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Samsung launches its new super-size Galaxy Note

South Korea's Samsung Electronics said it had launched a super-size version of its Galaxy Note smartphone, the latest salvo in its battle with Apple for the multi-billiondollar handheld market.

The Galaxy Note 10.1, which went on sale on Monday in Germany and the United Arab Emirates, is almost twice as wide as its predecessor and nearly the size of a tablet.

The release comes as Samsung tries to make inroads in the tablet computer market, which is dominated by Apple's iPad. The two technology giants are also engaged in a bitter court battle over patent infringements.

The firm said the new Note would be officially released in the United States on August 15 and sometime next week in Britain and South Korea.

The Galaxy Note 10.1 -- powered by Google's Android software -- features a touchscreen which is 10.1-inches (25.6 centimetres) measured diagonally, considerably wider than the 5.3-inch screen of the previous Note.

Like its predecessor, it comes with a stylus called the "S pen" to write notes or draw on the screen. The new version allows users to split the screen in half to view two programs at once.

The new device is equipped with a quad-core processor that allows users to run multiple applications faster than the previous version, which had a dual-core processor.

"The advanced technology and features included in Galaxy Note 10.1 give users the power to produce, create and customise communications," JK Shin, the chief of Samsung's mobile unit, said in a statement.

Samsung -- the world's largest smartphone maker by shipments -- in November introduced the first version of its Galaxy Note, a device positioned between its flagship Galaxy S smartphones and Galaxy Tab tablet computers.

Jeff Kang, an analyst at Daishin Securities, said the new Galaxy Note was apparently aimed at competing with

Apple's market-leading iPad. "The Note 10.1 is practically a new tablet PC that

comes with a stylus pen, which the iPad doesn't have," he told AFP.

Midas Kang of Woori Investment and Securities said Samsung has recently tried to expand a range of stylusequipped mobile devices to compete better against its US rival, which has not released such products.

Samsung and Apple are embroiled in legal battles in 10 countries worldwide over patents for smartphones and

tablet computers. At an ongoing major hearing in San Jose, California, Apple is seeking more than \$2.5 billion after accusing the

Korean firm of infringing designs and other patents. Samsung denies this and counter-charges that Apple infringed its patents for wireless communication.

CSL brings laser printer

IT & TELECOM DESK

Computer Source Ltd has recently launched a new model of laser printer, Lexmark E260dn in Bangladesh market. Small in both size and price, this compact laser is easy to operate. It features network-ready and duplex-printing models to reduce costs and paper consumption.

It delivers sharp, professional laser print quality with 33ppm speed and paper handling that outclasses the competition.

With USB and Ethernet ports, the E260dn is ideal for

small workgroup or personal use.

The printer has a price tag of Tk 15,000 and its toner is available at Tk 5,000.



Asus' new Laptop

IT & TELECOM DESK

Asus has released X44HR laptop in the local market. The laptop is equipped with Intel Core i3 2.30 GHz processor. It also comes with the AMD Radeon HD 7470M graphics with 1GB dedicated video memory for better

visual performance. The laptop delivers has 16:9, 14-inch high definition LED display panel and Altec Lansing speakers with SRS

Premium Sound. Its multi-touch touchpad allows you to easily scroll through web pages and pinch-zoom in and out of images.

The laptop has a price tag of Tk 45,500.

Google expands its services

Merges online and offline worlds in maps, extends online search to email boxes

AFP, San Francisco

Google on Wednesday took another step in its quest to merge the Internet with the real world with Maps and put itself at the heart of mobile gadget lifestyles in the process.

It also began allowing users to extend online searches to include messages stored in accounts at Webbased email service Gmail.

The California technology titan added Poland and the Ukraine to the list of more than 200 countries and regions where people can correct, update, or enhance Google Maps with local insights or expertise.

"Google has been about searching the online world, but most people live in the offline world, the physical world," Google Earth and Maps vice president Brian McClendon told AFP.

"We want to be able to provide a map wherever you are going; a way to have the best answers for what is within walking distance and transmit them in a fast, interactive way."

Google began tapping into collective knowledge for cartography in 2008 with the launch of a Map Maker tool in India, where details regarding streets in cities was meager to nonexistent.

"There were some places in the world where, even in big cities, the map was essentially a blank canvass," said Map Maker product manager James Kelly.

"We have taken the tool from just adding roads to adding all kinds of features like speed limits and suitability for bicycles," he continued. "We also made it possible to add businesses and other points of interest."

The tool allows people to update Google Maps to show local features ranging from bicycle paths and foot trails to parking lots or playgrounds.

Verified or trusted editing changes go live in minutes and spread across the more than 800,000 websites that embed Google Maps.

"We started Map Maker for the developing world and have been ramping it up," McClendon said. "We definitely want Map Maker to reach everyone in the world."

A global community of thousands of volunteer mappers review and approve each others edits.

When needed, additional data used to corroborate suggested edits include satellite imagery, public feedback, and



information collected by Street View vehicles that capture pictures to provide views of locations in maps.

edited. Position-sensing features in

Politically set borders can't be

smartphones present opportunities to advertise local shops or events. McClendon believed that how well

mapping software helps people find what they seek in the real world is so important it could be a reason to choose one smartphone over another, perhaps an Android handset instead of an iPhone.

Extending online search to email boxes

"Sometimes the best answer to your

question isn't available on the public Web -- it may be contained elsewhere, such as in your email," Google search senior vice president Amit Singhal said in a blog post.

"We think you shouldn't have to be your own mini search engine to find the most useful information; it should just work."

Google invited people to visit google.com/experimental/gmailfield trial to sign up to take part in the new feature, which was still taking shape.

"We're developing a way to find this information for you that's useful and unobtrusive, and we'd love your feedback," Singhal said.

The trial was limited to English language searches and messages in Gmail accounts.

Enhancements under development include a feature for organizing air travel confirmation emails so that a query of "my flights" would serve up results that include a concise list of bookings.

"These are baby steps, but important ones on our way to building the search engine of the future," Singhal said.

Those steps include upgrading Google search to look beyond query words to figure out what people are actually seeking online.

"Knowledge Graph" technology built to recognize people, places or things signified by keywords was extended beyond the United States to every English-speaking country in the world on Wednesday, according to Google.

"The Knowledge Graph is built to understand real things in the world," Google fellow Ben Gomes told AFP when the improvement debuted in May.

Facebook removes 'racist' page in Australia

BBC ONLINE

A Facebook page that depicted Aboriginal people in Australia as drunks and welfare cheats has been removed after a public outcry.

The Aboriginal Memes page had allowed users to post jokes about indigenous people.

An online petition calling for the removal of "the racist page" has generated thousands of signatures. The government has also condemned it.

The page's creator is believed to be a 16-year-old boy in Perth, reports say.

"We recognise the public concern that controversial meme pages that Australians have created on Facebook have caused," Facebook said in a statement to local media. A meme is an idea that spreads through the internet.

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"We believe that sharing information, and the openness that results, invites conversation, debate and greater understanding.

"At the same time, we recognise that some content that is

reports say.

shared may be controversial, offensive, or even illegal in some countries." "I think it's absolutely inappropriate," Australian

Communications Minister Stephen Conroy told ABC television. "We don't live by American laws here in Australia, we live by Australian laws and this is an Australian

who is using the fact that Facebook is based in the US to get away from Australian laws." Australia's communication and media authority launched an investigation into the page on Tuesday,

An online petition against the page on website change.org has gathered more than 17,000 signatures in just two days.



Apple won't include YouTube in new mobile software

REUTERS, San Francisco

Apple Inc's new version of its iPhone and iPad software will not include a pre-loaded app for Google Inc's popular video website, YouTube, Apple said on Monday. It was the latest sign of the growing rivalry

between the technology companies the once were closely aligned but now are vying for supremacy in the fast-growing mobile computing market. Earlier this year, Apple said it would dump

Google's mapping software from its mobile devices.

"Apple and Google are the mobile operating systems for the future and this is where the battleground is going to lie," said Needham & Co analyst Kerry Rice. "If it's going to be a two-horse race, you

certainly don't want to give the other horse any kind of lead," he said. Google, the world's No.1 Web search engine, is also the maker of the most popular

smartphone software with its Android operating system. In May, Google closed the \$12.5 billion acquisition of Motorola Mobility, setting the stage for Google to more tightly integrate its smartphone software and hardware and mount a more direct challenge to Apple's iPhone.

Apple said in a statement on Monday that its license to include the YouTube app in the iOS

operating system "has ended." Apple noted that "customers can use YouTube in the Safari browser and Google is working on a new YouTube app to be on the app store."

An Apple spokeswoman declined to comment on whether the company's YouTube license included any financial terms, or on whether Apple planned to replace YouTube with another pre-installed online video app from a different company.

YouTube has been among a handful of apps that come pre-loaded onto the screens of Apple's mobile devices since the original iPhone was introduced in 2007.

But the app, which was actually built by Apple using YouTube's standards, did not appear to be as full-featured as YouTube's own website: the YouTube app does not appear to feature any advertising, and the catalog of available music videos lacks many of the titles found on the website.

Analysts said Google was unlikely to take much of a financial hit from the move, though it could complicate Google's efforts to expand online services to the growing ranks of mobile users.

"It's a risk to Google's overall mobile approach and strategy, in that their services are not going to be as easy to find as they used to be," said ThinkEquity analyst Ronald Josey.

"They need to be everywhere that users are." More worrisome, said Josey, is what the

move could mean for Google's deal with Apple to be the default search engine on the iPhone.

"The writing's on the wall that when search is up for renewal, there's a significant chance that Google may not be the default," said Josey.

Analysts believe Google generates a significant portion of mobile advertising revenue from iPhone users.

Former Google CEO Eric Schmidt once sat on Apple's board of directors, but the relationship between the two companies has frayed. Apple's co-founder, the late Steve Jobs, was quoted as saying he was willing to go "thermonuclear" on the search leader, after it decided to position Android against the iPhone. News of YouTube's disappearance from

Apple's mobile software came as Apple released a new test version on Monday of the iOS 6 software, which for the first time did not include the YouTube app. The final version of iOS 6 is due for release sometime in the Fall. YouTube is one of the most popular destina-

tions on the Internet, with more than 800 million unique monthly visitors who stream 4 billion videos a day.

Google said in a statement that it was working with Apple to ensure that it has "the best possible YouTube experience for iOS users."

Shares of Google finished Monday's regular session up 1 percent at \$622.19. Apple shares were up 1.1 percent at \$622.55.

Samsung says not considering buying RIM or BlackBerry license

REUTERS, Seoul

South Korea's Samsung Electronics Co said on Thursday it has not considered acquiring Research In Motion or licensing the embattled BlackBerry phone maker's new mobile operating system.

A lack of support from potential partners such as Samsung could mean more trouble for RIM, which is seeking various options to turn around its embattled business.

"RIM has already lost its initiative in the smartphone market and what is left doesn't look really attractive to the likes of Samsung," said Lee Seicheol, an analyst at Meritz Securities. "Should they have a deep patent pool, that might be the most appealing asset to potential acquirers."

Samsung, the world's largest smartphone maker, is the biggest seller of phones that run on Google Inc's Android system, but it also makes phones using Microsoft's Windows as well as its proprietary software called bada.

Its strategy of making phones with multiple platforms had raised speculation it may also license BlackBerry's system to stretch its lead over rivals such as Apple and diversify away from Google, which now owns a handset manufacturing business after acquiring Motorola Mobility.

RIM plans to use its new operating system, known as BB10, in a next-generation line of BlackBerrys expected to launch early next year. It is considered RIM's last hope of reversing BlackBerry's steady decline in market share.