



Livin' on the EDGE



With Apple's new iPhones yet to come, Samsung have released another new phone. It seemed like manufacturers had learnt from previous mistakes with ultra thin devices, but it appears that thinking is out of the window. Like the rumoured Apple iPhone Air, Samsung's new phone is incredibly thin.

The Samsung Galaxy S25 Edge is Samsung's slimmest phone yet, coming in at just 5.8mm thick. A titanium body addresses any strength concerns and the display is protected by Corning® Gorilla® Glass Ceramic 2, Corning's very latest glass ceramic cover that is resilient, but also preserves display vibrancy. The phone's rear panel is protected by Corning® Gorilla® Glass Victus® 2. I'm not sure about anybody else, but I think it's about time that manufacturers gave up on covering phones completely in glass. It's simply not as strong as metal, and there has to be a solution for wireless charging that they can come up with. Fortunately, the S25 Edge features an IP68 rating for water and dust resistance. The high quality 6.7-inch AMOLED 2x QHD+ display features a variable 1-120Hz refresh rate, as well as Samsung's Vision Booster and Adaptive colour Tone technology.

Under the hood, the phone is powered by the same Snapdragon 8 Elite mobile platform as the rest of the S25 range and somehow, Samsung have even managed to keep it cooled with a re-engineered vapour chamber. The GPU features improved real-time ray tracing and has been optimised for Vulkan, which as a gaming API platform, is getting better and better with each generation, and is hot on the heels of Microsoft's DirectX platform.

Despite the size, the S25 Edge still features Samsung's 200MP wide lens camera that is improved for 'Nightography'. In combination with the AI-Enhanced ProVisual Engine, the S25 Edge produces images with improved clarity and colour and can even zoom with an AI zoom feature.

AI and Google Gemini are baked into the phone. One press of the 'Side' button activates help whenever it's needed. The S25 Edge also comes loaded with Samsung's new One UI 7, which features a whole new look; smarter notifications; and a new lock screen providing a quick overview of ongoing activities.

The new Galaxy S25 Edge is available in three colours: titanium Icy Blue, Titanium Silver and Titanium JetBlack and is available to pre-order starting at £1,099.00/AU\$1,849.00.

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FujiFilm are back at it again, launching another compact camera. This new model attempts to blend the old and new creating a digital camera that dips it's toes into the analogue photography space, but has it worked?

Well, the early verdicts are in and the FujiFilm X half has been summed up as a camera that places 'fun' at the forefront of the experience. It features a 17.74 MP 1-inch sensor and by default takes pictures in a portrait 4:3 format, making it perfect for sharing online. Up front there is a 10.8mm f/2.8 lens (32mm equiv.) with a manual aperture and focus ring. The camera body also features a built-in flash, cold shoe and exposure compensation dial. There is also an optical viewfinder for that true retro feel.

The X half features two LCD displays. A main 2.4-inch touch-screen LCD for live view, preview and navigating the

camera's main menu system. This is joined by a second smaller sub LCD, typically used to switch between the 13 film simulation modes. It is also used to change between shooting modes, as well as a range of analog inspired filters: a light leak effect, expired film, or even double exposures.

The X half also introduces a new 'Film Camera Mode'. This is activated by first selecting a film simulation, then swiping down on the main LCD where the number of shots is selected: 36, 54 or 72. After this, pictures can only be composed via the optical viewfinder, and the LCD only displays an old fashioned LCD readout, AF/MF buttons, Date and a focus scale. The camera's film winder advances to the next frame. Once the 'roll' is finished, the shots need to be developed and this is where the new X half app comes into play. Images are transferred, 'developed', and saved to your smartphone and app gallery. There is even a digital contact sheet created alongside the images. It is worth noting that

the whole film camera mode can be cancelled at any time, and any images taken up until that point can be transferred to the app. This is done by double tapping the sub LCD.

In the camera's standard mode, the film advance lever can be used to switch the camera in to 2-in-1 mode. Take one picture, wind the camera, and take the second. The camera then arranges them into a diptych, opening up an array of creative possibilities.

Battery life of the camera is rated at a very respectable 880 shots on a single charge. This is thanks to FujiFilm using their NP-W126S, which looks to take up almost half of the camera's body. Other features include video mode for short form videos (which can be combined with images in 2-1 mode), a USB-C port, Bluetooth and WiFi.

The X half comes in three colours, Black, Silver, and Charcoal Silver and will be available in June for £699.00/ AU\$1,349.00.



Google Beam



This year's Google I/O event had a number of interesting projects discussed, and of course there was a lot of AI.

Google Search

With the act of 'Googling' under threat as ChatGPT gains popularity, Google are responding with Google receiving an 'AI Mode' tab in Search (US only at the moment). The hope is that this will be enough for people to remain on Google with the AI Mode offering various 'Labs' features like 'Deep Search' for longer form research projects. Google state like competitors Chat GPT and Perplexity, Google Search will be able to offer users "expert-level fully-cited reports" in only a few minutes. 'Search Live' will be available in either AI Mode or Google Lens and will enable a back and forth chat with Google about what is being looked at. Search will also become a useful assistant for buying tickets, powered by Project Mariner: an AI agent that can surf the web like a human. A simple phrase like "Find two affordable tickets for this Saturday's Reds game in the lower level" will have the agent

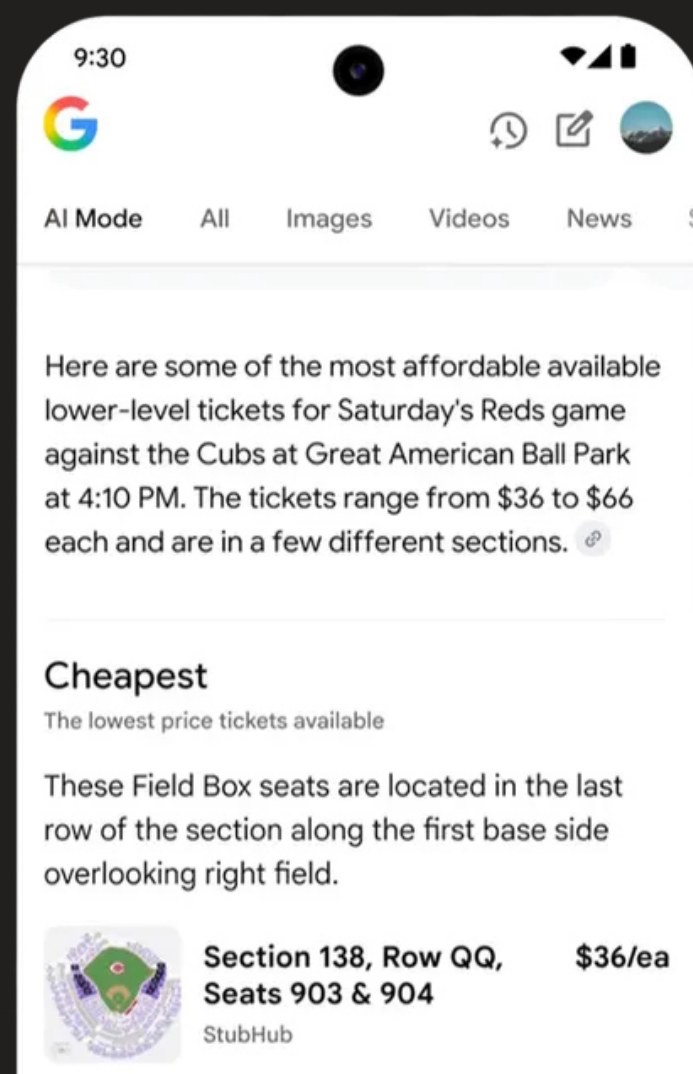
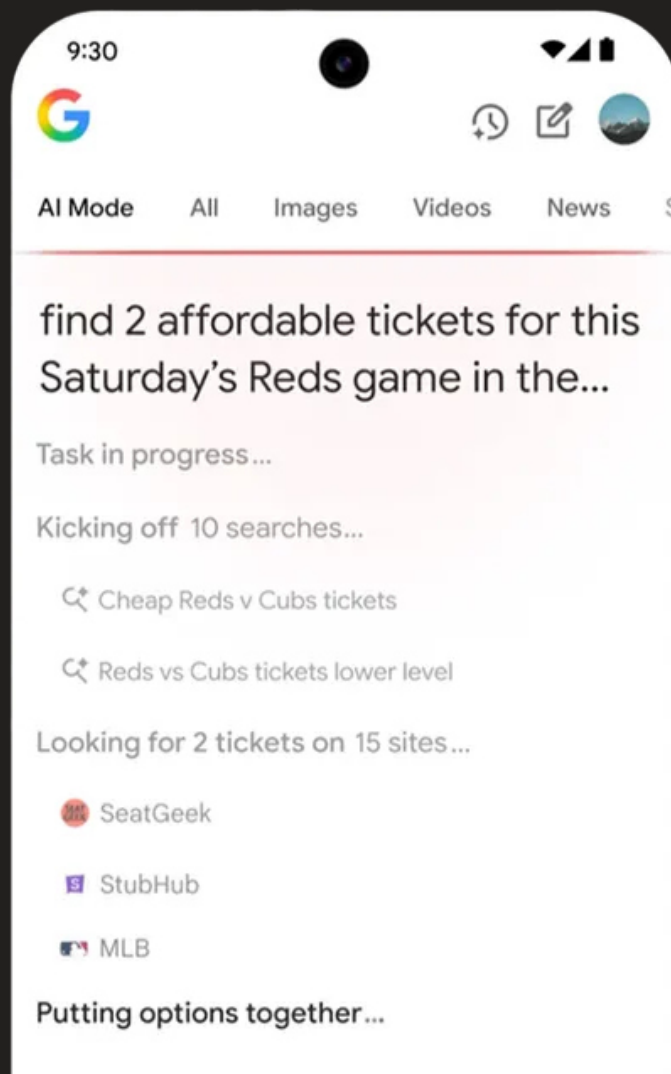
searching for tickets; highlighting options; and it will even fill in forms, leaving the user to just worry about pressing the purchase button. These are just a few of the new features coming to Google Search in the near future.

Google Beam

Previously teased under the name Project Starlight, Google Beam aims to make video calls more of an engaging and 3D experience, and will even bring translation to the experience. The simple idea being that video calls will feel more like you are in the room with the person. The catch - it will require a custom-made booth that features a large curved screen capable of generating a partial 3D render of the person. Powered by AI, translation was demoed, and lags just a couple of seconds behind speech. It retains the voice, tone and expression of the speaker whilst translating. Google Beam has been developed in collaboration with Hewlett Packard, and will start to roll out to businesses later this year.

Gemini

Google's Gemini is getting a number of improvements. First



of all, Gemini Live is now free and will be available for Android and, for the first time, iOS. Talk to the Generative AI assistant using natural language, or use a phone camera to show it things, and it will relay back related data.

Gemini's new Imagen 4 model may put it ahead of ChatGPT, for now, when it comes to image generation. Resolution of images has been boosted to 2K, allowing for better zooming, cropping and even the ability to print them out. It's ability to render fabrics is significantly improved, as are fine details like water droplets or animal fur. Imagen 4 will also grant Gemini new spelling and typography skills.

Gemini 2.5 Pro also gets a new 'Deep Think' upgrade, which boosts its brain power significantly. What this means, in real terms, is that it will think a little harder and look for a more accurate answer, as opposed to getting something out as quickly as possible. This is initially only rolling out to trusted test users first, with others gaining access at a later date.

Google will also be rolling out a new Gemini AI Ultra plan. Initially, only in the US, but rolling out to other countries later, this is not for the average user, as Google are going to be charging a staggering \$250.00 a month for access. Google have made it clear they are aiming this at creative professionals, filmmakers, and developers, with it guaranteeing them access to all the latest features, models, with

no limits in usage, and a massive 30TB of cloud storage across Photos, Drive and Gmail.

Android XR

Google unveiled Android XR - their new operating system for Android headsets and Android glasses, and their rival to Meta's Horizon OS. Of course, AI is at the core of the new mobile OS, and Gemini can recommend a place to eat, and even give directions on-screen of where to locate the chosen restaurant. Google also unveiled new partners outside of just Samsung and Qualcomm. The latter of course will be providing chipsets to all partners, but Xreal showed their Project Aura, the same name that was rumoured for Google's Glass 2 project. The glasses include AR features but their primary use will be to display your connected device in front of you whether that be a smartphone, laptop or console. Little is known of the new glasses beyond the picture (right) and that it will work more like a spatial computer, and be tethered. This puts it in more of an Apple Vision category than say the Ray-Ban Meta glasses, especially as they will need to be tethered to the device. Samsung and Google's Project Moohan is still on course as well and is set to launch in 2025. No specific date has been given by either manufacturer, but at least it's not delayed or cancelled.

This was just some of what Google unveiled at their yearly event, and with Apple's WWDC looming, and Meta's event later in the year, it will be interesting to see what comes.



Project Aura | Android XR

CMF 2

Nothing have been around for a few years now, making high quality phones at low prices, but they also have a sub-brand called CMF, and CMF may just be the budget Android phone brand to go for.

The CMF Phone 2 Pro is their latest model and, given the incredibly low price of £219.99/ AU\$449.00, the phone is pretty feature packed. They have not skimped on the screen - it comes with a 6.77-inch FHD+ AMOLED. This is capable of reaching 3,000 nits brightness, and even delivers 1.07 billion colours. Not only that, but they have even managed to pack in a 120Hz adaptive refresh rate.

The camera system is no slouch either: 50MP main and telephoto cameras, 8MP ultra-wide, and 16MP front camera that utilises Nothing's AI-powered TrueLens Engine 3 camera software. The cameras are furnished in a stylish aluminium surround, giving

them a refined look, but also improving durability. There are also optional lens accessories that can be added to the phone: a fisheye for wide landscapes, or interesting portraits, and a macro lens attachment for close-ups. We even have the Essential Key and Essential Space for capturing and organising content. The phone is also installed with the latest Nothing OS3, so what is the catch?

The move from a Qualcomm Snapdragon processor found in the Nothing 3a, to a MediaTek Dimensity 7300 Pro 5G chipset will have shaved some cost, but it still offers a relatively smooth experience with its 8-core CPU, which can run at up to 2.5GHz. It is reported that if you try and do too much at once, the processor can't quite take the pressure, but it will outperform the Exynos processor in the Samsung Galaxy A26. Keep the usage light, and the phone is more than capable.

The phone's design is certainly very different to anything else

on the market, especially the bright orange model pictured. Like its predecessor, there are exposed screws visible and the removable Accessory Cap (bottom right). There will be a range of accessories available: the magnetic Universal Cover; a wallet that also doubles up as a stand (which attaches to the Universal Cover); and a lanyard. There's also the lens attachments mentioned earlier. They have also managed to build in an IP54 rating for dust and water ingress.

Battery life is reported to be respectable. A 5,000mAh battery provides all-day life (two days at a push), and while there is no wireless charging (another cost cutting measure), the phone does support 33w fast wired charging.

The CMF Phone 2 Pro is available in three colours: white, black and orange and is available to buy now. Users will find it comes with a pre-applied screen protector and phone case in the box.

