

TECHNOLOGY ROUND-UP

SHORT SUPPLY OF SCREENS HITS IPHONE 4 PRODUCTION

APPLE, maker of the new iPhone 4, is said to be having difficulty getting enough touchscreens to meet demands, Top Tech News reported.

In a research note based on information from Apple's supplier, LG Display, Rodman & Renshaw analyst Ashok Kumar said the shortage means that Apple has had to cut the number of iPhones it can deliver monthly by 50 per cent, from the original estimate of four million.

DATABASE TO KEEP CHILD PORN OFF SOCIAL SITES

NEW YORK Attorney-General Andrew Cuomo has created a database aimed at keeping child pornography off social-networking sites like Facebook and MySpace, said PC World.

The database holds digital signatures of more than 8,000 child-pornography images. Social-networking firms can use it to monitor their sites for any of these signatures and keep the pornographic images from appearing on their sites.

DELL LAUNCHES COLOURFUL INSPIRON LAPTOPS

DELL has launched a new Inspiron R line-up with bright colour choices – including blue, red and pink – in a bid to differentiate its portable offerings through aesthetics.

According to ZDNet, Dell has reckoned that competing on specifications for laptops priced under US\$1,000 (S\$1,385) is becoming more difficult as more players enter the market.

SONY ERICSSON UNVEILS 1ST WALKMAN HANDSET

SONY Ericsson has unveiled the company's first Walkman handset, called the Yendo, reported HTLounge.net.

The device relies on the same four-corner user interface as the X10 mini, providing quicker access to music and other basic tasks.

Yendo will most likely be released in the United States in summer, and later in Asia and Latin America.

MALAYSIAN COLLEGE MAKES HIGH-TECH CCTV CAMERA

THE Universiti Teknologi Malaysia has developed a closed-circuit television camera that will enhance crime prevention and crime solving.

The camera, which uses a combination of technologies, including high-definition imaging, infrared filters and 3-D stereo adapters, is capable of accurately measuring height, size and facial features of people within minutes.

Believed to be the first of its kind in the world, the gadget costs about RM6,000 (S\$2,560).

THE STAR/ASIA NEWS NETWORK

'Likejacking' virus hits Facebook

BY KOH CHUIN YING

A STUDY has shown that 95 per cent of 600 Internet users polled in a survey do not believe that social-networking website Facebook is doing enough to prevent clickjacking attacks.

According to information-technology security and data-protection firm Sophos, which conducted the survey, the attacks – dubbed likejacking – present users with an image that has been programmed to behave like a Facebook "Like" button.

Once a user has loaded a page containing the **malicious** image, clicking anywhere on the page will – if he is logged into Facebook – update his Facebook page without his permission to say that he also "liked" the page.

This "Like" update is then au-

tomatically shared with the user's Facebook friends via his newsfeed, helping the likejack spread rapidly across the network.

In a blog posting last week, Sophos senior technology consultant Graham Cluley said Facebook users had been "click-jacked". They were tricked into "liking" a web page called 101 Hottest Women In The World by clicking on links that led to an image of Hollywood actress Jessica Alba.

Clickjacking is used to lure users to a third-party link – such as an advertising site – to generate **affiliate** marketing revenue for the person who created the malicious code.

The tricked Facebook user unwittingly endorses the website and recommends it to his friends. If the friends, in turn, click on the link that the original user "liked", the vicious circle repeats itself.

Even if a likejack does not

produce any revenue for the clickjacker, the act of endorsing the likejack would turn it into a "spam cannon", producing more unwanted "Like" messages, said Mr Paul Ducklin, head of technology at Sophos Asia-Pacific.

"The problem...is that the attack automatically jumps between ages, genders and groups. When you are tricked into clicking 'Like', the news goes out to all your friends," he said.

Sophos has proposed that Facebook introduces a dialogue box that prompts a user to confirm that he intends to click "Like", said Mr Ducklin.

"Facebook could also consider implementing an option that turns off 'liking' altogether for users who rarely use the feature," he suggested.

"This would not prevent other people's clickjacked messages from reaching you, but it would prevent you from further **propagating** this sort of attack."

Facebook users said the attacks are a nuisance. Engineer Richard Lo, 24, added that such attacks would affect his social identity as they **misrepresent** what he likes.

"If it floods my entire newsfeed, it'll be annoying. My friends will also think that I'm bored and just being childish," he said.

"Facebook has to be very clear on what the 'Like' button does, if not, the social network will be flawed."

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HELPDESK 我的字典

Malicious: 恶意的 è yì de

Affiliate: 附属的 fù shǔ de

Propagating: 传播 chuán bō

Misrepresent: 歪曲 wāi qū

HOT GIZMOS

Versatile receiver in tune with trends

BY YEONG AH SENG

Pioneer VSX-1020-K AV receiver

IT USED to be that AV receivers processed and delivered only whatever sound and video formats, be they Dolby Pro Logic, DTS or other surround modes, that were in vogue.

Not any more, as the latest Pioneer VSX-1020-K AV receiver shows. It offers not only 7.1-channel sound, but also comes with Internet radio and an iPhone/iPod Touch control.

The rear panel of the VSX-1020-K shows a myriad of connectors that gives a measure of its versatility.

There are six HDMI (one in front, five at the back) ports and countless speaker connections for different sound configurations.



Bluetooth streaming allows the wireless playback of music from the iPhone or iPod touch. An Advanced Sound Retriever program digitally improves compressed audio files by restoring critical data.

These two devices can also directly control the receiver via the Pioneer iControl AV App.

To achieve the best sound, a

Multi-Channel Acoustic Calibration (MCACC) function analyses the speakers' configuration and optimises each one to balance out any room-induced acoustic influence.

This receiver is definitely in tune with contemporary audio trends.

How much: \$1,299

Power-packed portable workstation for pros

Lenovo ThinkPad W700ds

TWO screens (one a 17-inch with 1920x1200 resolution and the other a 10.6 inch-wide display that extends the display area by 39 per cent) in a portable computer do not make an everyday laptop.



Although it is touted as a mobile workstation, this is a heavy machine (4.96kg) which is not likely to be lugged around often.

Even so, it is portable and, true to its workstation billing, the built-in specifications are im-

pressive: dual-core, quad-core and Extreme Intel processors options; integrated Wacom digitiser, dual integrated hard-disk bays; provision for SSD drives to improve data-access speeds; and native Dual Link DVI-D plus DisplayPort digital monitor connectivity.

Lenovo is targeting professional users with this machine. Given its power and portability, designers (graphics, CAD/CAM), photographers and scientists would find it useful.

How much: Price for basic configuration starts from \$9,000 and varies depending on configuration.

Speedy memory card great for HD video

SanDisk 64GB Ultra SDXC memory card

THE 64GB SanDisk Ultra SDXC card is the highest-capacity SD card from SanDisk.

With a 15MBps read speed and Class 4 speed rating, the card is suited for capturing and storing 1080p high-definition video files and can hold more than eight hours of such video.

SDXC cards use the SD 3.0 specification, which



makes it possible to manufacture cards with a storage capacity of up to 2TB. The SDXC card's exFAT file structure enables the recording of long HD videos.

As SD-3.0 specification is a new standard, few devices support SDXC cards.

However, the number of new camera models that support the SDXC format is growing. One example is the Canon Ixus 300 HS.

How much: \$426