

MobileRead Networks

MobileRead Networks - the resource for mobile geeks seeking information and advice for keeping their gadgets happy.

[Designer portrays London Tube with E Ink](#) We've heard all sorts of buzz

about how electronic paper might change the world, like you know, with displays bendable in every direction, readable in the brightest sunlight, and requiring virtually no power. Alex Griffin goes one step further. In what I suppose is a student project, he



rendered a series of awe-inspiring scenes of the London Underground equipped with electronic paper technology. All I have to say is that this guy is seriously talented!

To check out Alex's video, go to his [website](#), click on "Design", then on "E*Ink", and then "Play Film" (don't we all love Flash for its user-friendliness?). [MobileRead Week in Review: 01/07 - 01/14](#) Bite-sized MobileRead for your weekend pleasure:

E-book Devices, Future E-Book Devices
[river enters the e-book business](#)

E-book Devices, Sony Portable Reader

[Plastic e-books gift cards from Sony soon?](#)

[Sony Reader Walkman](#)

[Hot: Sony plans Reader successor for this year](#)

[Sony Reader on display @ CES 2007](#)

[Sony reveals Connect Reader software update at CES](#)

[Sony rolls out Reader with luxurious Dooney & Bourke case](#)

E-books, News

[E-book prices need to come, says Technical Review](#)

[E Ink is hiring](#)

[Play news catch-up with TeleRead](#)

[Publishers increase investments in e-book technologies](#)

[An "American Idol" for writers comes to the web](#)

Miscellaneous, Announcements

[Praise for Palm Addicts](#)

Miscellaneous, Link Swap

[New site: The ApplePhone Addict](#)

Mobile Devices, Handhelds and Smartphones

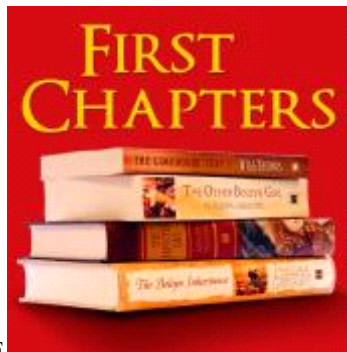
[Pocket Tunes Deluxe 4.0](#)

Mobile Devices, Portable AV

[DLP Projectors: TVs, palm sized, and now for cell phones!An "American Idol"](#)

[for writers comes to the web](#)Imagine a web contest for authors based on the American Idol process. Authors publish the first chapter of a book and compete to continue to the next chapters. After three elimination rounds, the winner of a \$5,000 book contract is picked by "representatives from Simon & Schuster, Borders bookstores and Gather.com".

That is what the "First Chapters" contest is



doing for members of gather.com who want to strut their written stuff in front of the judges. It's certainly a new approach to finding good books from the slush pile of writing submissions.

It's not so obvious from the gather.com front page where to find info, but after some digging I was able to find the rules [here](#) and more information from the First Chapters administrator can be found from some [other posts](#). So if you are interested, you have until March 15th to make your submission and satisfy the entry requirements.

From [ZDNet.Pocket Tunes Deluxe 4.0](#) There are a few programs that are essential for every Palm user. And in my opinion, [Pocket Tunes Deluxe](#) is an essential piece of software.

The program is an fantastic music player, but it can do so much [more](#). See [Six awesome things you didn't know Pocket Tunes could do](#), for example.

Now, the program is even better with the [version 4.0 improvements](#) that include:

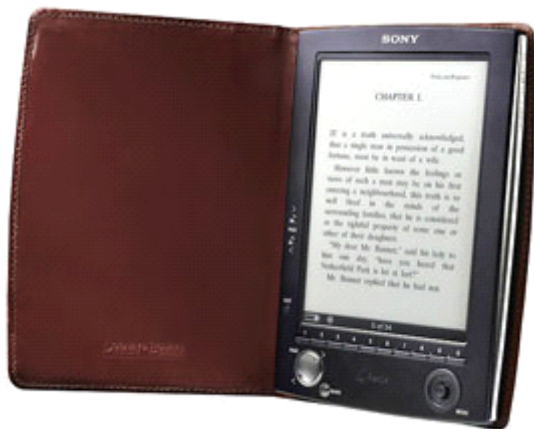
- * An internet radio catalog for music streaming with an internet connection
- * A new improved user interface that is very pleasant and useful
- * Album art - I never thought I'd care, but it's actually very nice. Some podcasts even have album art on their mp3's
- * Better sound quality whether playing mp3's or streaming music



In addition, they have an interesting link to [AudioBooksForFree](#), which seems to warrant a much closer look. It's audiobooks with professional narrators and producers that are offered in low quality versions for free, and high quality at reasonable prices. Probably mostly public domain book titles, but with good narration it might just make the classics exciting.

I highly recommend this program, along with a large SD card for a library of music. You can even run it with StyleTap software on Windows Mobile. Who needs an iPod?! [Sony rolls out Reader with luxurious Dooney & Bourke](#)

[case](#) In a world of electronic gadgets, whether you have a laptop PC or a handheld, nothing impresses more than a discreet leather case. So if you think the Reader isn't already enough to get you lots of admiring looks, you might be interested in Sony's latest offering - the [Sony Reader PRS-500U2DB](#). It's essentially the same device as the PRS-500U, only that it's wrapped up in a yummy designer leather case and that it requires you to pay an extra of US\$150.



To make the package more affordable and worth paying for, let me share with you the following (totally unfounded, of course) rumors:

- it's a Valentines promotion
- it's a limited edition (no idea about the number, but better be quick if you want one)
- it comes in a designer red gift box that includes the original case and the designer leather case
- it has an extra cloth to store the Reader in its case
- it may be coming with a credit for e-books from Sony's online store

Sure you may still argue it's an overpriced piece of leather, but remember, for heaven's sake, it's Dooney & Bourke! Feel free to share your opinion in the [on-going discussion](#).

Thanks to vigilant tipster kacir for the news. [Publishers increase investments](#)

[in e-book technologies](#) The Wall Street Journal is [reporting](#) (only to its subscribers, not to us) that HarperCollins Publishers has bought an equity stake in [NewsStand Inc.](#), a distributor of digital editions for newspapers and magazines. NewsStand is also parent company to [LibreDigital](#), who specialized in online sales and marketing of e-books, from digitization to display.



Furthermore, the article states that HarperCollins is starting to offer competitors to use its digitizing technology for a license.

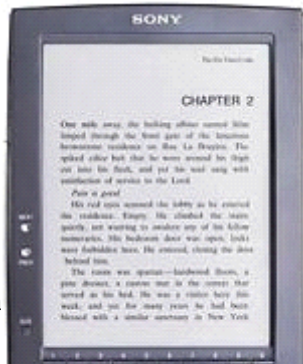
Other publishers who invested in e-book technologies recently include:

- CBS Corp.'s Simon & Schuster, who is constructing its own digital warehouse, expecting to have more than 12,000 digital titles by year-end
- Bertelsmann AG's Random House Inc., who is in the ongoing process of creating a digital archive for its backlist and newly published titles in the late 1990s.

[Sony reveals Connect Reader software update at CES](#) We have received word that Sony has been showing off a Connect software update at this year's CES. Other than Howard Stringer's [indication](#) that there will probably be another Sony Reader model in the future, it may be the best evidence so far of Sony's ongoing commitment in that product space.

Reportedly, Sony has talked about the following enhancements for the Connect Reader desktop

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software:

- * Connect Reader will allow for a two page whole screen viewing of books
- * Connect Reader will work with Vista
- * Connect Reader will have a "Eject Button" to allow you to feel better about disconnecting the Reader from the Software

No word on when it will be available, but with the initial success of the Reader, and ongoing signs of Sony's commitment to the Reader, hopefully we can look forward to more enhancements from Sony in the years to come.

In other Sony Reader news from CES, they are apparently also displaying the Great Point/Lightwedge flexible neck clip-on light that [should appear soon](#) at their [web site](#). [New site: The ApplePhone Addict](#) Looking for all the scoop and follow-up discussions about the new iPhone recently announced by Apple? Be sure to [bookmark](#) the newest addition to the "Addict" blog family created by Sammy McLoughlin of [Palm Addict](#) fame.

If you're looking for a quick peek at what the iPhone talk is all about, this [article](#) is a nice introduction from USA Today.

For one industry analyst's early look at the phone and it's impact on the smartphone market, be sure to check out the comments from Michael Mace at [Mobile Opportunity](#).

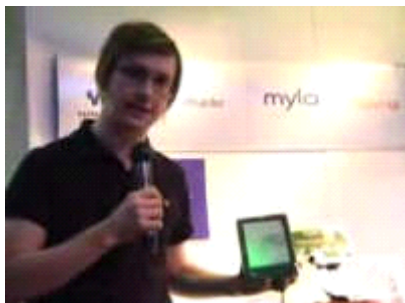


The iPhone is basically a phone and a multimedia device all wrapped up in a sleek new form factor, and intended to build on the success of the iPod and iTunes online music store. The phone has a nice full body screen that is used for both display and as a keypad. New interface techniques have been introduced, many involving multiple touch points, such as "squeezing" two fingers to shrink an image.

iPhone will run OSX, but apparently it is a closed device, so it will not run just any third party application. There are fancy sensors that allow it to turn off the touch screen input when you put it up to your face, and to know when to display in landscape or portrait orientation. It will be interesting to see how well all the new gee-whiz features work in the real world.

The phone is a Cingular exclusive in the U.S., and with a 2-yr contract it will cost \$499 for the 4 gig version. Another \$100 will get you 8 gig storage, but neither phone will be available until around June. [Sony Reader on display @ CES 2007](#) Some British dudes visited the Sony stand at this year's CES to provide us with some live coverage of the Sony Reader displayed there (next to PS3s, OLED displays, UMPCs, and other goodies worth drooling for).

You can watch their video on YouTube:



<http://youtube.com/watch?v=ebN3nGsKpGEDLP> Projectors: TVs, palm sized, and now for cell phones! For a while now, we've been covering the possibility of a tiny little projector in a cell phone or PDA. It's an enticing idea -- to be able to project a full sized screen from a cell phone with efficient lasers that won't drain the battery too quickly. Just imagine carrying around the equivalent of a full-sized VGA monitor.

The technology is getting close. We have the advantages of competing technologies, so the race is on. The latest announcement comes from this year's CES in Vegas. Have you seen all those TI advertisements on television for DLP projection TVs? Well, TI has shrunk the DLP processing chip to the point that [they have](#) a "prototype digital projector, based on its digital light processors (DLPs) ... could fit on a cell phone.

The projector contains three lasers, a DLP chip, and a power supply and measures about 1.5 inches in length." Put it together with a cell phone and you have DVD quality video. "You could actually drive a large-screen TV"

with the processor in a high-end cell phone, said TI Chief Executive Rich Templeton. Unfortunately, they still have to figure out how to successfully make it into a commercial product.

Over the last couple of decades, TI has been [reinventing itself](#) from calculators and computers to a new life with dedicated signal processing chips, just as predicted by a TI insider who shared the plan with me in the early 80's. Most people don't realize it, but as of last year "TI has played a major role in the cell phone revolution: the company's digital signal processors run about half the world's cell phones."

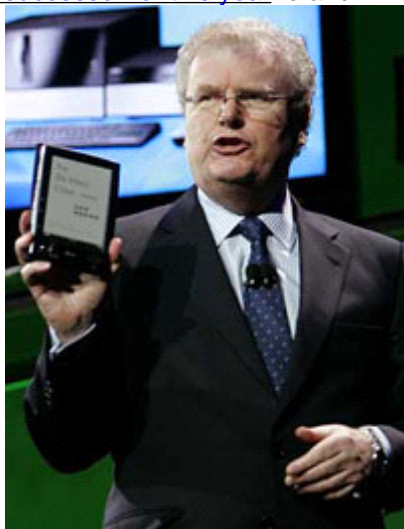
Previous improvements in the small display units include last year's [demonstration](#) of a Mitsubishi palm sized DLP unit, but it only had SVGA resolution and it was based on LEDs rather than lasers. Quite a fast leap forward in one year, and we can only hope that the progress continues as such a rapid pace. [Hot: Sony plans Reader successor for this year](#) Lo and behold, what's the big story of the day? A guy from the Associated Press talked to Sony CEO Stringer during the CES2007, and he came up with some [juicy bits of news](#) regarding the Reader.

Firstly, Sony is sticking firmly to their plans to create a market for e-books. According to Stringer, U.S. sales of the Sony Reader is better than expected. And what's more: Sales of downloadable e-books are *exceeding* the sales of music on Sony's online Connect Store. Who would have known!

And secondly, Sony is planning to release a new Reader model this year, adding wireless capabilities, most likely to compete against Amazon's rumored upcoming [Kindle](#) device.

Excited? I can barely contain myself. [Iriver enters the e-book business](#) Thanks

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to MobileReaders each and Stingo for [the heads-up](#) on this. It seems, according to Engadget, that iriver is getting in on the e-book game. They're currently showing off a prototype that comes with dual screens - for that truly book-like feel. Not much detail on the specs available at the moment, except: the device is powered by AAA batteries and features a touch-sensitive screen. The screen looks to be using our faithful e-ink technology, but this isn't 100% confirmed.

See for more pics and discussion in [this MR thread](#). [Play news catch-up with TeleRead](#) Our friends over at TeleRead have been very active with a lot of coverage of e-book news these days. In case you were absent from your computer due to heavy-duty holiday relaxing, make sure to catch up with [these TeleRead highlights](#) that David prepared for us.

Some of my favorite recent TeleRead articles:

- [TeleRead' s e-book wish list for ' 07—from hardware to formats](#)
- [Baen Bar to sell e-book hardware next year? With E Ink or another advanced display?](#)
- [Mac owners vs. the Sony Reader' s eBabel: The horrors and some partial fixes](#)
- [OpenReader as an eBabel-fighter: Three ' musts' if the standard is to survive Jon Noring' s new ties with DigitalPulp](#) and related: [A reply to the ' Three Musteteers'](#) and [OpenReader, victorious](#)

[Praise for Palm Addicts](#) Bob has already [mentioned](#) that we won two prestigious [Palm Addicts awards](#) for the [second consecutive](#) year. I would herewith like to personally thank PA's Editor-In-Chief, Sammy McLoughlin, his entire team and all PA readers for their loyal support and friendship towards MobileRead. In particular Sammy, with his sharp wisdom and regular advise, has been a priceless help to us for the last few years; I am confident without him we would not have succeeded like we did.

On the off-chance that you have not heard of Palm



Addicts before, like you know, you spent the last few years living under a rock, I can only highly recommend [to bookmark](#) their feed - or even better, [to visit](#) them directly. Even if you are not interested in Palm devices, you'll find all sorts of interesting stuff there, including coverage on latest gadgets, hot deals, informative podcasts, and helpful e-book reviews. [E Ink is hiring](#) Cambridge, Mass.-based [E Ink Corp.](#), maker of the electronic ink technology that we so totally dig for, is currently hiring. Whom are they looking for? A full-time scientist with a master's degree in Physics or Electrical Engineering to experiment with them - what a surprise - on electronic ink.

In case you are interested in the job, make sure to note on your resume that you are a frequent MobileRead visitor - I'm sure they'll give you give extra points for it.

[Link to job advert](#)

