



MobileRead Forums

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MobileRead Week in Review: 03/13 - 03/20

Been away? Fear not! Here is your chance to check out what appeared on our frontpage this week:

E-Book General - News

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- [Sony offers to re-upgrade PRS-500s with battery issues...](#)

E-Book General - General Discussions

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Book Club April 2010 Book Club Nominations

Help us select the next book that the Mobile Read book club will read for April 2010.

The nominations will run through Mar 26.

Voting (new poll thread) will run for 5 days starting Mar 26.

Book selection category for April per the "official" club opening thread is:

April 2010

Humor

In order for a book to be included in the poll it needs **THREE NOMINATIONS** (original nomination, a second and a third).

How Does This Work?

The Mobile Read Book Club (MRBC) is an informal club that requires nothing of you. Each month a book is selected by polling. On the last week of that month a discussion thread is started for the book. If you want to participate feel free. There is no need to "join" or sign up. All are welcome.

How Does a Book Get Selected?

Each book that is nominated will be listed in a pool at the end of the nomination period. The book that polls the most votes will be the official selection.

How Many Nominations Can I Make?

Each participant has 3 nominations. You can nominate a new book for consideration or nominate (second, third) one that has already been nominated by another person.

How Do I Nominate a Book?

Please just post a message with your nomination. If you are the **FIRST** to nominate a book, please try to provide an abstract to the book so others may consider their level of interest.

How Do I Know What Has Been Nominated?

Just follow the thread. This message will be updated with the status of the nominations as often as I can. If one is missed, please just post a message with a multi-quote of the 3 nominations and it will be added to the list ASAP.

When is the Poll?

The poll thread will open at the end of the nomination period, or once there have been 10 books with 3 nominations each. At that time a link to the poll thread will be posted here and this thread will be closed.

The floor is open to nominations.

Official choices each with three nominations:

Sony offers to re-upgrade PRS-500s with battery issues...

Mobileread member kilohertz53 reports that sony sent him the following email offering to fix the battery life issues on his upgraded Sony PRS-500 for free again and they pay shipping. Here is the letter he received:

Dear PRS-500 Reader(TM) Owner,

Thank you for allowing us to update your Reader to be compatible with our new and improved Reader(TM) Store. As a result of this update, you may have experienced diminished battery life with your PRS-500. This was an unintended side effect. Part of the benefit of using a device like the Reader is the superior battery life and we would like to ensure that you continue to enjoy this key advantage. To this end, we have developed new firmware that will resolve the issue. Unfortunately, this will require you to send your Reader back to us again. We realize this may pose another inconvenience for you but we hope you will accept our sincerest apologies and allow us to repair your Reader.

What do I need to do?

Due to the nature of the work required, you will need to send your PRS-500 Reader back to the Sony Service Center. We have already taken steps to send a pre-paid box to you in which you can pack your Reader with as little hassle as possible. Sony will pay the postage and have your Reader back to you promptly.

If you do not receive a box, have changed your mailing address or have any questions please call: 1-877-552-7669 or visit <https://eservice.sony.com/webrma/web...0&purchaseDate> to print a pre-paid UPS label to mail back your Reader in your own packaging.

Please keep in mind this issue only affects PRS-500 units that have previously been updated by Sony. We apologize once again and will include a \$10 coupon for the Reader Store when we send your Reader back to you.

*Sincerely,
The Reader Team*

I'm not sure what more you could ask for... other than the original fix not having the problem of course.

BOb

Hands on with Alex Ereader

Looks kind of cool:

```
">" type="application/x-shockwave-flash" wmode="transparent"  
width="425" height="350">
```

The one thing I don't like: the page turning buttons looks awfully small. I wish I had bigger page turning buttons on my Kindle and this one is even smaller.

Kindle for Mac now available

<http://amazon.com/kindleformac>

Pocketbook 302 Review & Videos

So I just posted the [second part of the Pocketbook 302](#) review over on my blog. Here are an excerpt:

Quote:

The Pocketbook 302 is just coming on to the market, and I was lucky enough to get one of the first review units. This is part 2 of the review. I posted the [first part of the review](#) last week, and it has a fair amount of detail. If you haven't read it yet, you should. This part will cover entirely different material. Also, you might be interested in the [hands on videos I shot](#).

My Opinion

I'm putting this section first, rather than last, because I think I spent a little too much time pointing out the flaws of PB302. I like it. I could easily see having one as my main e-reader. It's the first dedicated e-reader that I've seen that really lives up to the term e-reader. Most every other device is just an ebook reader; the PB302 is more because it has an RSS Reader and a browser. These features are slightly flawed, yes, but they are features that you can't get on any other e-reader without a hack (Nook, Iliad). (The Kindle doesn't count because in most countries you can't use the browser).

In my opinion, the only ebook reader that can compare with a PB302 is a (hacked) Nook. I've thought about this for some time, and I can't say that one is clearly better than the other. This is great news for the PB302; it costs \$80 more. I think I would go for the PB302 myself; I prefer its hardware design.

continued [here](#)

Any feedback would be appreciated.

Forum Changes in place

We are happy to announce that the forum changes are in place. This pass at forum changes was mainly for the device sections. The goal was to maintain what was working and fill in some missing areas.

To start with there is now a "General Discussions" section. This section was created for those discussion which were about e-books and e-book reading but didn't really fit into a device or software thread. These threads usually ended up in the "News and Commentary" section. You will also see the "News and Commentary" section was renamed to simply be "News" to focus it a bit more.

You will see there is now one category where all E-Book Reader device sections will be found. This includes dedicated devices such as the Kindle and the Sony and non-dedicated devices such as the iPad and the eDGe. The devices are listed in alphabetical order to make them easy to find.

There is a new "More E-Book Readers" section to discuss dedicated e-book reader devices for which there is no section. And grouped under that section are many device specific sub-forums. As discussion in the generic "More" section about a new or coming device become popular a new sub-forum can be added. We value all participation no matter what device you use but we needed a way to keep the forum list from becoming very long and daunting.

In addition the "Other Devices" section is now named "Alternative Devices" for discussion of Netbooks, PDAs, Smartphones etc. Once again, this incubation area will be watched carefully and device or OS specific sub-forums may be created for more popular devices or software.

The very good news is we added the following device sections:

BeBook
enTourage eDGe
iRiver Story
Onyx Boox
Plastic Logic Que

Spring Design Alex

We hope that these changes make everyone happy and will be responding to new forum section request more swiftly since the new organization easily allows it.

Thanks for your patience while we planned all this out. We do appreciate it.

Please enjoy.

Forum Changes on the way

Over the next week or so starting today you will be seeing some changes in the forums sections. We are reorganizing things in order to make sure there is a place to discuss all your topics, favorite devices and books.

If you see that a forum is missing or closed the messages are in the process of being moved to another section.

So, what's happening? Here are some hints:

To start with the two Sony threads and the two iRex threads will be merged together and device prefixes will be added to the section. This has proven itself to work well in the new Sony section so it will become a common fixture in all of the device sections where it makes sense.

We will also be collapsing some of the sub-forums into their parents to simplify forum navigation and prevent that deer in the headlights feeling of what sub-forum you should use for a trouble shooting question about an accessory.

I'm sure it will make you happy to hear that there will be several new device forums and a General Discussion area so those types of discussions won't dilute the News section.

We have been working very hard on the new layout and I want to thank all the members that have helped us. Your ideas were all taken seriously and considered important. I wish we could make everyone 100% happy but some ideas just conflicted with others.

So, please pardon our dust while we remodel... It should be well worth it.

MobileRead Week in Review: 03/06 - 03/13

Have something interesting to say about e-books or mobile computing? Join our forums and share your view on topics like the ones discussed at MobileRead this past week...

E-Book General - News and Commentary

- [Read an E-Book Week 2010 is on!](#)
- [CeBIT Video: 1cross Tech Android e-reader combo](#)
- [Archos 5 Review](#)
- [Pocketbook 360 Review & Hands on Video](#)

Pocketbook 360 Review & Hands on Video

I have this review that I'd like to share. It was written by MR member Roger108, and I think it pretty accurately describes the PB360. You can find it over on [my blog](#). Here's an excerpt:

The Pocketbook 360° eReader – Lean, Light, Beautiful and Blazing Fast
Quote:

Ebook readers have been arriving in ever greater tidal waves over the past few years, some loaded with features, others barely able to perform as ebook readers. This January when I began my search, I was looking for one feature, the ability to read books easily, without eye strain. I have no desire to divide my mind with music or the internet while reading.

So when my ivory colored Pocketbook 360° appeared before my eyes—lean, light, and beautiful—I had a feeling that it would be a perfect fit. In fact, being the size of a CD case, and weighing a mere 5.3 ounces (half that of the Kindle or Nook), it fit perfectly in my pocket.

I also shot a couple hands on videos with my new camera. You can watch them [here](#).

FBReader 0.10.7 for DR800

EDIT 20100313: new package, both DR800S and DR800SG should work now. Same instructions. Thanks for the help.

Hi,

FBReader 0.10.7 for iRex DR800S

Last update: Wed Mar 10 23:37:08 2010

This is a compilation of FBReader e-book reader for iRex DR800 e-readers. There aren't much things changed from the original sources, a customized toolbar and some new icons.

Random notes:

- This package is based on version 0.10.7
- I've tried 0.12.7 but it was too slow, this version is really fast
- Don't know if it works on DR800SG, but I expect it should do

Steps to install:

1. enable SD card folders browsing (look for the dr.ini file hack in mobileread forum)
2. connect device to your computer using the USB cable
3. create a folder "/Programs" in SD card root
4. copy the contents of this compressed file there.

You should have something like:

SD card

/Programs

_fbreader (directory)

FBReader.desktop (file)

/other_things

Steps to use:

1. Navigate to SD card -> Select Programs folder -> tap on FBReader icon
2. Click on preferences and change some settings as default configuration

is not suitable for e-readers. F.e. I've changed:

- margins to 10, 10, 0, 4
- font size (in "styles" tab): to 8
- indicator: I like the "old style"

- key bindings. Tip: click on "Action for key" and press the bar to show available actions

3. Take a look at "_fbreader/share/FBReader/default/toolbar.xml" file if you want to change the buttons/actions shown in the toolbar

Enjoy,
Iñigo Serna

Attached Thumbnails

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Attached Files

[FBReader-0.10.7-dr800-v2.tar.gz](#) (1.63 MB)

Archos 5 Review

I just posted a [review of the Archos 5 tablet](#) over on my blog. Here are the highlights:

Quote:

I've been wanting to add an Android device to my collection for some time now, but I had to wait until I had the funds to spare. The Archos 5 was released last fall in the US and Europe. It's your usual MID with a 4.8" screen, 8GB flash, Wifi, Bluetooth, and a microSD card slot. It also has excellent media abilities (Archos has been making media players for quite a few years now.)

...

My Recommendation

I would not go out of my way to get an Android tablet as an ebook reader. TBH, I would avoid them entirely. It is not nearly as stable or nor as feature rich as either Linux or Windows Mobile. Also, it doesn't offer as many apps as either Linux or Windows Mobile. Android isn't ready yet; it's still in its infancy. And frankly, it was meant to run phones, not tablets. There's a reason why the only authorized devices are phones; that's what it's designed for.

continued [here](#)

CeBIT Video: 1cross Tech Android e-reader combo

<http://1crosstech.com> is showing a cool looking combination of a 6" e-ink e-reader on one side, with a 3.2" HVGA Android LCD on the other side, and also with a touch panel keyboard input and a whole bunch more hardware features.

Released at: ARMdevices.net

Read an E-Book Week 2010 is on!

Read an E-Book Week has begun for 2010, and this year promises to outdo all previous years by an order of magnitude. Rita Toews has been working her butt off, interviewing for periodicals and blogs, contacting and drawing in new participants and promoters and twittering until her fingers are hoarse!

As the list of partners and promoters of e-books has grown, the number of participating authors and publishers has increased enormously. On Smashwords, over 3,000 authors will participate in the promotional event. Blio, QBook, Diesel E-Books and Sylvan Dell Publishing have joined most recently. The event has been mentioned as far away as Poland and England and as close to home as the Huffington Post. And the exposure to e-books being created by the soon-to-be-released iPad is drawing even more interested parties in.

This is your chance as well, to get out there and promote e-books to those who may not have tried them, or wonder what the hoopla is all about. If you have a reading device, show it off. If someone has questions about how and where to buy, elucidate them. If someone is looking for new reads, tell them about some of the independents you've discovered, or the classics you've rediscovered, through e-books. And, of course, find some new authors and reads of your own!

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