

EDITOR'S LETTER

THE GREAT WIRELESS HOPES

Believe it or not, most cell phone makers are rooting for the iPhone to succeed—at least on one level. If its sales remain strong, it will prove that cutting-edge technology is worth paying a premium for, even with a two-year contract.



On the other hand, the Motorolas, Nokias, and Samsungs of the world have no problem pointing out that no one device can do it all. They have a point, which is why we've rounded up six supercharged cells, including the iPhone, for this month's cover story (p. 86). They range from \$99 music phones to \$750 handsets with built-in GPS and five-megapixel cameras. All of them have something to offer that the iPhone does not, but having used Apple's breakthrough device for the past couple months, I can see why the established players in the wireless industry are a bit nervous.

On the horizon is another great wireless hope—Mobile WiMAX. This 4G technology, recently branded XOHM by Sprint and Clearwire, blows the doors off today's mobile broadband technology in terms of data rates and pricing. Heavy hitters like Intel are betting that Mobile WiMAX will be rolled into the Centrino platform, but starting on p. 22 you'll get a sense of this technology's true potential for a wide range of applications.



If Mobile WiMAX is the long-range speed demon to watch, Certified Wireless USB is the short-range one.

For our new Reality Check column (p. 56) we got our hands on the first wireless USB hub from Belkin and put it to the test with a wide variety of peripherals.



Granted, a hub merely moves the mess of cables from one side of the room to the other, but we're encouraged that Dell and Lenovo now offer notebooks with the technology baked in.

As our connectivity options multiply, it's fair to ask whether there will be a corresponding spike in security risks. Even in today's 3G world there are threats that make yesterday's deadly viruses look like the sniffles. Our behind-the-scenes look at bot attacks—and the soldiers on the frontlines of this new war—proves that you don't need to be gullible for your PC to become possessed and your information stolen.

When it comes to everyday road warriors, the best tool you can have in your arsenal is an ultraportable notebook. On p. 30 we review six laptops, each less than five pounds, that will keep you productive and connected anywhere. As with cell phones, there is no such thing as the perfect ultraportable, but there are at least two in this group that I would take on my next flight.

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