phone



She might not like Tony Blair a lot, but it seems that the Grand Dame of the UK fashion scene **Vivienne Westwood**, loves **Motorola**.

For the designer has today unveiled a version of Moto's **V600** clamshell camera phone with a fashionable cover that is apparently more catwalk than handbag.

If you do however getting your hands on one of the handsets with its so called 'couture cover' you'll have to move quickly. There are apparently only 99 handsets which are exclusively available via Vivienne Westwood's stores in the UK and Italy.

They are actually not a bad investment as they retail for £300 not a great deal more than the vanilla version of the V600.

More from here

Posted by Shiny Media on April 2, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Single line for mobile and terrestrial

Good story in The Business at the weekend (yes I know it's Thursday, but I'm a slow reader). Tony Glover, the paper's technology editor, reports that Carphone Warehouse is to offer a single-number service that provides fixed and mobile calls on one handset with a single bill.

The idea is that the user has a wi-fi enabled handset that can connect to the fixed line in the home and make cellular calls while out and about. According to Carphone Warehouse Chairman Hans Snook, former chief executive of Orange, it will take about a year to dovetail fixed and mobile networks. And even then the solution will not suit every household, admits Carphone's founder and chief executive Charles Dunstone.

"Unlike the US, where many homes are made of wood, UK homes are not always ideal for wi-fi," he told The Business. "For this reason I believe that traditional fixed (telephone) lines will not be entirely replaced by wi-fi."

Although the idea is not a new one, rival proposed services from BT and O2 are apparently experiencing delays with introducing a single-number service via Bluetooth.

Earlier this week The Carphone Warehouse announced **free** national and international calls between customers using its residential fixed-line network **TalkTalk.** BT instantly responded with price cuts for those connected to its fixed-line network.

Posted by Shiny Media on April 1, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Opera adds voice and maybe Windows phones too

The Guardian reports that **Opera** has announced it is to add voice recognition to its free web-browser software later this year, using IBM's ViaVoice technology.

The Norwegian software firm says the functionality, which will not be in the next release, could be used to navigate, request information and fill in online forms. It will be added first to desktop computer versions, but will be incorporated into Opera's software for mobile phones and palmtop computers.

The company is also rumoured to being close to delivering its acclaimed mobile Opera browser fro Microsoft Windows Mobile phones like the XDA II and the Orange SPV E-200.

One of our spies claims he is testing a beta version of the browser which has been a huge hit with the owners of Symbian phones like the Nokia 6600 and Sony Ericsson P900.

Posted by Shiny Media on April 1, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Virgin's left-handed phone



Virgin Mobile has unveiled a new mobile phone specifically designed for left-handed people. Dubbed the **Sony Ericsson LH-Z200** , it features a unique keypad layout with the number keys positioned from right to left, instead of the standard left to right.

This simple but clever design makes dialling, texting and menu navigation quicker and easier for anyone left-handed. Famous left-handers include

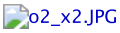
Oscar winning actress Nicole Kidman, Prince William, glamour model Melinda Messenger and John Lydon.

Avril Fewell, the director of left-handed affairs at Virgin Mobile, said: "We have been approached by thousands of left-handed customers who told us they wanted a phone which would work for them. Britain's seven million left-handed people should not be ignored."

The Virgin Mobile Sony Ericsson LH-Z200 will be available from today, April 1st. The retail price is £119.99.

Posted by Shiny Media on April 1, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (3) | TrackBack (0)

O2 unveils the X2


o2_x2.JPG

It was one of the most controversial phones of last year. The X1, available exclusively through **O2**, was a budget clamshell with an integrated camera available free to the network's pay as you go subscribers.

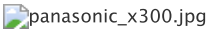
While it sold by the shedload TD readers noted some problems especially with its texting facilities.

Anyhow the X1 wil be replaced in May by a new clamshell handset the **X2**.

It boasts a better screen and camera than its predecessor, is triple band so it can be used in the US and comes with Java for downloading games and ringtones. It also sports a really cool OLED display on the front screen and is generally a much sexier handset. It will retail for £149.99 on pay as you go tariffs and will be free for subscribers who pay monthly.

Posted by Shiny Media on March 31, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (210) | TrackBack (0)

Panny's pop up phone


panasonic_x300.jpg

Clever stuff from **Panasonic**. It claims to have re-invented the form factor of the camera phone by offering a model sporting a pop up LCD screen just like they have on camcorders.

According to the company the screen makes the **X300** much simpler to use than rival handsets. Due in the autumn the phone features a 65k colour screen, video play and record functions and a Wap 2.0 browser.

The only downside is that the resolution of the images it takes is VGA standard, only around half the quality of recently announced mega pixel phones from Sharp and Nokia.

At CeBIT Panasonic also unveiled a trio of ultra thin handsets, the **A100, A101** and **A102**, which are due for a later summer launch. Also new is the first Secure Digital (SD) card with a storage capacity of one Gigabyte.

Posted by Shiny Media on March 25, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Samsung's mega pixel spinning phone


samsung_p730_03.jpg

A big new phone for **Samsung** debuted at CeBIT. Due in late summer the **SGH-P730** is a clamshell phone featuring a twist and flip rotating screen similar to the LG 7100. Its key feature though is that it takes one-mega pixel still images. It can also capture video and play back MP3 music. Images are either stored on its 64MB internal memory or on an MMC card.

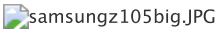
Other features include a 262k colour screen, digital zoom for the camera and polyphonic ringtones.

Expect it in the UK in late summer.

Loads of images of the phone are here

Posted by Shiny Media on March 25, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (4) | TrackBack (0)

Vodafone's cool 3G service


samsungz105big.JPG

Over at The Guardian they are getting rather excited about **Vodafone's 3G** package for consumers.

Not that Vodafone in the UK has announced anything yet, but if it mirrors what is available in Germany it will be very cool.

Vodafone Germany has chose the **Samsung Z105** phone – a clamshell model that looks quite similar to Sharp/Vodafone's GX20/30 and even has its buttons in very similar places. It sports a 262k colour screen, features person to person video calling and video downloads.

The demo for accessing Vodafone Live! service with 3G input was apparently very cool.

Posted by Shiny Media on March 25, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Nokia announces add-ons

 nokia_image_album.jpg In addition to its funky 1 mega-pixel camera phone, the 7610, Nokia has also unveiled a load of phone accessories at CeBit. Chief among them is the **PD-1** image album.

A 20Gb storage device it can be used for viewing images on the big screen. Pictures can be transferred either via a compatible phone using the Pop-Port interface or from a Multi-Media memory card. Click here for more info.

Very similar to the image album is the Image Viewer SU-5. However the main difference is that it doesn't have a built in hard drive for storing your embarrassing photos. Click here for more info.

Nokia has also unveiled two new car accessories. Its latest Advanced Car Kit features all the standard hands-free stuff plus a fancy sounding Ignition Sense Detector for automatic hands-free activation. And the Headrest Handsfree mounts on the back of car seats for a less embarrassing and more comfortable set-up.

Posted by Shiny Media on March 17, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Siemens also goes for mega pixels

 SiemensS65.jpg

Not surprisingly given it was on its home turf, **Siemens**, used CeBIT to parade a trio of new mobile phones.

The big story is that it will deliver its first mega pixel camera phones, the **S65**, in September/October. Its is a smart looking candy bar style phone that is targeted at the business market.

Unlike the Sharp GX30 and Nokia 7160, the S65 features a 1.3 mega pixel camera. Its rivals have 1.0 snapper. How much .3 of a mega pixel makes to picture quality is an interesting question. Motorola's MPx100 also has a 1.3 mp snapper.

Other features include

Video camera
4x digital zoom
65k colour display
MMC card slot – with a 32MB card bundled with the phone
Compatibility with Outlook and Lotus Notes
Calendar
Bluetooth

Also new are the C65 and M65. Both will launch in autumn. The **C65** is a fairly basic, but nice-looking camera phones, while the **M65** targets users with an ahem, active lifestyle. It is encased in rubber and metal to make it shock, dust and water-resistant.

Posted by Shiny Media on March 17, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Nokia 7610 – the best smartphone yet?

 nokia7610.jpg

Could this be 2004's hottest phone? After letting its rivals poach the limelight **Nokia** has hit back in style this week with the unveiling of the **7610** smartphone.

Due in early summer the 7610 has a number of Nokia's firsts:

· It is the first Nokia handset to feature a mega pixel camera (like the Sharp GX30)
· It is the first Nokia handset to include an integrated HTML web browser. In this case the superb Opera browser which debuted on the Sony Ericsson P900.
· It is the first Nokia phone to capture a decent amount of video. It can shoot up to 10 minutes at a time. It also features some rather basic in-phone video editing software.
· The phone is the first to come with Nokia's innovative Lifeblog software. When the phone is synced with a PC this automatically ports all recent images and text messages to software on the computer and organises them chronologically enabling users to create a personal diary.

Also on board MP3 and video playback, Bluetooth and POP3 email. The phone runs on the Series 60 Symbian based platform.

Reason to love the 7160

We think the 7610 is Nokia's first smartphone bulls eye

It looks great - it is much more compact than the rather cumbersome Nokia 6600. The only other phone to cram so many cool features into such a compact handset is the Motorola MPx100 and that is still much larger than the 7610.

Adding the Opera web browser is a genius move. It is this the web browser for nay kind of mobile phones

The feature line up is spot-on. Loads of video, MP3 playback, and some fun software too. The mega pixel camera is also state of the art for the time being.

The Lifeblog software sounds intriguing. Imagine if you could tweak the software so that each time you sent a message or took a shot it automatically sent it to your weblog. That would be cool.

So a definite thumbs up for the 7610. A Nokia smartphone you'd consider buying - now that's a first!

Posted by Shiny Media on March 17, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (34) | TrackBack (0)

Three's hit phone - err it's a Nokia



Well it looks like UK 3G phone network **Three** has a hit handset on its hands - but ironically it is not one wearing the badge of its partners NEC or Motorola.

According to the Carphone Warehouse, which kind of has an exclusive on the phone, the **Nokia 7600** has been disappearing out of its stores at the rate of 7-10,000 handsets a week.

TD regulars will know that the handset runs using the Three network, taking advantage of its ultra cheap voice calls. However it has only limited 3G features and for example can't access Three's premium video download/stream content such as MTV videos and Premiership footy goals. Also it doesn't boast Three's signature feature - person-to-person video calling.

One can only wonder how many more subscriptions Three would have sold had it took more stock of the 7600 from Nokia and promoted it as its key phone for early 2004.

Posted by Shiny Media on March 11, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Europe's first two mega pixel camera phone

telmet_939.jpg

Sharp, Sony Ericsson, Nokia and Motorola may all be lining up mega pixel camera phones. But Austrian maker **Tel-Me**, which has had a limited presence in the UK, has gone one better.

According to Gizmodo it is lining up the first GSM phone for the European market with a two-mega pixel camera.

Coming later this year the **T939** runs using the Windows CE operating system (not the Windows Mobile OS as found on the Motorola MPx200 and Orange SPV) and features Microsoft Office applications, Instant Messaging and a web browser. It also boasts a 256k-colour touch screen.

Tel-Me has been a little generous with its launch predictions before, so we reckon that this phone is more likely to debut in early 2005.

It shouldn't come as surprise that a two-mega pixel camera is featured in a PDA style device though. Several handheld PCs in Sony's Clie range now boast two mega pixel snappers.

Two mega pixels in a clamshell phone - now that would be something.

Posted by Shiny Media on March 11, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Motorola/MTV mobiles

moto_c650.jpg

Motorola is teaming up with MTV to produce a series of phones featuring dedicated software from the music channel, targeted at the youth market.

The trio of models, (**E398**, **E680** and **C650**) all feature music-based sounds and actions across all functions - gaming, MP3 and ringtones.

All three will launch in the UK in the early summer.

We'll venture an opinion or two about them next week, but for now the C650 (on the right of the pic) looks like a pretty cool handset.

Read on for the details

C650

Ultra small phone
MP3 ringtones
Integrated VGA 4X zoom camera
65K colour display
MPEG4 video playback
Downloadable Java games
Multimedia messaging

E680

Dual 3D stereo surround sound speakers
RealPlayer software
USB data transfer Bluetooth for wireless transfer of files.
Gaming with 3D graphics
Portable and downloadable J2ME games and 8-way navi and gaming keys.
MP3 sound effects

E398

Candy-bar style phone
Camera
Integrated MP3 player
SanDisk T-Flash removable memory
3D stereo surround speakers
Java

Posted by Shiny Media on March 11, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (48) | TrackBack (0)

Mobiles for love cheats

soundercover5.jpg

Great news for love cheats reports the Daily Mirror.

There's new software coming for Nokia mobile phones that lets phone users disguise where they are by producing fake background sounds.

So for example the push of a button, callers can pretend to be stuck in traffic, at the dentist's - or even at the circus.

Another backdrop is the noise of a ringing phone, so people can claim they have another call to answer.

The software, which has been developed by Romanian firm Simeda costs £7 and can be downloaded here

Posted by Shiny Media on March 11, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

T-Mobile summer 3G launch


tmobile_logo.JPG

T-Mobile has become the fourth UK mobile phone network to announce an impending **3G** launch. Although the official news won't be broken until the CeBit show in Germany next week, the company's UK MD Brian McBride told journalists this week that a consumer launch was pencilled in for the summer.

McBride said that while T-Mobile's 3G network in the UK's main cities is fully operational the company were waiting until quality 3G handsets arrived before its consumer launch.

Posted by Shiny Media on March 11, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Sony Ericsson goes mega pixel too


sony_ericsson_s700.jpg

Well you didn't think that the Sharp GX30, which is released in about three weeks, would be the only mega pixel camera for long now did you?

Sony Ericsson confirmed rumours that it had a 1.3 mega pixel phone snapper in the pipeline yesterday with the unveiling of the **S700**.

It looks like a winner too in that it is a small candy bar style handset with a large 262k screen (the current industry standard is 56k). There are plenty of features including Bluetooth, an MP3 player (tunes are stored on a Memory Stick Duo Card) and both streaming and capture of video clips. It can also access Wap and websites.

The clever bit is that the screen spins round - a bit like the Motorola V80 - to reveal the number keypads.

The really bad news is that it won't available until Q4 this year, by which time Sharp will have sold a shed load of GX30s and other manufacturers, namely LG and Motorola, will have delivered mega pixel cameras.

Sony Ericsson also took the wraps off some other handsets yesterday too. Groomed as the successor to the best-selling T610 (though ironically no where near as cute), the **K700** has a VGA camera with flash, FM tuner, Bluetooth and video capture and playback. It is due in early summer.

Sony Ercisson also unveiled a host of phones for the US market - which incidentally are no way near as cool as the ones bound for Europe - and some accessories. Read about them here.

Posted by Shiny Media on March 10, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (2) | TrackBack (0)

More games for your mobi

So far mobile gaming hasn't quite taken off in the way that many pundits predicted - just ask Nokia which has already admitted that sales of its N-Gage gaming phone are way below expectations.

At 3GSM in Cannes though several companies unveiled new games and tie-ups with games makers that could certainly keep your thumbs busy in the coming months.

For a really good round-up of all the news including **Infusio's** tie-up with **Microsoft** check out Rhianna Pratchet's Guardian article here.

Posted by Shiny Media on March 9, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Hotmail on your mobi

The millions of **Hotmail** users may soon be able to access their e-mail on many of the world's mobile courtesy of a deal between **Microsoft** and **Openwave**. When Openwave's V7 software ships later this year, phone

manufacturers will be able to integrate MSN features such as Hotmail and MSN Messenger into the new mobiles.

Once users have logged into MSN services, they will instantly be able to see which of their friends and colleagues have their phones switched on via MSN Messenger, send and receive Hotmail email, or receive the latest sports and news via MSN alerts. Openwave claims that as many as seven of the top 10 phone manufacturers will deliver handsets featuring its V7 software this year.

Posted by Shiny Media on March 9, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Motorola A925, A1000, E1000 review



Late last year Moto execs promised journalists that the 2004 range of 3G phones would look more like GPRS handsets than the 3G handsets currently on sale.

Well judging by the **Motorola** 3G handsets launched this week – to say nothing of the upcoming NEC e616 and LG U8100/8150 – they were half right.

While the phones, the **A925**, **A1000** and **E1000** (above) have clearly shrunk in size it is clearly not going to be until 2005 before the difference between 3G and GPRS handsets is marginal.

Our first impression of the Motorola A925 is why bother? Essentially its a funkier version of the Symbian OS based A920 the brick-like 3G phone that Moto/Three debuted at the end of 2003. There are a couple of differences – it has a faster processor which did speed up accessing the handset's many features, also it apparently has working Bluetooth a feature denied owners of the A920.

However it is likely to be subject to the odd restrictions of Three in the UK – so many of its best features – downloading large POP3 e-mail files/attachments, browsing the web at lightning speeds, taking advantage of 3G to surf the web on a laptop, will be nobbled.

Sure the phone delivers great quality video and its GPS features are very impressive, but there are not enough 'activated' features for us to find pocket space for it.

Debuted for the first time in Cannes this week the A1000 is a close relative of the 920/925. Once again it has the same operating system (Symbian) and the same awesome line up of applications. The form factor is slightly different as the screen appears larger and the size of the handset significantly smaller. Another plus is that it also includes a 1.2 mega pixel camera.

Hopefully by the time it launches in autumn 2004 it will be available on several networks (Orange seems a good bet) where all its cool features will be enabled.

Perhaps the best phone Moto launched in Cannes is the E1000. Easily the cutest, and quite possibly the smallest 3G handset unveiled so far (with video calling) it is a candy bar style phone that looks like a slightly larger version of the Sony Ericsson T610. The features line up is similar to the existing A835 with the addition of a 1.2-mega-pixel camera. It should do well when it debuts in the autumn.

Finally some good news for Moto about the A835. Apparently it has been chosen by Orange as the launch phone for its 3G service when it debuts in the summer. Also, accordiong to Moto, the A835 was also the best selling contract phone on any network, in the first month of 2004. How many of

those buyers who bought the phone to take advantage of Three's ultra cheap voice calls, use its sophisticated line up of messaging and video facilities remains to be seen.

You will probably be seeing a whole lot more A835s in our neighbourhood soon as the phone has been chosen as the handset to launch Three's incredibly cheap pay as you go service.

Posted by Shiny Media on February 25, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (4) | TrackBack (0)

Sendo snapper



3GSM was a busy one for British mobile phone company **Sendo**. It not only extended its portfolio of handsets by introducing a new mid-range camera phone, but also spent the show touting around its Symbian based smartphone the X

The camera phone looks a goodie and should appeal to the mid to bottom end of the market. Christened the **S600** the small candy bar style handset is set to debut in European market later in the spring.

Unlike many rival devices it boasts a VGA quality camera with a 5x digital zoom and creative and editing facilities. Images can be viewed on a 65k colour display. Other features include the most recent form of Java (MIDP 2.0) to enable games and applications to be downloaded and polyphonic ringtones. Talk time is between two and seven hours with standby rated at 200-450 hours.

While it is undoubtedly a decent-looking feature rich phone, it appears that the Sendo X hasn't got quite the pull the company had hoped it would have. So far Sendo only has one operator lined up to sell the X and that's Telecom Italia. None of the big Europe-wide networks like Orange, Vodafone and T-Mobile have signed on the dotted line.

It is not that there is anything wrong with phone. It could well be that there is a glut of smartphones available and quite possibly not as many punters as the networks had hoped buying them.

Posted by Shiny Media on February 25, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Creating better photo messages



One of the key problems mobile phone networks are wrestling with at the moment is how to make money from photo messaging. While camera phones have become ubiquitous it appears that users prefer to use them as

digital photo albums rather than send pictures to their friends and colleagues.

Not surprisingly then 3GSM was awash with software that added value to sending photo messages to make them sexier. Two caught our eye.

The first enables camera phone owners to add handwritten notes to their photo messages.

Using the software developed by French company **Real Eyes** phone users simply write the note on plain paper and then take a picture of it.

The message can then be placed anywhere on an image to create, for example, wish you were here style postcards.

The style and colour of the handwritten text can also be manipulated. The company demonstrated the software on phones running the Symbian operating system (as used on Nokia/Siemens smartphones) but adds that it will work with most mobile devices.

Meanwhile a UK based company, **QinetiQ**, is hoping to offer camera phone owners the opportunity of creating panoramic style images. Designed to enable phone owners to take group snaps or wide landscape shots, the images can be displayed on the phone or printed.

Both have a reasonable chance of attracting consumers if networks or handset manufacturers choose to embed them on their phones.

More on Real Eyes here and QinetiQ here.

Posted by Shiny Media on February 25, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Moto's new smartphones



Motorola launched two new handsets in its MPx series of **Microsoft Windows Mobile** powered smartphones at 3GSM in Cannes, but they weren't the phones many industry observers had expected.

Until a few weeks ago the clever money had been on an upgraded version of the MPx200 clamshell based smartphone, with Motorola adding an integrated camera and Bluetooth to the phone's line up of facilities.

Instead the company surprised observers by introducing the **MPx** – its high-end smartphone for the business market for 2004.

The handset boasts two key features. Firstly it is the first Motorola model to offer web browsing via Wi-Fi as well as GPRS – Nokia's Wi-Fi equipped handset, the Communicator 9500, was unveiled earlier in the week.

Secondly the phone's form factor is completely unlike almost any other mobile – and more akin to the company's paging devices of half a decade ago.

The MPx features a laptop-style clamshell design with a screen that can be used in either landscape or portrait mode. Essentially when the user is making phone calls it operates as portrait style clamshell model. When accessing data applications, such as e-mail or web browsing, the user flips the phone open in a vertical way.

Writing e-mail is via a full QWERTY keyboard, which we found a little tricky to use as the keys were too small.

In addition to Bluetooth and an MP3 player and all the traditional Windows based applications like Pocket Internet Explorer and Outlook, the handset also boasts a 1.2 mega pixel camera. This should make Motorola the second company to offer a snapper of this high quality standard to the UK market. Accompanying the camera is an integrated flash.

Due in the UK around the same time is a second slightly lower specified Windows powered handset – the MPx100. The phone boasts a traditional

candy bar style form factor, features a 1.2 mega pixel camera, Bluetooth, MP3 player and the usual Microsoft applications.

Although the features list whetted our appetite - especially the Wi-Fi - we were unconvinced by the form factor (the phone is too tall for a standard clamshell) and the keyboard on the MPx. The MPx100 does however look like a strong contender and should certainly tempt the kind of phone buyer who is considering Orange's SPV.

Overall, we would have liked to have seen the revamped MPX200. Its clamshell form factor is superbly executed and the Microsoft applications work well. The addition of the camera and Bluetooth would make it a compelling proposition.

Posted by Shiny Media on February 25, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Second Palm smartphone



Palm Source, the new name for the section of **Palm** that develops the PDA's operating system (OS), continued its attempts at 3GSM to push Palm as an OS for mobile phones. It had some success to for a second mobile phone that runs using Palm (the first, the Handspring Treo 600 launched in December) is heading for Europe and the UK in late spring.

Manufactured by **Group Sense**, which has a huge presence in the Asian mobile market, the **G88** combines Palm personal organiser style facilities with a mobile phone in a candy bar style handset with a sliding keypad not dissimilar to the Samsung SGH-D410.

The phone, which runs via Palm Source's 4.1.2 operating system, features an integrated digital camera, 2.2inch 65k colour screen, e-mail and Java. It boasts 16MB RAM, 16MB ROM and a 2MB internal flash memory card.

We really liked the Palm OS on the Treo, but are not yet convinced as to whether it will function on the G88's smaller screen. More from here

Posted by Shiny Media on February 25, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Blackberry e-mail for Sony Ericsson P900



Personally we wouldn't give a **Blackberry** device house space as they look awful and don't feature niceties like web browsing and music and video playback.

We would however kill for a version of Blackberry innovative e-mail software on our favourite mobile phones (02's XDA, Orange's Treo 600/SPV E-200).

Well, now we may have to consider investing a **Sony Ericsson P900** once again for at 3GSM Blackberry's parent company, **Research in Motion (RIM),** announced its intention to roll out its Blackberry e-mail solution to owners of SE's P900 smartphone.

The Blackberry device has become a huge hit, especially in the US, thanks to its potent combination of always on connectivity and 'push technology.' This means that the device's e-mail system automatically senses when a server has received a new message and then sends it to the device without the user having to dial up.

The software, which requires the back up of Blackberry's Enterprise Server and the Blackberry Web Client to be integrated onto the device, will be launched to both enterprise and individual users of the Sony Ericsson P900 later this year.

It puts the Sony Ericsson in a powerful position of sporting the best web browser for phones in the Opera browser and now the best e-mail system. RIM has already announced that future Nokia and Samsung handsets will also feature Blackberry e-mail solutions as an option.

Posted by Shiny Media on February 25, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (48) | TrackBack (0)

Orange considers pre-pay 3G

It appears it isn't just Three who has an eye on tempting punters to upgrade to **3G** phones via cheap voice calls on **pre-pay** cards. **Orange** has plans in this area too.

Aware of the fact that 3G data features (like video downloads and video calls) don't appear too popular with phone buyers' Orange's Chief Operating Officer Sanjiv Ahuja told Reuters that would look at it (a prepay service)" as part of a long-delayed range of high-speed, third-generation (3G) multimedia phones it plans to start selling in the second half of the year.

Posted by Shiny Media on February 25, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Panny shrinks the smartphone



We've seen a few compact smartphones recently that use the Symbian operating system. Nokia's 6600, Sendo's X and Siemens SX1 leap to mind. **Panasonic** is set to shrink the Symbian smartphone even smaller with its **X700** clamshell phone that it announced at 3GSM in Cannes this week.

The key to the model (which uses the Series 60 interface along with the Symbian OS) size is that it uses a mini Secure Digital (SD) card, rather than the standard SD one used by its rivals. This enables Panasonic to shave a few extra millimetres from the size of the handset.

In terms of its specifications though the X700 is arguably more 2003 than 2004. It has a 65k colour screen and VGA camera rather than the 260k colour screen and mega pixel snappers offered by Panasonic's rivals Sharp, Motorola and LG.

It is compatible with the usual range of Microsoft applications from PowerPoint to Word, has an integrated POP3 email client, Java and Bluetooth. There's no mention of an integrated Web browser (it has WAP) but users who want to view websites will probably download the excellent Opera web browser for Symbian handsets.

The bad news though is that the model is not expected to debut until the end of 2004, buy which time a whole raft of new exciting and better-specified handsets will have been launched.

Posted by Shiny Media on February 25, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Moto's 3G duo



Motorola added a bit of spice to another wise fairly dull 3GSM show with the unveiling of a pair of 3G handsets.

Scheduled for a launch in autumn are the **A1000** and **E1000**.

Probably the more interesting of the pair is the A1000 - a 3G smart phone with a huge screen. It is also the 1st Moto phone to feature a 1.2 mega pixel camera. Other facilities include video calling, compatibility with a host of Microsoft apps inc Word, Excel etc, Bluetooth and a full html web browser.

Expect to see it wearing Orange and Three colours in November.

Moto's other 3G handset is the E100 a phone it is aiming at gadget-loving consumers. A kind of smaller version of the existing 3G phone the A835, the handset boasts audio and video features, a 1.2 mega pixel camera, Bluetooth and push to talk functionality.

Posted by Shiny Media on February 23, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

3 launches Pay As You Go

motorola_a835.jpg Struggling 3G outfit 3 has announced it is to enter the **pay as you go** arena with its own extremely competitively priced PAYG service.

With pay as you go now accounting for around 70 per cent of the mobile phone market it is no surprise that 3 has taken the decision in order to boost customer numbers. But what's perhaps more surprising is that the operator has decided to focus so heavily on value for money rather than emphasising the strong points of the technology such as video calling.

ThreePay customers can chose from three top-up vouchers with calls exactly the same price regardless of the mobile network/landline being called. Importantly because customers pay for the number of minutes, they know exactly how long they are going to get before they need to buy a new top up voucher.

3 claims that anyone currently spending more than £15 a month with another network operator will save money with its service. However, the downside is that vouchers have to be used up within 30 days of activation.

Here are the three vouchers:
£15 voucher = 100 minutes
£25 voucher = 500 minutes
£35 voucher = 750 minutes

Bob Fuller, Chief Executive of 3, said: "3's challenge as the new-entrant is to shake up a stale and unimaginative market; to find ways of delivering better value to consumers. We have put an end to the Pay-As-You-Go practice of charging punitive prices for cross-network, peak-time calls. Our offer is fair, simple and excellent value. The calls cost the same no matter what time it is, or which network you're calling. What's more, we are not punishing customers for paying up front; we are offering them the same value available to our contract customers."

ThreePay will initially be available with the **Motorola A835** mobile phone.

Posted by Shiny Media on February 23, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (10) | TrackBack (0)

LG 3G phone for Orange



A quick postscript to the **Orange 3G** announcement. The network confirmed that for its 3G trials it will use Motorola and LG handsets. The Motorola deal is no surprise, but as for **LG** it is a huge shot in the arm as the Korean company which has only had a presence in the European market for a couple of months.

Orange will use the **U810** handset which has been a firm favourite here at TD since we had our first glimpse of it during summer 2003. The clamshell phone is one of the best 3G handset we have seen so far.

Orange has said it will work with other handset partners, but , like Three, it has said nothing about taking Nokia 3G phones.

Posted by Shiny Media on February 23, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Alphacell debuts M5



More news from Cannes. Mobile phone maker **Alphacell** has unveiled a handset aimed at the youth market. The **M5** is a mid-range camera phone with a 65K colour display, audio and video playback and Internet browsing. The device can be configured by networks in a number of ways including the handset's interface, design and core software.

If UK networks like the phone it could be launched as soon as early summer.

Read on for more details

Multimedia messaging services

Innovative programmable software providing an optimised gaming environment

An integrated digital camera enabled for video and stills

Personal information management services including contacts and calendar

Internet browsing and information services

Media Player, media capture

Dual processor for voice and rich media processing - dedicated hardware support for video applications

65K LCD colour display

Comprehensive messaging centre - including email, SMS and MMS

Two dedicated operator keys allow instant access to operator services (portal services, voice and more)

Ability to operate on GSM and GPRS networks worldwide.

Posted by Shiny Media on February 23, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Orange 3G launch

Orange has announced details of the roll-out of its **3G** services across Europe at the 3GSM exhibition in Cannes, France today.

Here's the full story

- Fully commercial 3G launch in second half of 2004
- Commercial trials to be launched in France and UK
- Orange 3G network live in over 20 cities including London, Manchester, Edinburgh, Cannes, Toulouse and Lille

Interestingly Orange claims to have the most widespread integrated 2G/3G network across the UK, with over 40 per cent population coverage.

The full release is below

Orange Delivers 3G Strategy Update at 3GSM Cannes

- Fully in line to launch commercial services across 3G network in second half of 2004
- Commercial trials to be launched in France and UK
- Orange 3G network live in over 20 cities including London, Manchester, Edinburgh, Cannes, Toulouse and Lille
- Orange 3G Developer Centres to be launched across the globe
- Key partners Alcatel, Nokia and Nortel working together to deliver fully integrated 3G Orange network

Orange today delivered a 3G strategy update in which it announced commercial trials of the network in the UK and France, the creation of nine 3G Developer Centres across the globe, and confirmed that it is on track to launch full commercial 3G services to customers in France and the UK in the second half of 2004.

Speaking at the Orange press conference in Cannes, Thierry Breton, Chairman of Orange and Chairman and CEO of France Telecom, commented, "By announcing the launch of our 3G wireless services in France and the UK later this year, we reaffirm the importance of broadband, both fixed line and mobile, to the France Telecom Group strategy. Thanks to our integrated approach, our customers will benefit from seamless services across our fixed-line, wireless and internet networks."

Sanjiv Ahuja, Chief Operating Officer of the Orange Group, said: "This year, Orange delivers on its promise of an enhanced network, giving customers the speed and richness of services that will transform their Orange device into a powerhouse of mobile applications and services, accessible at the touch of a button.

"We are working with hundreds of industry partners and innovative companies behind the scenes to deliver an unrivalled Orange Experience across this new mobile landscape."

Commercial Update

Orange announced a number of customer trials taking place across Europe and demonstrated its live 3G network in Cannes for the first time.

The Orange France trials, known as 'Villes Orange 3G' are also underway in the cities of Lille and Toulouse, testing the Orange 3G offering with existing Orange customers. A total of 4,000 Orange users are involved in the trials which is evaluating all aspects of the customer's experience including customer services, sales and distribution, devices, services and content as well as pricing and tariffs. For a minimal additional monthly charge, customers have access to a range of services including video calling and unlimited access to multi-media content. The key learnings from the 'Villes Orange 3G' will be used across the Orange Group, complimenting existing trials that are taking place in other markets such as the UK.

Orange currently has the most widespread integrated 2G/3G network across the UK, with over 40 per cent population coverage. This includes 10 cities such as London, Manchester, Edinburgh and Bristol as well as key transport

routes. Extensive developer trials have been underway since mid-2003 and customer trials are currently taking place.

Full commercial launch in both the UK and France is due for the second half of this year.

Orange 3G Developer Centres

Orange also announced the launch of its Orange 3G Developer Centres which will open across the world in 2004. The centres will provide third party developers with the resources to utilise a range of Orange devices and connect to the 3G network in a dedicated laboratory to develop innovative and exciting applications for customers.

Each centre will be equipped with an Orange device lab, meeting spaces, and an interactive 3G demo environment. They will enable developers and business managers to:

- Upload and test their service with Orange handsets

- Experience 3G via interactive demonstrations

- Meet Orange representatives to discuss future applications

The nine Orange 3G Developer Centres will be located in the UK, France, Thailand, the Netherlands, China, Japan and three in the USA. The centres in the UK (Maidenhead), France (Velizy), and Thailand (Bangkok) are ready for developers to use today. The other centres will be launched throughout the year. Orange will also be launching a web-based "Virtual Developer Centre" as an extension to the Orange Developer Programme.

Sanjiv Ahuja commented: "We are focused on supporting developers working in the 3G arena, and with the Orange 3G Developer Centres, we will be able to give that community vital access to the enhanced Orange network as well as tools and support, which will in turn stimulate the creation of exciting new applications for our customers. Six of the Orange 3G Developer Centres will be based within Alcatel's 3G Reality Centres, allowing us and the developer community to build key relationships."

Alcatel, Nokia and Nortel working together

Following a thorough evaluation and tender process during 2003, Orange selected Alcatel, Nokia and Nortel as Orange partners in the deployment of 3G radio access network (RAN) technology infrastructure across the Orange footprint. Orange has been working with Alcatel and Nokia in the United Kingdom and Alcatel, Nokia and Nortel Networks in France to build a robust, interoperable UMTS network infrastructure that will ensure a consistent experience for Orange customers across the Orange footprint.

Etienne Fouques, Alcatel Executive Vice President, President Mobile

Communications Group, said: "We are proud to be a long-standing and reliable partner for Orange. Over the past years, Alcatel has been deeply committed to help Orange prepare the future and address the associated technical and marketing challenges. Our commitment has translated last year into an impressively fast and efficient UMTS network roll-out as well as the turnkey development and integration of innovative 3G end-user services for Orange. The launch of Orange's 3G Developer Centres program, building upon Alcatel's worldwide network of 3G Reality Centres, now opens a new and promising dimension in our partnership. It's all about helping Orange confirm its leadership position in the mobile space."

Dr JT Bergqvist, Senior Vice President and General Manager of Business Units for Nokia Networks, said: "The shared industry vision of global mobility has never been more true now that we see the widespread commercial take-up of 3G WCDMA services. Our strategic partnership with Orange goes beyond the simple delivery of leading WCDMA infrastructure as we are tightly co-operating in optimizing Orange's WCDMA radio networks and enhancing the end-to-end performance of WCDMA-based applications. I'm excited to see the results of our partnership manifested yet again in the the launch today of Orange's 'Ville Orange 3G' programme. "

Pascal Debon, President of Wireless Networks for Nortel Networks, said: "It takes tremendous dedication and teamwork to bring a network on line in only five months, and that is what Nortel Networks and Orange have accomplished together. We are proud of Orange's confidence in us based on our long history together, and pleased to be part of their program to deliver leading-edge, 3G wireless broadband services to their customers."

Sanjiv Ahuja added: "Partnering with these companies has meant that we are well on track to deliver an outstanding 3G network in France and the UK. Drawing on the expertise that these companies offer, we are building an industry standard for services, quality, reliability and performance in the UMTS environment."

Ahuja concluded: "We are focused on delivering a mobile broadband-style experience through the Orange 3G network, whether that be on a phone, a laptop, or some other device. Our objective is to establish an industry standard for services, quality, reliability and performance in the UMTS and

other technology environments. We are focused on leveraging the capabilities of 3G technology to launch world class services to our customers across the Orange Group."

Posted by Shiny Media on February 23, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (12) | TrackBack (0)

Nokia's Wi-Fi brick



Nokia made the first big announcement of this year's 3GSM exhibition in Cannes, France when it unveiled a new version of its Communicator handset. The **9500**, the first fruits of its collaboration with IBM, is smaller and lighter than its predecessors (which were nicknamed the brick), yet boasts integrated Wi-Fi. This could be a first for a mobile phone, unless Motorola which is also working on a Wi-Fi mobile debuts its handsets before the 9500 launches in the Autumn.

Aimed at corporates the 9500 features integrated IBM software, including its Notes e-mail package, uses the Symbian operating system and features the Nokia Series 80 software platform. In spite of the IBM deal it is however also compatible with Microsoft applications likeOutlook.

Posted by Shiny Media on February 23, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Xelibri fashion phones review



Our guest reviewer Charlotte Ricca-Smith has been busily pulling part the four fashion phones launched recently by **Siemens** under its **Xelebri** banner - here's her verdict.



Xelibri8

The 8 is undoubtedly Xelebri's greatest examples of form over function. It looks very cool, attracts just the right kind of attention and feels fantastic to hold, thanks to its curves and smooth edges. It even comes with a necklace.

It gets tricky when you try making calls though. There is no keyboard, so you have to scroll through each number via its navikey, pressing the centre button when you get to the right one, before moving onto the next. It is actually quicker that it sounds, but a phaff none-the-less.

What you are supposed to do is use its voice-dialing facility, which enables you to speak the number to the phone.

There is no similar solution when texting, which is a seriously frustrating experience. Once again, each letter has to be found by scrolling through the alphabet.

What is cool is its FM radio, MMS messaging, voice memo and the polyphonic ring tones.

The 8 is strictly for those believe everything in their life should make some kind of style statement. And I while I love its innovative user interface and sleek design, after a couple of days I was gagging to get back to the familiarity of the keyboard.



Xelibri6

The Xelibri 6 not only looks like a powder compact. Open it up and there are two mirrors (one with magnification) so you can slap on some lippy while catching up with friends. It even has a pink cleaning cloth. And to allow space for the smaller mirror the buttons are positioned vertically around the outside of the handset. This of course is a nightmare especially when sending texts.

Other than this, thanks to Siemens' familiar technology, the 6 is very easy to use. It doesn't however have the same build quality, and is made of a lightweight plastic, which feels like it could be easily broken. It is also quite uncomfortable to hold to the ear, and unless you hold the phone in exactly the right place you won't hear your caller.

Battery life, however, is impressive and the 6 has the usual polyphonic ring tones (twenty-three if you're counting), which I discovered make great, gentle alarm calls, as well as a 4,000 colour screen - well, its pink and it displays a cocktail glass when not in use. What more could a girl want from a phone?



Xelibri7

As Xelibriphones go, the 7 appears run-of-the-mill, until you turn it sideways. Seemingly inspired by David Beckham's habit of clipping his clamshell phone over the top of his pocket, the 7 doesn't just have a clip, it IS a clip. So you can wear your phone with pride, without having to worry about it dropping down the toilet.

It's familiar fascia is a relief after the gimmicks and trickery of the other phones in the range, and again Siemens operating system makes the 7 very easy to navigate. However, on a downside the buttons have a slightly shiny, slippery feel, which is another less welcome feature found on many Siemens phone. You also have to prise open a small, hinged flap to connect the charger, and on the test model this had already come loose. Indeed the general build quality is less than average, and the phones feels somewhat plasticky, but this could be necessary due to the integral flexibility needed for the clip design to work.

Battery life was impressive however, and as with other models you get voice dialing, polyphonic ring tones and a 4,000-colour display, which can handle basic picture messaging. My personal favourite is the 'wow' face, which sums up the general reaction to the whole Xelibrirange.

The 7 is essentially a great, basic phone, but one that you can wear as part of your outfit, without the risk of it flying off when your busting moves on the dancefloor. So if you like your technology with a twist, it is definitely worth checking out.



Xelibri5

The 5 is another in the range that can be worn on clothing or attached to a bag via its 'Click-On adapter'. And while this style statement won't be popular with everyone it is a great way of making sure you're phone is on you at all times. Slide it off and you'll find a somewhat unconventional

keypad, which has three rows with four keys. This doesn't take much getting used to, although the zero seems to be in the wrong place - but then this is what I have come to expect from the brand that likes to push all the boundaries, even if it means we end up pushing the wrong buttons.

Other than this one design quirk the phone is really nice to use - the buttons are responsive and large enough for the male market to enjoy and backlit in electric blue. The handset is also very slim line and despite its square edges, comfy to use and very pocket friendly (although, of course I didn't put it in my pocket, I clipped it on to my Evisu jeans.

Once again battery life is faultless - and the 5 has the longest talk time in the group with 340 minutes. It also feels fairly robust and doesn't seem to have sacrificed function for form. You get all the usual basic features such as polyphonic ring tones, alarm clock, MMS texting and voice dialling - all of which are easily navigated via the familiar navikey.

The 5 is a great phone that combines good looks, with usability and practicality. And while its retro style won't be to everyone's liking this is one of the best Xelibri handsets to date.

Posted by Shiny Media on February 20, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (2) | TrackBack (0)

3G phones imminent



No official news yet, but 3G websites are predicting that the next couple of weeks will be busy for UK network **Three**.

Apparently the long-promised **NEC e616** and **Motorola A925** handsets are imminent and they may even be accompanied soon after by the Sony Ericsson Z1010.

The web is also thick with rumours that Three is set to launch a pay as you go service that will significantly undercut similar offerings from its non-3G rivals.

Depending on who you believe Three is also apparently on the verge of unveiling a business service with users able to connect their mobile phone to laptops to surf wirelessly at fast speeds on their PCs, is set to offer full web browsing on its handsets and will enable users to access pop3 e-mail without having to use a handset's web server.

While the pay as you go service seems like a logical move we'll wait and see on the other points. Launching a business service would mean announcing new tariffs for data transfer.

Three's business service though surely can't be too far especially as rival Vodafone has announced trials of its 3G business system via PC cards.

Watch this space.

Posted by Shiny Media on February 20, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Now Moto offers push to talk



After Nokia's announcement of its 7140 Push to talk phone the other week **Motorola** has become the second manufacturer to announce a PTT mobile for the UK market. The **V400p** features a PTT button that enables the handset to communicate like a walkie-talkie with other similarly specified handsets (click here for more).

At present only Orange has confirmed the launch of a PTT service in Europe although other networks are expected to announce similar programmes soon. The phone itself is a clamshell model, not unlike Motorola's recently launched V500 model, featuring a 65k colour screen, VGA camera, Java , POP3 e-mail compatibility and MP3 polyphonic ringtones. Both the V400p and the 5140 go on sale in the UK in April/May.

Posted by Shiny Media on February 20, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

LG's slider



The Guardian has been playing with the second **LG** phone to reach the UK market - the **G7050**. It is one of only a handful of phones to feature a slide down keypad, which in this instances drops so that the size of the screen can be increased.

Posted by Shiny Media on February 20, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Sharp/Vodafone launches GX30



Well it is here at last. **Vodafone** has announced the March launch of the **Sharp GX30**, the fourth in its series of acclaimed clamshell camera phones.

The big news is that it is the first camera phone in Europe to take images of a mega pixel. Up until now the standard has been VGA, which is about half the resolution.

In theory one mega pixel cameras should take reasonably good images - perhaps good enough to actually print out. Of course you won't be able to

send them as the files are too large. Instead the images will be stored on a Secure Digital card.

It has also improved the screen and battery life and built in an MP3 player and Bluetooth.

it will sell for between £100-200

Anyway here's Vodafone's take on the GX30's key features

1 mega-pixel camera

It is the first GSM-enabled camera-phone that can take pictures of a resolution of 1 million pixels, which is three times the resolution that is normally available in camera-phones in the European market today. It can take stills in five different sizes - from 858 x 1144 pixels down to 120 x 160 pixels - and there's a 7x digital zoom for the smallest picture size. Like its predecessor, it has a macro setting for taking close-ups and a torch is fitted alongside the lens to light up objects when taking photos in poor light. And with the GX30's photo editing program, you can put the finishing touches to the pictures you have taken. Pictures taken at the larger sizes are simple to transfer to a computer by inserting the mobile phone's memory card (SD card) into the computer's SD card reader or via a USB cable.

240 x 320 colour screen boasts 260,000 colours

The Sharp GX30 has two colour screens: the main screen (LCD) has a 240 x 320-dot resolution that boasts 260,000 colours for pictures even sharper and
richer in contrast than its predecessor. The outer display is larger than the Sharp GX20's and it has a 64 x 96-dot resolution and 65,000 colours. With both screens, users can add their own wallpaper. Both screens also display caller ID information, as well as the time and date of each call. The outer screen can also be used as a viewfinder when users want to take their own pictures.

Mobile entertainment

The Sharp GX30 is the perfect partner for accessing the award-winning Vodafone live! services. With its high-resolution crystal clear colour screen the there is a richer mobile game playing experience. What's more, with its 40 track polyphonic ringtones abilities, the GX30 is optimised to accommodate Vodafone live!'s extensive range of downloadable ringtones (numbering some 2,500). It is also equipped with an audio player that supports the MP3 format and a video function to record video clips of around
10-20 seconds.

Posted by Shiny Media on February 20, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (128) | TrackBack (0)

Going Underground with your mobile



Good news for mobile phone fans. Soon it will be possible to talk and text even underground.

The **Newcastle Metro** has become the first tube system in the UK to offer complete mobile phone coverage. All of the network operators are currently working on a new antenna system that will provide continuous coverage through the central underground part of the Newcastle Metro including all tunnels, platforms and concourses.

Underground coverage will overlap with existing coverage to nearby shopping centres, allowing customers to move freely without losing a call. The Newcastle Metro is a busy regional public transport system that supports 40 million passenger journeys every year.

Derek McManus, Head of Network Operations at O2 UK said: "This is landmark for O2 as we know that the underground was one of the last places in the UK where you couldn't make and receive calls. Our customers tell us that they want to be able to chat and text on the tube system and the Newcastle Metro leads the way. We do encourage all travellers who use their mobiles on the Newcastle Metro to respect the space and privacy of other travellers and display considerate mobile etiquette. "

Posted by Shiny Media on February 16, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Voda's 3G PC card



It seems like only yesterday that **Vodafone** announced it was trialling its **3G Mobile Connect** card for laptops. Well it has now made good on its promise and confirmed a full roll out of the card in the next week or so.

Initially the card, which Voda promises will enable users to access the Internet at speeds of up to 384kbps, will only be available to larger businesses. However smaller companies and consumers should be able to snap one up by the beginning of summer. We hear that **Orange** has a similar card which it will launch around the same time.

The Voda card's only real drawback is its coverage area. It is limited to areas where the Vodafone 3G network is available (essentially cities like London and Manchester and along the M4). When the card leaves a 3G area it apparently shifts seamlessly to a GPRS network.

There's no news yet on price, but we don't think it will be cheap.

Posted by Shiny Media on February 12, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Siemens' flashy phone



Siemens has unveiled a pair of new mobiles – one that it is billing as the next generation of multimedia handsets, the other its first clamshell model.

The top-end model is the **CX-65.** It features the usual selection of features found on luxury phones including Java, a VGA camera, video camera and POP3 e-mail.

It does however have several key features the most important of which is an attachable flash for shooting images indoors.

The screen should also win Siemens a few plaudits. It might be just 65k colours (upcoming phones this year will offer more) but it is larger than most rival handsets.

Siemens also scores points for a useful 11MB of memory and an impressive talk time of five hours and 250 hours standby.

The phone itself is chocolate bar style and in some way looks like a smaller version of Motorola's A-835 3G handset or even Nokia's 6600.

Siemens has also unveiled its first ever clamshell phone - the **CF-62**. There's no integrated camera, though an add-on module with a flash is available, but it does boast a 65K colour screen, Java, WAP and caller display on the outer screen.

Both phones launch in April.

Posted by Shiny Media on February 12, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Sharp GX30 is imminent



Well you won't have to wait much longer. The word is that the first GSM phone with a one mega pixel camera capable of taking half-decent images, will be in the stores within a month.

The Sharp GX30, the fourth in the company's series of clamshell camera phones, is expected to be announced 3GSM in Cannes on Feb 21 with a Europe-wide launch following in March (probably the 12th).

We have no definite details on the phone. However our insiders have confirmed the following

One mega pixel integrated digital camera

2.4 inch screen with QVGA (240 x 320) resolution (this is the same as the GX20). However the screen has 260,000 colours screen - much more than the 65k offered by the GX20. Also the second front screen has been upgraded too in that it now boasts 65,536 colours and is 1.2-inches in size.

MPEG4 video capture with up to ten seconds of sound

Secure Digital (SD) card slot - for saving images and storing music

MP3 player/voice recorder - an obvious addtion once the SD card slot is in place

256KB Java application storage capacity - a real boon for gamers

Bluetooth

Dimensions 50 x 98 x 24mm

Weight Approx. 115g

The one mega pixel camera will take images that are significantly better than those taken by phones with VGA cameras. It is unlikely, however, that users will be able to send images over Vodafone's GPRS network, as they will simply be too large.

Posted by Shiny Media on February 12, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Motorola revives the spinning phone



Remember the Motorola V70 - the cute little phone with the flip round rotating cover? Well in what looks like an inspired move **Motorola** has revived the spinning case concept in a top-end camera phone the **V80**.

It features an oval-shaped design is finished in black and sports a large-ish 220x176 TFT LCD screen with 65k colours on its front.

Spin open the front to 270 degrees and its VGA camera automatically fires up enabling for the first time, users to take images in landscape as well as portrait mode. With the screen spun round fully the screen reverts to its standard interfaces.

Unlike the V70, which was shorn of all but the most basic facilities, Motorola has stacked the V80 with a large selection of features.

These include

Java
Polyphonic ringtones
Wap browser
Pop3 e-mail
Pic colour ID
Video playback
MotoMixer -ringtone creator

At first glance the handset's combination of innovative styling and features looks like a real winner - maybe even this year's equivalent of the Sony Ericsson T610. It will certainly appeal to female phone buyers. Its only real drawback is that its four menu buttons are a tad fiddly.

It goes on sale in March retailing for around £150 with a contract.

Motorola also debuted the V220, which is essentially a cut-down version of its V600/V525 clamshell camera phones and a model without a camera, the V180.

Both are designed for the budget-end of the handset market.

Posted by Shiny Media on February 5, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Samsung slider



Samsung has taken a leaf from Siemens book in introducing a top-end camera phone with a slide down bottom half - just like its German rivals SL55.

Due to arrive in the UK in the summer the ultra compact Samsung **SGH-D410** takes VGA pictures, features a front-mounted 260,000 colour, two inch display, has a POP3/IMAP4 compatible e-mail client and includes Java for downloadable games and content.

It also boasts 10MB of storage - a great deal more than many rival camera phones - and 30 seconds of MPEG video capture.

Posted by Shiny Media on February 5, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Soap for mobiles

In what could well be sign of things to come a pair of companies, **Mobix Interactive** and **Jack Brand** have teamed up to deliver the first ever 'made-for-mobile' daily soap opera, **'Connections'**.

Aimed at both 3G and GPRS phone users Connetions is apparently a fast-moving soap (it has to be as each episode only last 90 seconds in length), which apparently finishes each day with that old soap staple - the cliffhanger.

The two companies have apparently created a whole host of story treatments for mobile phones, ranging from spy stories and who-dunnits, to sci-fi thrillers and even a sitcom.

Connections is set to launch at the end of March. Only owners of the Sony P800, Sony P900, Nokia 7650, Nokia 3650 and Nokia 7700 will be able to tune in.

Posted by Shiny Media on February 5, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Nokia 7700 at Carphone Warehouse



Carphone Warehouse, which recently announced the exclusive on **Nokia's** 7600 3G handset, has bagged another of the company's odd-looking new mobiles.

Due on sale very shortly is the **7700** curved shaped high-end model.

In addition to its weird design the 7700 sees the debut of Nokia's new Series 90 UI interface. It is also one of the first of the company's handset to feature a touch screen.

On board are a camera, a web browser, video facilities, stereo radio, and music player. The 7700 can also access still and moving images transmitted

over a new kind of digital TV network. Don't expect EastEnders just yet though. Transmissions aren't expected to start until at least 2005.

Also arriving at the same time is the **Nokia 6820.** Billed as a messaging device the phone features full keyboard, integrated camera, e-mail, MMS, SMS, and Instant Messaging. Look out for reviews of both phones in the near future.

Posted by Shiny Media on February 5, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (5) | TrackBack (0)

Nokia 5140 sports phone



For those rugged outdoor types who like to hang off mountains and that sort of thing, Nokia introduces a bump and splash resistant mobile phone with integrated compass, flashlight, fitness monitor and optional GPS covers - so you know exactly where you are lost!

Launched at the ISPO Winter ISPO in Munich, the **triband** 5140 is also Nokia's first **push-to-talk** phone so you can instantly communicate with a group of people - just like using a walkie-talkie. It will be available in the second quarter of 2004.

Full features list:
* Integrated digital compass
* Flashlight to guide the way
* GPS covers (with downloadable maps)
* Push to talk option (similar to walkie-talkie)
* VGA camera
* Fitness monitor (tracks activity level and calorie consumption)
*Interval timer and stopwatch

Posted by Shiny Media on February 4, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

At last a proper 3G phone, we hope



It appears at last that UK 3G network **Three** has a really great phone on its books. As from the middle of February buyers will able to take home the undeniably cool, though stupidly difficult to use, **Nokia 7600**.

The weird thing is that it isn't really an official Three phone. It is only available through the **Carphone Warehouse**.

Even better, unlike standard Three phones CW claims users will be able to

· Send and receive pop3 e-mail through the phone's built-in e-mail system
· Use the Bluetooth feature on the phone to connect it to a laptop and thereby surf the net on their PC at 3G's awesome 380-ish kbps speed
· Look at websites and wap sites outside the ones that Three has partner deals with

We are still not convinced that this will happen, but we have had the above confirmed in good faith from the team at CW.

Users will also be able to see some Three video content including ITV's news reports

They won't be able to

Make video calls - the phone isn't equipped to do this
Access Three's premium content - namely Premiership footy goals, MTV music vids and Three's innovative top shelf clips (work it out for yourself)

Buyers pay between £229.99 and nothing for the handset depending on which Three tariff they sign up to.

Anyway we are looking forward to slapping our money down in a CW store next week to check this out.

For more info on the phone see details here and The Guardian's review.

Posted by Shiny Media on February 2, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Vodafone announces 3G launch (sort of)

At last. This is what we have been waiting for. **Vodafone** has announced trials of a 3G card for laptops. And the good news is that a full launch has been pencilled in for later in the spring. At present laptops use either PC cards or connect with mobile phones to surf the Internet wirelessly at pathetic speeds which can often be as slow as 10kbps.

The **3G Mobile Connect card**, which fits into a notebook's PCMCIA slot, deliver data transmission speeds of up to 384kbps. That's not that much slower than the average broadband connection which runs at 512kbps.

The bad news is that it is limited to areas where the Vodafone 3G network is available (essentially cities like London and Manchester and along the M4). When the card leaves a 3G area it apparently shifts seamlessly to a GPRS network.

This gives the clearest indication yet of Voda's 3G strategy. Rather than compete with Three in the video calling market it is rolling out 3G to the business community first and the following it up with some video additions to its Live! service.

We really can't wait for it arrive.

Posted by Shiny Media on February 2, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Phones of the year 2004

nokia7200flip.jpg

The Guardian has listed what are likely to the biggest new phones for 2004.

Among its contenders are the Nokia 7200, Sharp GX30, Siemens SX1, HP iPaq h6300 and 3G phones from Sony Ericsson and LG.

Read it at www.guardian.co.uk/online

Posted by Shiny Media on January 26, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (2) | TrackBack (0)

Voq phone coming to UK soon

Sierrawireless.JPG

Sierra Wireless has confirmed that its innovative **Voq Professional** smartphone, which we have featured before, will debut in the UK later in the spring. The device, which runs Microsoft's Windows Mobile operating system, has a USP in that it boasts a full QWERTY keyboard that users access by pulling open the flap on the front of the phone that also houses its numeric keypads. The handset features a 200MHz processor, 32MB of RAM, a 200x176 pixel colour screen, and an SD expansion card slot. While cut-down versions of Microsoft applications like Internet Explorer and Outlook are included there is however no integrated digital camera or Bluetooth.

More from here.

Posted by Shiny Media on January 22, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Orange to debut Push To Talk in UK

The Guardian has an in depth look at the first push to talk service, Orange's Talk Now , to launch in the UK.

The system, which some pundits are predicting could be the next text messaging, has two main features. Firstly users can tell at a glance who, from their list of contacts, has their mobile switched on and can talk. Secondly PTT enables a mobile phone to moonlight as a walkie-talkie. Except that, unlike traditional walkie-talkies, which have a range of a few hundred feet, PTT-equipped phones work over phone networks so in theory users can contact someone no matter where in the world they are. There's no need to dial a number and users can speak to pre-configured groups in seconds.

Posted by Shiny Media on January 22, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (2) | TrackBack (0)

Nokia's 3G phone hits UK, but how 3G is it?



It doesn't just look weird. The story surrounding the launch of **Nokia's** first 3G phone for the UK is quite bizarre too.

On the plus side the **7600**, with its tear-shaped design is certainly one of Nokia's most iconic phones. It is also massively smaller than most of the 3G phone currently on sale. It should then be a no brainer for 3G network, Three, especially as the company is rumoured to be short of handsets.

As it doesn't however feature Three's signature feature, video calling, Three has passed on it. Well sort of it. Instead the 7600 is available from next month exclusively via Carphone Warehouse with a Three 3G contract. However which 3G features it actually boasts is open to question. According to the press release users will be able to watch some video content, like the news and the weather, but not see Three's premium stuff like Premiership football and MTV music.

Fine, but there appears to be confusion as to what else the phone is able to do. Can it access POP3 e-mail? You can't on Three's other phones? What about WAP or even HTML sites? Again Three limits this to a small group of sites. Most important of all can users harness the 3G network to use the phone as a modem to power their laptops delivering broadband to go? Who knows?

So far the Carphone Warehouse has kept quiet. We think it hasn't even made a decision on some of these points yet. Anyway we hope to have answers next week. There will also be a full review in The Guardian too.

Incidentally the 7600 is very light at 123g, has a 65k colour screen, MP3/AAC player, video camera (capable of capturing and sending clips of up to 2.5 minutes), video download, XHTML web browser, Bluetooth, and Java.

Posted by Shiny Media on January 22, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

South Korea goes 4G

koreanmobile_1.jpg

While 2004 is set to be a big year for the mobile phone industry with the launch of a host of 3G services from Vodafone, Orange and other networks, we have got a long way to go to keep up with Koreans. For the **South**

Korean government is now organising the auction of the country's **4G** frequencies with a view that services will be up and running by 2005.

Apparently the government has been disappointed with both 3G and Wi-Fi initiatives in the country and is going all out to develop a service with speeds of up to 1mbps (that's twice as fast as most Britons' broadband connections).

Posted by Shiny Media on January 6, 2004 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

BSquare launches in UK



Vodafone is set to bring one of the US hottest smartphones to the UK. The **BSquare Power Handheld** pairs a Microsoft Windows CE.Net operating system with a large (4inch) LCD screen, which the company claims is ideal for web surfing and reading e-mail.

The device also features an integrated full QWERTY keyboard that is cleverly housed within the screen and then pulled down when the user needs it.

According to BSquare the device's USP is that its screen is large enough to display many websites in full and has no need to reformat them as other devices with smaller screens do.

It is powered by a 400MHz Intel XScale processor and contains 64MB or 128MB of RAM, depending on which specification you choose, and 32MB or 64MB of flash memory.

There's no integrated Bluetooth or Wi-fi though these can be added via the devcies's SDIO slot.

Battery life is rated at four hours' talk time, three hours web browsing and 120 hours standby time.

There's no sign of the device on the Vodafone website yet, so we have no idea of prices. The company has said that the device is available in limited quantities and is aimed ostensibly at the corporate market.

More details from here

Posted by Shiny Media on December 14, 2003 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Nokia 7200, 6230 and 6810 review



Nokia's range of mobile phones for 2004 didn't exactly blow us away. So it is good to report that its handsets for 2004 show that the company is back on track delivering superbly designed, easy to use mobile phones. Three models in particular (the **7200**, **6230** and **6810**) are likely to be enormous. The Guardian got a chance to play with early samples of these phones and you can read its verdict here.

Posted by Shiny Media on December 14, 2003 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (2) | TrackBack (0)

New Motorola smartphone



There may be a good reason why Orange is offloading the **Motorola MPx200** clamshell Windows powered smartphone for nothing. And that's because its successor, the **MPx220**, is being groomed for a Spring launch.

Apparently the new handset keeps the form factor of the original but adds four key features. Firstly it offers the latest 2003 version of Microsoft's Smartphone operating system, which is a tad faster and more efficient than the current one. The phone will also feature an integrated VGA camera and come with Bluetooth for connecting it to a headset or a laptop PC. Also the phone has 10MB of internal storage – very generous for a mobile.

We are big fans of the MPx200, but think that its lack of camera/Bluetooth has worked against as it is up against so many excellent phones that already boast those features. Needless to say we'll be first in the queue for the new model.

Posted by Shiny Media on December 8, 2003 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

LG's 2004 phone blitz



LG is hoping to repeat fellow Koreans Samsung's success in the UK mobile phone market by launching a huge range of new handsets next year. It will include a **3G** handset the U8100 (click here for more) a version of the Windows smartphone (pictured above) that instead will use the Symbian operating system (the same as the Sony Ericsson P900 and Nokia 6600) and a rash of GPRS models.

Due first in February is a revamp of its G7100 camera phone, the **G7200**. It keeps its predecessors' clamshell design and rotating display, but features a 262K colour screen (the first of its kind in the UK as the current standard is 65K) and video capture, download and playback.

It will be followed in spring by the company's **GT** phone – its first handset to feature a camera capable of taking mega pixels images. The phone is a clamshell design with an integrated aerial. Its mains screen has 176x220 pixels resolution and 256K colours. Other features include moving image capture, instant messaging and pair of stereo speakers to make the most of its range of 40 polyphonic ringtones.

Scheduled to launch around the same time are the **GS2** (a clamshell budget camera phone) and the **GS3** (a candy bar style camera phone).

At the end of the year the company will debut the **GF**, which has a flip up design reminiscent of Siemen's popular SL55. The handset will also feature MPEG4 video and AAC audio playback, moving image capture and a VGA camera phone.

LG is also set to launch a Symbian based version of the **SC8000**, its Windows based smartphone that is currently available in Korea.

Posted by Shiny Media on December 6, 2003 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (2) | TrackBack (0)

Nokia 3G phone on sale in UK - sort of



Quite possibly **Nokia's** oddest handset so far, and believe me it has some serious competition, has finally arrived in the UK. The **7600**, the company's entertainment packed style phone that was announced during October, has gone on sale in London but only in limited quantities through Conran stores.

It is very light at 123g, has a 65k colour screen, MP3/AAC player, video camera (capable of capturing and sending clips of up to 2.5 minutes), video download, XHTML web browser, Bluetooth, and Java.

Although it was originally designed for 3G networks it won't actually work on the UK's 3G network 3. Instead it is compatible with existing GPRS services.

More details on price when we get them, but it certainly won't be cheap.

Posted by Shiny Media on December 6, 2003 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (182) | TrackBack (0)

The new text messaging?



The Guardian is wondering what is likely to be the biggest thing in mobile phones next year? 3G? Camera phones?

It concludes it could well be a technology imported from the US called **Push To Talk** (PTT) which enables your mobile phone to moonlight as a walkie-talkie. Except that, unlike traditional walkie-talkies, which have a range of a few hundred feet, PTT-equipped phones can buzz in theory buzz anyone anywhere in the world.

Click here for the full story

Posted by Shiny Media on December 6, 2003 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (6) | TrackBack (0)

Year's best mobile phones



Now it is December expect the newspapers to be swamped with best of the year retrospective features detailing everything from 2003's best movie to its top new garden centre. **The Guardian** has got in there early this week by naming the year's five best mobile phones.

They are

Best PDA style phone - Sony Ericsson P900
Best smartphone - Orange SPV E-200
Best camaerphone - Sharp GX20
Best pay as you go phone - Panasonic G50
Best overall budget phone - Siemens SL55

You can read how they came to choose these handsets and which phones were runners up here.

Posted by Shiny Media on December 4, 2003 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (7) | TrackBack (0)

Motorola ups the camera phone ante



Motorola's big launch for this week is the **V525** a new camera phone available exclusively via **Vodafone Live!** The handset is almost identical to the forthcoming V500, the key difference being a Vodafone Live! button to take users directly through to the network's Wap/download sites.

There's no fulll HTML web access, but the handset does feature a VGA standard camera with plenty of image tweaking options, a 65K colour 176x220 pixel display, 5Mb of storage - much more than many of its camera phone rivals, and the option of using an MP3 tune (basically any music you want) as a ringtone.

It also features Bluetooth for connecting to a wireless headset or acting as a soft modem in conjunction with a laptop PC. Unlike many of its rivals it can also access POP3 e-mail accounts.

The phone is also one of the first quad band phones on the market which extends the number of countries in the world it can function in to include parts of central and South America.

The launch of the V525 is interesting as it offers further evidence that Motorola is willing to make deals with networks to customise phones to suit their requirements.

Posted by Shiny Media on December 3, 2003 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (4) | TrackBack (0)

South Korea 1-0 Europe



The Guardian has the lowdown on a Tech Digest staffer's recent trip to South Korea, where, in between helpings of spicy pickled cabbage, he wept with envy while viewing the fantastic selection of gadgets **LG** makes for its local market.

The feature also has details of some of the new products LG is lining up for the UK next year.

Posted by Shiny Media on December 1, 2003 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Orange SPV E-200 review



The third incarnation of **Orange's SPV** Windows-powered smartphone, the E-200, has just landed on the test bench at The Guardian. Apparently the inclusion of Bluetooth and an intergrated camera along with more memory has significantly improved both its performance and usability. Read the review here.

Posted by Shiny Media on December 1, 2003 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (3) | TrackBack (0)

Blackberry's Tri-band smartphone

blackberry.JPG Research in Motion (RIM) has added a new **Blackberry** to its line-up. Aimed at corporate customers, the **7730** triple-band 'smart phone' incorporates a large colour screen and a whole host of business-oriented features.

As well as being a phone, it delivers e-mail, SMS, web browser and organiser applications. Like other 'smart phones' from Blackberry it also boasts a push-based wireless architecture so e-mails instantly appear on the screen rather than you having to dial into the network.

The price of the 7730 has yet to be announced but the phone will be distributed in the UK by O2. Like its little brother, the 7230, the 7730 contains 2MB of SRAM and 16MB of Flash. The new model's battery offers five hours of talk time and nine days standby time.

- Colour screen that supports over 65,000 colours
- Cradle-free wireless email synchronization.
- Integrated email attachment viewing that enables users to read important email attachments from their BlackBerry handheld (including: Microsoft

Word, Excel, PowerPoint, PDF, WordPerfect, ASCII).
• Support for international roaming (on 900/1800/1900 MHz GSM/GPRS networks)
• A push-based wireless architecture that delivers messages automatically.
• A wireless extension to existing email accounts including Microsoft® Exchange or IBM Lotus® Domino™ email accounts.
• A 'thumb-typing' keyboard and navigation trackwheel for sending and receiving email and SMS messages on the go.
• Backlit screen and keyboard for easy reading and typing during day or night.
• 16 MB flash memory plus 2 MB SRAM, rechargeable/removable lithium battery and Universal Serial Bus (USB) connectivity for quick battery charging.

Posted by Shiny Media on November 26, 2003 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (2) | TrackBack (0)

O2's Pop Idol reviewed

o2_dmp.jpg Yet more information on the **02 Digital Music Player**, or DMP, can be found The Guardian's website.

But if you can't be bothered to read it there, here's a quick summary, Tech Digest style. O2 has seen all of money that is being made from ringtones and has decided it wants a piece of the action. Only rather than soil its corporate hands with low-fi ringtones, it's managed to get agreements with several big record companies to distribute 'singles' (remember them?) via your GPRS mobile phone.

The price is £1.50 for current chart hits and around £1 for older stuff. But the catch is that you will need to spend £100 on a separate device (the O2 DMP) - though expect prices to fall if the music delivery system takes off. Other niggles are that device's memory is pretty limited (just 64Mb) and that you will need line-of-sight between your phone and the DMP for it to work (unfortunately it uses Infra Red rather than Bluetooth).

Still, it's a brave move from O2 and there's plenty to recommend the digital music player. Particularly impressive is the CODEC system that has shrunk average music file size from 3Mb to between 600Kb and 1Mb without noticeably affecting sound quality (enabling a single download in around 3 minutes). Also noteworthy is the fact that several major record labels are behind the initiative - something that doesn't happen very often.

So far O2 have only announced tracks from R&B; diva Blu Cantrell, but if other chart toppers get on board then the phone company - which recently announced its first profits since its demerger from BT - could have a hit on its hands.

Posted by Shiny Media on November 24, 2003 in Home audio | MP3 players | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Hands-free kit: The Perfect Christmas gift?

bluesportfront_high_res.jpg With it set to become a criminal offence to use a handset mobile behind the wheel from **December 1st**, and with Christmas fast appoaching, there's never been a better time buy a hands-free kit.

One of the latest available is the **Earglove BlueSport** from Body Glove. Expected to retail for around **£49.99**, it's compatible with all Bluetooth and PDA-based phones. The headset is designed to fit easily around the ear and there's a flip-up microphone so the user can carry on wearing it even when not on a call - though, trust me, you will get some strange looks.

The up and down volume buttons are the side of the headset and the answer/end button is at the back. The Body Glove Bluetooth headset comes with a charger and offers up to four hours talk time and 120 hours in standby.

Body Glove's website is www.gowithit.com

Posted by Shiny Media on November 24, 2003 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Smartphone review


The Guardian has a round-up of the latest **smartphones** to reach the UK/Europe.

The handsets tested include;

Motorola MPx200
Handspring Treo 600
O2 XDA II
Nokia 6600
Sony Ericsson P900
Orange SPV E200

Posted by Shiny Media on November 17, 2003 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Nokia 3200 review

nokia_3200.JPG
Nokia has come up with some, how shall we put this, interesting handsets this year. Some have been complete bulls eyes - like the 7250i, others have stiffed like the 3650 and there's a few, like the 6600 smartphone, for whom the jury is still out.

After putting the boot into the company's handsets more than once this year it something of a relief to find a Nokia phone that is an absolute winner. Meet the girl phone par excellence the Nokia 3200.

If this isn't the handset of choice in the budget camera phone market this Christmas I'll be staggered. Vodafone has clearly chosen well with this one.

Essentially it's a budget rehash of the 7250i, arguably Nokia's best handset this year. Here's what you get for very little cash.

Design

No new territory here for the 3200 sports the standard old school Nokia candy bar design. Nokia is however taking customising phone covers to the max with this handset. You can pretty much put anything you fancy behind its plastic fluorescent casing. How cool the phone looks is down to you.

Usability

Well it wouldn't be Nokia phone if there wasn't some quirky feature. In this instance is the keypad. Instead of each number having its own button, two numbers share the same switch. And yes it is as chaotic as it sounds as is sure to slow down serious texters. You kind of get used to it though.

The interface is classic Nokia territory. You toggle between the various menu options by pressing a four-way rocket switch, with side switches taking you deeper into the applications.

Screen

Compared to its rivals the screen is a little second rate. It has a 4k colour display with 128x128 resolution. Still the small size of the screen means it isn't too much of a handicap. Just don't go comparing it with the screen of the Sharp GX30.

Features

The headline feature is the handset's integrated camera, which takes low res 352x288 images. Still at least you know that each image you take you can send straight away without having to edit it. There's also a self-timer, though using one on a mobile phone seems a near impossibility. The pictures look fine on the screen too. Other facilities include an FM radio, XHTML web browser, 16 polyphonic ringtones and infrared connection.

The phone is also triple band too.

On the debit side it only has 1Mb storage - but as the photos are so low res this isn't going to matter too much.

Edge technology

The handset is also one of Nokia's first to be compatible with Edge technology. It is basically a 3G hybrid that triples the speed of data rates of GPRS connections. Edge is likely to reach at least certain parts of Europe next year. Incidentally it seems all of Nokia's handsets from now on will be Edge compatible.

Overall

So it is a budget handset with quirky keys a low-res camera and limited storage. Why is it a winner? It just looks and feels like one. It is a logical step on from the candy bar handsets that Nokia has been selling mainly to women and kids very successfully for the past three or four years. The fact it is likely to be very cheap certainly helps too.

If you want a very cheap camera phone it is either this or the 02 X1 in our book.

Posted by Shiny Media on November 14, 2003 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (19) | TrackBack (0)

Samsung camcorder phone


Another top new phone from **Samsung**. Available only in Korea, but with a worldwide launch of sorts a strong possibility, the **SCH-V410** is a clamshell handset with a camcorder and the ability to store up to two hours worth of video.

More from The Guardian

Posted by Shiny Media on November 12, 2003 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

First camera phone with autofocus


Is **Panasonic** set to become the major new force in mobile phones in the UK? Well it could be if it can bring models like the **P505iS** to these shores. Just launched in Japan it is the first camera phone to feature an auto focus. As anyone who has tried to take pictures with a camera phone can tell you this will prove invaluable. Expect other manufacturers to follow Panasonic's lead very shortly.

The P505iS can also take pictures of 1.27 mega pixels -twice as detailed as European camera phones, features a Mini SD card for storage and can play back TV programmes stored on the SD card. It can also twist round so the main screen becomes the front of the phone like LG's 7100. The only weakness in our book is a colour screen of just 65k colours, which is the same as European phones like the Sharp GX20.

Posted by Shiny Media on November 12, 2003 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

02 X1 review



** Latest news - **O2** has announced the sucessor to the **X1**, and it is a much better handset. Click here for more details

O2's excellent revamp of the XDA might be its high profile launch for this month, but it has another phone that has just gone on sale.

The big story with the X1 camera phone is that it is free, which in our book makes it great value.

Firstly it is pretty small for a camera phone coming in at around the same size as phones like the LG 7100. The effect is slightly spoilt by the protruding aerial, although, possibly because of this voice quality is spot on.

Screen quality with 65k colours is reasoanble and the images it takes via a camera with a rotating screen are pretty good quality. Other features include Calendar and Organiser (it can synchronise with Microsoft Outlook), Java, T9 predictive text, Call vibrate, Clock and Alarm and changeable Wallpapers.

Its big weakness though is that it is a pain to use. The menu is tricky to negotiate and on our sample the buttons were sticky and unresponsive.

Still, as it costs nothing there's hardly room to complain.

Posted by Shiny Media on November 11, 2003 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (236) | TrackBack (0)

Nokia 6600 review

Nokia6600.JPG Next week's sees **Nokia's** smartphone aimed at the corporate market, the **6600** finally arrive in the stores.

Officially, review samples don't go out until next week, but The Guardian got to play with a pre-production sample and was pretty impressed by it. It apparently feels like the 3650 (the company's rather large handset with its unusual keypad) shoehorned into a wide, though not very deep casing.

Features include a 65K colour screen, 640x480 still camera and a video camera both of which feature a 2x digital zoom. Also on board are Java, a RealOne player audio/video player, an XHTML web browser and POP3 e-mail support.

Posted by Shiny Media on November 6, 2003 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (857) | TrackBack (0)

GPRS and Wi-Fi card

sony_ericsson_gc79.JPG We mentioned a while ago that Motorola was lining up a 'broadband to go' 3G/Wi-Fi network card for PCs. If you can't wait until then **Sony Ericsson** has one that features both **Wi-Fi** (802.11b) and **GPRS** (general packet radio service). The £250 triple band GC79 card can access the Internet at speeds of up to 11Mbps at Wi-Fi hot spots and at up to 53.6Kbps using GPRS networks.

More from the card's dedicated site

Posted by Shiny Media on November 6, 2003 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Orange 3G delayed

Orange is to delay its 3G launch in the UK and France, according to reports from 3G.co.uk.

The launch will now take place Autumn 2004, not next summer as initially promised. The delay is apparently due to technical problems with handsets. Orange is currently testing 3G handsets from six manufacturers and will announce the shortlist of suppliers in the next couple of months.

The launch in the UK and France will be followed by roll-outs in Belgium and Switzerland.

Posted by Shiny Media on October 30, 2003 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

New Nokia phones

Breaking news

Nokia has launched three new handsets today. All are due in early 2004. More news and gossip from Nice later in the day.

Nokia 7200



Firstly the Vuitton style phone the Nokia 7200. It features an integrated camera, colour screen, presence-enhanced Chat function, MMS functionality and an FM radio. It also has a 65K colour display, video camera and xHTML browser. Shipments in Europe begin during the first half of 2004. Looks like a bit of a girl phone to us, but it is certainly the best-looking handset Nokia has produced in ages. Comes with a matching pouch and suits you sir!

Nokia 7700



It appears that one of the handsets, the **7700**, will include a **TV tuner** of sorts. It will also support the **Nokia Streamer SU-6** accessory, the first mobile IP Datacast receiver designed to demonstrate the mobile phone television experience using the DVB-H network. The Nokia Streamer can be attached to the Nokia 7700 like a battery pack, and will be used in pilot projects to showcase the future of digital broadcasting on mobile devices. So no EastEnders just yet. It'll be interesting to see if TV companies are interestd in experiemting with it. It would certainly be good for major sporting events like the Euro 2004. Wonder how long the batery lasts though when streaming TV? That model also has video and camera options, full HTML Internet access, a wide touch screen and a built-in FM radio. It goes on sale in Europe in Q2 2004.

Nokia 6230

Kind of overshadowed by the other two this is a triple band camera phone with Bluetooth and a 65K colour screen. There's a video camera on board, an XHTML browser and an MP3/AAC music player. It is first to the stores arriving in February 2004.

More details from here

Posted by Shiny Media on October 28, 2003 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (3) | TrackBack (0)

Motorola A835 and Sony Ericsson P900 reviews

motorola_a835.JPG Over at The Guardian there's a double hit on two of the most-talked about phones of recent weeks. First the **Motorola A835**, Three's big 3G hope for the Christmas period, gets the thumbs up (with the usual reservations about Three's lack of e-mail and HTML Internet services), while **Sony Ericsson's P900** smartphone is given a cautious welcome.

Posted by Shiny Media on October 27, 2003 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (5) | TrackBack (0)

At last - Nokia's clamshell phone



It is a big week for **Nokia** with a huge bash in Nice, France to parade new handsets, and apparently a new operating system. Reuters managed to get the info on the handsets first, while you can read more about the operating system on The Register.

The phone that catches our eye though is Nokia's first clamshell for the European market - the **7200**. It is an amazing-looking handset finished in a kind of weird beige textile. Even though it hasn't yet been formally announced it has already been given the moniker the Louis Vuitton of phones. Looks like a real winner though it doesn't appear to have a an integrated camera. The picture was featured on a Swiss website.

Of the other phones, the **6230** is a camera phone, while the **6820** features a keyboard and is rumoured to be the successor to Nokia's Communicator range of handsets.

All three won't go on sale until early next year.

We'll have full details of the handsets after they are formally announced on Tuesday morning.

Posted by Shiny Media on October 24, 2003 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (7) | TrackBack (0)

FIFA 2004 for mobiles

 fifa_2004.JPG Proof, if it were ever needed, that phone gaming is emerging as a potentially lucrative area for companies comes with the news that for the first time ever a company will release a Java version of a game for **mobiles** simultaneously with console and PC editions.

Electronic Arts is debuting its **FIFA 2004** footy game with the Java title, co-published by Digital Bridges, offering a cut-down version of the game with 16 international teams and real players.

The game will be available from late October/early November from mobile network operators Vodafone, O2, T-Mobile and Orange; from Sky's YourMobile interactive TV channel and from a number of mobile entertainment web portals including Tx1.com and Telemob.com.

Posted by Shiny Media on October 24, 2003 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (3) | TrackBack (0)

Sendo smartphone arrives

 sendo_x.JPG The phone with the longest development period in history appears finally to be heading for the stores. Sendo has announced that its smartphone, the **Sendo X**, will be available in the UK by the end of 2003.

The product was first sighted way back in 2001 when the company was grooming the handset as the first to use Microsoft's smartphone operating system (as found now on the Orange SPV). Things didn't go the way the two parties had planned and days in court are looming.

Sendo may have had the last laugh though as the X now features the rival Symbian operating system. Its big trump card is that it packs a lot of features into a small and light (120 grams) device.

Overall the spec looks pretty good. We reckon it will be up against the Siemens SX1, Nokia 6600 and our favourite the Motorola MPx200.

Other key features

Sendo Now! Screen - which can be customised to give users instant access to favourite web pages, applications etc. It is a TFT screen with a resolution of 176x220 and up to 65,536 colours.

Video - Includes RealOne player. Users can either view downloaded clips or take their own using an integrated camcorder

Camera - VGA standard. The real news is that it features an integrated flash (only LG's 7100 handset has this feature so far) and a 4x digital zoom.

Audio - RealOne player for spinning MP3s. Apparently includes a quality speaker too.

Internet - Compatibility with HTML 4.2, Frames, WAP 2.0, XHTML MP and Security (SSL and WTLS) formats. Also up to six POP3 e-mail accounts.

Other stuff - Infrared, Bluetooth and USB connectivity, Java, triple band, 64MB of flash, memory (32MB free for users), voice control, Word, Excel etc compatibility.

more from here

Posted by Shiny Media on October 22, 2003 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (2) | TrackBack (0)

More 3G handsets from Three



Earlier this week we had a chat with several members of the Three team who are responsible for handsets. They put us straight on a couple of issues.

Although the company hasn't made any official announcements they were able to confirm the forthcoming arrival of a few new handsets. They also told us what their technical team have been playing with in the labs.

Read on for an update

Definitely coming to Three

Motorola A835 – Should be in the stores by the time you read this. Look out for an upcoming review.

NEC 616 – This clamshell model is definitely coming in the next month or so.

Motorola A925 – The next step on from the A920 is slightly smaller than its predecessor and has a few extra features. There's no confirmation from Three, but Motorola execs insist it will be in the stores by Xmas.

Might be coming to Three

LG U8100 – The Korean company insists a version of this phone will launch in the UK in the Spring. Three hasn't confirmed this though.

Not coming to Three

Siemens U15 – This handset maker claims this slightly different take on the Motorola A835 is coming to the UK In November. Not so says Three.

Sony Ericsson Z1010 – It seems as if Three might pass on this phone and wait or the company's next gen 3G handset.

Nokia 7660 – Cool-looking handset, but no video calling facilities means it is unlikely to wear a Three badge.

btw if you have a spare minute or two drop in here. It's an online petition calling on Three to offer proper e-mail access and the Internet on the Motorola A920 and its other phones. Nice work whoever is behind it.

Posted by Shiny Media on October 17, 2003 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Then again, maybe this is the Sharp GX30

sharp401sh.JPG So the hunt for the **Sharp GX30**, the fourth in Sharp/Vodafone's hugely successful series of clamshell camera phones, continues.

It seems our report from IFA (click here) has sparked something of a debate over at Mobile Review and Howard Forums.

Among the theories being expounded there is that GX30 will be Voda's first 3G phone – which seems rather unlikely to us.

More plausible is that it could well be the **V401SH** Japanese camera phone pictured above and that it will launch in Europe in February.

It has all the key spec we'd expect from the GX30 (mega pixel camera, 320x240 pixel display, powerful zoom, SD memory card for storing images etc) in a form factor that is smaller and lighter than the GX20.

We certainly wouldn't rule it out. Anoraks read on to get the full spec.

V401SH Specs

Size (Width x Height x Thickness) Approx. 48 x 95 x 23mm (when folded)
Weight Approx. 102g
Continuous talk time/standby time Approx. 150 min./approx. 450 hours (when folded)
Main 2.2-inch (320 x 240 pixels) System LCD (maximum 260,000 colours) Display
Sub 1.1-inch (96 x 64 pixels) GF colour LCD (65,536 colours)

Pixels/type 1 million effective pixels/CCD
Zoom 7x (20 steps) Mobile camera
Max. photo size 858 x 1144 pixels
Maximum no. of displayable characters
(full size)
50 characters (10 characters by 5 lines)
100 characters (10 characters by 10 lines)
400 characters (20 characters by 20 lines)
Maximum mail capacity (received/sent) 1,500/480 mails
Maximum still photo capacity (no. of
photos) 8MB, shared (maximum 1600 photos)
Ring tone voices 40 (6KB)
Java™ support Available (50KB applications)
Bilingual interface Available
Handset colours Rose Red, Milky White, Lemon Yellow, Lilac Blue
Retail Price (standard set): open price
The standard set consists of the mobile handset, a battery pack, rapid charger and desktop cradle.

Posted by Shiny Media on October 17, 2003 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Orange SPV take three

Orange SPV E-200.jpg We've mentioned it a couple of times before, but thought you might want to see a decent picture of it. We are referring to the third version of Orange's SPV smartphone the SPV E-200.

In terms of styling and functionality it is pretty similiar to the last version of the handset. There are however two enormous differences which in our book propels it into the smartphone Premiership.

They are:

Integrated camera - No more messing around with snap on snappers. We don't know if Orange has also simplified the way in which the phone sends photo messages. We certainly hope so as on previous SPVs it took about a dozen clicks. The camera is a VGA model - the same as most of its rivals.

Bluetooth - Essential for us road warriors who like the option of doanloading e-mail to our laptop.

Other features include:

POP3 e-mail via a version of Outlook
Web access through Internet Explorer
Windows Media player - plays MP3s as well as WMAs and can access Orange's fledgling video service
Outlook - Syncs with your PC for contacts/appointments
Orange Back up for storing all your details on the network

No news on price yet. The phone is on sale in November. Click here for Orange's website

Posted by Shiny Media on October 15, 2003 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Phones that come in pink

Siemens Xelibri.JPG Ok, so it might be a deadringer for a ladies compact, or nose powderer as we call them round here, but it is in fact one of four new fashion phones unveiled by **Siemens**.

The quartet, numbers five to eight, are all part of the company's hard to pronounce **Xelibri** designer range. They'll be on sale in suitably swanky outlets, like House of Fraser and Selfridges, next month.

Siemens has also ramped up the specifications too, so as well those designs to die for they all now sport colour screens. Number eight, our 2nd favourite after number six featured here, is voice controlled and also features an FM radio.

If past form is anything to go by expect to pay betwen £150-250 for each model.

For a look at the other models read on or check out Siemens' Xelibri website

Siemems Xelibri group.JPG

Posted by Shiny Media on October 13, 2003 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Gunners mobile - works in Europe too

Arsenal phone.JPG David Beckham isn't the only world-class footballer pushing a mobile phone. Samsung and O2 have gone one better and nabbed arguably the best central midfielder in the world. Yes, Arsenal's Patrick Vieira has laid his cards on the table and admitted he's a **Samsung V200** user with an O2 contract.

Of course this might have something to do with the fact that O2 sponsor the Gunners and that Samsung is the club's chosen telecoms partner. The fact that the pair have just launched a special edition version of the V200 for Arsenal fans might also help explain some of his enthusiasm for the mobi.

Still, the Arsenal phone, which goes on sale only via a pay-as-you-go tariff for £300, includes some Gunners wallpaper, an animated Arsenal welcome and a collection of ringtones loved by the Highbury Library faithful including Volare, Patrick Vieira's very own tune. Here's hoping the phone travels better in Europe than the team.

Posted by Shiny Media on October 13, 2003 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

Orange's Black Bluetooth car

Orange Smart City coupe.jpg
With a ban on using a mobile phone handset while driving set to come into force on December 1, Orange has teamed up with car manufacturer **Smart** to produce a motor for the safety-conscious driver who wants to talk and turn at the same time.

The **Orange Smart City-Coupe** is the first car to in the UK to feature **Bluetooth** technology as standard so the driver can make and take calls without taking their hands off the wheel. Bluetooth is activated by pressing a button on the rear view mirror. Drivers can dial by speaking the name of the person they want to call and the conversation is broadcast through the car speakers. The new technology also enables the phone to link up wirelessly to a laptop or PDA.

Available in any colour you want from mid-October - as long as it's black - the Smart City-Coupe is expected to retail for £8995. Customers receive a Sony Ericsson T610, a six month subscription to Orange and a Bluetooth kit as part of the package.

However smart doesn't have any plans to roll out the technology across the whole of its range and so far only 100 of the special edition cars have been built.

Posted by Shiny Media on October 10, 2003 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Siemens joins 3G club

siemensu15.JPG Siemens has become the latest manufacturer to promise a 3G handset for the UK. Its new phone, the U15, will launch in November via the Three network in November.

Strangely the model is not quite as new as it might seem. It is in fact a version of the Motorola A835 that is due to launch imminently via the Three network. There are a few differences. The Siemens' livery is all silver, where as the Motorola's is black and silver. The interfaces look slightly different and the line up of buttons on the phone isn't identical.

Overall the U15/A835 looks like a promising handset. It has many of the features of Three's flagship phone the Motorola A920, but is notably smaller. Alongside Three's highlight feature video calling the handsets boasts MP3 and video playback, GPS, Internet and e-mail facilities and Java.

The phone runs on a Motorola operating system unlike the A920 which uses the established Symbian system. It comes with a 64MB Secure Digital card for storage of music, images and video. However this card is integrated into the handset and cannot be replaced by a high capacity card.

Annoyingly in the UK the handset will only access a walled garden of a few nternet sites. It also handles e-mail, but this is only available through the web browser and not via the phone's interface.

Look for a review of the U15/A835 very shortly.

Posted by Shiny Media on October 10, 2003 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

More Microsoft phones

Sierrawireless.JPG
A few months ago we were ready to write off Microsoft's chances in the

smartphone market. Now it appears to be mounting a real challenge to the Symbian operating system (as used by Nokia, Siemens and Sony Ericsson) with three new handsets due in the store in the coming months.

Two (Motorola's MPx200 and Orange's SPV 2 or E-200) we've already covered (cycle through our phones pages to find them) The third sounds like a really intriguing handset. Its the Voq Professional phone from Sierra Wireless. It looks similar to the original SPV and its line up of features is not too different from that handset - so no Bluetooth or integrated camera. Its key USP is that its numerical keypad flips open to reveal a full QWERTY keyboard. It also uses the latest version of Microsoft's operating system for handsets - Windows Mobile 2003.

Neil McIntosh at the Guardian has had a play with is and his version is below

First impressions: it's a nice smartphone, light years ahead of the Orange SPV I've moaned about recently. For a start it uses a 200MHz Intel PXA262 processor with stacked flash memory which means that - combined with a much-improved and adapted version of Microsoft's Smartphone software - the experience is much more snappy. There are some nice features Sierra Wireless has added on top of the OS, too, including a very fast and easy way to file and retrieve information locally, and from the web/network.

The most obvious hardware feature is its fold-out keyboard: a QWERTY effort divided by a big, solid hinge. It's reasonably fast to peck out a message - certainly, much better than an alphanumeric keypad or even the SPV's fabric keyboard - although don't expect to be touch-typing. But the device is also light - lighter than the SPV? - if slightly taller, and around the same thickness.

The phone will be aimed squarely at business users; although it will play games and do fancy/irritating ringtones, the most important features will be pretty pragmatic; support for standard BigFirm email systems including Microsoft Exchange and Lotus Notes, for one.

Price info: top end of the SmartPhone scale, less than a PDA, which places it in the £200 - £300 bracket by my guessing.

more from here

Posted by Shiny Media on October 10, 2003 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Nokia 3650 becomes 3660

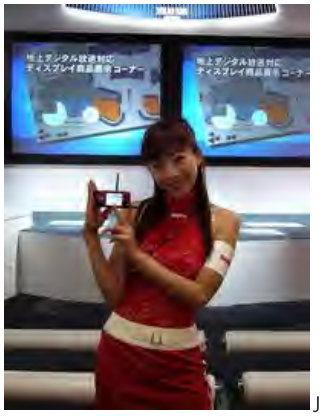
Nokia3660.JPG As we predicted Nokia is giving its odd-shaped 3650 smartphone a second chance to impress the punters. Except it has rechristened it the 3660, ditched that awful circular keyboard and improved the screen quality.

Other features include an integrated VGA camera, Pop3 e-mail, Bluetooth, web access and video capture. It runs using the Symbian 7 OS. It is out in November.

more from Nokia's website

Posted by Shiny Media on October 10, 2003 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (24) | TrackBack (0)

Sanyo's digital TV mobile



Just as we're getting used to camera phones, **Sanyo** has gone one step further and introduced a moby with built-in digital TV.

Demonstrated at the CEATEC show in Japan, the **TV phone** features a 2.2in TFT high resolution display and can even record and playback TV images,

thanks to a built-in flash memory. The 'palmtop TV' screen can also be flipped over from vertical to horizontal.

Posted by Shiny Media on October 9, 2003 in Mobile phones | Show news | TVs
Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

N-gage arrives today


Nokiangage.jpg We couldn't let the day pass without a quick mention of the Nokia N-gage which arrives in the stores today. One of the most hyped phones of recent years the N-gage packs an MP3 player, FM radio, gaming device, and of course a phone into one pretty compact and funky-looking package.

However, like many in the mobile and gaming industry, we think the N-Gage is on a hiding to nothing at the hands of Nintendo GameBoy Advance (to say nothing of Sony's upcoming PSP) and may prove a very costly mistake for the world's leading phone manufacturer.

It is not because it is too expensive - O2 already has it for £100. It is just that it will never match the GameBoy Advance in terms of games, battery life will be a real issue and the very annoying way a person has to take out the battery to change games is a real flaw.

Still for other people's take try the BBC for the background, CNN for a scathing review and Wireless Gamer for the verdict from the streets.

Posted by Shiny Media on October 7, 2003 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

The best camera phone ever?


ceatec2.bmp Bad news for budget digital camera makers. Casio has become the first manufacturer to unveil a mobile phone that can take pictures of two mega pixels. This is the equivalent of a good quality low-end digital snapper.

Debuting at the CEATEC exhibition in Tokyo, the A5403CA clamshell phone can produce images of up to 1,600 pixels by 1,200 pixels resolution (UXGA). Other camera-like functions include auto focus, a digital 10X zoom, digital movie function and a number of picture taking modes, such as "close-up," "evening" or "portrait."

Images can be stored in the telephone or on a Secure Digital (SD) memory card. The built-in storage is enough space for 32 images taken at the highest resolution.

It goes on sale in Japan in December.

Several makers unveiled one mega pixel camera phones for the Japanese market earlier in the year. Sony Ericsson is tipped to be the first manufacturer to offer Europeans a one mega pixel mobile, although the Sharp GX-30, rumoured to be arriving in the UK in the spring, is also likely to be equipped with a one mega pixel camera.

Posted by Shiny Media on October 7, 2003 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1)

Sony puts TV on your mobi

Today's big CEATEC story is that Sony has unveiled plans to bring EastEnders to your mobile phone. It has unveiled Mobile Movie, a new Memory Stick application that enables video content, including programmes recorded from analogue TV, to be transferred on to the card and then viewed on a handset.

The company was also parading a range of Mobile Movie products including a Memory Stick compatible video recorder. Mobile Movie Memory Sticks are also being developed for in-car use.

Already KDD and Okinawa Cellular Telephone Company have delivered Mobile Movie compatible phones. With talk of a worldwide launch we don't think it will be too long before this killer feature arrives on Sony Ericsson mobiles.

Posted by Shiny Media on October 7, 2003 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1)

Sony Ericsson P900 - it's official


sep810.bmp Still no news from Sony Ericsson, but nice of 02 yesterday to confirm in its video press release the existence of a model called the Sony

Ericsson P900. This is destined to be the successor to the popular P800 and if rumours are correct will arrive before then end of the year.

Read on for more details

The Sony Ericsson P900 features the following revisions to the original

* Much better screen - 65k colours to put it in line with handsets like the Sharp GX20
* Smaller, thinner and generally much cooler casing
* Proper metallic stylus (not the rubbish plastic one on the P800)
* Real removable keypad
* Symbian OS 7

The phone certainly needs a revamp as it will face stiff opposition this autumn from the Orange SPV2, Treo 600 and Nokia 6600.

more from

www.clubsonyericsson.com/en/products_p810.htm

Posted by Shiny Media on October 7, 2003 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (3)

Rugby World Cup on your mobile

 023650.bmp O2 has joined Vodafone and Orange in launching video content available via GPRS. Free until January 31st the highlight of the new service is that it will enable customers to download or stream clips from this month's Rugby World Cup.

Other content includes news, comedy, music, fashion and sport from partners like ITN, CNBC Europe, Classic Comedy, Bake, Fashion TV, GMTV and the Extreme Sports Channel.

The Rugby content features half and full-time highlights from Australia, special interviews with coaches and players and a choice of nearly 100 classic RWC 2003 moments such as 'top tries'. The clips vary in length - averaging 10 seconds for a 'top try' to 45 seconds for highlights and interviews.

The service went live last night - so read on for our verdict...

Firstly not all handset owners can access the clips. At present users need a Nokia 3650 or a Sony Ericsson P800. From November, this will increase to include the new Xda II, Nokia 6600, Siemens SX1, Motorola V600 and Sony Ericsson P900.

We found a stray Nokia 3650 went to O2 active and downloaded and streamed a rugby clip.

In all honesty it is pretty much what you'd expect. The quality of the images is just about watchable, but prone to blocking, and in the case of streaming, crashing/buffering. 02 has been quite clever in choosing Rugby as, unlike football, the ball doesn't tend to move too quickly over long distances. Nevertheless the classic try we saw ended up with a pool of players merging into a multi-coloured blur.

Fair play to 02 for launching the service, but if it expects anyone to pay for this stuff it really is deluding itself.

Posted by Shiny Media on October 7, 2003 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Now Posh loves Siemens

 0,,2003460040,00.jpg More bad news for Vodafone. It appears that it isn't just David Beckham who has been using a Siemens SL55 rather than the Sharp GX20 that he advertises - his missus has been spotted with one too. Eagle-eyed gadget correspondents at The Sun noticed Posh carrying the SL55, recently voted fashion phone of the year by Mobile Choice magazine, in Madrid last week. Click here for the photographic evidence.

Earlier in the week the Currant Bun also broke the news that Posh and Becks both carry Blackberrys with them. Apparently the couple use the e-mail device, sold in the UK via T-Mobile and O2, to keep in touch with their agent.

Posted by Shiny Media on October 4, 2003 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Death of the PDA?

 p1142117reg.jpg In a week that has seen the launch of two new Palms (Tungsten T3 and Tungsten E) and a pair of Sony Clies, The Guardian wonders if the PDA's days are numbered as consumers gravitate towards smartphones like the Orange SPV E-100, Handspring Treo 600 and Motorola MPx200.

At present the PDA's trump card is the size of its screen, which makes for a more rewarding experience while web surfing, gaming and working on Word and Excel files. The arrival of fold up LCD screens though (see here) could change all that.

Posted by Shiny Media on October 4, 2003 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1)

Britain's top mobile?

 t610_title.jpg Picking the best phone of 2003 is a tough call. So fair play to the judges from Mobile Choice magazine who stuck their collective necks out and named the best handsets and networks at a glitzy awards ceremony at London's Olympia on Thursday night.

They plumped for Sony Ericsson's T610 as phone of the year, giving its big rival Sharp's GX20 the consolation prize of camera phone of the year. It was a good night for other manufacturers begining with S too as Siemens scooped best fashion phone for the SL55 while Samsung took overall handset manufacturer of the year.

Just like the previous Mobile Choice awards the evening was a cracker with magazine editor Huw Morgan kicking off the proceedings in style and then passing the baton to compere Jack Dee who managed to offend just about everyone in the phone industry.

After naming the winners several networks and manufacturers unveiled sideshows.
Siemens, sponsors of Real Madrid paraded the club's top recent signing accompanied by his wife - or at least pretty convincing Posh and Becks look-alikes, while Samsung enabled the losers to take their frustrations out on their rivals in a boxing ring. Oh, and Virgin Mobile apparently had pole dancing, but owing to the huge crowds surrounding it we couldn't get near enough to its stand to verify this

Here's a list of the winners of the main awards

Best phone - Sony Ericsson T610
Best camera phone - Sharp GX20
Best fashion phone - Siemens SL55
Readers dream phone - Nokia 7250i
Best PDA - Dell Axim X5
Best gaming phone - Sharp GXD10i
Best manufacturer - Samsung
Best network - Orange
Best network service - Vodafone Live!
Best pre-pay package - Virgin Mobile

Posted by Shiny Media on October 4, 2003 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Christmas price wars start here!

 nintendo game cube.bmp It seems there's never been a better time to buy into technology with games companies, mobile phone firms and cable providers all rushing to drop their prices in time for the expected Christmas rush.

This morning **Nintendo** announced that the price of its **Gamecube** - the undisputed underdog in the Games console war - would be available for just **£79** from October 10. This follows **Sony's** shock announcement earlier this week that its **PlayStation 2** is being reduced by £30 to **£139**, despite the manufacturer failing to get the product reclassified in the EU court as a PC (and thereby saving itself millions of Euros in customs duties).

Nor is it just the games companies that are dropping their prices. Cable company **Telewest** is offering customers who sign up to its **Blueyonder** broadband internet services **free** engineer-assisted installation and a free modem throughout October.

Finally 3G mobile phone company, **3** has dropped the prices of its subscription packages. When the company launched the cheapest subscription deal was a steep £60 a month. Now you can sign up for £15 - about the same price as most 2.5/2.5G operators. And for £30 a month there's a football package which includes unlimited football video content plus 500 free voice minutes.

Looks like it's time to fill up that Christmas stocking!

Posted by Shiny Media on October 3, 2003 in Broadband | Gaming | Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

LG's debut phone review



Over at The Guardian there's a review of the 7100 – the very first phone for the UK market from Korean company LG. While the model is crammed with facilities (including for the first time on a camera phone an integrated flash and an organic LED screen) it's not that easy to use it to take images and its screen can't match rivals like the Sharp GX20. Still for Orange customers with a taste for the off the wall it is well worth considering.

Posted by Shiny Media on September 27, 2003 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Nokia's 3G bombshell



And here it is, and yes it is weird, very weird. It is Nokia's latest 3G phone the 7660 which apparently goes on sale in Europe in Q4 this year.

Of course whether that means the UK is a moot point as we can't see Three grabbing this handset as it doesn't have a videophone facility. So maybe we'll have to wait until Orange or Vodafone unveil their 3G services next year to get our hands on one.

The basic details are it is tiny (compared with most 3G phones), very light at 123g, has a 65k colour screen, MP3/AAC player, video camera (capable of capturing and sending clips of up to 2.5 minutes), video download, XHTML web browser, Bluetooth, and Java.

The killer could be battery life, which is superior to rival 3G handsets.

Nokia also debuted several products it has called Imagewear – lockets, necklaces and desktop picture frame-looking devices to which images taken with a compatible mobile phone can be sent and displayed. To be honest they look great, but who is going to wear them?





More details here

Posted by Shiny Media on September 25, 2003 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Siemens budget phones



The team at Siemens Mobiles certainly keep themselves busy. The company has unveiled two new handsets this week and has big 3G announcements due early next month.

The two new handsets are both mid-range models aimed at youngsters. They both look pretty cool, though neither features an integrated camera. They'll be on sale in the UK in October.

Read on for specifications and images

C62

Colour screen
GPRS
MMS
Compatible with Siemens Quick Pic camera
Polyphonic ringtones
Games
Weighs 85g
Available in three colours

A60

Colour screen
Triple band
Polyphonic ringtones
Games
WAP browser
Weighs 85g



Posted by Shiny Media on September 25, 2003 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Video over GPRS, yeah right...

There's a really good feature in Media Guardian by Dominic Timms about the future of video on mobile phones.

Last week Vodafone signed a deal with UEFA to offer Champions League footy highlights to its subscribers over 2.5g GPRS networks. A date hasn't yet been announced for a UK launch, but there's a an interesting quote from Graeme Ferguson, head of business development and content for Vodafone Global, who says "Our message is that you don't have to wait for 3G, you can do a hell of a lot on 2G."

Well here's hoping that it is a lot better than the video currently being offered by Vodafone to Sharp GX20 owners. At the moment there's just a series of virtually static clips from 'I'm a celebrity get me out of here.' They take nearly two minutes to download and only fill up around half of the screen.

Unless Vodafone has some amazing compression tricks up its sleeve I really can't see how it can offer fast-moving football action on a mobile in the quality that someone would actually be prepared to pay for it.

Orange also doesn't appear convinced by video over GPRS. Its service, which is much more fun than Vodafone's, has been in the 'experimental' stage now for over a year.

Conversely Three's premiership goals service is excellent. The recently launched Motorola A920 offers video at 24 frames per second enabling a football clip can fill an entire PDA-sized screen without blocking.

Even MTV, which has recently signed a deal with Three, is sniffy about video over 2.5g.

Sure i would like to be proved wrong, but I fear quality video over GPRS really is a pipe dream.

Posted by Shiny Media on September 25, 2003 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1)

Is this the Sharp GX30?



** This is now an out of date story - for details on the Sharp/Vodafone GX30 click here **

Regular TF readers will know that we are huge fans of the Sharp GX20 camera phone. This, the latest incarnation of the Becks phones, boasts a superb colour screen that's streets ahead of its rivals in terms of colour rendition and clarity. We also love the way it is so simple to use and takes great images.

We have however found a camera phone that might even supersede the GX20 in our affections. So cure fanfare for the Sharp GX30!?

Ok, so the model number says J-SH53 and yes it is a Japanese phone that has been on sale for several months. We are however convinced it provides the template for the next generation of European GSM Sharp camera phones for a number of reasons.

1 We know that Sharp has a phone called the GX30 that is set to debut early next year
2 This phone is available via J-Phone (the Vodafone-owned Japanese network)
3 All the enhancements are of the type we'd expect to find on an upgrade of the GX20
4 Someone fairly high up in Sharp Germany confirmed that a version of this phone, with a few minor alterations, would be on sale in 2004.

Anyhow, enough of the gossip on to the phone. Its main features are;

One mega pixel integrated digital camera - which will almost certainly make it the first phone capable of taking this level of images to go on sale in Europe

2.4 inch screen with QVGA (240 x 320) resolution (this is the same as the GX20). However the screen has 260,000 colours screen - much more than the 65k offered by the GX20. Also the second front screen has been upgraded too in that it now boasts 65,536 colours and is 1.2-inches in size.

MPEG4 video capture with up to ten seconds of sound

Secure Digital (SD) card slot – for saving images and storing music

MP3 player/voice recorder – an obvious addtion once the SD card slot is in place

256KB Java application storage capacity – a real boon for gamers

Dimensions 50 x 98 x 24mm

Weight Approx. 115g

We spent twenty minutes playing with the handset recently and were knocked out by its performance and level of features. The GX20 delivered a breakthrough in that it was the 1st camera phone with a screen capable of doing justice to the images it took. With one mega pixel images and SD card storage you really can think about leaving your camera at home.

Posted by Shiny Media on September 24, 2003 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (53)

3G handset reviews



Just as we predicted Motorola's latest 3G phone available via the Three network, the A920, is selling like hotcakes. The phone itself has plenty going for it – superb screen, excellent video facilities, AGPS restaurant/shop finder service – but it is still probably a little too large for the mainstream handset buyer.

So how about all of those features in a smaller phone? Well there's good news as Three has some pretty cool –looking handsets lined up for the coming months including a handset that has all the functionality of the A920 but less of its bulk.

Read on to discover which 3G phones are coming to the UK in the coming months.

Before we delve into the handsets a quick update from Three in the UK. A company spokesperson confirmed today that...

1 It is policy for its handsets to offer just a walled garden of Internet sites rather than full HTML web browsing. This is however being constantly reviewed.

2 A service that will allow users to take advantage of the fast speeds of Three phones by using them as a modem for a laptop PC, will be arriving very shortly. No news on which handsets it will be though.

Motorola A925



You know we said that the A920 was the 3G phone you were waiting for. Well we actually meant this handset. It has all the killer features of the A920 including its 24 frames per second video playback, and it also runs the Symbian 7.0 operating system. Yet all this has been shoehorned into a smaller device. We expect to see it available in the UK through Three by Christmas.

Motorola A835



The successor to the A830 is a massive improvement on the original. Unlike its predecessor it boasts an integrated digital camera, internal antenna and is compatible with Three's Video Calling service. Other facilities include MP3 playback, Java and video downloads. It also POP3 e-mail and a full web browser - although whether they will work with the Three network in the UK remains to be seen. The A835 is on sale very shortly. Look for a full review in early October.

NEC e616



Due in the stores in November is the successor to the most popular Three phone so far - the NEC e606. The e616 is pretty much the same phone with a few notable exceptions. Firstly it has GPRS as well as 3G, so in theory applications like e-mail and web browsing should be available outside of Three's video coverage areas. Secondly it is smaller and more compact than the 606. Finally NEC has improved the battery life.

Sony Ericsson Z1010



First seen at the GSM Expo in Cannes in February, the Z1010 is rumoured to be available via Three in early next year. It is a clamshell model with a 65K colour display, MMS, and Bluetooth. It boasts Three's key Video Calling facility courtesy of a pair of integrated cameras. Other features include MPEG4 (video) and MP3 (audio) playback.

LG U8100



Due to arrive in Europe shortly, though not necessarily in the UK, this clamshell-design handset supports video calling and video capture facilities, which it displays on its 128 x 160 pixel screen. Also included is Java,

Bluetooth, an MP3/AAC player and 64MB of storage. Other facilities include a music editor, voice recorder, SMS and MMS messaging, and a speakerphone. We reckon it is a dead cert to be one of the first phones Orange offers when it launches its 3G network next year.

Motorola V1000

The first 3G phone in Motorola's clamshell V series features a futuristic design, two cameras, a front display, an internal antenna and a full web browser. It is considerably less bulky too than existing 3G clamshells like the NEC e606. You can see an image here

Posted by Shiny Media on September 23, 2003 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (16)

Three rocks and phones home



It has been a busy week for Three. After piloting the launch of the new flagship handset the Motorola A920, the 3G company has made two big announcements this week.

First up it has signed a deal with MTV Europe to deliver among other things music video clips, news reports and live performances. We downloaded a Kings of Leon video and found the video quality on our Motorola A920 was superb. Can't wait for those Kylie videos to hit their playlist.

Speaking of the Antipodean pop princess Kylie will be able to make a video call back home now using a Three phone. For Three subscribers can now make video calls to Three phones in Italy, Sweden, Austria, Japan and Minogue's homeland, Australia. Calls cost £1.50 per minute for the UK or £2.00 per minute when roaming in other countries.

Any Australian Three subscribers who fancy testing international video calls out get in touch. Tower Bridge, Buckingham Palace, Arsenal Football club, your mates pad in Earl's Court – just name your backdrop and we'll be there with our phone (btw Motorola A920 owners preferred).

Posted by Shiny Media on September 23, 2003 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Oh no! Is the 3650 back?



Quite possibly our least favourite smartphone of last year is apparently getting a facelift. According to website Mobile Burn, the Nokia 3650 is to rise phoenix-like from the ashes and return in the guise of the 3660. While the new model still keeps that rather nasty curvy design Nokia has at least done the decent thing and got shot of the 3650's ridiculous circular number pad. Nokia is also likely to update the screen to 65K colours and maybe tweak some of the handset's camera facilities.

No news on a launch, or even if this is a genuine product, but the company has a press conference lined up next week, so maybe that's when we'll hear for definite.

Posted by Shiny Media on September 19, 2003 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

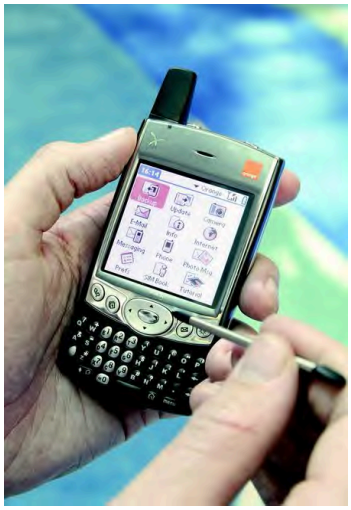
Three's flagship handset


Over at The Guardian Three's top-end handset, the Motorola A920, gets a thorough going over. There's also a few words about Motorola's other new phone, the Windows Mobile powered MPx200.

To read the review click here

Posted by Shiny Media on September 18, 2003 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Handspring delivers killer smartphone


It has been a busy few days for Orange. Earlier in the week the network unveiled the Motorola/Microsoft smart phone - the MPx200. Now it has announced a second smartphone this time using the Palm operating system in the Handspring Treo 600.

Already highly regarded in the US we think this phone is likely to become a huge seller here.

Its key is its size. Sure it looks and feels like a PDA, and has all those handy Palm applications (it runs Palm OS 5.2.1) plus compatibility with a huge number of downloads for the OS. Yet Handspring/Orange has shrunk the phone so it is small enough to be pocketable. It comes in at 11.2 x 6 x 2.2cm and weighs around 170g.

Another bonus is the keypad, which is on the whole very easy to use and the rocker-style navigation switch. The only thing we didn't like about the design was the large protruding aerial at the top.

Handspring/Orange has also kept the feature-count high.

* POP3 e-mail with multiple accounts
* Push e-mail, so messages are sent straight to the device when they arrive on the server
* Internet access via its Blazer browser
* 160x160 colour display
* VGA camera
* Polyphonic ringtones
* SDIO slot (so users can add Bluetooth/Wi-fi cards)
* Pocket Tunes MP3 player

Perhaps the only thing users might feel short-changed about is a not especially fast processor (144MHz Texas Instruments ARM OMAP), just 32MB of memory - way behind recent Palm PDAs.

Best of all is its very competitive price of around £300.

It goes on sale in October.

Posted by Shiny Media on September 17, 2003 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1)

Motorola/Microsoft shock mobile phone industry



In a move that has stunned the mobile phone industry, Motorola has announced it is teaming up with Microsoft to produce a range of handsets that use the Windows Mobile operating system.

Although it was launched over a year ago Windows Mobile, which offers a truncated version of Microsoft applications like Internet Explorer and Outlook, has not impressed many mobile phone manufacturers. So far it has only appeared on the high-end handset the SPV marketed in the UK by the Orange network. Most handset makers preferring to use the Symbian operating system as found on the Sony Ericsson P800, Nokia's 7650 and Motorola's recently launched A920.

Motorola is now promising a range of handsets in both the smartphone and PDA form factors.

First to launch is the MPx200, which goes on sale in the UK next month via the Orange network priced at around £230.

Essentially the phone is similar in terms functionality to the SPV. It does however boast a much sexier clamshell design and features a significantly faster processor, (200Mhz) and more memory (32MB RAM and 32MB ROM).

Initial impressions of the phone are that it is an absolute cracker. It is the first time a tiny clamshell handset has been able to offer the consumer PO3 email (though it can only access one account) and the Internet. Surprisingly Internet pages work reasonably well on its small screen too.

Other features include a Window Media player (which plays video and MP3/WMA music files), Java for gaming and personal information manager (PIM) software.

The phone comes with a pair of stereo earphones and a USB connector that not only allows information to be transferred to and from a PC but also, uniquely, recharges the phone at the same time.

The new processor also makes a huge difference to the speed of the phone's data applications (one of the major criticisms of the original SPV).

Motorola, Microsoft and Orange claim to be pitching the phone at mobile professionals. So there is a surprise in that it doesn't feature Bluetooth connectivity.

Another key feature that is absent is an integrated camera - a clip-on camera will be available as an accessory (along with car kits, keyboards etc).

While this phone is certain to be huge in the USA, we aren't quite sure how successful it will prove to be in the UK.

Mobile professionals in the market for data phones will probably prefer a handset with a larger screen. Also the absence of Bluetooth means it can't be easily used in conjunction with PDAs like the Palm's Tungsten T.

The lack of a camera (the next generation of handset will feature one) could also work against it.

Lastly Motorola/Microsoft might have made an error in opting for Orange as its network provider. It already has a Microsoft powered phone (the SPV2), which will retail for less than the MPx200 and feature an integrated camera.

Orange too has a formidable array of handsets this year - far superior to its rivals - and there's a chance that the MPx200 might simply be eclipsed by sexier looking phones.

Still, with a few reservations, we were impressed by the Microsoft's operating system on the SPV. Motorola has now taken it to another level with the MPx200.

This is a great handset that deserves to be an enormous success. Whether the market for it is quite as big as the companies believe though remains to be seen.

Posted by Shiny Media on September 15, 2003 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Sony Ericsson 3G phone for UK



It has been rumoured for a while, but now it seems a cert, UK 3G phone network Three is set to add Sony Ericsson's Z1010 phone to its range, probably in January.

Premiered at the GSM Expo in Cannes in February, the Z1010 is a clamshell phone that is significantly smaller than the other 3G handsets avaialble via Three.

It boasts Three's key Video Calling facility courtesy of a pair of integrated cameras. Other features include MPEG4 (video) and MP3 (audio) playback, a front display, 65K colour main display, MMS and Bluetooth.

Read more from 3G.co.uk

Posted by Shiny Media on September 9, 2003 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Sony Ericsson's new line up



Sony Ericsson has today taken the wraps off its line up of Christmas phones, but in spite of rumours to the contrary there's no announcement of a replacement for its P800 high-end smart phone.

Instead there's a camera phone with gaming facilities and two low-end handsets aimed at the budget market. All three models will go on sale in the UK in Q4.

Here are the three models



Z600
Clamshell design with a built in camera – designed to take on Sharp's GX20, Motorola's V600 and Samsung's E700. Features include

MMS
65k colour screen
Bluetooth
Triple band
Polyphonic sound/Music DJ editor
Front screen
Java
200 hours standby, six hours talktime



Z200
Got a sneak preview of this recently courtesy of one of the networks. It has a really weird design – kind of chunky and curved. There's also a strap at the top so fashion conscious Scandinavian types can hang their phone round their neck. You don't get an integrated camera (although it is compatible with click-on snappers), but you do get

4K colour screen
MMS
Changeable covers
4.5 hours talk time, 200 hours standby



T230 Budget model. No clamshell just a traditional SE candy bar design. It does have

MMS
Embedded and downloadable games
32 Polyphonic sounds
13 hours talktime, 300 hours standby

Posted by Shiny Media on September 3, 2003 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (0)

Three's first true 3G phone


The Guardian has the exclusive on what is arguably the first true 3G handset to go on sale in the UK.

Motorola's A920 wipes the floor with previous handsets in offering video at a decent 24 frames per second(four times faster than the NEC e808/606), is compatible with Pop3 e-mail, has full Internet access and looks great too. It goes on sale in two weeks.

Posted by Shiny Media on August 28, 2003 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1)

The Real Becks phone

becksphone.JPG Unlike us here at Tech Digest, it appears David Beckham hasn't yet taken delivery of his new Sharp GX20 camera phone. Surely some mistake as in this image from Yahoo's sports website he is using a Siemens SL55. The rather tasty sliding mini handset is probably a freebie as Beck's new club, Real Madrid is sponsored by Siemens. Still, someone from Vodafone/Sharp better get on the case pronto.

Posted by Shiny Media on August 22, 2003 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (1)

Three on target?

Nec808y.bmp 3G mobile phone network Three finally announced its subscriber figures today. Apparently over 155,000 Britons have signed up since the company's launch in March. Of course Three is going to have to really go some to meet its original target of 1 million customers by the end of the year. Hazarding a guess we reckon the final figure will probably be around a quarter of that.

Still there has been good news for the company - read on to find out more

There is good news though

* Subscriber levels have rocketed since it launched its very competitive VideoTalk 500 service and started offering free (or thereabouts) handsets.
* There are better handsets on the horizon
* The new Premiership season has started which is sure to hook a few footy mad punters who want to relive their team's goals on a video handset
* There's anecdotal evidence that the network is starting to work properly
* The company is set to increase the type of services it offers outside of 3G areas. Currently this is only voice and text, but will soon includes sending images, web access and e-mail

And some bad news too

* It may soon have 3G competition in the UK. According to www.kewney.com/articles/030819-3g.html a second operator will have 3G services up and running in the UK by Christmas with the hot money on Vodafone.

There are apparently also rumours of Vodafone and Three coming to an arrangement to merge their two 3G networks. The pair would share an infrastructure in the same way that T-Mobile and Virgin share a GSM network. Could save both companies huge sums of money while giving 3G a major shot in the arm - sounds interesting...

Posted by Shiny Media on August 22, 2003 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (2)

And now the Becks phone killers



We might have given it a rave review last week, but we'll admit that the Sharp GX20, you know the latest version of the Vodafone Becks camera phone, could face some stiff opposition. Sure none of the line up of camera phones we've seen in the last few weeks can match its superb screen, but there are handsets coming soon that could may have the edge on other areas. Here's a few to keep your eyes out for including new models from Nokia, Motorola, Samsung and others

motov6001.bmp **Motorola V600** – Motorola's best handset for well over the year, the V600 revives the clamshell form factor of the classic V60 yet adds an integrated camera, Bluetooth, video and Java. It is very compact for a camera handset and its black and silver facia with the company's Batman style logo looks amazing too.

same700.bmp **Samsung E700** – A stunning camera phone that certainly has the edge over the GX20 in terms of its design. We especially like its really cool front facia/screen and the way its antenna is incorporated into the handset. The lens is in an unusual place too on the top of the flip up part of the front. It is quite possibly the smallest camera phone on sale too. We reckon it will fly out of the stores.

panx70.bmp **Panasonic X70** – The successor to the popular GD87, the X70's trump card is its photo light which improves images taken in poor lighting conditions – although, it obviously doesn't work as well as a flash. It's a little on the large side when compared with the Samsung and the Motorola, and we would like to have seen a few new features too.



LG 7100 – One of the most unusual handsets we've seen in a while, LG's debut UK phone sports a screen that swivels round – you can even have the main display at the front of the handset. Bizarrely the camera lens is at the side of the phone too. Yet its major boast is that it is the first handset to feature an integrated flash. A bit off the wall for our tastes but it has the makings of a cult phone.

ornagespv2.bmp **Orange SPV2** – The third version of the SPV is identical to its predecessor (the E-100) with the exception that the SPV 2 features an integrated camera and has Bluetooth facilities. Definitely a handset on our shopping list.

Nokia6600.bmp **Nokia 6600** – Top-end smartphone with an unusual design. It is wide to accommodate its large-ish screen, yet extremely thin. Packed with features it includes an integrated camera, video, Bluetooth, full web browsing and a 65K colour screen. It will go head to head both the SPV 2 and Siemens, similarly sized smartphone the SX1. It'll be interesting to see how it fares.

Posted by Shiny Media on August 22, 2003 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (2)

Sony Ericsson P800 update

sep810.bmp A Spanish website is claiming to have images and details of a revamped version of Sony Ericsson's popular P800 smartphone. It will apparently be called either the P810 or P900 and launch in Europe before Christmas (Vodafone seems the most likely network). It features the following revisions to the original

* Much better screen – 65k colours to put it in line with handsets like the Sharp GX20
* Smaller, thinner and generally much cooler casing
* Proper metallic stylus (not the rubbish plastic one on the P800)
* Real removable keypad
* Symbian OS 7

The phone certainly needs a revamp as it will face stiff opposition this autumn from the Orange SPV2, Treo 600 and Nokia 6600.

more from

www.clubsonyericsson.com/en/products_p810.htm

Posted by Shiny Media on August 22, 2003 in Mobile phones
Permalink | Comments (7)

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Nokia N93 User guide

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For your safety

Read these simple guidelines. Not following them may be dangerous or illegal. Read the complete user guide for further information.



SWITCH ON SAFELY Do not switch the device on when wireless phone use is prohibited or when it may cause interference or danger.



ROAD SAFETY COMES FIRST Obey all local laws. Always keep your hands free to operate the vehicle while driving. Your first consideration while driving should be road safety.



INTERFERENCE All wireless devices may be susceptible to interference, which could affect performance.



SWITCH OFF IN HOSPITALS Follow any restrictions. Switch the device off near medical equipment.



SWITCH OFF IN AIRCRAFT Follow any restrictions. Wireless devices can cause interference in aircraft.



SWITCH OFF WHEN REFUELING Do not use the device at a refueling point. Do not use near fuel or chemicals.



SWITCH OFF NEAR BLASTING Follow any restrictions. Do not use the device where blasting is in progress.



USE SENSIBLY Use only in the normal position as explained in the product documentation. Do not touch the antenna unnecessarily.



QUALIFIED SERVICE Only qualified personnel may install or repair this product.



ENHANCEMENTS AND BATTERIES Use only approved enhancements and batteries. Do not connect incompatible products.



WATER-RESISTANCE Your device is not water-resistant. Keep it dry.



BACK-UP COPIES Remember to make back-up copies or keep a written record of all important information stored in your device.

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CONNECTING TO OTHER DEVICES When connecting to any other device, read its user guide for detailed safety instructions. Do not connect incompatible products.



EMERGENCY CALLS Ensure the phone function of the device is switched on and in service. The keypad is active only in the fold-open mode. Press the end key as many times as needed to clear the display and return to the standby mode. Enter the emergency number, then press the call key. Give your location. Do not end the call until given permission to do so.

About your device

The wireless device described in this guide is approved for use on the EGSM 900, 1800, 1900, and UMTS 2100 networks. Contact your service provider for more information about networks.

When using the features in this device, obey all laws and respect local customs, privacy and legitimate rights of others, including copyrights.

Copyright protections may prevent some images, music (including ringing tones), and other content from being copied, modified, transferred, or forwarded.

Your device supports internet connections and other methods of connectivity. Like computers, your device may be exposed to viruses, malicious messages and applications, and other harmful content. Exercise caution and open messages, accept connectivity requests, download content, and accept installations only from trustworthy sources. To increase the security of your device, consider installing antivirus software with a regular update service and using a firewall application.

Warning: To use any features in this device, other than the alarm clock, the device must be switched on. Do not switch the device on when wireless device use may cause interference or danger.

This device supports common features of Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and Excel (Microsoft Office 97, 2000, XP, and 2003). Not all file formats can be viewed or modified.

During operation, such as an active video sharing session or high-speed data connection, the device may feel warm. In most cases, this condition is normal. If you suspect the device is not working properly, take it to the nearest authorized service facility.

Your device may have some bookmarks or links preinstalled for or may allow access to sites provided by third parties not affiliated with Nokia. Nokia does not endorse or assume any liability for these sites. If you choose to access

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them, you should take the same precautions, for security or content, as you would with any internet site.

Network services

To use the phone you must have service from a wireless service provider. Many of the features require special network features. These features are not be available on all networks; other networks may require that you make specific arrangements with your service provider before you can use the network services. Your service provider can give you instructions and explain what charges will apply. Some networks may have limitations that affect how you can use network services. For instance, some networks may not support all language-dependent characters and services.

Your service provider may have requested that certain features be disabled or not activated in your device. If so, these features will not appear on your device menu. Your device may also have a special configuration such as changes in menu names, menu order, and icons. Contact your service provider for more information.

This device supports WAP 2.0 protocols (HTTP and SSL) that run on TCP/IP protocols. Some features of this device, such as MMS, browsing, e-mail, and content downloading using the browser or over MMS, require network support for these technologies.

For availability and information on using SIM card services, contact your SIM card vendor. This may be the service provider or other vendor.

Enhancements, batteries, and chargers

Always switch the device off and disconnect the charger before removing the battery.

Check the model number of any charger before use with this device. This device is intended for use when supplied with power from a DC-4, AC-3, or AC-4 charger, and from an AC-1, ACP-7, ACP-8, ACP-9, ACP-12, LCH-8, LCH-9, or LCH-12 charger when used with the CA-44 charger adapter.

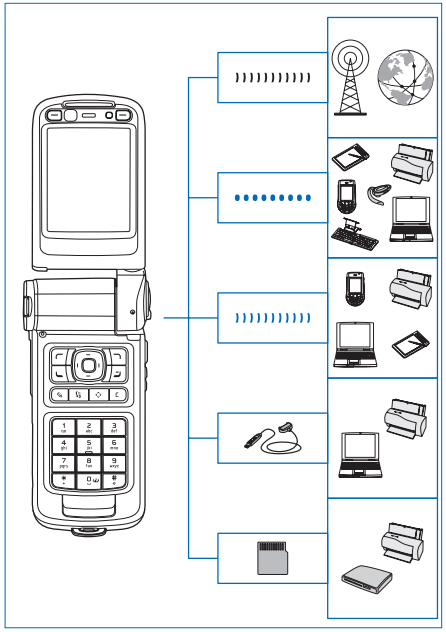
The battery intended for use with this device is BP-6M.

Warning: Use only batteries, chargers, and enhancements approved by Nokia for use with this particular model. The use of any other types may invalidate any approval or warranty, and may be dangerous.

For availability of approved enhancements, please check with your dealer. When you disconnect the power cord of any enhancement, grasp and pull the plug, not the cord.

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Get connected



Use your device on the 2G and 3G networks. See 'Your Nokia N93' p.11

Use Bluetooth technology, for example, to transfer files and connect to compatible enhancements. See 'Bluetooth connectivity' p. 83.

Use infrared to transfer and synchronize data between compatible devices, for example. See 'Infrared connection' p. 87.

Use a wireless LAN to connect to the internet and WLAN enabled devices. See 'Wireless LAN' p. 92.

Use Nokia Connectivity Cable CA-53 to connect to compatible devices, such as printers and PCs. See 'Data cable' p. 83. Use Nokia Video Cable CA-64U to connect to a compatible TV. See 'TV configuration' p. 114.

Use a compatible microSD card to transfer data or back up information, for example. See 'Memory card tool' p. 20.

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Your Nokia N93

Model number: Nokia N93-1

Hereinafter referred to as Nokia N93.

Modes

Your device has four mechanical modes that are optimized for different uses: fold closed for carrying, fold open for traditional mobile phone use, image for recording video and taking pictures, and view for viewing your images and videos. To switch between the modes, turn the fold and the swing axis display. There is a short time-out before a mode is activated.

Fold-closed mode



When the fold is closed, the main display deactivates and the cover display lights up. Ongoing calls end, unless the loudspeaker is in use or a compatible headset is connected. To change the settings, see 'Cover display', p. 104. If you are using the player to listen to a sound clip, it continues to play.

In the fold-closed mode, the cover display provides clock and status information. On the standby mode display, the signal strength and battery indicators, time information, status indicators, and the name of the active profile (if other than **General**) may be shown. If you use the music player to listen to a sound clip, volume bars and track information are displayed. Use the side scroll keys to play, pause, play the next or previous sound clip, and turn the volume up or down.

If you are using Visual Radio in the fold-closed mode, the visual content is not shown on the cover display. You can store several preset stations with station name, frequency, and location information. This information is shown on the cover display. To turn the audio on and off, change the channel, and seek new channels, use the scroll key on the side of the device.

Calendar and clock alarms and notes for missed calls and new received messages are also displayed. To view received text messages and the text and image objects of received multimedia messages, open the fold, and view the message on the main display.

Incoming calls are indicated by their normal tone and a note. In the cover display settings, select **Answer if fold opened** to answer a call when you open the fold. If a

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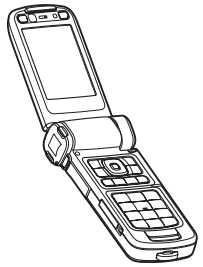
compatible headset is connected to the device, press the answer key on the headset. To change the settings, see 'Cover display', p. 104.

To make calls or use the menu, open the fold.

To use the flash as a flashlight, press the flash key on the side of the device. To operate the flashlight, do the following:

- Quickly press the flash key once. The flashlight is activated for 1.5 seconds.
- Quickly press the flash key twice. The flashlight is activated for 3 minutes or until you press the flash key again.
- Press and hold the flash key. The flashlight is activated and stays on for as long as you hold the key or until the 3-minute time-out ends.

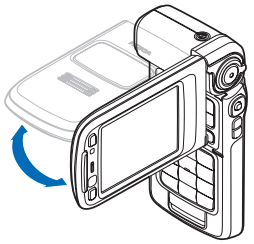
Fold-open mode



When you open the fold, the fold-open mode is activated automatically: the main display lights up, the keypad is available, and you can access the menu. Scroll in the menu.

The fold-open mode is activated even if the fold is not fully opened. The fold opens about 160 degrees, as shown in the picture. Do not force the fold to open more.

Image mode



When you open the fold to 90 degrees, hold the device sideways, turn the fold down so that the main display faces you, and the image mode is activated. The main camera is activated, and you can see the image to be captured.

In image mode, you can record videos and take pictures. See 'Camera', p. 23.

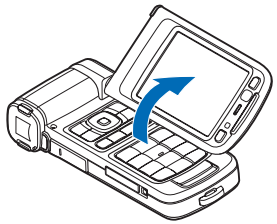
In image mode, the numeric keypad is not active. You can use the capture key, zoom key, side scroll key, camera mode key, and flash key (all located on the side of the device), power key, and the landscape selection keys next to the main display.

View mode

When the fold is closed and you lift the side of the swing axis display when the fold is closed, the view mode is activated.

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Use the view mode to do the following:



- View your images.
- Activate photos and movies from the gallery to watch slideshows.
- Make hands-free video calls, and send live video during a video call. Adjust the angle of the display for optimum secondary camera angle.

Shortcuts

Use shortcuts to quickly get the most from your device. Refer to the relevant sections in this user guide for further details of the functions.

Standby mode

To switch between applications that are open, press and hold , and select an application. If memory is low, the device may close some applications. The device saves any unsaved data before closing an application.

Leaving applications running in the background increases the demand on battery power and reduces the battery life.

To start the camera, fully press the capture key in image mode.

To call your voice mailbox (network service), press and hold 1 .

To open multimedia applications, press and hold . See 'Multimedia key', p. 103.

To change the profile, press , and select a profile.

To switch between **General** and **Silent**, press and hold # . If you have two phone lines, this action switches between the two lines.

To open the last dialed numbers list, press .

To use voice commands, press and hold .

To start a connection to **Services**, press and hold 0 . See 'Services', p. 70.

For other shortcuts available in the standby mode, see 'Active standby mode', p. 102.

Edit text and lists

To mark an item in a list, scroll to it, and press and at the same time.

To mark multiple items in a list, press and hold while you press or . To end the selection, release , then .

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To select letters and words, press and hold ✎. At the same time, press or to highlight text. To copy the text to clipboard, while still holding ✎, select **Copy**. To insert the text into a document, press and hold ✎, and select **Paste**.

Settings

Your Nokia device normally has MMS, GPRS, streaming, and mobile internet settings automatically configured, based upon your service provider information. You may have settings from your service provider already installed in your device, or you may receive the settings from the service provider as a special text message.



Transfer content from another device

You can copy content such as contacts and calendar entries from a compatible Nokia device to your Nokia device using Bluetooth connectivity or infrared. The type of content that can be copied depends on the phone model.

You can insert your SIM card in the other device. When your Nokia device is switched on without a SIM card, the offline profile is automatically activated.

Transfer content

1. Press , and select **Tools** > **Transfer**.
2. In the information view, select **Continue**.
3. Select whether you want to use Bluetooth connectivity or infrared to transfer the data. Both devices must support the selected connection type.
4. If you select Bluetooth connectivity, to have your Nokia device search for devices with Bluetooth connectivity, select **Continue**. Select the other device from the list. You are asked to enter a code on your Nokia device. Enter a code (1-16 digits), and select **OK**. Enter the same code on the other device, and select **OK**. The devices are now paired. See 'Pair devices', p. 86.
   For some phone models, **Transfer** is sent to the other device as a message. To install **Transfer** on the other device, open the message, and follow the instructions on the display.
   If you select infrared, connect the two devices. See 'Infrared connection', p. 87.
5. From your Nokia device, select the content you want to copy from the other device.

Content is copied from the memory and compatible memory card (if inserted) of the other device to the corresponding location in your Nokia device and memory card (if inserted). The copying time depends on the amount of data to be transferred. You can cancel copying and continue later.

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To view the log information of a previous transfer, in the main view, select **Transfer log**.

To view the devices you have copied or transferred data from, in the main view, select **Phones**.

Essential indicators

The device is being used in a GSM network.

3G The device is being used in a UMTS network (network service).

You have one or more unread messages in the **Inbox** folder in **Messag.**.

You have received new e-mail in the remote mailbox.

There are messages waiting to be sent in the **Outbox** folder.

You have missed calls.

Shown if **Ringing type** is set to **Silent** and **Message alert tone**, **IM alert tone**, and **E-mail alert tone** are set to **Off**.

The device keypad is locked.

A clock alarm is active.

2 The second phone line is being used (network service).

All calls to the device are forwarded to another number. If you have two phone lines (network service), the indicator for the first line is 1 and for the second 2.

A compatible headset is connected to the device.

A compatible loopset is connected to the device.

A compatible text phone is connected to the device.

D A data call is active.

A GPRS or EDGE packet data connection is available.

A GPRS or EDGE packet data connection is active.

A GPRS or EDGE packet data connection is on hold.

A UMTS packet data connection is available.

A UMTS packet data connection is active.

A UMTS packet data connection is on hold.

You have set the device to scan for wireless LANs, and a wireless LAN is available. See 'Wireless LAN', p. 109.

A wireless LAN connection is active in a network that has encryption.

A wireless LAN connection is active in a network that does not have encryption.

Bluetooth connectivity is on.

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Data is being transmitted using Bluetooth connectivity.

A USB connection is active.

An infrared connection is active. If the indicator is blinking, the device is trying to connect to the other device or the connection has been lost.

Keypad lock (keyguard)

Use the keypad lock to prevent accidental keypresses.

To turn on the display light when the keypad lock is on, press .

- To lock, press , then * . When the keys are locked, is shown on the display.
- To unlock with the fold-open, press , then * .
- To unlock with the fold-closed, press and hold the camera mode key.

When the keypad lock is on, calls may be possible to the official emergency number programmed into your device.

Volume and loudspeaker control

To increase or decrease the volume level when you have an active call or are listening to a sound, press or .



The built-in loudspeaker allows you to speak and listen from a short distance without having to hold the device to your ear.

Warning: Do not hold the device near your ear when the loudspeaker is in use, because the volume may be extremely loud.

To use the loudspeaker during a call, select **Options** > **Activate loudsp.**.

To turn off the loudspeaker, select **Options** > **Activate handset**.

Clock

Select **Clock** application. To set a new alarm, select **Options** > **Set alarm**. When an alarm is active, is shown.

To turn off the alarm, select **Stop**, or to stop the alarm for 5 minutes, select **Snooze**.

If the alarm time is reached while the device is switched off, the device switches itself on and starts sounding the alarm tone. If you select **Stop**, the device asks whether you want to activate the device for calls. Select **No** to switch off the device or **Yes** to make and receive calls. Do not

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select **Yes** when wireless phone use may cause interference or danger.

To cancel an alarm, select **Clock** > **Options** > **Remove alarm**.

Clock settings

To change the clock settings, select **Clock** > **Options** > **Settings**.

To change the time or date, select **Time** or **Date**.

To change the clock shown in the standby mode, select **Clock type** > **Analogue** or **Digital**.

To allow the mobile phone network to update the time, date, and time zone information to your device (network service), select **Network operator time** > **Auto-update**.

To change the alarm tone, select **Clock alarm tone**.

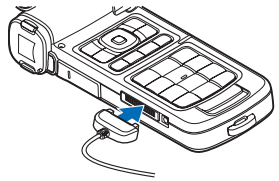
World clock

To open the world clock view, open **Clock**, and press . In the world clock view, you can view the time in different cities.

To add cities to the list, select **Options** > **Add city**. You can add a maximum of 15 cities to the list.

To set your current city, scroll to a city, and select **Options** > **My current city**. The city is displayed in the clock main view, and the time in your device is changed according to the city selected. Check that the time is correct and matches your time zone.

Headset

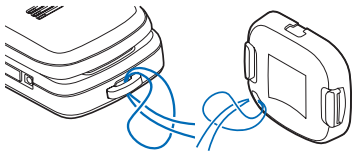


Connect a compatible headset to the Pop-Port™ connector of your device.

Warning: When you use the headset, your ability to hear outside sounds may be affected. Do not use the headset where it can endanger your safety.

Wrist and lens cover straps

Thread the straps as shown, and tighten them.



Wireless LAN

Your device supports wireless local area network (wireless LAN). With wireless LAN, you can

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connect your device to the internet and compatible devices that have wireless LAN. For information about using your device in a home network, see 'Home network', p. 19.

To use wireless LAN, a wireless LAN must be avilable in the location, and your device must be connected to the wireless LAN.

Some places, like France, have restrictions on the use of wireless LAN. Check with your local authorities for more information.

Features using wireless LAN, or allowing such features to run in the background while using other features, increase the demand on battery power and reduce the battery life.

Your device supports the following wireless LAN features:

- IEEE 802.11b/g standard
- Operation at a frequency of 2.4 GHz
- Wired equivalent privacy (WEP) with keys up to 128 bits, Wi-Fi protected access (WPA), and 802.1x encryption methods. These functions can be used only if they are supported by the network.

Wireless LAN connections

To use wireless LAN, you must create an internet access point (IAP) in a wireless LAN. Use the access point for applications that need to connect to the internet. See 'Wireless LAN access points' in the Additional applications guide.

Important: Always enable one of the available encryption methods to increase the security of your wireless LAN connection. Using encryption reduces the risk of unauthorized access to your data.

A wireless LAN connection is established when you create a data connection using a wireless LAN Internet access point. The active wireless LAN connection ends when you end the data connection. To end the connection, see 'Connection manager', p. 91.

You can use wireless LAN during a voice call or when packet data is active. You can only be connected to one wireless LAN access point device at a time, but several applications can use the same wireless LAN connection.

When you activate **Offline**, you can still use wireless LAN (if available). Remember to comply with any applicable safety requirements when establishing and using a wireless LAN connection.

Tip! To check the unique media access control (MAC) address that identifies your device, enter *#62209526# in the standby mode.

For information about WLAN wizard, see 'WLAN wizard' in the Additional applications guide.

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Home network

Your device is compatible with UPnP. With a wireless LAN access point device, you can create a home network and connect compatible UPnP devices that support wireless LAN to the network, such as your Nokia device, a compatible PC, a compatible printer, and a compatible sound system or a TV, or a sound system or TV equipped with a compatible wireless multimedia receiver.

After you have configured the home network, you can copy, view, or play compatible media files and print images in **Gallery** on the other connected compatible devices, for example, view images stored on your Nokia device on a compatible TV. See 'Home network', p. 88 and 'Image print', p. 42.

To set up home networking in your wireless LAN, first create and configure your wireless LAN home Internet access point, then configure the devices. On your Nokia device, configure the settings in **Home net.** . To connect a compatible PC to the home network, on the PC, you must install the Media Server software from the DVD-ROM supplied with your Nokia device.

After you have completed the necessary configurations in all devices connected to the network, you can start using **Home net.** to share your media files. See 'View media files', p. 90.

Web browser

Various service providers maintain pages specifically designed for mobile devices. These pages use the wireless markup language (WML), extensible hypertext markup language (XHTML), or hypertext markup language (HTML).

Check the availability of services, pricing, and fees with your service provider. Service providers will also give you instructions on how to use their services.

Press , and select **Internet** > **Web**.

With this additional browser, you are able to view normal web pages, to zoom in and out on a page (Mini Map), to view web pages that contain only text in narrow form so that text wraps, and to read feeds and blogs.

To turn the Mini Map on or off for the current page, press 8 . When the Mini Map is on, an overview of the complete page is shown when you scroll on the page.

See also 'Web access point', p. 70.

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Memory card

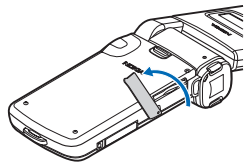
You can use a compatible miniSD card as extra storage space to save the memory on your device. You can also back up information from your device to the memory card.

Use only compatible miniSD cards with this device. Other memory cards, such as Reduced Size MultiMediaCards, do not fit in the memory card slot and are not compatible with this device. Using an incompatible memory card may damage the memory card as well as the device, and data stored on the incompatible card may be corrupted.

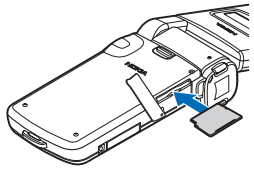
Keep all memory cards out of the reach of small children.

Insert the memory card

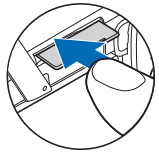
1 To open the door of the memory card slot, swing it upwards in a counterclockwise direction.



2 Insert the memory card in the slot. Ensure that the contact area on the card is facing up.



3 Push the card in. You hear a click when the card locks into place.



4 Close the door.

Eject the memory card

1 Before you eject the card, press , and select **Remove mem. card**. All applications are closed.
2 When **Remove memory card and press 'OK'** is displayed, swing open the door of the memory card slot.
3 Press the memory card to release it from the slot.
4 Remove the memory card. If the device is switched on, select **OK** when prompted to confirm the removal.

Important: Do not remove the memory card in the middle of an operation when the card is being accessed. Removing the card in the middle of an operation may damage the memory card as well as the device, and data stored on the card may be corrupted.

Memory card tool

Press , and select **Tools** > **Memory**. You can use a compatible miniSD card as extra storage space and for backing up the information in the device memory.

To back up information from the device memory to a memory card, select **Options** > **Backup phone mem.**

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To restore information from the memory card to the device memory, select **Options** > **Restore from card**.

Format a memory card

When a memory card is reformatted, all data on the card is permanently lost.

Some memory cards are supplied preformatted and others require formatting. Consult your retailer to find out if you must format the memory card before you can use it.

To format a memory card, select **Options** > **Format mem. card**. Select **Yes** to confirm.

Tip! For optimal performance, use your Nokia device to format all new miniSD cards.

File manager

Many features of the device, such as contacts, messages, images, videos, ringing tones, calendar notes, documents, and downloaded applications, use memory to store data. The free memory available depends on how much data is already saved in the device memory.

You can use a compatible miniSD card as extra storage space. Memory cards are rewritable, so you can delete old information and save new data on a memory card.

To browse files and folders in the device memory or on a memory card (if inserted), press , and select **Tools** > **File mgr.**. The device memory view ( ) opens. Press to open the memory card view ( ) (if available).

To move or copy files to a folder, press and at the same time to mark a file, and select **Options** > **Move to folder** or **Copy to folder**.

To find a file, select **Options** > **Find** and the memory from which to search, and enter a search text that matches the file name.

View memory consumption

To view what types of data you have in the device and how much memory the different data types consume, select **Options** > **Memory details**. The amount of available memory is shown in **Free memory**.

Memory low—free memory

The device notifies you if the device or the memory card memory is low.

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To free device memory, transfer data to a compatible memory card, if you have one. Mark files to be moved, and select **Move to folder** > **Memory card** and a folder.

You can also transfer media files to a compatible PC, for example, using the transfer option in **Gallery**. See 'Back up files', p. 43.

Tip! Use Nokia Phone Browser in Nokia PC Suite to view the different memories in your device and transfer data.

To remove data to free memory, use **File mgr.** or the respective application. For example, you can remove the following:

- Messages from the **Inbox**, **Drafts**, and **Sent** folders in **Messag.**
- Retrieved e-mail messages from the device memory
- Saved web pages
- Saved images, videos, or sound files
- Contact information
- Calendar notes
- Downloaded applications. See also 'Application manager', p. 114.
- Any other data that you no longer need

After you install applications to a compatible memory card, installation files (.sis) remain in the device memory. The files may use large amounts of memory and prevent you from storing other files. To maintain sufficient memory, use Nokia PC Suite to back up installation files to a compatible PC, then use the file manager to remove the installation files from the device memory. If the .sis file is a message attachment, delete the message from the Messaging inbox



Help

Your device has context-sensitive help. When an application is open, select **Options** > **Help** to access help for the current view.

When you are reading the instructions, to switch between help and the application that is open in the background, press and hold .

To open help from the main menu, select **Tools** > **Help**. Select the desired application to view its help topics.



Tutorial

The tutorial gives you information about some of the features of your device. To access the tutorial in the menu, press , and select **My own** > **Tutorial** and the section you want to view.

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Camera

Your Nokia N93 has two cameras, a high-resolution camera on the side of the device (the main camera) and a lower-resolution camera on the top of the main display (the secondary camera). You can use both cameras to take still images and record video in the portrait and landscape views.

The Nokia N93 device supports an image capture resolution of 2048x1536 pixels using the main camera. The image resolution in these materials may appear different.

The images and video clips are automatically saved in the **Images & video** folder in **Gallery**. The cameras produce .jpg images. Video clips are recorded in the .mp4 file format or in the 3GPP file format with the .3gp file extension (**Sharing** modes). See 'Video settings', p. 24.

You can send images and video clips in a multimedia message as an e-mail attachment or by using Bluetooth connectivity.

Record videos

To activate the main camera rotate the display to image mode. If the camera is in image mode, use the camera mode key, or select **Options** > **Switch to video mode** to switch to video mode.

Press the capture key to start recording. The record icon ● is displayed and a tone sounds. The red recording indicator is lit, indicating that video is being recorded.

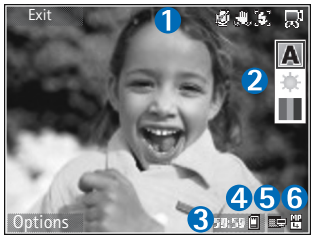
1. To stop recording at any time, press the capture key.
2. To pause the recording, select Pause; to resume recording, select **Continue**.
   The video clip is automatically saved to **Images & video** in **Gallery**. See 'Gallery', p. 30.

To make lighting and color adjustments before recording a video in the imaging mode, scroll through the toolbar. See 'Setup settings—adjust color and lighting', p. 28 and 'Shooting modes', p. 28.

To zoom in or out of the subject (continuous 3x optical and up to 20x digital zoom), rotate the zoom key on the side of the device.

The video viewfinder displays the following:

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- Status indicators (1) for audio mute on, stabilization on, video light mode, and the current capture mode.
- The toolbar (2), which you can scroll through before recording to select the shooting mode, white balance, and color tone (the toolbar is not displayed during recording).
- The total available video recording time (3). When you are recording, the current video length indicator also shows the elapsed time and time remaining.
- The device memory ( ) and memory card ( ) indicators (4) show where videos are saved.
- The video quality indicator (5) indicates whether the quality of the video is **TV (high)**, **TV (normal)**, **Handset (high)**, **Handset (normal)**, or **Sharing**.
- The video clip file type (6).

Tip! Select **Options** > **Turn icons on** to display all viewfinder indicators or **Turn icons off** to display only the video status indicators.

After you record a video clip, select the following from the toolbar:

- To immediately play the video clip you just recorded, select **Play**.
- If you do not want to keep the video, select **Delete**.
- To send the video using multimedia, e-mail, Bluetooth connectivity, or infrared, press , or select **Send**. For more information, see 'Messaging', p. 44 and 'Bluetooth connectivity', p. 83. This option is not available during an active call. You cannot send video clips saved in the .mp4 file format in a multimedia message.
- To record a new video clip, select **New video**.

Tip! Activate the **Offline** profile to ensure your video recording is not interrupted by incoming calls.

Video settings

There are two kinds of settings for the video recorder: **Video setup** and main settings. To adjust **Video setup**, see 'Setup settings—adjust color and lighting', p. 28. The setup settings return to the default settings after you close the camera, but the main settings remain the same until you change them again. To change the main settings, select **Options** > **Settings** and from the following:

Audio recording—Select **Off** if you do not want to record sound.

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Video quality—Set the quality of the video clip to **TV (high)** (best quality for long term usage and playback on a compatible TV or PC and handset), **TV (normal)**, **Handset (high)**, **Handset (normal)**, or **Sharing** (limited video clip size to send using multimedia message (MMS)). If you want to view the video on a compatible TV or PC, select **TV (high)**, which has VGA resolution (640x480) and the .mp4 file format. To send the video clip through MMS, select **Sharing** (QCIF resolution, .3gp file format). The size of the video clip recorded with **Sharing** is limited to 300 KB (about 20 seconds in duration) so that it can be conveniently sent as a multimedia message to a compatible device.

Video stabilisation—Select **On** to reduce camera shake when recording the video.

Add to album—Select whether you want to add the recorded video clip to a certain album in **Gallery**. Select **Yes** to open a list of available albums.

Show captured video—Select whether you want the first frame of the recorded video clip to be shown on the display after the recording stops. Select **Play** from the toolbar (main camera) or **Options** > **Play** (secondary camera) to view the video clip.

Optical zoom during recording—Select **On** or **Off**. Select **Off** to eliminate mechanical noise caused by lens movement during optical zooming when recording.

Memory in use—Define the default memory store: device memory or memory card (if inserted).

Take pictures

To activate the main camera rotate the display to image mode. If the camera is in video mode, use the camera mode key, or select **Options** > **Switch to image mode** to switch to image mode.

To lock the focus on an object, press the capture key halfway down (main camera only). The green locked focus indicator appears on the display. If the focus was not locked, the red focus indicator appears. Release the capture key, and press it halfway down again. You can, however, take the picture without locking the focus.

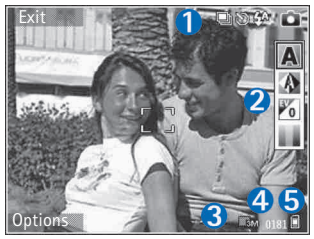
To take a picture, in the main camera, press the capture key. Do not move the device before the image is saved.

To make lighting and color adjustments before taking a picture in image mode, scroll through the toolbar. See 'Setup settings—adjust color and lighting', p. 28.

Saving the captured image may take longer if you change the zoom, lighting, or color settings.

The camera viewfinder displays the following:

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- Status indicators (1) for sequence on, self-timer on; **Automatic** ( ), **On** ( ), or **Off** ( ) flash mode, and the current capture mode.
- The toolbar (2), which you can scroll through before capturing the image to select the shooting mode, white balance, exposure value, and color tone (the toolbar is not displayed during focus and image capture).
- The image resolution indicator (3) indicates whether the quality of the image is **Print 3M – Large** (2048x1536 resolution), **Print 2M – Med.** (1600x1200 resolution), **Print 1.3M – Small** (1280x960 resolution), or **MMS 0.3M** (640x480 resolution).
- The image counter (4) displays the estimated number of images you can capture using the current image quality setting and memory in use (the counter is not displayed during focus and image capture).
- The device memory ( ) and memory card ( ) indicators (5) show where images are saved.

Tip! Select **Options** > **Turn icons on** to display all viewfinder indicators or **Turn icons off** to display only the camera status indicators.

When taking a picture, note the following:

- Use both hands to keep the camera still.
- The quality of a digitally zoomed picture is lower than that of a nonzoomed picture.
- The camera goes into the battery saving mode if there are no keypresses for a moment. To continue taking pictures, press .

After you take the picture, select the following from the toolbar:

- If you do not want to keep the image, select **Delete**.
- To send the video using multimedia, e-mail, Bluetooth connectivity, or infrared, press , or select **Send**.
- To capture a new image, select **New image**.
- To print the picture, select **Print**. See 'Image print', p. 42.

Still image camera settings

There are two kinds of settings for the still image camera: **Image setup** and main settings. To adjust **Image setup**, see 'Setup settings—adjust color and lighting', p. 28. The setup settings return to the default settings after you close the camera, but the main settings remain the same until you

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change them again. To change the main settings, select **Options** > **Settings** and from the following:

Image quality—**Print 3M - Large** (2048x1536 resolution), **Print 2M - Med.** (1600x1200 resolution), **Print 1.3M - Small** (1280x960 resolution), or **MMS 0.3M** (640x480 resolution). The better the image quality, the more memory the image consumes. If you want to print the image, select **Print 3M - Large**, **Print 2M - Med.**, or **Print 1.3M - Small**. If you want to send it through e-mail, select **Print 1.3M - Small**. To send the image through MMS, select **MMS 0.3M**.

These resolutions are only available in the main camera.

Add to album—Select whether you want to save the image to a certain album in the gallery. If you select **Yes**, a list of available albums opens.

Show captured image—Select **Yes** if you want to see the captured image after it is taken, or **No** if you want to continue taking pictures right away.

Extended zoom (main camera only)—Select **On (continuous)** to allow the zoom increments to be smooth and continuous between digital and extended digital zoom or **On (paused)** to allow the zoom increments to pause at the digital and extended digital step point. If you want to limit the zoom to where the selected image quality is maintained, select **Off**.

Flicker cancellation—Select **50Hz** or **60Hz**.

Shutter tone—Select the tone you want to hear when you take a picture.

Memory in use—Select where to store your images.

Take pictures in a sequence

Sequence mode is available only in the main camera.

To set the camera to take up to six pictures in a sequence (if enough memory available), select **Options** > **Sequence mode**.

To take the pictures, press the capture key.

After you take the pictures, they are shown in a grid on the display. To view a picture, press ◉ to open it.

You can also use the sequence mode with the self-timer.

To return to the sequence mode viewfinder, press the capture key.

You in the picture—self-timer

The self-timer is available only in the main camera.

Use the self-timer to delay the capture so that you can include yourself in the picture. To set the self-timer delay, select **Options** > **Self timer** > **2 seconds**, **10 seconds**, or **20 seconds**. To activate the self-timer, select **Activate**. The self-timer indicator (⏲) blinks and the device beeps

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when the timer is running. The camera takes the picture after the selected delay elapses.

You can also use the self-timer in the sequence mode.

Tip! Select **Options** > **Self timer** > **2 seconds** to keep your hand steady when taking a picture.

Flash

The flash is available only in the main camera.

Keep a safe distance when using the flash. Do not use the flash on people or animals at close range. Do not cover the flash while taking a picture.

The camera has an LED flash for low light conditions. The following flash modes are available: **Automatic** (A), **On**, and **Off**.

To switch between the flash modes, press the flash key.

Setup settings—adjust color and lighting

To enable the camera to reproduce colors and lighting more accurately or to add effects to your pictures or videos, scroll through the toolbar, and select from the following options:

Shooting mode—Select a proper shooting mode for the environment in which you take pictures. Every shooting mode uses its own lighting settings that have been adjusted according to a certain kind of environment.

White balance—Select the current lighting condition from the list. This allows the camera to reproduce colors more accurately.

Exposure value (images only)—Adjust the exposure time of the camera.

Colour tone—Select a color effect from the list.

The screen display changes to match any settings you make so you see how the change affects the pictures or videos.

The available settings vary depending on the selected camera.

The setup settings apply only to the main camera. Independent settings are available for image and video modes, and are retained when switching between the two modes.

Shooting modes

A shooting mode helps you to find the right color and lighting settings for the current environment. Select a proper shooting mode for taking pictures or recording video clips from the shooting mode list. The settings of each shooting mode have been set according to a certain style or environment.

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Shooting modes are only available in the main camera.

Scroll through the toolbar, and select from the video or image shooting modes.

When you take pictures, the default shooting mode is **Automatic**.

To make your own shooting mode suitable for a certain environment, select **User** > **Options** > **Change**. In the user defined shooting mode you can adjust different lighting and color settings. To copy the settings of another shooting mode, select **Based on shooting mode** and the desired shooting mode.

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Gallery

To store and organize your images, video clips, sound clips, playlists, and streaming links, or share your files with other compatible UPnP devices through wireless LAN, press , and select **Gallery**. To open the gallery from the **Camera** application, select **Options** > **Go to Gallery**. From **Camera**, only the **Images & video** folder is available.

Tip! To switch from **Gallery** to the camera, in the **Images & video** folder, press the capture key or the camera mode key, or select **Options** > **Go to Camera**.

Select **Images & video** , **Tracks** , **Sound clips** , **Streaming links** , **Presentations** , **All files** , or **Home net.** , and press to open it.

Video clips, .ram files, and streaming links are opened and played in the RealPlayer application. See 'RealPlayer', p. 78. You can also create albums; and mark, and add items to albums. See 'Albums', p. 35.

To open a file, press . Videos open in **RealPlayer**, and music and sound clips in **Music player**. See 'View images and video clips', p. 31.

To copy or move files to a compatible memory card (if inserted) or to device memory, select a file and **Options** > **Move and copy**. Select **Copy to memory card** or **Move to memory card** Select **Copy to phone mem.** or **Move to phone mem.**.

Files stored on the memory card (if inserted) are indicated with . Files stored on the device memory are indicated with .

To reduce the size of images that you already copied to other locations, such as to a compatible PC, select **Options** > **Transfer and memory** > **Shrink**. To reduce the resolution of an image to 640x480, select **Shrink**. To increase free memory space after you have copied items to other locations or devices, select a file and **Options** > **Transfer and memory** > **Free memory**. See 'Back up files', p. 43.

To download files into **Gallery** in one of the main folders using the browser, select **Graphic downl.**, **Video downl.**, **Track downl.**, or **Sound downl.**. The browser opens, and you can select a bookmark from which the site can download.

To share media files saved in **Gallery** with other compatible UPnP devices through wireless LAN, you must first create and configure your wireless LAN home Internet access point, and then configure the **Home net.** application. See 'Wireless LAN', p. 17.

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The options related to **Home net.** are not available in **Gallery** before the settings for **Home net.** have been configured.

View images and video clips

Pictures taken and video clips recorded with the camera are stored in **Images & video** in **Gallery**. Images and video clips can also be sent to you in a multimedia message, as an e-mail attachment, through Bluetooth connectivity, or by using infrared. To be able to view a received image or video clip in the gallery or in the media player, you must save it in the device memory or on a compatible memory card (if inserted).

Open **Images & video** in **Gallery**. The images and video clip files are in a loop, and ordered by date. The number of files is displayed. To browse the files one by one, scroll left or right. To browse files in groups, scroll up or down.

To edit a video clip or a photo, select **Options** > **Edit**. An image editor or a video editor opens. See 'Edit video clips', p. 31. See 'Edit images', p. 33.

To add an image or a video clip to an album in the gallery, select **Options** > **Albums** > **Add to album**. See 'Albums', p. 35.

To create custom video clips, select a video clip or several clips in the gallery and **Options** > **Edit**. See 'Edit video clips', p. 31.

To print your images on a compatible printer, or to store them on your memory card (if inserted) for printing, select **Options** > **Print**. See 'Image print', p. 42.

To send a multimedia message to your service provider's media file uploading service (network service), press , and select **Upload** (if available). Contact your service provider for more information.

To view the image, scroll to an image, and press .

When the image is opened, to zoom an image, select **Options** > **Zoom in** or **Zoom out**. The zooming ratio is at the top of the display. The zooming ratio is not stored permanently.

To use the picture as a background image, select the picture and **Options** > **Assign** > **Set as wallpaper**.

To delete an image or video clip, press .

Edit video clips

To edit video clips in **Gallery** and create custom video clips, scroll to a video clip, and select **Options** > **Edit**. See 'Gallery', p. 30. To create custom video clips, combine and trim video clips, and add images, sound clips, transitions,

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and effects. Transitions are visual effects that you can add in the beginning and end of the video or between the video clips.

You can also use **Movie director** to create custom video clips. Select the video clips and images you want to create a muvee with and select **Options** > **Edit** > **Create muvee**. See 'Movie director', p. 81.

In the video editor you can see two timelines: video clip timeline and sound clip timeline. The images, text, and transitions added to a video clip are shown on the video clip timeline. To switch between the timelines, scroll up or down.

Edit video, sound, image, text, and transitions

To create custom video clips, mark and select one or more video clips, and select **Options** > **Edit** > **Video editor**.

To modify the video, select from the following options:

Edit video clip—Cut, add color effect, use slow motion, mute or unmute sound, move, remove, or duplicate the clip.

Edit text (shown only if you added text)—Move, remove, or duplicate text; change the color and style of the text; define how long it stays on the screen; and add effects to the text.

Edit image (shown only if you added an image)—Move, remove, or duplicate an image; define how long it stays on the screen; and set a background or a color effect to the image.

Edit sound clip (shown only if you have added a sound clip)—Cut or move the sound clip, adjust its length, or remove or duplicate the clip.

Edit transition—There are three types of transitions: at the start of a video, at the end of a video, and transitions between video clips. You can select start transition when the first transition of the video is active.

Insert—Select **Video clip**, **Image**, **Text**, **Sound clip**, or **New sound clip**.

Movie—Preview the movie in the full screen or as a thumbnail, save or send the movie, or cut the movie to a proper size for sending it in a multimedia message.

To take a snapshot of a video clip, in the cut video view, select **Options** > **Take snapshot**. In the thumbnail preview view, press ◉, and select **Take snapshot**.

To save your video, select **Options** > **Movie** > **Save**. To define the **Memory in use**, select **Options** > **Settings**. The default is the device memory.

In **Settings**, you can also define **Default video name**, **Default sc. shot name**, **Resolution**, and **Memory in use**.

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To send the video, select **Send** > **Via multimedia**, **Via e-mail**, **Via Bluetooth**, or **Via infrared**. Contact your service provider for details of the maximum multimedia message size that you can send.

Tip! If you want to send a video clip that is over the maximum multimedia message size allowed by your service provider, you can send the clip using Bluetooth wireless technology. See 'Send data', p. 85. You can also transfer your videos to a compatible PC using Bluetooth connectivity, or by using a compatible memory card reader enhancement.

Edit images

To edit the pictures after taking them, or images already saved in **Gallery**, select **Options** > **Edit**.

Select **Apply effect** to crop and rotate the image; adjust the brightness, color, contrast, and resolution; and add effects, text, clip art, or a frame to the picture.

To crop an image, select **Options** > **Apply effect** > **Crop**. To crop the image size manually, select **Manual** or a predefined aspect ratio from the list. If you select **Manual**, a cross appears in the upper left corner of the image. Move the scroll key to select the area to crop, and select **Set**. Another cross appears in the lower right corner. Again select the area to be cropped. To adjust the first selected area, select **Back**. The selected areas form a rectangle that represents the cropped image.

If you selected a predefined aspect ratio, select the upper left corner of the area to be cropped. To resize the highlighted area, use the scroll key. To freeze the selected area, press . To move the area within the picture, use the scroll key. To select the area to be cropped, press .

To reduce redness of the eyes in an image, select **Options** > **Apply effect** > **Red eye reduction**. Move the cross onto the eye, and press . A loop appears on the display. To resize the loop to fit the size of the eye, use the scroll key. To reduce the redness, press .

Shortcuts in the image editor:

- To view an image in the full screen, press * . To return to the normal view, press * again.
- To rotate an image clockwise or counterclockwise, press 3 or 1 .
- To zoom in or out, press 5 or 0 .
- To move on a zoomed image, press , , or .

Slide show

Select **Options** > **Slide show** > **Start** to view images and video clips in the full screen mode. The slide show starts from the selected file. Select from the following:

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Play—to open the RealPlayer application, and play a selected video clip

Pause—to pause the slide show

Continue—to resume the slide show, if paused

End—to close the slide show

To browse the images, press (previous) or (next).

To adjust the tempo of the slide show, before starting the slide show, select **Options** > **Slide show** > **Settings**> **Delay between slides**.

To add sound to the slide show, select **Options** > **Slide show** > **Settings**and from the following:

Music—Select **On** or **Off**.

Track—Select a music file from the list.

To decrease or increase the volume during the slide show, press or .

TV out mode

You can watch videos and images stored in your device on the screen of a compatible TV. Connect a compatible Nokia Video connectivity cable to the video input of a compatible TV. For all applications other than the **Images & video** folder in **Gallery** and **RealPlayer**, the TV screen displays what is displayed on the screen of your device.

When you open an image in the thumbnail view while it is viewed on the TV, the **Zoom in** option is not available. When image is not zoomed, the opened image is displayed on the TV in full screen.

You can view videos and images as a slide show. All items in an album or marked videos and images are displayed on the TV in full screen while the selected music plays.

When you open a highlighted video clip, **RealPlayer** starts playing the video clip on the device display and the TV screen. See 'RealPlayer', p. 78.

All audio, including the stereo video clip sound, ringing tone, and key tone, is routed to the TV when the Nokia Video-Out Cable is connected to the device. You can use the device microphone normally.

TV out settings must be configured for the applicable TV system and TV aspect ratio. See 'TV configuration', p. 114.

Presentations

With presentations, you can view .svg (scalable vector graphics) files, such as cartoons and maps. These images maintain their appearance when printed or viewed with different screen sizes and resolutions. To view .svg files, select the **Presentations** folder, scroll to an image, and select **Options** > **Play**.

To zoom in, press **5** . To zoom out, press **0** .

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To switch between full screen and normal screen, press *.

Albums

With albums you can conveniently manage your images and video clips. To view the albums list, in the **Images & video** folder, select **Options** > **Albums** > **View albums**.

To add a picture or a video clip to an album in the gallery, scroll to a picture or video clip, and select **Options** > **Albums** > **Add to album**. A list of albums opens. Select the album to which you want to add the picture or video clip, and press ●.

To remove a file from an album, press C. The file is not deleted from the **Images & video** folder in **Gallery**.

Print online

With the **Print online** application you can print images online, and order different products with the selected image, such as mugs or mouse pads. The available products depend on the service provider.

In order to use **Print online**, you must subscribe to the service with an online printing service provider and have at least one printing service configuration file installed. The files can be obtained from printing service providers that support **Print online**.

You can only print images that are in jpeg format.

1. Press , and select **Gallery** > **Images & video**. Select an image or images, and **Options** > **Print** > **Order prints**.
2. Select a service provider from the list.
3. Select **Options** and from the following:
   Open—to start the connection to the service provider
   Remove—to remove the service provider from the list. If you remove the last service provider from the list, the **Order prints** option is not available until you have at least one configuration file installed.
   Log—to view the details of the previous orders: the name of the service provider, total sum, and status of the order.
   When you are connected to the service provider server, the images preview view opens, and displays the images you selected in **Gallery**.
4. Select **Options** and from the following:
   Preview—to view the image before ordering a print. Scroll up or down to view the images.
   Order now—to submit your order
   Change product order—to adjust the product details and number of copies for the selected image. In the product order view, you can select which product and of what type you want to order. The available options and products vary depending on the service provider. Scroll left or right to view and change the image details of the other images in the order.

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Change customer info—to change the customer and order information. You can copy the customer information from contacts.
Add image—to add more images to the order
Remove image—to remove images from the order
Log—to view the details of the previous orders.
When the order is sent, **Order sent successfully** is displayed.

Online sharing

Note: The availability of this service may vary according to your country or sales area.

With the **Online sharing** application, you can share your images and videos in online albums, weblogs, or in other online sharing services on the web. You can upload content, save unfinished posts as drafts and continue later, and view the content of the albums. The supported content types may vary depending on the service provider.

Copyright protections may prevent some images, music (including ringing tones), and other content from being copied, modified, transferred or forwarded.

Get started

To use **Online sharing**, you must subscribe to the service with an online image sharing service provider. You can usually subscribe to the service on the web page of the service provider. Contact your service provider for details on subscribing to the service. For more information on compatible service providers, see www.nokia.com/support.

When you open the service for the first time in the **Online sharing** application, you are prompted to provide the user name and password. You can access the settings later through **Options** > **Settings** in the **Online sharing** application. See 'Online sharing settings', p. 37.

Upload files

Press , and select **Gallery** > **Images & video**, the files you want to upload, and **Options** > **Send** > **Web upload**. You can access the **Online sharing** application also from the main camera.

The **Select service** view opens. To create a new account to a service, select **Options** > **Add new account** or the service icon with the text **Create new** in the services list. If you have created a new account offline, or modified an account or service settings through a web browser on a compatible PC, to update the services list in your device, select **Options** > **Retrieve services**. To select a service, press the scroll key.

When you select the service, the selected images and videos are shown in the edit state. You can open and view

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the files, reorganize them, add text to them, or add new files.

To cancel the web upload process, and save the created post as a draft, select **Back** > **Save as draft**. If the uploading has already started, select **Cancel** > **Save as draft**.

To connect to the service and upload the files to the web, select **Options** > **Upload**, or press .

Open online service

To view uploaded images and videos in the online service, or draft and sent entries in your device, in the **Images & video** folder, select **Options** > **Open service**. Accounts can also be created and modified offline. If you have created a new account offline, or modified an account or service settings through a web browser, and wish to update the services list in your device, select **Options** > **Retrieve services**. Select a service from the list.

After you open a service, select from the following:

- **Open in Web browser**—to connect to the selected service and view the uploaded and draft albums in the web browser. The view may vary depending on the service provider.
- **Drafts**—to view and edit the draft entries, and upload them to the web
- **Sent**—to view the 20 latest entries created through your device
- **New post**—to create a new entry

The available options may vary depending on the service provider.

Online sharing settings

To edit the **Online sharing** settings, in the **Online sharing** application, select **Options** > **Settings**.

My accounts

In **My accounts**, you can create new accounts or edit existing accounts. To create a new account, select **Options**> **Add new account**. To edit an existing account, select an account and **Options** > **Edit**. Select from the following:

Account name—to enter a name for the account

Service provider—to select the service provider you want to use. You cannot change the service provider for an existing account, you must create a new account for the new service provider. If you delete an account in **My accounts**, the services related to the account are also deleted from you device, including the sent items for the service.

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User name and **Password**—to enter the user name and password you created for your account when you registered to the online service

Upload image size—to select the size in which the images are uploaded to the service

Application settings

Display image size—to select the size in which the image is shown on the display of your device. This setting does not affect the upload image size.

Display text size—to select the font size used to display text in draft and sent entries, or when you add or edit text to a new entry

Advanced

Service providers—to view or edit service provider settings, add a new service provider, or view details of a service provider. If you change the service provider, all the **My accounts** information for the previous service provider is lost. You cannot change the settings of predefined service providers.

Default access point—to change the access point used to connect to the online service, select the access point you want.

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Media applications



Music player

Press , and select **Music player**. With the music player, you can play music files and create and listen to playlists.

Warning: Listen to music at a moderate level. Continuous exposure to high volume may damage your hearing. Do not hold the device near your ear when the loudspeaker is in use, because the volume may be extremely loud.

Add music

When you open the music player for the first time, the player searches the device memory for music files to create a music library.

After you add or remove music files in the device, update your music library. Select **Options** > **Music library** > **Options** > **Update Music library**.

Tip! You can transfer music files from your device to a compatible memory card (if inserted) with Nokia Music Manager available in Nokia PC Suite.

Play music

When you open the music player, the previously played track or playlist is displayed. To view the music library, select or **Options** > **Music library** and the desired song list. To start playing the songs in the view, select **Options** > **Play**.

When a song is playing, to change between play and pause, press or .

To stop a song, press . To fast forward or rewind, press and hold or . To start playing the next or previous song, press or .

To view the currently played song list, select or **Options** > **Open 'Now playing'**. To save the song list as a playlist, select **Options** > **Add to track list**, and create a new playlist, or select a saved playlist.

To adjust the volume, press or .

To modify the tone of music playback, select **Options** > **Equaliser**.

To select between random play and normal play mode, select **Options** > **Random play**. To select whether playing

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stops at the end of the playlist or restarts from its beginning, select **Options** > **Loop**.

To open your web bookmarks for downloading music, select **Options** > **Track downloads**.

To return to the standby mode and leave the music playing in the background, select **Options** > **Play in background**.

Music library

To view the music library, select **Options** > **Music library**. **All tracks** lists all music. To view sorted songs, select **Albums**, **Artists**, **Genres**, or **Composers**. The album, artist, genre, and composer information is collected from the ID3 or M4A tags of the song files, if available.

To add songs, albums, artists, genres, or composers to a playlist, select the items and **Options** > **Add to track list**. You can create a new playlist or add to an existing one.

To view playlists, select **Track lists**. To create a new playlist, select **Options** > **New track list**. When viewing a playlist you have created yourself, to add more songs, select **Options** > **Add tracks**.

To delete a playlist, press C. Deleting a playlist only deletes the playlist, not the music files.

Transfer music

You can transfer music from a compatible PC or other compatible devices using a compatible USB cable or Bluetooth connectivity. For details, see 'Bluetooth connectivity', p. 83.

To refresh the library after you have updated the song selection in your device, select **Options** > **Update Music library**

The requirements of the PC for music transfer:

- Microsoft Windows XP operating system (or later)
- A compatible version of Windows Media Player application. You can get more detailed information about Windows Media Player compatibility from the Nokia N93 section of the Nokia website.
- Nokia PC Suite 6.7 or later

Transfer music from PC

You can use three different methods to transfer music:

- To view your device on a PC as an external hard drive where you can transfer any data files, make the connection with a compatible USB cable or Bluetooth connectivity. If you are using the USB cable, select **Mass storage** as the connection mode. A compatible memory card needs to be inserted in the device.
- To synchronize music with Windows Media Player, connect the compatible USB cable and select **Media**

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player as the connection mode. A compatible memory card needs to be inserted in the device.

- To use Nokia Music Manager in Nokia PC Suite, connect the compatible USB cable and select PC Suite as the connection mode.

To change the default USB connection mode, press , select Connect. > Data cbl. > Data cable mode.

Both Windows Media Player and Nokia Music Manager in Nokia PC Suite have been optimized for transferring music files. For information about transferring music with Nokia Music Manager, see the Nokia PC Suite user guide.

Music transfer with Windows Media Player

The functionality of the music synchronization may vary between different versions of the Windows Media Player application. For more information, see the corresponding Windows Media Player guides and helps.

Manual synchronization

After connecting your device with a compatible PC, Windows Media Player selects manual synchronization if there is not enough free memory in your device. With manual synchronization, you can select the songs and playlists that you want to move, copy, or remove.

The first time you connect your device you must enter a name that is used as the name of your device in Windows Media Player.

To transfer manual selections:

1. After your device is connected with Windows Media Player, select your device in the navigation pane, if more than one device is connected.
2. Drag the songs or albums to the list pane for synchronization. To remove songs or albums, select an item in the list, and click **Remove from list**.
3. Check that the list pane contains the files you want to synchronize and that there is enough free memory on the device. Click **Start Sync.** to start the synchronization.

Automatic synchronization

To change the default file transfer option in Windows Media Player, click the arrow under **Sync**, select your device, and click **Set up Sync.** Clear or select the **Sync this device automatically** check box.

If the **Sync this device automatically** check box is selected and you connect your device, the music library in your device is automatically updated based on playlists you have selected in Windows Media Player.

If no playlists have been selected, the whole PC music library is selected for synchronization. Note that your PC library may contain more files that can fit to the device memory and the compatible memory card of your device. See the Windows Media Player help for more information.

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The playlists on your device are not synchronized with the Windows Media Player playlists.

Image print

Use **Image print** to print your images using a compatible data cable, wireless LAN (if available), Bluetooth connectivity, or a compatible memory card (if available).

You can only print images that are in jpeg format. The pictures taken with the camera are automatically saved in jpeg format.

To print images with **Image print**, select the image you want to print and the print option in the gallery, camera, image editor, or image viewer.

To print to a printer compatible with **Image print**, connect the data cable before you select the print option.

Printer selection

When you use **Image print** for the first time, a list of available printers is displayed after you select the image. Select a printer. The printer is set as the default printer.

If you have connected a printer compatible with **Image print** using a Nokia connectivity cable CA-53, the printer is automatically displayed.

If the default printer is not available, a list of available printing devices is displayed.

To change the default printer, select **Options** > **Print settings** > **Default printer**.

Print preview

The print preview view opens only when you start printing an image in the gallery.

The selected images are displayed using predefined layouts. To change the layout, press or through the available layouts for the selected printer. If the images do not fit on a single page, press or to display the additional pages.

Print settings

The available options vary, depending on the capabilities of the printing device you selected.

To set a default printer, select **Options** > **Default printer**.

To select the paper size, select **Paper size**, the size of paper from the list, and **OK**. Select **Cancel** to return to the previous view.

Back up files

To transfer and back up media files from your device to a compatible PC through the wireless LAN, select **Options** > **Transfer and memory** > **Automatic transfer**. See 'Wireless LAN', p. 17.

Your device starts a device search. Select a device and a folder to which you want to transfer the media files. Select **OK**.

To change the **Storage device** or **Storage folder** settings, select **Options** > **Settings**.

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Messaging

Press , and select Messag.. In Messag., you can create, send, receive, view, edit, and organize text messages, multimedia messages, e-mail messages, and special text messages containing data. You can also receive messages and data using Bluetooth connectivity or infrared, receive web service messages, cell broadcast messages, and send service commands.

Note: Your device may indicate that your message was sent to the message center number programmed into your device. Your device may not indicate whether the message is received at the intended destination. For more details about messaging services, contact your service provider.

To create a new message, select New message.

Only devices that have compatible features can receive and display multimedia messages. The appearance of a message may vary depending on the receiving device.

Messag. contains the following folders:

Inbox—Received messages, except e-mail and cell broadcast messages, are stored here. E-mail messages are stored in the Mailbox.

My folders—Organize your messages into folders.

Tip! To avoid rewriting messages that you send often, use texts in the templates folder.

Mailbox—Connect to your remote mailbox to retrieve your new e-mail messages or view your previously retrieved e-mail messages offline. See 'E-mail', p. 54.

Drafts—Draft messages that have not been sent are stored here.

Sent—The last 20 messages that have been sent, excluding messages sent using Bluetooth connectivity or infrared, are stored here. To change the number of messages to be saved, see 'Other settings', p. 56.

Outbox—Messages waiting to be sent are temporarily stored here.

Example: Messages are placed in the outbox, for example, when your device is outside network coverage. You can also schedule e-mail messages to be sent the next time you connect to your remote mailbox.

Reports—You can request the network to send you a delivery report of the text messages and multimedia messages you have sent (network service). Receiving a

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delivery report of a multimedia message that has been sent to an e-mail address may not be possible.

Tip! When you have opened any of the default folders, to switch between the folders, press or .

To enter and send service requests (also known as USSD commands), such as activation commands for network services, to your service provider, select **Options** > **Service command** in the main view of **Messag.**.

Cell broadcast (network service) allows you to receive messages on various topics, such as weather or traffic conditions from your service provider. For available topics and relevant topic numbers, contact your service provider. In the main view of **Messaging**, select **Options** > **Cell broadcast**. In the main view, you can see the status of a topic, a topic number, name, and whether it has been flagged (⚑) for follow-up.

Cell broadcast messages cannot be received in UMTS networks. A packet data connection may prevent cell broadcast reception.

Write text

ABC, **abc**, and **Abc** indicate the selected character mode. **123** indicates the number mode.

Traditional text input

✎ is displayed when you are writing text using traditional text input.

- Press a number key (**1** – **9**) repeatedly until the desired character appears. There are more characters available for a number key than are printed on the key.
- If the next letter is located on the same key as the present one, wait until the cursor appears (or press to end the time-out period), and enter the letter.
- To insert a space, press **0** . To move the cursor to the next line, press **0** three times.

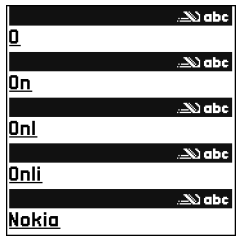
Predictive text input

You can enter any letter with a single keypress. Predictive text input is based on a built-in dictionary to which you can add new words. is displayed when you write text using predictive text input.

1 To activate predictive text input, press ✎ , and select **Predictive text on**. This activates predictive text input for all editors in the device.

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2 To write the desired word, press the keys, 2 – 9 . Press each key only once for one letter. For example, to write "Nokia" when the English dictionary is selected, press 6 for N, 6 for o, 5 for k, 4 for i, and 2 for a.



The word suggestion changes after each keypress.

3 When you finish writing the word correctly, press to confirm it, or press 0 to add a space.
If the word is not correct, press * repeatedly to view the matching words the dictionary has found one by one, or press , and select **Predictive text** > **Matches**.
If the **?** character is shown after the word, the word is not in the dictionary. To add a word to the dictionary, select **Spell**, enter the word using traditional text input, and select **OK**. The word is added to the dictionary. When the dictionary is full, a new word replaces the oldest added word.

4 Start writing the next word.

Write compound words

Write the first half of a compound word; to confirm it, press . Write the last part of the compound word. To complete the compound word, press 0 to add a space.

Turn predictive text input off

To turn predictive text input off for all editors in the device, press , and select **Predictive text** > **Off**.

Tip! To turn predictive text input on or off, quickly press # twice.

Tips on text input

To insert a number in the letter mode, press and hold the desired number key.

To switch between the letter and number mode, press and hold # .

To switch between the different character modes, press # .

To delete a character, press C . To delete more than one character, press and hold C .

To use the most common punctuation marks, press 1 .

To open a list of special characters, press and hold * .

Tip! To insert several special characters at the same time, press 5 when you select each character.

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Write and send messages

The appearance of a multimedia message may vary, depending on the receiving device.

Before you can create a multimedia message or write an e-mail, you must have the correct connection settings in place. See 'Receive MMS and e-mail settings', p. 48 and 'E-mail', p. 54.

The wireless network may limit the size of MMS messages. If the inserted picture exceeds this limit, the device may make it smaller so that it can be sent by MMS.

1 Select **New message** and one of the following:
Text msg.—to send a text message
Multimedia message—to send a multimedia message (MMS)
E-mail—to send an e-mail
If you have not set up your e-mail account, you are prompted to do so. To start creating the e-mail settings with the mailbox guide, select **Start**.

2 In the **To** field, press ◉ to select recipients or groups from contacts, or enter the recipient's phone number or e-mail address. To add a semicolon (;) that separates the recipients, press * . You can also copy and paste the number or address from the clipboard.



3 In the **Subject** field, enter the subject of a multimedia message or e-mail. To change the fields that are visible, select **Options** > **Address fields**.

4 In the message field, write the message. To insert a template, select **Options** > **Insert** or **Insert object** > **Template**.

5 To add a media object to a multimedia message, select **Options** > **Insert object** > **Image**, **Sound clip**, or **Video clip**. When sound is added, is shown.
To change the format in which recorded videos are saved, see 'Video settings', p. 24.

6 To take a new picture or record sound or video for a multimedia message, select **Insert new** > **Image**, **Sound clip**, or **Video clip**. To insert a new slide to the message, select **Slide**.

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To see what the multimedia message looks like, select **Options** > **Preview**.

7 To add an attachment to an e-mail, select **Options** > **Insert** > **Image**, **Sound clip**, **Video clip**, or **Note**. E-mail attachments are indicated by .

Tip! To send other file types as attachments, open the appropriate application, and select **Send** > **Via e-mail**, if available.

8 To send the message, select **Options** > **Send**, or press .

Your device supports the sending of text messages beyond the character limit for a single message. Longer messages are sent as a series of two or more messages. Your service provider may charge accordingly. Characters that use accents or other marks, and characters from some language options, take up more space, limiting the number of characters that can be sent in a single message.

E-mail messages are automatically placed in **Outbox** before sending. If sending does not succeed, the e-mail is left in the **Outbox** with the **Failed** status.

Tip! You can combine images, video, sound, and text to a presentation and send it in a multimedia message. Start to create a multimedia message, and select **Options** > **Create presentation**. The option is shown only if **MMS creation mode** is set to **Guided** or **Free**. See 'Multimedia messages', p. 53.

Receive MMS and e-mail settings

You may receive the settings in a message from your service provider. See 'Data and settings', p. 49.

For availability of and subscription to data services, contact your service provider. Follow the instructions given by your service provider.

Enter the MMS settings manually

1 Press , and select **Tools** > **Settings** > **Connection** > **Access points**, and define the settings for a multimedia messaging access point. See 'Connection', p. 106.

2 Press , and select **Messaging** > **Options** > **Settings** > **Multim. msg.** > **Access point in use** and the access point you created as the preferred connection. See also 'Multimedia messages', p. 53.

Before you can send, receive, retrieve, reply to, and forward e-mail, you must do the following:

- Configure an IAP correctly. See 'Connection', p. 106.
- Define your e-mail settings correctly. If you select **Mailbox** in the **Messag.** main view and have not set up your e-mail account, you are prompted to do so. To start creating the e-mail settings with the mailbox guide, select **Start**. See also 'E-mail', p. 54.
  You must have a separate e-mail account. Follow the instructions given by your remote mailbox and internet service provider (ISP).

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Inbox—receive messages

In the **Inbox** folder, indicates an unread text message, an unread multimedia message, data received through infrared, and data received through Bluetooth connectivity.

When you receive a message, and **1 new message** are shown in the standby mode. To open the message, select **Show**. To open a message in **Inbox**, press .

To reply to a received message, select **Options** > **Reply**.

To print a text or a multimedia message on a compatible basic print profile (BPP) equipped printer with Bluetooth connectivity (such as HP Deskjet 450 Mobile Printer or HP Photosmart 8150), select **Options** > **Print**.

Multimedia messages

Important: Exercise caution when opening messages. Multimedia message objects may contain malicious software or otherwise be harmful to your device or PC.

You may receive a notification that a multimedia message is waiting in the multimedia message center. To start a packet data connection to retrieve the message to your device, select **Options** > **Retrieve**.

When you open a multimedia message ( ), you may see an image and a message. is shown if sound is included, or if video is included. To play the sound or the video, select the indicator.

To see the media objects that have been included in the multimedia message, select **Options** > **Objects**.

If the message includes a multimedia presentation, is displayed. To play the presentation, select the indicator.

Data and settings

Your device can receive many kinds of messages that contain data ( ):

Configuration message—You may receive settings from your service provider or company information management department in a configuration message. To save the settings, select **Options** > **Save all**.

Business card—To save the information to **Contacts**, select **Options** > **Save business card**. Certificates or sound files attached to the business card are not saved.

Ringing tone—To save the ringing tone, select **Options** > **Save**.

Operat. logo—To have the logo shown in the standby mode instead of the service provider's own identification, select **Options** > **Save**.

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Calen. entry—To save the invitation, select **Options** > **Save to Calendar**.

Web message—To save the bookmark to the bookmarks listed in web, select **Options** > **Add to bookmarks**. If the message contains both access point settings and bookmarks, to save the data, select **Options** > **Save all**.

E-mail notif.—The note tells you how many new e-mails you have in your remote mailbox. An extended notification may list more detailed information.

Web service messages

Web service messages ( ) are notifications (for example, news headlines) and may contain a text message or a link. For availability and subscription, contact your service provider.



Mailbox

If you select **Mailbox** and have not set up your e-mail account, you are prompted to do so. To start creating the e-mail settings with the mailbox guide, select **Start**. See also 'E-mail', p. 54.

When you create a new mailbox, the name you give to the mailbox replaces **Mailbox** in the **Messaging** main view. You can have up to six mailboxes.

Open the mailbox

When you open the mailbox, the device asks if you want to connect to the mailbox (**Connect to mailbox?**).

To connect to your mailbox and retrieve new e-mail headings or messages, select **Yes**. When you view messages online, you are continuously connected to a remote mailbox using a data connection. See also 'Connection', p. 106.

To view previously retrieved e-mail messages offline, select **No**. When you view e-mail messages offline, your device is not connected to the remote mailbox.

Retrieve e-mail messages

If you are offline, select **Options** > **Connect** to start a connection to the remote mailbox.

Important: Exercise caution when opening messages. E-mail messages may contain malicious software or otherwise be harmful to your device or PC.

1 When you have an open connection to a remote mailbox, select **Options** > **Retrieve e-mail** and one of the following:

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New—to retrieve all new e-mail messages
Selected—to retrieve only the e-mail messages that have been marked
All—to retrieve all messages from the mailbox
To stop retrieving messages, select **Cancel**.

2 After you retrieve the e-mail messages, you can continue viewing them online, or select **Options** > **Disconnect** to close the connection and view the e-mail messages offline.
E-mail status indicators are as follows:
The new e-mail (offline or online mode) has not been retrieved to your device.
The new e-mail has been retrieved to your device.
The e-mail message has been read, and it has not been retrieved to your device.
The e-mail message has been read.
The e-mail heading has been read and the message content has been deleted from the device.

3 To open an e-mail message, press . If the e-mail message has not been retrieved and you are offline, you are asked if you want to retrieve this message from the mailbox.

To view e-mail attachments, open a message that has the attachment indicator , and select **Options** > **Attachments**. If the attachment has a dimmed indicator, it has not been retrieved to the device; select **Options** > **Retrieve**.

You can also receive meeting requests in the mailbox. See 'Meeting requests', p. 74, and 'Create calendar entries', p. 74.

To print an e-mail message on a compatible basic print profile (BPP) equipped printer with Bluetooth connectivity (such as HP Deskjet 450 Mobile Printer or HP Photosmart 8150), select **Options** > **Print**.

Retrieve e-mail messages automatically

To retrieve messages automatically, select **Options** > **E-mail settings** > **Automatic retrieval** > **Header retrieval** > **Always enabled** or **Only in home net.**, and define when and how often the messages are retrieved.

Setting the device to retrieve e-mail automatically may involve the transmission of large amounts of data through your service provider's network. Contact your service provider for information about data transmission charges.

Delete e-mail messages

To delete the contents of an e-mail message from the device while still retaining it in the remote mailbox, select **Options** > **Delete**. In **Delete msg. from:**, select **Phone only**.

The device mirrors the e-mail headings in the remote mailbox. Although you delete the message content, the e-mail heading stays in your device. If you want to remove

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the heading as well, you must delete the e-mail message from your remote mailbox; then make a connection from your device to the remote mailbox again to update the status.

To delete an e-mail from the device and the remote mailbox, select **Options** > **Delete**. In **Delete msg. from:**, select **Phone and server**.

If you are offline, the e-mail is deleted first from your device. During the next connection to the remote mailbox, it is automatically deleted from the remote mailbox. If you are using the POP3 protocol, messages marked to be deleted are removed only after you have closed the connection to the remote mailbox.

To cancel deleting an e-mail from the device and server, scroll to an e-mail that has been marked to be deleted during the next connection ( ), and select **Options** > **Restore**.

Disconnect from the mailbox

When you are online, to end the data connection to the remote mailbox, select **Options** > **Disconnect**.

View messages on a SIM card

Before you can view SIM messages, you must copy them to a folder in your device.

1. In the **Messag.** main view, select **Options** > **SIM messages**.
2. Select **Options** > **Mark/Unmark** > **Mark** or **Mark all** to mark messages.
3. Select **Options** > **Copy**. A list of folders opens.
4. To start copying, select a folder and **OK**. To view the messages, open the folder.

Messaging settings

Fill in all fields marked with **Must be defined** or with a red asterisk. Follow the instructions given by your service provider. You may also obtain settings from your service provider in a configuration message.

Some or all message centers or access points may be preset for your device by your service provider, and you may not be able to change, create, edit, or remove them.

Text messages

Press , and select **Messag.** > **Options** > **Settings** > **Text msg.** and from the following:

Message centres—View a list of all text message centers that have been defined.

Character encoding— To use character conversion to another encoding system when available, select **Reduced support**.

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Msg. centre in use—Select which message center is used to deliver text messages.

Receive report—Select whether the network sends delivery reports on your messages (network service).

Message validity—Select how long the message center resends your message if the first attempt fails (network service). If the recipient cannot be reached within the validity period, the message is deleted from the message center.

Message sent as—Change this option only if you are sure that your message center is able to convert text messages into these other formats. Contact your service provider.

Preferred conn.—Select the connection used for sending text messages: GSM network or packet data, if supported by the network. See 'Connection', p. 106.

Reply via same ctr.—Select whether you want the reply message to be sent using the same text message center number (network service).

Multimedia messages

Press , and select **Messag.** > **Options** > **Settings** > **Multimedia message** and from the following:

Image size—Define the size of the image in a multimedia message: **Original** (shown only when the **MMS creation mode** is set to **Guided** or **Free**), **Small**, or **Large**.

MMS creation mode —If you select **Guided**, the device informs you if you try to send a message that may not be supported by the recipient. Select **Restricted**; the device prevents you from sending messages that may not be supported.

Access point in use—Select which access point is used as the preferred connection for the multimedia message center.

Multimedia retrieval—Select how you want to receive multimedia messages. To receive multimedia messages automatically in your home network, select **Auto. in home network**. Outside your home network, you receive a notification that there is a multimedia message that you can retrieve in the multimedia message center.

When you are outside your home network, sending and receiving multimedia messages may cost you more.

If you select **Multimedia retrieval** > **Always automatic**, your device automatically makes an active packet data connection to retrieve the message both in and outside your home network.

Allow anon. msgs.—Select whether you want to reject messages from an anonymous sender.

Receive adverts—Define whether you want to receive multimedia message advertisements.

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Receive report—Select whether you want the status of the sent message to be shown in the log (network service). Receiving a delivery report of a multimedia message that has been sent to an e-mail address may not be possible.

Deny report sending—Select whether you want to prevent your device from sending delivery reports of received multimedia messages.

Message validity—Select how long the message center resends your message if the first attempt fails (network service). If the recipient cannot be reached within the validity period, the message is deleted from the message center.

E-mail

Press , and select **Messag.** > **Options** > **Settings** > **E-mail** and from the following:

Mailboxes—Select a mailbox to change the following settings: **Connection settings**, **User settings**, **Retrieval settings**, and **Automatic retrieval**.

Mailbox in use— Select which mailbox you want to use for sending e-mail.

To create a new mailbox, select **Options** > **New mailbox** in the mailbox main view.

Connection settings

To edit the settings for the e-mail you receive, select **Incoming e-mail** and from the following:

User name—Enter your user name, given to you by your service provider.

Password—Enter your password. If you leave this field blank, you are prompted for the password when you try to connect to your remote mailbox.

Incoming mail serv.—Enter the IP address or host name of the mail server that receives your e-mail.

Access point in use—Select an IAP. See 'Connection', p. 106.

Mailbox name—Enter a name for the mailbox.

Mailbox type—Defines the e-mail protocol that your remote mailbox service provider recommends. The options are **POP3** and **IMAP4**. This setting can be selected only once and cannot be changed if you have saved or exited from the mailbox settings. If you use the POP3 protocol, e-mail messages are not updated automatically when you are online. To see the latest e-mail messages, you must disconnect and make a new connection to your mailbox.

Security (ports)—Select the security option used to secure the connection to the remote mailbox.

Port—Define a port for the connection.

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APOP secure login (for POP3 only)—Use with the POP3 protocol to encrypt the sending of passwords to the remote e-mail server while connecting to the mailbox.

To edit the settings for the e-mail you send, select **Outgoing e-mail** and from the following:

My e-mail address—Enter the e-mail address given to you by your service provider. Replies to your messages are sent to this address.

Outgoing mail serv.—Enter the IP address or host name of the mail server that sends your e-mail. You may only be able to use the outgoing server of your service provider. Contact your service provider for more information.

Access point in use—Select an IAP. See 'Connection', p. 106.

The settings for **User name**, **Password**, **Security (ports)**, and **Port** are similar to the ones in **Incoming e-mail**.

User settings

My name—Enter your own name. Your name replaces your e-mail address in the recipient's device when the recipient's device supports this function.

Send message—Define how e-mail is sent from your device. Select **Immediately** for the device to connect to the mailbox when you select **Send message**. If you select **During next conn.**, e-mail is sent when the connection to the remote mailbox is available.

Send copy to self—Select whether you want to save a copy of the e-mail to your remote mailbox and to the address defined in **My e-mail address**.

Include signature—Select whether you want to attach a signature to your e-mail messages.

New e-mail alerts—Select whether you want to receive the new e-mail indications, a tone and a note, when new mail is received to the mailbox.

Default encoding—Select another encoding according to language.

Retrieval settings

E-mail to retrieve—Define which parts of the e-mail are retrieved: **Headers only**, **Size limit**, or **Msgs. & attachs.**.

Retrieval amount—Define how many new e-mail messages are retrieved to the mailbox.

IMAP4 folder path (for IMAP4 only)—Define the folder path for folders to be subscribed.

Folder subscriptions (for IMAP4 only)—Subscribe to other folders in the remote mailbox and retrieve content from those folders.

Automatic retrieval

Header retrieval—Select whether you want the device to retrieve new e-mail automatically. You can define when, and how often, the messages are retrieved.

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Setting the device to retrieve e-mail automatically may involve the transmission of large amounts of data through your service provider's network. Contact your service provider for information about data transmission charges.

Web service messages

Press , and select **Messaging** > **Options** > **Settings** > **Service message**. Select whether you want to receive service messages. If you want to set the device to automatically activate the browser and start a network connection to retrieve content when you receive a service message, select **Download messages** > **Automatically**.

Cell broadcast

Check the available topics and related topic numbers with your service provider. Press , and select **Messaging** > **Options** > **Settings** > **Cell broadcast** and from the following:

Reception—Select whether you want to receive cell broadcast messages.

Language—Select the languages in which you want to receive messages: **All**, **Selected**, or **Other**.

Topic detection—Select whether the device automatically searches for new topic numbers, and saves the new numbers without a name to the topic list.

Other settings

Press , and select **Messaging** > **Options** > **Settings** > **Other** and from the following:

Save sent messages—Select whether you want to save a copy of the text messages, multimedia messages, or e-mail that you send to the **Sent** folder.

No. of saved msgs.—Define how many sent messages are saved to the **Sent** folder at a time. The default limit is 20 messages. When the limit is reached, the oldest message is deleted.

Memory in use—If a compatible memory card is inserted in the device, select **Phone memory** or **Memory card** to save your messages.

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Make calls

Voice calls

Tip! To increase or decrease the volume during a call, press or . If you have set the volume to **Mute**, you can still adjust the volume with the or keys.

You can make voice calls in the fold-open mode and view mode. See 'Modes', p. 11.

1 To start a voice call, with the fold open, enter the phone number in the standby mode, including the area code. To remove a number, press .
For international calls, press * twice for the + character (replaces the international access code), and enter the country code, area code (omit the leading zero if necessary), and phone number.
2 Press to call the number.
3 Press or close the cover to end the call (or to cancel the call attempt).

Pressing always ends a call, even if another application is active.

To make a call from **Contacts**, press , and select **Contacts**. Scroll to the desired name, or enter the first letters of the name to the search field. Matching contacts are listed. To call, press . Select the call type **Voice call**.

You must copy the contacts from your SIM card to **Contacts** before you can make a call this way. See 'Copy contacts', p. 68.

To call your voice mailbox (network service), press and hold 1 in the standby mode. See also 'Call divert', p. 112.

Tip! To change the phone number of your voice mailbox, press , and select **Tools** > **Voice mail** > **Options** > **Change number**. Enter the number (obtained from your service provider), and select **OK**.

To call a recently dialed number in the standby mode, press . Scroll to the number you want, and press to call the number.

Make a conference call

1 Make a call to the first participant.
2 To make a call to another participant, select **Options** > **New call**. The first call is automatically put on hold.
3 When the new call is answered, to join the first participant in the conference call, select **Options** > **Conference**.
To add a new person to the call, repeat step 2, and select **Options** > **Conference** > **Add to conference**.

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Your device supports conference calls between a maximum of six participants, including yourself. To have a private conversation with one of the participants, select **Options** > **Conference** > **Private**. Select a participant, and select **Private**. The conference call is put on hold on your device. The other participants can still continue the conference call. When you finish the private conversation, select **Options** > **Add to conference** to return to the conference call.

To drop a participant, select **Options** > **Conference** > **Drop participant**, scroll to the participant, and select **Drop**.

4 To end the active conference call, press .

Speed dial a phone number

To activate speed dialing, press , and select **Tools** > **Settings** > **Call** > **Speed dialling** > **On**.

To assign a phone number to one of the speed dialing keys (**2** – **9**), press , and select **Tools** > **Spd. dial**. Scroll to the key to which you want to assign the phone number, and select **Options** > **Assign**. **1** is reserved for the voice mailbox.

To call in the standby mode, press the speed dial key and .

Voice dialing

Your device supports enhanced voice commands. Enhanced voice commands are not dependent on the speaker's voice; you do not record voice tags in advance. Instead, the device creates a voice tag for the entries in contacts, and compares the spoken voice tag to it. The voice recognition in the device adapts to the main user's voice to recognize the voice commands better.

The voice tag for a contact is the name or nickname that is saved on the contact card. To listen to the synthesized voice tag, open a contact card, and select **Options** > **Play voice tag**.

Make a call with a voice tag

Note: Using voice tags may be difficult in a noisy environment or during an emergency, so you should not rely solely upon voice dialing in all circumstances.

When you use voice dialing, the loudspeaker is in use. Hold the device at a short distance away when you say the voice tag.

1 To start voice dialing, in the standby mode, press and hold . If you are using a compatible headset with the headset key, press and hold the headset key to start voice dialing.

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2 A short tone is played, and **Speak now** is displayed. Say clearly the name or nickname that is saved on the contact card.
3 The device plays a synthesized voice tag for the recognized contact in the selected device language, and displays the name and number. After a timeout of 2.5 seconds, the device dials the number.
If the recognized contact was not correct, select **Next** to view a list of other matches, or **Quit** to cancel voice dialing.

If several numbers are saved under the name, the device selects the default number, if it has been set. Otherwise the device selects the first available number of the following: **Mobile**, **Mobile (home)**, **Mobile (business)**, **Telephone**, **Tel. (home)**, and **Tel. (business)**.

Video calls

You can make video calls in the fold-open mode and view mode. See 'Modes', p. 11.

For hands-free video calls, use the view mode.

When you make a video call, you can see a real-time, two-way video between you and the recipient of the call. The live video image, or video image captured by the camera in your device is shown to the video call recipient.

To be able to make a video call, you must have a USIM card and be in the coverage of a UMTS network. For availability of and subscription to video call services, contact your service provider. A video call can only be made between two parties. The video call can be made to a compatible mobile phone or an ISDN client. Video calls cannot be made while there is another voice, video, or data call active.

Icons:
 You are not receiving video (the recipient is not sending video or the network is not transmitting it).
 You have denied video sending from your device. To send a still image instead, see 'Call settings', p. 105.

1 To start a video call, with the fold open, enter the phone number in the standby mode, or select **Contacts** and a contact.
2 Select **Options** > **Video call**.

If you want to make a hands-free video call, activate the view mode after the call recipient has answered the call.

Starting a video call may take a while. **Waiting for video image** is shown. If the call is not successful (for example, video calls are not supported by the network, or the receiving device is not compatible) you are asked if you want to try a normal call or send a message instead.

The video call is active when you see two video images, and hear the sound through the loudspeaker. The call

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recipient may deny video sending ( ), in which case you hear the sound and may see a still image or a grey background graphic.

Tip! To increase or decrease the volume during a call, press or .

To change between showing video or hearing only sound, select **Enable** or **Disable** > **Sending video**, **Sending audio**, or **Sending audio & video**.

To zoom your own image, select **Zoom in** or **Zoom out**. The zoom indicator is shown on the top of the display.

To switch the places of the sent and received video images on the display, select **Change image order**.

Even if you have denied video sending during a video call, the call will still be charged as a video call. Check the pricing with your service provider.

To end the video call, press .

Video sharing

Use **Video sharing** (network service) to send live video or a video clip from your mobile device to another compatible mobile device during a voice call. Simply invite a recipient to view the live video, or a video clip you want to share. Sharing begins automatically when the recipient accepts the invitation, and you activate the correct mode. See 'Share video', p. 61.

Video sharing requirements

Because **Video sharing** requires a 3G UMTS connection, your ability to use **Video sharing** depends on 3G network availability. Contact your service provider for questions about network availability and fees associated with using this application. To use **Video sharing** you must do the following:

- Ensure that **Video sharing** is installed on your Nokia N93.
- Ensure that your device is set up for person-to-person connections. See 'Settings', p.61.
- Ensure you have an active UMTS connection and are within UMTS network coverage. See 'Settings', p. 61. If you start the sharing session while you are within UMTS network coverage and a handover to GSM occurs, the sharing session is discontinued, but your voice call continues.
- Ensure that both the sender and recipient are registered to the UTMS network. If you invite someone to a sharing session and that person's phone is turned off, or the person is not within UMTS network coverage, they do not know that you are sending an invitation. However, you receive an error message that the recipient cannot accept the invitation.

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Settings

Person-to-person connection settings

A person-to-person connection is also known as a session initiation protocol (SIP) connection. The SIP profile settings must be configured in your device before you can use **Video sharing**. Setting up a SIP profile allows you to establish a live person-to-person connection to another compatible phone. The SIP profile must also be established to receive a sharing session.

Ask your service provider for the SIP profile settings, and save them in your device. Your service provider may send you the settings over the air.

If you know a recipient's SIP address, you can enter it on your contact card for that person. Open **Contacts** from your device main menu, and open the contact card (or start a new card for that person). Select **Options** > **Add detail** > **SIP**. Enter the SIP address in the format sip:username@domainname (you can use an IP address instead of a domain name).

UTMS connection settings

To set up your UMTS connection, do the following:

- Contact your service provider to establish an agreement for you to use the UMTS network.
- Ensure that your device UMTS access point connection settings are configured properly. For help, see 'Connection', p. 106.

Share video

To receive a sharing session, the recipient must install **Video sharing** and configure the required settings on their mobile device. You and the recipient must both be registered to the service before you can start sharing.

To receive share invitations, you must be registered to the service, have an active UMTS connection, and be within the UMTS network coverage.

Live video

1. When a voice call is active, select **Options** > **Share video** > **Live**.
2. The device sends the invitation to the SIP address you have added to the contact card of the recipient.
   If the recipient has several SIP addresses in the contact card, select the SIP address to which you want to send the invitation, and **Select** to send the invitation.
   If the SIP address of the recipient is not available, enter a SIP address. Select **OK** to send the invitation.
3. Sharing begins automatically when the recipient accepts the invitation.

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The loudspeaker is active. You can also use a compatible headset to continue your voice call while you share live video.

4 Select **Pause** to pause the sharing session. Select **Continue** to resume sharing.

5 To end the sharing session, select **Stop**. To end the voice call, press .

Video clip

1 When a voice call is active, select **Options** > **Share video** > **Clip**.
A list of video clips opens.

2 Select a video clip you want to share. A preview view opens. To preview the clip, select **Options** > **Play**.

3 Select **Options** > **Invite**.
You may need to convert the video clip into a suitable format to be able to share it. **Clip must be converted for sharing. Continue?** appears. Select **OK**.
The device sends the invitation to the SIP address you have added to the contact card of the recipient.
If the recipient has several SIP addresses in the contact card, select the SIP address to which you want to send the invitation, and **Select** to send the invitation.
If the SIP address of the recipient is not available, enter a SIP address. Select **OK** to send the invitation.

4 Sharing begins automatically when the recipient accepts the invitation.

5 Select **Pause** to pause the sharing session. Select **Options** > **Continue** to resume sharing.

6 To end the sharing session, select **Stop**. To end the voice call, press .

Accept an invitation

When someone sends you a share invitation, an invitation message is displayed showing the sender's name or SIP address. If your device is not set to **Silent**, it rings when you receive an invitation.

If someone sends you a share invitation and you are not within UMTS network coverage, you will not know that you received an invitation.

When you receive an invitation, you can select:

Accept—to begin the sharing session. If the sender wants to share live video, activate the view mode.

Reject—to decline the invitation. The sender receives a message that you rejected the invitation. You can also press to decline the sharing session and disconnect the voice call.

To end the sharing session, select **Stop**. If you share a video clip, select **Exit**. **Video sharing ended** is displayed.

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Answer or reject a call

To answer the call in the fold-open mode, press . If **Answer if fold opened** is set to **On**, to answer a call in the fold-closed mode, open the fold, and the call starts automatically. Otherwise, open the fold, and press .

To mute the ringing tone when a call comes in, select **Silence**.

Tip! If a compatible headset is connected to the device, to answer and end a call, press the headset key.

If you do not want to answer a call, in the fold-open mode, press to reject it. The caller hears a line busy tone. If you have activated the **Call divert** > **If busy** function to divert calls, rejecting an incoming call also diverts the call. See 'Call divert', p. 112.

When you reject an incoming call with the fold open, you can also send a text message to the caller informing why you cannot answer the call. Select **Options** > **Send msg.**. You can edit the text before sending it. To set up this option and write a standard text message, see 'Call settings', p. 105.

Answer or reject a video call

When a video call arrives, is displayed.

Tip! You can assign a ringing tone for video calls. Press and select **Tools** > **Profiles**, a profile, and **Options** > **Personalise** > **Video call tone**.

In the fold-open mode, press to answer the video call.

To start sending video, activate the view mode, and a live video image, recorded video clip, or the image being captured by the camera in your device is shown to the caller. If you want to send a live video image, turn the camera unit to the direction from which you want to send the video image. If you do not activate the view mode, video sending is not possible, but you can still hear the other person. A grey screen is shown in place of the video. To replace the grey screen with a still image, see 'Call settings', **Image in video call**, p. 105.

Even if you have denied video sending during a video call, the call is still charged as a video call. Check the pricing with your service provider.

To end the video call, in the view mode or with the fold open, press .

Call waiting

You can answer a call while you have another call in progress if you have activated **Call waiting** (network service) in **Tools** > **Settings** > **Call** > **Call waiting**.

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To answer the waiting call, press . The first call is put on hold.

To switch between the two calls, select **Swap**. Select **Options** > **Transfer** to connect an incoming call or a call on hold with an active call and to disconnect yourself from the calls. To end the active call, press . To end both calls, select **Options** > **End all calls**.

Options during a voice call

Many of the options that you can use during a voice call are network services. Select **Options** during a call for the available options on your device, including the following:

Replace—To end an active call and replace it by answering the waiting call.

Send MMS (in UMTS networks only)—To send an image or a video in a multimedia message to the other participant of the call. You can edit the message and change the recipient before sending. Press to send the file to a compatible device.

Send DTMF—To send DTMF tone strings, for example, a password. Enter the DTMF string or search for it in **Contacts**. To enter a wait character (**w**) or a pause character (**p**), press * repeatedly. Select **OK** to send the tone.

Tip! You can add DTMF tones to the **Phone number** or **DTMF** fields in a contact card.

Options during a video call

Select **Options** during a video call for the following options:

Enable or **Disable** (audio in the fold-open mode; video, audio, or both in view mode).

Activate handset (if a headset with Bluetooth connectivity is attached).

Activate handsfree (fold-open mode only, and if a compatible headset with Bluetooth connectivity is attached).

End active call

Change image order

Zoom in or **Zoom out** (view mode only).



Log

Recent calls

To monitor the phone numbers of missed, received, and dialed calls, press , and select **My own** > **Log** > **Recent**

calls. The device registers missed and received calls only if the network supports these functions, the device is switched on, and within the network service area.

Tip! When you see a note in the standby mode about missed calls, select Show to access the list of missed calls. To call back, scroll to a name or number, and press .

To clear all recent call lists, select Options > Clear recent calls in the recent calls main view. To clear one of the call registers, open the register you want to erase, and select Options > Clear list. To clear an individual event, open a register, scroll to the event, and press .

Call duration

To monitor the approximate duration of your incoming and outgoing calls, press , and select My own > Log > Call duration.

To set the display of the call duration while a call is active, select Connect. > Log > Options > Settings > Show call duration > Yes or No.

Note: The actual time invoiced for calls by your service provider may vary, depending on network features, rounding off for billing, and so forth.

To clear call duration timers, select Options > Clear timers. For this you need the lock code; see 'Security', 'Phone and SIM', p. 109.

Packet data

To check the amount of data sent and received during packet data connections, press , and select My own > Log > Packet data. For example, you may be charged for your packet data connections by the amount of data sent and received.

Monitor all communication events

Icons in Log:

Incoming

Outgoing

Missed communication events

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To monitor all voice and video calls, text messages, or data connections registered by the device, press , select **My own** > **Log**, and press to select the general log. For each communication event, you can see the sender or recipient name, phone number, name of the service provider, or access point. You can filter the general log to view just one type of event and create new contact cards based on the log information.



Tip! To see the duration of a voice call on the main display during an active call, select **Options** > **Settings** > **Show call duration** > **Yes**.

Tip! To view a list of sent messages, press , and select **Messaging** > **Sent**.

Subevents, such as a text message sent in more than one part and packet data connections, are logged as one communication event. Connections to your mailbox, multimedia messaging center, or web pages are shown as packet data connections.

To filter the log, select **Options** > **Filter** and a filter.

To erase the contents of the log, recent calls register, and messaging delivery reports permanently, select **Options** > **Clear log**. Select **Yes** to confirm. To remove a single event from the log, press .

To set the **Log duration**, select **Options** > **Settings** > **Log duration**. The log events remain in the device memory for a set number of days after which they are automatically erased to free memory. If you select **No log**, all the log contents, recent calls register, and messaging delivery reports are permanently deleted.

To view the details of a communication event, in the general log view, scroll to an event, and press .

Tip! In the details view, to copy a phone number to the clipboard, select **Options** > **Copy Number**.

Packet data counter and connection timer: To view how much data, measured in kilobytes, is transferred and how long a certain packet data connection lasts, scroll to an incoming or outgoing event indicated by **Pack.**, and select **Options** > **View details**.

Contacts (phonebook)

Press , and select **Contacts**. In **Contacts** you can add a personal ringing tone or a thumbnail image to a contact card. You can also create contact groups, which allow you to send text messages or e-mail to many recipients at the same time. You can add received contact information (business cards) to contacts. See 'Data and settings', p. 49. Contact information can only be sent to or received from compatible devices.

Save names and numbers

1 Select **Options** > **New contact**.
2 Fill in the fields that you want, and select **Done**.

To edit contact cards in **Contacts**, scroll to the contact card you want to edit, and select **Options** > **Edit**.

Tip! To print contact cards on a compatible basic print profile (BPP) equipped printer with Bluetooth connectivity (such as HP Deskjet 450 Mobile Printer or HP Photosmart 8150), select **Options** > **Print**.

To delete a contact card in **Contacts**, select a card, and press . To delete several contact cards at the same time, press and to mark the contacts, and press to delete.

Tip! To add and edit contact cards, use Nokia Contacts Editor available in Nokia PC Suite.

To attach a small thumbnail image to a contact card, open the contact card, and select **Options** > **Edit** > **Options** > **Add thumbnail**. The thumbnail image is shown when the contact calls.

Tip! Speed dialing is a quick way to call frequently used numbers. You can assign speed dialing keys to eight phone numbers. See 'Speed dial a phone number', p. 58.

Tip! To send contact information, select the card you want to send. Select **Options** > **Send** > **Via text message**, **Via multimedia**, **Via Bluetooth**, or **Via infrared**. See 'Messaging', p. 44 and 'Send data', p. 85.

To add a contact to a group, select **Options** > **Add to group:** (shown only if you have created a group). See 'Create contact groups', p. 69.

To view the amount of contacts, groups, and the available memory in **Contacts**, select **Options** > **Contacts info**.

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Default numbers and addresses

You can assign default numbers or addresses to a contact card. In this way if a contact has several numbers or addresses, you can easily call or send a message to the contact to a certain number or address. The default number is also used in voice dialing.

1 In the address book, select a contact, and press .
2 Select **Options** > **Defaults**.
3 Select a default to which you want to add a number or an address, and select **Assign**.
4 Select a number or an address you want to set as a default.

The default number or address is underlined in the contact card.

Copy contacts

To copy names and numbers from a SIM card to your device, press , and select **Contacts** > **Options** > **SIM contacts** > **SIM directory**. Select the names you want to copy and **Options** > **Copy to Contacts**.

To copy contacts to your SIM card, press , and select **Contacts**. Select the names you want to copy and **Options** > **Copy to SIM direct.**, or **Options** > **Copy** > **To SIM directory**. Only the contact card fields supported by your SIM card are copied.

Tip! You can synchronize your contacts to a compatible PC with Nokia PC Suite.

SIM directory and services

For availability and information on using SIM card services, contact your SIM card vendor. This may be the service provider or other vendor.

Press , and select **Contacts** > **Options** > **SIM contacts** > **SIM directory** to see the names and numbers stored on the SIM card. In the SIM directory you can add, edit, or copy numbers to contacts, and you can make calls.

To view the list of fixed dialing numbers, select **Options** > **SIM contacts** > **Fixed dialling contacts**. This setting is only shown if supported by your SIM card.

To restrict calls from your device to selected phone numbers, select **Options** > **Activ. fixed dialling**. To add new numbers to the fixed dialing list, select **Options** > **New SIM contact**. You need the PIN2 code for these functions.

When you use **Fixed dialling**, packet data connections are not possible, except when sending text messages over a packet data connection. In this case, the message center number and the recipient's phone number must be included on the fixed dialing list.

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When fixed dialing is activated, calls may be possible to the official emergency number programmed into your device.

Add ringing tones for contacts

When a contact or group member calls you, the device plays the chosen ringing tone (if the caller's telephone number is sent with the call and your device recognizes it).

1. Press ◉ to open a contact card or go to the groups list, and select a contact group.
2. Select **Options** > **Ringing tone**. A list of ringing tones opens.
3. Select the ringing tone you want to use for the individual contact or the selected group.

To remove the ringing tone, select **Default tone** from the list of ringing tones.

Create contact groups

1. In **Contacts**, press ▢ to open the groups list.
2. Select **Options** > **New group**.
3. Write a name for the group or use the default name **Group N**, and select **OK**.
4. Open the group, and select **Options** > **Add members**.
5. Scroll to a contact, and press ◉ to mark it. To add multiple members at a time, repeat this action on all the contacts you want to add.
6. Select **OK** to add the contacts to the group.

To rename a group, select **Options** > **Rename**, enter the new name, and select **OK**.

Remove members from a group

1. In the groups list, open the group you want to modify.
2. Scroll to the contact, and select **Options** > **Remove from group**.
3. Select **Yes** to remove the contact from the group.

Tip! To check to which groups a contact belongs, scroll to the contact, and select **Options** > **Belongs to groups**.

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Services

Various service providers maintain pages specifically designed for mobile devices. These pages use the wireless markup language (WML), extensible hypertext markup language (XHTML), or hypertext markup language (HTML).

Check the availability of services, pricing, and fees with your service provider. Service providers will also give you instructions on how to use their services.

Press , and select **Services**.

Shortcut: To start a connection, press and hold **0** in the standby mode.

Web access point

To access pages, you need web service settings for the page that you want to use. You may receive the settings in a special text message from the service provider that offers the web page. See 'Data and settings', p. 49. For more information, contact your service provider.

Tip! Settings may be available on the website of your service provider.

Enter settings manually

1. Press , select **Tools** > **Settings** > **Connection** > **Access points**, and define the settings for an access point. Follow the instructions given to you by your service provider. See 'Connection', p. 106.
2. Press , and select **Services** > **Options** > **Bookmark manager** > **Add bookmark**. Write a name for the bookmark and the address of the page defined for the current access point.
3. To set the created access point as the default access point, select **Options** > **Settings** > **Access point**.

Bookmarks view

The bookmarks view opens when you open **Services**.

Your device may have some bookmarks loaded for sites not affiliated with Nokia. Nokia does not warrant or endorse these sites. If you choose to access them, you should take the same precautions, for security or content, as you would with any internet site.

indicates the starting page defined for the default access point.

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Connection security

If the security indicator is displayed during a connection, the data transmission between the device and the internet gateway or server is encrypted.

The security icon does not indicate that the data transmission between the gateway and the content server (or place where the requested resource is stored) is secure. The service provider secures the data transmission between the gateway and the content server.

Select **Options** > **Details** > **Security** to view details about the connection, encryption status, and information about server and user authentication.

Security certificates may be required for some services, such as banking services. For more information, contact your service provider. See also 'Certificate management', p. 110.

Browse

Important: Use only services that you trust and that offer adequate security and protection against harmful software.

To download a page, select a bookmark, or enter the address in the field ( ).

On a browser page, new links appear underlined in blue and previously visited links in purple. Images that act as links have a blue border around them.

To open links and make selections, press .

Shortcut: Press # to jump to the end of a page, and * to the beginning of a page.

To go to the previous page while browsing, select **Back**. If **Back** is not available, select **Options** > **Navigation options** > **History** to view a chronological list of the pages you visited during a browsing session.

To retrieve the latest content from the server, select **Options** > **Navigation options** > **Reload**.

To save a bookmark, select **Options** > **Save as bookmark**.

Tip! To access the bookmarks view while browsing, press and hold . To return to the browser view, select **Options** > **Back to page**.

To save a page while browsing, select **Options** > **Advanced options** > **Save page**. You can save pages to the device memory or a compatible memory card (if inserted), and browse them when offline. To access the pages later, press in the bookmarks view to open the **Saved pages** view.

To enter a new URL address, select **Options** > **Navigation options** > **Go to web address**.

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You can download files that cannot be shown on the browser page, such as ringing tones, images, operator logos, themes, and video clips. To download an item, scroll to the link, and press ◉.

When you start a download, a list of ongoing, paused, and completed downloads from the current browsing session is displayed. To view the list, select **Options** > **Tools** > **Downloads**. In the list, scroll to an item, and select **Options** to pause, resume, or cancel ongoing downloads, or open, save, or delete completed downloads.

Copyright protections may prevent some images, music (including ringing tones), and other content from being copied, modified, transferred or forwarded.

Important: Only install and use applications and other software from trusted sources, such as applications that are Symbian Signed or have passed the Java VerifiedTM testing.

Download and purchase items

You can download items such as ringing tones, images, operator logos, themes, and video clips. These items can be provided free, or you can purchase them. Downloaded items are handled by the respective applications in your device, for example, a downloaded photo can be saved in **Gallery**.

Important: Only install and use applications and other software from trusted sources, such as applications that are Symbian Signed or have passed the Java VerifiedTM testing.

1. To download the item, scroll to the link, and press ◉.
2. Select the appropriate option to purchase the item, for example, "Buy".
3. Carefully read all the information provided. To continue the download, select **Accept**. To cancel the download, select **Cancel**.

End a connection

To end the connection and view the browser page offline, select **Options** > **Advanced options** > **Disconnect**, or to end the connection and close the browser, select **Options** > **Exit**.

Empty the cache

The information or services you have accessed are stored in the cache memory of the device.

A cache is a memory location that is used to store data temporarily. If you have tried to access or have accessed confidential information requiring passwords, empty the cache after each use. The information or services you have

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accessed are stored in the cache. To empty the cache, select **Options** > **Advanced options** > **Clear cache**.

Web settings

Select **Options** > **Settings** and from the following:

Access point—Change the default access point. See 'Connection', p. 106. Some or all access points may be preset for your device by your service provider, and you may not be able to change, create, edit, or remove them.

Load imgs. & sounds—Select whether you want to load images while browsing. If you select **No**, to load images later during browsing, select **Options** > **Show images**.

Font size—Select the text size.

Default encoding—If text characters are not shown correctly, you can select another encoding according to language.

Auto. bookmarks—Enable or disable automatic bookmark collecting. If you want to continue collecting automatic bookmarks but hide the folder from the bookmarks view, select **Hide folder**.

Screen size—Select what is shown when you are browsing: **Select. keys only** or **Full screen**.

Homepage—Define the home page.

Search page—Define a web page that is downloaded when you select **Navigation options** > **Open search page** in the bookmarks view, or when browsing.

Volume—If you want the browser to play sounds embedded on web pages, select a volume level.

Rendering—If you want the page layout shown as accurately as possible when in the **Small screen** mode, select **By quality**. If you do not want external cascading style sheets to be downloaded, select **By speed**.

Cookies—Enable or disable the receiving and sending of cookies.

Java/ECMA script—Enable or disable the use of scripts.

Security warnings—Hide or show security notifications.

Conf. DTMF sending—Select whether you want to confirm before the device sends DTMF tones during a voice call. See also 'Options during a voice call', p. 64.

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Calendar

Use Calendar to remind you of meetings, anniversaries, and to keep track of your tasks and other notes.

Create calendar entries

Shortcut: In the day, week, or month calendar view, press any key (1 – 0). An appointment entry opens, and the characters you enter are added to the Subject field. In the to-do view, a to-do note entry opens.

1 Press , and select Calendar > Options > New entry and one of the following:
Meeting—to remind you of an appointment that has a specific date and time
Meeting request—to send a meeting request by e-mail (a mailbox must be defined in the device)
Memo—to write a general entry for a day
Anniversary—to remind you of birthdays or special dates (entries are repeated every year)
To-do—to remind you of a task that needs doing by a specific date



2 Fill in the fields. To set an alarm, select Alarm > On, and enter the Alarm time and Alarm date.
To add a description for an appointment or a meeting, select Options > Add description.
3 To save the entry, select Done.

When the calendar alarms for a note, select Silence to turn off the calendar alarm tone. The reminder text stays on the screen. To end the calendar alarm, select Stop. To set the alarm to snooze, select Snooze.

Tip! You can synchronize your calendar with a compatible PC using Nokia PC Suite. When creating a calendar entry, set the desired Synchronisation option.

Meeting requests

If you receive a meeting request to the mailbox in your device, the request is saved to the calendar when you open the e-mail.

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You can view received meeting requests in the mailbox or in the calendar. To respond to a meeting request using e-mail, select **Options** > **Respond:**.

Calendar views

Tip! Select **Options** > **Settings** to change the starting day of the week or the view that is shown when you open the calendar.

In the month view, dates that have calendar entries are marked with a small triangle in the bottom right corner. In the week view, memos and anniversaries are placed before 8 a.m. To switch between the month view, week view, day view, and to-do view, press * .

To go to a certain date, select **Options** > **Go to date**. To jump to today, press # .

To send a calendar note to a compatible device, select **Options** > **Send**.

To print calendar entries on a compatible basic print profile (BPP) equipped printer with Bluetooth connectivity (such as HP Deskjet 450 Mobile Printer or HP Photosmart 8150), select **Options** > **Print**.

Manage your calendar entries

Deleting past entries in **Calendar** saves space in your device memory.

To delete more than one event at a time, go to the month view, and select **Options** > **Delete entry** > **Before date** or **All entries**.

To mark a task as completed, scroll to it in the to-do view, and select **Options** > **Mark as done**.

Calendar settings

To modify **Calendar alarm tone**, **Default view**, **Week starts on**, and **Week view title**, select **Options** > **Settings**.

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My own

Visual Radio

You can use Visual Radio (network service) as a traditional FM radio with automatic tuning and saved stations. If you tune to stations that offer Visual Radio service, you can view visual information on the display related to the radio program. The Visual Radio service uses packet data (network service). You can listen to the FM radio while using other applications.

To use the Visual Radio service, the following conditions are required:

- The device must be switched on.
- The device must have a valid SIM card inserted.
- The station you listen to and the network operator or the wireless service provider you use must support this service.
- An internet access point must be defined to access the service provider's Visual Radio server. See 'Access points', p. 106.
- The station must have the correct Visual Radio service ID defined and Visual Radio service enabled. See 'Saved stations', p. 78.

If you do not have access to the Visual Radio service, the operators and radio stations in your area may not support Visual Radio.

The FM radio depends on an antenna other than the wireless device antenna. A compatible headset or enhancement needs to be attached to the device for the FM radio to function properly.

You can listen to the radio with the built-in loudspeaker or a compatible headset. When using the loudspeaker, keep the headset plugged in the device. The lead of the headset functions as the antenna of the radio, so let it hang freely.

Warning: Listen to music at a moderate level. Continuous exposure to high volume may damage your hearing. Do not hold the device near your ear when the loudspeaker is in use, because the volume may be extremely loud.

You can make a call or answer an incoming call while listening to the radio. The radio is turned off when there is an active call. When the call is finished, the radio is turned back on.

The radio selects the used frequency band based on the country information received from the network.

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Visual Radio can be used for listening when the device cover is closed. Channel information may be displayed on the cover display. To mute or unmute the radio, press .

Listen to the radio

Note that the quality of the radio broadcast depends on the coverage of the radio station in that particular area.

Connect a compatible headset to the device. The lead of the headset functions as the radio antenna, so let it hang freely. Press , and select **My own** > **Radio**.

To start a station search, select | or | . Searching stops when a station is found. To change the frequency manually, select **Options** > **Manual tuning**.

If you have previously saved radio stations, select | or | to go to the next or previous saved station. To select the memory location of a station, press the corresponding number key.

To adjust the volume, press or . To listen to the radio using the loudspeaker, select **Options** > **Activate loudspeaker**.

To view available stations based on location, select **Options** > **Station directory** (network service).

To save the current tuned station to your station list, select **Options** > **Save station**. To open the list of your saved stations, select **Options** > **Stations**. See 'Saved stations', p. 78.



To return to the standby mode and leave the FM radio playing in the background, select **Options** > **Play in background**, or press .

View visual content

To check availability and costs, and to subscribe to the service, contact your service provider.

To view available visual content for a tuned station, select | , or in the stations view, select **Options** > **Station** > **Start visual service**. If the visual service ID has not been saved for the station, enter it, or select **Retrieve** to search for it in the station directory (network service).

When the connection to the visual service is established, the display shows the current visual content designed by the content provider.

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To adjust display settings for the visual content view, select **Options** > **Display settings** > **Lighting** or **Power saver time-out**.

Saved stations

You can save up to 20 radio stations in Visual Radio. To open your station list, select **Options** > **Stations**.

To listen to a saved station, select **Options** > **Station** > **Listen**. To view available visual content for a station with Visual Radio service, select **Options** > **Station** > **Start visual service**.

To change station details, select **Options** > **Station** > **Edit**.

Settings

Select **Options** > **Settings** and from the following:

Start-up tone—To select whether a tone is played when the application is started.

Auto-start service—To have the Visual Radio service start automatically when you select a saved station that offers visual service, select **Yes**.

Access point—To select the access point used for the data connection. You do not need an access point to use the application as an ordinary FM radio.

RealPlayer

Press , and select **My own** > **RealPlayer**. With **RealPlayer**, you can play video clips or stream media files over the air. You can activate a streaming link when you browse web pages, or store it in the device memory or a compatible memory card (if inserted).

Tip! You can also view video clips or streaming links in your device with other compatible UPnP devices, such as a TV or a PC, through wireless LAN. See 'View media files', p. 90.

RealPlayer supports files with extensions such as .3gp, .mp4, or .rm. However, **RealPlayer** does not necessarily support all file formats or all the variations of file formats. For example, **RealPlayer** attempts to open all .mp4 files, but some .mp4 files may include content that is not compliant with 3GPP standards and, therefore, is not supported by this device.

Play video clips

1 To play a media file stored in device memory or on a compatible memory card (if inserted), select **Options** > **Open** and from the following:
Most recent clips—to play one of the last six files played in **RealPlayer**

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Saved clip—to play a file saved in Gallery
See 'Gallery', p. 30.

2 Scroll to a file, and press to play the file.

Tip! To view a video clip in full screen mode, press 2 . Press again to change back to normal screen mode.

Shortcuts during play are as follows:

- To fast forward, press and hold .
- To rewind through the media file, press and hold .
- To mute the sound, press and hold until is displayed. To turn on the sound, press and hold until you see .

Stream content over the air

Many service providers require you to use an IAP for your default access point. Other service providers allow you to use a WAP access point.

The access points may be configured when you first start your device.

Contact your service provider for more information.

In RealPlayer, you can only open an rtsp:// URL address. However, RealPlayer recognizes an http link to a .ram file.

To stream content over the air, select a streaming link saved in Gallery, on a web page, or received in a text message or multimedia message. Before live content begins streaming, your device connects to the site and starts loading the content. The content is not saved in your device.

Receive RealPlayer settings

You may receive RealPlayer settings in a special text message from the service provider. See 'Data and settings', p. 49. For more information, contact your service provider.

Change the RealPlayer settings

Select Options > Settings and from the following:

Video—to have RealPlayer automatically repeat video clips after they finish playing

Connection—to select whether to use a proxy server, change the default access point, and set the port range used when connecting. Contact your service provider for the correct settings.

Proxy sett.:

Use proxy—To use a proxy server, select Yes.

Proxy serv. address—Enter the IP address of the proxy server.

Proxy port number—Enter the port number of the proxy server.

Glossary: Proxy servers are intermediate servers between media servers and their users. Some service providers

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use them to provide additional security or speed up access to browser pages that contain sound or video clips.

Netw. sett.—

- **Default access point**—Scroll to the access point you want to use to connect to the internet, and press .
- **Online time**—Set the time for **RealPlayer** to disconnect from the network when you pause a media clip playing through a network link. Select **User defined**, and press . Enter the time, and select **OK**.
- **Lowest UDP port**—Enter the lowest port number of the server's port range. The minimum value is 1024.
- **Highest UDP port**—Enter the highest port number of the server's port range. The maximum value is 65535.

Select **Options** > **Advanced settings** to edit the bandwidth values for different networks.



Flash Player

With Flash Player, you can view, play, and interact with flash files made for mobile devices.

Organize flash files

Press , and select **My own** > **Flash Player**.

To open a folder or play a flash file, scroll to it, and press .

To send a flash file to a compatible device, scroll to it, and press .

To copy a flash file to another folder, select **Organise** > **Copy to folder**.

To move a flash file to another folder, select **Organise** > **Move to folder**

To create a folder to organize your flash files, select **Organise** > **New folder**.

The available options may vary.

To delete a flash file, scroll to it, and press .

Play flash files

Press , and select **My own** > **Flash Player**. Scroll to a flash file, and press .

Select **Options** and from the following:

Pause—Pause the playback

Stop—Stop the playback

Volume—Adjust the playback volume. To increase or decrease the volume scroll left or right

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Quality—Select the playback quality. If the playback appears uneven and slow, change the **Quality** setting to **Normal** or **Low**.

Full screen —Play the file using the entire display. To return to the normal screen, select **Normal screen**. Even though not visible in full screen, the key functions may still be available when you press either key below the display.

Fit to screen—Play the file in its original size after zooming it

Pan mode on—Move around the display with the scroll key when you have zoomed in

The available options may vary.



Movie director

Press , and select **My own** > **Movie**, or launch it from the gallery. Muvees are styled video clips that can contain videos, images, music, and text. The style determines the transitions, visual effects, graphics, music, and text that are used in the muvee.

Create muvees

1 In the **Movie director** main view, select the videos and images with which you want to create a muvee, and select **Options** > **Create muvee**; or open the **Images & video** folder in **Gallery**. Select the video clips and images you with which you want to create a muvee, and select **Options** > **Edit** > **Create muvee**.

2 Select a style for the muvee from the style list. **Movie director** uses the music and text associated with the chosen style.

3 Select **Create muvee**.

The muvee is created automatically, and a **Preview** view is displayed. You can select **Save** to save the muvee in the Gallery, **Recreate** to shuffle the media files and create a new muvee, or **Back** to select a different style for your muvee. You can also select **Customise** to change the muvee settings and create a custom muvee to which you can add images, music, and text.

Create a custom muvee

1 In the **Movie director** main view, select the videos and images with which you want to create a muvee, and select **Options** > **Create muvee**; or select the **Images & video** folder in **Gallery**. Select the videos and images with which you want to create a muvee, and select **Options** > **Edit** > **Create muvee**.

2 Select a style for the muvee from the style list. In the style view, select **Options** > **Customise** and from the following:
Videos & Images—select from the following:

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- **Add/Remove**—Add or remove video clips and images or **Add/Remove** > **Capture** to open the camera application to capture new video clips and images
- **Move**—Reorder the position of video clips and images in the custom muvee
- **Select contents**—Select video segments to include or exclude in the muvee

Length—to define the duration of the muvee, select **User defined**. Select **Multimedia message**, **Same as music** or **Auto-select**. If the muvee duration is less than the music duration, the muvee is repeated to match the music duration. If the muvee duration is longer than the music duration, the music is repeated to match the muvee duration.
Music—to select a music clip from the list.
Message—to edit the **Opening message** and **Closing message**.
Settings—to change the settings for muvee production. Select from the following:

- **Memory in use**—Select where to store your muvees
- **Resolution**—Select the resolution of your muvees
- **Default muvee name**—Set a default name for the muvees

3 Select **Create muvee**.

The muvee is created automatically, and **Preview** displayed. You can select **Save** to save the muvee in the gallery, **Recreate** to shuffle the media files and create a new muvee, or **Customise** to return to the muvee settings.

Games

Press , and select **My own** and a game. For instructions on how to play the game, select **Options** > **Help**.

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Connectivity

PC connections

You need to connect your device to a compatible PC to do the following:

- Transfer information between Nokia PC Suite applications and your device. For example, to synchronize calendar appointments or transfer images.
- Use your device as a modem to connect to network services such as the internet.

You can connect your device and a compatible PC via a compatible USB or serial cable, Infrared, or Bluetooth wireless technology.

Detailed installation instructions can be found in the user guide for Nokia PC Suite.

Tip! When using Nokia PC Suite for the first time, to connect your device to a compatible PC and to use Nokia PC Suite, use the Get Connected wizard available in Nokia PC Suite.

Data cable

Press , and select **Connect.** > **Data cbl.** > **Media player**, **PC Suite**, **Mass storage**, or **Image print**. To have the device ask the purpose of the connection each time the cable is connected, select **Ask on connection**.

Bluetooth connectivity

You can connect wirelessly to other compatible devices with wireless Bluetooth technology. Compatible devices may include mobile phones, computers, and enhancements such as headsets and car kits. You can use Bluetooth connectivity to send images, video clips, music and sound clips, and notes; connect wirelessly to your compatible PC (for example, to transfer files); and connect to a compatible printer to print images with **Image print**. See 'Image print', p. 42.

Since devices with Bluetooth technology communicate using radio waves, your device and the other device do not need to be in direct line-of-sight. The two devices only

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need to be within 10 meters (33 feet) of each other, but the connection may be subject to interference from obstructions such as walls or from other electronic devices.

This device is compliant with Bluetooth Specification 2.0 supporting the following profiles: Basic Printing Profile, Generic Access Profile, Serial Port Profile, Dial-up Networking Profile, Headset Profile, Hands-Free Profile, Generic Object Exchange Profile, Object Push Profile, File Transfer Profile, Basic Imaging Profile, SIM Access Profile, and Human Interface Device Profile. To ensure interoperability between other devices supporting Bluetooth technology, use Nokia approved enhancements for this model. Check with the manufacturers of other devices to determine their compatibility with this device.

Glossary: A profile corresponds to a service or a function, and defines how different devices connect. For example, the Hands-Free Profile is used between the handsfree device and the phone. For devices to be compatible, they must support the same profiles.

There may be restrictions on using Bluetooth technology in some locations. Check with your local authorities or service provider.

Features using Bluetooth technology, or allowing such features to run in the background while using other features, increase the demand on battery power and reduce the battery life.

When the device is locked, you cannot use Bluetooth connectivity. See 'Security', p. 109 for more information on locking the device.

Settings

Press , and select **Connect.** > **Bluetooth**. When you open the application for the first time, you are asked to define a name for your device. After you set Bluetooth connectivity on and change **My phone's visibility** to **Shown to all**, your device and this name can be seen by other users with devices using Bluetooth technology.

Select from the following:

Bluetooth—Select **On** or **Off**. To connect wirelessly to another compatible device, first set Bluetooth connectivity **On**, then establish a connection.

My phone's visibility—To allow your device to be found by other devices with Bluetooth technology, select **Shown to all**. To hide it from other devices, select **Hidden**.

My phone's name—Edit the name of your device.

Remote SIM mode—To enable another device, such as a compatible car kit enhancement, to use the SIM card in your device to connect to the network, select **On**.

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Remote SIM mode

To use the remote SIM mode with a compatible car kit enhancement, set Bluetooth connectivity on, and enable the use of the remote SIM mode with your device. Before the mode can be activated, the two devices must be paired and the pairing initiated from the other device. When pairing, use a 16-digit passcode, and set the other device as authorized. See 'Pair devices', p. 86. Activate the remote SIM mode from the other device.

When the remote SIM mode is on in your Nokia device, **Remote SIM** is displayed in the standby mode. The connection to the wireless network is turned off, as indicated by ✖ in the signal strength indicator area, and you cannot use SIM card services or features requiring cellular network coverage. However, a wireless LAN connection remains active during the remote SIM mode.

Warning: In the remote SIM mode, you cannot make or receive any calls with your device, except make calls to certain emergency numbers, or use other features that require network coverage. To make calls, you must first exit the remote SIM mode. If the device has been locked, enter the lock code.

To exit the remote SIM mode, press ⏻, and select **Exit rem. SIM mode**.

Security tips

When you are not using Bluetooth connectivity, select **Bluetooth** > **Off** or **My phone's visibility** > **Hidden**. In this way, you can better control who can find your device with Bluetooth wireless technology, and connect to it.

Do not pair with or accept connection requests from an unknown device. In this way, you can better protect your device from harmful content.

Send data

Several Bluetooth connections can be active at a time. For example, if you are connected to a headset, you can also transfer files to another compatible device at the same time.

Bluetooth connectivity indicators

- When ✱ is shown in the standby mode, Bluetooth connectivity is on.
- When (✱) is blinking, your device is trying to connect with another device.
- When (✱) is shown continuously, data is being transmitted using Bluetooth connectivity.

1 Open the application where the item you want to send is stored. For example, to send an image to another compatible device, open **Gallery**.

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2 Select the item and **Options** > **Send** > **Via Bluetooth**. Devices with Bluetooth technology within range start to appear on the display.
Device icons are: computer, phone, audio or video device, and other device.
To interrupt the search, select **Stop**.
3 Select the device with which you want to connect.
4 If the other device requires pairing before data can be transmitted, a tone sounds, and you are asked to enter a passcode. See 'Pair devices', p. 86.
5 When the connection has been established, **Sending data** is shown.

The **Sent** folder in **Messag.** does not store messages sent using Bluetooth connectivity.

Tip! When searching for devices, some devices may show only the unique address (device address). To find the unique address of your device, enter the code ***#2820#** in the standby mode.

Pair devices

To open the paired devices view ( ), in the **Bluetooth** application main view, press .

Before pairing, create your own passcode (1–16 digits), and agree with the owner of the other device to use the same code. Devices that do not have a user interface have a factory-set passcode. The passcode is used only once.

To pair with a device, select **Options** > **New paired device**. Devices with wireless Bluetooth technology within range start to appear on the display. Select the device, and enter the passcode. The same passcode must be entered on the other device as well. After pairing, the device is saved to the paired devices view.

Paired devices are indicated by in the device search.

To set a device as authorized or unauthorized, scroll to a device, and select from the following options:

Set as authorised—Connections between your device and this device can be made without your knowledge. No separate acceptance or authorization is needed. Use this status for your own devices, such as your compatible headset or PC, or devices that belong to someone you trust. indicates authorized devices in the paired devices view.

Set as unauthorised—Connection requests from this device must be accepted separately every time.

To cancel a pairing, scroll to the device, and select **Options** > **Delete**. If you want to cancel all pairings, select **Options** > **Delete all**.

Tip! If you are currently connected to a device and delete the pairing with that device, pairing is removed immediately, and the connection is switched off.

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Receive data

When you receive data through Bluetooth connectivity, a tone sounds, and you are asked if you want to accept the message. If you accept, is shown, and the item is placed in the **Inbox** folder in **Messag.**. Messages received through Bluetooth connectivity are indicated by . See 'Inbox—receive messages', p. 49.

Switch off

To switch off Bluetooth connectivity, select **Bluetooth** > **Off**.

Infrared connection

With infrared, you can transfer data such as business cards, calendar notes, and media files with a compatible device.

Do not point the infrared (IR) beam at anyone's eye or allow it to interfere with other IR devices. This device is a Class 1 laser product.

Send and receive data using infrared

1 Ensure that the infrared ports of the sending and receiving devices are pointing at each other, and that there are no obstructions between the devices. The preferable distance between the two devices is up to 1 meter (3 feet).
2 The user of the receiving device activates the infrared port.
To activate the infrared port of your device to receive data through infrared, press , and select **Connect.** > **Infrared**.
3 The user of the sending device selects the desired infrared function to start the data transfer.
To send data through infrared, locate the desired file in an application or the file manager, and select **Options** > **Send** > **Via infrared**.

If data transfer is not started within 1 minute after the activation of the infrared port, the connection is cancelled and must be started again.

All items received through infrared are placed in the **Inbox** folder in **Messaging**. New infrared messages are indicated by .

When blinks, your device is trying to connect to the other device or a connection has been lost.

When is shown continuously, the infrared connection is active, and your device is ready to send and receive data using its infrared port.

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Home network

Your device is compatible with UPnP. Using a wireless LAN access point device or a wireless LAN router, you can create a home network and connect compatible UPnP devices that support wireless LAN to the network, such as your Nokia device, a compatible PC, a compatible printer, and a compatible sound system or a TV, or a sound system or TV equipped with a compatible wireless multimedia receiver.

Using the wireless LAN function of the Nokia N93 in a home network requires a working wireless LAN home connection setup and the other target home devices to be UPnP enabled and to be connected to the same home network.

The home network uses the security settings of the wireless LAN connection. Use the home network feature in a wireless LAN infrastructure network with a wireless LAN access point device and encryption enabled.

You can share media files saved in **Gallery** with other compatible UPnP devices using the home network. To manage the settings for **Home net.**, press , and select **Connect.** > **Home net.** You can also use the home network to view, play, copy, or print compatible media files from **Gallery**. See 'View media files', p. 90.

Important: Always use one of the available encryption methods to increase the security of your wireless LAN connection and reduce the risk of unauthorize access to your data.

Your device is connected to the home network only if you accept a connection request from another device, or in **Gallery**, select the option to view, play, print, or copy media files on your Nokia device or search for other devices in the **Home net.** folder.

Important security information

When you configure your wireless LAN home network, enable an encryption method, first on your access point device, then on the other devices you intend to connect to your home network. Refer to the documentation of the devices. Keep any passcodes secret and in a safe place separate from the devices.

To view or change the settings of the wireless LAN Internet access point in your Nokia device, see 'Access points', p. 106.

If you use the ad hoc operating mode to create a home network with a compatible device, enable one of the encryption methods in **WLAN security mode** when you configure the Internet access point. This step reduces the risk of an unwanted party joining the ad hoc network.

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Your device notifies you if another device attempts to connect to it and the home network. Do not accept connection requests from an unknown device.

If you use wireless LAN in a network that does not have encryption, switch off sharing Nokia N93 files with other devices, or do not share any private media files. To change sharing settings, see 'Home network settings', p. 89.

UPnP wizard

When you access the home network application for the first time, the setup wizard opens, and helps you to define the home network settings for your device. To use the setup wizard later, in the home network main view, select **Options** > **Run wizard**, and follow the instructions on the display.

To connect a compatible PC to the home network, on the PC, you must install the Home Media Server software from the DVD-ROM supplied with your device.

Home network settings

To share media files saved in **Gallery** with other compatible UPnP devices through a wireless LAN, you must create and configure your wireless LAN home IAP; then configure **Home net.**. See 'Wireless LAN', p. 17.

The options related to **Home net.** are not available in **Gallery** before the settings for **Home net.** have been configured.

Configure settings

To configure **Home net.**, select **Connect.** > **Home net.** > **Settings** and from the following:

Home access point—Select **Always ask** if you want the device to ask for the home access point every time you connect to the home network, **User defined** to select your home Internet access point that is used automatically when you use **Home net.**, or **None**. If your home network does not have wireless LAN security settings enabled, you get a security warning. You can continue and switch on the wireless LAN security later; or cancel defining the access point, and first switch on the wireless LAN security. See Wireless LAN in 'Access points', p. 106.

Device name— Enter a name for your device that is shown to the other compatible devices in the home network.

Set sharing on and define content

Select **Connect.** > **Home net.** > **Share content**.

Content sharing—Allow or deny sharing media files with compatible devices.

Important: Do not set **Content sharing** on before you have configured all the other settings. If you set **Content sharing** on, the other UPnP compatible devices in

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the home network can view and copy your files you have selected for sharing in the **Images & video** and **Music** folders.

To select media files for sharing with other devices from the **Images & video** and **Music** folders or to view the sharing status of **Images & video** or **Music**, select **Share content**.

View media files

To connect a compatible PC to the home network, you must install the related software from the DVD-ROM supplied with your Nokia device.

If **Content sharing** is on in your device, the other UPnP compatible devices in the home network can view and copy the media files you have selected to share in **Share content**. If you do not want the other devices to access your files, set **Content sharing** off. Even if **Content sharing** is off in your device, you can still view and copy the media files stored in another home network device if it is allowed by the other device.

Media files stored in your device

To select images, videos, and sound clips stored in your device and show them in another home network device, such as a compatible TV, do the following:

1. In **Gallery**, select an image, a video clip, or a sound clip.
2. Select **Options** > **Show via home net.**
3. Select a compatible device in which the media file is shown. The images are shown both in the other home network device and your device, and the video clips and sound clips are played only in the other device.

Media files stored in the other device

To select media files that are stored on another home network device and show them in your device (or in a compatible TV), do the following:

1. In **Gallery**, select **Home net.**. Your device starts the search of other compatible devices. Device names start to appear on the display.
2. Select a device from the list.
3. Select the type of media you want to view from the other device. The available file types depend on the features of the other device.
4. Select the image, video clip, or music clip you want to view, and select **Options** > **Show via home net.** (images and video) or **Play via home network** (music).
5. Select the device in which the file is shown.

To stop sharing the media file, select **Options** > **Stop showing**.

To print images saved in **Gallery** through **Home net.** with a UPnP compatible printer, select the print option in

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Gallery. See 'Image print', p. 42. Content sharing does not have to be switched on.

To search files with different criteria, select Options > Find. To sort the found files, select Options > Sort by.

Copy media files

To copy or transfer media files from your device to another compatible device, such as a UPnP compatible PC, select a file in Gallery and Options > Organise > Copy to home network or Move to home network. Content sharing does not have to be switched on.

To copy or transfer files from the other device to your device, select a file in the other device, and Options > Copy to phone mem. or Copy to memory card (the name of the memory card if a compatible memory card is available). Content sharing does not have to be switched on.



Synchronization

Press , and select Connect. > Sync. Sync enables you to synchronize your notes, calendar, contacts, or e-mail with various compatible calendar and address book applications on a compatible computer or on the internet. You can also create or edit synchronization settings.

The synchronization application uses SyncML technology for synchronization. For information on SyncML compatibility, contact the supplier of the application with which you want to synchronize your device data.

You may receive synchronization settings in a special text message. See 'Data and settings', p. 49.

Synchronize data

In the Sync main view, you can see the different synchronization profiles.

1. Select a synchronization profile and Options > Synchronise. The status of the synchronization is shown on the display.
   To cancel synchronization before it finishes, select Cancel.
2. You are notified when the synchronization is complete. Select Yes to view the log file showing the synchronization status and how many entries have been added, updated, deleted, or discarded (not synchronized) in your device or on the server.



Connection manager

Press , and select Connect. > Conn. mgr.. To view the status of data connections or end connections in GSM and

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UMTS network and wireless LAN, select **Act. data conn.**. To search for wireless LANs available within range, select **Availab. WLAN**.

Data connections

In the active connections view, you can see the open data connections: data calls ( ), packet data connections (or), and wireless LAN connections ( ).

Note: The actual time invoiced for calls by your service provider may vary, depending on network features, rounding off for billing, and so forth.

To end a connection, select **Options** > **Disconnect**. To close all open connections, select **Options** > **Disconnect all**.

To view the details of a connection, select **Options** > **Details**. The details shown depend on the connection type.

Wireless LAN

The available wireless LAN view shows a list of wireless LANs within range, their network mode (**Infrastructure** or **Ad-hoc**), and signal strength indicator. is shown for networks with encryption, and if your device has an active connection in the network.

To view the details of a network, select **Options** > **Details**.

Create an Internet access point

1. Press , and select **Connect.** > **Conn. mgr.** > **Availab. WLAN**.
2. The device searches for wireless LANs within range. Scroll to the network in which you want to create an Internet access point, and select **Options** > **Define access point**.
3. The device creates an Internet access point with default settings. To view or change these settings, see 'Access points', p. 106.



Device manager

Press , and select **Connect.** > **Dev. mgr.**. You may receive server profiles and different configuration settings from your service provider, or company information management department. These configuration settings may include access point settings for data connections and other settings used by different applications in your device.

To connect to a server and receive configuration settings for your device, scroll to a profile, and select **Options** > **Start configuration**.

To allow or deny receiving of configuration settings from service providers, select **Options** > **Enable config.** or **Disable config.**.

Server profile settings

Contact your service provider for the correct settings.

Server name—Enter a name for the configuration server.

Server ID—Enter the unique ID to identify the configuration server.

Server password—Enter a password to identify your device to the server.

Session mode—Select the connection type that is used to connect to the server: **Bluetooth** or **Internet**.

Access point—Select an access point to be used when connecting to the server.

Host address—Enter the URL address of the server.

Port—Enter the port number of the server.

User name and **Password**—Enter your user name and password.

Allow configuration—To receive configuration settings from the server, select **Yes**.

Auto-accept all reqs.—If you want your device to ask for confirmation before accepting a configuration from the server, select **No**.

Network authentic.—Select if network authentication is used.

Modem

Press , and select **Connect.** > **Modem**. To connect your device to a compatible PC through infrared, to use it as a modem, press . For how to connect the devices, see 'Infrared connection', p. 87

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Office

Recorder

To record voice memos, press , and select **Office** > **Recorder**. To record a telephone conversation, open **Recorder** during a voice call. Both parties hear a tone every 5 seconds during recording.

Converter

To convert measures from one unit to another, press , and select **Office** > **Converter**.

Converter has limited accuracy, and rounding errors may occur.

1. In the **Type** field, select the measure you want to use.
2. In first **Unit** field, select the unit from which you want to convert. In the next **Unit** field, select the unit to which you want to convert.
3. In the first **Amount** field, enter the value you want to convert. The other **Amount** field changes automatically to show the converted value.

Base currency and exchange rates

Select **Type** > **Currency** > **Options** > **Currency rates**. Before you can make currency conversions, you must select a base currency and add exchange rates. The rate of the base currency is always 1.

Note: When you change base currency, you must enter the new rates because all previously set exchange rates are cleared.

Calculator

To add, subtract, multiply, divide, and calculate square roots and percentages, press , and select **Office** > **Calculator**.

Note: This calculator has limited accuracy and is designed for simple calculations.

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Notes

To write notes, press , and select **Office** > **Notes**. You can send notes to compatible devices, and save plain text files (.txt format) that you receive to **Notes**.

To print a note on a compatible basic print profile (BPP) equipped printer with Bluetooth connectivity (such as HP Deskjet 450 Mobile Printer or HP Photosmart 8150), select **Options** > **Print**.

Zip manager

Use the Zip manager application to compress files. Compressed files use less memory and are more convenient to e-mail.

To open Zip manager, press , and select **Office** > **Zip** .

You can perform the following tasks using Zip manager:

- Create new archive—Create a new archive file to store compressed ZIP formatted files
- Update an archive—Add single or multiplecompressed files or directories to an existing archive.
- Delete files—Delete files or directories from an existing archive.
- Archive password—Set, clear, or change the archive password for protected archives.
- Zip manager settings—Change the following settings: **Compession level** and **Include subfolders**.

You can store archive files on the device or on a compatible memory card.

Quickoffice

To use the Quickoffice applications, press , and select **Office** > **Quickoffice**. A list of files in the .doc, .xls, .ppt, and .txt file formats saved in your device opens.

To open a file in its respective application, press . To sort files, select **Options** > **Sort files**.

To open **Quickword**, **Quicksheet**, or **Quickpoint**, press to reach the desired view.

Quickword

With **Quickword**, you can view native Microsoft Word documents on the display of your device. **Quickword** supports colors, bold, italics, and underline.

Quickword supports the viewing of documents saved in .doc format in Microsoft Word 97 or later. Not all

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variations or features of the mentioned file formats are supported.

See also 'More information', p. 97.

View Word documents

To move in the document, use the scroll key.

To search the document for text, select **Options** > **Find**.

You can also select **Options** and from the following:

Go to—to move to the start, end, or selected position within the document

Zoom—to zoom in or out

Start auto-scroll—to start automatic scrolling through the document. To stop scrolling, press ◉.

Quicksheet

With **Quicksheet**, you can read Microsoft Excel files on the display of your device.

Quicksheet supports the viewing of spreadsheet files saved in .xls format in Microsoft Excel 97 or later. Not all variations or features of the mentioned file formats are supported.

See also 'More information', p. 97.

View spreadsheets

To move around in the spreadsheet, use the scroll key.

To switch between worksheets, select **Options** > **Worksheet**.

To search the speadsheet for a text within a value or formula, select **Options** > **Find**.

To change how the spreadsheet is displayed, select **Options** and from the following:

Pan—to navigate within the current worksheet by blocks. A block contains columns and rows displayed by a screen. To display the columns and rows, select a block and **OK**.

Zoom—to zoom in or out

Freeze panes—to keep the highlighted row, column, or both visible while you move in the spreadsheet

Resize—to adjust the size of columns or rows

Quickpoint

With **Quickpoint**, you can view Microsoft PowerPoint presentations on the display of your device.

Quickpoint supports the viewing of presentations created in .ppt format in Microsoft PowerPoint 97 or later. Not all variations or features of the mentioned file formats are supported.

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See also 'More information', p. 97.

View presentations

To move between the slide, outline, and the notes view, press or .

To move to the next or previous slide in the presentation, press or .

To view the presentation in full screen, select **Options** > **Full screen**.

To expand items in the presentation outline in the outline view, select **Options** > **Expand**.

More information

If you experience problems with **Quickword**, **Quicksheet**, or **Quickpoint**, visit www.quickoffice.com for more information. Support is also available by sending an e-mail to supportS60@quickoffice.com.



Adobe reader

With Adobe Reader you can read PDF documents on the display of your device.

This application has been optimized for PDF document content on handsets and other mobile devices, and provides only a limited set of features compared with PC versions.

To access and open documents:

- Press , and select **Office** > **Adobe PDF**. Select **Options** > **Browse for file** to browse and open documents stored in the device memory and on a compatible memory card.
- Open an e-mail attachment from received e-mail messages (network service).
- Send a document using Bluetooth connectivity to your **Inbox** in **Messag.**.
- Use **File mgr.** to browse and open documents stored in the device memory and on the memory card.
- Browse web pages. Ensure your device is set up with an Internet access point before browsing. For more information on access points, see the user guide for your device.

Manage PDF files

To browse and manage PDF files, press , and select **Office** > **Adobe PDF**. Your recent files are listed in the file view. To open a document, scroll to it, and press .

You can also select **Options** and from the following:

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Browse for file—to browse for PDF files in the device memory or on a compatible memory card.

Settings—to modify default zoom level and viewing mode of PDF documents.

View PDF files

When a PDF file is open, select **Options** and one of the following:

Zoom—to zoom in, out, or to a selected percentage. You can also resize the document to the screen width, or fit the whole PDF page to the screen.

Find—to search the document for a text.

View—to view the document in full screen. You can also rotate the PDF document by 90 degrees in either direction.

Go to—to move to a selected page, next page, previous page, first page, or last page.

Save—to save the file to device memory or a compatible memory card.

Settings—to modify default zoom level and default viewing mode.

Details—to display the properties of the PDF document.

More information

For more information, visit www.adobe.com.

To share questions, suggestions, and information about the application, visit the Adobe Reader for Symbian OS user forum at http://adobe.com/support/forums/main.html.



Barcode reader

Use the **Barcode** application to decode different types of codes (for example, barcodes and codes in magazines). The codes may contain information such as URL links, e-mail addresses, and phone numbers.

To scan and decode barcodes, press , and select **Office** > **Barcode**.

To scan a code, select **Scan code**. Set the code between the red lines on the display. The **Barcode** scans and decodes the code, and the decoded information appears on the display.

To save the scanned data, select **Options** > **Save**. The data is saved in .bcr format.

To view saved decoded information, in the main view, select **Saved data**. To open a code, press .

When viewing the decoded information, the different links, URL links, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses, are

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indicated by icons on the top of the display in the direction they appear in the decoded information.

Select **Saved data** > **Options** and from the following:

Scan new code—to scan a new code

Open link—to open a URL link

Add to bookmarks—to save a URL link to the bookmarks in **Web**

Create message—to send a text message or an e-mail to a phone number or an e-mail address

Add to Contacts—to add a phone number, e-mail address, or URL address to **Contacts**

Call—to call a phone number.

The available options may vary depending on the highlighted link.

The device goes into the standby mode to save battery power if **Barcode** cannot be activated or if no keys are pressed for 1 minute. To continue scanning or viewing saved information, press ⊙.

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Personalize your device

Your service provider may have requested that certain features be disabled or not activated in your device. If so, they will not appear on your device menu. Your device may also have been specially configured for your service provider. This configuration may include changes in menu names, menu order, and icons. Contact your service provider for more information.

- To use the standby display for fast access to your most frequently used applications, see 'Active standby mode', p. 102.
- To change the standby mode background image or what is shown in the screen saver, see 'Change the look of your device', p. 101.
- To customize the ringing tones, see 'Profiles—set tones', p. 100 and 'Add ringing tones for contacts', p. 69.
- To change the shortcuts assigned to , , and in the standby mode, see 'Standby mode', p. 104.



- To change the clock shown in the standby mode, press , and select **Clock** > **Options** > **Settings** > **Clock type** > **Analogue** or **Digital**.
- To change the welcome note to an image or animation, press , and select **Tools** > **Settings** > **Phone** > **General** > **Welcome note / logo**.
- To change the main menu view, in the main menu, select **Options** > **Change view** > **Grid** or **List**.
- To rearrange the main menu, in the main menu, select **Options** > **Move**, **Move to folder**, or **New folder**. You can move less used applications into folders, and place applications that you use more often into the main menu.

Profiles—set tones

To set and customize the ringing tones, message alert tones, and other tones for different events, environments, or caller groups, press , and select **Tools** > **Profiles**.

To change the profile, press in the standby mode. Scroll to the profile you want to activate, and select **OK**.

To modify a profile, press , and select **Tools** > **Profiles**. Scroll to the profile, and select **Options** > **Personalise**.

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Scroll to the setting you want to change, and press to open the choices. Tones stored on the memory card are indicated with . You can scroll through the tone list and listen to each one before you make your selection. To stop the sound, press any key.

When you choose a tone, **Tone downloads** opens a list of bookmarks. You can select a bookmark and start a connection to a web page to download tones.

If you want the caller's name to be said when your device rings, select **Options** > **Personalise** > **Say caller's name** > **On**. The caller's name must be saved in **Contacts**.

To create a new profile, select **Options** > **Create new**.

Offline profile

The offline profile lets you use the device without connecting to the wireless network. When you activate the offline profile, the connection to the wireless network is turned off, as indicated by in the signal strength indicator area. All wireless phone signals to and from the device are prevented. If you try to send messages, they are placed in the outbox to be sent later.

Warning: In the offline profile you cannot make or receive any calls, except calls to certain emergency numbers, or use other features that require network coverage. To make calls, you must change profiles to activate the phone function. If the device has been locked, enter the lock code.

Warning: Your device must be switched on to use offline profile. Do not switch the device on when wireless device use is prohibited or when it may cause interference or danger.

When you have activated the offline profile, you can still use the wireless LAN (if available), for example, to read your e-mail or browse on the internet. Remember to comply with any applicable safety requirements when establishing and using a wireless LAN connection. See 'Wireless LAN', p. 17.

To exit the offline profile, press , and select another profile. The device reenables wireless transmissions (providing there is sufficient signal strength). If a Bluetooth connection is activated before using the offline profile, it is deactivated. A Bluetooth connection is automatically reactivated after you exit the offline profile. See 'Settings', p. 84.

Change the look of your device

To change the look of the display, such as the wallpaper and icons, press , and select **Tools** > **Themes**. The active theme is indicated by . In **Themes** you can group

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together elements from other themes or select images from the **Gallery** to personalize themes further. The themes on a compatible memory card (if inserted) are indicated by . The themes on the memory card are not available if the memory card is not inserted in the device. If you want to use the themes saved in the memory card without the memory card, save the themes in the device memory first.

To open a browser connection and download more themes, select **Theme downloads**.

To activate a theme, scroll to it, and select **Options** > **Apply**. To preview a theme before activating it, select **Options** > **Preview**.

To edit themes, scroll to a theme, and select **Options** > **Edit** to change the settings for **Wallpaper** and **Power saver**.

To restore the selected theme to its original settings, select **Options** > **Restore orig. theme** when you edit a theme.

Active standby mode

Use your standby display for fast access to your most frequently used applications. By default, the active standby mode is on.

Press , select **Tools** > **Settings** > **Phone** > **Standby mode** > **Active standby**, and press to switch the active standby on or off.



The active standby display is shown with default applications across the top of the screen, and calendar, to-do, and player events listed below.

Scroll to an application or event, and press .

The standard scroll key shortcuts available in the standby mode cannot be used when the active standby mode is on.

To change the default applications shortcuts, press , select **Tools** > **Settings** > **Phone** > **Standby mode** > **Active standby apps.**, and press .

Some shortcuts may be fixed, and you are not able to change them.

Tools

Multimedia key

To open the shortcut assigned to the multimedia key, press and hold . To open a list of multimedia applications, press . To open the desired application, use the scroll key. To exit the list without selecting an application, press .

To change the shortcuts, press and . To change the applications that are shown when you press , select **Top**, **Left**, **Middle**, and **Right** and the application.

Some shortcuts may be fixed, and you are not able to change them.

Settings

To change settings, press , and select **Tools** > **Settings**. To open a settings group, press . Scroll to a setting you want to change, and press .

Some settings may be preset for the device by your service provider, and you may not be able to change them.

Phone settings

General

Phone language—Changing the language of the display texts in your device also affects the format used for date and time and the separators used, for example, in calculations. **Automatic** selects the language according to the information on your SIM card. After you change the display text language, the device restarts.

Changing the settings for **Phone language** or **Writing language** affects every application in your device, and the change remains effective until you change these settings again.

Writing language—Changing the language affects the characters and special characters available when writing text and the predictive text dictionary used.

Predictive text—Set the predictive text input **On** or **Off** for all editors in the device. The predictive text dictionary is not available for all languages.

Welcome note / logo—The welcome note or logo is displayed briefly each time you switch on the device.

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Select **Default** to use the default image, **Text** to write a welcome note, or **Image** to select an image from **Gallery**.

Orig. phone settings—You can reset some of the settings to their original values. To do this, you need the lock code. See 'Security', 'Phone and SIM', p. 110. After resetting, the device may take a longer time to power on. Documents and files are unaffected.

Standby mode

Active standby—Use shortcuts to applications in the standby mode. See 'Active standby mode', p. 102.

Left selection key—Assign a shortcut to the left selection key (⌐) in the standby mode.

Right selection key—Assign a shortcut to the right selection key (¬) in the standby mode.

Active standby apps.—Select the application shortcuts you want to appear in the active standby. This setting is only available if **Active standby** is on.

You can also assign keypad shortcuts for the different presses of the centre selection key. The centre selection key shortcuts are not available if the active standby is on.

Operator logo—This setting is only available if you have received and saved an operator logo. Select **Off** if you do not want the logo to be shown.

Display

Brightness—Adjust the basic brightness level of the display to lighter or darker. However, in extreme light conditions, the brightness of the display is automatically adjusted.

Power saver time-out—Select the time-out period after which the screen saver is activated.

Light time-out—Select a time-out after which the backlight of the display is switched off.

Cover display

Select **Personalisation** and from the following:

Wallpaper—Select the background image displayed on the cover display in the standby mode. If you select **User defined** in the wallpaper settings, the cropping tool frame is shown on top of the image you selected. The cropping tool frame is the size of the cover display, and you can zoom, rotate, and crop the area of the image you want to be displayed on the cover display.

Closing animation—Select a short animation to play when you close the cover.

Closing tone—Select a short tune to play when you close the cover.

Opening tone—Select a short tune to play when you open the cover and the device is in the standby mode.

Select **Calls** and from the following:

Answer if fold opened—Select **No** or **Yes**.

If fold closed—Select **End call** or **Activate loudspeaker**.

Call settings

Send my caller ID—Select **Yes** or **No** to set your phone to be seen or hidden from the person you are calling. Otherwise, the value may be set by your service provider when you subscribe to the network service. **Set by network** is displayed.

Call waiting—If you have activated call waiting (network service), the network notifies you of a new incoming call while you have a call in progress. To check whether the function is active, select **Check status**. To set the function on or off, select **Activate** or **Cancel**.

Reject call with SMS—Select **Yes** to send a text message to a caller informing why you could not answer the call. See 'Answer or reject a call', p. 63.

Message text—Write text to be sent in a text message when you reject a call.

Image in video call—You can deny video sending when you receive a video call. Select a still image to be displayed instead of video.

Automatic redial—Select **On**, and your device makes a maximum of 10 attempts to connect the call after an unsuccessful call attempt. To stop automatic redialing, press .

Summary after call—Activate this setting if you want the device to briefly display the approximate duration of the last call.

Speed dialling—Select **On**, and the numbers assigned to the speed dialing keys (2 – 9) can be dialed by pressing and holding the key. See also 'Speed dial a phone number', p. 58.

Anykey answer—Select **On**. To answer an incoming call briefly press any keypad key, except , , , and .

Line in use—This setting (network service) is shown only if the SIM card supports two subscriber numbers, that is, two phone lines. Select which phone line you want to use for making calls and sending text messages. Calls on both lines can be answered irrespective of the selected line. If you select **Line 2** and have not subscribed to this network service, you will not be able to make calls. When line 2 is selected, 2 is shown in the standby mode.

Tip! To switch between the phone lines, press and hold # in the standby mode.

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Line change—To prevent line selection (network service), select **Disable** if supported by your SIM card. To change this setting, you need the PIN2 code.



Connection

Data connections and access points

Your device supports packet data connections, such as GPRS in the GSM network. When you use your device in GSM and UMTS networks, multiple data connections can be active at the same time, and access points can share a data connection.

You can also use a wireless LAN data connection. See 'Wireless LAN', p. 17. Only one connection in one wireless LAN can be active at a time.

To establish a data connection, an access point is required. You can define different kinds of access points as follows:

- MMS access point to send and receive multimedia messages
- Access point for the web application to view WML or XHTML pages
- IAP to send and receive e-mail and connect to the internet

Check the type of access point you need with your service provider for the service you want to access. For availability and subscription to packet data connection services, contact your service provider.

Access points

You may receive access point settings in a message from a service provider. See 'Data and settings', p. 49. Some or all access points may be preset for your device by your service provider, and you may not be able to change, create, edit, or remove them. indicates a protected access point.

indicates a packet data access point, and a wireless LAN access point.

Tip! To create an IAP in a wireless LAN, press , and select **Connect.** > **Conn. mgr.** > **Availab. WLAN** > **Options** > **Define access point**.

To create a new access point, select **Options** > **New access point**. To edit the settings of an access point, select **Options** > **Edit**. Follow the instructions from your service provider.

Connection name—Enter a descriptive name for the connection.

Data bearer—Select the data connection type.

Depending on the data connection you select, only certain setting fields are available. Fill in all fields marked with **Must be defined** or with a red asterisk. Other fields can be left empty, unless you have been instructed otherwise by your service provider.

To be able to use a data connection, the network service provider must support this feature, and if necessary, activate it for your SIM card.

Packet data

Follow the instructions from your service provider.

Access point name—You obtain the access point name from your service provider.

User name—The user name may be needed to make a data connection, and is usually provided by the service provider.

Prompt password—If you must enter the password every time you log in to a server, or if you do not want to save your password in the device, select **Yes**.

Password—A password may be needed to make a data connection, and is usually provided by the service provider.

Authentication—Select **Normal** or **Secure**.

Homepage—Depending on the access point you are setting up, enter the web address or the address of the multimedia messaging center.

Select **Options** > **Advanced settings** to change the following settings:

Network type—Select **IPv4 settings** or **IPv6 settings**. The other settings depend on the selected network type.

Phone IP address (for IPv4 only)—Enter the IP address of your device.

DNS address—In **Primary name serv.:**, enter the IP address of the primary DNS server. In **Second. name server:**, enter the IP address of the secondary DNS server. Contact your internet service provider to obtain these addresses.

Proxy serv. address—Define the address for the proxy server.

Proxy port number—Enter the proxy port number.

Wireless LAN

Follow the instructions from your service provider.

WLAN netw. name—Select **Enter manually** or **Search for netw.**. If you select an existing network, **WLAN netw. mode** and **WLAN security mode** are determined by the settings of its access point device.

WLAN netw. mode—Select **Ad-hoc** to create an ad hoc network and to allow devices to send and receive data directly; a wireless LAN access point device is not needed.

WLAN security mode—Select the encryption used: **WEP**, **802.1x** (not for ad hoc networks), or **WPA/WPA2**. If you select **Open network**, no encryption is used. The WEP, 802.1x, and WPA functions can be used only if the network supports them.

WLAN security sett.—Enter the settings for the selected security mode:

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Security settings for **WEP** are as follows:

Wep key in use—Select the WEP key number. You can create up to four WEP keys. The same settings must be entered on the wireless LAN access point device.

Authentication type—Select **Open** or **Shared** for the authentication type between your device and the wireless LAN access point device.

WEP key settings—Enter **WEP encryption** (length of the key), **WEP key format** (**ASCII** or **Hexadecimal**), and **WEP key** (the WEP key data in the selected format).

Security settings for **802.1x** and **WPA/WPA2** are as follows:

WPA mode—Select the means of authentication: **EAP** to use an extensible authentication protocol (EAP) plug-in or **Pre-shared key** to use a password. Complete the appropriate settings:

EAP plug-in settings (only for **EAP**)—Enter the settings as your service provider instructs.

Pre-shared key (only for **Pre-shared key**)—Enter a password. The same password must be entered on the wireless LAN access point device.

TKIP encryption—Select whether Temporal Key Integrity Protocol (TKIP) is used.

Homepage—Define a home page.

Select **Options** > **Advanced settings** and from the following:

IPv4 settings: **Phone IP address** (the IP address of your device), **Subnet mask** (the subnet IP address), **Default gateway** (the gateway), and **DNS address**—Enter the IP addresses of the primary and secondary DNS server. Contact your internet service provider for these addresses.

IPv6 settings > **DNS address**—Select **Automatic**, **Well-known**, or **User defined**.

Ad-hoc channel (only for **Ad-hoc**)—To enter a channel number (1-11) manually, select **User defined**.

Proxy serv. address—Enter the address for the proxy server.

Proxy port number—Enter the proxy port number.

Packet data

The packet data settings affect all access points using a packet data connection.

Packet data conn.—If you select **When available** and you are in a network that supports packet data, the device registers to the packet data network. Starting an active packet data connection (for example, to send and receive e-mail) is quicker. If there is no packet data coverage, the device periodically tries to establish a packet data connection. If you select **When needed**, the device uses a

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packet data connection only if you start an application or action that needs it.

Access point—The access point name is needed to use your device as a packet data modem to your computer.

Wireless LAN

Show availability—Select whether is displayed when a wireless LAN is available.

Scan for networks—If you set **Show availability** to **Yes**, select how often the device searches for available wireless LANs and updates the indicator.

To view advanced settings, select **Options** > **Advanced settings**. Changing wireless LAN advanced settings is not recommended.

Configurations

You may receive trusted server settings from your service provider in a configuration message, or the settings may be stored on your USIM card. You can save these settings to your device, view, or delete them in **Configs.**.

Date and time

See 'Clock settings', p. 17 and language settings in 'General', p. 103.

Security

Phone and SIM

PIN code request—When active, the code is requested each time the device is switched on. Deactivating the PIN code request may not be allowed by some SIM cards. See 'Glossary of PIN and lock codes', p. 110.

PIN code, **PIN2 code**, and **Lock code**—You can change the lock, PIN, and PIN2 codes. These codes can only include the numbers from **0** to **9**. If you forget any of these codes, contact your service provider. See 'Glossary of PIN and lock codes', p. 110.

Avoid using access codes similar to the emergency numbers to prevent accidental dialing of the emergency number.

Autolock period—You can set an autolock period, a time-out after which the device automatically locks. To turn off the autolock period, select **None**.

To unlock the device, enter the lock code.

When the device is locked, calls may be possible to the official emergency number programmed into your device.

Tip! To lock the device manually, press . A list of commands opens. Select **Lock phone**.

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Lock if SIM changed—You can set the device to ask for the lock code when an unknown SIM card is inserted into your device. The device maintains a list of SIM cards that are recognized as the owner's cards.

Closed user group—You can specify a group of people to whom you can call and who can call you (network service).

When calls are limited to closed user groups, calls may be possible to the official emergency number programmed into your device.

Confirm SIM services—You can set the device to display confirmation messages when you are using a SIM card service (network service).

Glossary of PIN and lock codes

If you forget any of these codes, contact your service provider.

PIN code—This code protects your SIM card against unauthorized use. The PIN code (4 to 8 digits) is usually supplied with the SIM card. After three consecutive incorrect PIN code entries, the code is blocked, and you need the PUK code to unblock it.

UPIN code—This code may be supplied with the USIM card. The USIM card is an enhanced version of the SIM card and is supported by UMTS mobile phones.

PIN2 code—This code (4 to 8 digits) is supplied with some SIM cards, and is required to access some functions in your device.

Lock code (security code)—This code (5 digits) can be used to lock the device to avoid unauthorized use. The factory setting for the lock code is **12345**. To avoid unauthorized use of your device, change the lock code. Keep the new code secret and in a safe place separate from your device. If you forget the code, contact your service provider.

PUK and PUK2 codes—These codes (8 digits) are required to change a blocked PIN code or PIN2 code, respectively. If the codes are not supplied with the SIM card, contact the operator whose SIM card is in your device.

UPUK code—This code (8 digits) is required to change a blocked UPIN code. If the code is not supplied with the USIM card, contact the service provider whose USIM card is in your device.

Certificate management

Digital certificates do not guarantee safety; they are used to verify the origin of software.

In the certificate management main view, you can see a list of authority certificates that are stored in your device. Press  to see a list of personal certificates, if available.

Digital certificates should be used if you want to connect to an online bank or another site or remote server for

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actions that involve transferring confidential information. They should also be used if you want to reduce the risk of viruses or other malicious software and be sure of the authenticity of software when downloading and installing software.

Important: Even if the use of certificates makes the risks involved in remote connections and software installation considerably smaller, they must be used correctly in order to benefit from increased security. The existence of a certificate does not offer any protection by itself; the certificate manager must contain correct, authentic, or trusted certificates for increased security to be available. Certificates have a restricted lifetime. If **Expired certificate** or **Certificate not valid yet** is shown even if the certificate should be valid, check that the current date and time in your device are correct.

View certificate details—check authenticity

You can only be sure of the correct identity of a server when the signature and the period of validity of a server certificate have been checked.

You are notified if the identity of the server is not authentic or if you do not have the correct security certificate in your device.

To check certificate details, scroll to a certificate, and select **Options** > **Certificate details**. When you open certificate details, the validity of the certificate is checked, and one of the following notes may be displayed:

Certificate not trusted—You have not set any application to use the certificate. See 'Change the trust settings', p. 111.

Expired certificate—The period of validity has ended for the selected certificate.

Certificate not valid yet—The period of validity has not yet begun for the selected certificate.

Certificate corrupted—The certificate cannot be used. Contact the certificate issuer.

Change the trust settings

Before changing any certificate settings, you must make sure that you really trust the owner of the certificate and that the certificate really belongs to the listed owner.

Scroll to an authority certificate, and select **Options** > **Trust settings**. Depending on the certificate, a list of the applications that can use the selected certificate is shown. For example:

Symbian installation >**Yes**—The certificate is able to certify the origin of a new Symbian operating system application.

Internet > **Yes**—The certificate is able to certify servers.

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App. installation > **Yes**—The certificate is able to certify the origin of a new Java application.

Select **Options** > **Edit trust setting** to change the value.

Track protection object

Some copyright-protected music files may include a transaction identifier. Select whether you allow the identifier to be sent with the music file if you send or forward the file. The provider of the music file can use the identifier to track the distribution of the files.

EAP plug-ins

You can view the EAP plug-ins currently installed in your device (network service). Some Internet access points that use wireless LAN as a data bearer and WPA security mode use the plug-ins for authentication.

Call divert

Call divert allows you to divert your incoming calls to your voice mailbox or another phone number. For details, contact your service provider.

Select which calls you want to divert and the desired diverting option. To divert voice calls when your number is busy or when you reject incoming calls, select **If busy**. To check whether option is active, select **Check status**. To set the option on or off, select **Activate** or **Cancel**.

Several diverting options can be active at the same time. When all calls are diverted,  is shown in the standby mode.

Call barring and call diverting cannot be active at the same time.

Call barring

Call barring (network service) allows you to restrict the calls that you make or receive with the device. To change the settings, you need the restriction password from your service provider.

Select the desired barring option. To check whether option is active, select **Check status**. To set it on or off, select **Activate** or **Cancel**. **Call barring** affects all calls, including data calls.

Call barring and call diverting cannot be active at the same time.

When calls are barred, calls may be possible to certain official emergency numbers.

Network

Your device can automatically switch between the GSM and UMTS networks. The GSM network is indicated with in the standby mode. The UMTS network is indicated with 3G.

Network mode (shown only if supported by the wireless service provider)—Select which network to use. If you select **Dual mode**, the device uses the GSM or UMTS network automatically, according to the network parameters and the roaming agreements between the wireless service providers. Contact your service provider for more details.

Operator selection—Select **Automatic** to set the device to search for and select one of the available networks, or **Manual** to manually select the network from a list of networks. If the connection to the manually selected network is lost, the device sounds an error tone and asks you to reselect a network. The selected network must have a roaming agreement with your home cellular network.

Glossary: A roaming agreement is an agreement between two or more network service providers to enable the users of one service provider to use the services of other service providers.

Cell info display—Select **On** to set the device to indicate when it is used in a cellular network based on microcellular network (MCN) technology and to activate cell info reception.

Enhancement settings

In the standby mode, indicates a compatible headset is connected, and that the headset is unavailable, or a Bluetooth connection to a headset is lost. indicates a compatible loopset is connected and that a **Text phone** is connected.

Select **Headset**, **Loopset**, **Text phone**, **Bluetooth handsfree**, or **Car kit** and from the following:

Default profile—Set the profile that you want activated each time you connect a certain enhancement to your device. See 'Profiles—set tones', p. 100.

Automatic answer—Set if you want the device to answer an incoming call automatically after 5 seconds. If the ringing type is set to **Beep once** or **Silent**, automatic answer is disabled. Automatic answer is not available for **Text phone**.

Lights (for car kit)—Set whether lights remain on or are switched off after the time-out.

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If you are using a **Text phone**, you must activate it on your device. Press , and select **Tools** > **Settings** > **Enhancement** > **Text phone** > **Use Text phone** > **Yes**.

TV configuration

Press , and select **Tools** > **TV out**. Select from the following:

TV system—Select **PAL** for PAL and SECAM TV system format or **NTSC** for NTSC TV system format.

Ratio—Select **4:3** or **16:9**.



Voice commands

You can use voice commands to control your device. For more information about the enhanced voice commands supported by your device, see 'Voice dialing', p. 58.

To activate enhanced voice commands for starting applications and profiles, press and select **Tools** > **Voice cm.** > **Profiles**. The device creates voice tags for the applications and profiles. To use enhanced voice commands, press and hold in the standby mode, and say a voice command. The voice command is the name of the application or profile displayed in the list.

To add more applications to the list, select **Options** > **New application**. To add a second voice command that can be used to start the application, select **Options** > **Change command**, and enter the new voice command as text. Avoid very short names, abbreviations, and acronyms.

To listen to the synthesized voice tag, select **Options** > **Playback**.

To change voice command settings, select **Options** > **Settings**. To switch off the synthesizer that plays recognized voice tags and commands in the selected device language, select **Synthesiser** > **Off**. To reset voice recognition learning, select **Reset voice adapts.**.



Application manager

Press , and select **Tools** > **App. mgr.**. You can install two types of applications and software to your device:

- J2ME™ applications based on Java technology with the extension .jad or .jar ( ).
- Other applications and software suitable for the Symbian operating system ( ). The installation files have the .sis extension. Only install software specifically designed for your Nokia device. Software providers will often refer to the official model number of this product.

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Installation files may be transferred to your device from a compatible computer, downloaded during browsing, or sent to you in a multimedia message, as an e-mail attachment, or using Bluetooth connectivity or infrared. You can use Nokia Application Installer in Nokia PC Suite to install an application to your device. If you use Microsoft Windows Explorer to transfer a file, save the file to a memory card (local disk).

After you install applications to a compatible memory card, installation files (.sis) remain in the device memory. The files may use large amounts of memory and prevent you from storing other files. To maintain sufficient memory, use Nokia PC Suite to back up installation files to a compatible PC, then use the file manager to remove the installation files from the device memory. If the .sis file is a message attachment, delete the message from the Messaging inbox.

Install applications and software

 indicates a .sis application,  a Java application,  that the application is not fully installed, and that the application is installed on a compatible memory card.

Important: Only install and use applications and other software from trusted sources, such as applications that are Symbian Signed or have passed the Java VerifiedTM testing.

Before installation, note the following:

- To view the application type, version number, and the supplier or manufacturer of the application, select **Options** > **View details**.
- To display the security certificate details of the application, select **Options** > **View certificate**. See 'Certificate management', p. 110.
- If you install a file that contains an update or repair to an existing application, you can only restore the original application if you have the original installation file or a full back-up copy of the removed software package. To restore the original application, remove the application, and install the application again from the original installation file or the back-up copy.
- The .jar file is required for installing Java applications. If it is missing, the device may ask you to download it. If there is no access point defined for the application, you are asked to select one. When you are downloading the .jar file, you may need to enter a user name and password to access the server. You obtain these from the supplier or manufacturer of the application.

1 To locate an installation file, press  , and select **Tools** > **App. mgr.**. Alternatively, search the device memory or a memory card (if inserted) in **File mgr.**, or open a message in **Messag.** > **Inbox** that contains an installation file.

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2 In App. mgr., select Options > Install. In other applications, scroll to the installation file, and press to start the installation.
During installation, the device shows information about the progress of the installation. If you are installing an application without a digital signature or certification, the device displays a warning. Continue installation only if you are sure of the origin and contents of the application.

To start an installed application, locate it in the menu, and press .

To start a network connection and to view extra information about the application, select Options > Go to web address, if available.

To see what software packages are installed or removed and when, select Options > View log.

To send your installation log to a help desk so that they can see what is installed or removed, select Options > Send log > Via text message or Via e-mail (available only if the correct e-mail settings are in place).

Important: Your device can only support one antivirus application. Having more than one application with antivirus functionality could affect performance and operation or cause the device to stop functioning.

Remove applications and software

Scroll to a software package, and select Options > Remove. Select Yes to confirm.

If you remove software, you can only reinstall it if you have the original software package or a full backup of the removed software package. If you remove a software package, you may no longer be able to open documents created with that software.

If another software package depends on the software package that you removed, the other software package may stop working. Refer to the documentation of the installed software package for details.

Settings

Select Options > Settings and from the following:

Online certif. check—Select to check the online certificates before installing an application.

Default web address—Set the default address used when checking online certificates.

Some Java applications may require a phone call, a message to be sent, or a network connection to a specific access point for downloading extra data or components. In the App. mgr. main view, scroll to an application, and

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select **Options** > **Suite settings** to change settings related to that specific application.



Activation keys for copyright-protected files

Copyright protections may prevent some images, music (including ringing tones), and other content from being copied, modified, transferred or forwarded.

To view the digital rights activation keys stored in your device, press , and select **Tools** > **Actv. keys** and from the following:

Valid keys—View keys that are connected to one or more media files and keys whose validity period has not started yet.

Invalid keys—View keys that are not valid; the time period for using the media file is exceeded or there is a protected media file in the device but no connected activation key.

Not in use—View keys that have no media files connected to them in the device.

To buy more usage time or extend the usage period for a media file, select an invalid activation key and **Options** > **Get activation key**. Activation keys cannot be updated if web service message reception is disabled. See 'Web service messages', p. 50.

To view detailed information, such as the validity status and ability to send the file, scroll to an activation key, and press .

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Troubleshooting

Q&A

Access codes

Q: What is my password for the lock, PIN, or PUK codes?

A: The default lock code is **12345**. If you forget or lose the lock code, contact your device dealer.
If you forget or lose a PIN or PUK code, or if you have not received such a code, contact your network service provider.
For information about passwords, contact your access point provider, for example, a commercial internet service provider (ISP) or wireless service provider.

Application not responding

Q: How do I close an application that is not responding?

A: To open the application switching window, press and hold . Scroll to the application, and press C to close the application.

Bluetooth connectivity

Q: Why can't I find my friend's device?

A: Check that both devices have activated Bluetooth connectivity.
Check that the distance between the two devices is not over 10 meters (33 feet) and that there are no walls or other obstructions between the devices.
Check that the other device is not in the hidden mode.
Check that both devices are compatible.

Q: Why can't I end a Bluetooth connection?

A: If another device is connected to your device, you can either end the connection using the other device or by deactivating Bluetooth connectivity. Select **Connect.** > **Bluetooth** > **Off**.

Browser services

Q: What do I do if the following message is displayed: **No valid access point defined. Define one in Services settings.**?

A: Insert the correct browser settings. Contact your service provider for instructions.

Camera

Q: Why do images look smudgy?

A: Remove the protective plastic film covering the display and camera. Ensure that the camera lens protection window is clean.

Q: Why is there audible noise from the camera when autofocus or optical zoom is used?

A: Zoom and AF lens movement causes mechanical noise. Select **Options** > **Settings** > **Optical zoom during recording** > **Off** to eliminate mechanical noise caused by lens movement when recording.

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Q: Why do images or videos captured using night mode tend to be noisier under dark lighting conditions compared to normal mode?

A: The output of the image sensor under the dark lighting conditions is more amplified with night mode than with normal mode to provide better brightness. In return, the noise level on the image or video increases.

Q: Why do VGA video frames appear jagged when video stabilization is activated?

A: Each video frame is enlarged from a smaller size within VGA to the VGA size when video stabilization is activated. Due to this, the quality within each frame is degraded compared to video without stabilization mode.

Display

Q: Why do missing, discolored, or bright dots appear on the screen every time I turn on my device?

A: This is a characteristic of this type of display. Some displays may contain pixels or dots that remain on or off. This is normal, not a fault.

Home network (UPnP)

Q: Why can't I share files with other devices?

A: Ensure that you have configured the home network settings. Select **Connect.** > **Home net.** > **Share content** > **Content sharing**, and the other device is UPnP compatible.

Log

Q: Why does the log appear empty?

A: You may have activated a filter, and no communication events fitting that filter have been logged. To see all events, select **My own** > **Log** > **Options** > **Filter** > **All communication**.

Memory low

Q: What can I do if my device memory is low?

A: You can delete the following items regularly to avoid memory getting low:

- Messages from **Inbox**, **Drafts**, and **Sent** folders in **Messag.**
- Retrieved e-mail messages from the device memory
- Saved browser pages
- Images and photos in **Gallery**

To delete contact information, calendar notes, call timers, call cost timers, game scores, or any other data, go to the respective application to remove the data. If you are deleting multiple items and one of the following notes are shown: **Not enough memory to perform operation. Delete some data first.** or **Memory low. Delete some data.**, try deleting items one by one (starting from the smallest item).

Q: How can I save my data before deleting it?

A: Save your data using one of the following methods:

- Use Nokia PC Suite to make a back-up copy of all data to a compatible computer.
- Send images to your e-mail address, then save the images to your computer.

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- Send data using Bluetooth connectivity to a compatible device.
- Store data on a compatible memory card.

Messaging

Q: Why can't I select a contact?

A: The contact card does not have a phone number or an e-mail address. Add the missing information to the contact card in **Contacts**.

Multimedia messaging

Q: What should I do when the device cannot receive a multimedia message because memory is full?

A: The amount of memory needed is indicated in the error message: **Not enough memory to retrieve message. Delete some data first.** To view what kind of data you have and how much memory the different data groups consume, select **File manager** > **Options** > **Memory details**.

Q: The note **Retrieving message** is shown briefly. What is happening?

A: The device is trying to retrieve a multimedia message from the multimedia messaging center.
Check that the settings for multimedia messaging are defined correctly and that there are no mistakes in phone numbers or addresses. Select **Messaging** > **Options** > **Settings** > **Multim. msg.**.

Q: How can I end the data connection when the device starts a data connection again and again?

A: To stop the device from making a data connection, select **Messaging** and one of the following:
On receiving msg. > **Defer retrieval**—to have the multimedia messaging center save the message to be retrieved later, for example, after you have checked the settings. After this change, the device still needs to send information notes to the network. To retrieve the message now, select **Retr. immediately**.
On receiving msg. > **Reject message**—to reject all incoming multimedia messages. After this change, the device needs to send information notes to the network, and the multimedia messaging center deletes multimedia messages that are waiting to be sent to you.
Multimedia recept. > **Off**—to ignore all incoming multimedia messages. After this change, the device does not make any network connections related to multimedia messaging.

PC connectivity

Q: Why do I have problems connecting the device to my PC?

A: Ensure that Nokia PC Suite is installed and running on your PC. See the user guide for Nokia PC Suite on the DVD-ROM. For further information on how to use Nokia PC Suite, see the help function on Nokia PC Suite or visit the support pages at www.nokia.com.

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Wireless LAN

Q: Why can't I see a wireless LAN (WLAN) access point even though I know I'm within its range?

A: The WLAN access point may use a hidden service set identifier (SSID). You can only access networks that use a hidden SSID if you know the correct SSID and have created a WLAN internet access point for the network on your Nokia device.

Q: How do I switch wireless LAN (WLAN) off on my Nokia device?

A: You cannot switch off WLAN on your Nokia device. To reduce battery consumption, you can specify that your Nokia device does not scan for available networks.

To turn off the background scan:

1. Press , and select **Tools** > **Settings** > **Connection** > **Wireless LAN**.
2. Select **Scan for networks** > **Never**.
3. To save your changes, select **Done**.

When **Scan for networks** is set to **Never**, your Nokia device still listens to available networks, and you can use available WLAN networks as usual.

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Battery information

Charging and discharging

Your device is powered by a rechargeable battery. The full performance of a new battery is achieved only after two or three complete charge and discharge cycles. The battery can be charged and discharged hundreds of times but it will eventually wear out. When the talk and standby times are noticeably shorter than normal, replace the battery. Use only Nokia approved batteries, and recharge your battery only with Nokia approved chargers designated for this device.

If a replacement battery is being used for the first time or if the battery has not been used for a prolonged period, it may be necessary to connect the charger then disconnect and reconnect it to begin charging the battery.

Unplug the charger from the electrical plug and the device when not in use. Do not leave a fully charged battery connected to a charger, since overcharging may shorten its lifetime. If left unused, a fully charged battery will lose its charge over time.

If the battery is completely discharged, it may take a few minutes before the charging indicator appears on the display or before any calls can be made.

Use the battery only for its intended purpose. Never use any charger or battery that is damaged.

Do not short-circuit the battery. Accidental short-circuiting can occur when a metallic object such as a coin, clip, or pen causes direct connection of the positive (+) and negative (-) terminals of the battery. (These look like metal strips on the battery.) This might happen, for example, when you carry a spare battery in your pocket or purse. Short-circuiting the terminals may damage the battery or the connecting object.

Leaving the battery in hot or cold places, such as in a closed car in summer or winter conditions, will reduce the capacity and lifetime of the battery. Always try to keep the battery between 15°C and 25°C (59°F and 77°F). A device with a hot or cold battery may not work temporarily, even when the battery is fully charged. Battery performance is particularly limited in temperatures well below freezing.

Do not dispose of batteries in a fire as they may explode. Batteries may also explode if damaged. Dispose of batteries according to local regulations. Please recycle when possible. Do not dispose as household waste.

Nokia battery authentication guidelines

Always use original Nokia batteries for your safety. To check that you are getting an original Nokia battery, purchase it from an authorized Nokia dealer, look for the Nokia Original

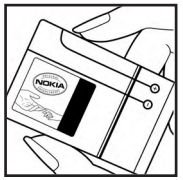
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Enhancements logo on the packaging, and inspect the hologram label using the following steps:

Successful completion of the four steps is not a total assurance of the authenticity of the battery. If you have any reason to believe that your battery is not an authentic original Nokia battery, you should refrain from using it and take it to the nearest authorized Nokia service point or dealer for assistance. Your authorized Nokia service point or dealer will inspect the battery for authenticity. If authenticity cannot be verified, return the battery to the place of purchase.

Authenticate hologram

1 When looking at the hologram on the label, you should see the Nokia connecting hands symbol from one angle and the Nokia Original Enhancements logo when looking from another angle.



2 When you angle the hologram left, right, down, and up, you should see 1, 2, 3, and 4 dots on each side respectively.



3 Scratch the side of the label to reveal a 20-digit code, for example, 12345678919876543210. Turn the battery so that the numbers are facing upwards. The 20-digit code reads starting from the number at the top row followed by the bottom row.



4 Confirm that the 20-digit code is valid by following the instructions at www.nokia.com/batterycheck.



To create a text message, enter the 20-digit code, for example, 12345678919876543210, and send to +44 7786 200276.

National and international operator charges will apply.

You should receive a message indicating whether the code can be authenticated.

What if your battery is not authentic?

If you cannot confirm that your Nokia battery with the hologram on the label is an authentic Nokia battery, please do not use the battery. Take it to the nearest authorized Nokia service point or dealer for assistance. The use of a battery that is not approved by the manufacturer may be dangerous and may result in poor performance and damage to your device

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and its enhancements. It may also invalidate any approval or warranty applying to the device.

To find out more about original Nokia batteries, visit www.nokia.com/battery.

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Care and maintenance

Your device is a product of superior design and craftsmanship and should be treated with care. The suggestions below will help you protect your warranty coverage.

- Keep the device dry. Precipitation, humidity, and all types of liquids or moisture can contain minerals that will corrode electronic circuits. If your device does get wet, remove the battery, and allow the device to dry completely before replacing it.
- Do not use or store the device in dusty, dirty areas. Its moving parts and electronic components can be damaged.
- Do not store the device in hot areas. High temperatures can shorten the life of electronic devices, damage batteries, and warp or melt certain plastics.
- Do not store the device in cold areas. When the device returns to its normal temperature, moisture can form inside the device and damage electronic circuit boards.
- Do not attempt to open the device other than as instructed in this guide.
- Do not drop, knock, or shake the device. Rough handling can break internal circuit boards and fine mechanics.
- Do not use harsh chemicals, cleaning solvents, or strong detergents to clean the device.
- Do not paint the device. Paint can clog the moving parts and prevent proper operation.
- Use a soft, clean, dry cloth to clean any lenses (such as camera, proximity sensor, and light sensor lenses).
- Use only the supplied or an approved replacement antenna. Unauthorized antennas, modifications, or attachments could damage the device and may violate regulations governing radio devices.
- Use chargers indoors.
- Always create a backup of data you want to keep (such as contacts and calendar notes) before sending your device to a service facility.
- To allow the device to reset, power the device off, and remove the battery from time to time for optimum performance. Make back-up copies of all important data.

All of the above suggestions apply equally to your device, battery, charger, or any enhancement. If any device is not working properly, take it to the nearest authorized service facility for service.

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Additional safety information

Your device and its enhancements may contain small parts. Keep them out of the reach of small children.

Operating environment

Remember to follow any special regulations in force in any area, and always switch off your device when its use is prohibited or when it may cause interference or danger. Use the device only in its normal operating positions. This device meets RF exposure guidelines when used either in the normal use position against the ear or when positioned at least 2.2 centimeters (7/8 inch) away from the body. When a carry case, belt clip, or holder is used for body-worn operation, it should not contain metal and should position the device the above-stated distance from your body.

In order to transmit data files or messages, this device requires a good quality connection to the network. In some cases, transmission of data files or messages may be delayed until such a connection is available. Ensure the above separation distance instructions are followed until the transmission is completed.

Parts of the device are magnetic. Metallic materials may be attracted to the device. Do not place credit cards or other magnetic storage media near the device, because information stored on them may be erased.

Medical devices

Operation of any radio transmitting equipment, including wireless phones, may interfere with the functionality of inadequately protected medical devices. Consult a physician or the manufacturer of the medical device to determine if they are adequately shielded from external RF energy or if you have any questions. Switch off your device in health care facilities when any regulations posted in these areas instruct you to do so. Hospitals or health care facilities may be using equipment that could be sensitive to external RF energy.

Pacemakers

Pacemaker manufacturers recommend that a minimum separation of 15.3 centimeters (6 inches) be maintained between a wireless phone and a pacemaker to avoid potential interference with the pacemaker. These recommendations are consistent with the independent research by and recommendations of Wireless Technology Research. Persons with pacemakers should:

- Always keep the device more than 15.3 centimeters (6 inches) from their pacemaker
- Not carry the device in a breast pocket
- Hold the device to the ear opposite the pacemaker to minimise the potential for interference.

If you suspect interference, switch off your device, and move the device away.

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Hearing aids

Some digital wireless devices may interfere with some hearing aids. If interference occurs, consult your service provider.

Vehicles

RF signals may affect improperly installed or inadequately shielded electronic systems in motor vehicles such as electronic fuel injection systems, electronic antiskid (antilock) braking systems, electronic speed control systems, and air bag systems. For more information, check with the manufacturer or its representative of your vehicle or any equipment that has been added.

Only qualified personnel should service the device, or install the device in a vehicle. Faulty installation or service may be dangerous and may invalidate any warranty that may apply to the device. Check regularly that all wireless device equipment in your vehicle is mounted and operating properly. Do not store or carry flammable liquids, gases, or explosive materials in the same compartment as the device, its parts, or enhancements. For vehicles equipped with an air bag, remember that air bags inflate with great force. Do not place objects, including installed or portable wireless equipment in the area over the air bag or in the air bag deployment area. If in-vehicle wireless equipment is improperly installed and the air bag inflates, serious injury could result.

Using your device while flying in aircraft is prohibited. Switch off your device before boarding an aircraft. The use of wireless teledevices in an aircraft may be dangerous to the operation of the aircraft, disrupt the wireless telephone network, and may be illegal.

Potentially explosive environments

Switch off your device when in any area with a potentially explosive atmosphere, and obey all signs and instructions. Potentially explosive atmospheres include areas where you would normally be advised to turn off your vehicle engine. Sparks in such areas could cause an explosion or fire resulting in bodily injury or even death. Switch off the device at refueling points such as near gas pumps at service stations. Observe restrictions on the use of radio equipment in fuel depots, storage, and distribution areas, chemical plants or where blasting operations are in progress. Areas with a potentially explosive atmosphere are often but not always clearly marked. They include below deck on boats, chemical transfer or storage facilities, vehicles using liquefied petroleum gas (such as propane or butane), and areas where the air contains chemicals or particles such as grain, dust, or metal powders.

Emergency calls

Important: Wireless phones, including this device, operate using radio signals, wireless networks, landline networks, and user-programmed functions. Because of this, connections in all conditions cannot be guaranteed. You should never rely solely on any wireless device for essential communications like medical emergencies.

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To make an emergency call:

1. If the device is not on, switch it on. Check for adequate signal strength.
   Some networks may require that a valid SIM card is properly inserted in the device.
2. Press as many times as needed to clear the display and ready the device for calls.
3. Enter the official emergency number for your present location. Emergency numbers vary by location.
4. Press the key.

If certain features are in use, you may first need to turn those features off before you can make an emergency call. Consult this guide or your service provider for more information.

When making an emergency call, give all the necessary information as accurately as possible. Your wireless device may be the only means of communication at the scene of an accident. Do not end the call until given permission to do so.

Certification information (SAR)

THIS MOBILE DEVICE MEETS GUIDELINES FOR EXPOSURE TO RADIO WAVES.

Your mobile device is a radio transmitter and receiver. It is designed not to exceed the limits for exposure to radio waves recommended by international guidelines. These guidelines were developed by the independent scientific organization ICNIRP and include safety margins designed to assure the protection of all persons, regardless of age and health.

The exposure guidelines for mobile devices employ a unit of measurement known as the Specific Absorption Rate or SAR. The SAR limit stated in the ICNIRP guidelines is 2.0 watts/kilogram (W/kg) averaged over 10 grams of tissue. Tests for SAR are conducted using standard operating positions with the device transmitting at its highest certified power level in all tested frequency bands. The actual SAR level of an operating device can be below the maximum value because the device is designed to use only the power required to reach the network. That amount changes depending on a number of factors such as how close you are to a network base station. The highest SAR value under the ICNIRP guidelines for use of the device at the ear is 0.54 W/kg.

Use of device accessories and enhancements may result in different SAR values. SAR values may vary depending on national reporting and testing requirements and the network band. Additional SAR information may be provided under product information at www.nokia.com.

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https://web.archive.org/web/20061114195641/http://nds1.nokia.com/files/support/apac/phones/guides/Nokia_N93_APAC_UG_en.pdf

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CE 0434

DECLARATION OF CONFORMITY
Hereby, NOKIA CORPORATION, declares that this RM-55 is in compliance with the essential requirements and other relevant provisions of Directive 1999/5/EC. A copy of the Declaration of Conformity can be found at http://www.nokia.com/phones/declaration_of_conformity/

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The availability of particular products may vary by region. Please check with the Nokia dealer nearest to you.

This device may contain commodities, technology or software subject to export laws and regulations from the US and other countries. Diversion contrary to law is prohibited.

FCC / INDUSTRY CANADA NOTICE

Your device may cause TV or radio interference (for example, when using a telephone in close proximity to receiving equipment). The FCC or Industry Canada can require you to stop using your telephone if such interference cannot be eliminated. If you require assistance, contact your local service facility. This device complies with part 15 of the FCC rules. Operation is subject to the condition that this device does not cause harmful interference.

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For your safety

Read these simple guidelines. Not following them may be dangerous or illegal. Read the complete user guide for further information.



SWITCH ON SAFELY Do not switch the device on when wireless phone use is prohibited or when it may cause interference or danger.



ROAD SAFETY COMES FIRST Obey all local laws. Always keep your hands free to operate the vehicle while driving. Your first consideration while driving should be road safety.



INTERFERENCE All wireless devices may be susceptible to interference, which could affect performance.



SWITCH OFF IN HOSPITALS Follow any restrictions. Switch the device off near medical equipment.



SWITCH OFF IN AIRCRAFT Follow any restrictions. Wireless devices can cause interference in aircraft.



SWITCH OFF WHEN REFUELING Do not use the device at a refueling point. Do not use near fuel or chemicals.



SWITCH OFF NEAR BLASTING Follow any restrictions. Do not use the device where blasting is in progress.



USE SENSIBLY Use only in the normal position as explained in the product documentation. Do not touch the antenna unnecessarily.



QUALIFIED SERVICE Only qualified personnel may install or repair this product.



ENHANCEMENTS AND BATTERIES Use only approved enhancements and batteries. Do not connect incompatible products.



WATER-RESISTANCE Your device is not water-resistant. Keep it dry.



BACK-UP COPIES Remember to make back-up copies or keep a written record of all important information.

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CONNECTING TO OTHER DEVICES When connecting to any other device, read its user guide for detailed safety instructions. Do not connect incompatible products.



EMERGENCY CALLS Ensure the phone function of the device is switched on and in service. The keypad is active only in the Fold open mode. Press as many times as needed to clear the display and return to the start screen. Enter the emergency number, then press . Give your location. Do not end the call until given permission to do so.

About your device

The wireless device described in this guide is approved for use on the EGSM 900/1800/1900 and UMTS 2100 networks. Contact your service provider for more information about networks.

When using the features in this device, obey all laws and respect privacy and legitimate rights of others.

When taking and using images or video clips, obey all laws and respect local customs as well as privacy and legitimate rights of others.

This device supports common features of Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and Excel (Microsoft Office 97, 2000, XP, and 2003). Not all file formats can be viewed or modified.



Warning: To use any features in this device, other than the alarm clock, the device must be switched on. Do not switch the device on when wireless device use may cause interference or danger.

Network services

To use the device you must have service from a wireless service provider. Many of the features in this device depend on features in the wireless network to function. These network services may not be available on all networks or you may have to make specific arrangements with your service provider before you can utilize network services. Your service provider may need to give you additional instructions for their use and explain what charges will apply. Some networks may have limitations that affect how you can use network services. For instance, some networks may not support all language-dependent characters and services. Network features are designated in this guide by (network services).

Your service provider may have requested that certain features be disabled or not activated in your device. If so, they will not appear on your device menu. Your device may also have been specially configured. This configuration may include changes in menu names, menu order, and icons. Contact your service provider for more information.

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This device supports WAP 2.0 protocols (HTTP and SSL) that run on TCP/IP protocols. Some features of this device, such as MMS, browsing, e-mail, and content downloading using the browser or over MMS, require network support for these technologies.

For availability and information on using SIM card services, contact your SIM card vendor. This may be the service provider, network operator, or other vendor.

Enhancements, batteries, and chargers

Always switch the device off and disconnect the charger before removing the battery.

Check the model number of any charger before use with this device. This device is intended for use when supplied with power from a DC-4, AC-3, or AC-4 charger, and from an AC-1, ACP-7, ACP-8, ACP-9, ACP-12, LCH-8, LCH-9, or LCH-12 charger when used with the CA-44 charger adapter.

The battery intended for use with this device is BP-6M.

Warning: Use only batteries, chargers, and enhancements approved by Nokia for use with this particular model. The use of any other types may invalidate any approval or warranty, and may be dangerous.

For availability of approved enhancements, please check with your dealer. When you disconnect the power cord of any enhancement, grasp and pull the plug, not the cord.

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Your Nokia N93

Model number: Nokia N93-1

Hereinafter referred to as Nokia N93.

Modes

Your device has four mechanical modes that are optimized for different use situations: **Fold closed** for carrying, **Fold open** for traditional mobile phone use, **Imaging** for recording video and taking pictures, and **View** for viewing your images and videos. To switch between the modes, turn the fold and the swing axis display. There is a short time-out before a mode is activated.

Fold closed mode



When the fold is closed, the main display deactivates and the cover display lights up. Ongoing calls end, unless the loudspeaker is in use or a compatible headset is connected. To change the settings, see "Cover display", on page 97. If you are using the player to listen to a sound clip, it continues to play.

In the Fold closed mode, the cover display provides clock and status information. On the standby mode display, the signal strength and battery indicators, time information, status indicators, and the name of the active profile (if other than **General**) may be shown. If you are using the music player to listen to a sound clip, volume bars and track information are displayed. Use the side scroll keys to play, pause, play the next/previous sound clip, and turn the volume up or down.

If you are using Visual Radio in the Fold closed mode, the visual content is not shown on the cover display. You can store several preset stations with station name, frequency, and location information. This information is shown on the cover display. To turn the audio on and off, change the channel, and seek new channels, use the scroll key on the side of the device.

Calendar and clock alarms and notes for missed calls and new received messages are also displayed. To view received text messages and the text and image objects of received multimedia messages, open the fold, and view the message on the main display.

Incoming calls are indicated by their normal tone and a note. In the cover display settings, select **Answer if fold opened** to answer a call when you open the fold. If a

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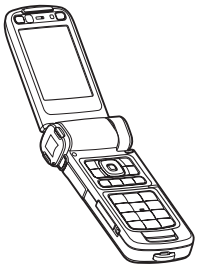
compatible headset is connected to the device, press the answer key on the headset. To change the settings, see "Cover display", on page 97.

To make calls or use the menu, open the fold.

To use the flash as a torch light, press the flash key on the side of the device. To operate the torch light:

- Quickly press the flash key once. The torch light is activated for 1.5 seconds.
- Quickly press the flash key twice. The torch light is activated for 3 minutes, or until you press the flash key again.
- Press and hold the flash key. The torch light is activated and stays on for as long as you hold the key or until the 3 minute time-out ends.

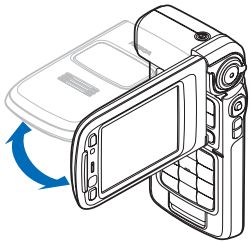
Fold open mode



When you open the fold, the Fold open mode is activated automatically: the main display lights up, the keypad is available, and you can access the menu. Scroll in the menu with the scroll key.

The Fold open mode is activated even if the fold is not fully opened. The fold opens about 160 degrees, as shown in the picture. Do not force the fold to open more.

Imaging mode



When you open the fold up to 90 degrees, hold the device sideways, and turn the fold down so that the main display faces you, the Imaging mode is activated. The main camera is activated, and you can see the view to be captured.

In the Imaging mode, you can record videos and take pictures. See "Camera", on page 21.

In the Imaging mode, the keypad is not active. You can use the capture key, zoom key, side scroll key, camera mode key, and flash key (all located on the side of the device), power key, and the landscape selection keys and selection keys next to the main display.

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View mode

When the fold is closed and you lift the side of the swing axis display when the fold is closed, the View mode is activated.

Use the View mode to do the following:



- View your images.
- Activate photos and movies from the gallery to watch slideshows.
- Make hands free video calls and send live video during a video call. Adjust the angle of the display for optimum secondary camera angle.

Useful shortcuts

Use shortcuts to quickly get the most from your device. Refer to the relevant sections in this user guide for further details of the functions.

Standby mode

- To switch between applications that are open, press and hold , and select an application. If memory is low, the device may close some applications. The device saves any unsaved data before closing an application.
  Leaving applications running in the background increases the demand on battery power and reduces the battery life.
- To start the camera, fully press the capture key in the Imaging mode.
- To call your voice mailbox (network service), press and hold 1.
- To open multimedia applications, press and hold . See "Media key", on page 96.
- To change the profile, press , and select a profile.
- To switch between the **General** and **Silent** profiles, press and hold # . If you have two phone lines, this action switches between the two lines.
- To open the last dialed numbers list, press .
- To use voice commands, press and hold .
- To start a connection to **Services**, press and hold 0. See "Web", on page 65.

For other shortcuts available in the standby mode, see "Active standby mode", on page 95.

Edit text and lists

- To mark an item in a list, scroll to it, and press and at the same time.
- To mark multiple items in a list, press and hold while you press or . To end the selection, release , then release .

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- To copy and paste text: To select letters and words, press and hold ✎. At the same time, press ◻ or ◻ to highlight text. To copy the text to clipboard, while still holding ✎, select **Copy**. To insert the text into a document, press and hold ✎, and select **Paste**.

Settings

Your Nokia N93 normally has MMS, GPRS, streaming, and mobile Internet settings automatically configured in the device, based upon your service provider or network operator information. You may have settings from your service providers already installed in your device, or you may receive the settings from the service providers as a special text message.



Transfer content from another device

You can copy content such as contacts and calendar entries from a compatible Nokia phone to your Nokia N93 using Bluetooth connectivity or infrared. The type of content that can be copied depends on the phone model.

Copyright protections may prevent some images, music (including ringing tones), and other content from being copied, modified, transferred or forwarded.

You can insert your SIM card in the other device. When your Nokia N93 is switched on without a SIM card, the offline profile is automatically activated.

Transfer content

1. Press ⚙, and select **Tools** > **Transfer** on your Nokia N93.
2. In the information view, select **Continue**.
3. Select whether you want to use Bluetooth connectivity or infrared to transfer the data. Both devices must support the selected connection type.
4. If you select Bluetooth connectivity, to have your Nokia N93 search for devices with Bluetooth connectivity, select **Continue**. Select your other device from the list. You are asked to enter a code on your Nokia N93. Enter a code (1-16 digits), and select **OK**. Enter the same code on the other device, and select **OK**. The devices are now paired. See "Pair devices", on page 80.
   For some phone models, the **Transfer** application is sent to the other device as a message. To install **Transfer** on the other device, open the message, and follow the instructions on the display.
   If you select infrared, connect the two devices. See "Infrared connection", on page 81.
5. From your Nokia N93, select the content you want to copy from the other device.

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Content is copied from the memory and compatible memory card (if inserted) of the other device to the corresponding location in your Nokia N93 and memory card (if inserted). The copying time depends on the amount of data to be transferred. You can cancel copying and continue later.

To view the log information of a previous transfer, in the main view, select **Transfer log**.

To view the devices you have copied or transferred data from, in the main view, select **Phones**.

Essential indicators

The device is being used in a GSM network.

3G The device is being used in a UMTS network (network service).

You have one or more unread messages in the **Inbox** folder in **Messag.**.

You have received new e-mail in the remote mailbox.

There are messages waiting to be sent in the **Outbox** folder.

You have missed calls.

Shown if **Ringing type** is set to **Silent** and **Message alert tone**, **IM alert tone**, and **E-mail alert tone** are set to **Off**.

The device keypad is locked.

A clock alarm is active.

2 The second phone line is being used (network service).

All calls to the device are forwarded to another number. If you have two phone lines (network service), the indicator for the first line is 1 and for the second 2.

A headset is connected to the device.

The connection to a headset with Bluetooth connectivity has been lost.

A loopset is connected to the device.

A text phone is connected to the device.

D A data call is active.

A GPRS or EDGE packet data connection is available.

A GPRS or EDGE packet data connection is active.

A GPRS or EDGE packet data connection is on hold.

3G A UMTS packet data connection is available.

3G A UMTS packet data connection is active.

3G A UMTS packet data connection is on hold.

You have set the device to scan for wireless LANs, and a wireless LAN is available. See "Wireless LAN", on page 102.

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A wireless LAN connection is active in a network that has encryption.

A wireless LAN connection is active in a network that does not have encryption.

Bluetooth connectivity is on.

Data is being transmitted using Bluetooth connectivity.

A USB connection is active.

An infrared connection is active. If the indicator is blinking, the device is trying to connect to the other device or the connection has been lost.

Keypad lock (keyguard)

Use the keypad lock to prevent the keys from being accidentally pressed.

To turn on the display light when the keypad lock is on, press the power key.

- To lock: In the standby mode, press , then *. When the keys are locked, is shown on the display.
- To unlock in the Fold open mode: Press , then *.
- To unlock in the Fold closed mode: Press the scroll key. An unlock dialog appears on the cover display. Select **Yes** by moving the scroll key.

When the keypad lock is on, calls may be possible to the official emergency number programmed into your device.

Volume and loudspeaker control



To increase or decrease the volume level when you have an active call or are listening to a sound, press or .

The built-in loudspeaker allows you to speak and listen from a short distance without having to hold the device to your ear.

Warning: Do not hold the device near your ear when the loudspeaker is in use, because the volume may be extremely loud.

To use the loudspeaker during a call, select **Options** > **Activate loudsp.**.

To turn off the loudspeaker, select **Options** > **Activate handset**.



Clock

Press , and select **Clock**. To set a new alarm, select **Options** > **Set alarm**. When an alarm is active, is shown.

To turn off the alarm, select **Stop**, or to stop the alarm for 5 minutes, select **Snooze**.

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If the alarm time is reached while the device is switched off, the device switches itself on and starts sounding the alarm tone. If you select **Stop**, the device asks whether you want to activate the device for calls. Select **No** to switch off the device or **Yes** to make and receive calls. Do not select **Yes** when wireless phone use may cause interference or danger.

To cancel an alarm, select **Clock** > **Options** > **Remove alarm**.

Clock settings

To change the clock settings, select **Clock** > **Options** > **Settings**.

To change the time or date, select **Time** or **Date**.

To change the clock shown in the standby mode, select **Clock type** > **Analogue** or **Digital**.

To allow the mobile phone network to update the time, date, and time zone information to your device (network service), select **Network operator time** > **Auto-update**.

To change the alarm tone, select **Clock alarm tone**.

World clock

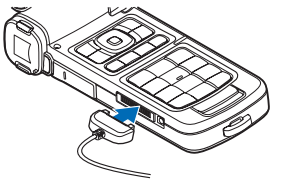
To open the world clock view, open **Clock**, and press . In the world clock view, you can view the time in different cities.

To add cities to the list, select **Options** > **Add city**. You can add a maximum of 15 cities to the list.

To set your current city, scroll to a city, and select **Options** > **My current city**. The city is displayed in the clock main view, and the time in your device is changed according to the city selected. Check that the time is correct and matches your time zone.

Headset

Connect a compatible headset to the Pop-Port™ connector of your device.



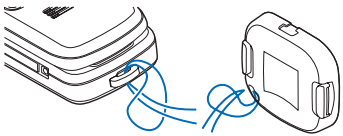
Warning: When you use the headset, your ability to hear outside sounds may be affected. Do not use the headset where it can endanger your safety.

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Wrist and lens cover straps

Thread the straps as shown, and tighten them.



Wireless LAN

Your device supports wireless local area network (wireless LAN). With wireless LAN, you can connect your device to the Internet and compatible devices that have wireless LAN. For information about using your device in a home network, see "Home network", on page 16.

Some places, like France, have restrictions on the use of wireless LAN. Check with your local authorities for more information.

Features using wireless LAN, or allowing such features to run in the background while using other features, increase the demand on battery power and reduce the battery life.

Your device supports the following wireless LAN features:

- IEEE 802.11b/g standard
- Operation at a frequency of 2.4 GHz
- Wired equivalent privacy (WEP) with keys up to 128 bits, Wi-Fi protected access (WPA), and 802.1x encryption methods. These functions can be used only if they are supported by the network.

You can create an Internet access point (IAP) in a wireless LAN, and use it for applications that need to connect to the Internet.

Create an Internet access point

1. Press , and select **Connect.** > **Conn. mgr.** > **Availab. WLAN**.
2. The device searches for wireless LANs within range. Scroll to the network in which you want to create an Internet access point, and select **Options** > **Define access point**.
3. The device creates an Internet access point with default settings. To view or change these settings, see "Access points", on page 99.

When an application asks you to select an access point, select the created access point, or to search for wireless LANs in range, select **Search for WLAN**.

A wireless LAN connection is established when you create a data connection using a wireless LAN Internet access point. The active wireless LAN connection ends when you end the data connection. To end the connection, see "Connection manager", on page 82.

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You can use wireless LAN during a voice call or when packet data is active. You can only be connected to one wireless LAN access point device at a time, but several applications can use the same wireless LAN connection.

When you activate the **Offline** profile, you can still use wireless LAN (if available). Remember to comply with any applicable safety requirements when establishing and using a wireless LAN connection.

There are two operating modes in wireless LAN: infrastructure and ad hoc.

The infrastructure operating mode allows two kinds of communication: wireless devices are connected to each other through a wireless LAN access point device, or wireless devices are connected to a wired LAN through a wireless LAN access point device.

In the ad hoc operating mode, devices can send and receive data directly with each other. To create an Internet access point for the ad hoc network, see "Access points", on page 99.

Tip! To check the unique media access control (MAC) address that identifies your device, enter ***#62209526#** in the standby mode.

Home network

Your device is compatible with Universal Plug and Play (UPnP). With a wireless LAN access point device, you can create a home network and connect compatible UPnP devices that support wireless LAN to the network, such as your Nokia N93, a compatible PC, a compatible printer, and a compatible sound system or a TV, or a sound system or TV equipped with a compatible wireless multimedia receiver.

After you have configured the home network, you can copy, view, or play compatible media files and print images in **Gallery** on the other connected compatible devices, for example, view images stored on your Nokia N93 on a compatible TV. See "Home network", on page 85 and "Image print", on page 37.

Copyright protections may prevent some images, music (including ringing tones), and other content from being copied, transferred, viewed, played, or printed.

To set up home networking in your wireless LAN, first create and configure your wireless LAN home Internet access point, then configure the devices. On your Nokia N93, configure the settings in the **Home network** application. To connect a compatible PC to the home network, on the PC, you must install the Media Server software from the DVD-ROM supplied with your Nokia N93.

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After you have completed the necessary configurations in all devices connected to the network, you can start using **Home network** to share your media files. See "View media files", on page 86.

The home network uses the security settings of the wireless LAN connection. Use the home network feature in a wireless LAN infrastructure network with a wireless LAN access point device and encryption enabled.

Important: Always enable one of the available encryption methods to increase the security of your wireless LAN connection. Using encryption reduces the risk of unauthorize access to your data.

Your device is connected to the home network only if you accept a connection request from another device, or in **Gallery**, select the option to view, play, print, or copy media files on your Nokia N93 or search for other devices in the **Home network** folder.

Important security information

When you configure your wireless LAN home network, enable an encryption method, first on your access point device, then on the other devices you intend to connect to your home network. Refer to the documentation of the devices. Keep any passcodes secret and in a safe place separate from the devices.

To view or change the settings of the wireless LAN Internet access point in your Nokia N93, see "Access points", on page 99.

If you use the ad hoc operating mode to create a home network with a compatible device, enable one of the encryption methods in **WLAN security mode** when you configure the Internet access point. This step reduces the risk of an unwanted party joining the ad hoc network.

Your device notifies you if another device attempts to connect to it and the home network. Do not accept connection requests from an unknown device.

If you use wireless LAN in a network that does not have encryption, switch off sharing Nokia N93 files with other devices, or do not share any private media files. To change sharing settings, see "Home network settings", on page 85.

Memory card

You can purchase a compatible miniSD memory card and use it as extra storage space to save the memory on your device. You can also back up information from your device to the memory card.

Use only compatible miniSD memory cards with this device. Other memory cards, such as Reduced Size MultiMediaCards, do not fit in the memory card slot and

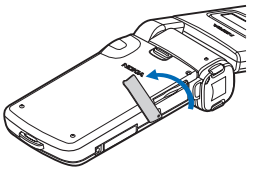
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are not compatible with this device. Using an incompatible memory card may damage the memory card as well as the device, and data stored on the incompatible card may be corrupted.

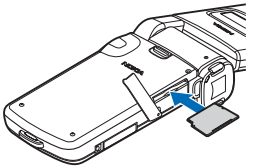
Keep all memory cards out of the reach of small children.

Insert the memory card

1 To open the door of the memory card slot, swing it upwards in a counterclockwise direction.

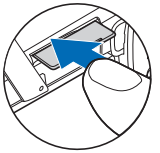


2 Insert the memory card in the slot. Ensure that the contact area on the card is facing up.



3 Push the card in. You hear a click when the card locks into place.

4 Close the door. You cannot use the memory card if the door is open.



Eject the memory card

1 Before you eject the card, press the power key, and select **Remove mem. card**. All applications are closed.

2 When **Remove memory card and press 'OK'** is displayed, swing open the door of the memory card slot.

3 Press the memory card to release it from the slot.

4 Remove the memory card. If the device is switched on, select **OK** when prompted to confirm the removal.

Important: Do not remove the memory card in the middle of an operation when the card is being accessed. Removing the card in the middle of an operation may damage the memory card as well as the device, and data stored on the card may be corrupted.

Memory card tool

Press , and select **Tools** > **Memory**. You can use a miniSD memory card as extra storage space and for backing up the information in the device memory.

To back up information from the device memory to a memory card, select **Options** > **Backup phone mem.**

To restore information from the memory card to the device memory, select **Options** > **Restore from card**.

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Format a memory card

When a memory card is reformatted, all data on the card is permanently lost.

Some memory cards are supplied preformatted and others require formatting. Consult your retailer to find out if you must format the memory card before you can use it.

To format a memory card, select **Options** > **Format mem. card**. Select **Yes** to confirm.

Tip! For best performance, use your Nokia N93 to format all new miniSD cards.



File manager

Many features of the device, such as contacts, messages, images, videos, ringing tones, calendar notes, documents, and downloaded applications, use memory to store data. The free memory available depends on how much data is already saved in the device memory.

You can use a memory card as extra storage space. Memory cards are rewritable, so you can delete old information and save new data on a memory card.

To browse files and folders in the device memory or on a memory card (if inserted), press , and select **Tools** > **File mgr.**. The device memory view ( ) opens. Press to open the memory card view ( ) (if available).

To move or copy files to a folder, press and at the same time to mark a file, and select **Options** > **Move to folder** or **Copy to folder**.

To find a file, select **Options** > **Find** and the memory from which to search, and enter a search text that matches the file name.

View memory consumption

To view what types of data you have in the device and how much memory the different data types consume, select **Options** > **Memory details**. The amount of available memory is shown in **Free memory**.

Memory low — free memory

The device notifies you if the device or the memory card memory is low.

To free device memory, transfer data to a memory card, if you have one. Mark files to be moved, and select **Move to folder** > **Memory card** and a folder.

You can also transfer media files to a compatible PC, for example, using the transfer option in **Gallery**. See "Back up files", on page 38.

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Tip! Use Nokia Phone Browser in Nokia PC Suite to view the different memories in your device and transfer data.

To remove data to free memory, use **File mgr.** or the respective application. For example, you can remove the following:

- Messages from the **Inbox**, **Drafts**, and **Sent** folders in **Messag.**
- Retrieved e-mail messages from the device memory
- Saved Web pages
- Saved images, videos, or sound files
- Contact information
- Calendar notes
- Downloaded applications. See also "Application manager", on page 107.
- Any other data that you no longer need



Help

Your device has context-sensitive help. When an application is open, select **Options** > **Help** to access help for the current view.

When you are reading the instructions, to switch between help and the application that is open in the background, press and hold .

To open help from the main menu, select **Tools** > **Help**. Select the desired application to view its help topics.



Tutorial

The tutorial gives you information about some of the features of your device. To access the tutorial in the menu, press , and select **Menu** > **My own** > **Tutorial** and the section you want to view.

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Camera

Your Nokia N93 has two cameras, a high resolution camera on the side of the device (the main camera) and a lower resolution camera on the top of the main display (the secondary camera). You can use both cameras to take still images and record video in the portrait and landscape views.

The Nokia N93 device supports an image capture resolution of 2048x1536 pixels using the main camera. The image resolution in these materials may appear different.

The images and video clips are automatically saved in the **Images & video** folder in **Gallery**. The cameras produce .jpeg images. Video clips are recorded in the .mp4 file format, or in the 3GPP file format with the .3gp file extension (**Sharing** modes). See "Video settings", on page 22.

You can send images and video clips in a multimedia message, as an e-mail attachment, or by using Bluetooth connectivity.

Record videos

Activate the main camera by rotating the display to the Imaging mode. If the camera is in the **Switch to image mode**, use the camera mode key to select **Switch to video mode**.

Press the capture key to start recording. The record icon is shown. The red recording indicator flashes slowly and a tone sounds, indicating that video is being recorded.

1 To stop recording at any time, press the capture key.
2 Press the capture key again to resume recording. The video clip is automatically saved to the **Images & video** folder of **Gallery**. See "Gallery", on page 28.

To make lighting and color adjustments before recording a video in the Imaging mode, use the side scroll key to scroll through the toolbar. See "Setup settings — Adjust color and lighting", on page 26 and "Shooting modes", on page 26.

To zoom in or out of the subject (continuous 3x optical and up to 20x digital zoom), rotate the zoom key on the side of the device.

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The video viewfinder displays the following:



- Status indicators (1) for audio mute on, stabilization on, and the current capture mode.
- The toolbar (2), which you can scroll through before recording to select the shooting mode, white balance, and color tone (the toolbar is not displayed during recording).
- The total available video recording time (3). When you are recording, the current video length indicator also shows the elapsed time and time remaining.
- The device memory ( ) and memory card ( ) indicators (4) show where videos are saved.
- The video quality indicator (5) indicates whether the quality of the video is **TV (high)**, **TV (normal)**, **Handset (high)**, **Handset (normal)**, or **Sharing**.
- The video clip file type (6).

Tip! Select **Options** > **Turn icons on** to display all viewfinder indicators or **Turn icons off** to display only the video status indicators.

After you record a video clip, select the following from the toolbar:

- To immediately play the video clip you just recorded, select **Play**.
- If you do not want to keep the video, select **Delete**.
- To send the video using multimedia, e-mail, Bluetooth, or infrared, press the call key, or select **Send**. For more information, see "Messaging", on page 39 and "Bluetooth connectivity", on page 78. This option is not available during an active call. You cannot send video clips saved in the .mp4 file format in a multimedia message.
- To record a new video clip, select **New video**.

Tip! Activate the **Offline** profile to ensure your video recording is not interrupted by incoming calls or messages.

Video settings

There are two kinds of settings for the video recorder: **Video setup** and main settings. To adjust **Video setup**, see "Setup settings — Adjust color and lighting", on page 26. The setup settings return to the default settings after you close the camera, but the main settings remain the same until you change them again. To change the main settings, select **Options** > **Settings** and from the following:

Audio recording — Select **On** if you want to record sound.

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Video quality — Set the quality of the video clip to **TV (high)** (best quality for long term usage and playback on a compatible TV or PC and handset), **TV (normal)**, **Handset (high)**, **Handset (normal)**, or **Sharing** (limited video clip size to send using multimedia message (MMS)). If you want to view the video on a TV or PC, select **TV (high)**, which has VGA resolution (640x480) and the .mp4 file format. To send the video clip through MMS, select **Sharing** (QCIF resolution, .3gp file format). The size of the video clip recorded with **Sharing** is limited to 300 KB (about 20 seconds in duration) so that it can be conveniently sent as a multimedia message to a compatible device.

Video stabilisation — Select **On** to reduce camera shake when recording the video.

Add to album — Select whether you want to add the recorded video clip to a certain album in **Gallery**. Select **Yes** to open a list of available albums.

Show captured video — Select whether you want the first frame of the recorded video clip to be shown on the display after the recording stops. Select **Play** from the toolbar (main camera) or **Options** > **Play** (secondary camera) to view the video clip.

Optical zoom during recording — Select **On** or **Off**. Select **Off** to eliminate mechanical noise caused by lens movement during optical zooming when recording.

Memory in use — Define the default memory store: device memory or memory card (if inserted).

Take pictures

Activate the main camera by rotating the display to Imaging mode. If the camera is in **Switch to video mode**, use the camera mode key to switch to **Switch to image mode**.

To lock the focus on an object, press the capture key halfway down (main camera only). The green locked focus indicator appears on the display. If the focus was not locked, the red focus indicator appears. Release the capture key, and press it halfway down again. You can, however, take the picture without locking the focus.

To take a picture, in the main camera, press the capture key. Do not move the device before the image is saved.

You can make lighting and color adjustments before taking a picture in the Imaging mode by using the side scroll key to scroll through the toolbar. See "Setup settings — Adjust color and lighting", on page 26.

Saving the captured image may take longer if you change the zoom, lighting, or color settings.

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The camera viewfinder displays the following:



- Status indicators (1) for sequence on, self-timer on; **Automatic** (), **On** (), or **Off** () flash mode, and the current capture mode.
- The toolbar (2), which you can scroll through before capturing the image to select the shooting mode, white balance, exposure value, and color tone (the toolbar is not displayed during focus and image capture).
- The image resolution indicator (3) indicates whether the quality of the image is **Print 3M – Large** (2048x1536 resolution), **Print 2M – Med.** (1600x1200 resolution), **Print 1.3M – Small** (1280x960 resolution), or **MMS 0.3M** (640x480 resolution).
- The image counter (4) displays the estimated number of images you can capture using the current image quality setting and memory in use (the counter is not displayed during focus and image capture).
- The device memory () and memory card () indicators (5) show where images are saved.

Tip! Select **Options** > **Turn icons on** to display all viewfinder indicators or **Turn icons off** to display only the camera status indicators.

When taking a picture, note the following:

- Use both hands to keep the camera still.
- The quality of a digitally zoomed picture is lower than that of a nonzoomed picture.
- The camera goes into the battery saving mode if there are no keypresses for a moment. To continue taking pictures, press .

After you take the picture, select the following from the toolbar:

- If you do not want to keep the image, select **Delete**.
- To send the video using multimedia, e-mail, Bluetooth, or infrared, press the call key, or select **Send**.
- To capture a new image, select **New image**.
- To print the picture, select **Print**. See "Image print", on page 37.

Still image camera settings

There are two kinds of settings for the still image camera: **Image setup** and main settings. To adjust **Image setup**, see "Setup settings — Adjust color and lighting", on page 26. The setup settings return to the default settings after you close the camera, but the main settings remain the same until you change them again. To change the main settings, select **Options** > **Settings** and from the following:

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Image quality — **Print 3M - Large** (2048x1536 resolution), **Print 2M - Med.** (1600x1200 resolution), **Print 1.3M - Small** (1280x960 resolution), or **MMS 0.3M** (640x480 resolution). The better the image quality, the more memory the image consumes. If you want to print the image, select **Print 3M - Large**, **Print 2M - Med.**, or **Print 1.3M - Small**. If you want to send it through e-mail, select **Print 1.3M - Small**. To send the image through MMS, select **MMS 0.3M**.

These resolutions are only available in the main camera.

Add to album — Select whether you want to save the image to a certain album in the gallery. If you select **Yes**, a list of available albums opens.

Show captured image — Select **Yes** if you want to see the captured image after it is taken, or **No** if you want to continue taking pictures right away.

Extended zoom (main camera only) — Select **On (continuous)** to allow the zoom increments to be smooth and continuous between digital and extended digital zoom, **On (paused)** to allow the zoom increments to pause at the digital and extended digital step point. If you want to limit the zoom to where the selected image quality is maintained, select **Off**.

Flicker cancellation — Select **50Hz** or **60Hz**.

Shutter tone — Select the tone you want to hear when you take a picture.

Memory in use — Select where to store your images.

Take pictures in a sequence

Sequence mode is available only in the main camera.

To set the camera to take up to six pictures in a sequence (if enough memory available), select **Options** > **Sequence mode**.

To take the pictures, press the capture key.

After you take the pictures, they are shown in a grid on the display. To view a picture, press ◉ to open it.

You can also use the sequence mode with the self-timer.

To return to the sequence mode viewfinder, press the capture key.

You in the picture — self-timer

The self-timer is available only in the main camera.

Use the self-timer to delay the capture so that you can include yourself in the picture. To set the self-timer delay, select **Options** > **Self timer** > **2 seconds**, **10 seconds**, or **20 seconds**. To activate the self-timer, select **Activate**. The self-timer indicator (⏲) blinks and the device beeps when the timer is running. The camera takes the picture after the selected delay elapses.

You can also use the self-timer in the sequence mode.

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Tip! Select **Options** > **Self timer** > **2 seconds** to keep your hand steady when taking a picture.

Flash

The flash is available only in the main camera.

Keep a safe distance when using the flash. Do not use the flash on people or animals at close range. Do not cover the flash while taking a picture.

The camera has an LED flash for low light conditions. The following flash modes are available: **Automatic** (ϟA), **On** (ϟ), and **Off** (ϟ).

To switch between the flash modes, press the flash key.

Setup settings — Adjust color and lighting

To enable the camera to reproduce colors and lighting more accurately, or to add effects to your pictures or videos, use the side scroll key to scroll through the toolbar, and select from the following options:

Shooting mode — Select a proper shooting mode for the environment in which you take pictures. Every shooting mode uses its own lighting settings that have been adjusted according to a certain kind of environment.

White balance — Select the current lighting condition from the list. This allows the camera to reproduce colors more accurately.

Exposure value (images only) — Adjust the exposure time of the camera.

Colour tone — Select a color effect from the list.

The screen display changes to match any settings you make, so that you see how the change affects the pictures or videos.

The available settings vary depending on the selected camera.

The setup settings are camera specific; if you change the settings in the secondary camera, the settings in the main camera do not change. The setup settings do, however, transfer between the image and video modes.

Shooting modes

A shooting mode helps you to find the right color and lighting settings for the current environment. Select a proper shooting mode for taking pictures or recording video clips from the shooting mode list. The settings of each shooting mode have been set according to a certain style or environment.

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Shooting modes are only available in the main camera.

Use the side scroll key to scroll through the toolbar, and select from the following options:

Video shooting modes

Normal ( ) (default) and **Night** ( )

Image shooting modes

Automatic ( ) (default), **User** ( ), **Close-up mode** ( ), **Landscape** ( ), **Night** ( ), and **Night portrait** ( ).

When you take pictures, the default shooting mode is **Automatic**.

To make your own shooting mode suitable for a certain environment, scroll to **User**, and select **Options** > **Change**. In the user defined shooting mode you can adjust different lighting and color settings. To copy the settings of another shooting mode, select **Based on shooting mode** and the desired shooting mode.

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Gallery

To store and organize your images, video clips, sound clips, playlists, and streaming links, or share your files with other compatible Universal Plug and Play devices through wireless LAN, press , and select **Gallery**. To open the gallery from the **Camera** application, select **Options** > **Go to Gallery**. From **Camera**, only the **Images & video** folder is available.

Tip! To switch from **Gallery** to the camera, in the **Images & video** folder, press the capture key or the camera mode key, or select **Options** > **Go to Camera**.

Select **Images & video** , **Tracks** , **Sound clips** , **Streaming links** , **Presentations** , **All files** , or **Home network** , and press to open it.

Video clips, .ram files, and streaming links are opened and played in the RealPlayer application. See "RealPlayer", on page 73. You can also create albums; and mark, and add items to albums. See "Albums", on page 33.

To open a file, press . Videos open in **RealPlyr.**, and music and sound clips in **Music player**. See "View images and video clips", on page 29.

To copy or move files to the memory card (if inserted) or to device memory, select a file and **Options** > **Move and copy** > **Copy to memory card**/**Move to memory card** or **Copy to phone mem.**/**Move to phone mem.**.

Files stored on the memory card (if inserted) are indicated with . Files stored in the phone memory are indicated with .

To reduce the size of images that you already copied to other locations, such as to a compatible PC, select **Options** > **Transfer and memory** > **Shrink**. Selecting **Shrink** reduces the resolution of an image to 640x480. To increase free memory space after you have copied items to other locations or devices, select a file and **Options** > **Free memory**. See "Back up files", on page 38.

To download files into **Gallery** in one of the main folders using the browser, select **Graphic downl.**, **Video downl.**, **Track downl.**, or **Sound downl.**. The browser opens, and you can select a bookmark from which the site can download.

To share media files saved in **Gallery** with other compatible UPnP devices through wireless LAN, you must first create and configure your wireless LAN home Internet access point, and then configure the **Home network** application. See "Wireless LAN", on page 15.

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The options related to **Home network** are not available in **Gallery** before the **Home network** settings have been configured.

View images and video clips

Pictures taken and video clips recorded with the camera are stored in the **Images & video** folder in **Gallery**. Images and video clips can also be sent to you in a multimedia message, as an e-mail attachment, through Bluetooth connectivity, or by using infrared. To be able to view a received image or video clip in the gallery or in the media player, you must save it in the device memory or on a memory card (if inserted).

Open the **Images & video** folder in **Gallery**. The images and video clip files are in a loop, and ordered by date. The number of files is displayed. To browse the files one by one, scroll left or right. To browse files in groups, scroll up or down.

To edit a video clip or a photo, select **Options** > **Edit**. An image editor or a video editor opens. See "Edit video clips", on page 29. See "Edit images", on page 31.

To add an image or a video clip to an album in the gallery, select **Options** > **Albums** > **Add to album**. See "Albums", on page 33.

To create custom video clips, select a video clip or several clips in the gallery, and select **Options** > **Edit**. See "Edit video clips", on page 29.

To print your images on a compatible printer, or to store them on your memory card (if inserted) for printing, select **Options** > **Print**. See "Image print", on page 37.

To send a multimedia message to your service provider's media file uploading service (network service), press the call key, and select **Upload** (if available). Contact your service provider for more information.

To view the image, scroll to an image and press ◉.

When the image is opened, to zoom an image, select **Options** > **Zoom in** or **Zoom out**. The zooming ratio is at the top of the display. The zooming ratio is not stored permanently.

To use the picture as a background image, select the picture and **Options** > **Assign** > **Set as wallpaper**.

To delete an image or video clip, press C.

Edit video clips

To edit video clips in **Gallery** and create custom video clips, scroll to a video clip, and select **Options** >**Edit**. See "Gallery", on page 28. To create custom video clips, combine and trim video clips, and add images, sound clips,

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transitions, and effects. Transitions are visual effects that you can add in the beginning and end of the video or between the video clips.

You can also use **Movie director** to create custom video clips. Select the video clips and images you want to create a muvee with and select **Options** > **Edit** > **Create muvee**. See "Movie director", on page 76.

In the video editor you can see two timelines: video clip timeline and sound clip timeline. The images, text, and transitions added to a video clip are shown on the video clip timeline. To switch between the timelines, scroll up or down.

Edit video, sound, image, text, and transitions

To create custom video clips, mark and select one or more video clips, and select **Options** > **Edit**.

To modify the video, select from the following options:

Edit video clip:

Cut — Trims the video clip in the cut video clip view.

Add colour effect — Inserts a color effect on the video clip.

Use slow motion — Slows the speed of the video clip.

Mute sound/**Unmute sound** — Mutes or unmutes the original video clip sound.

Move — Moves the video clip to the selected location.

Remove — Removes the video clip from the video.

Duplicate — Makes a copy of the selected video clip.

Edit text (shown only if you added text) — To move, remove, or duplicate text; change the color and style of the text; define how long it stays on the screen; and add effects to the text.

Edit image (shown only if you added an image) — To move, remove, or duplicate an image; define how long it stays on the screen; and set a background or a color effect to the image.

Edit sound clip (shown only if you have added a sound clip) — To cut or move the sound clip, to adjust its length, or to remove or duplicate the clip.

Edit transition — There are three types of transitions: at the start of a video, at the end of a video, and transitions between video clips. You can select start transition when the first transition of the video is active.

Insert — Select **Video clip**, **Image**, **Text**, **Sound clip**, or **New sound clip**.

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Movie — Preview the movie in the full screen or as a thumbnail, save or send the movie, or cut the movie to a proper size for sending it in a multimedia message.

To take a snapshot of a video clip, in the cut video view, select **Options** > **Take snapshot**. In the thumbnail preview view, press ●, and select **Take snapshot**.

To save your video, select **Options** > **Movie** > **Save**. To define the **Memory in use**, select **Options** > **Settings**. The default is the device memory.

In the **Settings** view, you can also define **Default video name**, **Default sc. shot name**, **Resolution**, and **Memory in use**.

To send the video, select **Send** > **Via multimedia**, **Via e-mail**, **Via Bluetooth**, or **Via infrared**. Contact your network operator or service provider for details of the maximum multimedia message size that you can send. If your video is too large to send in a multimedia message, ✉ appears.

Tip! If you want to send a video clip that is over the maximum multimedia message size allowed by your service provider, you can send the clip using Bluetooth wireless technology. See "Send data using Bluetooth connectivity", on page 80. You can also transfer your videos to a compatible PC using Bluetooth connectivity, or by using a memory card reader enhancement.

Edit images

To edit the pictures after taking them, or the ones already saved in **Gallery**, select **Options** > **Edit**.

Select **Apply effect** to crop and rotate the image; adjust the brightness, color, contrast, and resolution; and add effects, text, clip art, or a frame to the picture.

To crop an image, select **Options** > **Apply effect** > **Crop**. To crop the image size manually, select **Manual** or a predefined aspect ratio from the list. If you select **Manual**, a cross appears in the upper left corner of the image. Move the scroll key to select the area to crop, and select **Set**. Another cross appears in the lower right corner. Again select the area to be cropped. To adjust the first selected area, select **Back**. The selected areas form a rectangle, which forms the cropped image.

If you selected a predefined aspect ratio, select the upper left corner of the area to be cropped. To resize the highlighted area, use the scroll key. To freeze the selected area, press ●. To move the area within the picture, use the scroll key. To select the area to be cropped, press ●.

To reduce redness of the eyes in an image, select **Options** > **Apply effect** > **Red eye reduction**. Move the cross onto the eye, and press ●. A loop appears on the display. To resize the loop to fit the size of the eye, move the scroll key. To reduce the redness, press ●.

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Shortcuts in the image editor:

- To view an image in the full screen, press *. To return to the normal view, press * again.
- To rotate an image clockwise or counterclockwise, press 3 or 1.
- To zoom in or out, press 5 or 0.
- To move on a zoomed image, scroll up, down, left, or right.

Slide show

Select **Options** > **Slide show** > **Start** to view images and video clips in the full screen mode. The slide show starts from the selected file. Select from the following:

- **Play** — to open the RealPlayer application, and play a selected video clip
- **Pause** — to pause the slide show
- **Continue** — to resume the slide show, if paused
- **End** — to close the slide show

To browse the images, press (previous) or (next).

To adjust the tempo of the slide show, before starting the slide show, select **Options**> **Slide show** > **Settings** > **Delay between slides**.

To add sound to the slide show, select **Options** > **Slide show** > **Settings** and from the following:

- **Music** — Select **On** or **Off**.
- **Track** — Select a music file from the list.

To decrease or increase the volume during the slide show, press or .

TV out mode

You can watch videos and images stored in your device on the screen of a compatible TV. Connect the Nokia Video-Out Cable (CA-64U) from the TV out Pop-Port connector on your device to the video input of a compatible TV. For all applications other than the **Images & video** folder in **Gallery** and **RealPlyr.**, the TV screen displays what is displayed on the screen of your device.

When you open an image in the thumbnail view while it is viewed on the TV, the **Zoom in** option is not available. When image is not zoomed, the opened image is displayed on the TV in full screen.

You can view videos and images as a slide show. All items in an album or marked videos and images are displayed on the TV in full screen while the selected music plays.

When you open a highlighted video clip, **RealPlyr.** starts playing the video clip on the device display and the TV screen. See "RealPlayer", on page 73.

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All audio, including the stereo video clip sound, ringing tone, and key tone, is routed to the TV when the Nokia Video-Out Cable is connected to the device. You can use the device microphone normally.

TV out settings must be configured for the applicable TV system and TV aspect ratio. See "TV configuration", on page 107.

Presentations

With presentations, you can view SVG (scalable vector graphics) files, such as cartoons and maps. SVG images maintain their appearance when printed or viewed with different screen sizes and resolutions. To view SVG files, select the **Presentations** folder, scroll to an image, and select **Options** > **Play**.

To zoom in, press **5**. To zoom out, press **0**.

To switch between full screen and normal screen, press ***.

Albums

With albums you can conveniently manage your images and video clips. To view the albums list, in the **Images & video** folder, select **Options** > **Albums** > **View albums**.

To add a picture or a video clip to an album in the gallery, scroll to a picture or video clip, and select **Options** > **Albums** > **Add to album**. A list of albums opens. Select the album to which you want to add the picture or video clip, and press ◉.

To remove a file from an album, press C. The file is not deleted from the **Images & video** folder in **Gallery**.

Online sharing

Note: The availability of this service may vary according to your country or sales area, and the service may only be available in a limited number of languages.

With the **Publishing** application, you can share your images and videos in online albums, weblogs, or in other online sharing services on the Web. You can upload content, save unfinished posts as drafts and continue later, and view the content of the albums. The supported content types may vary depending on the service provider.

Copyright protections may prevent some images, music (including ringing tones), and other content from being copied, modified, transferred or forwarded.

Get started

To use **Publishing**, you must subscribe to the service with an online image sharing service provider. You can usually subscribe to the service on the Web page of the service

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provider. Contact your service provider for details on subscribing to the service. For more information on compatible service providers, see www.nokia-asia.com/N93/support.

When you open the service for the first time in the **Publishing** application, you are prompted to provide the user name and password. You can access the settings later through **Options** > **Settings** in the **Publishing** application. See "Online sharing settings", on page 35.

Upload files

Press , and select **Gallery** > **Images & video**, the files you want to upload, and **Options** > **Send** > **Web upload**. You can access the **Publishing** application also from the main camera.

The **Select service** view opens. To create a new account to a service, select **Options** > **Add new account** or the service icon with the text **Create account** in the services list. If you have created a new account offline, or modified an account or service settings through a Web browser on a compatible PC, to update the services list in your device, select **Options** > **Retrieve services**. To select a service, press the scroll key.

When you select the service, the selected images and videos are shown in the edit state. You can open and view the files, reorganize them, add text to them, or add new files.

To cancel the Web upload process, and save the created post as a draft, select **Back** > **Save as draft**. If the uploading has already started, select **Cancel** > **Save as draft**.

To connect to the service and upload the files to the Web, select **Options** > **Upload**, or press .

Open online service

To view uploaded images and videos in the online service, and draft and sent entries in your device, in the **Images & video** folder, select **Options** > **Online services** > **Open service**. If you have created a new account offline, or modified an account or service settings through a Web browser on a compatible PC, to update the services list in your device, select **Options** > **Retrieve services**. Select a service from the list.

After you open a service, select from the following:

- **Open in Web browser** — to connect to the selected service and view the uploaded and draft albums in the Web browser. The view may vary depending on the service provider.
- **Drafts** — to view and edit the draft entries, and upload them to the Web
- **Sent** — to view the 20 latest entries created through your device

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- **New post** — to create a new entry

The available options may vary depending on the service provider.

Online sharing settings

To edit the **Publishing** settings, in the **Publishing** application, select **Options** > **Settings**.

My accounts

In **My accounts**, you can create new accounts or edit existing accounts. To create a new account, select **Options** > **Add new account**. To edit an existing account, select an account and **Options** > **Edit**. Select from the following:

Account name — to enter a name for the account

Service provider — to select the service provider you want to use. You cannot change the service provider for an existing account, you must create a new account for the new service provider. If you delete an account in **My accounts**, the services related to the account are also deleted from you device, including the sent items for the service.

User name and **Password** — to enter the user name and password you created for your account when you registered to the online service

Upload image size — to select the size in which the images are uploaded to the service

Application settings

Display image size — to select the size in which the image is shown on the display of your device. This setting does not affect the upload image size.

Display text size — to select the font size used to display text in draft and sent entries, or when you add or edit text to a new entry

Advanced

Service providers — to view or edit service provider settings, add a new service provider, or view details of a service provider. If you change the service provider, all the **My accounts** information for the previous service provider is lost. You cannot change the settings of predefined service providers.

Default access point — to change the access point used to connect to the online service, select the access point you want.

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Media applications



Music player

Press , and select **Music player**. With the music player, you can play music files and create and listen to playlists.

Warning: Listen to music at a moderate level. Continuous exposure to high volume may damage your hearing. Do not hold the device near your ear when the loudspeaker is in use, because the volume may be extremely loud.

Add music

When you open the music player for the first time, the player searches the device memory for music files to create a music library.

After you add or remove music files in the device, update your music library. Select **Options** > **Music library** > **Options** > **Update Music library**.

Tip! You can transfer music files from your device to a compatible memory card (if inserted) with Nokia Audio Manager available in Nokia PC Suite.

Play music

When you open the music player, the previously played track or playlist is displayed. To view the music library, select or **Options** > **Music library** and the desired song list. To start playing the songs in the view, select **Options** > **Play**.

When a song is playing, to change between play and pause, press or .

To stop a song, press . To fast forward or rewind, press and hold or . To start playing the next or previous song, press or .

To view the currently played song list, select or **Options** > **Open 'Now playing'**. To save the song list as a playlist, select **Options** > **Add to track list**, and create a new playlist, or select a saved playlist.

To adjust the volume, press or .

To modify the tone of music playback, select **Options** > **Equaliser**.

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To select between random play and normal play mode, select **Options** > **Random play**. To select whether playing stops at the end of the playlist or restarts from its beginning, select **Options** > **Loop**.

To open your Web bookmarks for downloading music, select **Options** > **Track downloads**.

To return to the standby mode and leave the music playing in the background, select **Options** > **Play in background**.

Music library

To view the music library, select **Options** > **Music library**. **All tracks** lists all music. To view sorted songs, select **Albums**, **Artists**, **Genres**, or **Composers**. The album, artist, genre, and composer information is collected from the ID3 or M4A tags of the song files, if available.

To add songs, albums, artists, genres, or composers to a playlist, select the items and **Options** > **Add to track list**. You can create a new playlist or add to an existing one.

To view playlists, select **Track lists**. To create a new playlist, select **Options** > **New track list**. When viewing a playlist you have created yourself, to add more songs, select **Options** > **Add tracks**.

To delete a playlist, press C. Deleting a playlist only deletes the playlist, not the music files.

Image print

Use **Image print** to print your images using a data cable, wireless LAN (if available), Bluetooth connectivity, or a compatible memory card (if available).

You can only print images that are in .jpeg format. The pictures taken with the camera are automatically saved in .jpeg format.

To print images with **Image print**, select the image you want to print, and the print option in the gallery, camera, image editor, or image viewer.

To print to a printer compatible with PictBridge, connect the data cable before you select the print option.

Printer selection

When you use **Image print** for the first time, a list of available printers is displayed after you select the image. Select a printer. The printer is set as the default printer.

If you have connected a printer compatible with PictBridge using the CA-53 cable, the printer is automatically displayed.

If the default printer is not available, a list of available printing devices is displayed.

To change the default printer, select **Options** > **Print settings** > **Default printer**.

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Print preview

The print preview view opens only when you start printing an image in the gallery.

The selected images are displayed using predefined layouts. To change the layout, scroll left and right through the available layouts for the selected printer. If the images do not fit on a single page, scroll up or down to display the additional pages.

Print settings

The available options vary, depending on the capabilities of the printing device you selected.

To set a default printer, select **Options** > **Default printer**.

To select the paper size, select **Paper size**, the size of paper from the list, and **OK**. Select **Cancel** to return to the previous view.

Back up files

To transfer and back up media files from your device to a compatible PC through the wireless LAN, select **Options** > **Transfer** > **Start**. See "Wireless LAN", on page 15.

Your device starts a device search. Select a device and a folder to which you want to transfer the media files. Select **OK**.

To change the **Storage device** or **Storage folder** settings, select **Options** > **Settings**.

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Messaging

Press , and select **Messag.**. In **Messag.**, you can create, send, receive, view, edit, and organize text messages, multimedia messages, e-mail messages, and special text messages containing data. You can also receive messages and data using Bluetooth connectivity or infrared, receive Web service messages, cell broadcast messages, and send service commands.

To create a new message, select **New message**.

Note: Only devices that have compatible features can receive and display multimedia messages. The appearance of a message may vary depending on the receiving device.

Messag. contains the following folders:

Inbox — Received messages, except e-mail and cell broadcast messages, are stored here. E-mail messages are stored in the **Mailbox**.

My folders — Organize your messages into folders.

Tip! To avoid rewriting messages that you send often, use texts in the templates folder.

Mailbox — Connect to your remote mailbox to retrieve your new e-mail messages or view your previously retrieved e-mail messages offline. See "E-mail", on page 49.

Drafts — Draft messages that have not been sent are stored here.

Sent — The last 20 messages that have been sent, excluding messages sent using Bluetooth connectivity or infrared, are stored here. To change the number of messages to be saved, see "Other settings", on page 51.

Outbox — Messages waiting to be sent are temporarily stored here.

Example: Messages are placed in the outbox, for example, when your device is outside network coverage. You can also schedule e-mail messages to be sent the next time you connect to your remote mailbox.

Reports — You can request the network to send you a delivery report of the text messages and multimedia messages you have sent (network service). Receiving a delivery report of a multimedia message that has been sent to an e-mail address may not be possible.

Tip! When you have opened any of the default folders, to switch between the folders, press or .

To enter and send service requests (also known as USSD commands), such as activation commands for network services, to your service provider, select **Options** > **Service command** in the main view of **Messag.**.

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Cell broadcast (network service) allows you to receive messages on various topics, such as weather or traffic conditions from your service provider. For available topics and relevant topic numbers, contact your service provider. In the main view of **Messaging**, select **Options** > **Cell broadcast**. In the main view, you can see the status of a topic, a topic number, name, and whether it has been flagged (⚑) for follow-up.

Cell broadcast messages cannot be received in UMTS networks. A packet data connection may prevent cell broadcast reception.

Write text

ABC, **abc**, and **Abc** indicate the selected character mode. **123** indicates the number mode.

Traditional text input

is displayed when you are writing text using traditional text input.

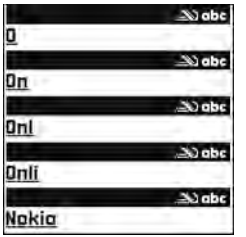
- Press a number key (**1** – **9**) repeatedly until the desired character appears. There are more characters available for a number key than are printed on the key.
- If the next letter is located on the same key as the present one, wait until the cursor appears (or press ◎ to end the time-out period), and enter the letter.
- To insert a space, press **0**. To move the cursor to the next line, press **0** three times.

Predictive text input

You can enter any letter with a single keypress. Predictive text input is based on a built-in dictionary to which you can add new words. is displayed when you write text using predictive text input.

1 To activate predictive text input, press ✎, and select **Predictive text on**. This activates predictive text input for all editors in the device.

2 To write the desired word, press the keys **2** – **9**. Press each key only once for one letter. For example, to write "Nokia" when the English dictionary is selected, press **6** for N, **6** for o, **5** for k, **4** for i, and **2** for a.



The word suggestion changes after each keypress.

3 When you finish writing the word correctly, press ◎ to confirm it, or press **0** to add a space.
If the word is not correct, press ✱ repeatedly to view the matching words the dictionary has found one by one, or press ✎, and select **Predictive text** > **Matches**.

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If the **?** character is shown after the word, the word is not in the dictionary. To add a word to the dictionary, select **Spell**, enter the word using traditional text input, and select **OK**. The word is added to the dictionary. When the dictionary is full, a new word replaces the oldest added word.

4 Start writing the next word.

Write compound words

Write the first half of a compound word; to confirm it, press . Write the last part of the compound word. To complete the compound word, press **0** to add a space.

Turn predictive text input off

To turn predictive text input off for all editors in the device, press , and select **Predictive text** > **Off**.

Tip! To turn predictive text input on or off, quickly press **#** twice.

Tips on text input

To insert a number in the letter mode, press and hold the desired number key.

To switch between the letter and number mode, press and hold **#**.

To switch between the different character modes, press **#**.

To delete a character, press **C**. To delete more than one character, press and hold **C**.

The most common punctuation marks are available under **1**.

To open a list of special characters, press and hold *****.

Tip! To insert several special characters at the same time, press **5** when you select each character.

Write and send messages

The appearance of a multimedia message may vary, depending on the receiving device.

Copyright protections may prevent some images, music (including ringing tones), and other content from being copied, modified, transferred or forwarded.

Before you can create a multimedia message or write an e-mail, you must have the correct connection settings in place. See "Receive MMS and e-mail settings", on page 43 and "E-mail", on page 49.

The wireless network may limit the size of MMS messages. If the inserted picture exceeds this limit, the device may make it smaller so that it can be sent by MMS.

1 Select **New message** and one of the following:
Text msg. — to send a text message

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Multimedia message — to send a multimedia message (MMS)
E-mail — to send an e-mail
If you have not set up your e-mail account, you are prompted to do so. To start creating the e-mail settings with the mailbox guide, select **Start**.

2 In the **To** field, press to select recipients or groups from contacts, or enter the recipient's phone number or e-mail address. To add a semicolon (;) that separates the recipients, press *. You can also copy and paste the number or address from the clipboard.



3 In the **Subject** field, enter the subject of a multimedia message or e-mail. To change the fields that are visible, select **Options** > **Address fields**.
4 In the message field, write the message. To insert a template, select **Options** > **Insert** or **Insert object** > **Template**.
5 To add a media object to a multimedia message, select **Options** > **Insert object** > **Image**, **Sound clip**, or **Video clip**. When sound is added, is shown.
To change the format in which recorded videos are saved, see "Video settings", on page 22.
6 To take a new picture or record sound or video for a multimedia message, select **Insert new** > **Image**, **Sound clip**, or **Video clip**. To insert a new slide to the message, select **Slide**.
To see what the multimedia message looks like, select **Options** > **Preview**.
7 To add an attachment to an e-mail, select **Options** > **Insert** > **Image**, **Sound clip**, **Video clip**, or **Note**. E-mail attachments are indicated by .

Tip! To send other file types as attachments, open the appropriate application, and select **Send** > **Via e-mail**, if available.

8 To send the message, select **Options** > **Send**, or press .

Your device supports the sending of text messages beyond the character limit for a single message. Longer messages are sent as a series of two or more messages. Your service provider may charge accordingly. Characters that use accents or other marks, and characters from some language options like Chinese, take up more space limiting the number of characters that can be sent in a single message. In the navigation bar, you can see the message length indicator counting backwards. For example, 10 (2) means that you can still add 10 characters for the text to be sent as two messages.

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E-mail messages are automatically placed in **Outbox** before sending. If sending does not succeed, the e-mail is left in the **Outbox** with the **Failed** status.

Tip! You can combine images, video, sound, and text to a presentation and send it in a multimedia message. Start to create a multimedia message, and select **Options** > **Create presentation**. The option is shown only if **MMS creation mode** is set to **Guided** or **Free**. See "Multimedia messages", on page 48.

Receive MMS and e-mail settings

You may receive the settings in a message from your network operator or service provider. See "Data and settings", on page 44.

For availability of and subscription to data services, contact your network operator or service provider. Follow the instructions given by your service provider.

Enter the MMS settings manually

1 Press , and select **Tools** > **Settings** > **Connection** > **Access points**, and define the settings for a multimedia messaging access point. See "Connection", on page 99.

2 Press , and select **Messaging** > **Options** > **Settings** > **Multim. msg.** > **Access point in use** and the access point you created as the preferred connection. See also "Multimedia messages", on page 48.

Before you can send, receive, retrieve, reply to, and forward e-mail, you must do the following:

- Configure an Internet access point (IAP) correctly. See "Connection", on page 99.
- Define your e-mail settings correctly. If you select **Mailbox** in the **Messag.** main view and have not set up your e-mail account, you are prompted to do so. To start creating the e-mail settings with the mailbox guide, select **Start**. See also "E-mail", on page 49. You must have a separate e-mail account. Follow the instructions given by your remote mailbox and Internet service provider (ISP).



Inbox — receive messages

In the **Inbox** folder, indicates an unread text message, an unread multimedia message, data received through infrared, and data received through Bluetooth connectivity.

When you receive a message, and **1 new message** are shown in the standby mode. to open the message, select **Show**. To open a message in **Inbox**, scroll to it, and press .

To reply to a received message, select **Options** > **Reply**.

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To print a text or a multimedia message on a compatible Basic Print Profile (BPP) equipped printer with Bluetooth connectivity (such as HP Deskjet 450 Mobile Printer or HP Photosmart 8150), select **Options** > **Print**.

Multimedia messages

Important: Exercise caution when opening messages. Multimedia message objects may contain malicious software or otherwise be harmful to your device or PC.

You may receive a notification that a multimedia message is waiting in the multimedia message center. To start a packet data connection to retrieve the message to your device, select **Options** > **Retrieve**.

When you open a multimedia message ( ), you may see an image and a message. is shown if sound is included, or if video is included. To play the sound or the video, select the indicator.

To see the media objects that have been included in the multimedia message, select **Options** > **Objects**.

If the message includes a multimedia presentation, is displayed. To play the presentation, select the indicator.

Data and settings

Your device can receive many kinds of messages that contain data ( ):

Configuration message — You may receive settings from your network operator, service provider, or company information management department in a configuration message. To save the settings, select **Options** > **Save all**.

Business card — To save the information to **Contacts**, select **Options** > **Save business card**. Certificates or sound files attached to the business card are not saved.

Ringing tone — To save the ringing tone, select **Options** > **Save**.

Operat. logo — To have the logo shown in the standby mode instead of the network operator's own identification, select **Options** > **Save**.

Calen. entry — To save the invitation, select **Options** > **Save to Calendar**.

Web message — To save the bookmark to the bookmarks list in Web, select **Options** > **Add to bookmarks**. If the message contains both access point settings and bookmarks, to save the data, select **Options** > **Save all**.

E-mail notif. — The note tells you how many new e-mails you have in your remote mailbox. An extended notification may list more detailed information.

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Web service messages

Web service messages ( ) are notifications (for example, news headlines) and may contain a text message or a link. For availability and subscription, contact your service provider.



Mailbox

If you select **Mailbox** and have not set up your e-mail account, you are prompted to do so. To start creating the e-mail settings with the mailbox guide, select **Start**. See also "E-mail", on page 49.

When you create a new mailbox, the name you give to the mailbox replaces **Mailbox** in the **Messaging** main view. You can have up to six mailboxes.

Open the mailbox

When you open the mailbox, the device asks if you want to connect to the mailbox (**Connect to mailbox?**).

To connect to your mailbox and retrieve new e-mail headings or messages, select **Yes**. When you view messages online, you are continuously connected to a remote mailbox using a data connection. See also "Connection", on page 99.

To view previously retrieved e-mail messages offline, select **No**. When you view e-mail messages offline, your device is not connected to the remote mailbox.

Retrieve e-mail messages

If you are offline, select **Options** > **Connect** to start a connection to the remote mailbox.

Important: Exercise caution when opening messages. E-mail messages may contain malicious software or otherwise be harmful to your device or PC.

1 When you have an open connection to a remote mailbox, select **Options** > **Retrieve e-mail** and one of the following:
New — to retrieve all new e-mail messages
Selected — to retrieve only the e-mail messages that have been marked
All — to retrieve all messages from the mailbox
To stop retrieving messages, select **Cancel**.

2 After you retrieve the e-mail messages, you can continue viewing them online, or select **Options** > **Disconnect** to close the connection and view the e-mail messages offline.
E-mail status indicators:
The new e-mail (offline or online mode) has not been retrieved to your device.

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The new e-mail has been retrieved to your device.
The e-mail message has been read, and it has not been retrieved to your device.
The e-mail message has been read.
The e-mail heading has been read and the message content has been deleted from the device.

3 To open an e-mail message, press . If the e-mail message has not been retrieved and you are offline, you are asked if you want to retrieve this message from the mailbox.

To view e-mail attachments, open a message that has the attachment indicator, and select **Options** > **Attachments**. If the attachment has a dimmed indicator, it has not been retrieved to the device; select **Options** > **Retrieve**.

You can also receive meeting requests in the mailbox. See "Meeting requests", on page 69, and "Create calendar entries", on page 69.

To print an e-mail message on a compatible Basic Print Profile (BPP) equipped printer with Bluetooth connectivity (such as HP Deskjet 450 Mobile Printer or HP Photosmart 8150), select **Options** > **Print**.

Retrieve e-mail messages automatically

To retrieve messages automatically, select **Options** > **E-mail settings** > **Automatic retrieval** > **Header retrieval** > **Always enabled** or **Only in home net.**, and define when and how often the messages are retrieved.

Retrieving e-mail messages automatically may increase your call costs due to the data traffic.

Delete e-mail messages

To delete the contents of an e-mail message from the device while still retaining it in the remote mailbox, select **Options** > **Delete**. In **Delete msg. from:**, select **Phone only**.

The device mirrors the e-mail headings in the remote mailbox. Although you delete the message content, the e-mail heading stays in your device. If you want to remove the heading as well, you must first delete the e-mail message from your remote mailbox, and then make a connection from your device to the remote mailbox again to update the status.

To delete an e-mail from the device and the remote mailbox, select **Options** > **Delete**. In **Delete msg. from:**, select **Phone and server**.

If you are offline, the e-mail is deleted first from your device. During the next connection to the remote mailbox, it is automatically deleted from the remote mailbox. If you are using the POP3 protocol, messages marked to be deleted are removed only after you have closed the connection to the remote mailbox.

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To cancel deleting an e-mail from the device and server, scroll to an e-mail that has been marked to be deleted during the next connection ( ), and select **Options** > **Undelete**.

Disconnect from the mailbox

When you are online, to end the data connection to the remote mailbox, select **Options** > **Disconnect**.

View messages on a SIM card

Before you can view SIM messages, you must copy them to a folder in your device.

1. In the **Messag.** main view, select **Options** > **SIM messages**.
2. Select **Options** > **Mark/Unmark** > **Mark** or **Mark all** to mark messages.
3. Select **Options** > **Copy**. A list of folders opens.
4. To start copying, select a folder and **OK**. To view the messages, open the folder.

Messaging settings

Fill in all fields marked with **Must be defined** or with a red asterisk. Follow the instructions given by your service provider. You may also obtain settings from your service provider in a configuration message.

Some or all message centers or access points may be preset for your device by your service provider or network operator, and you may not be able to change, create, edit, or remove them.

Text messages

Press , and select **Messag.** > **Options** > **Settings** > **Text msg.** and from the following:

Message centres — View a list of all text message centers that have been defined.

Character encoding — To use character conversion to another encoding system when available, select **Reduced support**.

Msg. centre in use — Select which message center is used to deliver text messages.

Receive report — Select whether the network sends delivery reports on your messages (network service).

Message validity — Select how long the message center resends your message if the first attempt fails (network service). If the recipient cannot be reached within the validity period, the message is deleted from the message center.

Message sent as — Change this option only if you are sure that your message center is able to convert text messages into these other formats. Contact your network operator.

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Preferred conn. — Select the connection used for sending text messages: GSM network or packet data, if supported by the network. See "Connection", on page 99.

Reply via same ctr. — Select whether you want the reply message to be sent using the same text message center number (network service).

Multimedia messages

Press , and select **Messag.** > **Options** > **Settings** > **Multimedia message** and from the following:

Image size — Define the size of the image in a multimedia message: **Original** (shown only when the **MMS creation mode** is set to **Guided** or **Free**), **Small**, or **Large**.

MMS creation mode — If you select **Guided**, the device informs you if you try to send a message that may not be supported by the recipient. Select **Restricted**; the device prevents you from sending messages that may not be supported.

Access point in use — Select which access point is used as the preferred connection for the multimedia message center.

Multimedia retrieval — Select how you want to receive multimedia messages. To receive multimedia messages automatically in your home network, select **Auto. in home network**. Outside your home network, you receive a notification that there is a multimedia message that you can retrieve in the multimedia message center.

When you are outside your home network, sending and receiving multimedia messages may cost you more.

If you select **Multimedia retrieval** > **Always automatic**, your device automatically makes an active packet data connection to retrieve the message both in and outside your home network.

Allow anon. msgs. — Select whether you want to reject messages from an anonymous sender.

Receive adverts — Define whether you want to receive multimedia message advertisements.

Receive report — Select whether you want the status of the sent message to be shown in the log (network service). Receiving a delivery report of a multimedia message that has been sent to an e-mail address may not be possible.

Deny report sending — Select whether you want to prevent your device from sending delivery reports of received multimedia messages.

Message validity — Select how long the message center resends your message if the first attempt fails (network service). If the recipient cannot be reached within the validity period, the message is deleted from the message center.

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E-mail

Press , and select **Messag.** > **Options** > **Settings** > **E-mail** and from the following:

Mailboxes — Select a mailbox to change the following settings: **Connection settings**, **User settings**, **Retrieval settings**, and **Automatic retrieval**.

Mailbox in use — Select which mailbox you want to use for sending e-mail.

To create a new mailbox, select **Options** > **New mailbox** in the mailbox main view.

Connection settings

To edit the settings for the e-mail you receive, select **Incoming e-mail** and from the following:

User name — Enter your user name, given to you by your service provider.

Password — Enter your password. If you leave this field blank, you are prompted for the password when you try to connect to your remote mailbox.

Incoming mail serv. — Enter the IP address or host name of the mail server that receives your e-mail.

Access point in use — Select an Internet access point (IAP). See "Connection", on page 99.

Mailbox name — Enter a name for the mailbox.

Mailbox type — Defines the e-mail protocol that your remote mailbox service provider recommends. The options are **POP3** and **IMAP4**. This setting can be selected only once and cannot be changed if you have saved or exited from the mailbox settings. If you use the POP3 protocol, e-mail messages are not updated automatically when you are online. To see the latest e-mail messages, you must disconnect and make a new connection to your mailbox.

Security (ports) — Select the security option used to secure the connection to the remote mailbox.

Port — Define a port for the connection.

APOP secure login (for POP3 only) — Use with the POP3 protocol to encrypt the sending of passwords to the remote e-mail server while connecting to the mailbox.

To edit the settings for the e-mail you send, select **Outgoing e-mail** and from the following:

My e-mail address — Enter the e-mail address given to you by your service provider. Replies to your messages are sent to this address.

Outgoing mail serv. — Enter the IP address or host name of the mail server that sends your e-mail. You may only be able to use the outgoing server of your network operator. Contact your service provider for more information.

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Access point in use — Select an Internet access point (IAP). See "Connection", on page 99.

The settings for **User name**, **Password**, **Security (ports)**, and **Port** are similar to the ones in **Incoming e-mail**.

User settings

My name — Enter your own name. Your name replaces your e-mail address in the recipient's device when the recipient's device supports this function.

Send message — Define how e-mail is sent from your device. Select **Immediately** for the device to connect to the mailbox when you select **Send message**. If you select **During next conn.**, e-mail is sent when the connection to the remote mailbox is available.

Send copy to self — Select whether you want to save a copy of the e-mail to your remote mailbox and to the address defined in **My e-mail address**.

Include signature — Select whether you want to attach a signature to your e-mail messages.

New e-mail alerts — Select whether you want to receive the new e-mail indications, a tone and a note, when new mail is received to the mailbox.

Default encoding — Select another encoding according to language.

Retrieval settings

E-mail to retrieve — Define which parts of the e-mail are retrieved: **Headers only**, **Partially (kB)**, **Messages** (for IMAP4 only), or **Msgs. & attachs.**.

Retrieval amount — Define how many new e-mail messages are retrieved to the mailbox.

IMAP4 folder path (for IMAP4 only) — Define the folder path for folders to be subscribed.

Folder subscriptions (for IMAP4 only) — Subscribe to other folders in the remote mailbox and retrieve content from those folders.

Automatic retrieval

E-mail notifications — Select whether you want to receive notifications when new e-mail is received in your remote mailbox.

E-mail notifications and automatic header retrieval cannot be active at the same time.

Header retrieval — Select whether you want the device to retrieve new e-mail automatically. You can define when, and how often, the messages are retrieved.

Retrieving e-mail messages automatically may increase your call costs due to the data traffic.

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Web service messages

Press , and select **Messaging** > **Options** > **Settings** > **Service message**. Select whether you want to receive service messages. If you want to set the device to automatically activate the browser and start a network connection to retrieve content when you receive a service message, select **Download messages** > **Automatically**.

Cell broadcast

Check the available topics and related topic numbers with your service provider. Press , and select **Messaging** > **Options** > **Settings** > **Cell broadcast** and from the following:

Reception — Select whether you want to receive cell broadcast messages.

Language — Select the languages in which you want to receive messages: **All**, **Selected**, or **Other**.

Topic detection — Select whether the device automatically searches for new topic numbers, and saves the new numbers without a name to the topic list.

Other settings

Press , and select **Messaging** > **Options** > **Settings** > **Other** and from the following:

Save sent messages — Select whether you want to save a copy of the text messages, multimedia messages, or e-mail that you send to the **Sent** folder.

No. of saved msgs. — Define how many sent messages are saved to the **Sent** folder at a time. The default limit is 20 messages. When the limit is reached, the oldest message is deleted.

Memory in use — If a memory card is inserted in the device, select the memory where you want to save your messages: **Phone memory** or **Memory card**.

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Make calls

Voice calls

Tip! To increase or decrease the volume during a call, press or . If you have set the volume to **Mute**, you cannot adjust the volume with the or keys. To adjust the volume, select **Unmute**, and press or .

You can make voice calls in the Fold open mode and View mode. See "Modes", on page 8.

1. To start a voice call, in the Fold open mode, enter the phone number in the standby mode, including the area code. To remove a number, press .
   For international calls, press * twice for the + character (replaces the international access code), and enter the country code, area code (omit the leading zero if necessary), and phone number.
2. Press to call the number.
3. Press to end the call (or to cancel the call attempt).

Pressing always ends a call, even if another application is active.

To make a call from **Contacts**, press , and select **Contacts**. Scroll to the desired name, or enter the first letters of the name to the search field. Matching contacts are listed. To call, press . Select the call type **Voice call**.

You must copy the contacts from your SIM card to **Contacts** before you can make a call this way. See "Copy contacts", on page 63.

To call your voice mailbox (network service), press and hold 1 in the standby mode. See also "Call divert", on page 105.

Tip! To change the phone number of your voice mailbox, press , and select **Tools** > **Voic. mail** > **Options** > **Change number**. Enter the number (obtained from your service provider), and select **OK**.

To call a recently dialed number in the standby mode, press . Scroll to the number you want, and press to call the number.

Make a conference call

1. Make a call to the first participant.
2. To make a call to another participant, select **Options** > **New call**. The first call is automatically put on hold.
3. When the new call is answered, to join the first participant in the conference call, select **Options** > **Conference**.

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To add a new person to the call, repeat step 2, and select **Options** > **Conference** > **Add to conference**. Your device supports conference calls between a maximum of six participants, including yourself.
To have a private conversation with one of the participants, select **Options** > **Conference** > **Private**. Select a participant, and select **Private**. The conference call is put on hold on your device. The other participants can still continue the conference call. When you finish the private conversation, select **Options** > **Add to conference** to return to the conference call.
To drop a participant, select **Options** > **Conference** > **Drop participant**, scroll to the participant, and select **Drop**.

4 To end the active conference call, press .

Speed dial a phone number

To activate speed dialing, press , and select **Tools** > **Settings** > **Call** > **Speed dialling** > **On**.

To assign a phone number to one of the speed dialing keys (**2** – **9**), press , and select **Tools** > **Spd. dial**. Scroll to the key to which you want to assign the phone number, and select **Options** > **Assign**. **1** is reserved for the voice mailbox.

To call in the standby mode, press the speed dial key and .

Voice dialing

Your device supports enhanced voice commands. Enhanced voice commands are not dependent on the speaker's voice; you do not record voice tags in advance. Instead, the device creates a voice tag for the entries in contacts, and compares the spoken voice tag to it. The voice recognition in the device adapts to the main user's voice to recognize the voice commands better.

The voice tag for a contact is the name or nickname that is saved on the contact card. To listen to the synthesized voice tag, open a contact card, and select **Options** > **Play voice tag**.

Make a call with a voice tag

Note: Using voice tags may be difficult in a noisy environment or during an emergency, so you should not rely solely upon voice dialing in all circumstances.

When you use voice dialing, the loudspeaker is in use. Hold the device at a short distance away when you say the voice tag.

1 To start voice dialing, in the standby mode, press and hold . If you are using a compatible headset with the headset key, press and hold the headset key to start voice dialing.

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2 A short tone is played, and **Speak now** is displayed. Say clearly the name or nickname that is saved on the contact card.
3 The device plays a synthesized voice tag for the recognized contact in the selected device language, and displays the name and number. After a timeout of 2.5 seconds, the device dials the number.
If the recognized contact was not correct, select **Next** to view a list of other matches, or **Quit** to cancel voice dialing.

If several numbers are saved under the name, the device selects the default number, if it has been set. Otherwise the device selects the first available number of the following: **Mobile**, **Mobile (home)**, **Mobile (business)**, **Telephone**, **Tel. (home)**, and **Tel. (business)**.

Video calls

You can make video calls in the Fold open mode and View mode. See "Modes", on page 8.

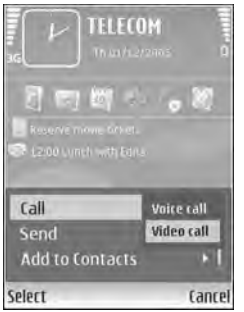
For hands-free video calls, use the View mode.

When you make a video call, you can see a real-time, two-way video between you and the recipient of the call. The live video image, or video image captured by the camera in your device is shown to the video call recipient.

To be able to make a video call, you must have a USIM card and be in the coverage of a UMTS network. For availability of and subscription to video call services, contact your network operator or service provider. A video call can only be made between two parties. The video call can be made to a compatible mobile phone or an ISDN client. Video calls cannot be made while there is another voice, video, or data call active.

Icons:
You are not receiving video (the recipient is not sending video or the network is not transmitting it).
You have denied video sending from your device. To send a still image instead, see "Call settings", on page 98.

1 To start a video call, in the Fold open mode, enter the phone number in the standby mode, or select **Contacts** and a contact.
2 Select **Options** > **Call** > **Video call**.



If you want to make a hands-free video call, activate the View mode after the call recipient has answered the call.

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Starting a video call may take a while. **Waiting for video image** is shown. If the call is not successful (for example, video calls are not supported by the network, or the receiving device is not compatible) you are asked if you want to try a normal call or send a message instead.

The video call is active when you see two video images, and hear the sound through the loudspeaker. The call recipient may deny video sending (), in which case you hear the sound and may see a still image or a grey background graphic.

Tip! To increase or decrease the volume during a call, scroll left or right.

To change between showing video or hearing only sound, select **Enable**/**Disable** > **Sending video**, **Sending audio**, or **Sending audio & video**.

To zoom your own image, select **Zoom in** or **Zoom out**. The zoom indicator is shown on the top of the display.

To switch the places of the sent and received video images on the display, select **Change image order**.

Even if you have denied video sending during a video call, the call will still be charged as a video call. Check the pricing with your network operator or service provider.

To end the video call, press .

Video sharing (network service)

Use **Video sharing** to send live video or a video clip from your mobile device to another compatible mobile device during a voice call. Simply invite a recipient to view the live video, or a video clip you want to share. Sharing begins automatically when the recipient accepts the invitation, and you activate the correct mode. See "Share video", on page 56.

Video sharing requirements

Because **Video sharing** requires a 3G Universal Mobile Telecommunications System (UMTS) connection, your ability to use **Video sharing** depends on 3G network availability. Contact your service provider for questions about network availability and fees associated with using this application. To use **Video sharing** you must:

- Ensure that **Video sharing** is installed on your Nokia N93.
- Ensure that your device is set up for person-to-person connections. See "Settings", on page 56.
- Ensure you have an active UMTS connection and are within UMTS network coverage. See "Settings", on page 56. If you start the sharing session while you are within UMTS network coverage and a handover to GSM occurs, the sharing session is discontinued, but your voice call continues.

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- Ensure that both the sender and recipient are registered to the UTMS network. If you invite someone to a sharing session and that person's phone is turned off, or the person is not within UMTS network coverage, they do not know that you are sending an invitation. However, you receive an error message that the recipient cannot accept the invitation.

Settings

Person-to-person connection settings

A person-to-person connection is also known as a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) connection. The SIP profile settings must be configured in your device before you can use **Video sharing**. Setting up a SIP profile allows you to establish a live person-to-person connection to another compatible phone. The SIP profile must also be established to receive a sharing session.

Ask your network operator or service provider for the SIP profile settings, and save them in your device. Your network operator or service provider may send you the settings over the air.

If you know a recipient's SIP address, you can enter it on your contact card for that person. Open **Contacts** from your device main menu, and open the contact card (or start a new card for that person). Select **Options** > **Add detail** > **SIP**. Enter the SIP address in the format sip:username@domainname (you can use an IP address instead of a domain name).

UTMS connection settings

To set up your UMTS connection, do the following:

- Contact your service provider to establish an agreement for you to use the UMTS network.
- Ensure that your device UMTS access point connection settings are configured properly. For help, see "Connection", on page 99.

Share video

To receive a sharing session, the recipient must install **Video sharing** and configure the required settings on their mobile device. You and the recipient must both be registered to the service before you can start sharing.

To receive share invitations, you must be registered to the service, have an active UMTS connection, and be within the UMTS network coverage.

Live video

1 When a voice call is active, select **Options** > **Share video** > **Live**.
2 The phone sends the invitation to the SIP address you have added to the contact card of the recipient.

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If the recipient has several SIP addresses in the contact card, select the SIP address to which you want to send the invitation, and **Select** to send the invitation.
If the SIP address of the recipient is not available, enter a SIP address. Select **OK** to send the invitation.

3 Sharing begins automatically when the recipient accepts the invitation.
The loudspeaker is active. You can also use a headset to continue your voice call while you share live video.

4 Select **Pause** to pause the sharing session. Select **Continue** to resume sharing.

5 To end the sharing session, select **Stop**. To end the voice call, press the end key.

Video clip

1 When a voice call is active, select **Options** > **Share video** > **Clip**.
A list of video clips opens.

2 Select a video clip you want to share. A preview view opens. To preview the clip, select **Options** > **Play**.

3 Select **Options** > **Invite**.
You may need to convert the video clip into a suitable format to be able to share it. **Clip must be converted for sharing. Continue?** appears. Select **OK**.
The phone sends the invitation to the SIP address you have added to the contact card of the recipient.
If the recipient has several SIP addresses in the contact card, select the SIP address to which you want to send the invitation, and **Select** to send the invitation.
If the SIP address of the recipient is not available, enter a SIP address. Select **OK** to send the invitation.

4 Sharing begins automatically when the recipient accepts the invitation.

5 Select **Pause** to pause the sharing session. Select **Options** > **Continue** to resume sharing.

6 To end the sharing session, select **Stop**. To end the voice call, press the end key.

Accept an invitation

When someone sends you a share invitation, an invitation message is displayed showing the sender's name or SIP address. If your device is not set to **Silent**, it rings when you receive an invitation.

If someone sends you a share invitation and you are not within UMTS network coverage, you will not know that you received an invitation.

When you receive an invitation, you can select:

- **Accept** to begin the sharing session. If the sender wants to share live video, activate the View mode.
- **Reject** to decline the invitation. The sender receives a message that you rejected the invitation. You can also press the end key to decline the sharing session and disconnect the voice call.

To end the sharing session, select **Stop**. If you share a video clip, select **Exit**. **Video sharing ended** is displayed.

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Answer or reject a call

To answer the call in the Fold open mode, press . If **Anykey answer** is set to **On**, to answer a call in the Fold closed mode, open the fold, and the call starts automatically. Otherwise, open the fold, and press .

To mute the ringing tone when a call comes in, select **Silence**.

Tip! If a compatible headset is connected to the device, to answer and end a call, press the headset key.

If you do not want to answer a call, in the Fold open mode, press to reject it. The caller hears a line busy tone. If you have activated the **Call divert** > **If busy** function to divert calls, rejecting an incoming call also diverts the call. See "Call divert", on page 105.

When you reject an incoming call in the Fold open mode, you can also send a text message to the caller informing why you cannot answer the call. Select **Options** > **Send msg.**. You can edit the text before sending it. To set up this option and write a standard text message, see "Call settings", on page 98.

If you answer a voice call during a video call, the video call is dropped. **Call waiting** is not available during a video call.

Answer or reject a video call

When a video call arrives, is displayed.

Tip! You can assign a ringing tone for video calls. Press and select **Tools** > **Profiles**, a profile, and **Options** > **Personalise** > **Video call tone**.

In the Fold open mode, press to answer the video call.

To start sending video, activate the View mode, and a live video image, recorded video clip, or the image being captured by the camera in your device is shown to the caller. If you want to send a live video image, turn the camera unit to the direction from which you want to send the video image. If you do not activate the View mode, video sending is not possible, but you can still hear the other person. A grey screen is shown in place of the video. To replace the grey screen with a still image, see "Call settings", **Image in video call**, on page 98.

Note: Even if you have denied video sending during a video call, the call is still charged as a video call. Check the pricing with your network operator or service provider.

To end the video call, in the View mode or in the Fold open mode, press .

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Call waiting (network service)

You can answer a call while you have another call in progress if you have activated **Call waiting** in **Tools** > **Settings** > **Call** > **Call waiting**.

To answer the waiting call, press . The first call is put on hold.

To switch between the two calls, select **Swap**. Select **Options** > **Transfer** to connect an incoming call or a call on hold with an active call and to disconnect yourself from the calls. To end the active call, press . To end both calls, select **Options** > **End all calls**.

Options during a voice call

Many of the options that you can use during a voice call are network services. Select **Options** during a call for some of the following options: **Mute** or **Unmute**, **Answer**, **Reject**, **Swap**, **Hold** or **Unhold**, **Activate handset**, **Activate loudsp.**, or **Activate handsfree** (if a compatible headset with Bluetooth connectivity is attached), **End active call** or **End all calls**, **New call**, **Conference**, and **Transfer**. Select from the following:

Replace — To end an active call and replace it by answering the waiting call.

Send MMS (in UMTS networks only) — To send an image or a video in a multimedia message to the other participant of the call. You can edit the message and change the recipient before sending. Press to send the file to a compatible device.

Send DTMF — To send DTMF tone strings, for example, a password. Enter the DTMF string or search for it in **Contacts**. To enter a wait character (**w**) or a pause character (**p**), press * repeatedly. Select **OK** to send the tone.

Tip! You can add DTMF tones to the **Phone number** or **DTMF** fields in a contact card.

Options during a video call

Select **Options** during a video call for the following options: **Enable** or **Disable** (audio in the Fold open mode; video, audio, or both in the View mode); **Activate handset** (if a headset with Bluetooth connectivity is attached); **Activate loudsp.**; or **Activate handsfree** (Fold open mode only, and if a headset with Bluetooth connectivity is attached); **End active call**; **Change image order Zoom in**/**Zoom out** (View mode only); and **Help**.

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Log

Recent calls

To monitor the phone numbers of missed, received, and dialed calls, press , and select **Menu** > **My own** > **Log** > **Recent calls**. The device registers missed and received calls only if the network supports these functions, the device is switched on, and within the network service area.

Tip! When you see a note in the standby mode about missed calls, select **Show** to access the list of missed calls. To call back, scroll to a name or number, and press .

To clear all recent call lists, select **Options** > **Clear recent calls** in the recent calls main view. To clear one of the call registers, open the register you want to erase, and select **Options** > **Clear list**. To clear an individual event, open a register, scroll to the event, and press .

Call duration

To monitor the approximate duration of your incoming and outgoing calls, press , and select **Menu** > **My own** > **Log** > **Call duration**.

To set the display of the call duration while a call is active, select **Connect.** > **Log** > **Options** > **Settings** > **Show call duration** > **Yes** or **No**.

Note: The actual time invoiced for calls by your service provider may vary, depending on network features, rounding off for billing, and so forth.

To clear call duration timers, select **Options** > **Clear timers**. For this you need the lock code; see "Security", "Phone and SIM", on page 102.

Packet data

To check the amount of data sent and received during packet data connections, press , and select **Menu** > **My own** > **Log** > **Packet data**. For example, you may be charged for your packet data connections by the amount of data sent and received.

Monitor all communication events

Icons in **Log**:

Incoming
Outgoing
Missed communication events

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To monitor all voice and video calls, text messages, or data connections registered by the device, press , select **Menu** > **My own** > **Log**, and scroll to the right to open the general log. For each communication event, you can see the sender or recipient name, phone number, name of the service provider, or access point. You can filter the general log to view just one type of event and create new contact cards based on the log information.



Tip! To see the duration of a voice call on the main display during an active call, select **Options** > **Settings** > **Show call duration** > **Yes**.

Tip! To view a list of sent messages, press , and select **Messaging** > **Sent**.

Subevents, such as a text message sent in more than one part and packet data connections, are logged as one communication event. Connections to your mailbox, multimedia messaging center, or Web pages are shown as packet data connections.

To filter the log, select **Options** > **Filter** and a filter.

To erase the contents of the log, recent calls register, and messaging delivery reports permanently, select **Options** > **Clear log**. Select **Yes** to confirm. To remove a single event from the log, press C.

To set the **Log duration**, select **Options** > **Settings** > **Log duration**. The log events remain in the phone memory for a set number of days after which they are automatically erased to free memory. If you select **No log**, all the log contents, recent calls register, and messaging delivery reports are permanently deleted.

To view the details of a communication event, in the general log view, scroll to an event, and press the scroll key.

Tip! In the details view, to copy a phone number to the clipboard, select **Options** > **Copy Number**.

Packet data counter and connection timer: To view how much data, measured in kilobytes, is transferred and how long a certain packet data connection lasts, scroll to an incoming or outgoing event indicated by **Pack.**, and select **Options** > **View details**.

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Contacts (Phonebook)

Press , and select **Contacts**. In **Contacts** you can add a personal ringing tone or a thumbnail image to a contact card. You can also create contact groups, which allow you to send text messages or e-mail to many recipients at the same time. You can add received contact information (business cards) to contacts. See "Data and settings", on page 44. Contact information can only be sent to or received from compatible devices.

Save names and numbers

1 Select **Options** > **New contact**.
2 Fill in the fields that you want, and select **Done**.

To edit contact cards in **Contacts**, scroll to the contact card you want to edit, and select **Options** > **Edit**.

Tip! To print contact cards on a compatible Basic Print Profile (BPP) equipped printer with Bluetooth connectivity (such as HP Deskjet 450 Mobile Printer or HP Photosmart 8150), select **Options** > **Print**.

To delete a contact card in **Contacts**, select a card, and press . To delete several contact cards at the same time, press and to mark the contacts, and press to delete.

Tip! To add and edit contact cards, use Nokia Contacts Editor available in Nokia PC Suite.

To attach a small thumbnail image to a contact card, open the contact card, and select **Options** > **Edit** > **Options** > **Add thumbnail**. The thumbnail image is shown when the contact calls.

Tip! Speed dialing is a quick way to call frequently used numbers. You can assign speed dialing keys to eight phone numbers. See "Speed dial a phone number", on page 53.

Tip! To send contact information, select the card you want to send. Select **Options** > **Send** > **Via text message**, **Via multimedia**, **Via Bluetooth**, or **Via infrared**. See "Messaging", on page 39 and "Send data using Bluetooth connectivity", on page 80.

To add a contact to a group, select **Options** > **Add to group:** (shown only if you have created a group). See "Create contact groups", on page 64.

To view the amount of contacts, groups, and the available memory in **Contacts**, select **Options** > **Contacts info**.

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Default numbers and addresses

You can assign default numbers or addresses to a contact card. In this way if a contact has several numbers or addresses, you can easily call or send a message to the contact to a certain number or address. The default number is also used in voice dialing.

1 In the address book, select a contact, and press .
2 Select **Options** > **Defaults**.
3 Select a default to which you want to add a number or an address, and select **Assign**.
4 Select a number or an address you want to set as a default.

The default number or address is underlined in the contact card.

Copy contacts

To copy names and numbers from a SIM card to your device, press , and select **Contacts** > **Options** > **SIM contacts** > **SIM directory**. Select the names you want to copy and **Options** > **Copy to Contacts**.

To copy contacts to your SIM card, press , and select **Contacts**. Select the names you want to copy and **Options** > **Copy to SIM direct.**, or **Options** > **Copy** > **To SIM directory**. Only the contact card fields supported by your SIM card are copied.

Tip! You can synchronize your contacts to a compatible PC with Nokia PC Suite.

SIM directory and other SIM services

For availability and information on using SIM card services, contact your SIM card vendor. This may be the service provider, network operator, or other vendor.

Press , and select **Contacts** > **Options** > **SIM contacts** > **SIM directory** to see the names and numbers stored on the SIM card. In the SIM directory you can add, edit, or copy numbers to contacts, and you can make calls.

To view the list of fixed dialing numbers, select **Options** > **SIM contacts** > **Fixed dialling contacts**. This setting is only shown if supported by your SIM card.

To restrict calls from your device to selected phone numbers, select **Options** > **Activ. fixed dialling**. To add new numbers to the fixed dialing list, select **Options** > **New SIM contact**. You need the PIN2 code for these functions.

When you use **Fixed dialling**, packet data connections are not possible, except when sending text messages over a packet data connection. In this case, the message center number and the recipient's phone number must be included on the fixed dialing list.

When fixed dialing is activated, calls may be possible to the official emergency number programmed into your device.

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Add ringing tones for contacts

When a contact or group member calls you, the device plays the chosen ringing tone (if the caller's telephone number is sent with the call and your device recognizes it).

1 Press ◉ to open a contact card or go to the groups list, and select a contact group.
2 Select **Options** > **Ringing tone**. A list of ringing tones opens.
3 Select the ringing tone you want to use for the individual contact or the selected group.

You can also use a video clip as a ringing tone.

To remove the ringing tone, select **Default tone** from the list of ringing tones.

Create contact groups

1 In **Contacts**, press ◉ to open the groups list.
2 Select **Options** > **New group**.
3 Write a name for the group or use the default name **Group**, and select **OK**.
4 Open the group, and select **Options** > **Add members**.
5 Scroll to a contact, and press ◉ to mark it. To add multiple members at a time, repeat this action on all the contacts you want to add.
6 Select **OK** to add the contacts to the group.

To rename a group, select **Options** > **Rename**, enter the new name, and select **OK**.

Remove members from a group

1 In the groups list, open the group you want to modify.
2 Scroll to the contact, and select **Options** > **Remove from group**.
3 Select **Yes** to remove the contact from the group.

Tip! To check to which groups a contact belongs, scroll to the contact, and select **Options** > **Belongs to groups**.

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Web

Various service providers maintain pages specifically designed for mobile devices. These pages use the wireless markup language (WML), extensible hypertext markup language (XHTML), or hypertext markup language (HTML).

Check the availability of services, pricing, and fees with your network operator or service provider. Service providers will also give you instructions on how to use their services.

Press , and select **Services**.

Shortcut: To start a connection, press and hold **0** in the standby mode.

Web access point

To access pages, you need Web service settings for the page that you want to use. You may receive the settings in a special text message from the network operator or service provider that offers the Web page. See "Data and settings", on page 44. For more information, contact your network operator or service provider.

Tip! Settings may be available on the Web site of a network operator or service provider.

Enter settings manually

1. Press , select **Tools** > **Settings** > **Connection** > **Access points**, and define the settings for an access point. Follow the instructions given to you by your service provider. See "Connection", on page 99.
2. Press , and select **Services** > **Options** > **Bookmark manager** > **Add bookmark**. Write a name for the bookmark and the address of the page defined for the current access point.
3. To set the created access point as the default access point, select **Options** > **Settings** > **Access point**.

Bookmarks view

The bookmarks view opens when you open **Services**.

Your device may have some bookmarks loaded for sites not affiliated with Nokia. Nokia does not warrant or endorse these sites. If you choose to access them, you should take the same precautions, for security or content, as you would with any Internet site.

indicates the starting page defined for the default access point.

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Connection security

If the security indicator is displayed during a connection, the data transmission between the device and the Internet gateway or server is encrypted.

The security icon does not indicate that the data transmission between the gateway and the content server (or place where the requested resource is stored) is secure. The service provider secures the data transmission between the gateway and the content server.

Select **Options** > **Details** > **Security** to view details about the connection, encryption status, and information about server and user authentication.

Security certificates may be required for some services, such as banking services. For more information, contact your service provider. See also "Certif. management", on page 104.

Browse

Important: Use only services that you trust and that offer adequate security and protection against harmful software.

To download a page, select a bookmark, or enter the address in the field ( ).

On a browser page, new links appear underlined in blue and previously visited links in purple. Images that act as links have a blue border around them.

To open links and make selections, press .

Shortcut: Use # to jump to the end of a page and * to the beginning of a page.

To go to the previous page while browsing, select **Back**. If **Back** is not available, select **Options** > **Navigation options** > **History** to view a chronological list of the pages you visited during a browsing session.

To retrieve the latest content from the server, select **Options** > **Navigation options** > **Reload**.

To save a bookmark, select **Options** > **Save as bookmark**.

Tip! To access the bookmarks view while browsing, press and hold . To return to the browser view, select **Options** > **Back to page**.

To save a page while browsing, select **Options** > **Advanced options** > **Save page**. You can save pages to the device memory or memory card (if inserted), and browse them when offline. To access the pages later, press in the bookmarks view to open the **Saved pages** view.

To enter a new URL address, select **Options** > **Navigation options** > **Go to web address**.

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To open a sublist of commands or actions for the currently open page, select **Options** > **Service options**.

You can download files that cannot be shown on the browser page, such as ringing tones, images, operator logos, themes, and video clips. To download an item, scroll to the link, and press ◉.

When you start a download, a list of ongoing, paused, and completed downloads from the current browsing session is displayed. You can also view the list by selecting **Options** > **Tools** > **Downloads**. In the list, scroll to an item, and select **Options** to pause, resume, or cancel ongoing downloads, or open, save, or delete completed downloads.

Copyright protections may prevent some images, music (including ringing tones), and other content from being copied, modified, transferred or forwarded.

Important: Only install and use applications and other software from sources that offer adequate security and protection against harmful software.

Download and purchase items

You can download items such as ringing tones, images, operator logos, themes, and video clips. These items can be provided free, or you can purchase them. Downloaded items are handled by the respective applications in your device, for example, a downloaded photo can be saved in **Gallery**.

Important: Only install and use applications and other software from sources that offer adequate security and protection against harmful software.

1 To download the item, scroll to the link, and press ◉.
2 Select the appropriate option to purchase the item, for example, "Buy".
3 Carefully read all the information provided.
To continue the download, select **Accept**. To cancel the download, select **Cancel**.

End a connection

To end the connection and view the browser page offline, select **Options** > **Advanced options** > **Disconnect**, or to end the connection and close the browser, select **Options** > **Exit**.

Empty the cache

The information or services you have accessed are stored in the cache memory of the device.

A cache is a memory location that is used to store data temporarily. If you have tried to access or have accessed confidential information requiring passwords, empty the cache after each use. The information or services you have accessed are stored in the cache. To empty the cache, select **Options** > **Advanced options** > **Clear cache**.

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Web settings

Select **Options** > **Settings** and from the following:

Access point — Change the default access point. See "Connection", on page 99. Some or all access points may be preset for your device by your service provider or network operator, and you may not be able to change, create, edit, or remove them.

Load imgs. & sounds — Select whether you want to load images while browsing. If you select **No**, to load images later during browsing, select **Options** > **Show images**.

Font size — Select the text size.

Default encoding — If text characters are not shown correctly, you can select another encoding according to language.

Auto. bookmarks — Enable or disable automatic bookmark collecting. If you want to continue collecting automatic bookmarks but hide the folder from the bookmarks view, select **Hide folder**.

Screen size — Select what is shown when you are browsing: **Select. keys only** or **Full screen**.

Homepage — Define the home page.

Search page — Define a Web page that is downloaded when you select **Navigation options** > **Open search page** in the bookmarks view, or when browsing.

Volume — If you want the browser to play sounds embedded on Web pages, select a volume level.

Rendering — If you want the page layout shown as accurately as possible when in the **Small screen** mode, select **By quality**. If you do not want external cascading style sheets to be downloaded, select **By speed**.

Cookies — Enable or disable the receiving and sending of cookies.

Java/ECMA script — Enable or disable the use of scripts.

Security warnings — Hide or show security notifications.

Conf. DTMF sending — Select whether you want to confirm before the device sends DTMF tones during a voice call. See also "Options during a voice call", on page 59.

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Calendar

Use **Calendar** to remind you of meetings, anniversaries, and to keep track of your tasks and other notes.

Create calendar entries

Shortcut: In the day, week, or month calendar view, press any key (**1** – **0**). An appointment entry opens, and the characters you enter are added to the **Subject** field. In the to-do view, a to-do note entry opens.

1 Press , and select **Calendar** > **Options** > **New entry** and one of the following:
Meeting — to remind you of an appointment that has a specific date and time
Meeting req. — to send a meeting request by e-mail (a mailbox must be defined in the device)
Memo — to write a general entry for a day
Anniversary — to remind you of birthdays or special dates (entries are repeated every year)
To-do — to remind you of a task that needs doing by a specific date



2 Fill in the fields. To set an alarm, select **Alarm** > **On**, and enter the **Alarm time** and **Alarm date**.
To add a description for an appointment or a meeting, select **Options** > **Add description**.
3 To save the entry, select **Done**.

When the calendar alarms for a note, select **Silence** to turn off the calendar alarm tone. The reminder text stays on the screen. To end the calendar alarm, select **Stop**. To set the alarm to snooze, select **Snooze**.

Tip! You can synchronize your calendar with a compatible PC using Nokia PC Suite. When creating a calendar entry, set the desired **Synchronisation** option.

Meeting requests

If you receive a meeting request to the mailbox in your device, the request is saved to the calendar when you open the e-mail.

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You can view received meeting requests in the mailbox or in the calendar. To respond to a meeting request using e-mail, select **Options** > **Respond**.

Calendar views

Tip! Select **Options** > **Settings** to change the starting day of the week or the view that is shown when you open the calendar.

In the month view, dates that have calendar entries are marked with a small triangle in the bottom right corner. In the week view, memos and anniversaries are placed before 8 a.m. To switch between the month view, week view, day view, and to-do view, press *.

To go to a certain date, select **Options** > **Go to date**. To jump to today, press #.

To send a calendar note to a compatible device, select **Options** > **Send**.

To print calendar entries on a compatible Basic Print Profile (BPP) equipped printer with Bluetooth connectivity (such as HP Deskjet 450 Mobile Printer or HP Photosmart 8150), select **Options** > **Print**.

Manage your calendar entries

Deleting past entries in **Calendar** saves space in your device memory.

To delete more than one event at a time, go to the month view, and select **Options** > **Delete entry** > **Before date** or **All entries**.

To mark a task as completed, scroll to it in the to-do view, and select **Options** > **Mark as done**.

Calendar settings

To modify the **Calendar alarm tone**, **Default view**, **Week starts on**, **Week view title**, and select **Options** > **Settings**.

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My own



Visual Radio (network service)

You can use the Visual Radio application as a traditional FM radio with automatic tuning and saved stations. If you tune to stations that offer Visual Radio service, you can view visual information on the display related to the radio program. The Visual Radio service uses packet data (network service). You can listen to the FM radio while using other applications.

To use the Visual Radio service, the following conditions are required:

- The device must be switched on.
- The device must have a valid SIM card inserted.
- The station you listen to and the network operator you use must support this service.
- An Internet access point must be defined to access the operator's visual radio server. See "Access points", on page 99.
- The station must have the correct Visual Radio service ID defined and Visual Radio service enabled. See "Saved stations", on page 73.

If you do not have access to the Visual Radio service, the operators and radio stations in your area may not support Visual Radio. The Visual Radio service may not be available in all areas and countries.

The FM radio depends on an antenna other than the wireless device antenna. A compatible headset or enhancement needs to be attached to the device for the FM radio to function properly.

You can listen to the radio with the built-in loudspeaker or a compatible headset. When using the loudspeaker, keep the headset plugged in the device. The lead of the headset functions as the antenna of the radio, so let it hang freely.

Warning: Listen to music at a moderate level. Continuous exposure to high volume may damage your hearing. Do not hold the device near your ear when the loudspeaker is in use, because the volume may be extremely loud.

You can make a call or answer an incoming call while listening to the radio. The radio is turned off when there is an active call. When the call is finished, the radio is turned back on.

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The radio selects the used frequency band based on the country information received from the network.

Visual Radio can be used for listening when the device cover is closed. Channel information may be displayed on the cover display. To mute or unmute the radio, press the cover key.

Listen to the radio

Note that the quality of the radio broadcast depends on the coverage of the radio station in that particular area.

Connect a compatible headset to the device. The lead of the headset functions as the radio antenna, so let it hang freely. Press , and select **Menu** > **My own** > **Radio**.

To start a station search, select | or |. Searching stops when a station is found. To change the frequency manually, select **Options** > **Manual tuning**.

If you have previously saved radio stations, select | or | to go to the next or previous saved station. To select the memory location of a station, press the corresponding number key.

To adjust the volume, press or . To listen to the radio using the loudspeaker, select **Options** > **Activate loudspeaker**.

To view available stations based on location, select **Options** > **Station directory** (network service).

To save the current tuned station to your station list, select **Options** > **Save station**. To open the list of your saved stations, select **Options** > **Stations**. See "Saved stations", on page 73.

To return to the standby mode and leave the FM radio playing in the background, select **Options** > **Play in background**, or press .



View visual content

To check availability and costs, and to subscribe to the service, contact your network operator or service provider.

To view available visual content for a tuned station, select |, or in the stations view, select **Options** > **Station** > **Start visual service**. If the visual service ID has not been saved for the station, enter it, or select **Retrieve** to search for it in the station directory (network service).

When the connection to the visual service is established, the display shows the current visual content designed by the content provider.

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To adjust display settings for the visual content view, select **Options** > **Display settings** > **Lighting** or **Power saver time-out**.

Saved stations

You can save up to 20 radio stations in Visual Radio. To open your station list, select **Options** > **Stations**.

To listen to a saved station, select **Options** > **Station** > **Listen**. To view available visual content for a station with Visual Radio service, select **Options** > **Station** > **Start visual service**.

To change station details, select **Options** > **Station** > **Edit**.

Settings

Select **Options** > **Settings** and from the following:

Start-up tone — To select a tone to play when the application is started.

Auto-start service — To have the Visual Radio service start automatically when you select a saved station that offers visual service, select **Yes**.

Access point — To select the access point used for the data connection. You do not need an access point to use the application as an ordinary FM radio.

RealPlayer

Press , and select **Menu** > **My own** > **RealPlyr.**. With **RealPlyr.**, you can play video clips or stream media files over the air. You can activate a streaming link when you browse Web pages, or store it in the device memory or a compatible memory card (if inserted).

Tip! You can also view video clips or streaming links in your device with other compatible UPnP devices, such as a TV or a PC, through wireless LAN. See "View media files", on page 86.

RealPlyr. supports files with extensions such as .3gp, .mp4, or .rm. However, **RealPlyr.** does not necessarily support all file formats or all the variations of file formats. For example, **RealPlyr.** attempts to open all .mp4 files, but some .mp4 files may include content that is not compliant with 3GPP standards and, therefore, is not supported by this device.

Play video clips

1 To play a media file stored in device memory or on the memory card (if inserted), select **Options** > **Open** and from the following:
Most recent clips — to play one of the last six files played in **RealPlyr.**
Saved clip — to play a file saved in **Gallery**
See "Gallery", on page 28.

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2 Scroll to a file, and press ● to play the file.

Tip! To view a video clip in full screen mode, press 2. Press again to change back to normal screen mode.

Shortcuts during play:

- To fast forward, press and hold ⊙.
- To rewind through the media file, press and hold ⊙.
- To mute the sound, press and hold ⊙ until 🔇 is displayed. To turn on the sound, press and hold ⊙ until you see 🔊.

Stream content over the air

Many service providers require you to use an Internet access point (IAP) for your default access point. Other service providers allow you to use a WAP access point.

The access points may be configured when you first start your device.

Contact your service provider for more information.

In **RealPlyr.**, you can only open an rtsp:// URL address. However, **RealPlyr.** recognizes an http link to a .ram file.

To stream content over the air, select a streaming link saved in **Gallery**, on a Web page, or received in a text message or multimedia message. Before live content begins streaming, your device connects to the site and starts loading the content. The content is not saved in your device.

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Receive RealPlayer settings

You may receive **RealPlyr.** settings in a special text message from the network operator or service provider. See "Data and settings", on page 44. For more information, contact your network operator or service provider.

Change the RealPlayer settings

Select **Options** > **Settings** and from the following:

Video — to have **RealPlyr.** automatically repeat video clips after they finish playing.

Connection — to select whether to use a proxy server, change the default access point, and set the port range used when connecting. Contact your service provider for the correct settings.

Proxy sett.:

Use proxy — To use a proxy server, select **Yes**.

Proxy serv. address — Enter the IP address of the proxy server.

Proxy port number — Enter the port number of the proxy server.

Glossary: Proxy servers are intermediate servers between media servers and their users. Some service providers use them to provide additional security or speed up access to browser pages that contain sound or video clips.

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Netw. sett.:

Default access point — Scroll to the access point you want to use to connect to the Internet, and press .

Online time — Set the time for **RealPlyr.** to disconnect from the network when you pause a media clip playing through a network link. Select **User defined**, and press . Enter the time, and select **OK**.

Lowest UDP port — Enter the lowest port number of the server's port range. The minimum value is 1024.

Highest UDP port — Enter the highest port number of the server's port range. The maximum value is 65535.

Select **Options** > **Advanced settings** to edit the bandwidth values for different networks.



Flash Player

With Flash Player, you can view, play, and interact with flash files made for mobile devices.

Organise flash files

Press , and select **Menu** > **My own** > **Flash Player**. Scroll right.

To open a folder or play a flash file, scroll to it, and press .

To send a flash file to a compatible device, scroll to it, and press .

To copy a flash file to another folder, select **Organise** > **Copy to folder**.

To move a flash file to another folder, select **Organise** > **Move to folder**.

To create a folder to organize your flash files, select **Organise** > **New folder**.

The available options may vary.

To delete a flash file, scroll to it, and press .

Play flash files

Press , and select **Menu** > **My own** > **Flash Player**. Scroll to a flash file and press .

Select **Options** and from the following:

Note: Options may not be available in all flash files.

- **Pause** to pause the playback.
- **Stop** to stop the playback.
- **Volume** to adjust the playback volume. To increase or decrease the volume scroll left or right.
- **Quality** to select the playback quality. If the playback appears uneven and slow, change the **Quality** setting to **Normal** or **Low**.

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- **Full screen** to play the file using the entire display. To return to the normal screen, select **Normal screen**. Even though not visible in full screen, the key functions may still be available when you press either key below the display.
- **Fit to screen** to play the file in its original size after zooming it.
- **Pan mode on** to be able to move around the display with the scroll key when you have zoomed in.

The available options may vary.



Movie director

Press , and select **Menu** > **My own** > **Movie**, or launch it from the gallery. Muvees are styled video clips that can contain videos, images, music, and text. The style determines the transitions, visual effects, graphics, music, and text that are used in the muvee.

Create muvees

1 In the **Movie director** main view, select the videos and images you want to create a muvee with and select **Options** > **Create muvee**, or open the **Images & video** folder in **Gallery**. Select the video clips and images you want to create a muvee with and select **Options** > **Edit** > **Create muvee**.
2 Select a style for the muvee from the style list. **Movie director** uses the music and text associated with the chosen style.
3 Select **Create muvee**.

The muvee is created automatically and a **Preview** view is displayed. You can select **Save** to save the muvee in the Gallery, **Recreate** to shuffle the media files and create a new muvee, or press **Back** to select a different style for your muvee. You can also select **Customise** to change the muvee settings and create a custom muvee to which you can add images, music, and text.

Create a custom muvee

1 In the **Movie director** main view, select the videos and images you want to create a muvee with and select **Options** > **Create muvee**, or select the **Images & video** folder in **Gallery**. Select the videos and images you want to create a muvee with and select **Options** > **Edit** > **Create muvee**.
2 Select a style for the muvee from the style list. In the style view, select **Options** > **Customise**. Select from the following:
Music — to select a music clip from the list.
Message — to edit the **Opening message** and **Closing message**.

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Videos & Images — select from the following:

- **Add/Remove** to add or remove video clips and images, or **Add/Remove** > **Capture** to open the camera application to capture new video clips and images.
- **Move** to reorder the position of video clips and images in the custom muvee.
- **Select contents** to select video segments to include/exclude in the muvee.

Length — to define the duration of the muvee, select **User defined**. Select **Multimedia message**, **Same as music**, or **Auto-select**. If the muvee duration is less than the music duration, the muvee is repeated to match the music duration. If the muvee duration is longer than the music duration, the music is repeated to match the muvee duration.

Settings — to change the settings for muvee production. Select from the following:

- **Memory in use** — select where to store your muvees.
- **Resolution** — select the resolution of your muvees.
- **Default muvee name** — set a default name for the muvees.

3 Select **Create muvee**.

The muvee is created automatically and a **Preview** view is displayed. You can select **Save** to save the muvee in the Gallery, **Recreate** to shuffle the media files and create a new muvee, or **Customise** to return to the muvee settings.

Games

Press , and select **Menu** > **My own** and a game. For instructions on how to play the game, select **Options** > **Help**.

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Connectivity

Bluetooth connectivity

You can connect wirelessly to other compatible devices with wireless Bluetooth technology. Compatible devices may include mobile phones, computers, and enhancements such as headsets and car kits. You can use Bluetooth connectivity to send images, video clips, music and sound clips, and notes; connect wirelessly to your compatible PC (for example, to transfer files); and connect to a compatible printer to print images with **Image print**. See "Image print", on page 37.

Since devices with Bluetooth technology communicate using radio waves, your device and the other device do not need to be in direct line-of-sight. The two devices only need to be within 10 meters (33 feet) of each other, but the connection may be subject to interference from obstructions such as walls or from other electronic devices.

This device is compliant with Bluetooth Specification 2.0 supporting the following profiles: Basic Printing Profile, Generic Access Profile, Serial Port Profile, Dial-up Networking Profile, Headset Profile, Handsfree Profile, Generic Object Exchange Profile, Object Push Profile, File Transfer Profile, Basic Imaging Profile, SIM Access profile, and Human Interface Device Profile. To ensure interoperability between other devices supporting Bluetooth technology, use Nokia approved enhancements for this model. Check with the manufacturers of other devices to determine their compatibility with this device.

Glossary: A profile corresponds to a service or a function, and defines how different devices connect. For example, the Handsfree Profile is used between the handsfree device and the phone. For devices to be compatible, they must support the same profiles.

There may be restrictions on using Bluetooth technology in some locations. Check with your local authorities or service provider.

Features using Bluetooth technology, or allowing such features to run in the background while using other features, increase the demand on battery power and reduce the battery life.

When the device is locked, you cannot use Bluetooth connectivity. See "Security", on page 102 for more information on locking the device.

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Settings

Press , and select **Connect.** > **Bluetooth**. When you open the application for the first time, you are asked to define a name for your device. After you set Bluetooth connectivity on and change **My phone's visibility** to **Shown to all**, your device and this name can be seen by other users with devices using Bluetooth technology.

Select from the following:

Bluetooth — Select **On** or **Off**. To connect wirelessly to another compatible device, first set Bluetooth connectivity **On**, then establish a connection.

My phone's visibility — To allow your device to be found by other devices with Bluetooth technology, select **Shown to all**. To hide it from other devices, select **Hidden**.

My phone's name — Edit the name of your device.

Remote SIM mode — To enable another device, such as a compatible car kit enhancement, to use the SIM card in your device to connect to the network, select **On**.

Remote SIM mode

To use the remote SIM mode with a compatible car kit enhancement, set Bluetooth connectivity on, and enable the use of the remote SIM mode with your device. Before the mode can be activated, the two devices must be paired and the pairing initiated from the other device. When pairing, use a 16-digit passcode, and set the other device as authorized. See "Pair devices", on page 80. Activate the remote SIM mode from the other device.

When the remote SIM mode is on in your Nokia N93, **Remote SIM** is displayed in the standby mode. The connection to the wireless network is turned off, as indicated by in the signal strength indicator area, and you cannot use SIM card services or features requiring cellular network coverage. However, a wireless LAN connection remains active during the remote SIM mode.

Warning: In the remote SIM mode, you cannot make or receive any calls with your device, except make calls to certain emergency numbers, or use other features that require network coverage. To make calls, you must first exit the remote SIM mode. If the device has been locked, enter the lock code.

To exit the remote SIM mode, press the power key, and select **Exit rem. SIM mode**.

Security tips

When you are not using Bluetooth connectivity, select **Bluetooth** > **Off** or **My phone's visibility** > **Hidden**.

Do not pair with an unknown device.

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Send data using Bluetooth connectivity

Several Bluetooth connections can be active at a time. For example, if you are connected to a headset, you can also transfer files to another compatible device at the same time.

Bluetooth connectivity indicators

- When is shown in the standby mode, Bluetooth connectivity is on.
- When is blinking, your device is trying to connect with another device.
- When is shown continuously, data is being transmitted using Bluetooth connectivity.

1 Open the application where the item you want to send is stored. For example, to send an image to another compatible device, open **Gallery**.
2 Select the item and **Options** > **Send** > **Via Bluetooth**. Devices with Bluetooth technology within range start to appear on the display.
Device icons are: computer, phone, audio or video device, and other device.
To interrupt the search, select **Stop**.
3 Select the device with which you want to connect.
4 If the other device requires pairing before data can be transmitted, a tone sounds, and you are asked to enter a passcode. See "Pair devices", on page 80.
5 When the connection has been established, **Sending data** is shown.

The **Sent** folder in **Messag.** does not store messages sent using Bluetooth connectivity.

Tip! When searching for devices, some devices may show only the unique address (device address). To find the unique address of your device, enter the code ***#2820#** in the standby mode.

Pair devices

To open the paired devices view ( ), in the **Bluetooth** application main view, press .

Before pairing, create your own passcode (1—16 digits), and agree with the owner of the other device to use the same code. Devices that do not have a user interface have a factory-set passcode. The passcode is used only once.

To pair with a device, select **Options** > **New paired device**. Devices with wireless Bluetooth technology within range start to appear on the display. Select the device, and enter the passcode. The same passcode must be entered on the other device as well. After pairing, the device is saved to the paired devices view.

Paired devices are indicated by in the device search.

To set a device as authorized or unauthorized, scroll to a device, and select from the following options:

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Set as authorised — Connections between your device and this device can be made without your knowledge. No separate acceptance or authorization is needed. Use this status for your own devices, such as your compatible headset or PC, or devices that belong to someone you trust. indicates authorized devices in the paired devices view.

Set as unauthorised — Connection requests from this device must be accepted separately every time.

To cancel a pairing, scroll to the device, and select **Options** > **Delete**. If you want to cancel all pairings, select **Options** > **Delete all**.

Tip! If you are currently connected to a device and delete the pairing with that device, pairing is removed immediately, and the connection is switched off.

Receive data using Bluetooth connectivity

When you receive data through Bluetooth connectivity, a tone sounds, and you are asked if you want to accept the message. If you accept, is shown, and the item is placed in the **Inbox** folder in **Messag.**. Messages received through Bluetooth connectivity are indicated by . See "Inbox — receive messages", on page 43.

Switch off Bluetooth connectivity

To switch off Bluetooth connectivity, select **Bluetooth** > **Off**.

Infrared connection

With infrared, you can transfer data such as business cards, calendar notes, and media files with a compatible device.

Do not point the infrared (IR) beam at anyone's eye or allow it to interfere with other IR devices. This device is a Class 1 laser product.

Send and receive data using infrared

1. Ensure that the infrared ports of the sending and receiving devices are pointing at each other, and that there are no obstructions between the devices. The preferable distance between the two devices is up to 1 meter (3 feet).
2. The user of the receiving device activates the infrared port.
   To activate the infrared port of your device to receive data through infrared, press , and select **Connect.** > **Infrared**.

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3 The user of the sending device selects the desired infrared function to start the data transfer.
To send data through infrared, locate the desired file in an application or the file manager, and select **Options** > **Send** > **Via infrared**.

If data transfer is not started within 1 minute after the activation of the infrared port, the connection is cancelled and must be started again.

All items received through infrared are placed in the **Inbox** folder in **Messaging**. New infrared messages are indicated by .

When blinks, your device is trying to connect to the other device or a connection has been lost.

When is shown continuously, the infrared connection is active, and your device is ready to send and receive data using its infrared port.



Data cbl.

Press , and select **Connect.** > **Data cbl.**. In **Data cable mode**, select what the USB data cable connection is used for: **PC Suite**, **Data transfer**, or **Image Print**. To have the device ask the purpose of the connection each time the cable is connected, select **Ask on connection**.

PC connections

You can use your device with a variety of PC connectivity and data communications applications. With Nokia PC Suite you can, for example, transfer images between your device and a compatible PC.

Always create the connection from the PC to synchronize with your device.

Your device as a modem

You can use your device as a modem to send and receive e-mail, or to connect to the Internet with a compatible PC by using Bluetooth connectivity, infrared, or a USB data cable. Detailed installation instructions can be found in the User Guide for Nokia PC Suite.

Tip! When using Nokia PC Suite for the first time, to connect your device to a compatible PC and to use Nokia PC Suite, use the Get Connected wizard available in Nokia PC Suite.



Connection manager

Press , and select **Connect.** > **Conn. mgr.**. To view the status of data connections or end connections in GSM and UMTS network and wireless LAN, select **Act. data conn.**. To search for wireless LANs available within range, select **Availab. WLAN**.

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Data connections

In the active connections view, you can see the open data connections: data calls ( ), packet data connections (or), and wireless LAN connections ( ).

Note: The actual time invoiced for calls by your service provider may vary, depending on network features, rounding off for billing, and so forth.

To end a connection, select **Options** > **Disconnect**. To close all open connections, select **Options** > **Disconnect all**.

To view the details of a connection, select **Options** > **Details**. The details shown depend on the connection type.

Wireless LAN

The available wireless LAN view shows a list of wireless LANs within range, their network mode (**Infrastructure** or **Ad-hoc**), and signal strength indicator. is shown for networks with encryption, and if your device has an active connection in the network.

To view the details of a network, select **Options** > **Details**.

To create an Internet access point in a network, select **Options** > **Define access point**.



Synchronization

Press , and select **Connect.** > **Sync**. **Sync** enables you to synchronize your notes, calendar, contacts, or e-mail with various compatible calendar and address book applications on a compatible computer or on the Internet. You can also create or edit synchronization settings.

The synchronization application uses SyncML technology for synchronization. For information on SyncML compatibility, contact the supplier of the application with which you want to synchronize your device data.

You may receive synchronization settings in a special text message. See "Data and settings", on page 44.

Synchronize data

In the **Sync** main view, you can see the different synchronization profiles.

1 Select a synchronization profile and **Options** > **Synchronise**. The status of the synchronization is shown on the display.
To cancel synchronization before it finishes, select **Cancel**.

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2 You are notified when the synchronization is complete. Select **Yes** to view the log file showing the synchronization status and how many entries have been added, updated, deleted, or discarded (not synchronized) in your device or on the server.



Device manager

Press , and select **Connect.** > **Dev. mgr.**. You may receive server profiles and different configuration settings from your network operator, service provider, or company information management department. These configuration settings may include access point settings for data connections and other settings used by different applications in your device.

To connect to a server and receive configuration settings for your device, scroll to a profile, and select **Options** > **Start configuration**.

To allow or deny receiving of configuration settings from service providers, select **Options** > **Enable config.** or **Disable config.**.

Server profile settings

Contact your service provider for the correct settings.

Server name — Enter a name for the configuration server.

Server ID — Enter the unique ID to identify the configuration server.

Server password — Enter a password to identify your device to the server.

Access point — Select an access point to be used when connecting to the server.

Host address — Enter the URL address of the server.

Port — Enter the port number of the server.

User name and **Password** — Enter your user name and password.

Allow configuration — To receive configuration settings from the server, select **Yes**.

Auto-accept all reqs. — If you want your device to ask for confirmation before accepting a configuration from the server, select **No**.

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Home network

Your device is compatible with Universal Plug and Play architecture (UPnP). Using a wireless LAN access point device or a wireless LAN router, you can create a home network and connect compatible UPnP devices that support wireless LAN to the network, such as your Nokia N93, a compatible PC, a compatible printer, and a compatible sound system or a TV, or a sound system or TV equipped with a compatible wireless multimedia receiver.

Using the wireless LAN function of the Nokia N93 in a home network requires a working wireless LAN home connection setup and the other target home devices to be UPnP enabled and to be connected to the same home network.

You can share media files saved in **Gallery** with other compatible UPnP devices using the home network. To manage your **Home network** settings, press , and select **Connect.** > **Home network**. You can also use the home network to view, play, copy, or print compatible media files from **Gallery**. See "View media files", on page 86.

Home network settings

To share media files saved in **Gallery** with other compatible UPnP devices through wireless LAN, you must first create and configure your wireless LAN home Internet access point, and then configure the **Home network** application. See "Wireless LAN", on page 15.

The options related to **Home network** are not available in **Gallery** before the **Home network** settings have been configured.

Configure settings

To configure the **Home network** application, select **Connect.** > **Home network** > **Settings**, and from the following:

Home access point — Select **Always ask** if you want the device to ask for the home access point every time you connect to the home network, **User defined** to select your home Internet access point that is used automatically when you use **Home network**, or **None**. If your home network does not have wireless LAN security settings enabled, you get a security warning. You can continue, and switch the wireless LAN security on later; or cancel defining the access point, and first switch on the wireless LAN security. See Wireless LAN in "Access points", on page 99.

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My device name — Enter a name for your device that is shown to the other compatible devices in the home network.

Set sharing on and define content

Select **Connect.** > **Home network** > **Share content**.

Content sharing — Allow or deny sharing media files with compatible devices. Do not set **Content sharing** on before you have configured all the other settings. If you set **Content sharing** on, the other UPnP compatible devices in the home network can view and copy your files you have selected for sharing in the **Images & video** and **Music** folders.

To select media files for sharing with other devices from the **Images & video** and **Music** folders, or to view the sharing status of **Images & video** or **Music**, select **Share content**.

View media files

To connect a compatible PC to the home network, you must install the related software from the DVD-ROM supplied with your Nokia N93.

If **Content sharing** is on in your device, the other UPnP compatible devices in the home network can view and copy the media files you have selected to share in **Share content**. If you do not want the other devices to access your files, set **Content sharing** off. Even if **Content sharing** is off in your device, you can still view and copy the media files stored in another home network device if it is allowed by the other device.

Show media files stored in your device

To select images, videos, and sound clips stored in your device, and show them in another home network device, such as a compatible TV, do the following:

1. In **Gallery**, select an image, a video clip, or a sound clip.
2. Select **Options** > **Show via home net.**.
3. Select a compatible device in which the media file is shown. The images are shown both in the other home network device and your device, and the video clips and sound clips are played only in the other device.

Show media files stored in the other device

To select media files that are stored on another home network device, and show them in your device (or in a compatible TV, for example), do the following:

1. In **Gallery**, select **Home network**. Your device starts the search of other compatible devices. Device names start to appear on the display.
2. Select a device from the list.
3. Select the type of media you want to view from the other device. The available file types depend on the features of the other device.

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4 Select the image, video clip, or music clip you want to view, and select **Options** > **Show via home net.** (images and video) or **Play via home network** (music).
5 Select the device in which the file is shown.

To stop sharing the media file, select **Options** > **Stop showing**.

To print images saved in **Gallery** through **Home network** with a UPnP compatible printer, select the print option in **Gallery**. See "Image print", on page 37. **Content sharing** does not have to be switched on.

To search files with different criteria, select **Options** > **Find**. To sort the found files, select **Options** > **Sort by**.

Copy media files

To copy or transfer media files from your device to another compatible device, such as a UPnP compatible PC, select a file in **Gallery**, and **Options** > **Organise** > **Copy to home network** or **Move to home network**. **Content sharing** does not have to be switched on.

To copy or transfer files from the other device to your device, select a file in the other device, and **Options** > **Copy to phone mem.** or **Copy to memory card** (the name of the memory card if the memory card is available). **Content sharing** does not have to be switched on.

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Office

Calculator

To add, subtract, multiply, divide, and calculate square roots and percentages, press , and select **Office** > **Calculator**.

Note: This calculator has limited accuracy and is designed for simple calculations.

Converter

To convert measures from one unit to another, press , and select **Office** > **Converter**.

Converter has limited accuracy, and rounding errors may occur.

1. In the **Type** field, select the measure you want to use.
2. In first **Unit** field, select the unit from which you want to convert. In the next **Unit** field, select the unit to which you want to convert.
3. In the first **Amount** field, enter the value you want to convert. The other **Amount** field changes automatically to show the converted value.

Set base currency and exchange rates

Select **Type** > **Currency** > **Options** > **Currency rates**. Before you can make currency conversions, you must select a base currency and add exchange rates. The rate of the base currency is always 1.

Note: When you change base currency, you must enter the new rates because all previously set exchange rates are cleared.

Notes

To write notes, press , and select **Office** > **Notes**. You can send notes to compatible devices, and save plain text files (.txt format) that you receive to **Notes**.

To print a note on a compatible Basic Print Profile (BPP) equipped printer with Bluetooth connectivity (such as HP Deskjet 450 Mobile Printer or HP Photosmart 8150), select **Options** > **Print**.

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Web browser

Various service providers maintain pages specifically designed for mobile devices. These pages use the wireless markup language (WML), extensible hypertext markup language (XHTML), or hypertext markup language (HTML).

Check the availability of services, pricing, and fees with your network operator or service provider. Service providers will also give you instructions on how to use their services.

Press , and select **Office** > **Web**.

With this additional browser, you are able to view normal Web pages, to zoom in and out on a page (Mini Map), to view Web pages that contain only text in narrow form so that text wraps, and to read feeds and blogs.

To turn the Mini Map on or off for the current page, press 7. When the Mini Map is on, an overview of the complete page is shown when you press and hold the scroll key right, left, up, or down to move on the page.

See also "Web access point", on page 65.

Recorder

To record voice memos, press , and select **Office** > **Recorder**. To record a telephone conversation, open **Recorder** during a voice call. Both parties hear a tone every 5 seconds during recording.

Barcode reader

Use the **Barcode reader** application to decode different types of codes (for example, barcodes and codes in magazines). The codes may contain information such as URL links, e-mail addresses, and phone numbers.

To scan and decode barcodes, press , and select **Office** > **Barcode reader**.

To scan a code, select **Scan code**. Set the code between the red lines on the display. The **Barcode reader** scans and decodes the code, and the decoded information appears on the display.

To save the scanned data, select **Options** > **Save**. The data is saved in .bcr format.

To view saved decoded information, in the main view, select **Saved data**. To open a code, press .

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When viewing the decoded information, the different links, URL links, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses, are indicated by icons on the top of the display in the direction they appear in the decoded information.

In the **Saved data** view, select **Options** and from the following:

Scan new code — To scan a new code

Open link — To open a URL link

Add to bookmarks — To save a URL link to the bookmarks in **Web**

Create message — To send a text message or an e-mail to a phone number or an e-mail address

Add to Contacts — To add a phone number, e-mail address, or URL address to **Contacts**

Call — To call a phone number.

The available options may vary depending on the highlighted link.

The device goes into stanby mode to save battery power if **Barcode reader** cannot be activated or if no keys are pressed for 1 minute. To continue scanning or viewing saved information, press ●.



Quickoffice

To use the Quickoffice applications, press , and select **Office** > **Quickoffice**. A list of files in the .doc, .xls, .ppt, and .txt file formats saved in your device opens.

To open a file in its respective application, press ●. To sort files, select **Options** > **Sort files**.

To open **Quickword**, **Quicksheet**, or **Quickpoint**, press ○ to reach the desired view.

Quickword

With **Quickword**, you can view native Microsoft Word documents on the display of your device. **Quickword** supports colors, bold, italics, and underline.

Quickword supports the viewing of documents saved in .doc format in Microsoft Word 97, 2000, and XP. Not all variations or features of the mentioned file formats are supported.

See also "More information", on page 92.

View Word documents

To move in the document, use the scroll key.

To search the document for text, select **Options** > **Search**.

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You can also select **Options** and from the following:

Go to — to move to the start, end, or selected position within the document

Zoom — to zoom in or out

Start Autoscroll — to start automatic scrolling through the document. To stop scrolling, press ◉.

Quicksheet

With **Quicksheet**, you can read Microsoft Excel files on the display of your device.

Quicksheet supports the viewing of spreadsheet files saved in .xls format in Microsoft Excel 97, 2000, 2003, and XP. Not all variations or features of the mentioned file formats are supported.

See also "More information", on page 92.

View spreadsheets

To move around in the spreadsheet, use the scroll key.

To switch between worksheets, select **Options** > **Worksheet**.

To search the speadsheet for a text within a value or formula, select **Options** > **Find**.

To change how the spreadsheet is displayed, select **Options** and from the following:

Pan — to navigate within the current worksheet by blocks. A block contains columns and rows displayed by a screen. To display the columns and rows, use the scroll key to select a block and **OK**.

Zoom — to zoom in or out

Freeze panes — to keep the highlighted row, column, or both visible while you move in the spreadsheet

Resize — to adjust the size of columns or rows

Quickpoint

With **Quickpoint**, you can view Microsoft PowerPoint presentations on the display of your device.

Quickpoint supports the viewing of presentations created in .ppt format in Microsoft PowerPoint 97, 2000, and XP. Not all variations or features of the mentioned file formats are supported.

See also "More information", on page 92.

View presentations

To move between the slide, outline, and the notes view, press ◉ or ◉.

To move to the next or previous slide in the presentation, press ◉ or ◉.

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To view the presentation in full screen, select **Options** > **Full screen**.

To expand items in the presentation outline in the outline view, select **Options** > **Expand entry**.

More information

If you experience problems with **Quickword**, **Quicksheet**, or **Quickpoint**, visit www.quickoffice.com for more information. Support is also available by sending an e-mail to supportS60@quickoffice.com.

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Personalize your device

Your service provider may have requested that certain features be disabled or not activated in your device. If so, they will not appear on your device menu. Your device may also have been specially configured for your network provider. This configuration may include changes in menu names, menu order, and icons. Contact your service provider for more information.

- To use the standby display for fast access to your most frequently used applications, see "Active standby mode", on page 95.
- To change the standby mode background image or what is shown in the screen saver, see "Change the look of your device", on page 94.
- To customize the ringing tones, see "Profiles — set tones", on page 93 and "Add ringing tones for contacts", on page 64.
- To change the shortcuts assigned for the different presses of the scroll key and left and right selection keys in the standby mode, see "Standby mode", on page 97.



- To change the clock shown in the standby mode, press , and select **Clock** > **Options** > **Settings** > **Clock type** > **Analogue** or **Digital**.
- To change the welcome note to an image or animation, press , and select **Tools** > **Settings** > **Phone** > **General** > **Welcome note / logo**.
- To change the main menu view, in the main menu, select **Options** > **Change view** > **Grid** or **List**.
- To rearrange the main menu, in the main menu, select **Options** > **Move**, **Move to folder**, or **New folder**. You can move less used applications into folders, and place applications that you use more often into the main menu.

Profiles — set tones

To set and customize the ringing tones, message alert tones, and other tones for different events, environments, or caller groups, press , and select **Tools** > **Profiles**.

To change the profile, press in the standby mode. Scroll to the profile you want to activate, and select **OK**.

To modify a profile, press , and select **Tools** > **Profiles**. Scroll to the profile, and select **Options** > **Personalise**. Scroll to the setting you want to change, and press to

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open the choices. Tones stored on the memory card are indicated with . You can scroll through the tone list and listen to each one before you make your selection. To stop the sound, press any key.

When you choose a tone, **Tone downloads** opens a list of bookmarks. You can select a bookmark and start connection to a Web page to download tones.

If you want the caller's name to be said when your device rings, select **Options** > **Personalise**, and set **Say caller's name** to **On**. The caller's name must be saved in **Contacts**.

To create a new profile, select **Options** > **Create new**.

Offline profile

The **Offline** profile lets you use the device without connecting to the wireless network. When you activate the **Offline** profile, the connection to the wireless network is turned off, as indicated by ✕ in the signal strength indicator area. All wireless phone signals to and from the device are prevented. If you try to send messages, they are placed in the outbox to be sent later.

Warning: In the offline profile you cannot make (or receive) any calls, except make calls to certain emergency numbers, or use other features that require network coverage. To make calls, you must first activate the phone function by changing profiles. If the device has been locked, enter the lock code.

Warning: Your device must be switched on to use **Offline** profile. Do not switch the device on when wireless device use is prohibited or when it may cause interference or danger.

When you have activated the **Offline** profile, you can still use the wireless LAN (if available), for example, to read your e-mail or browse on the Internet. Remember to comply with any applicable safety requirements when establishing and using a wireless LAN connection. See "Wireless LAN", on page 15.

To exit the **Offline** profile, press the power key, and select another profile. The device reenables wireless transmissions (providing there is sufficient signal strength). If a Bluetooth connection is activated before using the **Offline** profile, it is deactivated. A Bluetooth connection is automatically reactivated after you exit the **Offline** profile. See "Settings", on page 79.

Change the look of your device

To change the look of the display, such as the wallpaper and icons, press , and select **Tools** > **Themes**. The active theme is indicated by ✓. In **Themes** you can group together elements from other themes or select images from the **Gallery** to personalize themes further. The themes on the memory card (if inserted) are indicated by

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. The themes on the memory card are not available if the memory card is not inserted in the device. If you want to use the themes saved in the memory card without the memory card, save the themes in the device memory first.

To open a browser connection and download more themes, select **Theme downloads**.

To activate a theme, scroll to it, and select **Options** > **Apply**. To preview a theme before activating it, select **Options** > **Preview**.

To edit themes, scroll to a theme, and select **Options** > **Edit** to change the **Wallpaper** and **Power saver** settings.

To restore the selected theme to its original settings, select **Options** > **Restore orig. theme** when you edit a theme.

Active standby mode

Use your standby display for fast access to your most frequently used applications. By default, the active standby mode is on.

Press , select **Tools** > **Settings** > **Phone** > **Standby mode** > **Active standby**, and press to switch the active standby on or off.

The active standby display is shown with default applications across the top of the screen, and calendar, to-do, and player events listed below.



Scroll to an application or event, and press .

The standard scroll key shortcuts available in the standby mode cannot be used when the active standby mode is on.

To change the default applications shortcuts, press , select **Tools** > **Settings** > **Phone** > **Standby mode** > **Active standby apps.**, and press .

Some shortcuts may be fixed, and you are not able to change them.

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Tools

Media key

To open the shortcut assigned to the multimedia key, press and hold ⁘. To open a list of multimedia applications, press ⁘. To open the desired application, use the scroll key. To exit the list without selecting an application, press and hold ⁘.

To change the shortcuts, press ⁘, and scroll down. To change the default shortcut, select **Multimedia key**. To change the applications that are shown when you press ⁘, select **Top**, **Left**, **Middle**, and **Right** and the application.

Some shortcuts may be fixed, and you are not able to change them.

Settings

To change settings, press , and select **Tools** > **Settings**. To open a settings group, press ●. Scroll to a setting you want to change, and press ●.

Some settings may be preset for the device by your network operator or service provider, and you may not be able to change them.

Phone settings

General

Phone language — Changing the language of the display texts in your device also affects the format used for date and time and the separators used, for example, in calculations. **Automatic** selects the language according to the information on your SIM card. After you change the display text language, the device restarts.

Changing the settings for **Phone language** or **Writing language** affects every application in your device, and the change remains effective until you change these settings again.

Writing language — Changing the language affects the characters and special characters available when writing text and the predictive text dictionary used.

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Predictive text — Set the predictive text input **On** or **Off** for all editors in the device. The predictive text dictionary is not available for all languages.

Welcome note / logo — The welcome note or logo is displayed briefly each time you switch on the device. Select **Default** to use the default image, **Text** to write a welcome note, or **Image** to select an image from **Gallery**.

Orig. phone settings — You can reset some of the settings to their original values. To do this, you need the lock code. See "Security", "Phone and SIM", on page 103. After resetting, the device may take a longer time to power on. Documents and files are unaffected.

Cover display

Personalisation

Wallpaper — Select the background image displayed on the cover display in the standby mode. If you select **User defined** in the wallpaper settings, the cropping tool frame is shown on top of the image you selected. The cropping tool frame is the size of the cover display, and you can zoom, rotate, and crop the area of the image you want to be displayed on the cover display.

Closing animation — Select a short animation to play when you close the cover.

Closing tone — Select a short tune to play when you close the cover.

Opening tone — Select a short tune to play when you open the cover and the device is in the standby mode.

Calls:

Answer if fold opened — Select **No** or **Yes**.

If fold closed — Select **End call** or **Activate loudspeaker**.

Standby mode

Active standby — Use shortcuts to applications in the standby mode. See "Active standby mode", on page 95.

Left selection key — Assign a shortcut to the left selection key (⌐) in the standby mode.

Right selection key — Assign a shortcut to the right selection key (¬) in the standby mode.

Active standby apps. — Select the application shortcuts you want to appear in the active standby. This setting is only available if **Active standby** is on.

You can also assign keypad shortcuts for the different presses of the scroll key. The scroll key shortcuts are not available if the active standby is on.

Operator logo — This setting is only available if you have received and saved an operator logo. Select **Off** if you do not want the logo to be shown.

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Display

Brightness — Adjust the basic brightness level of the display to lighter or darker. However, in extreme light conditions, the brightness of the display is automatically adjusted.

Power saver time-out — Select the time-out period after which the screen saver is activated.

Light time-out — Select a time-out after which the backlight of the display is switched off.



Call settings

Send my caller ID — You can set your phone number to be displayed to (**Yes**) or hidden from (**No**) the person to whom you are calling, or the value may be set by your network operator or service provider when you make a subscription (**Set by network**) (network service).

Call waiting — If you have activated call waiting (network service), the network notifies you of a new incoming call while you have a call in progress. Set the function on (**Activate**) or off (**Cancel**), or check whether the function is activated (**Check status**).

Reject call with SMS — Select **Yes** to send a text message to a caller informing why you could not answer the call. See "Answer or reject a call", on page 58.

Message text — Write a text to be sent in a text message when you reject a call.

Image in video call — You can deny video sending when you receive a video call. Select a still image to be displayed instead of video.

Automatic redial — Select **On**, and your device makes a maximum of 10 attempts to connect the call after an unsuccessful call attempt. To stop automatic redialing, press .

Summary after call — Activate this setting if you want the device to briefly display the approximate duration of the last call.

Speed dialling — Select **On**, and the numbers assigned to the speed dialing keys (2 — 9) can be dialed by pressing and holding the key. See also "Speed dial a phone number", on page 53.

Anykey answer — Select **On**, and you can answer an incoming call by briefly pressing any keypad key, except , , , and .

Line in use — This setting (network service) is shown only if the SIM card supports two subscriber numbers, that is, two phone lines. Select which phone line you want to use for making calls and sending text messages. Calls on both lines can be answered irrespective of the selected line. If you select **Line 2** and have not subscribed to this network

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service, you will not be able to make calls. When line 2 is selected, **2** is shown in the standby mode.

Tip! To switch between the phone lines, press and hold # in the standby mode.

Line change — To prevent line selection (network service), select **Disable** if supported by your SIM card. To change this setting, you need the PIN2 code.



Connection

Data connections and access points

Your device supports packet data connections, such as GPRS in the GSM network. When you use your device in GSM and UMTS networks, multiple data connections can be active at the same time, and access points can share a data connection.

You can also use a wireless LAN data connection. See "Wireless LAN", on page 15. Only one connection in one wireless LAN can be active at a time.

To establish a data connection, an access point is required. You can define different kinds of access points, such as:

- MMS access point to send and receive multimedia messages
- Access point for the Web application to view WML or XHTML pages
- Internet access point (IAP) to send and receive e-mail and connect to the Internet

Check the type of access point you need with your service provider for the service you want to access. For availability and subscription to packet data connection services, contact your network operator or service provider.

Access points

You may receive access point settings in a message from a service provider. See "Data and settings", on page 44. Some or all access points may be preset for your device by your service provider or network operator, and you may not be able to change, create, edit, or remove them. indicates a protected access point.

indicates a packet data access point, and a wireless LAN access point.

Tip! To create an Internet access point in a wireless LAN, press , and select **Connect.** > **Conn. mgr.** > **Availab. WLAN** > **Options** > **Define access point**.

To create a new access point, select **Options** > **New access point**. To edit the settings of an access point, select **Options** > **Edit**. Follow the instructions from your service provider.

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