

new products

From portable document scanners to small-format network printer servers, we've got hold of all the latest releases on the hi-tech market and given them the once over. Here are our first impressions...



Nokia 7650, 5210 and 6510

Mobile phones

Just as the mobile phone market is beginning to feel blue, Nokia launches even more new devices for consumers to drool over. It's becoming increasingly obvious that this Finnish firm is the only phone manufacturer that can survive the present slump without merging, as Ericsson has done with Sony and Siemens looks set to do in the near future.

The 5210 offers a built-in thermometer and clock, WAP services and a removable faceplate shell, which Nokia calls Xpress-on. The 6510 model features a mobile wallet, an FM radio tuner, WAP and GPRS (general packet radio service).

Nokia has also recently released some Bluetooth equipment (see *News*, page 30), and the new 7650 device is included in this range. Some experts are calling Bluetooth-enabled phones just a gimmick, while others think it marks the beginning of a new wave of multifunction mobiles.

The Nokia 7650 offers Bluetooth and GPRS functionality, which means it automatically connects with any other Bluetooth products in the Nokia range. It is also the first mobile phone to incorporate a built-in digital camera. Other features include a photo album, large colour display and support for multimedia messaging.

Nokia: 08700 555 777

Website: www.nokia.co.uk

Prices: TBA

Sony Ericsson T68

Mobile phone

Sony Ericsson's T68 certainly made *New Products* sit up and take notice, as there are some interesting additions to this new mobile. The T68's shape is much more stylish – no great challenge given past Ericsson offerings – and it also features a colour screen. Plus, instead of scrolling through menus, there's an innovative joystick to navigate your way around. It sounds unwieldy, but we tried it at the Las Vegas Comdex show and were very impressed.

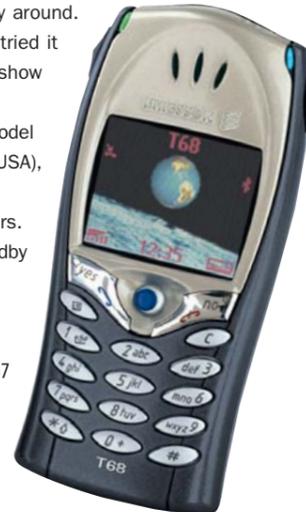
The T68 is a triband model (so it can be used in the USA), it weighs 84g and has a talktime of three to 13 hours.

Sony Ericsson claims that standby is 165 to 290 hours, but this is a flawed statistic as it assumes that you barely use the phone.

Sony: 0870 511 1123; Ericsson: 0870 523 7237

Website: www.sonyericssonmobile.com

Price: £200-£250 with contract



DocuPen

Portable document scanner

The DocuPen, which its makers claim to be the world's smallest full-page portable scanner, can chew through an A4 page in four seconds. It doesn't need to be connected to a PC every time you want to use it, either – the DocuPen can store up to 100 pages of text, which can be downloaded at a later date. It can also impressively take in text and graphics in a single swipe.

The DocuPen's scan width is 8in, and the total scan length is a whopping 90ft, which can be stored in 8MB of memory. This portable scanner is 200mm long and 8mm in diameter and connects to the PC using a serial interface.

Peripheral Corner: 01420 566 700

Website: www.peripheralcorner.co.uk

Price: £90 inc VAT



HP Pavilion 7975

PC with DVD+RW drive

This is HP's first consumer computer with a built-in DVD+RW drive – ideal for PC

home owners wanting to create their very own movie magic. The Pavilion 7975 apparently 'allows you to become a film director from home in just three easy steps'. This involves downloading raw video footage to a PC, editing it and burning your Bergmanesque masterpiece on to a DVD. HP's stylish-looking system houses a DVD+RW drive – one of the competing standards in the DVD format war. HP claims it's the "first DVD format that allows you to edit any frame of your movie without having to play it right through". Impressive stuff.

If you like the look of this machine, but don't want to bother with the ultra-new DVD+RW drive, the 7975 is also available with a more traditional DVD-ROM drive. The specifications are as follows: PCI video capture card IEEE 1394, 1.8GHz Intel Pentium 4 processor, DVD+RW drive, 32-/12-/10-speed (read/write/rewrite) CD-RW and bundled webcam.

HP: 0870 547 4747

Website: www.hp.com/uk

Price: £1,599

Sanyo PLC-XW20

Portable projector

One of the problems with portable projectors is that they are easily damaged in transit. One knock when the unit is hot can blow the delicate and expensive bulb, and it's easy to damage the lens alignment with careless handling. Sanyo has tackled this problem by placing the PLC-XW20 into a robust magnesium alloy casing, which manages to make it look stylish as well as protect it. The lens is also recessed for safety when on the move.

Measuring 257x75x229mm, the projector is small enough to fit in a briefcase but still manages to provide a brightness level of 1,000 Ansi lumens. The lens is off-centre, which eases cooling and reduces fan noise to less than 37dB (decibels). Sharp pictures are ensured by XGA (extended graphics array) resolution, and you also zoom into a specific area of the image.

Sanyo: 01923 477 220

Website: www.sanyo.co.uk

Price: £2,795



Teleadapt multicharger

USB mobile phone charger

Just to put your minds at rest: Teleadapt hasn't bought *PC Advisor*. The reason this company keeps appearing in our pages is that Teleadapt has produced a whole raft of impressive and useful products recently. Earlier this year, *New products* met one of Teleadapt's suppliers of electrical systems (the firm is a reseller), who said his current most useful personal gadget was this USB mobile phone charger.

USB ports can be even more useful than you think. With the right cables, these ports can charge up your mobile phone – a lifesaver if you're caught with no power at work. You don't need any software or drivers because there's no 'logical' connection between the mobile and the PC; your phone simply charges up in the same way as it does at home.

Dixons (stockists): 0800 682 868

Website: www.teleadapt.co.uk

Price: £19.99



ViewSonic VG191

19in flat-panel display

ViewSonic has added two 19in models to its range of TFT (thin-film transistor) monitors, one of which has caught our eye. The VG191 provides a native display resolution of 1,280x1,024 pixels, with the brightness level of 250 nits. A nit is a measure of light intensity equivalent to one candela – or candlepower – per square metre.

Flat-panels usually have a rating of between 200 and 300 nits. The ViewSonic's contrast ratio is 500:1 and the viewing angle is 170 degrees. The screen also supports analogue VGA (video graphics array) and DV (digital video) interfaces. The VG191's SuperClear and vertical alignment technologies allow it to display photo-quality images – both still and moving – and its tilt-and-swivel stand enables the screen to be turned into both portrait and landscape positions.

ViewSonic: 01293 643 900

Website: www.viewsoniceurope.com

Price: £1,125

BUSINESS PRODUCTS

ePowerSwitch

Remotely switchable power extension lead

The ePowerSwitch is an extension lead with a difference – it has a built-in mini web server, which allows individual control of the four-socket outlets via a browser. As security is a keyword in every business – large or small – a password can be installed on to the switch's server, which is saved to the

built-in memory. This prevents unauthorised command of the plugs attached to the socket – from careless colleagues trying to plug in desk fans, to disgruntled staff intent on causing data loss or equipment damage, for example.

The ePowerSwitch can also be deployed to automatically control other electrical equipment, such as printers and lights.

Neol: +33 388 623 752

Website: www.neol.com

Price: £216

D-Link DP-101P+

Small-format print server

Small businesses with more than one PC knocking about often don't have a matching number of printers, which means that you need some way of sharing your printer(s). D-Link's solution isn't the only way of doing it, but it has the advantage of being very small so it doesn't hog too much precious desk or office space.

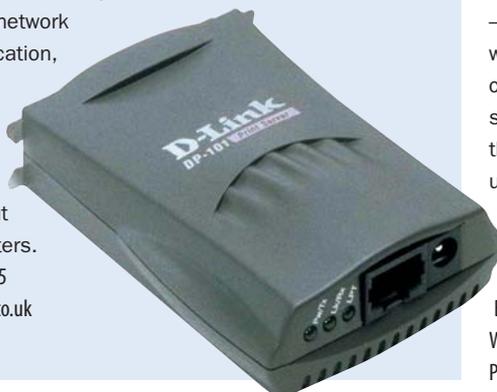
The DP-101P+ is an ethernet 10BaseT port print server. It provides web-based management features for easy co-ordination of your PCs and printers. It plugs directly into the parallel port, so there's also no need for an additional cable.

This port supports HP PJP protocol for bidirectional network printer communication, providing you or your network administrator with relevant information about the network printers.

D-Link: 020 8731 5555

Website: www.dlink.co.uk

Price: £65



ABSplus

Portable backup unit

Laptops often get missed out of the regular backup routine, which is where the ABSplus comes in handy. It's a pocket-sized hard disk that links to a portable device using a PC Card. The backup unit can hold up to 48GB of data, so it can be used to back up an entire hard disk, including the memory-draining operating system.

The ABSplus also has a data transfer rate of up to 75Mbps (megabits per minute), so it won't take all day to copy your files. For example, when we backed up a 1.5GB Sony Vaio hard disk, it took 29 minutes and 38 seconds at an average transfer rate of 53Mbps. The easy-to-use software was also a doddle to install, and can be configured to remind you at certain intervals that a backup is due.

The unit draws power from the laptop via its PC Card. If the laptop's hard disk fails, the ABSplus can be removed from its casing and used as a disaster recovery disk.

Mountain Solutions: 01256 681 246

Website: www.mountainsolutions.com

Price: £649



AirStation WLA-T22G

Wireless LAN access point

Buffalo has updated its AirStation WLAN (wireless local area network) range with this new 22Mbps (megabits per second) version, offering double the performance for small businesses and hi-tech homes.

The WLA-T22G access point – essentially the base station with which WLAN cards in individual PCs communicate – complies to the primary standard for wireless networks. As well as linking PCs in a WLAN, the access point provides ports to link to wired ethernet LANs using 10BaseT or 100BaseTX standards. The access point is fitted with a conventional dialup, ADSL or cable modem or ISDN router which can be shared among PCs on the WLAN. Buffalo's existing network PC cards can be used with the new AirStation.

Buffalo: 01753 677 522

Website: www.buffalo-technology.com

Price: TBA

