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## Carry the Internet in your pocket

April 15, 2004



**Tech Files are video reports examining popular topics about technology and the Internet. Links to helpful Web sites are listed. [Mike Goldfein](#)**

**reports from the Belo Washington bureau.**

### STORY

Do we really need access to the Internet 24 hours a day, 7 days a week? A number of companies now think the answer is yes, and they're working on ways to make it possible, regardless of where you are.

### Here's Mike Goldfein:

Someday, psychologists may determine that we are afflicted with a condition called Internet Addiction.

Call it IA for short.

Internet Addiction is marked by intense anxiety whenever you can't get e-mail, check a stock quote or get a score.

"We're calling it a PocketSurfer Web viewer."  
— *Patrick Balch, CellStar*

Which is why we are beginning to see things

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like the PocketSurfer.

"This offers somebody the wireless Internet as they see it on their home or their office computer in the palm of their hand. Anyplace they'd like to go, at any time of day. —

*Patrick Balch, CellStar*

The \$200 PocketSurfer from CellStar is about the size of a checkbook, but it comes with a decent-sized screen and a full keyboard.

One downside. It can't connect to the Internet all by itself, but relies on a Bluetooth connection to your cellphone that then dials up Internet access.

"Click the Internet button, and it should bring us, in about 7 to 10 seconds, to that story."

The PocketSurfer seemed to work pretty well, but it is in for some stiff competition.

Cellphones are quickly becoming better at surfing the Web, thanks to bigger screens and innovative formatting ideas.

"It will cut it into streams of paper like this, and then put this below that, and then that below this, making it into a long strip." — *Pal Hvistendahl / Opera*

So, if you can't live without your Internet fix, help is on the way.

On the Web for Belo Interactive, I'm Mike Goldfein.

### LEARN MORE

The PocketSurfer is set to go on sale in a few weeks.

#### More headlines...

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