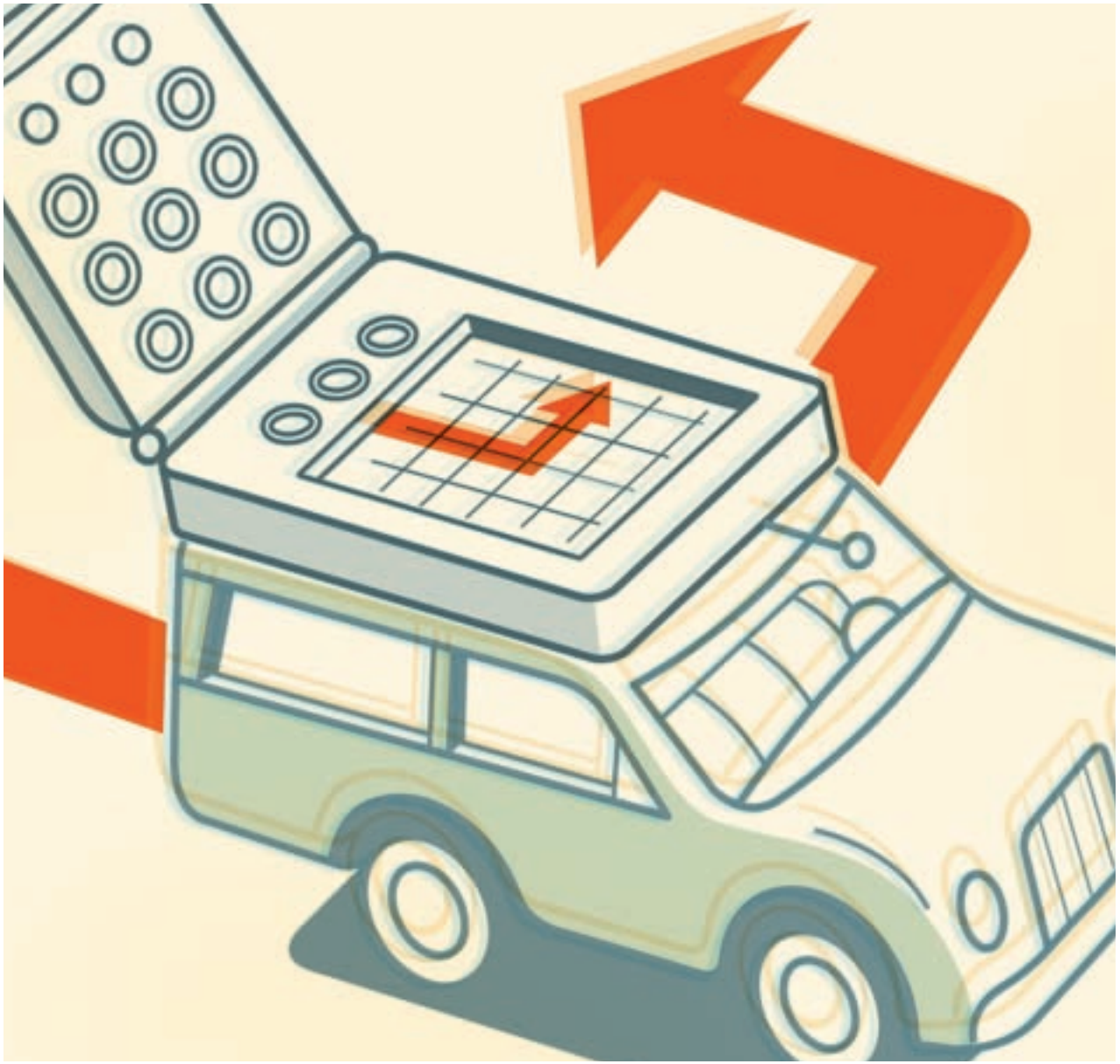

Wireless Devices

Your smart phone is smarter than you think.

BY JAMES A. MARTIN
ILLUSTRATIONS BY HARRY CAMPBELL

FROM FINDING the nearest Italian restaurant to letting you share video—while you're shooting it, no less—there's a lot you can do with that wireless phone in your hand.

Finding Your Way

Get directions and traffic on your GPS phone. More and more wireless handsets come with Global Positioning System (GPS) receivers and mapping software built in. You can use your GPS phone to find your current location on a map and get turn-by-turn, voice-prompted directions to one or more destinations. Most carriers provide navigation and traffic updates for GPS-enabled handsets for an extra fee of about $10 monthly. Verizon's VZ Navigator service can be used as needed for $3 daily (find.pcworld.com/57591). Some carriers also deliver real-time traffic updates to cell phone maps for an additional fee. Example: Verizon offers MapQuest Traffic for $3 per »

month (find.pcworld.com/57592).

Add GPS to your phone. If your phone doesn't have built-in GPS mapping support, you may still be able to add it. Garmin's compact, easy-to-use Mobile 10 GPS receiver ($200), for example, works with cell phones, PDAs, and laptops via Bluetooth connection (find.pcworld.com/57593). No monthly fees are required, and the GPS service doesn't eat into a monthly data plan, as do services offered by the wireless carriers. Sprint and Nextel subscribers can get traffic updates and other information using the Mobile 10 for $10 monthly.

Get directions without GPS. You don't even need GPS on your phone to get directions and traffic updates with Google's free Google Maps for Windows Mobile and Palm Treo wireless handhelds (find.pcworld.com/57598). Another option: MapQuest for Mobile Web is a free service that provides directions and maps to your smart phone's Web browser (go to www.mapquest.com on your cell phone).

Find out what's nearby. Many of the GPS mapping services and software for wireless handhelds also provide "points of interest" information, including the names and phone numbers of nearby businesses. The free Google Maps program for wireless handsets has a "find nearby business" feature. Earthcomber (find.pcworld.com/57600) provides free downloadable handheld maps for locating nearby restaurants, entertainment, Wi-Fi hot spots, and more.

Get the restaurant scoop. Windows Mobile and Palm OS versions of the popular Zagat's restaurant guides are $30 for an annual subscription (mobile.zagat.com).

» tip

Looking for a full-size PDA keyboard with staying power? Belkin's Wireless PDA Keyboard ($60, find.pcworld.com/57613) uses dual-beam infrared technology and will work with future PDA devices via driver updates.

Dictate and Transcribe Text

Ever had a brilliant idea on the go? **Dragon NaturallySpeaking 9 Preferred** ($200, nuance.com/naturallyspeaking) speech recognition software for PCs includes a utility for some supported Windows Mobile and Palm devices. The utility enables you to record audio on the device, the software then transcribes your voice into written text after you synchronize with your PC. The application supports the Palm LifeDrive, and some HP and Dell handhelds, too.

Talking, Your Way

Use a laptop or compact USB-connected phone to make inexpensive calls with Skype and any broadband connection. One option is Sony's VAIO Mouse Talk, a combination compact phone/mouse ($80, find.pcworld.com/57602). Vonage's V-Phone ($40, find.pcworld.com/57603) is a USB flash device with Vonage's Talk software preloaded, so you can make and receive calls on your laptop; it comes with an earpiece/microphone.

Use your wireless handset for Skype calls. Want to make and receive free/low-cost Skype calls on the go? All you need is free Skype software on a Wi-Fi handheld, such as a Windows Mobile or Pocket PC device, and a mic/headset. Download it at find.pcworld.com/57604.

Get free directory assistance. Send a text message to Google at #46645 to receive phone numbers and nearby business listings. Example: Send Google a text message with 'Pizza 90210' and the service will return a text message listing pizza joints in Beverly Hills. ●

» tip

Want to switch cell phone carriers? Start by checking your potential carrier's coverage maps at DeadCellZones.com and Mobiledia (cellreception.com).

Wireless Handheld Video

- Forget to program your **TiVo** before hitting the road? Verizon subscribers can schedule TiVo recordings from compatible handsets for $3 monthly (find.pcworld.com/57609).
- Share with your friends video shot on your cell phone—while you're still shooting it—with **AT&T Video Share** (attvideoshare.com). Both of the phones involved must be 3G enabled and in 3G coverage areas.

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