

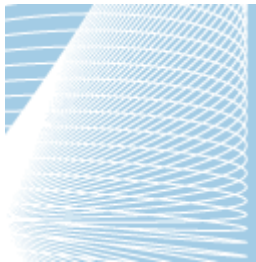


[Sign in](#) | [Register](#)

Go to:

GuardianUnlimited Online

[Home](#) [Onlineblog](#) [What's new](#) [Web watch](#) [Ask Jack](#) [Gamesblog](#) [Feedback](#) [Comment](#) [Inside IT](#) [Life](#)



What's New

Richard Wray, Ashley Norris, Bobbie Johnson and Sean Dodson

Thursday November 18, 2004

[The Guardian](#)

Vodafone spices up 3G services

With six handsets due for a Christmas launch, the first 3G phone from Vodafone to hit the stores is Sony Ericsson's V800 clamshell. While it is light compared with previous 3G phones, it is nevertheless quite big. The screen is disappointingly small but the shortcuts and navigation "nipple" are easy to use. At 1.3 megapixels, the three-position camera with flash is high quality. Pictures, videos and music can be stored on the phone's 32MB memory card, while Bluetooth compatibility and a USB port bring added connectivity.

Vodafone live! builds on existing services, adding full-track music and video downloads, gaming and text-based information services. Browsing on its portal is free, with charges for downloads - £1.50 per music track from Vodafone's library of 3,000, or £5 per game. Downloading is easy, although finding specific tracks can be a hassle. Put together, Vodafone live! with 3G is impressive, as is the phone's functionality. But it is a bit too chunky to be a must-have.

Cameras

Mission to convert

Panasonic has revamped its Lumix range of digital cameras by introducing four new models. Aimed at owners of film-based single lens reflex (SLR) cameras looking to go digital, the 3.1 megapixel DMCFZ3 combines a traditional SLR design with a high-end Leica DC Vario-Elmarit lens and a 12x optical zoom. It is on sale for £350. The line-up also includes the DMCFX7 (£350) and the DMCFX2 (£300) - ultra compact cameras with Leica DC Vario-Elmarit lenses and 3x optical zooms. The DMCFX7 takes five megapixel images while the DMCFX2 snaps four. Completing the range is the £200 DMCLC80, a five megapixel compact camera with a 3x optical zoom.

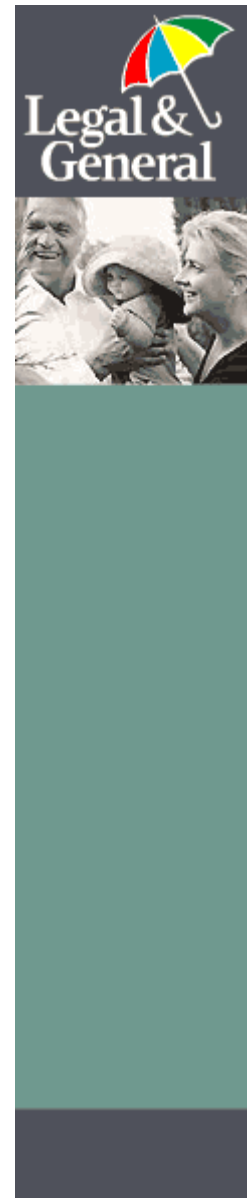
www.panasonic.co.uk

Made for memories

Oregon Scientific has become the latest manufacturer to deliver a Flash memory-based video/still camera with the launch of the £200 DV100. The compact 9.9cm x 3.2cm x 6.4cm device is capable of snapping four megapixel still images, and recording moving footage

Search

- Online articles
 Ask Jack



on to MPeg4 or ASF at 30 frames per second. The camera features automatic white balance, exposure and focus options and features a 6x digital zoom for close ups. Footage, which is stored in the camera's 16MB internal memory or via a SD or MMC card, can be viewed on the DV100's integrated 1.8in LCD screen. Compatible with both PCs and Macs, the DV100 is on sale now.

www.oregonscientific.co.uk

Dive master

A digital camera sounds incompatible with deep water, but owners of Fujifilm's FinePix F710 and F810 Zoom can now take pictures to a depth of 40 metres, thanks to a new, hermetic housing, see right. The 376G housing, sold separately for £149.99, is made from tough, transparent polycarbonate, and features a lens window made from reinforced glass. Both cameras retain full functionality when inside the housing, while the bright orange buttons will make a splash even when you are out of the water.

www.fujifilm.co.uk

Music

Making waves

Dixons and Currys have unveiled a £60 adapter that enables any hi-fi system to access the superior sound and extra stations offered by digital radio. The DAB Audio Adapter sits above the main hi-fi system and plugs into its AUX socket. It features an LED screen that displays information such as the name of the station, or the artist or track playing. Other facilities include a clock/alarm and instant access to 10 favourite stations. If consumers spend more than £129 on hi-fi in the stores, they can add the adapter to their system for £29.99.

www.dixons.co.uk www.currys.co.uk

Mobile

Routed to any spot

3Com is to launch a mini wireless router that enables those on the move to create their own Wi-Fi hot spots. The size of a pack of cards, the £47 OfficeConnect Wireless Travel Router plugs into a broadband system via an Ethernet socket and delivers a 54Mbps 802.11g wireless system that can support up to 16 PCs. The device can also operate as a client, enabling PCs without a wireless interface to access a Wi-Fi network. Wi-Fi Protected Access and Wireless Equivalent Privacy encryption systems in conjunction with a firewall ensure the hot spot is secure.

www.3com.co.uk

Phones

Modern antiques

With pop's glitterati getting together to revisit Band Aid this Christmas, it is like the past never went away. Now mobile users can get their mitts on some of the great handsets of years gone by through a new service called Retrofone. While all the talk is of the latest 3G handsets, Retrofone is hoping to tempt consumers back to classic designs such as the Nokia 7110. "Our survey reveals that people want simple, effective and familiar mobile technology," says Olly Tagg, managing director and founder, Retrofone. "The sheer number of mobile phones lost and broken every year in the UK has spawned a mass market for replacement handsets, not catered for by conventional retail outlets."

www.retrofone.co.uk

Going global

Broadband telephony service Gossiptel has unveiled a new tariff that, for £20 per month, enables its customers to make unlimited calls to landlines in up to 35 different countries. Users make and receive the calls via their broadband connection using an adaptor (which starts at £29.99) that links the router to any standard home phone. Gossiptel is also offering a tariff called World 500 that includes 500 minutes of calls for £9.99 per month. The service's subscribers can now also choose a number starting with one of the most popular UK STD codes including London, Birmingham and Manchester.

www.gossiptel.co.uk

www.3com.co.uk

Stat of the week: Reality check

The alarming gap between perception and reality of online security is beginning to show. According to a survey by AOL and National Cyber Security Alliance, 77% believe they are safe from online threats - but 50% also said they had no idea if they had a virus on their PC.

- Send comments to online.feedback@guardian.co.uk. Please include address and phone number. If you do not want your email address published, please say so.

[More from the Online team](#)

Special report

[Mobile phones](#)

The issue explained

04.03.2003: [3G mobile phones](#)

Useful links

[3GPP \(3rd Generation Partnership Project\)](#)

[3G World Congress and Exhibition](#)

[3G Mobile World Forum](#)