

Home Page

World

U.S.

Weather

Business at CNNMONEY

Sports at SI.com

Politics

Law

Technology

Science & Space

Health

Entertainment

Travel

Education

Special Reports

SERVICES

Video

E-mail Services

CNNtoGO

Contact Us

SEARCH

Web CNN.com

Powered by YAHOO! search

TECHNOLOGY

Wanted: New friend, must have Bluetooth

Wednesday, June 23, 2004 Posted: 11:49 AM EDT (1549 GMT)

SINGAPORE (Reuters) -- Student Gracina Lim has made new friends thanks to mobile phone software that alerts her to compatible people nearby.

She is an early customer of a service in Singapore called BEDD that uses Bluetooth wireless communications to scan strangers' phones for their personal profiles.

The application joins a swelling number of Internet and mobile phone based services that offer to widen people's social networks.

Users download the BEDD software into a compatible phone, complete a short profile of themselves and include a description of who they want to befriend, or an item they want to buy or sell.

The software automatically searches for and exchanges profiles with other phones that come within a 20-metre (65 ft) radius. Matched users are given each other's contact details.

"I've become close with people that I've never known before, built up a close clique of friends whom I chill out with, sleep over at their homes and go for late suppers with," said Lim, 19.

The software, created by futures trader Stephen Carlton and Swedish engineer Olle Bliding about three years ago, was launched last month in Singapore and will be rolled out in most of Asia by year-end. It costs S\$0.98 (\$0.571) for 30 days of unlimited use.

BEDD differs from rival services in that it relies on phone-to-phone transmission, running on the short-range Bluetooth technology.

Other mobile-based dating services in Asia -- such as Singapore Telecommunications Ltd's MyCupid and Bharti Airtel of India's TrackUrMate -- exchange information through a central database. Carlton said BEDD has over 1,000 users in the city state and hosts get-togethers in coffee bars where people let their phones make their introductions. As the number of customers grows, the chances of meeting a compatible person at random in the street or on a bus will grow.



Search Jobs MORE OPTIONS

careerbuilder.com

YOUR E-MAIL ALERTS

Singapore

Telecommunications Equipment

Telecommunications Services

or [Create your own](#)

[Manage alerts](#) | [What is this?](#)

"People spend tons of money at dating and matchmaking agencies or on personal ads - for a small amount of money, this software could help change their lives," Carlton said.

Copyright 2004 [Reuters](#). All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed.

Story Tools

advertisement

[Click Here to try 4 Free Trial Issues of Time!](#)



TECHNOLOGY

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

[Lawmakers take aim at virtual violence](#)



- [Are remotes out of control?](#)
- [IBM begins testing supercharged barcodes](#)
- [What effects do violent games really have](#)

TOP STORIES

CNN.com HOME PAGE

[Iraq postpones amnesty announcement](#)



- [Kerry camp denies he's picked a running mate](#)
- [U.S. military orders families to leave Bahrain](#)
- [Mom, daughter serve together in Iraq](#)

[International Edition](#)

[CNN TV](#)

[CNN International](#)

[Headline News](#)

[Transcripts](#)

[Preferences](#)

[About CNN.com](#)

[SEARCH The Web](#)

[CNN.com](#)

Powered by **YAHOO!** search

© 2004 Cable News Network LP, LLLP.

A Time Warner Company. All Rights Reserved.

[Terms](#) under which this service is provided to you.

Read our [privacy guidelines](#). [Contact us](#).



All external sites will open in a new browser. CNN.com does not endorse external sites.



Denotes premium content.