

Shop tech like a pro

Some say a gadget always makes a great gift, and we agree.

Superb smartphones

Smartphones simply make the best gifts because just about everybody won't say no to one, especially if you get them a phone like the Samsung Galaxy Note 9.

It's Samsung's best smartphone yet and its signature feature, the S Pen stylus, gets Bluetooth so you can use it to control the camera from as far as 10m away, as well as play and pause songs and videos.

It also has a stunning 6.4in screen, excellent wide-angle cameras that work great in low-light conditions and a long battery life – basically all the features you want in a phone.

On top of that Samsung is on the verge of rolling out the Android 9 Pie upgrade, which will come with its new user interface – One – that's supposed to make everything a little easier to do on the Note 9.

The Note 9 costs RM3,699 for the 128GB/6GB RAM model and RM4,599 for the 512GB/8GB RAM version. And if you get the new colour – Lavender Purple – by the end of the month, you'll snag a 512GB microSD card worth RM1,199.

Another phone that comes with a few "firsts" is the Huawei Mate 20 Pro, as it's the only one that offers reverse wireless charging, which will allow you to charge other devices such as Bluetooth headsets and even phones (as long as they support wireless charging).

It also has an in-screen fingerprint sensor which works even when your finger is slightly wet, a nice screen, a fast processor, great wide-angle cameras and a long battery life. The phone costs RM3,599 and comes with a free wireless charger worth RM248 while stocks last.



Lavender Purple Note 9

By MADHAVAN M
bytz@thestar.com.my

THE year is almost over and what better way to celebrate than by gifting people the nicest presents as the whole country will most likely be on sale. As they say, it's the season to give

and what better gifts than gadgets, as technology makes an impact like no other. The real challenge though is finding the right one, as choices are aplenty, so we have whittled down our selection to some of the best devices money can buy this year.

Sleek smartwatches

If you are thinking of impressing someone with an accessory for a mobile phone, look no further than smartwatches.

While fitness bands are also popular, more and more people are going for smartwatches as the screen allows you to see more at a glance and it's more feature-packed.

Samsung makes some of the prettiest smartwatches and this year's Galaxy Watch is a stunner. It comes in two sizes so it'll fit most wrists.

You can stream Spotify on it, which is great when you go out for jogs, and even answer calls directly on the watch, which makes it a great hands-free device.

The 46mm version, which only comes



in Silver, is priced at RM1,299 while the 42mm models which come in Midnight Black and Rose Gold go for RM1,199.

The other popular choice that's also cheap is a power bank. Always play safe when it comes to power banks so get one that's well-known like the Xiaomi 10000mAh Mi Power Bank Pro.

The slim power-bank fast charges both ways, meaning it can fast charge your supported devices and it doesn't take long to be charged. It also has a mode for slow charging low-power devices such as Bluetooth headsets.

It's priced at RM130 but when on sale you will likely be able to get it for RM99.

Ebook reader

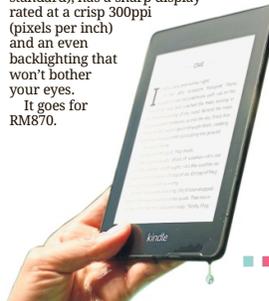
If the person you are getting a gift for is an avid book reader who's not too crazy about using a smartphone or tablet to read books, especially because of the glare, then the Kindle ebook reader is the answer.

As the Kindle devices use e-ink, you'll get the closest experience to reading a book and you'll be able to carry tons of titles on the go.

It also comes with a dictionary, which is always handy, and it has many weeks of battery life, which is longer than any smartphone.

Sadly, the Kindle is not available officially here but you can still get it and one of the easiest ways is from Kindle Malaysia (kindlemalaysia.com). The folks at Kindle Malaysia also claim they'll help you set up an account to easily buy books from Amazon.

There are many models but our vote goes to the Kindle Paperwhite (2018) which is water resistant (meets the IPX8 standard), has a sharp display rated at a crisp 300ppi (pixels per inch) and an even backlighting that won't bother your eyes. It goes for RM870.



Get gaming

This is a bit tricky – though the Sony PlayStation 4 is easy to recommend, as it's the king of the hill, the console is reaching the end of its life cycle. Sony is mum about the replacement but many expect it to come out late next year or in 2020.

The good news is that the PS4 still makes a good gift as it's now a mature system that has tons of titles, many of which will be on discount this holiday season.

So if the person you are gifting is a gamer who's not too crazy about staying on the cutting-edge then you can get the PS4 Hits Bundle for RM1,349 and it comes with three popular titles, including *God Of War*. Get the PS4 Pro if the person has a 4K TV – it's officially priced at RM1,799 but you can get it much cheaper if you shop around.

However, if your loved one is a gamer on the go then the Nintendo Switch is a good gift as you can easily unlock the console and carry it with you. The console costs about RM1,499.

Or if the person already has the console and is young or a child at heart, go for the Nintendo Labo which lets you craft toys from cardboard pieces and use your console to power them.

It's as crazy fun as it sounds and you'll be able to build everything from a backpack and visor to control an on-screen robot; or a wheel, pedal and key to drive a car, pilot a plane and control a submarine.

The prices depend on the kit you pick but expect to pay upwards of RM350. If it's a PC person then it's best to get on Steam, one of the largest digital distribution platforms, and gift a game.

Or if the person is into retro gaming, the PlayStation Classic (RM429) which will have built-in 20 classics, including *Resident Evil Director's Cut*, *Metal Gear Solid*, *Final Fantasy VII*, arrives here on Dec 3.



PlayStation Classic