

Show

Gadgets & Games

In this column, celebrity tech-heads geek out over their favourite toys

I'm surgically attached to my gadgets

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DON'T be fooled by Jean Danker's svelte petite figure, that's often sheathed in figure-hugging bodycon mini-dresses.

The local radio DJ is tough as nails when it comes to whipping other people into shape.

So much so that she has become her Class 95 Car-tunes co-host Mike Kasem's coach during his preparation for BlackBerry's inaugural 10.5km Green Corridor Run on Jan 27.

She is the campaign ambassador for the event and will be emceeing that day.

She told The New Paper: "Mike will be running. I've been trying to whip him into shape by giving motivational messages at work and via BBM (BlackBerry Messenger) to make sure he trains daily."

Perhaps it's fitting she's involved in this BlackBerry event, as this beauty is really a gadget girl.

The 34-year-old even considers herself more reliant on her gadgets than on fiance and fellow MediaCorp Radio DJ Glenn Ong.

But Danker added: "I'm the 'tried and tested' kind, very loyal. Glenn is more adventurous when it comes to trying new gadgets."

Shazam

Danker's gadgets are, as she puts it, "surgically sewn onto my skin".

She said: "I get separation anxiety when my phone is not with me, but Glenn can do without it for a while."

As a deejay, it's no surprise that she has a music identification app like Shazam on her mobile phone, which identifies songs quickly.

"I was watching TV recently when a song came on and I had no idea what the title was, so I grabbed my phone and immediately got the info.

"It really helps me in my work," said Danker.

Drivesafe.ly

This BlackBerry app, which is also available on iPhone and Android, is useful for Danker, who drives a Mercedes-Benz SLK350.

It reads SMS messages and e-mails aloud in real time and automatically responds without drivers touching the mobile phone.

She recalled: "I left the app running when I was home once and it started babbling 'e-mail from' and I got a shock."

BlackBerry Bold 9900 Smartphone

Many may have moved on to touchscreen smartphones, but Danker prefers to stick with her BlackBerry.

She explained: "I've been using it for a very long time for work.

"I use it a lot for my roving reports from events back to the station because I feel it has the clearest phone reception, regardless of your telco.

"I'm also not big on the gaming and mobile peripherals so I prefer a straightforward hardy phone that lets me call, text, BBM and watch YouTube videos."



GADGET GIRL:
DJ Jean Danker, 34 with her white BlackBerry Bold 9900 and BlackBerry PlayBook tablet.

BlackBerry PlayBook tablet

Danker uses her "handy" tablet not only for social media needs and work but also to organise her life.

"I use it as an alternate avenue for Facebooking, taking photographs, to get into my Show Prep Services (a MediaCorp system for radio deejays) for work."

But her favourite app is the "addictive" Evernote.

"It's an organisation app where you can put recipes in, take photos, and it stores everything and organises your life amazingly."

WHAT'S NEW

Big sound from small speakers

Philips SoundShooter SBT30
Price: \$69

These handy speakers are just what you need for a good party! The Philips SoundShooter is said to produce explosive sound from the palm of your hand.

The SBT30 can be paired wirelessly with any Bluetooth-enabled device to stream your songs right from your smartphone or music player.

It also comes with a built-in microphone to help with answering calls in the middle of songs without having to unplug your mobile device.

This particular SoundShooter plays up to eight hours of wireless music and comes with a built-in rechargeable battery with a USB-enabled charging option.

It's available in khaki and can be found at all large electronics retail stores.



4 times more standby time for Sony phone

Sony Xperia Z
Price: TBC

Sony recently introduced its new flagship Android smartphone with Snapdragon S4 Pro quad-core processor, 13 megapixel fast-capture camera and 4G LTE.

The built-in HDR technology gives clear images against strong backlight, so users can capture razor-sharp pictures and videos whatever the conditions.

The new Xperia Z's Reality Display, powered by Mobile Bravia Engine 2, delivers an immersive viewing experience.

The Xperia Z has an improved standby time – at least four times longer – because it shuts down battery-draining apps whenever the screen is off and starts them up again when the screen is back on. Available within the next two months.



Use this mount for scenery shots

Veho Muvi X-Lapse
Price: \$59

Want a panoramic view of all your memories? This is just what you need.

With the new X-Lapse, shutterbugs can now create panoramic super-wide angle shots more steadily when it comes to the slow sweep of the surrounding while their camera takes intermittent shots.

Attach this camera mount to any tripod. Its tripod screw provides a secure hold on your camera.

It gives users who like taking 360-degree sweeping time-lapse images a platform to do so.

