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**DATAWIND UNVEILS POCKETSURFER2, COULD BEAT IPHONE FOR MOBILE WEB.**

The PocketSurfer2 is just a mobile web browser. It isn't an mp3 player, phone, camera or hairdryer. Datawind make the bold statement that their browser is faster than any other mobile device, and from the demonstrations this could be true.

They have even issued a challenge for someone to find a faster mobile browsing experience, and if you do they will give you a PocketSurfer2 for free.

Don't expect to be able to though. They have a back-end technology that massively compresses data to be sent via GPRS to your device. The result was a browsing experience similar to a basic broadband connection at home. Pages downloaded in about 7 or 8 seconds.

They showed a comparison video with the iPhone loading ebay's homepage. Before the iPhone had loaded half the page (after 2 minutes) the PocketSurfer2 had loaded 10 pages. However this test was shown on a video rather than a hands on, so its validity could come into question. I would agree that there is no mobile device in existence (that I have yet tried) that delivers a decent web browsing experience, so this could be a holy grail.

We shall see. The cost of accessing data is 'free to the customer', with Datawind absorbing the network operator charges. I questioned the validity of this business model, but they believe they can offset these charges via web advertising and click throughs. We shall see indeed.

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