

IT & TELECOM

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Search results, without the fancy gadgets

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With any new query that flashes your mind, what is the first thing you do? Do you instantly punch it into a Google, Yahoo or Wikipedia search engine on your laptop or smart phone?

But say you are away from all your up-to-date electronic gadgets, with the exception of a simple mobile handset with no internet connection? I guess all you can do is sit it out till your interest in the topic dies out.

Thanks to a new mobile application devised by a group of Bangladeshi developers, you will now be able to look for information on the popular search engines even without having an internet connection. Sounds weird?

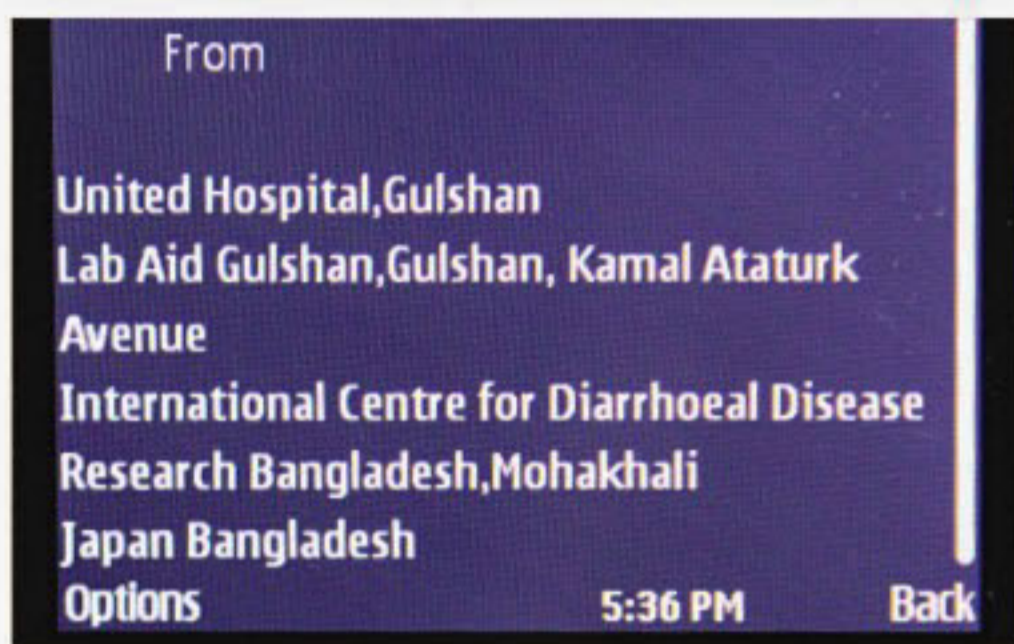
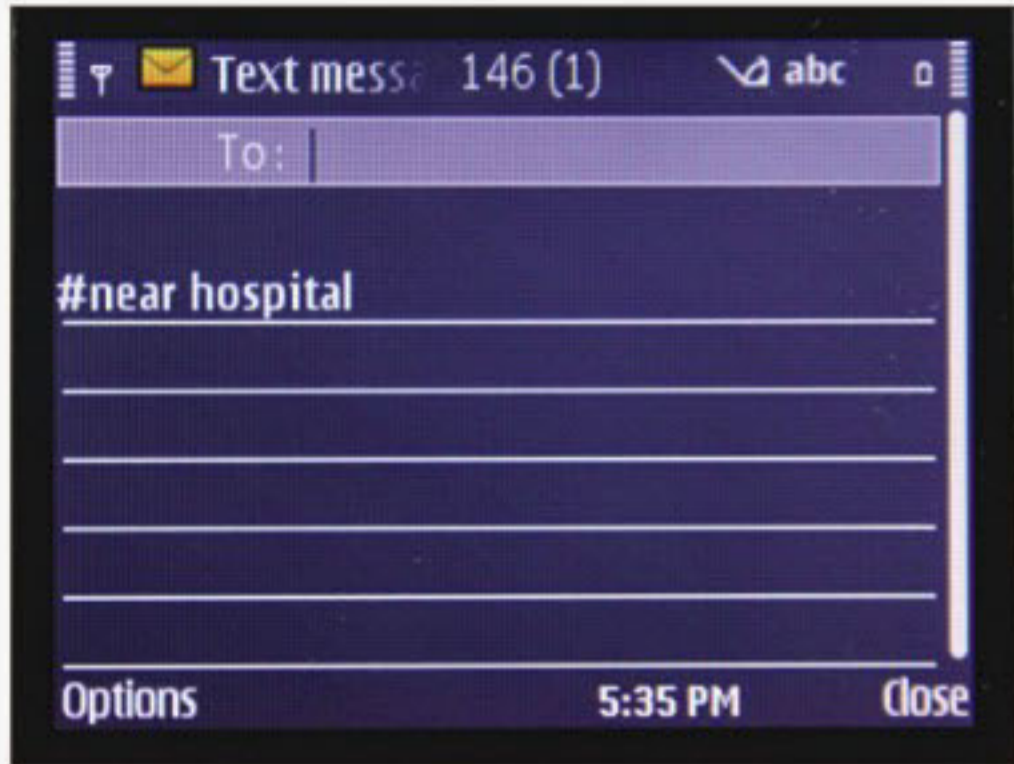
No, it is no fairy tale. The new search application named 'Khoj The Search' will enable a person to search any information or download any file from the web via a simple short message service (SMS) or multimedia messaging service (MMS) from an ordinary handset.

Not only that, the search based application will also enable a user to find his/her current location with a map to send to a friend. Songs, videos or image can also be sent as MMS with the application.

Three young developers from American International University of Bangladesh (AIUB) -- Md Avishek Ahmed, M Parvez Rashid and Khalid Mahmood -- jointly developed the programme.

"We first started working on this application in February this year. We wanted to create an easy search service for those who don't have internet access", said Avishek, who is a computer science graduate and now a lecturer at the computer science department at AIUB.

The application also clinched the first prize in the recently held 'Aloashbei Mobile Application Development Contest 2010'.



"The idea for a name of the application came into my mind when Khalid, Avishek and I were watching a new Bangla movie called 'Khoj The Search', said Rashid, who is currently an instructor at the same university.

To search for an item on the internet, all that an user will have to do is send a SMS to a certain number and the application will search the web (including Wikipedia, Google and Bing) and send back an SMS or MMS containing the search results.

For example, if someone texts 'Amadeus Mozart' through a mobile phone using the application, it will send back a SMS with details on Mozart.

Again, if one texts 'Amadeus Mozart', he or she will get back details along with a picture of Mozart in a MMS.

Users can also find something nearest to the person's location.

For example, if one texts '#near kfc', the Khoj will try to find the nearest KFC outlet and send an SMS with the address.

The Khoj can also download a file, song, video or image from the internet and send them as MMS to a desired mobile number.

By sending a text saying '#download http://www.freewebs.com/thebirdsmidia/faint.mp3', the application will download the faint.mp3 file to your own mobile phone and the message '#download http://www.freewebs.com/thebirdsmidia/faint.mp3@***** (desired number)' will send the song to the number.

"In a country where an overwhelming majority of the population does not have smart handsets with web access, this application, would provide an easy access to information," said Mahmood, a lecturer at AIUB.

To use this service as a demo, one just has to download Khoj-the-Search.zip from aloashbei.com.bd, install Khoj-the-Search-Setup.msi, then login or register with the Aloashbei username, password or phone number and follow the instructions on the profile.

In future, the application will undergo further changes to enhance capacity and features as the service is likely to receive a huge response from the growing number of mobile subscribers, said the developers.

Intel says tablets and phones on the way in 2011

REUTERS, San Francisco

Intel Corp said it is making headway getting its chips into tablet computers and that smartphones using its processors will go on sale late next year as it rushes to catch up in the fast-growing mobile market.

The company is betting that new chips due to ship next year will invigorate its mobile business, which has struggled to get off the ground amid explosive sales of Apple's iPad tablets and smartphones using Google's Android operating system.

"The consumer (tablet) products will roll out over the first half of next year," Chief Executive Paul Otellini told analysts at a conference.

He said manufacturers have agreed to use Intel chips in 35 tablet models, including a few already on the market.

On a slide, Otellini listed brands including Dell, Asus, Lenovo and Toshiba.

Intel's Atom chips dominate netbooks but



smartphone and tablet manufacturers have mostly rejected them in favor of more power-efficient chips based on ARM architecture that are made by companies like Qualcomm and Marvell.

Investors have been waiting to see to what extent major manufacturers choose Intel's chips for high-profile consumer tablets due out next year.

"Intel is moving in the right strategic direction but they still have a long way to go," said Hendi Susanto, an analyst at Gabelli & Company.

"They're late into the game. There is no clear visibility on what the products look like."

Underscoring the importance of staking out territory in mobile, Intel's share of the world semiconductor market slipped marginally to 13.8 percent in 2010 from 14.2 percent the year before after sales of netbooks were hurt by weak consumer sentiment, market research firm Gartner.

Microsoft brings business solutions

IT.TELECOM DESK

Microsoft Bangladesh recently organised a business solution session on Microsoft Dynamics ERP and CRM named "Microsoft Dynamics - Fuel your business productivity" at a hotel in the capital, said a press release.

Audience from different industries including banking, Telecom, RMG, distribution, retail and Government departments attended the session. Many companies from IT industry including Microsoft's partners also joined the session.

Experts from Microsoft regional head quarter spoke about Microsoft Dynamics ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) and CRM (Customer Relationship Management) products during the session.

They also covered how Microsoft Dynamics ERP and

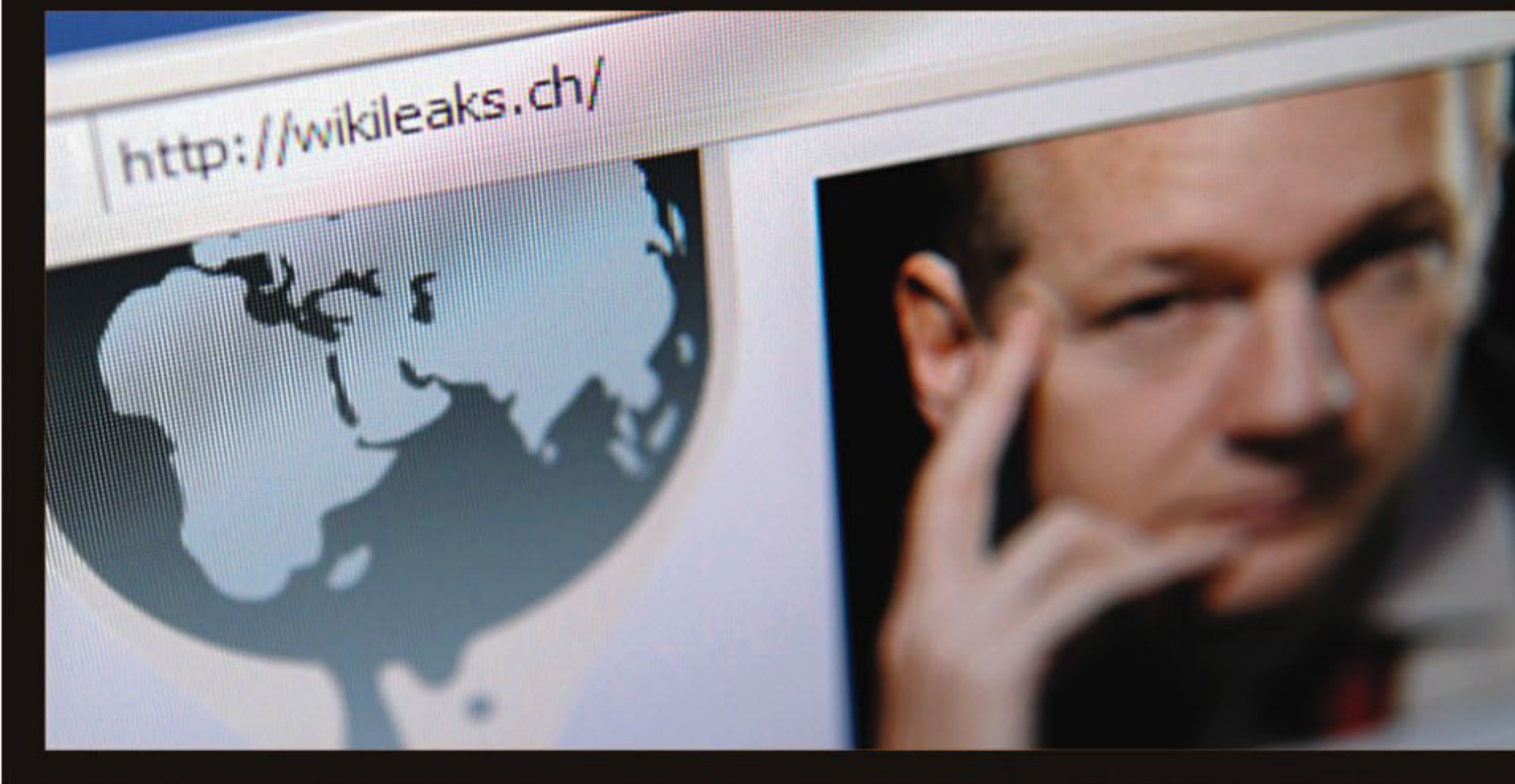
CRM solutions can bring values and benefits to an organisation's particular business needs.

Microsoft Dynamics works with common Microsoft software and ease adoption and reduce the risks in implementing a new solution.

The solutions also automate and streamline financial, business intelligence, and supply chain processes in a way that can help drive business success.

Microsoft Dynamics also enable business decision-makers to respond to market shifts quickly, take advantage of new trends and increase their competitive edge.

Microsoft Dynamics solutions are delivered through a world-class network of reselling partners providing specialised services and additional innovation to help customers excel in their industries.



TECHPHOTO

War of Data!

The homepage of Wikileaks.ch with a picture of its founder Julian Assange is seen on a computer screen. A group of hackers vowed to intensify a "war of data" against Mastercard, Visa and other groups which have cut funding to the Wikileaks website over its release of US secrets.

PHOTO: AFP

It's time to Tab

Galaxy Tab hits the market next week

IT.TELECOM DESK

Tablets or 'Tab', the newest trend in computing world are thriving across the globe. Every leading computer manufacturing company nowadays is releasing its own 'Pad' or 'Tab' to compete and take a lead in the global tech market.

After the mega-success of the smartphone Galaxy S, Samsung introduced its tablet, the Galaxy Tab, a combination of smartphones and netbooks.

With the launch of Samsung's tablet, the world tech arena is witnessing a tough battle between the Galaxy Tab and its prime rival Apple's iPad.

The Tab will hit the Bangladesh market any time next week.

The Galaxy runs on Google's Android 2.2 Froyo OS. It has 7" WSVGA touch screen display and weighs 380g, which makes it extremely portable and can be carried even inside pocket of a jacket or purse.

It comes with 16GB built-in memory and is expandable up to 32GB more through micro SD card.

It also has GPRS, Edge and Wifi net-

work support, 1GHz processor, 3mega pixel camera with LED flash and GPS technology.

The tab has an integrated e-mail service for easy SMS, MMS and e-mail operation. It can also perform video and voice call. And its Android OS allows downloading apps from Google's application store the 'Market'.

It features full HD (1080p) video player and a recorder (720 x 480) @ 30fps. The Galaxy plays MP3, AAC, OGG, WMA, AMR-NB/WB, FLAC, WAV, AC3, MIDI, RTTL/RTX, OTA, i-Melody, SP-MIDI file formats.

The Tab's Readers Hub enables to enjoy eBooks, magazines and newspapers. There are more than 2 million eBooks including 1.8 million free eBooks, over 2,500 magazine titles in 20 languages and over 1,600 news papers in 47 languages.

The price of the Tab is Tk 53,500.

As the tablet computers have become mark of modern lifestyle in other parts of the world, consumers of Bangladesh are expected to welcome the Galaxy Tab with great enthusiasm.



Google unveils new smartphone, Nexus S

AFP, San Francisco

Internet giant Google fielded a new champion on the mobile phone market battlefield on Monday, a "Nexus S" smartphone made by South Korea's Samsung.

Google said the Nexus S, which comes nearly a year after the Nexus One, which was a critical success if not a huge commercial hit, is powered by the latest version of Google's Android mobile operating system, "Gingerbread."

Google vice president of engineering Andy Rubin said the Nexus S would be the first Android device to ship with the new version of the Android platform, used by handset makers around the world.

"Nexus S delivers what we call a 'pure Google' experience: unlocked, unfiltered access to the best Google mobile services and the latest and greatest Android releases and updates," he said.

The Nexus S will be available in the United States from December 16 from Best Buy stores and from December 20 at Carphone Warehouse and Best Buy retailers in Britain, Rubin said in a blog post.

The Nexus S will be offered in the United States with a service plan from US wireless carrier T-Mobile or "unlocked," Rubin said.

Unlocked Nexus S phones that can be linked to any telecom network simply by inserting SIM cards will be priced at 529 dollars while people opting for two-year service contracts with T-Mobile will get the gadgets for 199 dollars.

The touchscreen Nexus S features a 1GHz Hummingbird processor, front and rear facing cameras and 16 gigabytes of internal memory.

It is also equipped with near field communication (NFC) hardware that turns the device into a virtual wallet, allowing users to "tap and pay" for financial transactions.

NFC chips store personal data that can be transmitted to readers, say at a shop check-out stand, by tapping a handset on a pad.

Google chief executive Eric Schmidt said last month that he expects the tap-and-pay mobile technology to "eventually replace credit cards."

Google launched the Nexus One in January of last year in a bid to challenge Apple's iPhone and the BlackBerry from Canada's Research In Motion but closed its online store offering the device just four months later.

"The year opened with a bang with Google launching Nexus One and it is going out with a bang with the launch of the Nexus S," said Gartner analyst Michael Gartenberg. "The Nexus S will set the stage for what Android devices will look like in 2011."

The Nexus line is becoming a product that demonstrates Google's vision of how smartphones can perform with Android software, according to the analyst.

"The Nexus S will be Android as Google meant it to be seen," Gartenberg said. "To that degree, the Nexus One was a success; it was a place where you could get a pure Google experience."

The Nexus One didn't catch on with consumers but was a hit with software developers and other technophiles.

The Nexus S "raises the bar" for other handset makers as Android-based smartphones battle to wrest market share from rivals such as the iPhone and BlackBerry devices.



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