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## BUSINESS

THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2005

|  |  |

### Cell phone accessories rolled out at trade fair

BRUCE MEYERSON  
The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS - Not every cell phone innovation involves streaming video and 3-D games.

Some don't even involve the phone, as evidenced by inventions displayed at this week's Cellular Telecommunications & Internet Association 2005 trade show.

Some solve problems you didn't know you had.

Take the T-String, an elastic holster for your forearm to hold a phone or an MP3 music player.

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The Associated Press

The PocketSurfer is a \$200 Web browsing device made by DataWind Inc. of Montreal and displayed at the Cellular Telecommunications & Internet Association convention in New Orleans yesterday.

Judging from the 25 flashy designs and the bare-chested boy surrounded by girls on the New York-based company's Web site, T-String may be more focused on style than utility.

Prices range from \$10 for a basic look to \$18 for rhinestones, fur or "metal dog tag."

The \$200 PocketSurfer, made by DataWind Inc. of Montreal, is intended as a two-device solution for easier and faster viewing of Web pages, plus simpler typing on a full keyboard rather than a numeric keypad.

A user pays \$10 a month for faster downloads from DataWind's Internet server, which compresses and accelerates the data transmitted from Web pages being visited over a cellular network.

There's also the PocketSurfer, a Web-browsing device that rejects the prevailing wisdom that people want a single gadget that does it all, even if that means watching everything on the tiny screen of a cell phone.

Then there's the Cell-Klear to remove pesky smudges from the lens of your phone's midget camera lens.

Cell-Klear, made by International Parkside Products Inc., is a pen-shaped device whose tip contains a patented carbon compound that cleans the camera lens.

The pen comes with a cap and a loop to attach to a key chain, for \$6.

The main idea behind the T-String is that mobile devices aren't very accessible on a belt or in a bag.

It's also unclear how comfortable it is to have such a bulky device protruding from your wrist for hours, the elastic band pressing into your veins.

The strap also was a bit too snug for larger phones, making it hard to place such handsets back in the holster after hanging up from a call.

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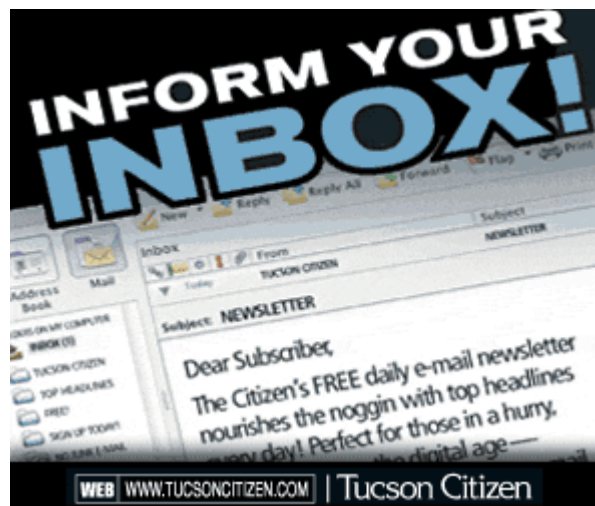


A mobile phone is required to provide a link to the Internet, so the user needs to pay for data service from a cellular provider, although DataWind says its speed makes it unnecessary to sign up for a higher-end plan.

The information is passed from phone to PocketSurfer using a short-range Bluetooth wireless beam.

The company sells \$30 Bluetooth adapters for more than 130 phones without that technology.

At 6 inches, the clamshell device is wide enough to display full HTML, XML and Java online content, rather than squeezing or reformatting Web pages as many cellular-based services do.



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