

GADGETS MAGAZINE

WISHLIST

Have a Sharper Christmas with Sharp

COVER STORY

All "AI" Wants this Holiday Season

Holiday Wishlist 2.0:
What AI and Smart Tools
Deserve a Spot Under Your Tree

The Algorithm Knows What
You Want: How AI Influencers
Our Hearts (and Carts)

GADGETSLAB

Samsung
Galaxy S25 FE
Lenovo Legion 7i Gen 10

TEST DRIVE

Toyota Yaris
Cross Hybrid
Mitsubishi Xpander Cross
Ford Territory Hybrid

Wishlist: Rewired

GIFT SMARTER THIS SEASON



UNWRAP THE UNEXPECTED

Get a chance to win the prize paired with your purchased JBL product.

SHOP



JBL PARTYBOX

WIN



TESLA MODEL 3 1 WINNER

SHOP



**JBL SOUNDBAR/
JBL AUTHENTICS**

WIN



VESPA S125
10 WINNERS

SHOP



**JBL TRUE WIRELESS/
JBL HEADPHONES**

WIN



**SAMSUNG GALAXY Z
FLIP 7**
10 WINNERS

SHOP



JBL PORTABLES

WIN



DJI OSMO POCKET 3
10 WINNERS

SHOP



JBL QUANTUM

WIN



LENOVO LEGION 5
10 WINNERS

SHOP



JBL ACCESSORIES

WIN



**JBL PARTYBOX
ENCORE 2**
10 WINNERS

UNWRAP YOUR FIRST SURPRISE:
a FREE JBL Sound Fest 2025 Pass

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Only applicable on purchases made and registered
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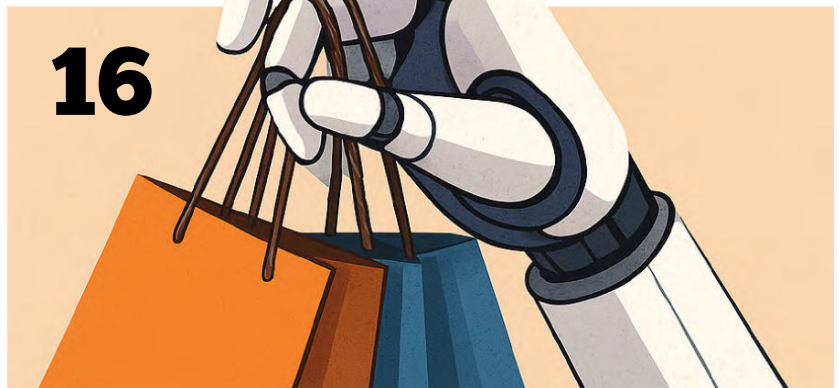
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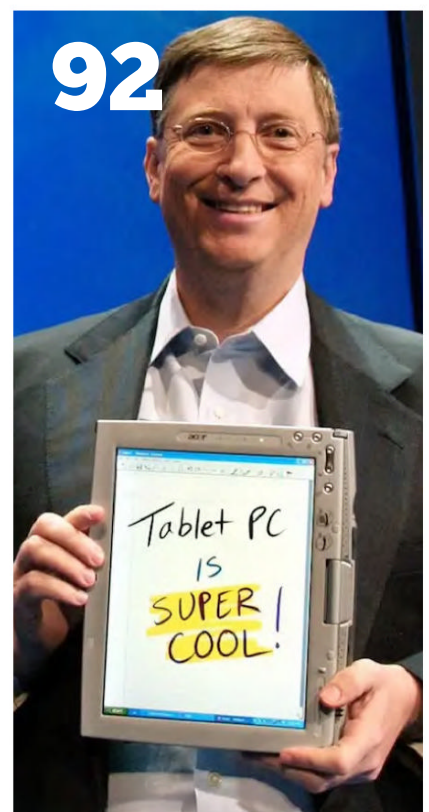
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SHARP

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JAPAN
QUALITY
SHARP

**UNWRAP PERFECT GIFTS
WITH SHARP'S INNOVATIVE
APPLIANCES**

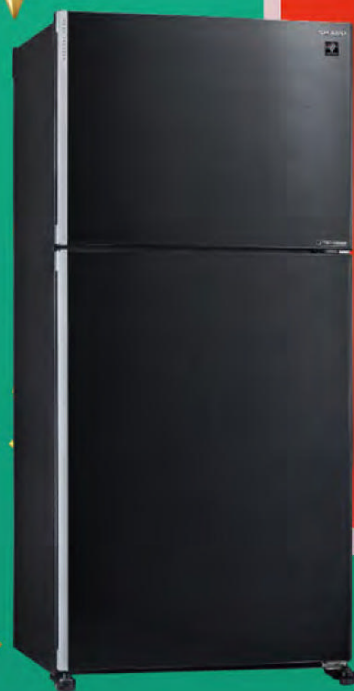


AQUOS XLED

J-TECH INVERTER



AQUOS XLED GOOGLE TV
4T-C75GU8500X 75"



**TWO DOOR NO
FROST INVERTER**
SJ-FTG21CVP-BK (21.3 cu.ft)
SJ-FTG18CVP-BK (18.2 cu.ft)



**CORDLESS STICK
WET AND DRY CLEANER**
EC-WE77P-B

**PLASMACLUSTER ION
AIR PURIFIER WITH
MOSQUITO CATCHER**
FP-GM50E-B 40 sq.m



**TOWER BLUETOOTH
SPEAKER**
PS-990



ALL “AI” WANTS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Words by **Gabriel Pe**

The holiday season is here, and that means one thing: gift-giving is back. For tech fans, this year has been all about artificial intelligence. AI continues to dominate the tech scene, from new software and more powerful models to the latest generation of video-generating tools like OpenAI’s Sora and Google’s Veo 3.

Unlike last year’s flashy “AI companions” like the Rabbit R1 and Humane AI Pin, this year’s AI feels a lot more grounded. It’s no longer a novelty or an experiment. Instead, it’s quietly integrated into devices we already use every day, such as smartphones, laptops, and even home appliances. It enhances the experience without trying to steal the spotlight.

If you want to see what the current wave of AI tech looks like, here are some of the gadgets worth checking out.

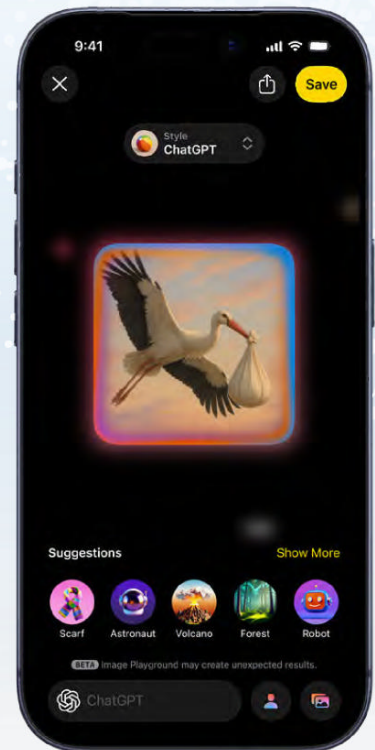
AI-Powered Smartphones

AI in smartphones isn't exactly new. It's been around since the early Android and iOS days, handling things like photo processing and voice assistants. What makes this new generation special is on-device AI processing.

Phones are now powerful enough to run AI language models directly on the chip. That means faster and more private tasks like live transcription, real-time translation, and quick AI-assisted photo and video editing without needing the cloud.

The biggest names leading the charge are Google with the Pixel 10 and Samsung with the Galaxy S25 series. Apple is catching up with Apple Intelligence on the iPhone 16 and iPhone 17, though the rollout has been a little slower than expected.

With these new devices, your phone doesn't just help you take better photos. It learns how you use it, adapts to your habits, and makes life easier in ways that actually matter.





AI PCs and Laptops

AI PCs were the big story last year, and they're even better now. CoPilot+ PCs have become the new standard with built-in Neural Processing Units (NPUs) designed specifically for AI tasks.

This setup lets your CPU and GPU focus on the heavy lifting while the NPU handles smart features like better background blur during video calls, faster object detection in photo editing, and more efficient multitasking.

The result is smoother performance and longer battery life, something laptop users will definitely appreciate. If you're shopping for one, look for the CoPilot+ PC branding or a CoPilot button on the keyboard. That's your sign you're getting one of the new AI-optimized models.



AI and Smart Glasses

AI-powered glasses are the next big step in personal tech. In May, Google unveiled its first Smart Glasses and a new VR headset powered by its Gemini AI platform. The glasses have a small display built into the lens that can show you maps, messages, translations, and even ongoing voice calls. While there's no confirmed release date yet, Google has already teamed up with Gentle Monster and Warby Parker to make them stylish enough for everyday wear.

Meta, on the other hand, has already taken its next step. After releasing the Meta Ray-Ban AI Glasses in late 2023, the company officially launched the Ray-Ban Display Glasses last September.

This next-gen model adds a built-in lens display, real-time translation, object recognition, and seamless social-media integration. It can record and upload photos and videos directly to Instagram and Facebook. Meta also introduced an EMG

Neural Band that detects subtle hand and wrist movements for discreet control, letting you interact with your glasses naturally without touching them.

What We Really Want This Christmas

AI has taken over almost every major tech launch this year, but not in an overhyped way. It's now a standard feature that quietly makes our gadgets better at what they do. From phones that translate in real time to laptops that manage power more intelligently, and glasses that literally project information in front of your eyes, AI has become part of our daily lives.

So this Christmas, all I want are gadgets that come with a bit of AI magic. Just not the weird, experimental kind. The era of the Rabbit and Humane pins is behind us. The best AI now is the kind you don't notice right away but can't imagine living without.

Holiday Wishlist 2.0: **WHAT AI AND SMART TOOLS DESERVE A SPOT UNDER YOUR TREE**

Words by Aljhelyn Piador

Every holiday, we start listing what we want to see under the tree. For most of us, it's still the usual mix of gadgets, sneakers, and maybe a trip we've been eyeing. But something about the world now feels different. It is more digital, more creative, and more quietly smart. The things that make life smoother and more inspired aren't always tangible anymore.

It's not about replacing the old kind of gifts, but rethinking what feels meaningful. In a world that runs on ideas and connection, AI and smart tools are becoming the new essentials. They don't come wrapped in a box, but they stay useful long after the holiday lights fade.

So, if you're building your wishlist, maybe it's time to add something new like digital gifts that make your days simpler, your work sharper, and your creativity a little louder.

FOR THE CREATIVES AND CONTENT CREATORS

For people who live and breathe ideas, creativity today is as much about tools as talent. The right software doesn't replace your eye or instinct, it just clears the noise so you can stay in that flow state longer. Here's what creatives across the internet actually love about these modern essentials.



CANVA PRO
(USD14.99/MONTH
OR AROUND PHP850)

Canva is the universal language of design. What users love most isn't just its templates but how it thinks for you now. With its Magic Studio, you can clean up visuals, expand photos, and auto-generate design variations. It's the go-to for creators who need to move fast without hiring a designer. Whether you're planning your brand kit or making a school org poster at 1 AM, Canva keeps your visuals sharp and your workflow easy.



RUNWAY ML
(USD12/MONTH
OR AROUND PHP700)

Among editors and filmmakers, Runway has a rep for turning complex visual effects into one-click magic. Users love how it lets them erase objects, generate new backgrounds, create color-rich animated films, or even stylize entire videos without ever touching a timeline full of keyframes. It's the "post-production secret weapon" for small creators who want cinematic results on a laptop. Watch short films entirely generated by Runway ML gen-4 [here](#) and be amazed.



CAPCUT PRO
(USD7.99/MONTH
OR AROUND PHP470)

CapCut has earned its reputation as the TikTok editor's best friend. What makes it stand out isn't just the AI auto-captions or beat-syncing, it's that everything feels fast, smooth, and native to how creators actually make videos today. You can shoot, cut, and publish all from your phone, with results that look like a full edit suite. For Gen Z creators, it's the shortcut that doesn't look like one.



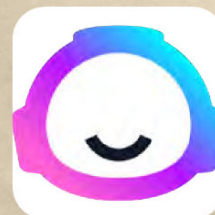
MIDJOURNEY
(USD10/MONTH
OR AROUND PHP590)

Designers and visual artists call Midjourney their imagination machine. Its strength lies in how it captures style (moody, painterly, detailed), the kind of aesthetic that feels handcrafted, not generated. It's a favorite for concept artists, marketing creatives, and anyone who loves turning a vague idea into a vivid image in seconds.



FLIXIER
(USD14/MONTH
OR AROUND PHP790)

FliXier's edge lies in its voice. Literally. Creators praise its AI voice-over generator for being one of the most natural-sounding out there. A lifesaver if you're camera-shy or don't have a mic setup. It also shines for its lightning-fast rendering and freelancers who can't afford to waste hours exporting videos.

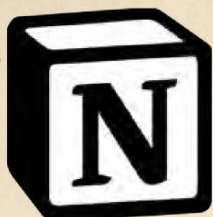


JASPER AI
(USD39/MONTH
OR AROUND PHP2,300)

Designers and visual artists call Midjourney their imagination machine. Its strength lies in how it captures style (moody, painterly, detailed), the kind of aesthetic that feels handcrafted, not generated. It's a favorite for concept artists, marketing creatives, and anyone who loves turning a vague idea into a vivid image in seconds.

These platforms earned their spot not just by what they can do, but by how they fit into people's real creative lives.

Cover Story



NOTION AI
(USD8/MONTH
OR AROUND PHP470)

Notion is the internet's favorite workspace. Its AI add-on takes it even further by summarizing notes, drafting reports, and helping users organize their thoughts with less effort. People love it because it feels like a personal assistant that doesn't overcomplicate things. Students, freelancers, and multitaskers all swear by it for keeping work and life synced in one place.



TODOIST PRO
(USD4/MONTH
OR AROUND PHP235)

For those who love lists, Todoist is sacred. Its AI-powered smart scheduling and goal tracking turn plain to-dos into small wins. Users love that it doesn't nag but nudges. It's practical minimalism at its finest, a mental declutterer that helps people actually follow through on what they plan.

FOR STUDENTS AND LIFELONG LEARNERS

Whether you're chasing grades, exploring new skills, or just learning for the thrill of it, education today looks very different from what it used to be. AI tools are turning studying into something personal, interactive, and efficient. These are the tools worth wishing for if you're the type who loves to learn, improve, or just figure things out for fun.

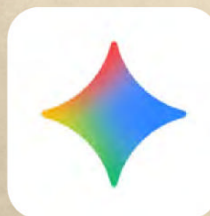
FOR THE ORGANIZED AND OVERWHELMED

Not everyone wants a gadget that looks good. Some people just want life to finally make sense. For the productivity-obsessed (or those trying to be), these tools simplify chaos and help you breathe easier.



MOTION
(USD19/MONTH
OR AROUND PHP1,100)

Motion is for the productivity maximalists. The ones who want their entire day optimized. It uses AI to automatically schedule meetings, tasks, and deep work blocks based on your habits. Professionals praise it for reducing decision fatigue and keeping burnout at bay. It's like giving someone their time back.



GEMINI / NOTEBOOKLM
(FREE OR USD20/
MONTH, AROUND
PHP1,180)

Think of it as Google, but more thoughtful. Powered by Google's own ecosystem, Gemini connects directly with your Drive, Docs, and Gmail, helping you search, summarize, and organize information faster than you could on your own. Students love how it goes beyond giving links. It understands context, pulls key points from documents, and helps you turn scattered notes into real insights. The Pro version adds deeper reasoning and faster responses, making it feel like a study partner that actually keeps up.



QUIZLET PLUS
(USD7.99/MONTH
OR AROUND PHP470)

Still a student favorite, Quizlet now uses AI to make flashcards smarter. Its Q-Chat feature works like a personal tutor, quizzing you based on your progress and weak spots. Users love how it turns study time into short, focused sessions that actually build recall instead of rote memorization.



SKILLSHARE PREMIUM
(USD13.99/MONTH
OR AROUND PHP820)

Skillshare isn't new, but its AI-powered recommendations make it more addictive than ever. It curates classes based on your creative goals and adjusts your feed as you grow. It's loved for its community feel, where learning doesn't feel transactional but social.



GRAMMARLY PREMIUM
(USD12/MONTH
OR AROUND PHP700)

Every learner who writes essays and scholarship letters has met Grammarly. It's known not just for grammar checks, but for catching tone, flow, and readability. People appreciate how it boosts clarity without killing personality. It's like having a writing coach 24/7.



COURSERA PLUS
(USD59/MONTH
OR AROUND PHP3,400)

Coursera's edge is its integration with university-level AI. It uses adaptive learning systems that tailor lessons to your pace, whether you're taking Google's Data Analytics course or Yale's Science of Well-Being. Learners say it's like getting the structure of school with the freedom of self-study.



CHATGPT PLUS
(USD20/MONTH
OR AROUND PHP1,180)

ChatGPT has quietly become the favorite study partner of many students and professionals alike. From explaining formulas in plain language to brainstorming essay angles or practicing mock interviews, it adapts to your level. Users say it's like having a patient mentor that is always available and never judgmental.



LINKEDIN LEARNING
(USD19.99/MONTH
OR AROUND PHP1,160)

What makes LinkedIn Learning powerful is its AI-driven career insights. It doesn't just teach but tells you what skills your industry is moving toward, so you can upskill strategically. Users love how it keeps them employable and ahead of the curve. For career shifters or lifelong learners, it's the smart way to invest in your future self.

FOR HOMEBODIES AND MINIMALISTS

Some people recharge by staying in. They find comfort in a slow morning, a tidy space, and familiar sounds that make home feel alive. For them, the best gifts are the ones that quietly make everyday life easier and softer.



GOOGLE NEST MINI
(USD48 OR AROUND PHP2,800)

A small speaker that feels like a daily companion. It plays your favorite playlists, answers quick questions, and sets reminders before you even reach for your phone. People love how it blends in and makes home feel just a bit more connected without being overwhelming.



TAPO SMART PLUGS
(USD14 OR AROUND PHP800)

Simple but incredibly useful. These smart plugs turn any appliance into one you can control from your phone. You can schedule lights to turn on before you arrive home or have the coffee maker start while you're still in bed. Many users say it's one of those upgrades that quietly changes how you move through your day.



WYSA
(FREE TO USD10/
MONTH OR PHP590)

Wysa feels like a safe space inside your phone. It's a mental wellness app that helps you check in with yourself through guided reflections and gentle prompts. People who use it like that it's not performative or loud—it's just there when you need to process thoughts or end your day with more calm.



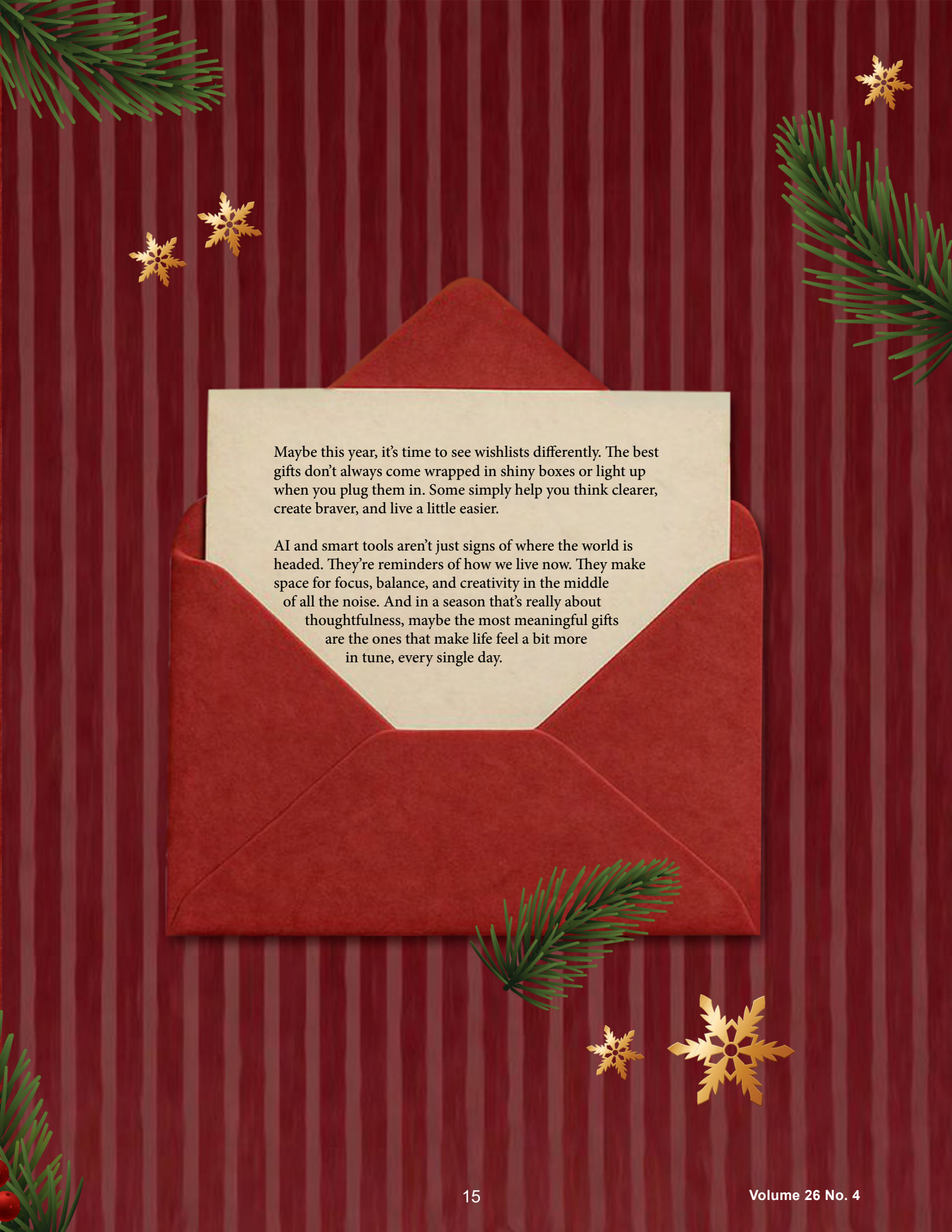
TODY
(USD6.99/MONTH OR
AROUND PHP410)

Cleaning doesn't sound exciting, but Tody makes it surprisingly satisfying. It helps you organize chores, track what's been done, and remind you of small tasks before they pile up. People love how it turns routines into small wins that keep their space and mind clear.



CALM
(USD14.99/MONTH OR
AROUND PHP850)

This app is a favorite among those who value rest as much as productivity. Its meditation guides, breathing exercises, and soundscapes help people relax and sleep better. Many users say it's part of their evening ritual, something that helps them reset and slow down after a long day.



Maybe this year, it's time to see wishlists differently. The best gifts don't always come wrapped in shiny boxes or light up when you plug them in. Some simply help you think clearer, create braver, and live a little easier.

AI and smart tools aren't just signs of where the world is headed. They're reminders of how we live now. They make space for focus, balance, and creativity in the middle of all the noise. And in a season that's really about thoughtfulness, maybe the most meaningful gifts are the ones that make life feel a bit more in tune, every single day.

THE ALGORITHM KNOWS WHAT YOU WANT

HOW AI INFLUENCES OUR HEARTS (AND CARTS)

Words by: **Phia Manuell Layoso**

Ever get the feeling that your phone is reading your mind? One minute, you're just mindlessly browsing the internet for a new pair of shoes, and before you know it, your social media sites, search engines, and shopping apps are all coming up with eerily similar items to what you just had in mind. From tech gadgets to fashion accessories, it's almost as if your gadgets are whispering: *"This is exactly what you need."*



In reality, that whisper is artificial intelligence, or AI, working behind the scenes. The algorithm that powers apps, websites, and even your go-to online shopping sites is getting smarter and wiser. They don't just simply show random things; they scan your preferences, trends, and socials and guess what you'll want next, often before you do yourself. This is more than a fascinating quirk of modern technology.

How AI Learns What You Like

At the heart of these virtual nudges is machine learning, a form of AI that detects patterns in data. Each time you like a post, swipe by on a story, or tap on a product, your actions are recorded and monitored. Gradually, AI constructs an elaborate profile of your preferences, interests, and even your mood patterns.

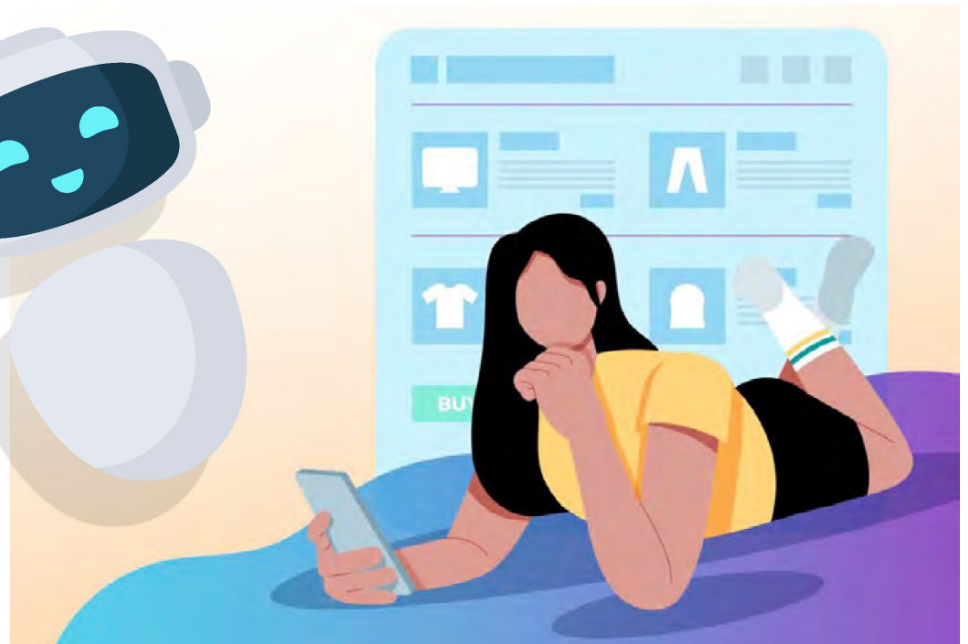
Netflix or Spotify, for example, recommends programs or playlists to you based on your tastes, usually before you have actually searched for them. The algorithm is predictive; it estimates chances based on what others with

similar behavior have done. The same holds for online shopping; if customers who purchased a yoga mat also bought a set of resistance bands, the algorithm may recommend the bands to you even if you weren't aware you were looking for them.

This technique, called "collaborative filtering," is merely one of several methods that online businesses and technology firms employ to guide shopper action. The AI essentially asks: *What would people like you purchase next?*

The Subtle Push of the Algorithm

AI has become a silent influencer in the way we shop. Every scroll, click, and search is feeding an unseen system that learns our routines and predicts what we will want next. That's why the shoes you have only looked at once turn up everywhere, from Facebook ads to Shopee recommendations. These algorithms are designed to make shopping feel personal, showing us products at just the right time and in the right way that makes them irresistible.



What makes it even more compelling is how AI appeals to our emotions. Prompts like “only two left” or “trending now” make us feel like we need to act immediately, and offering personalized discounts gives us the impression that the app somehow understands what we need. It’s a clever combination of psychology and information that pushes the boundaries between selection and suggestion. Ultimately, AI doesn’t simply predict our next buy; it quietly shapes it, making us believe it was our idea all along.

The Data Behind the Desire

None of this would be possible without big data. Each search, click, or social interaction is added to a massive store of information. Tech companies analyze this data to identify trends, predict demand, and customize ads to hyper-niche audiences. For example, fashion retailers can track seasonal preferences and even recommend products that match the items you’ve browsed in the past month. In short, big data enables AI to behave like a personal shopper. It is no surprise that users generally find themselves both impressed and slightly discomfited by how accurately online suggestions mirror their wants.

Are We Choosing, or Being Chosen For?

One of the most intriguing aspects of AI commerce is the issue it raises regarding autonomy. If algorithms can predict what we want and push us toward particular buys, to what degree are we really deciding?

A simple example, suppose you are choosing between two laptops. One is well-reviewed, reasonably priced, and slightly older, and the other is brand-



new, with lots of flashy features, and heavily advertised on every webpage you click on. You’re likely to be pushed by the AI towards the latter. It’s not necessarily the wrong decision, but it’s no longer yours alone.

This is where *behavioral economics* comes in. Individuals are likely to act on advice, particularly when it is tailored to them. As an algorithm consistently highlights specific products, they become more likely to be purchased, not necessarily because the product is superior, but because repetition fosters desire.

Not only does AI impact individuals’ decisions, but it also shapes mass trends. Viral items, be they phones or AirPods, gain popularity as algorithms sense growing interest and amplify them on online communities. Social media plays a significant role. Algorithms choose content that keeps users engaged, typically promoting products that generate clicks, likes, or shares. That feedback loop, where AI identifies popular products, boosts their visibility, and drives further engagement, is a trend perceived as natural but is, in part, engineered.

How to Shop Smart in an AI-Driven World

The first step to taking back control from algorithms is simply becoming aware of how they work. It helps to pause and notice when something keeps popping up on your feed and ask yourself if you really want it, or if you’ve just seen it too many times. Read honest reviews, visit other online shops, or even check items out in person. Sometimes, stepping outside the algorithm’s loop reminds you that you still have choices beyond what your screen suggests.

It also pays to take a quick look at your settings. Most apps and social media platforms let you limit data sharing or turn off certain ad personalizations. These little tweaks can make a big difference in what you see online. And when it comes to spending, set boundaries for yourself. Those “limited-time” deals and “only a few left” alerts are meant to push you into buying on impulse. If you take a moment to think it through, you’ll often realize you didn’t really need it after all. The truth is, AI can make life easier and more convenient, but staying mindful ensures that technology serves you, not the other way around.

The Future of AI and Shopping

AI is likely to become even more integrated into our daily lives. Augmented reality shopping experiences, virtual assistants making complete purchases on our behalf, and hyper-targeted marketing campaigns will further obscure the line between human decision and machine influence.

However, this doesn't have to be bad. AI can improve our shopping experience, leading us to discover products we really need or love — the secret lies in awareness and conscious involvement. Ultimately, the question is not what AI knows but what we do with that information. Are we passive consumers of the online marketplace, or active decision-makers navigating our own wants? As technology develops further, the answer will determine not just our shopping habits but the very nature of consumer culture itself.



“What makes it even more compelling is how AI appeals to our emotions. Prompts like *“only two left”* or *“trending now”* make us feel like we need to act immediately, and offering personalized discounts gives us the impression that the app somehow understands what we need.”

SHARP

Have a sharper Christmas with SHARP

Finding the perfect home companion can be difficult, especially when there are so many options in the market. Luckily Sharp has made things easier and better having everything you might want and need. Best of all, they offer both innovation and quality in every product.





SHARP 4T-C75GU8500X (75 Inches) TV

The **Sharp 4T-C75GU8500X** is a 75-inch premium 4K AQUOS XLED television offering exceptional picture quality through Xtreme Mini LED technology for superior contrast and Deep Chroma QD (Quantum Dot) for high color purity and rich color reproduction.

Designed for a smooth viewing experience, it features a 120Hz refresh rate and AQUOS Smooth Motion for fast-moving scenes. For immersive viewing and sound, it supports Dolby Vision IQ and Dolby Atmos. As a Google TV with Hands Free Voice Control built in, users can easily access entertainment, smart home control, and more just by speaking. It also includes the X6 X-Revelation Processor, 4K AI Upconvert, and AMD FreeSync Premium for low-latency gaming.

SHARP PS-990 (60 Watts) Party Speakers

The **Sharp PS-990** is a powerful 60W party speaker that delivers amazing audio output. It features a dedicated BASS button for experiencing deeper low-end sound, and an immersive Party Light system that synchronizes its colors to the music's beat.

Designed for connectivity and convenience, the speaker includes Bluetooth for wireless streaming, a USB port for both playback and charging, and an Audio In for digital players. Its large form factor is made portable with built-in Wheels and Handle for easy transportation, and it supports a Karaoke Function for an immersive singing experience.





SHARP SJ-FTG18CVP-BK (18.2 cu.ft.) 2-Door Refrigerator

The **Sharp SJ-FTG18CVP-BK 2-door refrigerator** features the brand's J-Tech Inverter technology for low power consumption, superior energy performance, and silent operation via its 36-step rotation compressor speed. It focuses on large capacity and food preservation with a Mega Freezer that includes an Organizer Case, and a Hybrid Cooling System that evenly distributes Celsius air to prevent food from drying out.

Hygiene is maintained using Sharp's Plasmacluster Ion Technology and an AG+Nano Deodorizer. Specialized chilling features include -24°C Deep Freezing, Express Freezing, and the Extra Cool Two-Way Freshroom. The unit is finished with a stunning Tempered Glass Door and features a Moisture Vegetable Case and Twist Ice Maker.

The **Sharp EC-WE77P-B** is a versatile cleaning solution that vacuums and washes floors simultaneously, effectively picking up both wet and dry debris.

It features a Powerful Motor that delivers strong suction and a Powerful Fiber/Bristle Brush designed to tackle stubborn stains. The Two Tank System ensures cleaning is always done with fresh water and solution, while dirty water is collected separately. User convenience is enhanced by the One-Button Detach Tank and a Self-Cleaning System that auto-cleans the roller when placed on the storage tray, ensuring easy storage and cleanup.



**SHARP EC-WE77P-B
Wet & Dry Vacuum
Cleaner**

SHARP
FP-GM50E-B
(40 sq m)
Air Purifier with
Mosquito Catcher

The **Sharp FP-GM50E-B** is the perfect companion for people with asthma and allergic rhinitis with its comprehensive filter system (Pre-Filter, HEPA Filter, & Deodorizer).

It is also the “World’s First” Air Purifier to feature a built-in Mosquito Catcher Function. This unique feature uses a 5-step mechanism—including UV Light, an enticing black body color, powerful airflow suction, and strong sticky sheets—to capture mosquitoes.

For air purification, it uses the brand’s Plasmacluster Ion Technology to emit high-density positive and negative ions that deactivate airborne mold, viruses, and allergens. Additional features include Inverter Operation for energy savings and built-in Dust & Odor Sensors with a 3-color level monitoring clean sign indicator.



REVIEWED BY GABRIEL PE

SAMSUNG GALAXY S25 FE

SMARTPHONE



The Samsung Galaxy S25 series has become a stalwart in integrating AI into phones. Since introducing Galaxy AI with last year's Galaxy S24 lineup, Samsung has continued refining how AI fits into everyday smartphone use—and they've also been generous in making it accessible to more users through the Fan Edition line.

The Galaxy Fan Edition, or FE, has built its reputation as a mid-range alternative to Samsung's flagship S-series. It offers a near-flagship experience in both software and design, and this year's FE device pushes that even further, coming closer than ever to the real thing.



DESIGN



The Samsung Galaxy S25 FE features a 6.7-inch 120 Hz AMOLED display that's vivid, sharp, and easily comparable to the rest of the S25 series. It's protected by Corning Gorilla Glass Victus+ on both sides and framed in aluminum, making it lighter than its predecessor without losing its premium feel.

Design-wise, it follows the familiar S-series aesthetic, complete with the now-iconic triple camera layout at the back. Personally, I'm not the biggest fan of Samsung's choice to keep the same look for three years, but to be fair, it still works. The clean, minimalist design feels refined, not dated.

At the front is a 12MP selfie camera, while the back houses the 50MP main sensor, 12MP ultra-wide, and 8MP telephoto with 3x optical zoom. Around the frame, you'll find the speaker and USB-C port at the bottom, the dual nano-SIM tray, and the power and volume buttons neatly placed on the right.



HARDWARE



Under the hood, the Galaxy S25 FE runs on Samsung's own Exynos 2400 chip, the same SoC found in last year's Galaxy S24 and S24+. It comes with 8GB of RAM and three storage options: 128GB, 256GB, and 512GB.

The Exynos 2400 isn't quite on par with the Snapdragon version of Samsung's flagships, but it gets the job done well. Games like *Teamfight Tactics* and *Honor of Kings* ran smoothly, and even *Genshin Impact* held up nicely at high settings. The phone does get warm during long gaming sessions, but performance stays consistent.

Powering the S25 FE is a 4900mAh battery with 45W fast charging. In real-world use, I got about two days with light activity (checking emails, social media) and a full day with heavier workloads like gaming or all-day video shooting. Charging from



15% to 100% takes a little over an hour, and yes, it supports wireless charging too.

The cameras are among the best in its class. The main 50MP shooter produces vivid, detailed images in bright light,

while low-light shots remain usable for social media. For video, the S25 FE punches above its weight—footage is sharp and stable, even without a gimbal. It became my go-to shooter over my Pixel during testing.



USER EXPERIENCE



Using the Galaxy S25 FE was surprisingly enjoyable. I found myself reaching for it more often than my usual daily driver. It offers nearly everything I need—smooth performance, a stunning AMOLED display, and reliable cameras.

Galaxy AI integration is another highlight. Photo editing is fast and intuitive. Compared to Google's Magic Eraser, Samsung's version is equally accurate and sometimes even better at masking complex areas. Other AI-powered tools like Note Assist, Live Transcription, and Live Translate round out the experience, though I didn't get to test all of them extensively.

For entertainment, the AMOLED display makes binge-watching on Netflix or YouTube an absolute treat. The stereo speakers are loud and clear, with minimal distortion even at higher volumes. Add IP68 water resistance, and you've got a phone that's durable enough for real-world use.

If there's one thing I'd like to see improved, it's memory. 8GB of RAM is decent by 2025 standards, but more would definitely help with multitasking and heavy AI workloads.

VALUE



The Samsung Galaxy S25 FE starts at PHP39,990 for the 8GB + 128GB variant, PHP44,990 for the 8GB + 256GB model, and PHP53,990 for the top-tier 512GB configuration. It's priced on the higher side for a mid-range phone, but you're paying for a refined balance of performance, design, and long-term support.

Samsung also promises seven years of software and security updates—a huge advantage at this price point, where

most competitors only offer around five. That alone makes the S25 FE a smart long-term buy.

BOTTOMLINE

The Samsung Galaxy S25 FE earns its place alongside the flagship S25 lineup. It delivers a near-premium experience without the premium price tag. You get solid performance, capable cameras, and Samsung's best AI features in a package that looks and feels high-end.

It's not trying to be a "flagship killer," but rather a dependable all-rounder for

people who want the best of Samsung's ecosystem without spending top-tier money. For many users, this might just be the sweet spot.

SPECIFICATIONS

Display: 6.7-inch FHD+ Dynamic AMOLED 2X (1080 × 2340), 120 Hz

Processor: Samsung Exynos 2400

OS: One UI 8 (Android 16)

RAM: 8GB

Storage: 128GB / 256GB / 512GB

Rear Cameras: 50MP (main) + 12MP (ultrawide) + 8MP (telephoto, 3× optical zoom)

Front Camera: 12MP

Battery: 4900mAh with 45W fast charging, wireless charging

Connectivity: 5G, Wi-Fi 6, Bluetooth 5.4, NFC, USB 3.2 Gen 1 Type-C

Others: In-display fingerprint sensor, Face Unlock, IP68 water resistance

Dimensions: 161.3 × 76.6 × 7.4mm

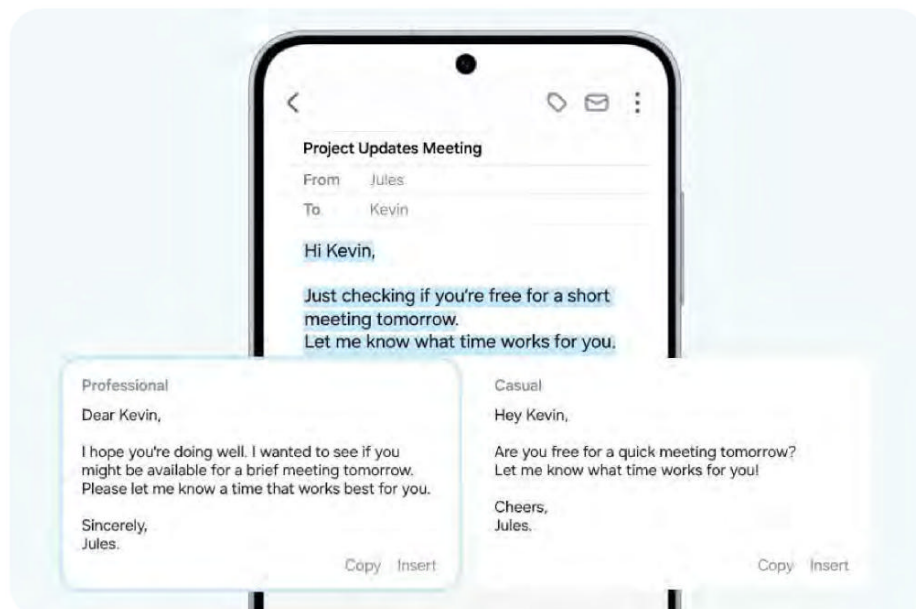
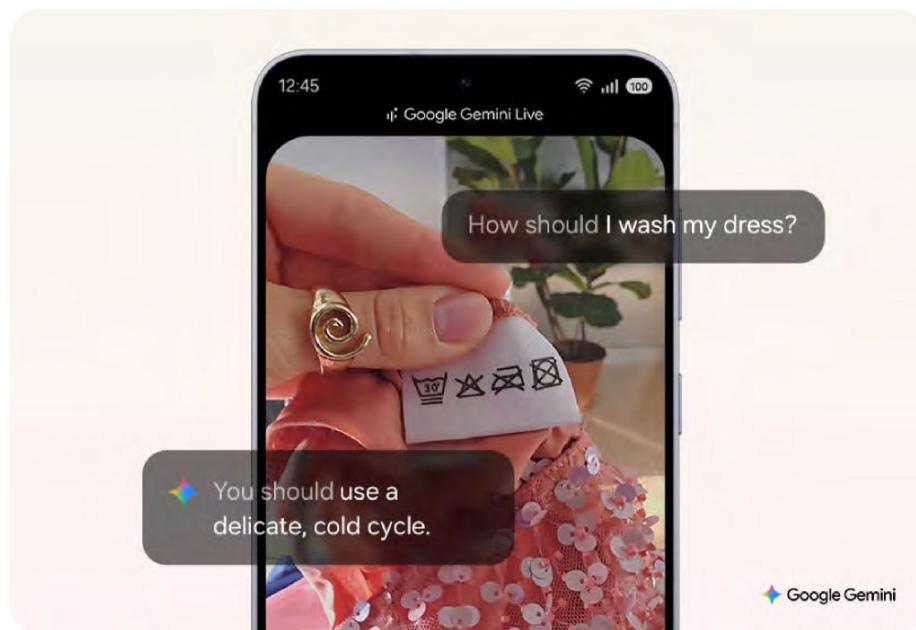
Weight: 190g

WHAT'S HOT

- ▶ Excellent Galaxy AI integration
- ▶ Seven years of software and security updates
- ▶ Fast and reliable optical fingerprint sensor
- ▶ Flagship-grade camera performance
- ▶ Great display and build quality

WHAT'S NOT

- ▶ Only 8 GB of RAM
- ▶ Gets warm during long gaming sessions
- ▶ Slightly expensive for its segment



REVIEWED BY ALJHELYN PIADOR

LENOVO LEGION 7I GEN 10

GAMING LAPTOP



I've been using the Lenovo Legion 7i Gen 10 for a few weeks now, and it's clear this laptop doesn't know how to slow down. It's the kind of machine that quietly keeps up no matter what I throw at it, whether it's editing, gaming, or the occasional "I'll just watch one episode" moment. I'd open it for work, and before I know it, I'm queuing for a quick *Valorant* match.

It doesn't try too hard to prove itself, and maybe that's what I like most. It just works, whether I'm buried in deadlines or zoning out in a game. It slides easily between work and play without making a big deal out of it, and that's honestly the best part.

It's rare to find a gaming laptop that fits so well into both sides of my routine. But the Legion 7i Gen 10 somehow makes that balance feel effortless. Let's dive into what makes it tick.



DESIGN



The first time I used the Lenovo Legion 7i Gen 10, I didn't expect a gaming laptop to look this good. The all-white finish? Chef's kiss. It's clean, modern, and looks right at home beside a latte and a half-open notebook. It doesn't try too hard to show off. It just sits there looking cool and capable.

While other gaming laptops are screaming with RGB everywhere, this one's more like that chill friend who can outplay everyone but still looks put-together doing it.

Typing on it feels great too. The keyboard is satisfying, the clicks are firm and comfy, and the colors are bright without being overwhelming. I actually enjoy writing long documents or editing videos on it because

the lighting helps me stay focused. It's a nice mix of practical and playful.

And the LED display lighting deserves a shoutout. It's vibrant and immersive when I'm gaming, but it also gives off a focused, studio-like vibe when I'm editing videos. That balance between aesthetic and function is what makes the Legion 7i's design stand out.

HARDWARE



The Legion 7i Gen 10 runs on Intel's latest Core Ultra 9 processor paired with NVIDIA's RTX 5070 GPU—serious specs that translate into consistently smooth gameplay even on high settings.

Let's get this out of the way. Of course, the Legion 7i Gen 10 performs well in gaming. It's built for that. Running *Valorant* or *Cyberpunk 2077* at high settings is smooth and stable, as expected. The graphics are sharp, the frame rates are consistent, and the cooling system does its job well enough that you can game comfortably for hours.

But what actually surprised me is how well it handles everything outside gaming. I've used it for serious video editing, and I mean *all-night, high-resolution, multi-layer timeline* kind of editing, and it still runs efficiently. Yes, it heats up after a while and you'll want to keep the charger close, but it never slows down or crashes. That level of stability during heavy creative workloads is what makes it stand out.

The display also helps a lot. It's crisp, bright, and color-accurate, something content creators and editors will appreciate. It's the kind of screen that can handle gaming realism and color grading with equal confidence.



Battery life isn't groundbreaking. You'll still want your charger nearby, but for a gaming laptop, it performs better than I expected. I can work, edit, or watch to plug in.

USER EXPERIENCE

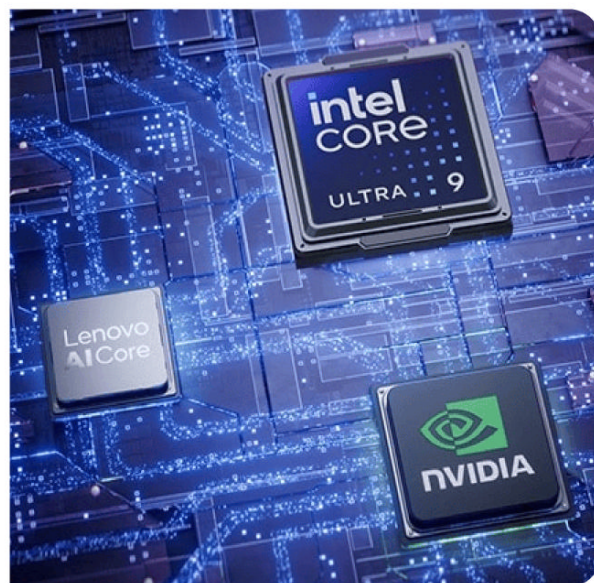
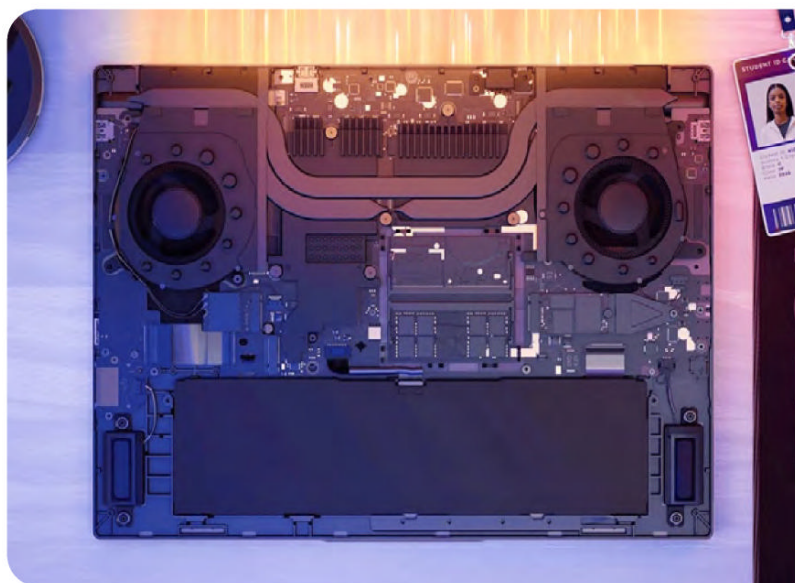


What I really like about the Legion 7i Gen 10 is how easy it is to live with. It's powerful but not intimidating. Switching between gaming, editing, and work

feels seamless. The Legion software for performance modes makes it easy to find your rhythm. I can switch to quiet mode for writing or turbo mode for gaming in just a click.

The keyboard layout is clean and comfortable, the touchpad is responsive, and the overall build feels solid. Even the webcam and mic are surprisingly good for a gaming laptop. Video calls look and sound clear without needing extra gear.

Now, the speakers deserve a special mention. They're easily one of the best I've





VALUE



Let's be real. With a starting price of roughly PHP130,000, it's a serious investment. But if you look at what you're getting, it makes sense. The Legion 7i Gen 10 isn't just for hardcore gamers. It's for people who want one machine that can handle everything whether it's work, play, and creative projects.

You're paying for the full package: premium build quality, raw power, and thoughtful design that fits both work and lifestyle. It's not your budget pick, but it's definitely worth it if you value performance that doesn't compromise on looks or comfort.

BOTTOMLINE

The Lenovo Legion 7i Gen 10 is that rare all-rounder that actually delivers on both style and substance.

What makes it special is how effortlessly it fits different parts of life. You can take it to a café for editing, use it for meetings, then go home and dive into *Cyberpunk 2077* at full settings. The design feels premium, the keyboard feels amazing, and the speakers seal the deal.

Sure, it's pricey, and I still keep my charger close, but for how much it delivers in performance, aesthetics, and comfort, it's the kind of laptop that makes you feel you made the right choice every single time you open it.

SPECIFICATIONS

Gaming Powerhouse:

- Intel® Core™ Ultra 9 275HX processor
- NVIDIA® GeForce RTX™ 5070 GPU
- 32GB DDR5 RAM and 1TB SSD storage
- AI-tuned performance for seamless multitasking and high FPS gameplay

Visual Brilliance:

- 16" WQXGA OLED display (2560 x 1600)
- Up to 240Hz refresh rate, Dolby Vision, HDR 1000 True Black
- 100% DCI-P3 color gamut for stunning visuals

Creator-Ready Features:

- 5MP IR webcam with Windows Studio Effects
- Legion Spectrum RGB keyboard
- Advanced cooling system for sustained performance during rendering and editing

WHAT'S HOT

- ▶ Clean and classy all-white design
- ▶ Bright, color-accurate OLED display
- ▶ Excellent keyboard feel and satisfying RGB customization
- ▶ Loud and rich speakers
- ▶ Powerful specs
- ▶ Great balance between performance and portability

WHAT'S NOT

- ▶ Gets warm easily during heavy workloads
- ▶ Battery life could be better
- ▶ Price is on the high side
- ▶ Charger is bulky

Revolutionize your workflow with **Galaxy AI** ✨ on the Samsung Galaxy Z Fold7

The best of Galaxy design meets AI innovation to deliver breakthrough productivity in Samsung's thinnest and lightest foldable



In today's fast-paced, always-on culture, professionals need the tools that not only keep up with their demanding schedules but also support a healthier way of integrating work into your life. The Galaxy Z Fold7, powered by Galaxy AI, meets these evolving needs by enhancing productivity and managing work efficiently when you are on the go.



Intelligent Multitasking

The Galaxy Z Fold7 is Samsung's lightest and thinnest fold yet at just **215 grams** and is **8.9 mm thick when folded** and **4.2 mm thick when unfolded**. But this device is packed with features that lets you work anytime and anywhere. With its large screen, you can utilize different applications at the same time and have them displayed beside one another, as you would with a computer display.

With Galaxy AI Optimized for Large Screens, the Galaxy Z Fold7 further boosts productivity by leveraging key features like AI Results View and Drag & Drop. **AI Results View** shows results in a separate window, so your original content stays visible. You can also be more efficient with **Drag & Drop**, moving AI-generated content—such as images and text—between apps using **Multi Window**, which enables smooth transitions from one app to another.

Smart Tools for Daily Workflow

Note-taking is now smart and easy. The **Note Assist** feature utilizes Galaxy AI to organize your handwritten notes. It will even make a simple summary that you can go through so you can easily remember the highlights.

When you are in meetings, **Transcript Assist** is an absolute revelation. It transcribes voice recordings into text, makes a summary of the entire conversation and can even translate the dialogue transcript into another language with AI technology.

You can enhance your messaging with a tool like **Writing Assist**, which allows you to adjust the conversational tone of your text. It also provides real-time translation, which helps you communicate effectively and ensures that every conversation is a meaningful one.



All-Day Performance

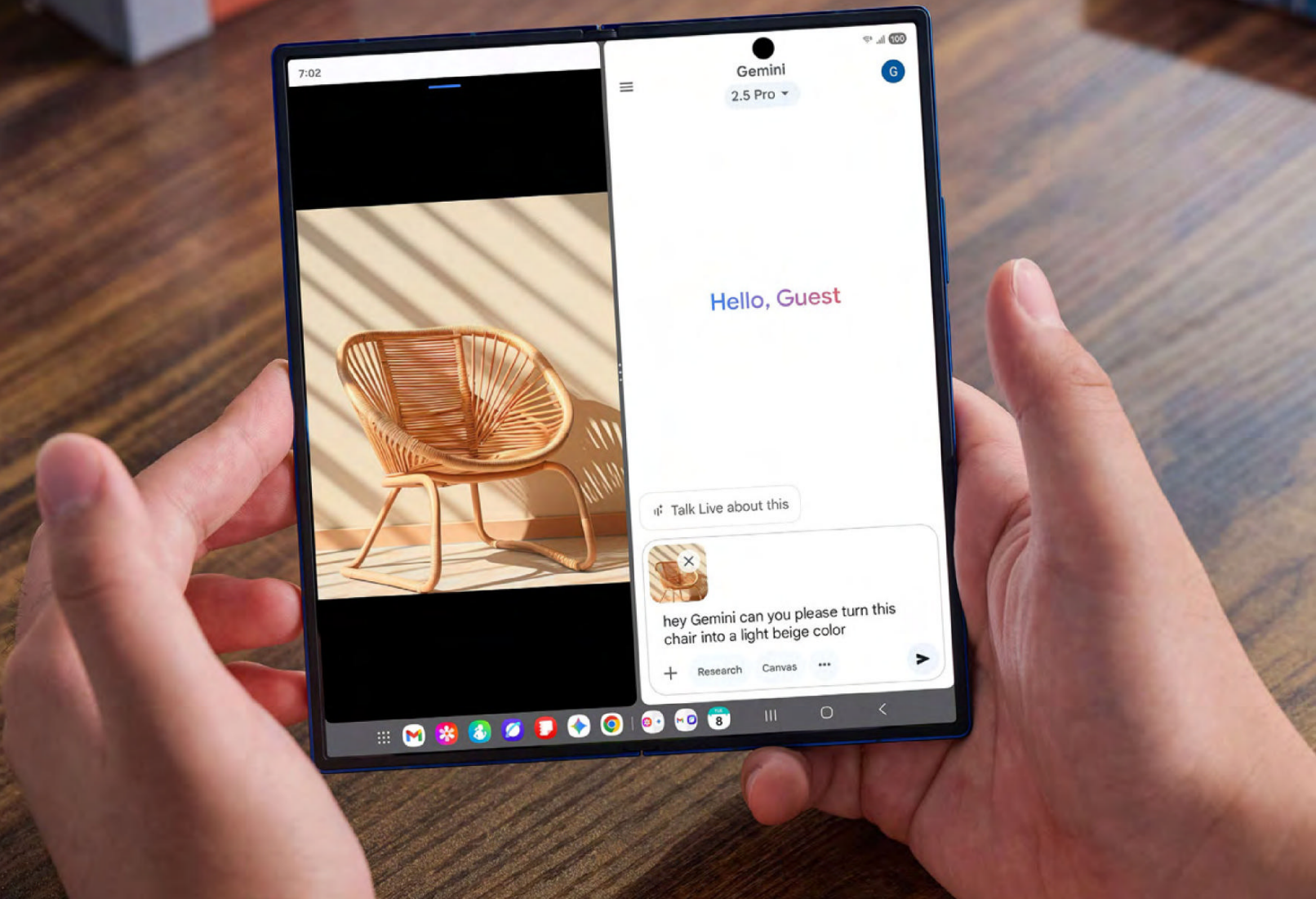
Out and about? The Galaxy Z Fold7 is equipped with a **Qualcomm Snapdragon 8 Elite** processor that can handle whatever the day throws your way, all without slowing down. It makes multitasking all while running advanced apps, fast and smooth. You can do your daily work with no problems.

The device has also been equipped with **4400 mAh smart battery and mDNle technology** which manages power by optimizing brightness, sharpness, and

contrast for a natural viewing experience. It memorizes your routines and optimizes power consumption to stay with you through the longest and busiest days.

The **Circle to Search with Google** feature is fast and easy to access. Thanks to this feature, you can learn more about any object or text in your photos, in a webpage, or in a document, by simply drawing a circle around it. Voila, search results appear without the need to type your query.





Gemini Live also offers a new level of productivity for professionals with its multimodal AI. This feature understands what you see, say, and do, allowing you to ask questions and get instant answers without switching between apps. With screen or camera sharing, you can simply show Gemini what you're working on, ask questions for immediate insights. This transforms the way professionals can collaborate, research, and problem-solve in real time.

Available in four colors, Blue Shadow, Jetblack, and Silver Shadow, as well as the online exclusive Mint, the Galaxy Z Fold7 is more than a smartphone, it is an intelligent and intuitive companion that continually transforms mobile productivity, designed for ambitious professionals with all-day efficiency, refined style, and a competitive advantage.

Enjoy expanded access to Google AI Pro and 2TB of cloud storage, free for six months with your Galaxy Z Fold7.

Revolutionize your workflow and learn more about the new Galaxy Z Fold7 by visiting <https://www.samsung.com/ph/smartphones/galaxy-z-fold7/buy/>.

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REVIEWED BY **BARRY ORTIZ**

TOYOTA YARIS CROSS 1.5 SE HEV CVT

Subcompact crossovers have rapidly become the vehicle of choice for urban professionals and small families. Toyota's new Yaris Cross Hybrid is perfectly positioned in this competitive market, offering a stylish design, an incredibly fuel-efficient hybrid powertrain, and all the practicality needed for everyday life in the Philippines.





To truly test its mettle, I drove the Yaris Cross Hybrid on a weekend trip to Clark. This journey took us from the congested streets of Quezon City, through the long stretches of NLEX, and up the high-speed TPLEX, fully loaded with passengers and luggage, to see how it performs in diverse driving conditions.



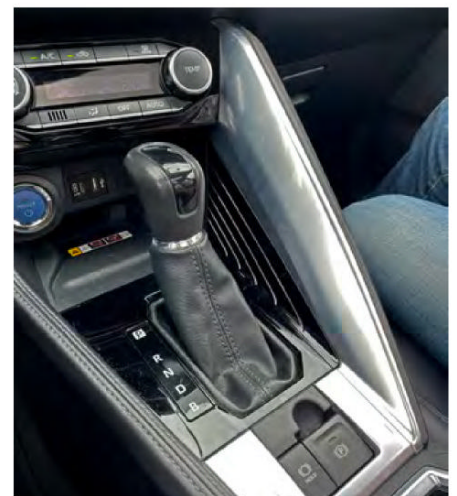
DESIGN



The Yaris Cross Hybrid features a sleek yet tough exterior. Its sharp LED headlights, sculpted body panels, and black cladding give it a notably sporty and assertive stance. The optional two-tone finish—a black roof contrasting the main body color—adds a modern, youthful flair that makes it a standout in Manila's traffic.

Inside, Toyota has prioritized a simple, modern aesthetic. The cabin feels contemporary, highlighted by the 7-inch digital instrument cluster and a 10-inch infotainment screen featuring seamless wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto. Materials are a coherent mix of soft-touch and hard plastics. In terms of space, the second row offers acceptable comfort for two adults, though it's best suited

for shorter city trips. Crucially, the cargo bay is practical, handling a couple of suitcases and weekend bags with room to spare, a capacity that significantly expands when the rear seats are folded down.





HARDWARE



Under the bonnet is a reliable 1.5-liter gasoline engine paired with an electric motor, delivering a combined output of 111 hp. Power is managed by Toyota's e-CVT, a transmission engineered for maximum smoothness and efficiency rather than aggressive speed.

Around Quezon City, the hybrid system shone. The Yaris Cross moved quietly and effortlessly on electric power at low speeds, significantly reducing driver fatigue during traffic crawls. When additional power was requested, the gasoline engine joined the system seamlessly and without fuss.

On the drive to Clark via NLEX and TPLEX, the Yaris Cross proved capable of maintaining highway speeds. Overtaking maneuvers required a firm push of the accelerator, but the car managed them confidently, even when fully loaded with passengers and cargo. The suspension tuning leans toward comfort, capably absorbing most road imperfections. The steering felt light and nimble in the city but appropriately gained stability at expressway speeds, making the car easy to handle across all driving conditions.





USER EXPERIENCE



The Yaris Cross Hybrid is exceptionally suited to city life. The quiet hybrid operation in traffic and outstanding fuel efficiency in stop-and-go conditions are its hallmarks. Visibility is excellent, and its compact size makes navigating narrow streets and tight parking spaces in Metro Manila straightforward.

On the long NLEX run, passengers enjoyed the comfortable seats and the effective air-conditioning, with rear vents being a crucial feature for maintaining comfort on extended trips. On TPLEX, the car remained stable and composed at higher speeds, with the cabin staying impressively quiet. While acceleration isn't *brisk* when fully loaded, the Yaris Cross held its steady speed well and never felt strained. The hybrid system's regenerative braking worked smoothly, and the transitions between electric and gasoline power were virtually unnoticeable.

The infotainment system was intuitive, and the wireless smartphone connectivity eliminated cable clutter. Furthermore, Toyota Safety Sense (TSS) features—including adaptive cruise control and lane departure alert—made the

highway portions of the drive far less stressful. These systems worked flawlessly on the long, straight stretches of TPLEX, maintaining safe distances and keeping the vehicle centered in its lane.

VALUE



Priced just under PHP1.6 million for the hybrid variant, the Yaris Cross Hybrid costs more than some petrol-only rivals, but it delivers strong value through superior technology and efficiency. Its fuel economy is exceptional: I observed over 20 km/L in city driving and a remarkable 18 km/L on the highway portions of my trip from QC to Clark and back.

That kind of efficiency is extremely difficult to match in this segment.

Toyota backs the Yaris Cross Hybrid with its strong nationwide dealership network and a proven track record of hybrid reliability. The excellent fuel economy and Toyota's reputation for durability mean that long-term ownership costs are kept attractively manageable.



BOTTOM LINE

The Toyota Yaris Cross Hybrid is an ideal choice for the discerning buyer who needs a stylish, hyper-efficient, and reliable crossover for both daily commuting and occasional road trips. From navigating the busy streets of Quezon City to cruising along NLEX and TPLEX with a full load, it consistently delivered comfort, stability, and outstanding fuel economy.

For buyers looking for a practical yet forward-looking crossover that maximizes every peso spent on petrol, the Yaris Cross Hybrid makes a truly compelling case.

REVIEWED BY LEO JAIME GARCIA

MITSUBISHI XPANDER CROSS 1.5G 2WD AT



In the Philippines, few vehicles have captured the family car market quite like the Mitsubishi Xpander. Practical, stylish, and reliable, it has become a go-to choice for many. The Xpander Cross takes the same formula and adds SUV-inspired styling, higher ground clearance, and upgraded suspension. Living in Cainta, I had the chance to take the latest Xpander Cross from the east side of Metro Manila, through NLEX and all the way up TPLEX with the full load of 6 passengers. It proved to be a true test of what this MPV-SUV crossover can do.

DESIGN



The Xpander Cross is one of the best-looking vehicles in its class. The Dynamic Shield grille, T-shaped LED headlights, and bold bumper design give it a confident, SUV-like stance. The raised ride height, skid plate accents, and 17-inch alloy wheels add to its rugged charm. In Cainta's narrow streets, the size feels manageable, yet on the highway, it looks substantial enough to hold its own among larger vehicles.

Inside, the Xpander Cross strikes a balance between durability and

comfort. The leather-like seats with quilted patterns look premium and are easy to clean, perfect for family use. The dashboard layout is clean and functional, anchored by an 8-inch infotainment screen with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto. All three rows feel usable, with the second row offering plenty of legroom and the third row accommodating adults for shorter trips. With all six passengers on board, there was still enough space in the back for a couple of medium-sized bags.





HARDWARE



Powering the Xpander Cross is a 1.5-liter MIVEC gasoline engine with 105hp and 141Nm of torque, paired with a CVT. While not the most powerful in its segment, the engine is tuned for smooth, consistent delivery rather than raw acceleration. Around town, the CVT makes stop-and-go driving easy,

and on NLEX, the engine had no trouble cruising at highway speeds even with a full passenger load. Overtaking required a firm push on the pedal, but the response was steady.

The upgraded suspension, inspired by the setup in the Montero Sport

and Strada, is one of the highlights. It handled rough provincial roads and uneven patches of TPLEX with composure. With six passengers and cargo, the vehicle still felt stable and steady. Ground clearance of 225mm added confidence when passing through rough patches and flood-prone areas.



USER EXPERIENCE



Driving out of Cainta during rush hour highlighted how easy the Xpander Cross is to maneuver. The elevated seating position offered excellent visibility, while the light steering made weaving through traffic less stressful. Once on NLEX, the Xpander Cross settled into a relaxed cruise. Even with six passengers, the cabin remained quiet, and ride comfort was impressive. Its ground clearance made passengers' hopping in/out with ease.

Over-all, passenger's feedback was positive. The second-row seats reclined slightly, giving more comfort on the long northbound journey, while the third-row passengers said space was manageable even over the two-hour ride. Air-conditioning was a strong point, with roof-mounted vents effectively cooling the entire space, a must-have in our climate.

On TPLEX, the adaptive nature of the CVT made long stretches easy. Cruise control would have been welcome, but the stability and comfort of the drive helped keep fatigue low. With the full load, acceleration wasn't brisk, but the Xpander Cross never felt strained.

The improved suspension truly shone here, smoothing out bumps and keeping the ride composed.

VALUE



Priced at around PHP1.3 million, the Xpander Cross sits at the upper end of the MPV category. However, the SUV-like design, raised ground clearance, and enhanced suspension make it stand out. For a family of six, it delivers the space, comfort, and practicality needed for both daily drives in Metro Manila and long-haul trips up north.

Fuel economy averaged around 9–10km/L in mixed city driving from Cainta to Quezon City, while highway runs on NLEX and TPLEX with a full load reached about 13–14km/L, which is respectable for a seven-seater.



BOTTOM LINE

The Mitsubishi Xpander Cross continues to show why it has become a staple on Philippine roads. It combines the practicality of an MPV with the toughness of an SUV, making it a capable family car. From daily traffic in Cainta to long stretches of NLEX and TPLEX with six passengers and cargo, it proved comfortable, reliable, and versatile. For Filipino families who need one car to do it all—city errands, school runs, and road trips—the Xpander Cross remains one of the smartest choices available today.



REVIEWED BY GABRIEL PE

FORD TERRITORY HYBRID



The Ford Territory has been one of the most impressive vehicles I've encountered in recent years. It's one of those rare cars that has seamlessly become part of everyday Filipino life, a familiar sight on our roads since its first-generation debut in 2020.

Last August, Ford Philippines surprised everyone by launching the all-new Ford Territory, now powered by a hybrid engine. To see what this new model could really do, we joined the media drive from Manila to Baguio and put the new hybrid through its paces.

DESIGN



The new Ford Territory Hybrid brings a sportier and more refined look compared to its predecessor, thanks to its redesigned front grille and more sculpted body lines. At first glance, it looks more like a compact SUV than a traditional crossover, confident, sharp, and well-proportioned.

From the rear, it retains the clean layout that made the original Territory popular, with subtle tweaks to the taillights and bumper for a more modern finish. The side profile remains familiar but gets a distinctive "Hybrid" decal along the lower door panels, proudly declaring its new identity.

We drove the top-of-the-line Titanium X variant on our trip up north. The main differences from the Titanium Trend variant include a panoramic sunroof, a full suite of Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS), and a light-up Ford badge on the grille. It is a small touch, but one that adds flair and fun, especially at night.

Inside, the Territory Hybrid looks and feels premium. It comes with two-tone leather upholstery in white and black with yellow stitching that gives the cabin a sporty yet elegant vibe. The front seats are plush and supportive, while the panoramic sunroof in the Titanium X makes the interior feel bright and open.

Cargo space is generous at 448 liters, expandable to 1,422 liters with the rear seats folded, making it versatile for road trips or everyday errands.





EQUIPMENT



This is the first Ford hybrid sold in the Philippines, and it is immediately clear how much that electric assist improves the drive. The electric motor delivers instant torque, giving the car a lively and responsive feel. It is a big improvement over the old gasoline-only model, especially when overtaking or climbing steep roads like Kennon.

Under the hood, the internal combustion engine produces 150PS and 230Nm of torque, while the electric motor contributes 218PS and 315Nm. Ford uses a dual hybrid system that switches between the two modes depending on driving conditions. In parallel hybrid mode, both the engine and

the motor power the car. In series hybrid mode, the engine primarily functions as a generator that charges the 1.83kWh lithium-ion nickel cobalt manganese (NCM) battery.

This system makes the Territory Hybrid impressively efficient. On our drive from Seda Manila Bay to Rosario, La Union, we averaged 17.5km/L in mixed driving that included rush-hour traffic on the Skyway and high-speed cruising on the expressway. And we achieved that in Normal mode, not Eco mode.

During an efficiency challenge among participants, the winning team achieved a remarkable 21km/L, which is exceptional for a crossover of this size.

The transitions between EV mode and hybrid mode are smooth and refined. There is no jolt or delay when the gasoline engine kicks in. Apart from a faint engine note when accelerating, the switch between modes is barely noticeable.

Ride comfort is another strong point. The suspension feels soft and well-damped on highways, soaking up bumps and uneven roads easily. We even tackled rough, rocky stretches and roadwork zones along Kennon Road, and the car handled them without complaint.

On the winding Asin Road, the Territory Hybrid felt confident and composed. It is not a performance car, but body roll is kept in check.

The front seats offer good side bolstering, keeping the driver stable during tight turns, though rear passengers might slide a bit during more spirited driving.

The Titanium X also comes loaded with Ford's Advanced Driver Assistance System (ADAS), which includes adaptive cruise control with stop-and-go, lane keeping, forward collision warning, autonomous emergency braking, and more. The 360-degree HD camera is standard across both variants, providing

excellent visibility for parking and tight spaces. One note: the forward collision warning tends to be a bit sensitive, sometimes triggering alerts even when there is still ample distance to the car ahead.



USER EXPERIENCE



The Territory Hybrid is one of the most comfortable rides in its class. As a passenger, I almost dozed off thanks to the quiet cabin and smooth ride. As a driver, I appreciated how easy it was to handle. Steering is light and predictable, although the turning radius feels slightly wide for tight U-turns.

Ford clearly paid attention to NVH (noise, vibration, harshness) levels. The addition of an acoustic film on the windows helps keep road and wind noise to a minimum, even at

highway speeds. Any remaining noise is easily drowned out by the excellent eight-speaker sound system, which delivers clear and rich audio.

The Territory Hybrid is also packed with thoughtful tech. The 12-inch infotainment display supports wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, and the interface is intuitive and responsive. The dual-zone climate control cools the cabin quickly, and the rear air vents ensure passengers stay comfortable even on long drives.



The Titanium X variant also offers ventilated front seats, which are a blessing during hot summer days. The subtle ambient lighting inside the cabin can be customized through the infotainment screen, adding a touch of sophistication during night drives.

If there is one area for improvement, it is the lack of manual control for regenerative braking. Other hybrids allow you to adjust the regen level to maximize efficiency during stop-and-go traffic. Also, there is no dedicated EV-only mode. The system decides automatically when to use the engine or motor, which means you will still consume some fuel even on short commutes.



VALUE



The Ford Territory Hybrid starts at PHP1,399,000 for the Titanium Trend, while the Titanium X we drove is priced at PHP1,599,000. Considering the level of technology, comfort, and efficiency it offers, this is strong value for money.

Through rain, wind, and the occasional rough patch, the Ford

Territory Hybrid proved its worth. From its quick, peppy acceleration to its spacious interior and impressive efficiency, this new hybrid feels tailor-made for the modern Filipino household. It is dependable for city driving, capable for long trips, and refined enough for anyone who values comfort and practicality.



BOTTOM LINE

The new Ford Territory Hybrid successfully builds on what made its predecessor a hit among Filipino families while adding modern efficiency and power. It looks better, drives better, and saves more fuel without sacrificing comfort or practicality.

For buyers looking to transition into electrified driving without the hassle of charging, the Ford Territory Hybrid is one of the most compelling options in its segment. It brings together versatility, style, and value in a way that feels perfectly suited for today's Filipino driver.



**CHANGE THE
WAY YOU DRIVE
WITH BYD**



BYD has changed the game. The brand has taken the country by storm with its cutting-edge technology and incredible pricing. From electric vehicles to plug-in hybrids, BYD offers a car for every Filipino driver.

Leading the charge in BYD's success are its **Super DM-i** and **Super DMO** technologies, which combine the best of electric driving with the practicality and reliability of a traditional internal combustion engine. With every BYD Super DM-i or Super DMO vehicle, you're assured of worry-free travel—no range anxiety, no compromise on performance.

Here are some of BYD's standout models equipped with these breakthrough technologies that are redefining how Filipinos drive.

BYD Sealion 6 DM-i

THE CAR THAT CHANGED THE GAME

RANGE 105 (NEDC)

0 - 100 KPH 8.3 s

POWER 217 Ps

TORQUE 325 Nm

Since its launch last year, the BYD Sealion 6 DM-i has become the benchmark for crossovers in the Philippines. This vehicle revolutionized the segment with its remarkable technology and price point. It was the first in BYD's lineup to achieve an astounding 1,500km of combined range on a single charge and a full tank.





Dual 15W wireless charger



Infinity 10-speaker system



15.6-inch rotating touchscreen



The Sealion 6 DM-i is the first model in the country to feature BYD's Super DM-i technology, pairing a 1.5-liter gasoline engine that acts as a generator with an 18.3kWh BYD Blade Battery (Lithium Iron Phosphate). The system drives a PMS motor that delivers a combined 217PS of power and 325Nm of torque. As a plug-in hybrid, it offers instant torque for rapid acceleration—0 to 100km/h in just 8.3 seconds.

Beyond its hybrid powertrain, the Sealion 6 DM-i impresses with advanced technology. It comes with BYD's full DiPilot Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS), including lane keep assist, automatic emergency braking, lane departure warning, traffic sign recognition, and adaptive cruise control. The 360° View with See-Through Mode camera system provides some of the clearest visuals in its class.

Inside, a 15.6-inch rotating touchscreen infotainment display takes center stage, paired with a 10-speaker Infinity sound system. Dual-zone automatic climate control keeps the cabin cool, while ventilated



front seats, leather upholstery, ambient lighting, and a panoramic sunroof elevate comfort.

The Sealion 6 DM-i also offers best-in-class space, with 552 liters of cargo capacity. And thanks to its Vehicle-to-Load (V2L) Technology, it can even power your devices and appliances on the go—perfect for weekend adventures. ■

BYD Shark 6 DMO

MORE THAN A TRUCK

RANGE 100 (NEDC)

0 - 100 KPH

5.7 s

POWER

435 Ps

TORQUE

650 Nm

The BYD Shark 6 DMO redefines what a pickup truck can be. It's the first in the lineup to feature BYD's Super DMO technology, a specialized system that combines fuel efficiency with rugged, off-road performance.

The powertrain pairs a 1.5-liter turbocharged engine acting as a range extender with dual PMS motors on both axles for an all-wheel drive capability. Together, they deliver an impressive 435PS and 650Nm of torque, providing impressive acceleration, pulling power and highway cruising.

With a tested range of over 1,100km, multiple smart driving and terrain modes, 230mm ground clearance, and 700mm water-wading capability, the Shark 6 DMO is built for both city streets and extreme adventures.

Recharging is fast, too—the 55kW DC fast charger can bring the 29.6kWh battery from 30% to 80% in just 40 minutes.

Outdoorsy drivers will love its V2L power output, enabling you to camp or work anywhere. The truck bed offers 1,200 liters of cargo space, and it can tow up to 2,500kg.



12.8-inch rotating screen



Available in Advanced and Premium variants, the Shark 6 DMO's top trim adds the DiPilot ADAS suite, which includes predictive collision warning, lane departure warning, and more. Both variants share premium features such as a 12.8-inch infotainment display, 10.25-inch digital cluster, dual-zone climate control, 8-speaker sound system, NFC card entry, voice control, and BYD Cloud services via the BYD App. A 360° View with See-Through Mode camera system makes parking and trail driving effortless. ■





BYD Tang DM-i

THE SUV THAT GOES BEYOND HYBRID

RANGE

110 km

0 - 100 KPH

7.5 s

POWER

271 Ps

TORQUE

315 Nm

The BYD Tang DM-i is a seven-seater SUV built for the Filipino family. It brings together the efficiency of a hybrid, the instant torque of an EV, and the long-range reliability of a traditional vehicle.



This premium SUV blends luxury with practicality—featuring plush leather seats, a panoramic sunroof, and mood lighting for those cozy evening drives. Thanks to its V2L feature, you can power appliances even when you're off the grid.

Like the Sealion 6 DM-i, the Tang DM-i runs on Super DM-i technology, pairing a 1.5-liter gasoline engine with a 21.5kWh BYD Blade Battery and PMS motor. The result: 271PS of power, 315Nm of torque, and 0 to 100km/h in just 7.5 seconds. It also boasts an impressive 1,100km combined range, the best in its class.

Inside, the Tang DM-i offers flexible seating and generous space. The third row is ideal for kids, while the cargo area provides 235 liters with all seats up, 940 liters with the third row folded, and a cavernous 1,655 liters with both rear rows down.

Safety and convenience come standard with the full DiPilot Advance Driver Assistance Systems suite, adaptive cruise

control, and a 360° View with See-Through Mode. For entertainment, passengers can enjoy a 15.6-inch infotainment screen with BYD Cloud services and downloadable apps—including a karaoke app that pairs perfectly with the optional BYD microphone. The 10-speaker Dynaudio sound system ensures top-notch audio for road trips. ■



To learn more about **BYD** and its innovative **Super DM-i** and **DMO** technologies, visit the official website or drop by a BYD dealership near you—and **book a test drive today** to experience the future of driving.



FIRST IMPRESSION:

SUBARU FORESTER E-BOXER HYBRID





After years of waiting, Subaru fans are in for a treat as the brand is finally bringing its first full hybrid vehicle to the country, meet the Subaru Forester e-Boxer Hybrid.

The Subaru e-Boxer Hybrid is the sixth generation of the now-iconic Forester line. What sets this new generation of Forester apart is that it is the first Subaru to use a full hybrid setup, or what they call a Strong Hybrid System (SHEV).

The SHEV works by having two electric motors, one dedicated to energy regeneration and drive power, and another purely for powering the engine. Because the two electric motors are located under the gearbox and not separately, Subaru was able to maintain its iconic Symmetrical All Wheel Drive system.

Powering the Subaru Forester e-Boxer Hybrid is a 2.5-liter Boxer engine; of course, it would not be a Subaru if it didn't have a boxer engine. According to Subaru, the

engine has a max power output of 121 kW and a max torque of 209 NM. Add to that the electric motors' max power of 90 kW and max torque of 276 Nm.

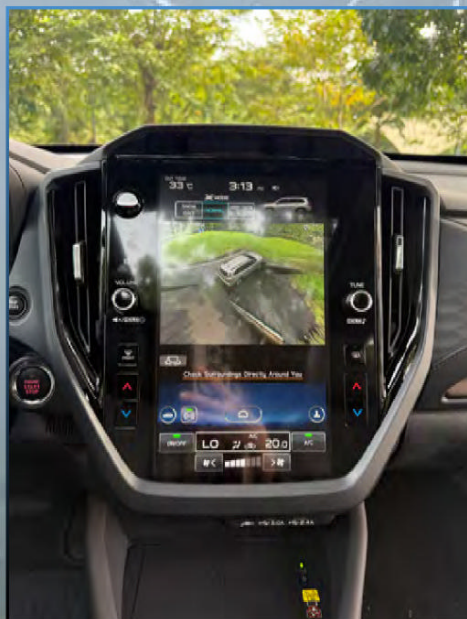
Our brief initial drive of the Subaru Forester e-Boxer Hybrid was a joy. Subaru sticking to a full-fledged mechanical AWD system makes the car more stable and smoother than most Hybrids I've driven. Since the electric motor is within the gearbox, power delivery is almost instantaneous.



As for the exterior, the all-new Forester gets a boxy front grille, which also houses one of the cameras for its EyeSight 4.0 ADAS. It also gets new headlights, a nice-looking C-shaped DRLs, and some new, powerful fog lamps. You'll also see the included roof rails, ready for your next adventure. At the back, you get the new rear light and a motorized rear door with a kick-to-open function.

One thing I've noticed about the Subaru Forester e-Boxer Hybrid is how big it is. While it is an icon in the crossover segment since it first rolled out of the production line, the new generation is definitely the largest it has ever been, and is on the borderline of SUV-size territory. With the bigger size, you also get a bigger space for both passengers and cargo. Second row passengers get plenty of leg room and headroom. At the back, you get 484 liters of cargo space, one of the biggest in its class. In case you need more, you can fold the second row for a total of 1655 liters.





Going inside the Subaru Forester e-Boxer Hybrid, you'll be greeted with the panoramic sunroof. Next, you'll immediately notice the 11.6-inch infotainment display, which, by the way, has wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto.

Another thing to note is the seats. According to Subaru, they've partnered with a Japanese medical center to create a more ergonomic interior that maximizes comfort even on long drives.

What really impresses with Subaru ever since is their EyeSight ADAS. Subaru's EyeSight technology has been one of the best in the industry, with the Forester e-Boxer Hybrid having the latest EyeSight 4.0 built in.



EyeSight 4.0 includes the usual lane keep, rear vehicle collision, 360 monitor, and many more. The Forester e-Boxer Hybrid is also the first car to include Subaru's Emergency Driving Stop System (EDSS), a special safety feature that allows the car to slowly stop in case the driver becomes incapacitated. Trying the EDSS out was a really unique experience, fighting the urge to control the car and letting it decide what to do on its own is something surreal.

The Subaru Forester e-Boxer Hybrid starts at PHP 2,498,000. If you want to see the car for yourself, you can visit your nearest Subaru dealership and book a test drive now.



YClub Expo 2025

Yamaha celebrates 15 years of riding brotherhood



The bond between Yamaha and Filipino riders has always been more than just about motorcycles—it's about passion, loyalty, and a shared lifestyle. This year, Yamaha Motor Philippines celebrated the 15th anniversary of Yamaha Club (YClub) with the YClub Expo: Full Speed Forward, a massive gathering that brought thousands of riders together at Mayflower, Greenfield District in Mandaluyong.

Launched in 2010, YClub started as a small circle of enthusiasts. Today, it has grown into a nationwide community of over 17,000 members, symbolizing unity and pride in Yamaha ownership. The anniversary expo was a fitting tribute to that journey, filled with



activities that celebrated both the machines and the people who ride them.

Engines of Celebration

Every rider received an Expo Mission Card, their passport to six challenges spread across the venue. Completing all earned them an exclusive YClub gift and a raffle entry for the grand prize: an all-expense-paid MotoGP experience in Malaysia.

The event also highlighted Yamaha's digital future through the My Yamaha Motor – REV PH app, featuring a dedicated booth where riders could check in and earn points. Brand partners and YZone booths turned the expo into a bustling rider's marketplace, offering exclusive deals and promotions that rewarded loyalty.

Adding color and creativity, accredited riding groups showcased their tents at the Club Play-Offs, where booth design

reflected each group's culture and legacy. Meanwhile, the Moto-Concept Spotlight displayed customized Yamaha motorcycles—rolling art pieces that proved Yamaha ownership is as much about expression as it is about performance.

Stories that Inspire

Beyond the roar of engines, the YClub Podcast gave a thoughtful pause to the celebration. Club presidents and officers shared their leadership experiences, challenges, and lessons learned, providing inspiration and guidance for the next generation of riders. It was a reminder that YClub is more than just riding together—it's about building communities and mentoring future leaders.

Full Speed Forward

The YClub Expo isn't stopping in Luzon. Yamaha is taking the celebration nationwide with:

- October 4 – Visayas Leg
- October 12 – Mindanao Leg

Each leg promises the same energy and fellowship, proving once again that Yamaha's vision goes beyond mobility. Through YClub, Yamaha empowers Filipino riders to live a lifestyle that is uniquely their own—Full Speed Forward.



Stay updated by following Yamaha's official pages:



2025 DOE-Petron Fuel EcoRun

Fueling the future towards energy-efficient mobility



In a strong push toward sustainable mobility, the Department of Energy (DOE), in partnership with Petron Corporation and the country's leading automotive players, staged the 2025 DOE–Petron Fuel EcoRun along the Tarlac-Pangasinan-La Union Expressway (TPLEX). The annual event brought together over 60 vehicles—ranging from internal combustion engine (ICE) models to hybrids (HEV, PHEV) and full battery electric vehicles (BEV)—to test and compare their efficiency under real-world driving conditions.

Far from being a competition, the EcoRun is a demonstration of efficiency in action, underscoring how different vehicle technologies perform in realistic settings. Covering a 156-kilometer stretch from Petron TPLEX Northbound to Rosario, La Union, and back to Petron TPLEX Southbound, the event reflects DOE's ongoing efforts to promote responsible energy use and inform Filipino motorists about the value of fuel-efficient driving.

“This isn't a race,” emphasized Energy Secretary Sharon S. Garin. “It's a demonstration of how vehicle technologies perform under actual driving conditions. Our goal is to provide credible fuel economy data, not

determine who finishes first. By testing vehicles this way, we show that energy efficiency is both practical and attainable.”

Efficiency Begins at the Pump

As the official fuel partner, Petron Corporation powered all ICE and hybrid vehicles with its benchmark fuels—Petron XCS and Petron Turbo Diesel—ensuring consistent testing standards and credible results.

Petron XCS (95-octane premium gasoline), formulated with Tri-Activ Technology, enhances power and mileage while protecting engine components through superior detergency and cleaner combustion. Meanwhile, Petron Turbo Diesel uses an advanced additive system



Dir. Patrick Aquino – Department of Energy



to deliver strong pulling power, restore lost performance, and protect sensitive CRDi parts while minimizing emissions.

“By powering this EcoRun with our best-in-class fuels, we demonstrate that efficiency begins at the pump,” said Lubin B. Nepomuceno, Petron’s General Manager. “Petron XCS and Petron Turbo Diesel are trusted by millions of Filipino motorists every day because they deliver real performance and real savings.”

The run also featured Petron EV charging stations and AC Mobility’s mobile chargers, highlighting how the company’s nationwide network is evolving into a diversified energy platform that supports both conventional and electric vehicles.

Collaborating for Sustainable Transport

The 2025 Fuel EcoRun stands as a joint effort by the DOE, Petron Corporation, SMC Infrastructure, AC Mobility, the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines (CAMPI), and the Electric Vehicle Association of the Philippines (EVAP).

Aligned with the Philippine Energy Plan, Republic Act No. 11285 (Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act), and RA No. 11697 (Electric Vehicle Industry Development Act), the initiative reflects a united drive to advance energy efficiency, sustainability, and energy security.

Transport accounts for roughly 34% of the nation’s total energy consumption. As such, DOE views the EcoRun’s results as valuable reference data for both consumers and government procurement—particularly under the Government Energy Management

Program (GEMP), which encourages the use of efficient fleet vehicles to cut emissions and operating costs.

Legacy of Innovation

The 2025 edition builds upon the success of earlier DOE–Petron EcoRuns held in 2016 and 2017, which helped raise public awareness about fuel-efficient driving and provided key data for improving vehicle design and performance across the industry.

“Petron is proud to have been DOE’s partner in past EcoRuns and



continues to champion this advocacy,” said Nepomuceno. “By promoting energy efficiency, we are not only helping motorists save on fuel costs but also contributing to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and building a more sustainable transport sector.”

For Petron, whose “*Tapat Sa’yo*” campaign reinforces its role as a trusted Filipino brand, the EcoRun is more than a showcase of technology—it’s a statement of commitment to the country’s energy future. By providing high-quality fuels, expanding EV charging infrastructure, and supporting initiatives like the DOE EcoRun, Petron strengthens its place

in a future-ready, cleaner, and smarter mobility ecosystem.

As Secretary Garin summed it up: “This is the Bagong Pilipinas spirit in motion—where government, industry, and consumers unite to achieve energy security, environmental sustainability, and economic efficiency for the benefit of all Filipinos.”





Leaders of MOVE IT rider-partner communities sign the Katuwang sa Kaligtasan sa Kalsada pledge as they co-champion a safety-first culture in the motorcycle-taxi industry. Spearheading the pledge is Motorcycle Community Philippines Chairman Romeo Maglunsod.

MOVE IT Sets New Safety Benchmark for MC Taxi Industry

The homegrown ride-hailing provider unveils its ‘driver-led, tech-reinforced’ safety promise, redefining commuter trust and driver accountability.

Motorcycle taxi platform MOVE IT is elevating industry standards with a Driver-Led, Tech-Reinforced Safety Commitment — a comprehensive program that pairs professionalized rider training with live safety technologies at scale. The company reported a 99.999% incident-free completion rate across thousands of daily rides, and says its priorities are now squarely on the remaining ~0.001% trips.

“Near-perfect isn’t the finish line,” said MOVE IT general manager Wayne Jacinto. “Leadership in safety means raising the bar every day - professional riders, real-time protection, and transparent accountability on every single trip.”

At the MOVE IT Moto-Taxi Road Safety Dialogue, 31 MOVE IT rider-partner communities signed the *Katuwang sa Kaligtasan sa Kalsada*, a pledge that anchors a community-led

safety culture across the motorcycle taxi sector.

Driver-Led Safety: Professional Standards by Design

MOVE IT’s Pasado Bago Pasada framework subjects every rider to rigorous onboarding, continuous upskilling, and bi-annual retraining.

Highlights of the Pasado Bago Pasada Framework:

- Every rider undergoes full government clearance verification. MOVE IT reports 100% compliance with document requirements.
- Almost 60% of motorcycles pass inspection on the first attempt, underscoring the strict compliance standards for roadworthiness before deployment.
- More than 80% of applicants clear the initial skills test, with the remainder retrained until they meet safety benchmarks.
- All riders are mandated to retrain every six months, reinforcing a culture of continuous improvement.

MOVE IT also collaborated with Ateneo's Bulatao Center for Psychological Services to produce a first-of-its-kind Behavioral Assessment Tool for the motorcycle taxi industry, set to roll out this quarter. Unlike conventional tests that focus solely on technical skills, the tool is designed to measure how riders make decisions, manage stress, and respond to high-pressure or unexpected situations on the road. By grounding assessments in behavioral science, MOVE IT raises the bar on rider professionalism, ensuring that safety is defined not just by ability, but by judgment and conduct in real-world conditions.

Tech-Reinforced: Progressive Safety Innovations

While professional standards are central, MOVE IT said technology is equally critical in keeping roads safe. Through its strategic partnership with Grab, the platform has strengthened its safety infrastructure to support thousands of rides in real time.

In its relaunch in 2023, MOVE IT introduced first-of-its-kind safety tools in the industry — from live location sharing and in-app SOS integration to passenger and driver verification selfies and AI-driven trip monitoring.



The platform has since expanded its safety stack with additional tools designed to address some of the most common risks on Philippine roads:

- Overspeeding Alerts provide real time reminders when riders exceed safe limits, reinforcing responsible driving behavior and reducing accident risk.
- Fatigue Nudges monitor trip patterns to detect signs of overwork, prompting riders to take breaks and ensuring they are alert before going on the road.
- AudioProtect records trip audio in the background, giving both riders and passengers added security by providing clear context for investigations and ensuring fairness in resolving disputes or safety-related reports. Audio Protect will be live on MOVE IT in Q4 2025.

Together, these features aim to prevent accidents before they happen, protect riders and passengers during trips, and deliver greater transparency when incidents occur.

Fair Accountability: Shared Protection and Rapid Response

MOVE IT said professional riders and advanced technology must be backed by transparent accountability.

- Reports filed through the app prompt swift investigation, with high-risk cases leading to preventive

suspension pending due process. The same standards apply to complaints from riders against passengers.

- An Emergency Response Unit of volunteer riders serves as first responders, reaching incidents within 30 minutes to provide aid and coordinate with hospitals and authorities.
- All trips are insured, covering both passengers and riders, through partnerships with providers including AIG and Cocolife.

The Coalition for Filipino Commuters, an advocacy group for passenger rights and interests, commended MOVE IT's progress, calling it "inspiring to see how MOVE IT, together with other platforms, is proactively transforming and growing our industry for the better through their respective pioneering efforts." At the same time, the group stressed that "platforms can only go so far on their own. It is time to standardize these safety measures through the official legalization of motorcycle taxis."

Jacinto closed with a call for collective action: "Safety is not a milestone but a daily mission. We will continue to raise the standards — through professional riders, progressive technology, and fair accountability — until every commuter embraces motorcycle taxis as a truly reliable and viable transport option for our nation."



Commute Smart with the New Suzuki Access



As city traffic continues to test every Filipino commuter's patience, Suzuki Philippines offers a smarter, more stylish way to move through it all — the New Suzuki Access. Available in two variants — the Access and the Access Ride Connect Edition — this new-generation scooter combines functionality, comfort, and digital connectivity for the modern urban rider.



Built for Smart Commuting

The Suzuki Access is designed to be the go-to choice for riders who value efficiency and everyday usability. It's powered by a 125cc Suzuki Eco Performance (SEP) engine that achieves an impressive 57.3km/L (WMTC), making it the most fuel-efficient in its category. This new engine delivers smoother acceleration and stronger low-end torque, ideal for navigating stop-and-go traffic in the city.

Optimized CVT settings and a redesigned crankcase improve airflow and combustion, keeping the ride smooth, quiet, and responsive while also meeting strict environmental standards.

Classic Design, Contemporary Appeal

Suzuki's design approach strikes a perfect balance between elegance and practicality. The Access features flowing curves, a compact aerodynamic body, and stylish chrome details, projecting a premium look that resonates with both young professionals and experienced riders.

Beyond aesthetics, its lightweight frame, telescopic front suspension, and swingarm rear suspension ensure excellent ride stability and comfort across varying road conditions. The high 160mm ground clearance and short 1,260mm wheelbase make it agile enough for the city's tight corners and uneven surfaces.

Packed with Modern Tech

The Access Ride Connect Edition stands out as one of the most connected scooters in the 125cc category. It features a full-color TFT instrument panel with Bluetooth® connectivity via the Suzuki Ride Connect+ app (available on Android and iOS). Riders can view navigation prompts, notifications, and call alerts directly on the dashboard — a first in this engine class.

Meanwhile, the standard Access variant features a combined analog-digital meter with trip displays, oil and voltage indicators, and an ECO Drive Illumination system that helps riders develop more fuel-efficient habits.



Comfort, Safety, and Convenience

Suzuki's focus on rider comfort shines in the Access's ergonomics. The seat — 861mm long and 404mm wide — is the largest in its class, complemented by a roomy 438mm x 430mm floorboard with non-slip grids. Alloy wheels and low-rolling-resistance tires enhance efficiency, while the rigid, lightweight frame developed through CAE (Computer-Aided Engineering) simulations delivers stability and precision handling.

For safety, the scooter features:

- Combined Brake System with Rear Brake Lock
- Front disc brake
- Side stand interlock
- LED lighting for headlamps, taillights, and position lights
- Hazard switch and easy start system



A one-push central locking system adds both convenience and anti-theft protection, while dual utility pockets with an LED-lit USB charger and a 24.4L under-seat compartment make everyday rides more practical.

Price and Color Options

The New Suzuki Access lineup offers riders both choice and value:

- Suzuki Access – PHP84,900 (Solid Ice Green, Pearl Grace White,

Metallic Matte Black)

- Suzuki Access Ride Connect Edition – PHP93,900 (Metallic Matte Blue)

Redefining Everyday Riding

Blending timeless design with forward-thinking engineering, the New Suzuki Access brings together everything that defines smart commuting — stylish looks, unmatched fuel economy, advanced connectivity, and exceptional comfort.

For Suzuki, it's another step toward keeping its promise of being “By Your Side” — empowering Filipino riders to Commute Smart every day.

For more details, visit www.suzuki.com.ph/auto.

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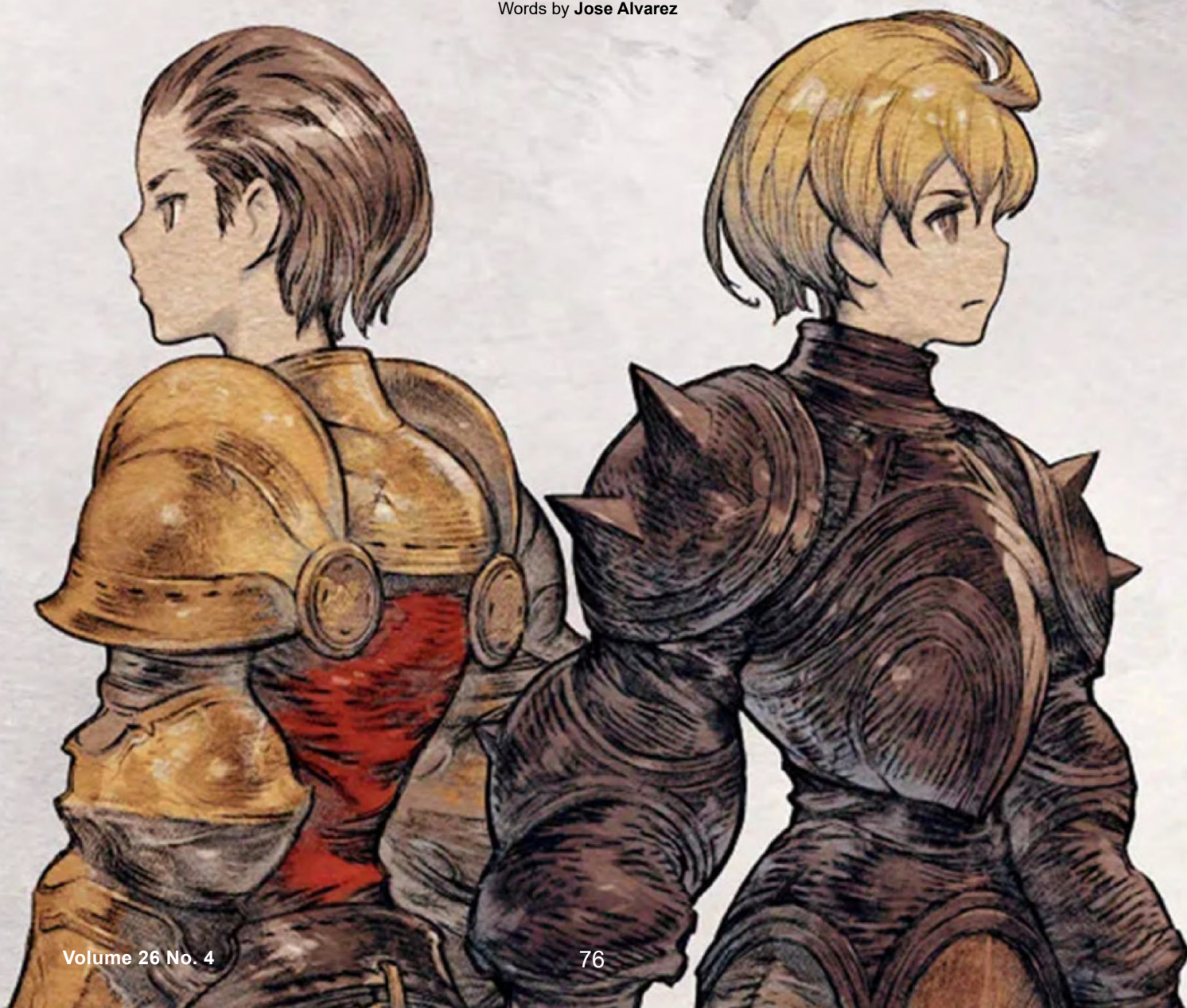
PUBLISHER

Square Enix

PLATFORM(S)

PC, PlayStation 4, PlayStation 5, Xbox Series X/S, Nintendo Switch, Nintendo Switch 2

Words by Jose Alvarez





I was raised hearing the saying “patience is a virtue” constantly, from my childhood to the present. I first played *Final Fantasy Tactics* in 1997, and its port, *The War of the Lions*, to the PlayStation Portable (PSP) in 2007. From that point on, I wanted a port to the PC. A lot of (non-)numbered *Final Fantasy* games had gotten this treatment. After all, many games outside of Nintendo-developed games are (or will be) no longer console-exclusive. Many years later, the NVIDIA leaks named *Tactics* as a game that would potentially get a remaster or remake. Video game journalist Jason Schreier also confirmed that it was in development in 2024. This made the question turn into when, rather than if, the game would ever come out. An entire childhood and some change later, *Final Fantasy Tactics: The Ivalice Chronicles* would finally come to all current popular platforms. Would the wait be worth it, or would it be just another cash grab for the folks at Square Enix?



Investigating *why* it took so long for the game's remaster, it was much simpler than I had originally thought: the game's source code was lost, so this wasn't a refusal to remaster one of the best (if not *the* best) non-numbered *Final Fantasy* games. This isn't uncommon in the gaming industry, and fans keep the memory of games alive either through emulation or owning physical copies of the game. Thus, the game had to be rebuilt from scratch, which, like anything in life, has its pros and cons.



While the game stays intact for the most part, the *War of the Lions* content is cut due to the developers wanting a true remaster of the original. You play as Ramza Beoulve, a former nobleman who tries to end a long-standing conflict between the Order of the Northern Sky and the Order of the Southern Sky over their claimants to the Ivalician throne, only to find out that darker forces want to prolong the war for more nefarious purposes. The game is set in the same universe as *Final Fantasy XII*, except centuries later.

Each generic character can play as one of 20 jobs: Squire (the starter class for many of the physical classes), Chemist (the starter class for many of the magical classes), Knight, Archer, White Mage, Black Mage, Monk, Thief, Mystic, Time Mage, Geomancer, Dragoon, Orator, Summoner, Samurai, Ninja, Arithmetician, Dancer, Bard, and Mime. Some story characters, instead of being a Squire or Chemist, come with their own unique class and abilities.



What is most fun about the game is the endless experimentation you can do with your characters. Each character has a primary job skill, a secondary job skill, a reaction skill, a support skill, and a movement skill. Out of the classes previously mentioned, some are far more useful than others, namely the Dragoon's Ignore Elevation movement skill, which allows you to scale any elevation regardless of your Jump statistic, or the Chemist's Auto-Potion, which gives you a chance (tied to your Brave statistic) to heal yourself automatically with Potions in your inventory, and the Ninja's Dual Wield, which allows you to attack twice in one turn (for best results, equip this on a Monk due to their innate high physical attack and no need to use a weapon). Some Support abilities allow you to equip weapons regardless of job, poach monsters for rare and powerful items, boost job points (JP) gained, physical and magic attack, and more.

A system shrouded in mystery was the Zodiac system, comprising all the Zodiac signs we are familiar with in real life. The remaster gives it clarity, as certain Zodiac signs and genders will have lower or higher compatibility with one another, making your attacks and healing weaker or stronger. For instance, you can set Ramza's birthday. I always use my own, which is within Virgo. This gives me a significant advantage against bosses. However, untangling this complex system and min-maxing can be left to a quick Google search.

One of my favorite changes is full voice acting, but many people will have to look up the Medieval English terms to understand them. Some of the best quality of life (QoL) changes include a more unified layout for seeing your turns and enemy turns up front, as well as being able to save between battles if there were consecutive ones (one story battle chain in particular required immense preparations, so being able to save is a HUGE help). The music is also very moving and changes to match scenes in the story, making you feel the plight of the characters. One of the few complaints I have is that if you're a lore junkie like myself, you have to intentionally prolong battles or bring certain party members to certain story battles to get more lore out of the game.

While a very good remaster, I would love for the *War of the Lions* content to return as DLC. As this was one of the few popular *Final Fantasy* games not to be formally released on all platforms, it should further signal a movement towards turn-based combat that we have seen with *Expedition 33* and other games in the genre in recent years.

DESIGNING A MORE CREATIVE WORLD

The Canva World Tour empowers 1M learners to communicate visually

Canva's global movement to unlock creativity took center stage this October with the launch of the **Canva World Tour** — an ambitious initiative aimed not merely at celebrating design, but at reshaping how people learn, communicate, and thrive in a visual-first world.

The tour was more than a series of workshops or events. It was a manifestation of Canva's core mission: to make design accessible to everyone, everywhere. By reaching over one million people across 31 countries, Canva sought to bridge the global skills gap in visual communication and empower individuals — from educators to entrepreneurs — with the tools to express their ideas confidently and professionally.

Upskilling for a Visual-First Future

Canva's objective was clear: to democratize design education and equip communities for the evolving digital landscape. With the workplace, classroom, and marketplace all shifting toward visual-first communication, the tour's sessions focused on enabling participants to create impactful content, regardless of their background or experience.

The company introduced five globally accredited courses with professional digital credentials, underscoring its commitment to structured, scalable learning. Courses such as *Work Smarter with AI* and *Create Scroll-Stopping Content* combined practical design training with lessons on how to think creatively — skills increasingly valued in today's competitive job market.

According to Canva's *Visual Communications Report 2025*, 90% of Gen Z workers believe they perform best when working visually, and forward-thinking organizations are already integrating design literacy into their growth strategies. Canva's long-term goal is to ensure that everyone — not just designers — can use visuals to tell stories, solve problems, and connect meaningfully.

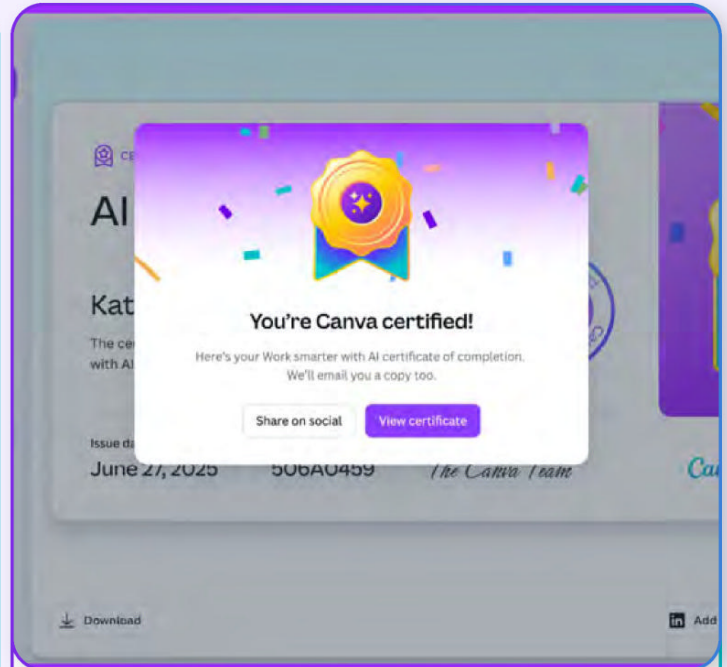
"We wanted to give people not just the ability to design, but the confidence to communicate visually," said Zach Kitschke, Canva's chief marketing officer. "Our mission has always been to make creativity an everyday skill, not a specialized one."

Building Creative Confidence in the Philippines

One of the most active communities during the global movement was the Philippines, where Canva has established itself as a household name among educators, small business owners, and content creators. With one in five Filipino internet users now on the platform, the country remains central to Canva's vision of community-led creativity.

Workshops held in Manila and other key cities focused on teaching practical design thinking — helping educators build interactive classrooms, enabling MSMEs to strengthen their branding, and empowering non-profits to use visuals to amplify their causes.

"The Philippines is home to some of our most creative and connected communities," said **Maisie Littaua**, Canva's country manager for the Philippines. "Our



goal is to help Filipinos future-proof their skills, spark innovation, and show that design isn't just about aesthetics — it's about empowerment."

Technology as a Bridge, Not a Barrier

Canva's expanding Visual Suite continues to blur the line between professional and everyday design. By combining AI-powered tools, collaborative workflows, and easy-to-use templates, the platform has turned complex creative processes into intuitive experiences that anyone can master.

Beyond the product updates, Canva's objective has always been about creating opportunity through creativity — whether that means a student designing their first presentation, an NGO communicating its impact, or an entrepreneur branding a local business from scratch.

A Continuing Mission

The Canva World Tour culminated in a global keynote streamed from Sydney on October 30, unveiling new features that further integrated design, collaboration, and learning. But more importantly, it underscored Canva's long-term commitment: to empower individuals with creativity as a universal language.

As 2025 draws to a close, Canva's mission remains as clear as ever — to ensure that every idea, no matter where it comes from, has the power to be seen, shared, and beautifully designed.

Wood Academy student practices flux-cored gasless welding techniques using the MIGTECH machine during hands-on training.

Forging Futures

Powerhouse Tools strengthens welding education through technology and training

Marking its 15th anniversary, Powerhouse Tools isn't just celebrating a milestone. It is reshaping the future of welding education in the Philippines. The company's commitment to innovation and hands-on learning is giving a new generation of welders the tools and confidence to succeed in a competitive industry.



Marjo Lardera, "The Foot Master," demonstrates his distinctive welding method using the Powerhouse MIGTECH machine.



Mario Abella Alcomendras showcases his workshop equipped with multiple Powerhouse tools, a testament to years of brand loyalty.

At the heart of this effort is Powerhouse's collaboration with Wood Academy and the TESDA-accredited Power Skills Technical Center (PSTC). Through these partnerships, students and trainees gain direct access to the same industry-grade technology used by professionals in construction and fabrication.

Learning Through Real-World Tools

Powerhouse's newest innovations, the MIGTECH 3-in-1 inverter and Turbomaxx Plus MMA inverter, are designed to bridge classroom learning with real-world applications.

The MIGTECH 3-in-1 combines MIG, MMA, and TIG welding capabilities, operating at 200A to 300A with support for flux-cored wire. Meanwhile, the Turbomaxx Plus features IGBT technology and a digital control panel, delivering 200A to 550A of power for precision electrode welding.

"These machines are built not just for performance, but for accessibility," said Kendrick Siy, marketing director of Powerhouse Tools. "We want both professionals and students to experience technology that makes their work efficient and their learning meaningful."

Skills in Action

In workshops like those at Wood Academy, students use the MIGTECH machines to learn basic metalworking techniques, including flux-cored gasless welding. Participants complete practical

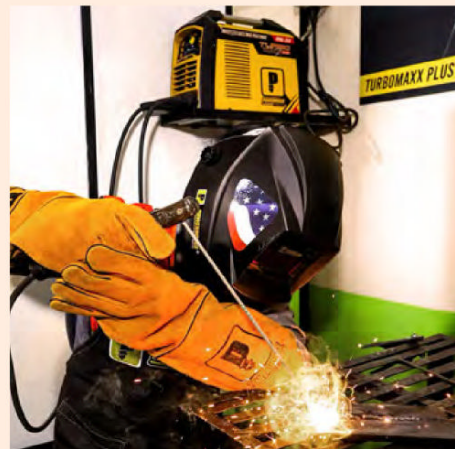
projects that build confidence and develop essential DIY and technical skills.

At the Power Skills Technical Center, Powerhouse supplies the Turbomaxx Plus units for TESDA NC1 and NC2 welding certification programs. Students gain hands-on training with the latest inverter technology, testing the same equipment used in industrial settings.

These collaborations also serve as live feedback channels for Powerhouse's product development. Students and instructors share insights on performance, durability, and ease of use, helping refine each new generation of tools.

Real Voices from the Workshop

Professional welders like Mario Abella Alcomendras, known online as *Roy Welding*, stand as proof of Powerhouse's long-term reliability. "Tatlong taon ko na itong ginagamit at napakasulit talaga," he shared. "Okay na okay pa rin ang performance ng Migtech 200 ko, walang pagbabago."



Another loyal user, Marjo Lardera, also known as *The Foot Master*, shares a similar story. "Powerhouse Migweld-200Tech Flux Cored po ang gamit ko. Iwas butas at maganda rin siyang kumapit," he said. "Mga apat na taon ko nang gamit ang Powerhouse at sa awa ng Diyos, hindi pa nasisira. Kumbaga, durable pa rin."

Their testimonials highlight a core principle that resonates deeply in both education and industry: durability and trust in one's tools.

Building the Future of Technical Education

Beyond product innovation, Powerhouse Tools' initiatives reflect a long-term investment in the country's skilled workforce. Through its #SaPowerhouseKaYeah campaign, the brand champions both equipment excellence and educational empowerment, promoting careers in welding as pathways to sustainable livelihoods.

"These partnerships are strategic investments in developing the skilled workforce that drives Philippine industrial growth," Siy emphasized. "Quality equipment is the foundation of quality training."

As Powerhouse Tools celebrates its 15th year, its legacy extends far beyond hardware. It stands as a symbol of what happens when education and technology work together to empower Filipinos to build, create, and forge their own future.

MAS PINA-EASY ANG NEGOSYO

HOW GCASH FOR BUSINESS HELPS ENTREPRENEURS SIMPLIFY AND SCALE

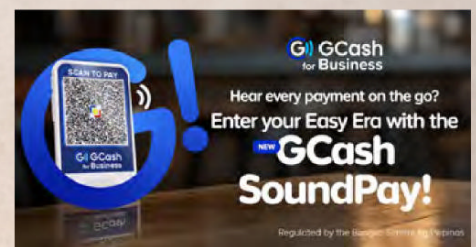
In today's fast-paced digital landscape, many Filipino entrepreneurs are turning to smarter, simpler tools to keep their businesses running smoothly. GCash for Business is at the forefront of this transformation, helping MSMEs across the country streamline payments, manage transactions with ease, and embrace technology that supports growth.

Many MSMEs are born from a passion: a recipe that's been passed down for generations, a love of coffee and pastries, or a vision to showcase local fashion and design to the global stage. But turning that passion into a sustainable business is another thing on its own. Day-to-day challenges like managing orders

and keeping payments on track can be overwhelming.

As businesses grow, so does the need for better tools. While there's no shortage of tech in the market, many MSMEs often steer away due to cost and complexity. However, when presented with the opportunity to use solutions from GCash for Business, more business owners are discovering the advantages of adopting new tech innovations — especially when it comes to payments.

One innovation is GCash SoundPay. This device provides instant voice confirmation for every successful QR payment made. It's easy to carry, affordable, and simple to use – requiring



only a fully verified GCash account of at least 12 months to get started.

For Nikko Mendoza of Smthn Smthn Cafe in Davao, Michael Chan of Mom Rose Chicken Lechon in Bacolod, and Emgee Po of Get Spotted in Bacolod, embracing digital tools has helped them grow their brands while allowing them to enter a new era of ease.

Here's what they've learned:

1. Faster checkouts make everyday transactions feel hassle-free – Michael Chan, Mom Rose Chicken Lechon

Mom Rose Chicken Lechon was born from both necessity and memory. When the pandemic shut down their carinderia in 2021, the Chan family shifted to making their signature Spicy Chicken Lechon, a dish inspired by their late mother, Rosemarie.

To this day, the business honors her wish for “a happy family,” and GCash SoundPay helps them keep that promise by ensuring this joy extends to their customers by making everyday payments stress-free.

“Most of our customers prefer GCash now. With GCash SoundPay, payments are faster and more reliable, so we can focus on serving food that makes people happy,” Michael shares.

In store, each team member carries their own GCash SoundPay device, worn with a lanyard and ready to use. This allows them to accept and confirm payments anytime, anywhere. No need for long waiting lines and just one payment acceptance device at the counter. Because of the real-time audio alerts, transactions move quicker, and the team can focus fully on serving their customers more efficiently.

2. Tech is a driver of growth – Emgee Po, EMGEE by Get Spotted

A thesis project in 2011, EMGEE by Get Spotted is a local fashion brand from Bacolod that is now making waves internationally. Its founder, Emgee Po, partners with Negros weavers and Angono seamstresses to create one-off designs that are proudly Filipino. From a mall location in Ayala Malls Capitol Central to pop-ups in Paris and soon New York, EMGEE continues to expand its reach.

GCash played a role in how Emgee connected with customers. She first used her personal GCash account for



payments, where cashless transactions made it easier to keep up with multiple customers paying at the same time.

“Most [of] our sales for the shop would be [through] credit cards and GCash. It's very easy and it's very convenient [to go cashless],” Emgee shares. But as the business grew, the confusion of mixing personal and business transactions and manually checking her phones to confirm payments started becoming a challenge.

That's why she moved to GCash for Business. With GCash for Business, she now has everything to confidently grow her business such as an easy-to-use business wallet, no limits, no transaction fees. Now, there's no more mixing personal and business payments.

3. Businesses benefit from an easy-to-use platform – Nikko Mendoza, Smthn Smthn Café

What started as seasonal pastries grew into a full-fledged garden café in 2024. Since day one, Smthn Smthn Café in Davao has accepted GCash payments to serve its customers better. But as the café expanded, owner Nikko Mendoza realized he needed more than just a way to receive payments.

With the new GCash for Business Portal, businesses get access to an easy-to-use platform to track and manage all online transactions in one place. It includes a simple, easy-to-use payments tracker and management system, no wallet limit when receiving

cashless payments from customers, and no transaction fees when paying suppliers through GCash. Additionally, the portal allows merchants to pay their suppliers directly through bank transfer or even to their GCash accounts with no fees, reducing the need to use multiple platforms and pay multiple fees.

For Nikko and his team, utilizing a system like the GCash for Business Portal means more time to focus on running the café, and less time worrying about payment limits, fees, or keeping track of scattered transactions.

Tech Made for Business' Easy Era

From Manila to Bacolod to Davao, these small business owners show how digital solutions are helping them experience ease everyday in their operations. With GCash SoundPay and an upcoming new device that enables merchants to accept credit card payments through their phone, GCash for Business continues to provide MSMEs a selection of tools tailored to their specific needs per industry.

Utilizing these solutions also comes with a dedicated business account in the new GCash for Business Portal, providing a dedicated dashboard where business owners can order devices and manage their business transactions in a simple, easy-to-use business portal with no limits and no fees.

Learn more about how [GCash for Business](#) can empower your business and sign up today with just a GCash verified account of at least 12 months.

BASK IN YOUR JOY WITH AQUA INTELLIGENCE

Every great day begins—or ends—with water. Whether it's a refreshing morning rinse or a long, soothing escape after a hectic day, the shower has become more than just part of a routine—it's a moment of calm, reflection, and renewal.

GROHE, a leading global brand for complete bathroom and kitchen solutions, understands this deeply. As part of LIXIL, a pioneer in water and housing products, GROHE has long been synonymous with "*Pure Freude an Wasser*"—the Pure Joy of

Water. Guided by its core values of **quality, technology, design, and sustainability**, the brand's mission is to create life-enhancing products that transform homes into sanctuaries of well-being.

Every GROHE innovation is driven by what people truly need: comfort, safety, and beauty that stand the test of time. From CO₂-neutral production and energy-saving technologies to the removal of unnecessary plastic packaging, the company's eco-responsible philosophy flows through every faucet and fitting. And through its GROHE+ loyalty program and GIVE installer training initiative, the brand ensures that both consumers and professionals benefit from its forward-thinking ecosystem.

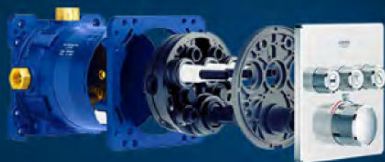
Now, with **GROHE Aqua Intelligence**, the brand takes this commitment to another level—bringing together German engineering precision, award-winning design, and sustainability to redefine the modern shower experience.

At the heart of GROHE's latest innovations, Aqua Intelligence embodies technology with a human touch—each feature designed to respond intuitively to the way people live. From the moment water flows, these systems quietly go to work behind the scenes, ensuring that every droplet delivers comfort, consistency, and care.



YOUR JUST-RIGHT SETTINGS

Intuitive push-turn control



GROHE SmartControl

EXPERTLY BALANCED WARMTH

Instant flow and precise temperature



GROHE TurboStat

ENGINEERED FOR SAFETY

Innovative cooling to prevent scalding



GROHE CoolTouch

SmartControl: A Shower That Remembers You

Imagine a shower that knows exactly how you like it. GROHE's **SmartControl** system features a push-and-turn interface with built-in memory settings, allowing you to preset water volume and toggle between spray patterns or shower heads with a simple twist. It's personalization made effortless—perfect for homes where every family member has a different preference.

TurboStat: No More Cold Shocks

With **TurboStat**, water temperature adjusts in just 0.3 seconds. No sudden bursts of icy water, no scalding surprises—just consistent comfort. It's precision engineering at its finest, ensuring that every shower, whether invigorating or relaxing, feels just right from start to finish.

CoolTouch: Safety You Can Feel

Safety meets innovation through **CoolTouch**, which keeps external surfaces cool even when water runs hot. Families with children or elderly members will appreciate this subtle but essential detail. The outer metal stays safe to touch, letting everyone enjoy the experience worry-free.

DreamSpray: Precision in Every Drop

Not all showers are created equal. GROHE's **DreamSpray** technology balances water distribution across every nozzle, delivering perfectly even pressure. Whether you crave a soft mist to start your morning or a strong jet to ease muscle tension, each mode turns water into therapy.

SilkMove: Effortless Control

Finally, **SilkMove** completes the experience with unmatched fluidity. Inside every mixer lies a 33-part ceramic cartridge, ensuring silky-smooth control over water flow and temperature for years of use. It's the kind of craftsmanship you can feel with every adjustment.

The Intelligent Home Spa

Together, these technologies form the essence of GROHE Aqua Intelligence—a collection that transforms the bathroom into a personal sanctuary. It's a reflection of how innovation can be both intelligent and intuitive, proving that technology in the home doesn't have to shout to make an impact. Sometimes, it simply flows.

Experience Aqua Intelligence firsthand at authorized GROHE retailers and see how every shower can become a moment to truly *bask in your joy*.

Visit grohe.asia to learn more

SMALL CARDIOVASCULAR

LAC Philippines promotes proactive, everyday protection to help Filipinos strengthen heart health beyond diet and lifestyle



Caring for the heart goes beyond an annual reminder. While Filipinos recently marked World Heart Day, keeping it healthy is a daily priority. After all, related diseases to it continue to be among the country's top health concerns and consistent leading cause of death in the Philippines.



ARTER CULAR CARE

Beyond well-known factors like diet, exercise, and smoking, new research points to less visible risks. A study by NYU Langone Health this year linked chemicals commonly found in plastics, called phthalates, to more than 350,000 cardiovascular-related deaths globally. With the Philippines being one of the world's biggest consumers of single-use plastics, using millions each day, this adds another layer of urgency to protecting cardiovascular wellness.

EVERYDAY STEPS TO LOWER HEART RISKS

Maintaining healthy habits is still the most effective way to reduce risk. The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends at least 150 minutes of weekly physical activity, avoiding tobacco, and maintaining healthy levels of blood pressure, cholesterol, and blood sugar. Routine screenings also play a critical role in catching conditions such as hypertension, diabetes, or high cholesterol before they progress.

Furthermore, stress management through quality sleep, meditation, and mindfulness, along with a balanced diet rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean protein, and healthy fats, form the foundation for overall wellness. Omega-3 fatty acids in particular help reduce inflammation, lower triglycerides, and support circulation, while antioxidants protect against oxidative stress.

For added protection, Filipinos can combine these healthy habits with targeted nutrition like LAC TRIMAX™ Omega Fish Oil + CoQ-10, a premium 2-in-1 supplement designed to help promote heart health and overall vitality.

Each softgel delivers 1355mg of purified fish oil concentrate, providing 949mg of omega-3 fatty acids (Eicosapentaenoic Acid & Docosahexaenoic Acid) that help maintain healthy cholesterol, blood pressure, and circulation, ensuring nutrients and oxygen are efficiently delivered throughout the body. It also contains 100mg of Coenzyme Q-10, a vital nutrient for heart muscle strength and energy production. Since natural CoQ-10 levels decline with age, supplementation helps restore vitality, reduce breathlessness, and keep the heart performing at its peak.

Additionally, LAC TRIMAX™ Omega Fish Oil + CoQ-10 aids brain function, joint flexibility, skin comfort, and mood balance which helps Filipinos stay energized, resilient, and full of vitality at every stage of life. Purified to remove contaminants and enteric-coated to minimize fishy aftertaste, it is also safe for long-term use with just one softgel daily.

Awareness of both lifestyle and environmental risks, combined with proactive daily habits, is still a key to protecting overall well-being as cardiovascular disease continues to be a major health concern in the country.



	Premium	New Premium Lite
YouTube videos ad-free	Ad-free	Most videos ad-free Gaming, fashion, beauty, news and more
Music and music videos ad-free		—
Downloads and background play		—

YOUTUBE PREMIUM LITE ARRIVES IN PH

YouTube has announced the official launch of YouTube Premium Lite in the Philippines, offering Filipinos a new, more affordable way to enjoy most videos on YouTube ad-free for as low as PHP109 per month.

This expansion comes as YouTube continues to innovate its subscription offerings following the success of YouTube Music and Premium, which recently surpassed 125 million subscribers globally.

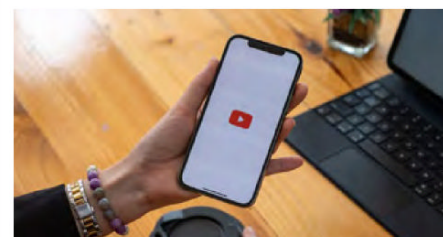
Premium Lite is designed for viewers who primarily seek an ad-free experience across gaming, comedy,

cooking, learning, and more. The new membership works across devices, including phone, laptop, and TV. However, due to it being a Lite plan, while it offers ad-free viewing for most videos, commercials may still appear on music content and Shorts, and when users search or browse.

The introduction of YouTube Premium Lite in the Philippines emphasizes YouTube's commitment to offering flexible options that cater to diverse viewer preferences, allowing users to enjoy their favorite content from a wide roster of creators and genres, with fewer interruptions. In addition

to providing more viewers with an ad-free viewing experience, the launch of YouTube Premium Lite also continues to create additional revenue opportunities for creators and partners.

Enjoy ad-free viewing on YouTube by getting [YouTube Premium Lite](#) today.



HISENSE INTRODUCES THE WORLD'S BIGGEST TV



Hisense, the number one brand in the ultra-large screen TV market globally, officially introduced the world's largest commercially available TV in the Philippines: the **Hisense 116-inch Class UX Series RGB-MiniLED**.

As the star of the show, the Hisense 116" Class UX Series RGB-MiniLED stands out not just for its gigantic size but also for its advanced display technology. This TV delivers an elevated home viewing experience that goes beyond what traditional OLED and QLED screens offer, thanks to its RGB-MiniLED technology. This paradigm shift uses Red, Green, and Blue LEDs directly at the backlight level to enable true 3D color control and independent local dimming across each channel. Hisense is also the brand that first defined the origin of this breakthrough technology.

The brand further highlighted the TV's superior features during the launch, ranging from its visual brilliance to its intelligent adaptability that enhances the way people enjoy entertainment.

Hisense 116" TV's visual power is unmatched with up to 8,000 nits peak brightness and over 20,000 color control units with industry-first RGB Local Dimming for hyper-realistic clarity and color purity.

At its core is the Hi-View AI Engine X, a powerful processor that continuously analyzes and adapts content in real-time. This is where engineering excellence meets intelligent viewing, optimizing both visuals and audio for a stunningly realistic experience. For one, the TV operates with a CPU that is 1.4 times faster, a GPU that is 2.2 times faster, and an NPU that is 1.7 times faster than previous models.

The AI Picture feature brings vibrant colors and smooth motion, while the AI Sound ensures clear audio by detecting dialogue and optimizing sound based on both the on-screen action and the surrounding environment. Meanwhile, the AI Scenario adjusts picture settings to perfectly suit the specific type

of content being watched, while AI Energy helps save on electricity through smart, pixel-level brightness control.

Hisense also proudly announced its support for the Cultural Center of the Philippines. Solidifying its commitment to enriching the lives of its community, Hisense equipped the organization with new, high-quality television sets to aid in furthering its programs dedicated to promoting and preserving cultural heritage, such as in film, theater, and visual arts.

The new Hisense 116" Class UX Series RGB-MiniLED is now available in Ansons The Link at a promo price of PHP1,249,999 for straight cash payments, with an SRP price of PHP1,999,999.

Stay updated on Hisense and follow them on Facebook [@HisenseTVPhilippines](https://www.facebook.com/HisenseTVPhilippines) or visit the official website at <http://hisense.com.ph/>.



MICROSOFT TABLET PC

Words by Jose Alvarez

On October 14, 2025, Microsoft officially ended support for Windows 10, essentially forcing users to switch to Windows 11.

While Windows 10 has been around for a decade, it was definitely more popular than its predecessor, Windows 8, which prioritized tablets and touchscreens in its design. Windows 7 usage outpaced Windows 8 usage until Windows 10 came out. This was primarily due to desktop users having to rely on user reports and guides just to use Windows 8. I had to make a clean install of Windows 7 for a college friend about 8 years ago, if you want to know how unpopular it was. But this was far from Microsoft's first foray into the tablet scene, which led me to the Microsoft Tablet PC. Would it be a leap into the future, or just another failed experiment for the tech behemoth?

Microsoft Tablet PC was announced in 2001 for a variety of tablets that were

available at the time. These devices usually ran Windows XP Tablet PC Edition. For you older readers, think about using a modern tablet, and the Windows XP operating system (OS) is the default. While some tech-savvy people may be able to get other OSes to run on them, visualizing such a feat may seem unthinkable. After all, tablets were in their infancy, and the most successful device with a touchscreen at the time, the Palm Pilot, was monochrome. However, "the future is now" has always been a mantra most tech companies lived and died by, even to this day, and Microsoft was no exception. This replaced an earlier OS, Windows for Pen Computing 2.0. Successive Windows editions, namely Windows Vista and Windows 7, had intrinsic pen computing support.

What was under the hood hardware-wise? The Tablet PC with Windows XP came out in 2001 with 128 MB of RAM, a 600

MHz processor, and 10 GB of storage. It had an x86 architecture, handwriting recognition, and voice recognition functionalities as well, many years before Siri and Alexa became part of a typical household. Four configurations used this OS: a booklet, or a dual-screen tablet PC (think a larger version of the Nintendo 3DS); a slate, which was just a tablet itself as we know it today; a convertible, which had an attached keyboard and could be used as either a tablet or a laptop; and a hybrid, which allowed a user to detach the keyboard and shares the features of a slate and a convertible.

As original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) adapted this OS, there were many applications available. One of the most common features was to be able to write directly on the desktop itself, and allow a person to snip certain parts of the screen to use as a file to send in an email, making it easier for artists to save files or send

them as emails. Creatives could also use Ink Art to make something good for their portfolio. For the wordsmiths (me), there was Ink Crossword, a giant crossword puzzle game mimicking the old school paper crosswords, and a media transfer app that synced pictures, music, and videos from computers in the same network.

Some OEMs included names we know in tech today: Lenovo, Fujitsu, Toshiba, Hewlett-Packard (HP), Samsung, Toshiba, and Acer. However, despite having a full decade head start on Apple in the tablet space, the concept didn't catch on as much as Microsoft had hoped, and the iPad became the first commercially successful tablet when it launched in 2011. Gates somewhat admitted defeat to Steve Jobs in an interview with Charlie Rose in 2012. "He did some things better than I did. His timing in terms of when it came out, the engineering work, just the package that was put together. The tablets we had done before weren't as thin, they weren't as attractive as what came along," Gates said, conceding to his longtime rival. Microsoft responded with the Surface in 2012, and while still made to this day, it has nowhere near the popularity of the iPad or Android tablet offerings.

One of the biggest points of failure was Microsoft scaling down a desktop PC for tablet use, while Apple scaled up iOS on the iPhone for tablet use. With devices shrinking more and more in the early 2000s, Microsoft could have opted to go the phone route itself, something it eventually did in 2010 with the Windows Phone, another commercial and critical failure for the tech giant. However, the failure of the Microsoft Tablet PC should make people carefully consider if the future is really now, or something that we have to build towards with smaller steps.



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MEET THE TEAM

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FEATURE

Lenovo Legion Go S

Handheld gaming PCs have gone from niche to borderline mainstream in a few short years. With more gamers craving portability that even the lightest gaming laptops can't match, it's no surprise that companies are scrambling ...[more](#)

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