

Get Plugged In!

By Jan Howells, ARM

The second generation ARM Powered® Pogoplug multimedia sharing device from the Cloud Engines Inc., stable is just as cool as it looks - providing a neat gateway from your home through to the Internet that allows you to stream your personal digital media directly to anybody, anywhere in the world!



The petit box (4x 2.6 x 2 inches) house on a shocking pink stand definitely looks different – and it isn't just the design that gets it noticed. This little device is a virtual powerhouse when it comes to network attached storage accessible on the internet!

The Pogoplug has been created to give consumers with increasingly mobile lifestyles more flexibility to store personal content safely in the home and access, manage, and share it from anywhere on the Internet.

Pogoplug is firmly targeted at consumers who have an external hard drive and high speed Internet. Put quite simply, with this device you can securely access and share all of your content - files, photos, and video - from any Web browser or enabled mobile device. Set up takes 60 seconds, according to Cloud Engines, and there is no monthly fee.

The device incorporates a power connection, a GigE connector and three USB 2.0 ports on the back and another USB connector on the front together with a power-on light. Underneath the hood there is a 1.2 Ghz Marvell ARM System-on-Chip (SoC) RISC processor plus 256 Mb of RAM and 512 Mb of internal flash memory.

“The ARM based SoC was important as it is an extremely efficient, low power design that satisfies our requirements perfectly,” commented a spokesperson for Pogoplug.

Pogoplug supports iPhone, Android, Windows, CE, Blackberry mobile platforms and supports MS Windows XP, Vista, Mac OS X 10.4 and above 32-bit kernel and Linux operating systems. Web browsers supported include Safari, Firefox3, IE 7&8 and Google Chrome. Drive formats supported include NTFS, FAT32, Max OS Extended Journaled and Non-Journaled (HFS+) and EXT-2/EXT-3.



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Getting started couldn't be easier – you connect three cables and then visit pogoplug's website (my.pogoplug.com) where you create an account with your email address and select a password. You are then sent an email with a unique digit code for your pogoplug. Click on this and voila you are taken to a Web page that displays all of the files on the drive attached to your pogoplug which can be viewed or downloaded through your Web browser.

Pogoplug's easy drag-and-drop interface makes it child's play to put together multi-media slide shows and seamless media playback using stored content to share with friends and family on Facebook, Twitter and MySpace.

Pogoplug is undoubtedly all about sharing. From the Web interface you can allow content sharing with other people and notify them via e-mail. You can also post links to your content on Twitter, Facebook and MySpace, publish an RSS feed linking to your content and even set up public Web access.

It is also easy to organize music, photos and videos. Pogoplug automatically displays music by Album, Artist and Genre, and shows cover art for quick access to your favorite music. Photos are displayed by photo timeline and videos can be previewed in the thumbnail itself.

Pogoplug Address Book makes sharing with a user's friends and family quick and easy. Pogoplug automatically remembers all email addresses entered in a user's previous shares and makes them available in an address book to make sharing one click away. Wouldn't it be great if you could back up photos and video on your iPhone on the hop and then share them automatically? Dream no longer. A Pogoplug iPhone application lets you do exactly that and even lets you securely access your home files from anywhere as well – absolutely no synching required!

If all these goodies aren't enough – you can even synchronize your Pogoplug with your PC or Mac to automatically import new content from applications such as iTunes, Windows Media Player, and iPhoto. A basic “set it and forget it” feature which means you always have access to new photos, videos and music from anywhere on the Internet.

Low power, super flexible and at only \$129 the Pogoplug is a seriously 'must have' for the new year!

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