

# humandesign

Friday, December 10, 2004

## The Internet's next big step

[How close is wireless broadband for the average customer?](#)

After I read the post on 9th Dec. and the article on CNN, I realise the potential market of the portable TV. Just imagine how ideal it would be if these two applications are widely used in our daily lifes. Multimedia information will be spread in a quick and efficient manner. Both time and space will be significantly reduced as cables do not exist in linking these two medium. Information can easily be retrieved from anywhere with wireless broadband which is covered all around the world. Application developers can thus take this advantage to design applications with the unlimited boundary. It would be much more fun if we could sit on the grassland and watch TV or movies in country side.

posted by alfred at [3:49 PM](#) | [0 comments](#)

## The new Nintendo DS

The new Nintendo DS gaming handheld device, which was launched in the United States a few weeks ago, is interesting in many ways. The features includes the built-in Wi-Fi, dual ARM processors, dual LCD screens, chat collaboration software, included stylus, and built-in microphone for future voice recognition. However, the one which really catches my attention is the dual screen implementation which I never really see implemented before in a handheld devices.

Basically, i think it is amazing how much sense it makes having 2 screens for the handheld form factor. As we all know, to fit a bunch of stuff onto one screen on a PDA or handheld gaming device is of the course the no 1 challenge in term of usability. However, Nintendo manages to do it with two screens, thus using them, the game makers can always do things such as displaying area maps in the lower touch screen while the action occurs on the main screen. This is the case how Mario 64 has been implemented. With games such as Madden 2005 the users can use the lower screen touchpad to do play selection, the Nintendo also implemented touch-screen technology so the users can simply touch the

## About

We are a bunch of year 2 CS student trying to do HCI group project by blogging..

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screen to choose their play, while the upper screen is where the action occurs. So in some ways, it also promotes usability because the users can restart the game or choose another selection easily.

With the two dual screens, it definitely bring more advantage as the users could have two programs open at once using two screens. Or maybe having a spreadsheet displayed across two screens at once, which is possible too. One another example is that using one screen as an onscreen keyboard area and the other to display text that is input which would be useful. Even doing the same thing as Nintendo has done and allowing for easy chat and collaboration via 2 screens would be handy. I really like the ease of using the touchpad to drill for menus for changing options and doing things as saving a game quickly or changing selection quickly. There are two ways in which users can input the screen by means of using either the stylus or included thumb strap (touch screen) for inputting. So the users have the choices if they don't like one of the ways.

posted by Leo at [1:36 PM](#) | [0 comments](#)

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**Thursday, December 09, 2004**

### **The 21st Century Living Room**

Would you rather enjoy your digital photos, videos and music on your PC, or on the big screen of the television set you already have? Imagine you could share your digital media with your family and friends from the comfort and convenience of the couch in the living room.

To fill such a need, retailers are selling new products which are sometimes called "digital media receivers" or "media hubs".

One such product, the new MSN TV 2 Internet & Media Player from Microsoft, allows users to quickly and easily connect their PC to the TV through a home network to play digital content, as well as to play video or audio live from the Internet. Additionally, they can surf the Web, send and receive e-mail and chat with friends via the television.

I quote from Sam Klepper, general manager of Microsoft's MSN TV division.

"Everything points to the fact that people want the option of taking Internet entertainment and stored personal photos,

music and videos out of the confines of their home offices and into the comfort of their living rooms."

The range of prices for these devices is equally broad: from as low as \$200 plus a subscription fee for MSN TV and up to US\$1600 for a sophisticated PC.

"Consumers don't have to huddle in front of a computer screen to see or listen to digital content anymore," said Klepper. "Digital media receivers make it easy for them to bring the compelling new entertainment available on the Internet as well as personal photos and digital home movie into the comfort of their living room, the traditional hub for enjoying entertainment. It's an idea whose time has come."

Further information on the MSN TV 2 Internet and Media Player can be found at <http://www.msntv.com/>

posted by Yin Jye at [11:59 PM](#) | [0 comments](#)

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**Wednesday, December 08, 2004**

### **Sony Ericsson P910**

The Sony Ericsson P910 mobile phone is a multi-function mobile device. Besides it is a mobile phone, it is a digital camera, PDA, MP3 player and video camera. Because of this and it is top model of the product line, it sell for 800 USD. The problem is that do people want a multi-function phone in such a high price since there are certain weakness and cathedral weaknesses

Firstly, for a digital camera, the resolution of it is not up to status nowadays. It is good enough for people taking pictures and save them as wallpapers for the phone, but it is not as good as a digital camera that only worth 100 USD in the market.

Secondly, for a MP3 player, it is too big. One of the main reasons why MP3 player is so popular is because of its tiny size.

Thirdly, on the other hand, it is a bit small for a PDA. The screen and keyboard are too small for a PDA for doing word processing and browsing the net.

Fourthly, again, it is too big for a mobile phone. Sony can not make it smaller because it is also a PDA that it can not be "too small". The big size now makes the phone like an old generation mobile phone.

Fifthly, for a video camera, it is also not up to status. For example, it does not have zoom function and the recording time is limited.

In the past, there were many multi function electronic device in the market and the demand of them was very limited since the price of them are high and the design of them is not so

good.

It is no doubt that this Sony Ericsson P910 is a high end product but I just think it like a undergraduate student who takes several majors but finally he can not finish for any of them!

posted by wick01 at [8:15 PM](#) | [0 comments](#)

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**Sunday, December 05, 2004**

### Better than blackberry

Better than blackberry

According to some in the wireless industry, web access for road warriors and other mobile users is as easy as pulling out a Blackberry handheld device, wireless PDA or Internet-enabled cell phone.

Why not ask the actual users of mobile Internet technology, however, and you'll often get a far different story.

Tiny display screens. Frustratingly small keyboards. Clipped or squashed web pages. Unreliable coverage. And download times rivaling the last Ice Age.

A solution to the problems, DataWind Corporation has recently showcase their new product, PocketSurfer Web Viewer, the first cell phone accessory that provides a desktop-quality web experience in a device small enough for breast pocket or purse.

I quote from Suneet S. Tuli, chief executive officer of DataWind.

"All-in-one cellular Internet products try to do too many things, and wind up doing none of them well. The PocketSurfer lets cell phone users access the technology they need, when they need it, with complete flexibility and convenience. And it does this at a lower overall cost than a Blackberry or Handspring Treo."

Let take a peek at what they have to offer.

It is affordable, at the price of \$199.00 USD .

With just 6" x 3" and less than 9/16" thick, the PocketSurfer is small enough to carry anywhere, yet big enough to solve two of the most annoying drawbacks of personal mobile web devices-undersized keyboards and screens.

They claim that once they're online, users are overwhelmed by the page downloads which take just 5 to 7 seconds on

average. This speed is 10 to 30 times faster than with typical WAP enabled cell phones and PDAs. Furthermore, page integrity is maintained. Users gets to see web sites as they're meant to be seen, without clipping or reformatting.

The QWERTY keyboard also makes sending email as easy as with a PC.

The device includes a mouse pointer and page navigation controls.

The lithium ion battery lasts four to six hours which is longer than most cell phones.

This pocketsurfer is indeed some gadget to look forward to, as it sounds to good to be true. I wish i could get one for christmas.

posted by Yin Jye at 11:59 PM | [0 comments](#)

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**Saturday, December 04, 2004**

### Features on Mobile Devices

Mobile devices, such as, laptop, palm, mobile phone, portable printer, have different features. All these features can help people solve lots of problems (such as reading emails, composing essays etc). Laptops can transmit data to the portable printer easily. It is very convenient for businessman to carry along.

However, all devices have limited ability to communicate with each other and often have widely different formats of data, processing and interaction. For instance, when you read your email on your PC (Windows) you do not see it in the same format as you do when you read it on your Apple Macintosh, and when you enter a phone number into your mobile phone you are not also able to add it to your electronic address book. In addition, connecting Apple Macintosh computer to Windows Computer is difficult because they have different Operating system format and hardware design.

How would people choose the correct device that suits their needs? People can choose a device that has meet their requirements based on its device features. But, people can't connect the device to another device which has entirely different in formats and hardware design. Such technical problems would cause people get confused what they are going to get.

posted by CFCHU at 5:00 AM | [0 comments](#)

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Friday, December 03, 2004

## HDD Camera Phone

[More Than Just Talk: Samsung Releases HDD Camera Phone](#)

Initially when I first read the header of this news, I expected the camera phone should have a bulky and unpleasant exterior. In fact it looks handy and attractive, and really astonishes me a lot. However this fancy outlook doesn't amaze me the most, what surprises me is the features of this first-ever mega-pixel camera phone. It has an internal hard drive with 1.5 gigabytes of storage, which is able to store 300 MP3 files or 1,000 images or 3.5 hours of video. The phone is also equipped with a 2.2 inch LCD display and 100 mega-pixel camera, it certainly gives us a new perspective on camera phones. E-books and dictionaries are added to outfit readers' necessity. With mobile phone of this size, it really optimizes the existing technologies to suit consumers' needs.

Nonetheless, I perceived a few potential problems that may likely to occur on this phone. Firstly, a storage of 1.5 gigabytes may likely to bring a problem of bad sectors. With excess data extraction of the hard drive without periodical optimization, the hard drive will probably crash and lose all the data. Thus, back up capabilities could be the key in the rating this phone. Secondly, with numerous files and contacts in the phone, the operating system should have a effective hierarchical structure in managing data. This also extends to the speed of extracting data. It may take ages to load an image or even a video, so careful systematic plannings should be deployed. Moreover, as the operating system gets more complicated, the system will get hanged easily, and consumers may get irritated with the system's performance. Lastly, with all these profound features, I wonder how long the battery can last.

posted by alfred at [2:19 PM](#) | [0 comments](#)

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## Palm & Laptop

Most people are carrying their laptop to school and taking down notes. Laptop is very light in weight but it is big in size compared to palm. The technology on mobile devices continues improving to manufacture devices as smaller as possible in size.

Would the laptop become extinct since many people are using palm? Nobody can predict the future accurately. Nowadays, a lot of people have palm on hand because it is very light in weight and easy to carry from one location to another. The laptop would not become extinct today because the palm has

limited features compared to the laptop. Plus, the palm has small screen which can't be seen easily compared to laptop. If the palm features, in future, has the same capabilities as the laptop, then laptop will be discontinued to produce. Mobile devices would become extinct if the demand is low. The demand depends on the people how they use and what they need the devices to do.

Mobile devices will become extinct as the technology changes. Any new technology discovery can affect the production of mobile devices significantly in numbers. For example, imagine, if the palm screen can be projected to a big screen, do you think people would continue to use old stuff such as laptop, or desktop. Plus, the palm has the same capabilities (or features) as the laptop. The demand of the old devices will be reduced, as a result, old devices will be discontinued to produce or manufacture.

posted by CFCHU at [4:31 AM](#) | [0 comments](#)

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**Tuesday, November 30, 2004**

### **Introduction of the world's first Fastap(TM) wireless phone**

TELUS Mobility has announced the exclusive availability of the Fastap(TM) LG 6190, the world's first wireless phone that integrates text keys around a standard numeric phone keypad.

Actually, the interesting thing that I notice about this phone is that the design of the keypad is completely different with other phones keypad. For this, it has a separate raised keys for each different letter. In fact, it is also the first keypad that neatly integrates letter, number and punctuation keys around the standard numeric keypad on a mobile phone.

The keypad uses a matrix of raised and lowered keys that provide the finger or thumb ample space to access any character with a single press. Fastap's ergonomic design features a Qwerty keyboard about one-third the size of a credit card. Full-sized keys make for easy use, and 1-touch access to punctuation and specialty characters streamline advanced applications.

Sometimes, we have been complaining that our phone keypad is too small and it is tedious to send text messages. However, with this technology, we might not have the same problem again because the intuitive interface and raised keys of the phone allows quick and easy entry of numbers, letters and punctuation without triple tapping. Consumers can quickly send text messages, add text to picture messages,

send email address, and input a variety of data into their phones, such as phonebook entries or directory searches on the wireless web.

If this technology is successful in the future and being applied to each mobil brand, then there might be day when the 12-keys pad becomes obsolete.

posted by Leo at [10:52 PM](#) | [0 comments](#)

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