A Phone For the Cloud-Based Future?

Written by Marco Attard
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Motorola's Atrix looks like an impressive phone-- and a potential stepping stone towards a cloud-based future.

What makes the Android 2.2 set unique are the 2 docks, which can turn the smartphone into either a mobile PC (the dock connects to a display, keyboard and mouse) or a laptop (complete with 11.6" screen).

Through a Webtop app the docked phone produces a Linux-based windowed UI (with Mac OSX-style application dock) with a full version of Firefox, Flash 10.1 support, file manager and Citrix remote desktop support.

Through Citrix Receiver, users can log into their employer-provided Windows virtual desktop-- pointing at a near future where smartphones act as cloud computing bridge devices.

The Webtop app also maintains its state between sessions, meaning one can undock the phone any time and continue working on the phone itself or on another dock.

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