

The cost of mobility is RM119

Instant information and reply? Priceless

■ Khaw Chia Hui



Just like in *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, 42 is the answer to the ultimate question of life, the universe, and everything, 119 is the answer to mobility via a notebook.

True mobility lies in being able to be connected anywhere, anytime with the devices at hand. Some users prefer to be connected completely via their mobile phone while others would choose to use either a NetBook or a notebook. If you are one of those users who prefer lugging around a notebook due to work requirements, why not check out Celcom's notebook deal?

What's the deal?

In this package, you'll be getting a HP Compaq CQ40, free USB Stick and Celcom Broadband Basic subscription for 12 months. What's the catch, you ask? The catch is that for the first year, you'll be paying RM119 monthly and subsequently for the following 12 months, you need to pay an additional RM68 or RM98, depending on the broadband package you want.

A quick math would reveal that you'll be paying RM153 on average per month over a period of 24 months. After 12 months of free broadband access, you can choose to stick to the Basic plan which is priced at RM68 monthly and providing a downlink of 384Kbps. Users could also upgrade to the Advance plan at RM98 monthly for a downlink of 3.6Mbps.

For those who aren't familiar with the HP Compaq CQ40, it's powered by an Intel Pentium Dual Core T4200 2GHz processor with 800MHz FSB and 1MB L2 cache. It also comes with a 250GB 5400 rpm HDD, Altec Lansing audio, DVD RW with Lightscribe, 6-cell battery and one-year warranty.

As for connectivity and ports, you can find three USB 2.0, HDMI, RJ-1, RJ-45, VGA, audio, mic, webcam and a 5-in-1 card reader. Estimated market price would be RM2,199 with Windows Vista Home Basic thrown in. To claim your warranty, you can present your notebook with its warranty card at any HP service centre. As for the modem, you can present it to any Celcom

nominated service centers as highlighted in the warranty card for a new one as long as it's under the warranty period.

Savings made

Now, all these offerings and gadgets sounded great, but will you be spending more in the end? Let's have a look at what kind of savings you stand to make. Firstly, the notebook is sold for RM2,199 and the modem will cost you RM249. Basic plan subscription for 24 months will add up to RM1,632 and that will total up to RM4,080. The total savings customers would enjoy with the Celcom deal is RM408.

Network and service competency

According to Kevin Henry, VP, Head of Business Innovation Division, Celcom has upgraded 160 sites, mostly in the Klang Valley to 7.2Mbps. It means that the network is able to take on more users without compromising on quality and experience. Q1 2009, Celcom exceeded 300K net active monthly unlimited subscribers for their mobile broadband and their daily unlimited subscribers exceeds 100K requests per month.

As for customer service, Kevin Henry said that Celcom is the only telco that is actively sending out a team to act on customer complaints. He advised customers to make sure that they are buying original modems from dealers. The original USB Stick has an imprinted Celcom Broadband and Vodafone logo.

If you are interested in any of the Celcom packages, log on to www.celcom.com.my, visit any Celcom dealers or Blue Cube stores for more information. **MW**



■ Kevin Henry, VP, Head of Business Innovation Division of Celcom (Malaysia) Berhad