Two-Day Fuel Cell Juices Up Notebooks



Today at IDF, UltraCell showed off its two-day hot-swappable fuel cell, the UltraCell XX25, for laptops. As its description implies, the XX25 will run a notebook computer continuously for two solid days, and you can hot-swap the methanol fuel cartridges to keep the machine running eternally without interruption. This particular unit is for military use only, but the company will be releasing a commercial version, the UC25, around the end of this year. Pricing is not available at the moment.

Power of prayer to help heal studied

Two U.S. studies, scheduled to be soon released, found mixed results on the power of prayer to help cure ailing people. Skeptics of the studies say the work is a deeply flawed and misguided waste of money that tries to validate the supernatural with science, while some believers in the power of prayer say it is pointless to try to divine the workings of God with experiments devised by mortals. Prayer is the most common complement to mainstream medicine -- far outpacing acupuncture, herbs, vitamins and other alternative remedies and surveys have found that about half of Americans regularly pray for their own health. Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism -- every religion believes in prayer for healing, said Paul Parker, a professor of theology and religion at Elmhurst College outside Chicago. Some call it prayer, some call it cleansing the mind. The words or posture may vary. But in times of illness, all religions look toward their source of authority.

Origami Revealed

Three weeks of suspense have drawn to a close this morning as Microsoft has revealed its mysterious Origami Project to be none other than the Ultra-Mobile PC that everyone's been thinking it would be. The new platform, for which Microsoft only supplies the operating system, meets minimum hardware specs including Windows XP Tablet Edition 2005, a 7-inch display with a minimum resolution of 800 x 480 (good for web surfing), a weight of about 2 pounds, Wi-Fi, and Bluetooth. As expected the machines will all play multimedia and run the usual host of Windows apps. What they won't do by default is GPS mapping, although that is an available option. The Samsung Q1 (pictured here) will include a 40GB hard drive, 512MB of RAM, and a GPS in addition to all the specs above. No word yet on when you'll actually be able to get your hands on one of these things, or how much it'll cost.

