

Smarter, sharper, swifter smartphones coming

By Clint Thomas

With names that rival the zesty monickers of sports cars or Marvel super-heroes, a new breed of smartphones is readying for your attention (and, their manufacturers hope, your possession) in 2011.

PC Magazine staff members have lauded the Motorola Atrix, which is able to shift operating systems between Android and Linux. Equipped with a dual-core Cortex A9 processor, the Atrix can serve as both a laptop and a desktop.

The HTC Thunderbolt has impressed test users not only with its speed, but features such as a 1GHz Snapdragon processor, 8 GB of on-board storage and a 4.3-inch LCD display. The Thunderbolt runs on Android 2.2 and will be released on Verizon's 4G LTE network.

AT&T will offer the Samsung Infuse 4G, with a 4.5-inch display, an 8-megapixel camera with HD video recording and a front-facing, 1.3-megapixel camera for video calls among its attributes. The Infuse 4G will run Android 2.2. According to Mobicel.com, AT&T intends to launch 20 4G smartphones this year, after buying the 4G spectrum from Qualcomm, to upgrade its network to LTE (short for Long-Term Evolution), the 4G technology Verizon offers. The website says AT&T plans to launch its LTE network by mid-2011, covering up to 75 million consumers by the end of the year.



Samsung Infuse 4G



HTC Thunderbolt

Motorola Droid Bionic, one of Verizon's new 4G choices, runs Android 2.2, with dual cameras, a 4.3-inch touchscreen with 540x960 resolution and 512 MB of RAM.

Sprint will introduce the HTC Evo Shift, a smaller version of the HTC EVO 4G. The Shift's strong selling points include a 3.6-inch screen, 5-megapixel camera and a slide-out keyboard.

T-Mobile has announced its plans to carry the Android-based Samsung Galaxy S 4G, its fastest model to date, available Feb. 23, according to industry website

www.new-cell-phones.org, as well. According to T-Mobile representatives, the new Galaxy can run as potentially fast as 21 megabits per second. T-Mobile had announced previously its plans to double the speed of its 4G network to 42-megabits per second by the middle of the year.

Along with touting features and speed, carriers are vying to offer value for the smartphones they offer. T-Mobile will reportedly carry smartphones priced below \$100, roughly half as much as the average smartphones of its competitors, plus offer customers

capped data plans.

Meanwhile, Verizon announced its own groundbreaking achievement, selling a CDMA version of the iPhone 4, beginning this week, for \$200 (16GB) or \$300 (32GB), depending on the model.

According to a Jan. 25 *Wall Street Journal* report, Verizon also will be offering iPhone buyers a \$30 unlimited data plan in 2011.

Other advances and improvements forecast for smartphones of the near future include 3D and quad-core processors. Also, according to Clinton Stark of the West Coast-based website StarkInsider.com, Apple is reportedly planning to introduce technology on its iPhones and iPads in mid-2011 that will enable mobile payments on site, rendering wallets virtually obsolete.

And, for all the capabilities smartphones continue to make possible, one carrier has recently introduced a feature to curb potentially dangerous usage or "distracted driving." T-Mobile has launched its DriveSmart service, which automatically blocks incoming calls and texts when a phone is in a moving car. Incoming calls are sent directly to voice-mail; text messages receive an automatic reply that the recipient is driving.

Costing approximately \$5 a month, DriveSmart will be introduced on T-Mobile's Optimus T and added to the rest of its line later. Other carriers are expected to follow suit.

Billions served, most popular apps listed

Apple recently announced the 10 billionth download of its apps. On Jan. 22, Gail Davis of Orpington, Kent, England, downloaded the free app game "Paper Glider." For that landmark accomplishment, Apple awarded Davis a \$10,000 iTunes voucher.

Apple reached 10 billion app downloads in less than three years. In summer 2008, the App Store began, offering 500 free and paid downloads. Spreading from iPhones at first to iPods and iPads, approximately 400,000 free and paid apps are available now.

Of the 10 billion downloads, 7 billion occurred in the last year, according to Apple. More than 160 million iPhones, iPads and iPod Touch devices were sold during that time frame, averaging 62.5 app downloads per device.

Earlier this year, Apple introduced its Mac App Store, offering more than 1,000 free and paid apps. One million apps were downloaded on the first day.

Apple also released recently a list of its most popular paid and free apps. The lists include:

iPhones

Paid apps:

- * Angry Birds
- * Doodle Jump
- * WhatsApp Messenger
- * Tap Tap Revenge 3
- * Pocket God.

Free apps:

- * Facebook
- * EBay
- * Google
- * Shazam
- * Google Earth

iPads

Paid apps:

- * TuneIn Radio
- * Labyrinth
- * Flick Kick Football
- * Internet Radio Box
- * Backbreaker Football

Free apps:

- * Google Mobile
- * Google Earth
- * Movies by Flixster
- * Tube Map
- * Solitaire.

(Source: Mobicel.com)

Electronic editions of Charleston Gazette, Charleston Daily Mail available

Mobile apps to be introduced soon

Electronic editions of *The Charleston Gazette* and *Charleston Daily Mail* are now online for easy, comprehensive access and 24-hour convenience at your fingertips, via each of the newspapers' websites.

Custom features of the site include:

- Access to the day's entire newspaper
 - Access 24 hours a day, seven days a week
 - The ability to print and e-mail any article
 - Downloads to e-book readers.
- "We wanted the most features for our readers," explained

Charleston Newspapers Director of Internet Services Joel Armstrong, "and we wanted it to be easy to use. Usability was important to us.

"This will certainly allow you to access a 30-day archive," he said. "If you miss something or want to go back and read something again, it gives our subscribers access to that.

"It's complete. It has everything the daily paper has, including the advertising. All of the words that appear in the advertising or stories are searchable. For example, all of the stories about Obama that appeared in today's paper can be found very easily.

"You can also put the keywords you're searching for into the system," said Armstrong, "and, once a day, it will e-mail you any time

those keywords appear in the newspaper. You could put your company name — or your name, for that matter — into the system, and you would automatically receive an e-mail about it whenever it appeared."

Mobile apps will be introduced with the electronic editions in the near future, as well.

"We're in the process of providing apps for the iPhone, iPad and Android platforms," Armstrong said.

A free trial of the service is available for a limited time. To register, go to www.wvgazette.com or www.dailymail.com and click on the "E-Edition" link.

For additional details about the *Gazette* and *Daily Mail* electronic editions, you can also call 304-348-4800.



E-editions of the Sunday Gazette-Mail, Saturday Gazette-Mail, The Charleston Gazette and Charleston Daily Mail are now available online.

Community Connect Foundation promoting development through technology

By Clint Thomas

Established five years ago, the Community Connect Foundation is a nonprofit, Charleston-based entity promoting community development and sustainability through the use and adoption of technologies throughout West Virginia.

"The Community Connect Foundation is funded by grants from the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation and AT&T," explained its CEO, Darrell Buttrick, who has also served as executive director for nonprofit organizations such as Big Brothers/Big Sisters, the American Heart Association and the Ronald McDonald House.

Among the CCF's other partners are:

- The West Virginia Office of Technology
- The West Virginia Department of Education
- The West Virginia Association of Counties
- The West Virginia Municipal League
- The West Virginia Regional Education Service Agency
- WV.GOV.

The foundation maintains three primary focus areas:

- Education and outreach
- Supply and demand analysis
- Strategic planning and funding.

A current project of the CCF, underway for the past three years, is the County/City E-Government Program, designed to facilitate a web presence under the WV.GOV website for every municipality and county in the state.

Working with the Associa-



Photo by CLINT THOMAS

Jonathan D. Price (left) and Darrell Buttrick, CEO, of the Community Connect Foundation, have spent the past three years implementing the nonprofit organization's County/City E-Government Program, wherein West Virginia high school students help city and county officials establish (or enhance) their websites in all 55 counties. Foundation members and their partners hope the program will be a template for other states.

tion of Counties, the Municipal League and the state board of education, the CCF has implemented the County/City E-Government Program by having high school students in each county compile and create information for inclusion on each city and county site.

Jonathan D. Price, project coordinator, said the CCF was founded to use technology and have it developed and embraced on a local level throughout the entire state, and the E-Government Program has been one

of its early successes toward that end.

"This has been our first major milestone," he said.

With the state Office of Technology hosting the website at no charge to the community or county, he said, the program is designed to help the government bodies maintain a web presence economically, efficiently and, ultimately, profitably.

The high school students who participate in gathering the website content, in turn, receive hands-on experience in areas such as civics, jour-

nalism, public speaking and 21st century technology, he said. Students from one high school in each county collect the data, Price said, using laptops and other equipment provided by the Office of Technology.

Along with the educational skills the project affords the students, Price said another major benefit is that they develop stronger bonds with their communities and the people who keep them operating.

Price noted that civic officials can voluntarily choose what, if any, of the students' contributions they place on their websites, and, in fact, must give ultimate approval to all submissions that are posted online.

"All information has to be approved explicitly by the cities and counties," said Price. "They have the final say on whatever goes on the website."

He said the program's long-term goal is based on the "PITA Principle." The "PITA" acronym stands for "Publish," "Interact," "Transact" and "Adoption," the four steps in establishing and maintaining an ongoing, successful website for cities and counties alike.

Buttrick added that the CCF is also working to create and expand upon existing sustainability measures for the websites once they're in place. "At some point, the CCF will no longer be involved with their websites," he said, and the government entities will be fully responsible for online updates and upkeep.

"This is just the first phase," said Buttrick. "What we'd like to see is the E-Gov-

ernment Program become a model for other states to adopt, so they wouldn't have to reinvent the wheel the way we sort have had to do.

It was an educational process for us. It still is."

"We're still learning with the counties and cities and students to agree on goals and values and the best ways to implement them," Price said.

With 49 counties online through the E-Government program and others pending (as well as more than 250 municipalities taking part), Price said the CCF is hoping to announce the achievement of a complete 55-county web presence on Feb. 7,

during the Association of Counties' annual meeting at the Embassy Suites in Charleston.

Buttrick said the CCF board, which meets quarterly, anticipates adding one or two more members this month, as well as announcing the receipt of another grant from partner AT&T.

For additional information about the Community Connect Foundation, visit the foundation's website at www.communityconnect-foundation.org or contact Buttrick at 304-546-5362 or dbuttrick@suddenlink.net.

The CCF offices are located at 107 Hale St. in Charleston.

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