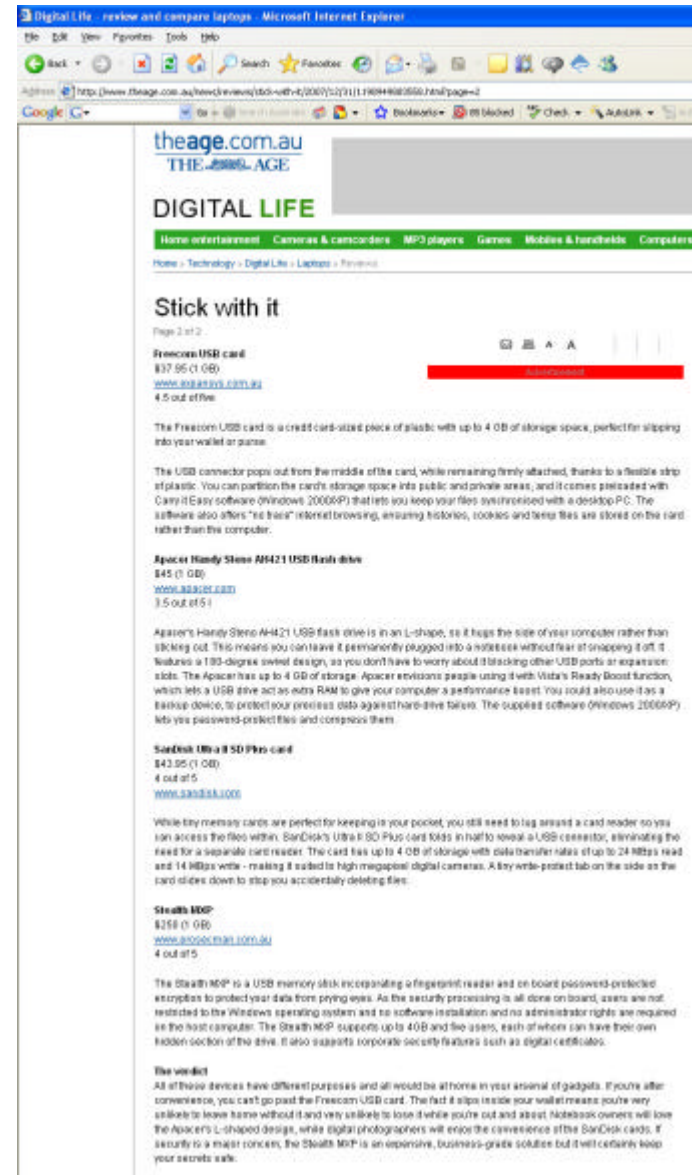


## Product : USB flash drive\_AH421

<http://www.theage.com.au/news/reviews/stick-with-it/2007/12/31/1198949883558.html?page=2>



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### Stick with it

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**Freecom USB card**  
\$37.95 (1 GB)  
[www.freecom.com.au](http://www.freecom.com.au)  
4.5 out of five

The Freecom USB card is a credit card-sized piece of plastic with up to 4 GB of storage space, perfect for slipping into your wallet or purse.

The USB connector pops out from the middle of the card, while remaining firmly attached, thanks to a flexible strip of plastic. You can partition the card's storage space into public and private areas, and it comes preloaded with Carry It Easy software (Windows 2000/XP) that lets you keep your files synchronised with a desktop PC. The software also offers "no trace" internet browsing, ensuring histories, cookies and temp files are stored on the card rather than the computer.

**Apacer Ready Store AH421 USB flash drive**  
\$45 (1 GB)  
[www.apacer.com](http://www.apacer.com)  
3.5 out of 5

Apacer's Ready Store AH421 USB flash drive is in an L-shape, so it hugs the side of your computer rather than sticking out. This means you can leave it permanently plugged into a socket without fear of snapping it off. It features a 130-degree swivel design, so you don't have to worry about it blocking other USB ports or expansion slots. The Apacer has up to 4 GB of storage. Apacer envisions people using it with Vista's Ready Boost function, which lets a USB drive act as extra RAM to give your computer a performance boost. You could also use it as a backup device, to protect your precious data against hard-drive failure. The supplied software (Windows 2000/XP) lets you password-protect files and compress them.

**SanDisk Ultra II SD Plus card**  
\$43.95 (1 GB)  
4 out of 5  
[www.sandisk.com](http://www.sandisk.com)

While tiny memory cards are perfect for keeping in your pocket, you still need to lug around a card reader so you can access the files within. SanDisk's Ultra II SD Plus card folds in half to reveal a USB connector, eliminating the need for a separate card reader. The card has up to 4 GB of storage with data transfer rates of up to 24 MB/s read and 14 MB/s write - making it suited to high megapixel digital cameras. A key-write-protect tab on the side on the card slides down to stop you accidentally deleting files.

**Stealth MFP**  
\$259 (1 GB)  
[www.apacer.com.au](http://www.apacer.com.au)  
4 out of 5

The Stealth MFP is a USB memory stick incorporating a fingerprint reader and on-board password-protected encryption to protect your data from prying eyes. As the security processing is all done on-board, users are not restricted to the Windows operating system and no software installation and no administrator rights are required on the host computer. The Stealth MFP supports up to 4GB and five users, each of whom can have their own hidden section of the drive. It also supports corporate security features such as digital certificates.

**The verdict**  
All of these devices have different purposes and all would be at home in your arsenal of gadgets. If you're after convenience, you can't go past the Freecom USB card. The fact it slips inside your wallet means you're very unlikely to leave home without it and very unlikely to lose it while you're out and about. Notebook owners will love the Apacer's L-shaped design, while digital photographers will enjoy the convenience of the SanDisk cards. If security is a major concern, the Stealth MFP is an expensive, business-grade solution but it will certainly keep your secrets safe.