

TECHNOLOGY ROUND-UP

U.S. PHOTOGRAPHERS AND ILLUSTRATORS SUE GOOGLE

UNITED States photographers and illustrators sued Google for copyright infringement on Wednesday, demanding compensation for images that appear in books being digitally scanned by the Internet giant.

"It's only right that if someone uses something you create, you should be paid for it," said Mr James McGuire, a partner in Mishcon de Reya New York, the law firm handling the class-action suit.

AFP

NOKIA'S MUSIC-DOWNLOAD SERVICE TO HIT CHINA

NOKIA will launch its music-download service in China, the world's largest mobile market.

It is looking to emerging markets to invigorate the struggling service, which competes with Apple's iTunes.

Nokia will offer music from major labels and a number of independents as part of the China launch for its Comes with Music service, the company said yesterday.

REUTERS

iPAD-ONLY APPLICATIONS DOMINATED BY GAMES

APPLE'S iPad application store includes more games than any other software, according to market researcher Distimo.

Games account for 35 per cent of applications exclusively for the device, it said.

The App Store in the United States offered 2,385 iPad applications, of which 833 were games as of Tuesday, the Netherlands-based researcher said on its website.

BLOOMBERG

START-UP QLIPOSO BUYS WEB-VIDEO SERVICE VEOH

INTERNET start-up Qlipso said on Wednesday that it had bought the assets of online video-sharing service Veoh Networks, allowing it to expand its real-time media-sharing platform to millions of viewers.

Qlipso, backed by Jerusalem Venture Partners, said that it had purchased substantially all of Veoh's assets last month.

REUTERS

SAP VULNERABILITY COULD EXPOSE USERS TO HACKERS

COMPANIES using SAP's business-management software could be vulnerable to stealth attacks by hackers if their systems are not properly configured, according to a computer-security expert.

The vulnerability could leave SAP's customers open to sabotage, espionage and fraud through so-called backdoor attacks, said Mr Mariano Nunez Di Croce, director of research and development with computer-security firm Onapsis.

REUTERS

The trendiest gadgets for today's women



By KENNY CHEE

GADGETS that appeal to women are still very much in vogue, going by the recent stylish releases by information-technology firms.

Taiwanese phone-maker HTC is launching its new HD mini smartphone today, due in part to women who gave feedback that they liked the features of its earlier HTC HD2 phone but wanted a more **compact** model that's easier to carry.

The phone has a 3.2-inch touchscreen and weighs only 110g. It will go on sale later this month at \$748 (without contract).

Last Friday, HP also launched a special version of its HP Mini 210 mini notebook designed by New York-based fashion designer Vivienne Tam. In February, Asus retailed an edition of its EeePC Seashell de-

signed by New York-based industrial designer Karim Rashid.

And that's not counting a host of other gizmos - released in the last few months - with **aesthetics** that women fancy.

Mr Wayne Tang, HTC's product marketing manager for South-east Asia, said the firm recognises that women today are into IT gadgets, but also want their tech devices to be sleek, among other things.

Thus, when HTC designs its phones, it also takes into consideration the needs of women.

He said women usually keep their phones in their bags. So a feature of the HD mini that the firm thinks would suit them is a mode that raises the phone's **ringtone** volume when placed in a bag or pocket, but lowers the volume when it is picked up.

Ms Tobi Teo, marketing and business-development manager with IT firm Version 2, said that since last year, the company has seen more tech firms releasing gadgets that appeal to women.

"Women want their tech gadgets to be accessories they can take around to express their individuality through the col-

ours or designs of their gadgets," said Ms Teo.

And this is why it started distributing a range of cute and stylish portable hard disks, from I-O Data, in Singapore last month.

Audio-Technica also saw potential in the women's market, for headphones and earphones in its case, and launched a ladies' series in 2008 in Japan, said Mr Shinji Horibe, manager of product promotion sales for the firm's international sales department.

Audio-Technica in Singapore has brought the women's series here as it wants to be a fashion leader for tech gadgets.

The fashion-meets-technology concept resonates with HP too. Its Vivienne Tam mini notebook was launched last Friday at a Tangs Orchard fashion party. The event, which kick-started this year's six-week Fashion Season @ Orchard, saw models walking down the **runway** with the designer gadget.

kennyc@sph.com.sg



RETAILING SOON: The new HTC HD mini smartphone.

HELPDESK 我的字典

Compact: 小巧的 xiǎo qiǎo de

Aesthetics: 美学 měi xué

Ringtone: 手机铃声 shǒu jī líng yīn

Runway: 走秀台 zǒu xiù tái

THREE GORGEOUS MUST-HAVES

HP Mini 210 Vivienne Tam Edition mini notebook

What: Romantic fashionistas will take to this special edition of the HP Mini 210, inspired by the Chinese folk legend The Butterfly Lovers. Designed by New York-



based fashion designer Vivienne Tam, the mini notebook is available here in limited numbers.

At less than an inch thick, the mini notebook can fit nicely into a bag. Its weight of 1.2kg also makes carrying it around a breeze.

Powered by a 1.66GHz Atom processor, the notebook sports a 10.1-inch screen and has 320GB of storage. To top it off, it comes with a wireless mouse and a desktop theme in complementary butterfly designs.

How much: \$999

Where: Tangs Orchard and Tyan at Palais Renaissance



I-O Data HDPNC Series portable hard disk

What: For lovers of all things *kawaii*, this portable hard disk from Japanese brand I-O Data will delight. The 500GB device comes in pink, white and black, and weighs just 200g. It is also shock-resistant and comes with a dock, where its USB cable can be neatly stowed away.

How much: \$175

Where: Bizgram and A Genuine Technology at Sim Lim Square



Audio-Technica ATH-CKF500 earphones

What: Fancy rhinestone in your earphones? Then these *kira kira* (Japanese for "glittery") ones are for you. The slider on the cable can pass off as a pendant, thanks to its rhinestone and keyhole design. And you can adjust the cable's length by wrapping it around the key-shaped cable holder.

How much: \$48

Where: Popular and Best Denki

iPhone software may deliver multi-tasking, mobile ads

SAN FRANCISCO

APPLE is readying a version of its iPhone software that analysts predict will add support for multi-tasking and advertising, features that escalate its competition with Google for mobile users and developers.

Apple said it would hold an event yesterday to give a "sneak peek into the future" of the iPhone operating system - software that third-party developers have used to create 150,000 applications for the iPhone, iPod touch and new iPad tablet.

Since the iPhone's introduc-

tion in 2007, customers and developers have criticised its inability to run more than one third-party program at the same time.

Speculation about the ad system, meanwhile, was spurred by Apple's January acquisition of a mobile-ad network called Quat-

tro Wireless. That deal came after Google agreed to buy mobile-ad market leader AdMob.

"This just gives Apple developers a new way to make money in the nascent market for mobile ads," said Mr Shaw Wu, an analyst with Kaufman Bros.

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