

TECHNOLOGY ROUND-UP

MORE CONNECTIONS ON FACEBOOK AFTER UPDATES

FACEBOOK on Monday introduced several changes to users' profiles that were intended to increase the number of connections members have on the site, PC Mag reported.

The social-networking site will also ditch the "Become a fan" option for the simpler "Like", and will add "Community Pages" intended to provide information on various topics.

AMERICAN TEENS WOULD RATHER TEXT THAN TALK

A THIRD of US teenagers with cellphones send more than 100 text messages a day, as texting has exploded to become the most popular means of communication for young people, according to new research by the Pew Internet and American Life Project.

The study found that texting has risen dramatically since 2008, eclipsing cellphone calls, instant messaging, social networks – and talking face-to-face.

REUTERS

MICROSOFT PULLS INAPT PORTION OF VIDEO-AD

MICROSOFT on Monday pulled a portion of a Kin video-ad showing a teenager "sexting" a photo of his bare chest using the technology giant's new smartphone.

"Microsoft has deleted the inappropriate portion of the Kin video," the US firm's Safer-Online Team said in a message posted via microblogging service Twitter. "We take sexting very seriously, and are sorry it happened."

AFP

1,000 BUSINESSES GET TO TEST WINDOWS INTUNE

MICROSOFT has announced the public beta of Windows Intune, a cloud-based Windows management and security platform aimed primarily at small and medium-sized businesses, PC World reported.

The beta is open to the first 1,000 organisations from the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Puerto Rico that sign up.

LENOVO LOOKS TO MOBILE INTERNET FOR GROWTH

LENOVO Group, the world's No. 4 PC brand, said mobile-Internet products will account for 10-20 per cent of revenue in five years, as it embarks on a new drive into wireless computing.

The company hopes to sell millions of its new line of smartphones in one to five years, and tens of millions in the future, said president and chief operating officer Rory Read on Monday.

REUTERS

iPad pre-orders hit fever pitch

BY KENNY CHEE

THE iPad fever has gone up another notch. At least 4,000 consumers here have made pre-orders for official units of the gadget with an Apple retailer here.

This is despite the fact that the store, EpiCentre, is still waiting to confirm an official sales date, price and available models of the tablet in Singapore.

An EpiCentre spokesman told my paper that, in total, it had received 4,000 pre-orders for the product via its website and five stores across the island. It started taking orders "early this month".

Once the iPad's launch and pricing details are released, those who place pre-orders will be able to get their hands on the tablet first. EpiCentre said that the iPads will come directly from Apple, not sourced from a third party.

The retailer explained that it decided to take pre-orders based on consumer interest and anticipation.

However, other Apple stores told my paper that they are not taking pre-orders precisely because there is no official word on when the iPad will hit Singapore shores.

One retailer said that it got an indication from Apple that the iPad could be sold here in September, December or even next year. And because of this uncertainty, the store did not want to take pre-orders and run the risk of upsetting customers if the iPad takes too long to arrive.

Another store believes the iPad will be launched here in end May or early June.

But yet another one said the launch will be in the third quarter this year. This store also said it would take iPad pre-orders only if it is given the green light under the yet-to-be announced dis-

tribution method for the tablet.

Its store representative added: "There are also overseas delivery problems for the iPad, so we'd rather not take the risk of taking pre-orders now."

She was referring to the iPad's international launch date being pushed back from late April to end May.

Apple said last Wednesday that this was due to high demand for the device in the United States after it was launched there on April 3. More than 500,000 iPads were sold in the first week of sales, added Apple.

The firm also told my paper yesterday that the May international launch of the iPad was for Australia, Japan, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Switzerland and Britain.

Web engineer Lester Chan, 26, said he would rather buy the iPad from Apple directly. He said he did not want to make a pre-order without a launch date in sight and miss out on the de-

vice if another retailer starts selling the iPad earlier.

But software developer Joash Chee, 35, said that he would definitely consider pre-ordering an iPad with EpiCentre.

"I don't want to pay for an overpriced parallel import," he said, adding that he wanted to test software applications on it.

Parallel-imported iPads have a going price of over \$1,000 here. The 16GB Wi-Fi iPad costs US\$499 (S\$686).

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HELPDESK 我的字典

Pre-orders: 预先订购
yù xiān dīng gòu

Uncertainty: 不确定 bù què dìng

Launch date: 推出日期 tuī chū rì qī

Parallel import: 并行进口产品
bìng xíng jìn kǒu chǎn pǐn



This is Incredible

HTC's Droid Incredible will hit US shelves on April 29. The new Droid Incredible is a cousin of the Motorola Droid and the HTC Droid Eris, but Incredible compares best to the HTC-built Nexus One. (PHOTO: INTERNET)

Apple engineer outed as iPhone 'loser'

SAN FRANCISCO

APPLE employee Gray Powell may not be the first person to lose his iPhone after a night out, but as his was a prototype of the next version of the popular smartphone, he may have woken up with a bigger headache than most.

The Apple software engineer, 27, has been identified as the person who left his next-generation iPhone in a German beer garden in Redwood City, California, last month, The Sydney Morning Herald reported.

American technology blog Gizmodo identifies the North Carolina State University 2006 graduate as an Apple software engineer working on the iPhone Baseband Software, the program that enables the iPhone to make calls.

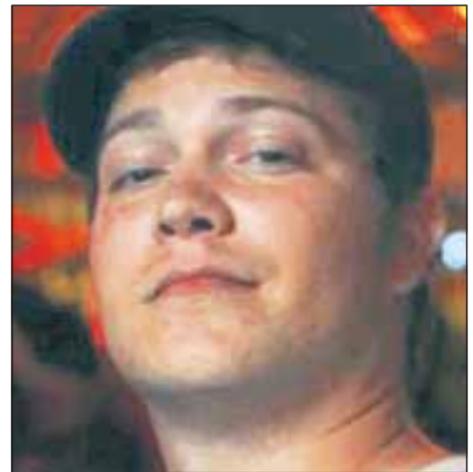
On the night of March 18, he was enjoying the fine imported ales at Gourmet Haus Staudt, just 32km from the company's Infinite Loop headquarters.

"I underestimated how good German beer is," he typed into the next-generation iPhone he was testing in the field, cleverly disguised as an iPhone 3GS.

It was his last Facebook update from the secret iPhone. It was the last time he saw the iPhone, right before he abandoned it on a bar stool, leaving to go home, Gizmodo reported.

The person who eventually ended up with the lost iPhone was sitting next to Mr Powell. He was drinking with a friend too. He noticed the engineer on the stool next to him but didn't think twice about him at the time.

The person who ended up with the iPhone asked around, but nobody claimed it, Gizmodo added.



OOPS! Mr Gray Powell has been named as the employee who left the prototype phone on a bar stool.

The person who retrieved the device apparently tracked down Mr Powell through a Facebook app on the phone before Apple remotely wiped the device.

Gizmodo eventually paid US\$5,000 (S\$6,880) for the device, Mr Jason Chen, editor of the blog, said in an e-mail.

Apple asked that the device be returned, according to a letter published by Gizmodo. The blog said the product is probably the "real thing". It said its employees played with the prototype for a week.

Apple enthusiasts have begun speculating in forums such as Twitter over whether Mr Powell would lose his job, while others claim the whole incident was a publicity stunt.

"Whoever lost the iPhone 4 is definitely getting fired! Can't wait to get one!" wrote one commentator on Twitter.

Others said "I think Gizmodo's been pranked. I really do" and "I think that the 'left-behind' iPhone 4 is a well-staged hoodwink by our friends @ Apple."

AGENCIES