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USB device comes with built-in Web browser

Published in the Herald News 11/20/03

A new, portable device promises to keep private your travels on the Web.

StealthSurfer: StealthSurfer, prices run from \$49.95 to \$129.95 depending on memory, which ranges from 64MB model to 256MB. Requires USB port.

www.stealthsurfer.biz

As most Web surfers know, their travels leave a trail that competent computer users can uncover. Keep this trail to yourself with the StealthSurfer.

The device, which is about the size of a cigarette lighter and fits in your pocket, is a USB-based flash memory disk. It comes preloaded with its own customized Netscape Web browser.

After connecting to the Internet, users launch the StealthSurfer and its browser. That way, all Internet use (e-mail, history, cookies, cached files, etc.) is stored on the device and not on the computer's hard drive.

The StealthSurfer can be used with or without password protection.

When done using the Internet, the StealthSurfer simply is unplugged.

The device requires drivers for use with Windows 98SE. For that, the drivers for USB-mass storage protocol must be downloaded and installed from the company's Web site.

For later versions of Windows, plug in the device and follow instructions under the Add New Hardware wizard.

As the name implies, the StealthSurfer would enable owners to surf the Web at work, for example, while not leaving a trail. Obviously, Web surfing goes on in many workplaces, but I can't recommend using the device to violate company policy or standards.

The StealthSurfer can have other uses: parents wanting to keep their Internet use away from children; sharing files; and being able to bring work home.

Because it works as a USB device, the StealthSurfer is easy to use


MATT CAPPELLINI

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Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon: UbiSoft, for the PlayStation2, Xbox and GameBoy Advance. www.ubi.com

The pumped-up martial arts elements of the hit movie come to the gaming screen in this title from UbiSoft. The soaring, spectacular moves used by fighters in the movie are here.

The story involves Li Mu Bai, who wants to pass on his fabled Green Destiny Sword to another Wudan warrior, Yu Shu Lien. The sword disappears. Meanwhile, a young aristocrat, Jen, who is studying the martial arts, gets embroiled in the quest for its safe return.

Basically, "Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon" is a fighting game, but it does offer a good background story.

Players take the role of Li Mu Bai, Yu Shu Lien and Jen at various points. Each character starts with certain special moves and can learn more as they gain experience.

Successful play requires learning the correct buttons to push for basic attacks, combo attacks, blocking and combo blocking.

After taking hits during battle, players can use health potions to restore their vigor. The potions can be used quickly, even during combat, or manually by opening the character's inventory and selecting them.

Fifteen different weapons are available for combat.

As players progress through the game they can unlock bonuses, such as a comic, bonus play modes, costumes, a videogame "making of" trailer and more.

"Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon" gets the basics to a fighting game down well, what sets it apart is the ability to perform stunts, such as flips and wall runs, that made the action in the movie so memorable.

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- Box turns ordinary TV into 3-D experience (10/23/03)

- So-so sci-fi movie turns into great action game (10/17/03)

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