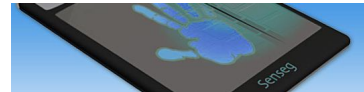


The Next Touch in Displays is Sensational. Really.

Written by Bob Snyder
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Sure, you can touch a screen but is that all there is? Finnish researchers think not. What's the point of touching if you can't feel? And that leads us to **tactile technology**.

Users can slide their fingertip across a button on the display of a device like the iPod touch. They felt a slight "catch" as if their finger had hit an actual button. The touchpad display had regions marked "brush," "rough," and "bumpy" indicating different sensations.



That demo of new tactile technology was shown at the *Embedded Systems Expo & Conference* by a joint venture between **Senseg Oy and Toshiba Info Systems Corp.**

The device simulates tactile sensations by varying the intensity and frequency of weak electric fields on mounted film between touch panel and display cover. The film is expected to be produced very inexpensively, selling for 9 to 18 euro cents apiece. Notebooks, tablet and other devices may come out during the first half of 2011 and cell phones are anticipated after mid 2011 .

Apparently there are no limitations to the size of the film and the technique is break-resistant and noiseless. So expect digital signage displays and kiosks to follow this path of upgrade from touch to feel.

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