



## SNAPSHOT WINDOW SHOPPING

# Window shopping

The latest accessories available on the high street for your connected lifestyle

### Tidy your office

Wireless networking is all well and good, but it's only removed one cable from the serpent's nest behind your PC, and having the remainder trailing around on the floor is still unsightly and unsafe – it only takes one idle kick to disconnect your power supply and plunge your PC into darkness. This length of trunking improves things considerably by bolting on to the bottom of your desk and running everything safely and securely out of the way.

The amount of space it frees up is remarkable and it's good-looking enough with it, although with luck you won't have to see it before you get a new computer or a new desk.

**Where to buy:** SIGMA cable trunking, £9 from IKEA. Check [www.ikea.com](http://www.ikea.com) for details of your local store.

Get advice on buying a new PC on page 52

### Experience power gaming on a humble notebook PC

Gaming power was once confined purely to the world of desktop systems; then it moved over to notebooks – for a price. Now MV reckons it has banished even that with this beefy laptop, combining a mighty 3GHz CPU with the competent graphics power of a 128MB Mobility Radeon 9700.

It's not the mightiest specification around, but it's enough for the current gaming A-list, and it comfortably exceeds any other desktop requirements you may have – there's even a DVD±RW drive included as a welcome addition to the specification. The clunky chassis looks a bit too familiar from legions of competitors and we'd prefer to see a bit more memory, but it's one of the most powerful pixel pushers you'll find at this price.

**Where to buy:** MV Sirius, available from £899 from [www.go-mv.com](http://www.go-mv.com). For more information call 0871 8554668.

### Bring colour to your desktop

The mouse is a highly complicated device, but its lights – optical or otherwise – are all too often concealed beneath a staid and uninteresting carapace. You can make more of a splash with these new notebook-friendly designs from Saitek, which come in a range of bubblegum colours from bright yellow through to livid pink; it's a fine way to spice up even the dreariest desk, and we're told more colours are on the way.

The design isn't as exciting, but the two-button construction is solid, tolerably comfortable and pleasingly uncomplicated, and the optical sensor remains one of the marvels of the modern desktop.

USB connections mean you don't have to fret with drivers, either.

**Where to buy:** Saitek Optical Mice, available from £10 from [www.saitek.com](http://www.saitek.com). Call 01454 451900 for more information.



#### WINDOW SHOPPING SNAPSHOT

## Control your PC with maximum comfort

If you find traditional mouse control a bit too uncomfortable, then help is at hand – if you'll excuse the pun. The Cirque Cruise Cat combines a laptop-style touchpad and the standard pair of mouse buttons into a single peripheral device, giving you complete control over your PC without requiring any claw-like hand contortions.

It works in the same way as a regular laptop – simply drag your finger around the pad to move the cursor across the screen. The feature list can shame traditional mouse designs; this top-end model includes extra buttons providing web-browsing and application shortcuts and single-drag scroll functionality. Thankfully, you don't need an advanced PC to use it – it still offers the traditional choice of USB or PS/2 connections.

**Where to buy:** Cirque Cruise Cat, £59 from [www.keytools.com](http://www.keytools.com). For more information call 023 8058 4314.

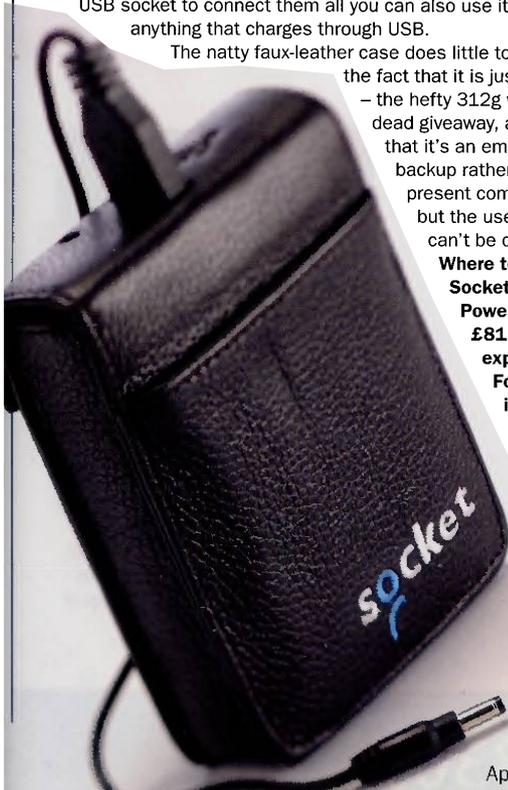
Discover more new ways to control your PC on page 40

## Stay connected on the move

The annoyance of your mobile battery running out is one of the unique trials of the modern world, and it's only becoming more acute as the number of pocket electronic devices goes up. You can keep yourself connected for a while longer with this power pack, bristling with adaptors for a hefty range of portable devices. It's compatible with most mobile phones, Pocket PCs, and flavours of MP3 player, and because it uses a USB socket to connect them all you can also use it with anything that charges through USB.

The natty faux-leather case does little to disguise the fact that it is just a battery – the hefty 312g weight is a dead giveaway, and means that it's an emergency backup rather than ever-present companion – but the usefulness can't be denied.

**Where to buy:** Socket Mobile Power Pack, £81 from [www.expansys.com](http://www.expansys.com). For more information call 0161 8680868.



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## Protect your data

It can be a little unnerving entrusting your data to a highly complex password, particularly if you're more used to a traditional lock and key. The DESlock bridges the gap nicely, offering some advanced encryption techniques yet depending on the reassuring physical presence of a sturdy USB keyfob. Simply plug it in and enter a password to unlock your files, and encrypting them is as simple as right-clicking on the desktop icon.

Two devices are provided in the box so you can have one spare or to share as required; there's even a secure storage area on the key itself to contain critical information, such as PIN numbers.

The degree of security is impressive; with three separate algorithms each offering 128-bit encryption, actually using them requires the mind of a true code-cracker. The interface is hard to grasp and you'll need to pay close attention to the hefty manual.

**Where to buy:** DESlock, £99 from [www.deslock.com](http://www.deslock.com).