



Although it wasn't released until 1985, well after the decline of CP/M as a major operating system, the Bondwell 2 is one of only a handful of CP/M laptops. It used a Z-80 CPU running at 4 MHz, had 64 K RAM and, unusual for a CP/M machine, a 3.5" floppy disk drive built in. It had a 80x25 character-based LCD mounted on a hinge similar to modern laptops, one of the first computers to use this form factor.



TECH HOLIDAY

Gadgets for holiday



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GOING out on holidays has become a norm for us all. Whenever we get the chance, we just start packing out backpacks or suitcases, and head off. Head off, somewhere where we are free from daily meetings and appointments, hectic schedules, assignments and exams, household chores amongst many.

However, nowadays when we pack our bags to go on a holiday to ever-beautiful Cox's Bazar or Sundarbans or countries abroad like Bangkok, Thailand, Mauritius, Bali, London, Spain, Switzerland and even America, apart from putting our daily basics- clothes, shoes, flip-flops, toothbrush, sunglasses we don't forget to put the gadgets, gizmos and tech-basics that come in extremely handy and makes our holiday special and fun-filled.

The first thing you pack when you are going on holiday is your camera as well as your handy-cam. Come on, what's a holiday without a camera to capture all your memorable, exciting and fun moments.

A camera can range from a regular film-camera to a digital camera. Apart from that one can even capture their special moments on a camcorder. Keeping a snapshot or video of your memorable days, you can easily retrace your memories and go back to the days of fun and frolic when you've had a busy day at school or work.

These days, without mobile phone you feel completely incomplete. I for one, feel extremely empty. So the first thing that I or even I guess most people tend to do while packing their bags is keep their mobile phones insight with their keys are other important basics. So that they don't forget it.

A mobile phone comes in very handy when you go on a holiday. If it supports international roaming, you can keep in touch with anyone from anywhere in the world, anytime. Also you can easily change the SIM card of your phone, and use it as your holiday phone. A mobile phone can be your friend in need, helping you to click pictures

when your digi-cam runs out of charge.

And not only that if your mobile phone is GPS-enabled then you can easily use it to pinpoint your exact location or use gadgets such as eTrex, get directions to a particular destination and even provide relevant information of local nearby businesses, malls, theatres, amongst many other tourists spots.

A mobile phone gives you the options of having an accessible mp3 player (to groove with the music), a calendar to plan out your holiday, calculator and even an on-spot currency converter which will come useful to find out exchange rates.

Following a mobile phone, nowadays we also have this tendency of carrying our laptops with us wherever we go -work, university, coffee shops, and meetings amongst many other places. So taking it on holiday wouldn't be quite surprising now, would it? It's mobile and portable and can easily carry a lot of information. This can be your MacBook Air Notebook to a HP Compaq or even Vaio.

By having a laptop handy during your holiday, you can easily relax at your holiday home or hotel and upload all your snaps, pictures taken while sightseeing and visiting numerous beautiful tourist spots. A laptop enables you to check e-mails and browse the net during your holiday, if you have access to the internet via Wi-Fi or even internet provided by your local subscribers.

And if you are travelling to another destination by accessing the internet you can make amendments to your flight, hotel and even check out what places you want venture and visit.

How could I forget two of the major gadgets needed to make a trip even better? One is an iPod or portable mp3 player and the other one a PSP or even a Nintendo DS. These two gadgets can make your trip on a plane, car, bus or even a train more entertaining and fun.

And if you're in a country where the beach is nearby and you just want to relax and chill by the sea, you can easily put on your headphones and just groove with the music. On this note, let me remind you; do not forget to pack a pair of headphones.

An iPod, mp3 player, PSP or even a Nintendo DS can give you the opportunity to catch up a game you have been waiting to play for a long or listen and dance to some of your favourite while

the rest of your family, friends and holiday gang are busy modeling and shopping.

A woman cannot be without her hair-dryer and hair straightener even when on a trip. Isn't that funny? Even on a holiday the first thing they put inside their luggage is their hair essential gizmos. Simple explanation for this is to only look their best on their holidays. Whereas a man, tends to pack his electric shaver and trimmer so that he can look his best during the holiday and simply impress.

While packing all these tech essentials, we should never forget chargers for all these gadgets and gizmos. To start off with none of these works on batteries and to use them for a long long time you definitely need to charge them.

While we are talking on holidays and the tech basics needed to be packed for your holidays, let me also enlighten you about a few websites that I think you should browse through.

Before actually finalising your holiday, I advise you to visit www.tripadvisor.com, www.lonelyplanet.com, www.holidays-uncovered.co.uk, www.holidaywatchdog.com which provide you with authentic and in-depth reviews on the hotels, tourist spots, cruises, eating-out places amongst many. It provides you with various kinds of information on the country you're visiting as well as it shows you pictures to depict a visual description of your entire holiday.

The website www.tripadvisor.com, apart from providing you with the relevant information and reviews gives you the chance to book your flight, make hotel reservations along with several other important reservations on restaurants, cruises.

These are mainly the gadgets, gizmos and technological devices that I personally need for my holiday. And I am quite sure that most of you will agree on the choices that have been made. I am quite positive that next time when we all go on holiday along with packing the general basics we will not forget to pack our tech basics. Because it is mix 'n' match of the general and tech basics that make our holiday digitalized, simple and easy reducing the level of stress and maximising the level of our enjoyment.

So next time you plan a holiday, do read this article again to refresh your memory so that you do not leave any of your tech essentials behind.

TECH NEWS

Google adds automatic translation to Gmail

AFP, Washington

Google added automatic translation technology to Gmail on Tuesday, allowing users of its email service to translate messages in another language with a single mouse click.

The Mountain View, California-based Internet giant said it had integrated its Google Translate program into Gmail, allowing automatic translation of messages in several dozen languages.

"When you receive an email in a language other than your own, Gmail will help you translate it into a language you can understand," Google said in a post on the company blog.

"If all parties are using Gmail, you can have entire conversations in multiple languages with each participant reading



the messages in whatever language is most comfortable for them," Google said.

Google has already made Google Translate available to provide automatic translations of entire Web pages or blogs.

TECH NEWS

SKorean firm claims world's thinnest LCD-TV panel

AFP, Seoul

SOUTH Korea's LG Display said Tuesday it has developed a liquid crystal display (LCD) television panel that is thinner than a pencil, describing it as the world's slimmest.

The panel, which can be 42 or 47 inches wide, uses an edge-lit light emitting diode (LED) backlight system that allows it to achieve a thickness of just 5.9mm (0.2 inches), LG Display said in a statement.

The world's second biggest LCD maker said the product weighs 6.1 kg (13.4 pounds) and 7.3 kg, about half as much as

a conventional panel.

"The displays can reproduce a rich range of natural-looking colours with a colour saturation level of 80 percent," it said, adding the televisions can eliminate motion blur and boast full high-definition resolution.

Executive vice president Chung In-Jae said the new products demonstrate "our leading edge-lit LED backlight technology that enables thinner designs."

LG Display and local rival Samsung Electronics have led the global flat panel screen market and are now competing to produce thinner panels for high-definition televisions.



This handout photo released on May 19, 2009 in Seoul by LG Display shows a promoter holding a coin next to liquid crystal display (LCD) television panels which is used an edge-lit light emitting diode (LED) backlight system to achieve a thickness of just 5.9mm (0.2 inches).

PHOTO TECH



FLEPiA

Japan's computer giant Fujitsu employee displays the new mobile information terminal "FLEPiA" with an eight-inch sized electronic paper display touch screen function and a display of 260,000-color XGA images without electric power in Tokyo on May 15, 2009. The new electronic paper display, in thickness of 12.5mm and weighing 385g, with function of wireless LAN and Bluetooth connectivity, is on sale in Japan from last month.

PHOTO: AFP

TECH NEWS

I'm running late. Wait, my phone already told you

AP, Seattle

I'M running late. I'm stuck in traffic. I'm stopping by the market for a bottle of wine. I'm circling for a parking space. I'm just down the block. I'm right outside.

Today, people trade these little updates with a string of cell phone calls and text messages. But companies including Google Inc. are betting that will change as more smart phones come with GPS technology built in.

Glympse Inc., a Seattle-area startup, is the latest in the field. Its application, also called Glympse, lets smart phone users send a message and a link to a map marking their location to anyone in their address book.

On a computer, recipients can watch in real time as the sender circles the block looking for an open parking space. (On a mobile browser, recipients would have to hit refresh.)

Glympse users can save oft-repeated messages, like Dad's daily confirmation that he's picked up his daughter from day care and is on the way home. Glympses can be set to expire, preventing recipients from tracking senders' moves for longer than desired.

The startup, founded last year by three Microsoft Corp. veterans, Bryan Trussel, Jeremy Mercer and Steve Miller, hopes to set itself apart from similar programs like Loopt and Google Latitude by not requiring



ing Glympse users to set up a new social network. Recipients don't even need to download the program, though they get a slicker interface if they do.

By contrast, Google's program only works if everyone uses its Gmail service, and Loopt requires all users to download the application and set up a network of friends.

Glympse launched a free "beta" test version of the service Tuesday for T-Mobile's G1 Android phone. Trussel, the chief executive officer, said Glympse hopes to support the free service with location-sensitive advertising at some point.

The company said versions for iPhone, BlackBerry, Windows Mobile and other devices are coming soon.