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South African wins developer award

A local programmer has become South Africa's first BlackBerry App Master for a software application known as Salon Queen that has been developed for the PlayBook tablet and allows hairdressers to show consumers what they will look like with a new hair style.

Joe Diedericks of Pretoria developed the application specifically for the PlayBook but he says it can be adapted to any other platform. It uses key features of the tablet computer including e-mail, the camera and calendar and creates what he calls "an enriched business tool" that can be used by any salon.

Diedericks' prize for winning the title includes being given a free PlayBook and an all-expenses-paid trip to San Francisco in October to attend the BlackBerry Developers' Conference.

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