

## **Welcome to the open source cell phone**

Would you pay \$400 for a handful of microchips and, armed with only a circuit diagram, build your own cell phone? With elegant, powerful phones already on sale for a fraction of the price it's not something that will appeal to many.

Yet despite the cost and inconvenience, a growing group of techies are attempting to build the first practical home-made cell phones. They hope to spark greater innovation in cell phone design and, more crucially, in the software that makes the phones work. Their aim is to develop a critical mass of free software that will lead to a flowering of new cell phone applications. Some foresee phones acting as affordable hand-held computers running novel applications tailored to the needs of the developing world.

The movement is riding on the back of a burgeoning market in wireless devices for machine-to-machine communication. These devices are, in effect, stripped-down cell phones, and a typical application combines ...

The complete article is 1483 words long.