THE HISPIAN

## 18th September 2015

Become a Tree Hugger.

Those of you who know me well, know that I'm actually a bit of a tree hugger. Every day, thousands of Hectares of beautiful forests are decimated so that we can have paper. Now some paper is essential (it normally comes in rolls – I mean kitchen towels) but most of the time, we totally destroy a valuable resource. Now, Hispians, we have a chance to do something about it. **What the Heck am I talking about?** Well, I hate papers. I really do. Especially when it comes to being as productive and efficient as possible, paper is almost impossible to organize in such a way that you can easily find and use the information when you want to. So that is the reason why I have gone as totally paperless as possible. By doing so, I can really easily and quickly find the information I need. I can organize all the information digitally into my cloud system. And I can reuse the information whenever I need to. By going totally paperless I definitely get more things done.

Going totally paperless

By going paperless you can be a lot more productive because you can be much more organized by having all your documents, receipts, letters, bills and much more, stored digitally in a trusted system like Owncloud. I use an App called Scanbot which could help you go totally paperless easily. Scanbot even OCR scans your papers so that your scans can be searchable. That way you can find information easily. Also the auto naming makes it much faster and easier to organize and store all your paper documents digitally. Personally I scan most paper I get my hands on, for example, on a whiteboard or even a business card.
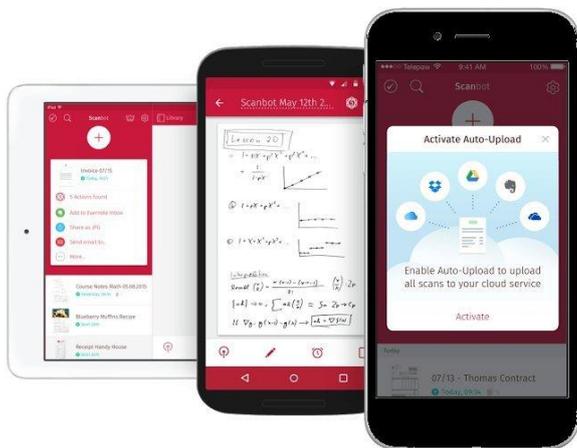
By scanning all papers you get from people and governments around you, you can organize them so that you easily can find them when you need them with a simple search. That is almost impossible with the original papers stored in binders or boxes. **But if you start scanning it you can**. It's a very powerful way to get more information that you need. And scans made with great apps like Scanbot don't even take up much storage space because it optimizes the scans. And you can also easily upload the finished scans directly to cloud services like Evernote, Dropbox, Google Drive (and Owncloud) and much more. In Google Drive I can easily organize my scans into different folders, and also get to them from any device, from anywhere. And because Scanbot Pro also does OCR on the scans you can easily find info in the scans directly. And it also means that you can sync the scans between any of your devices.

And you can also scan multiple documents into the same PDF file. That makes it much easier to store and find information about the same thing.

Scanbot is very user friendly. It takes only seconds to scan and upload totally automatically. You just point your smartphone camera to the document and the Scanbot app then does the rest for you automatically. *And best of all? Trees get to live.* **Have a great week team. – Ed.**

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Sneaky windows 10

Not everyone wants Windows 10 installed on their system, for a number of reasons. Sadly, if you own Windows 7 and / or Windows 8, Microsoft may very well be downloading Windows 10 to your machine without your permission.

Even if users opt-out of the Windows 10 download, the files are still being downloaded. In particular, this is happening on devices that have automatic updates enabled. Microsoft has responded to the issue by saying:

"*For individuals who have chosen to receive automatic updates through Windows Update, we help upgradable devices get ready for Windows 10 by downloading the files they'll need if they decide to upgrade.*" Of course, this is convenient for people who want to upgrade, but not everyone else. The automatic download consumes between 3.5 and 6GB of your storage space. But for users with data caps of some kind, such as those found commonly in South Africa, this is quite an irritation. On top of this, if you have a poor internet connection you could also be adversely affected.

But perhaps most frustrating is Microsoft's desire to shove an OS down our throats without the intention of correcting a number of privacy issues we have with it.

Windows 10 may not be for everyone, but this is just a bit too sneaky for my liking.

Whatsapp passes exams

Thousands of technical and private college students have been affected by a top-level probe which was instituted after exam papers were leaked to candidates via WhatsApp.

The *Sunday Times* reported that the Department of Higher Education launched the probe into how the exam papers found their way to students through the messaging service.

The leaked papers fell under natural sciences studies, which affected students from the country's technical, vocational, and private colleges.

The affected subjects included mathematics, engineering, and other technical subjects.

This news follows a report that matriculants in the country received help to pass their exams.

At the end of 2014, Umalusi said evidence of "group copying" was found in numerous examination centres in the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal. The body said it appeared that someone had dictated answers, some incorrect, to pupils. Department of Basic Education Minister Angie Motshekga said they "experienced a strange phenomenon of group copying during the 2014 NSC examinations which needs to be stamped out".


Following the alleged copying, 28 exam centres in KwaZulu-Natal and 16 centres in the Eastern Cape were investigated for group copying.

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Battery Saver App

I'm not sure if you know that there are power-hungry apps that drain the battery on Android phones even when they are in a sleep state. Apps that regularly check for updates consume about 30% of the battery power an Android phone loses when in that mode, say researchers.
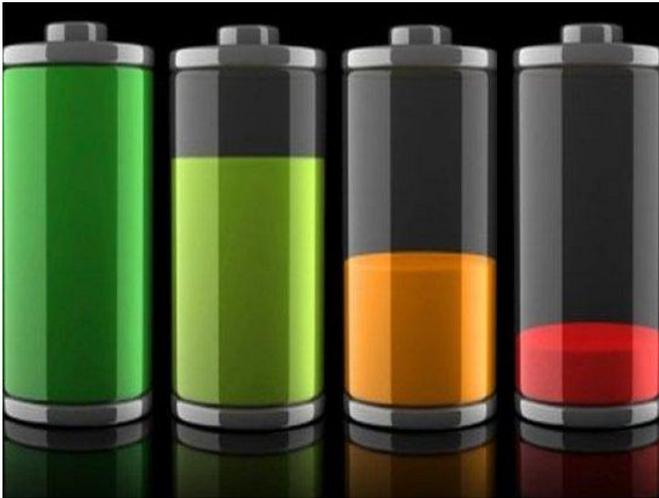
But researchers in the US have created a free Hush tool that lets only the most-used apps check in while the phone is off. Hush can cut power loss from the apps by almost half, say the team.

Hush was created by engineers from Purdue University in Indiana after they carried out a large-scale study of energy use on Android smartphones. The analysis of power-consumption patterns on 2,000 handsets found that a lot of energy was wasted by badly written apps that did not let a phone go back into a sleep state after they checked for updates, said Prof Charlie Hu from Purdue.

"They are not letting the phone go back to sleep because of software bugs and, specifically, due to the incorrect use of Android power control application." he said in a statement.

The batteries on Android phones using Hush lasted about 15% longer than those without it, suggested early results. Prof Hu said the team's ultimate aim was to double the battery life of a smartphone.

We haven't found it yet, but as soon as we can find a downloadable version of this App we will test it and let you know.

Selfie ATM's coming.

Forgetting a bank card PIN number could be a problem of the past as first-of-its-kind technology is being tested in South Africa. A person's fingerprints, palms, voice, iris and facial biometrics form part of new specifications for chip-card transactions for global payment technology company Visa.

Visa on Tuesday said that the first-of-its kind technology framework is also designed to work with the EMV (Europay, MasterCard, Visa) chip industry standard which is accepted globally.

The company is also testing its new biometric specifications for the first time in South Africa among a limited number of ATMs, thanks to a partnership with banking giant Absa.

"At the moment, it's really just a pilot phase to test the technology before they have any scale," Kate Kelly, senior director at Visa for corporate communications Sub-Saharan Africa.

Kelly also said that the technology is aimed at helping those, such as the unbanked, who are not familiar with PIN codes.

Biometric verification is further intended to prevent instances of fraud as it presents an extra security layer.

Meanwhile, the Absa pilot involves the banking using fingerprint readers at selected ATMs.

Absa also said that biometric technology is also becoming increasingly important to the bank.

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Fibre is cool - very cool.

Telkom announced the availability and pricing of its fibre-to-the-home service in December 2014, offering customers speeds between 20Mbps and 100Mbps. Initially, only certain areas in Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, and the Western Cape had access to the service, with Telkom promising an expansion in geographic availability as the footprint of its fibre network increased. Since 2014, Telkom has decreased prices, expanded its Fibre To The Home (FTTH) footprint and made a 10Mbps option available. Prices have also come down quite significantly, current Telkom FTTH prices now begin at R 699 per month for a 10Mbps 50GB SoftCap to R 1599 for a 100Mbps 200GB SoftCap line.:

Ed has a 40Mbps 100GB SoftCap FTTH line, and here's a few experiences with the installation for any Hispians considering Fibre.

The entire process took about 2 weeks, mainly because of Telkom's uncertainty of whether the FTTH hardware was already installed in the neighbourhood. But once they had confirmed that, the technician arrived within an hour of the scheduled time and the installation went quickly. One funny bit was a call from Telkom to enquire if Ed was happy with the service. The answer – "Your technician is busy installing it now". At least they're keen on service now.

Various tests have been run at various times of the day and night and speeds vary from about **37 Mbps to 42 Mbps** with absolutely consistent rates. Watching 1080p videos on YouTube and Netflix is a pleasure, with the videos always buffering fast enough to allow smooth viewing and tracking to any point in the video with little to no delay. Downloading is incredibly fast, with small to large files going from Internet to hard drive at a rapid pace. Small files, such as high-res images, open instantly, while larger files downloaded through BitTorrent (such as Linux distros) progress at speeds that bring a tear of joy to Ed's eye. Download speeds through the torrent protocol top out at **4.6 Mbps**, while average download speeds of files are around the **4 Mbps** mark – *meaning a 2GB file is klaar in less than 9 minutes.*

The Verdict

Even if Telkom's 40Mbps fibre connection only offers fast file downloads (it actually offers a great overall experience), it would be worth its price tag. Deciding to download a new copy of Linux, having a shower, and coming back to your PC to find the file ready to go brings about all sorts of happy feelings. Watching streaming videos is excellent, while general browsing does not leave you punching your screen in frustration.

In short: as soon as your area is covered, give strong consideration to trying out a Telkom FTTH connection.

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Takealot is a winner.

On Wednesday night the South African eCommerce Awards were held in Johannesburg.

The main award as well as the most coveted is for South Africa's favourite eCommerce site. This award is voted for by you, the customers. Takealot won this award last night and deservedly so. There is absolutely no doubt that if you want a secure, pleasant and easy online shopping experience, then try Takealot.

And not only for tech products .. They have a wide range from fashion to travel.. Take a moment to check out the website it's well worth the visit.

Facebook thumbs down at last.

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg has announced that they are working on a "dislike" button. "People have asked about the 'Dislike' button for many years… and today is the day that I actually get to say we are working on it and are very close to shipping a test of it," he said, according to *The Verge*.

The dislike button will not serve as a way to down vote other people's posts on the social network, though.

Instead, it will be a way for people to show empathy for posts which are sad or do not validate being liked – like someone's death.

"What they really want is the ability to express empathy. Not every moment is a good moment," said Zuckerberg.

Paperless Expenses slips.

Pocketslip is a new application hopes that South Africans will bury paper till slips to make smartphones more integral to the e-shopping environment. It records your shopping expenses, much like a digital till slip.

"We have been speaking about the paperless environment for ages and *PocketSlip* will be another chip off the block of 'paper mountain'," CEO Brett Lowe told the Hispian..

Because the receipts are stored digitally, it allows consumers to more easily conduct returns or warranty replacements for products.

"The idea has been around for some time, however the biggest challenge is to get the big retail chains to understand that yes, they can do this themselves and some already are doing it to email, but customers do not want an app for their Woolworths till slips, their Pick n Pay till slips; their Mr Price till slips," said Lowe.

"Customers want one that collates them all so that they can budget and find them all together. *PocketSlip* will be that app," he added.

Another challenge is to convince retailers who have loyalty programmes to join the platform, which could also help save money. Thermal paper commonly used for receipts cost anywhere from R1.61 to R6.46 per roll.

For the collaboration to work though, Lowe said that they would have to navigate the Protection of Personal Information Act (POPI) which prohibits sharing of personal consumer information.

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Entertainment is still king.

Say goodbye to DVD and Blu-ray and say hello to YouTube, as online media is set to be the world's and South Africa's biggest entertainment and media market by the end of the decade. This is according the PwC Global Entertainment and Media Outlook 2015-2019 report, which details the projected growth for entertainment and media segments for the next few years. According to PwC, South Africa's entertainment and media industry is expected to grow from R112.7 billion in 2014 to R176.3 billion in 2019, at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 9.4%. This growth will be fuelled by digital spend, as South Africa's Internet access market continues to rise rapidly. Here is a breakdown of the biggest global entertainment and media markets and how they will fare in the local economy, according to PwC.

Music - Growth will remain muted to hit R2.1 billion in 2019, up only slightly from R2.01 billion in 2014, with revenue from live music expected to grow at a CAGR of 7.9% in the next five years – reaching R1.5 billion in 2019, up from R1 billion in 2014.

Video Games - The video game market is understood to be quite small. In PwC SA's release, revenue from TV subscriptions and licence fees is aggregated with that from video games, to total around R4.5 billion between 2014 and 2019.

Film - Box office revenues are steadily increasing at a CAGR of 3% to reach R972 million by the end of the forecast period.

Books - Consumer revenue from books, magazines, and newspapers is expected to rise by R1.3 billion over the forecast period.

Pay-TV - Combined revenue from TV subscriptions, advertising, and licence fees is projected to reach R40.9 billion by 2019.

Internet Access - The biggest disruptor across the entertainment and media segments is the Internet. Internet access revenue will climb from R32.5 billion in 2014 to R76.2 billion in 2019, *far ahead of any other consumer spend category,* making it the largest contributor to South Africa's total entertainment and media revenues.

"Affordable Internet access will continue to digitally disrupt the market in novel and innovative ways," said PwC Southern Africa Entertainment and Media Leader Vicky Myburgh. "The ongoing spread of services to mobile networks, smartphone devices, and emerging markets will change how media and entertainment are served, consumed, and monetised in multiple ways."

According to Myburgh, affordable Internet access will inhibit the revenue growth of various sectors as consumers use it to access free, ad-funded, and lower-priced subscription-based versions of new and existing media services.