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Leave them games alone

I wouldn't normally touch a politically-charged topic with a ten-foot barge pole, because I'd rather not play in the muck and get my hands dirty. However, thanks to Electronics Arts (EA), the UK defense secretary and an upcoming game called Medal of Honor, a lot of us find ourselves having to form an opinion on the subject. I figured I'd share mine with you.

For those who don't even know what I'm talking about, Medal of Honor has been in the news recently because of one simple fact – the game allows you to choose sides in the Afghan war... so basically, you can choose to play as the Taliban and fight against the western soldiers.

EA, to its credit, has done a lot of research for this game, and even hired ex-special forces members to ensure that there's a lot more "reality" to the gameplay and the visuals. However, the company has come under a lot of flak for the aforementioned feature, especially from UK Defence Secretary, Liam Fox, who is urging British game retailers to ban the game on UK shores, saying that it's just shameful and un-British.

Now I'm not saying EA is completely innocent here, and maybe they really should have avoided choosing an ongoing war as the setting, and instead, based their game in WWII or Vietnam or the future, like every other good little game publishing company. But those old wars aren't controversial, and don't get you any publicity, do they?

EA's take on the whole matter is that if someone's a cop, then someone else has to play the robber. They're saying that setting the game in Afghanistan was an "artistic choice", but perhaps it was more of a marketing decision to capitalise on a sensitive topic. EA's not the only one of course; so many books and movies have been based on the same topic in the last few years that it's hard to keep count.

What I'd like to know is how come no one cribs about a little game called Counter-Strike (CS). With so many countries suffering terrorist attacks, why is no one is up in arms to ban a game that expects one team to play as terrorists and blow up a bomb? Where are all the politicians that claim to be acting in the interests of the grieving family members of 9/11, or our

very own 26/11? Is there no real publicity to be gained from boycotting a 11-year old game, even if millions still play it? How come it's OK for similar shoot-em-up games to be used as a recruitment tool, as in the case of the game America's Army?

What's the message we're sending to the world here? It's OK to shoot, blow-up, kill, maim and massacre humans in a game, so long as it's bad guys you're doing all that to? Bad guys are defined by the country you live in and the politics you follow, but in games, we have no hatred for the bad guys. They're just obstacles to overcome in order to beat the game. Why can't we just leave well-enough alone?

IRS 2010 report

I also wanted to share some important news with you. The latest Indian Readership Survey (IRS) 2010 results are out. IRS is the largest and most comprehensive independent survey for all print publications in India. As per the latest report, amongst the top 20 English magazines published in India, Digit is the fastest growing. Digit is also amongst the top 10 monthly English magazines in India, and no other technology magazine features amongst the top 20.

This is a very proud achievement for every member of Team Digit. We promise to steadily improve every aspect of this magazine, and find ways to be even more beneficial to the Digit community. With your continued support, we're confident of doing even better in the months and years to come. Please keep the suggestions and feedback flowing in, and help us reach out to even more people than before by recommending your favourite magazine to your friends. Team Digit would like to sincerely thank each and every one of you for being the greatest set of readers that other magazines can only dream of having... **d**



Robert Sovereign-Smith
Executive Editor

"With so many countries suffering terrorist attacks, why is no one is up in arms to ban a game that expects one team to play as terrorists and blow up a bomb?"

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shawn Smith'.

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Published, Printed and Owned by Nine Dot Nine Interactive Pvt. Ltd. Published and printed on their behalf by Kanak Ghosh. Published at Plot No. 725 GES, Shirvane, Nerul, Navi Mumbai 400 706. Board line: 678 99 666 Fax: 678 99 667.

Printed at Silverpoint Press Pvt. Ltd, Plot No. A, 403, MIDC, TTC Industrial Area, Mahape, Navi Mumbai 400709.

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Buzz

All the latest news and happenings from around the web

LG's Windows Phone 7

Videos showing LG's LG E900 Windows Phone 7 appear on sites

✉ I'm a regular reader of Digit from Goa. I enjoy the Fast Tracks of Digit which I am sure is not available in any other magazine in the country. It is an added treat for us. I have a collection of almost all the Fast Tracks. I would really like to request for a few Fast Tracks from the Digit Team on topics like : Joomla!; Drupal; Software Testing (Manual and Automation); MS-SQL Server or MySQL; Dot Net. Would also love to see career based Fast Tracks on topics like Ethical Hacking, Information Security, Database Management, Networking etc. Hoping for a positive response from your side.

Rahul Samant

d We are glad that you enjoy our Fast Tracks and learn from them. We will definitely consider your suggestions. We suggest you to read the Fast Track to Ethical Hacking in our anniversary issue in June 2010. This month's Fast Track to making money from web services has elements of content management systems and we do hope to cover the whole gamut of options in the months to come to satisfy you on that front.

Nash

✉ I've been a Digit reader for a very long time now. I started reading the magazine back when I was in my first year of engineering and have been looking forward to each issue with great enthusiasm. The April 2009 edition of Digit, in my view, stands apart from the rest till now. The cover design was amazing. The introduction of the coloured edition of Fast Tracks definitely enhanced the quality of content and its readability. I have my own web site made entirely in PHP, which I learnt from Digit's Fast Track.

The DVD on HTML and CSS tutorials helped me design my site better. The product reviews every month have helped me keep myself abreast of all the new gadgets and how they fare in the market.

It was a very noble idea when you sent seeds along with the magazine in April. I have sowed them in a small pot in my balcony and have started to see something come out of the soil. But what really made me subscribe for Digit



August 2010

was the Digit CD (now the DVD). 16GB of software is really a handful. Good to know that you've shifted to a new place (and still found time to send me the speakers for my subscription). I wish you the best of luck. And, please pat 'Kareena' for me..

Vamsi Krishna Katta

d It's good to see your letter and more so to see that the Fast Tracks and DVDs have helped you with your work. We believe you will continue to benefit from all the information you receive in our product. We did pat Kareena and she quite enjoyed it

Team Digit

✉ I have been die-hard fan of Digit since the last two years. I have read each and every issue of Digit and that truly has changed a lot of my conceptions about the tech world and is still doing the same. I just came across your August issue and it was quite inspiring to read your editorial. Also the new initiative – Tech Kranti – is a wonderful idea.

Well, I have a suggestion. Why don't you help grow Tech Communities in schools and colleges? It would really help, I believe. I am currently pursuing my BCA degree from BIT, Mesra (Kolkata Extn.) and a certification in Cyber Laws from ILI, New Delhi. I would glad to be of any help in this regard.

Mudit Sethia

d We're glad that you like Tech Kranti. Please do send us your innovative ideas at techkranti@thinkdigit.com. We're always open to groups and communities in schools and college. We need help from people like yourself to do so. You can help us by creating a group in your college. Do keep us informed.

Robert

✉ I am a big fan of your magazine and I have been reading your magazine since its inception. First of all, I must say that your team is putting in lots of effort, to up the tech quotient in our lives. I really love all the tech articles which are very easy to understand. I do have a few suggestions for Digit though.

1. Please bring a new section called Open source and Linux technology where the readers can be only aware of the latest events coming in FOSS and other OSI technology.
2. Please start a column in which users can write some tech articles on any technology and share with the outside world.
3. Provide some Hindi songs in your DVD also so that we can also enjoy some Bollywood or Pop Indian music with every edition.
4. Try to add some articles on Oracle, Virus Development kit and last but not the least with web development like PHP, Android Operating system.

Game on!

Verizon has launched a gaming portal with Exent technologies with 1800 games

Playtouch

Kodak launched a pocket camcorder by the name Playtouch that is capable of recording 1080p videos

Inbox

Finally, I would like to congratulate you on moving to a new office. I would love to see a photograph of the new place in the upcoming issues.

Er. Anand Nayyar

d It is our constant endeavour to give the best content to our readers which will help you grow in the tech world. We had covered quite a few detailed articles regarding open source and the FOSS movement in the May and July 2010 issue. We keep covering open source technology in every issue. We will definitely give a thought to user generated content. The media content going in the DVDs is free to distribute and covered mostly under the Creative Commons license, specially in Playware DVD. We can't put Bollywood songs due to copyright issues, however every now and then Hindi songs are provided on the DVDs, the last one to have them was the July Playware DVD which had 4 songs by a band called Sifar. Keep looking out for articles on programming languages in our 'Tech @ Work' section.

Sambhav

✉ First of all congratulations for being the no.1 tech magazine in India. I am an eighth standard student from Kolkata and I just wanted to say that Digit has changed me to a great extent. I fell in love with Digit when I read it for the first time in my library 3 months back. From then, I bought previous issues of Digit from a year back and read them all. I read all your Fast Tracks, which are a great source of information. I have stopped using pirated goods and am focussed on using open source software where ever possible. I had to remove around 15 applications from my system as they were pirated.

In spite of the pirated version on Windows XP selling at Rs. 50, with a key, I opted for an original copy of Windows 7 from the market. Digit has inculcated this habit in me to not opt for pirated stuff. I am participating around two to three quiz programs and using all my tech knowledge to try and win them. I am considered the tech guru among my school friends. A major credit for all this goes to Digit.

Karan Shah

LETTER OF THE MONTH

✉ Digit has been a friend, a father, a mother, a confidante, a guardian to me. In a life troubled with many things (and yes I am being personal here), Digit has been a 'constant'. "Consumer Electronics" has always been my flare. And Digit fuelled that burning desire.

At 21 years old, I know what I am speaking now. I say consumer electronics consciously and not "I love technology" gibberish. I am a civil engineering student, and a profession I believe I understand. But electronic technology having touched every field there is, it's something that everybody ought to know today. Digit taught that to me and made me what I am today – an "aware buyer".

I upgraded our home computer, which we bought in 2000, in 2004 and then again in 2008. I started reading Digit since August 2003 and carried out the upgrade in June 2004 from the knowledge gathered through the magazine only via a trustworthy dealer (who was like an elder brother to me and a Digit follower too). That was a robust system. I am not going into details here. But that was a huge step in my confidence building. Something that ushered in my parents trusting my 'gadgets' gyaan. After all, I had handpicked the components

myself with model specific numbers, even firmware version numbers.

Whatever I am today, I owe a big part to you all. I have an emotional bonding with the team not just for the services meted out but people specific too. The Digit team has undergone major overhauls since the time I jumped onboard. I still cherish the old faces in the anniversary issues when I see the PDFs. Not to say the new guys are bad but I just want you to continue the tradition. Digit staff, I salute you!

I applaud the way you attend readers' enquiries, help solve them, cater to them, and respond to complaints & setbacks. No one does it better. I will just leave you saying – here is one guy who yearns for his monthly dose and will always be.

Abhirup Chaudhuri

d Thanks a lot for the wonderfully written letter. It just shows the amount of dedication you have put in while writing it and the impact Digit has had in your life. It is really humbling to know that Digit has remained a 'constant' in these 7 years. We promise to always keep providing you the best of content from the tech world.

Rossi

d Team Digit is really proud of you. Despite the tempting offer on a pirated copy, you did the ethically correct thing by buying an original copy. It is gestures by young readers like you, that really make our chests swell with pride. We would like to wish you all the very best in the quiz competitions you are participating and sincerely hope that you win them all. Rest assured of cutting edge content from our side.

Nimish

✉ Firstly I would like to congratulate the whole Digit family on completing 9 years. Belated Happy Birthday. I started reading the magazine since February 2010 and was wondering, how I did not discover this magazine before. It really boosts my tech gyaan. My favourite sec-

tions are QnA and product reviews. Is there any issue which will help me with assembling a system. A place where I can get all the latest prices and a list of components for assembling a PC and related tutorials. It would be really helpful to me.

Vishesh Tripathi

d We carry a section called "Price watch" in the Street smart section, for prices. "Killer rigs" contains our list of recommended components. We do have articles on how to assemble about once every two years, but perhaps it's time we did another. We hope you will find this month's Price watch more detailed and informed. You can write in to us or even email us at sos@thinkdigit.com for help.

Siddharth

TV show for 99 cents

Apple is in talks with media biggies to rent out TV shows at 99 cents for its Apple iTV, the Apple TV successor

Bulldozer and Bobcat

AMD unveiled the architecture of Bobcat, a low-power processor, and Bulldozer, a high-end processor expected in 2011

Intel buys McAfee! Why?

As most of you will have heard by now, Intel has bought McAfee for a whopping \$7.68 billion. What people really want to know though, is why?

Analysts and experts have been chattering about this, and believe that Intel's worried about security for all the millions of handheld devices they want to power. Although partly true, the real reason behind this buy is actually quite simple. It's a visionary move, because Intel knows that they want to offer, not just a secure handheld

platform but also the same on the desktop / laptop side. If a hardware company like Intel wants to start competing with others like it, a nice way of gaining an advantage is to offer innovations such as robustly secure platforms. The fact that Intel will soon be able to offer security solutions that are integrated from the lowest hardware architecture all the way up to the OS and App level is a plus, but they could have developed that in-house as well, and probably at a cheaper pricetag, but getting users to adopt that

would probably cost them far more. With McAfee already on so many millions of desktops, half the battle's won.

In fact Intel had previously worked on just this kind of hardware-assisted security, and called it vPro. It never took off though, probably because you had to pay extra to get a chip with vPro capabilities, and who really wanted that?

Now, however, with half the battle won, we expect a resurrection of vPro, maybe with a new monicker, and with McAfee's trusted software on top of it. **d**

BlackBerried?

The RIM debacle is certainly an interesting one, a debate that raises some rather difficult questions. India, Kuwait, Indonesia, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE, all want access to data originating from within their borders. Citing safety reasons in the light of recent terrorist activities, these governments are wary of the encrypted data being sent on BlackBerry (BB) servers, for services such as BlackBerry Messenger, e-mail, and other internet services. The demand is to get access to this data, or else face a ban! BB's deadline in India is fast approaching, and by the time you read this you'll already be aware of the outcome. Watch for updates on our site - www.thinkdigit.com/latest/BlackBerry_ban.html. **d**

Firefox 4 adds more

Mozilla has launched the fourth beta version for its popular Firefox 4 web browser with a host of features such as Panorama and Sync.

Panorama gives you a visual overview of all your tabs, which is a big help for those of you who work on many tabs simultaneously.

Additionally, Panorama also allows you to group tabs according to their genre, quite similar to creating folders in iOS4. Sync, which was previously available as a plugin is now built into the browser. This allows you to save your bookmarks, passwords and history across multiple computers or mobile devices.

To use Sync, you have to create an account. However, Firefox Sync encrypts all of your data before sending it to the server so you can rest assured that it is not going to be misused and that your data is safe. **d**

Dell Thunder

The Dell Thunder is one of the company's upcoming smartphones based on the Android platform. Currently running on Android 2.1, the Thunder will probably ship with Android 2.2, or FroYo, when it releases. It is expected to hit the market in Q4 2010,



or Q1 2011. The latest pictures, video, and information leaked give us a rough idea of the the phone's rather impressive multimedia specifications, which include a 4.1-inch OLED screen with a 800x480 resolution, an 8MP camera with LED flash, and 720p HD video recording. **d**

Many personas...

How many times have you deleted certain risky photos on your Orkut profile or cleared expletives in your 'About Me', the moment your Dad, Mom or your boss added you as a friend? You may be wondering, why can't you be different personalities on your social network as you are in real life?

Keeping this in mind, Google has introduced a new feature in Orkut which allows you to group your friends in a way that your communication with a particular group can be set to private. Also the option to send multiple scraps is available. The different groups are visible in the form of horizontal tabs on the homepage. **d**

Sony's PSP 2?

A source within Sony has claimed that Sony Ericsson has in fact been actively developing the much rumoured PSP Phone or PSP2 for sometime now, and its production might be around the corner.

The hardware will apparently be "a cross between the Samsung Captivate [horizontal slider] and the PSP Go". It will be Android 3.0-based, and feature analog controls in the form of a "long touch pad", regular PSP buttons, a 5 MP camera, 1 GHz Snapdragon processor, as well as a large display that is anywhere between 3.7 and 4.1 inches. As for looks, the prototype is "mostly black with some silver highlights, and the gamepad area is white / silver in color."

This 'PSP 2' will reportedly have access to a special games section at the Android Market, and will supposedly release by October this year. **d**



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Conditions Apply*

RIM acquires Cellmania

BlackBerry developer RIM has acquired Cellmania, an apps storefront, in a move to boost its Blackberry App World

Blu-ray on ASUS laptops

ASUS has announced its N series of laptops N53JN and N73JN having Blu-ray drives and SonicMaster sound technology

iPhone users are luckier?

OkCupid, an American dating site, claims to have generated statistical information that shows iPhone users have twice as much sex as Android users. It claims this after correlating information from over half a million profile images uploaded on the site, and the 11.4 million responses generated by them. Are you confused by the link between someone's sex life and the camera used to take his or her profile picture? It's OK, so are we.

You can read our take on all their stats at <http://bit.ly/bR9ONa>. Basically, OkCupid asked users to choose the more attractive of two randomly paired

profile pictures. Then with EXIF data in hand, they judged which cameras take more attractive pictures, and somehow drew conclusions as to which users get luckier.

It's still pretty unclear to everyone how they arrived at their conclusions, and no one cares – well except the iPhone users who will now start flaunting their devices even more in the hope of getting luckier. What we want to know from you is, living in conservative India, does this mean that all you girls out there are going to start avoiding men with iPhones? What with them being supposedly more promiscuous and all that...**d**

Oracle sues Google for using Java in Android

Everyone knows that Google's Android OS and Dalvik virtual machine are based solidly on the Java platform. Oracle, the owner of the copyright and patent when it bought Sun Microsystems, is accusing Google of violating seven patents, as well as direct duplication of Sun's original Java code.

Oracle's lawsuit is especially interesting, as it says that Google has known about these infringements for the

past five years, and has "knowingly, willingly, and unlawfully" copied, published and distributed its Java-related IP. What makes things even more intriguing is that Google's CEO, Eric Schmidt, was a former leader of the Java team as an employee of Sun. So if Oracle hasn't done anything about this for so long, it stands to reason that relationship between the two companies has broken. It now looks as if the software giant is seeking an injunction to stop the search giant from building or distributing the Android OS. While we are sure the litigation will be lengthy if the issue actually sees the inside of a courtroom, a settlement is much more likely. **d**



Sprint Champs

Sprint sure is on the connectivity war path, offering its second 4G capable smartphone in less than 3 months. The HTC EVO 4G, released on June 4th, received rave reviews but also suffered from some hardware and software bugs. The latest, Epic 4G (also known as Galaxy S Pro) will release on August 31st for \$249.99 (2-year contract plus \$100 mail-in rebate).

The Epic 4G is part of Samsung's Galaxy S family of phones, which recently gave rise to numerous not too dissimilar models in the American market, each for a different carrier, including the Captivate (AT&T), Vibrant (T-Mobile), and

Fascinate (Verizon Wireless – not yet released). While the form of each phone is slightly different, the underlying specifications remain the same, such as the 1GHz Hummingbird processor, the Super AMOLED screen, and the Android 2.1 OS with the latest Samsung TouchWiz 3.0 UI. The Epic 4G is the only one with a hardware QWERTY keypad and an LED flash.

The hardware QWERTY on the Epic 4G is a big plus; though the 8MP camera on the EVO 4G will surely give the HTC device an edge. The EVO 4G is cheaper by \$50, and sports Android 2.2, while the Epic 4G, will still have the older Android 2.1 OS. **d**

Facebook beats Orkut in India

Although Orkut witnessed significant growth in countries such as Brazil and India, recent statistics by major research firm comScore shows that Facebook has taken the throne from Orkut in India. Facebook usage rose by 179 per cent as compared to last year while Orkut did a meagre 16 per cent. **d**

AMD's latest offering

AMD has revealed details about the new 32-nm Bulldozer processor expected in 2011. It's believed to be built ground up – something AMD hasn't done since 2003 when they launched the Athlon 64. AMD also launched the new Bobcat claimed to operate in under a single watt of power with 90 per cent increased performance than current notebook processors. **d**

Open Dis-pleasure

Oracle's recent takeover of Sun got them properties such as OpenSolaris. However, there has been clear displeasure after memos by an Oracle employee stated that they had no interest in further development of the OS. A plan of creating a binary-only version of Solaris Express was put forward. The OpenSolaris Governing Board (OGB) has decided to dissolve and return all control rights to Oracle. Others have expressed unhappiness towards Oracle's handling of OpenSolaris. Adobe's top open source haunch has called Oracle the new enemy of open source, and that Oracle sees open source as a cash cow.

All hope isn't lost though; former employees of Sun and Oracle have started a separate project called Illumos (www.Illumos.org). Illumos is a variant based on OpenSolaris. **d**



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RIM debuts BlackBerry OS 6 on flagship touchscreen BlackBerry Torch

RIM has released its answer to rising smartphone competitors, the iPhone and the Android platform, in a brand new device known as the Torch. It is a 3G-capable multi-touch slider with a better multimedia and social-networking capabilities in a “visual, fluid interface”. The Torch also happens to be the elusive BlackBerry 9800 Bold that had been spotted on numerous occasions.

“Following extensive research and development to address consumer needs and wants, we are delivering a communications, browsing and multimedia experience that we think users will love, and we are thrilled to debut BlackBerry 6 OS on the amazing new BlackBerry Torch smartphone.” A RIM spokesman commented on the



phone's release. It is releasing exclusively on AT&T.

The BlackBerry Torch's specifications include: 624MHz Marvell processor; slider-QWERTY,

3.2-inch multi-touch capacitive touchscreen with a 480x360 resolution, 5MP camera, 512 MB RAM, 512 MB ROM, 4GB internal storage, expandable storage up to 32GB and a 1300 mAh battery that offers 5.5 hours of talk time and 432 hours of standby time.

The new BlackBerry 6 OS will bring universal search, better multimedia capabilities including Wi-Fi Music Sync, new camera modes, a new podcasts application, WebKit-based HTML5 supporting browser, and social network/instant messaging unified inbox features to BlackBerry.

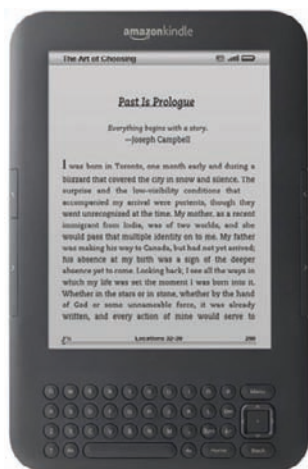
RIM has also announced which current models will receive upgrades, “subject to carrier certifications in the months ahead”: Pearl 3G, Bold 9650, and Bold 9700.

As an all-out business phone,

it wouldn't be fair to compare the BlackBerry Torch to an iPhone 4 or any modern Android device, but if one did, the most obvious disadvantage the Torch has is the lack of apps/games in BlackBerry App World, which are available in their thousands at the Android Market and Apple App Store.

Another disadvantage in the sphere of multimedia and apps is the lack of internal memory and a substantial battery life. The lack of a front-facing camera is questionable, as is the lack of HDMI output, though the phone does play quite a few video formats, such as MP4, WMV, H.263 and H.264.

RIM has taken the more difficult path, competing against established players in the media and apps world. Last heard, it knocked off \$100 off its retail price due to low sales. **d**



If a price drop from \$259 to \$189 was not enough to convince you to buy the new 3G+Wi-Fi 6-inch Kindle, maybe this news might.

Amazon launches cheaper Wi-Fi-only Kindle 3, for \$139

Amazon has released a Wi-Fi-only version of the 6-inch Kindle, which costs a whole \$50 less, at \$139. In some places (read India), 3G option won't make much of a difference, not for a while now.

This move, like the first massive price drop, is in obvious response to new e-reader products being introduced by Amazon's competition, very specifically Barnes & Nobles' just released Wi-Fi only Nook,

which is priced at \$149. Amazon is definitely trying to keep a price advantage here, also pricing its 3G+Wi-Fi version for \$10 less than the \$199 3G Nook. It will release on August 27th in the US and UK.

Amazon also revealed that the Kindle will be available in white and graphite colours. You might be wondering how Kindle 3 is better than its predecessor, the Kindle 2. Well, it has a better contrast e-ink technology, twice

the storage at 4GB (now capable of storing 3,500 books), and, it is 17 per cent lighter, 20 per cent faster, and 21 per cent thinner.

Jeff Bezos, Amazon's CEO, made it quite clear that Apple iPad was not the Kindle's direct competition. Kindle's main focus is to deliver high quality e-text.

“It is distracting rather than enhancing. You are not going to improve Hemingway by adding video snippets,” he said in one interview. **d**

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Qualcomm's display plant

Qualcomm Inc. plans to invest \$2 billion to build a display plant in Taiwan to tap the electronic readers market

Project Different Personas

Google plans to introduce a feature in Orkut whereby you can project different personas to different groups

HTC releases Desire and Wildfire smartphones in India



HTC Desire

HTC has released two of its Android 2.1 smartphones in India, the top-end HTC Desire and surprisingly affordable HTC Wildfire (also known as the Desire Mini), in partnership with Tata Docomo and Reliance Mobile respectively.

The HTC Desire is priced at Rs. 28,900, and is one of HTC's Android flagship phones, fea-

turing the Android 2.1 OS with HTC's acclaimed Sense UI, and a 1 GHz processor. We've been informed however that the HTC Desire being launched in India, will not feature the 3.7-inch AMOLED screen. We assume that means HTC will be using its SuperLCD screen technology instead, as it indicated in a statement about an AMOLED shortage earlier this month. According to HTC's CEO, Peter

HTC Desire specifications	
2G Network	GSM 850 / 900 / 1800 / 1900
3G Network	HSDPA 900 / 2100
Dimensions	119 x 60 x 11.9 mm
Weight	135 g
Display	3.7-inch SLCD capacitive touchscreen with WVGA (480 x 800 pixels) resolution @ 16M colours
Camera	5 MP, 2592 x 1944 pixels, autofocus, LED flash; video - WVGA (800x480 pixels) @ 15fps
Sensors	Accelerometer sensor for UI auto-rotate, proximity sensor for auto turn-off, optical trackpad
CPU	Qualcomm Snapdragon QSD8250 1 GHz processor
OS	Android OS, v2.1 (Eclair)
Memory	576 MB RAM; 512 MB ROM
Storage	microSD, up to 32GB, 4GB included
GPRS	Class 10 (4+1/3+2 slots), 32 - 48 kbps
EDGE	Class 10, 236.8 kbps
3G	HSDPA, 7.2 Mbps; HSUPA, 2 Mbps
Connectivity	Bluetooth v2.1 with A2DP, WiFi 802.11 b/g, microUSB v2.0
Radio	Stereo FM radio with RDS
Audio support	3.5 mm audio jack, MP3/AAC+/WAV/WMA9 formats
Video support	MP4/H.263/H.264/WMV9 formats
GPS	Yes, with A-GPS support
Java	Via third party application
Colours	Black, Brown, Silver
GPRS	Class 10 (4+1/3+2 slots), 32 - 48 kbps
Battery	Standard Li-Ion 1400 mAh; Standby Up to 340 h (2G) / Up to 360 h (3G); Talk time Up to 6 h 40 min (2G) / Up to 6 h 30 min (3G)

Chou, the new SLCD displays are meant to offer "exceptional colour clarity, high contrast ratio, wide viewing angles and enhanced power efficiency".

Reliance Mobile's HTC Wildfire is also an Android 2.1 phone with HTC's Sense UI, and is possibly the cheapest Android phone to date, at Rs. 16,590. A quad-band GSM phone, the Wildfire will give

users EDGE/GPRS 2G connectivity, apart from HSDPA 3G connectivity.

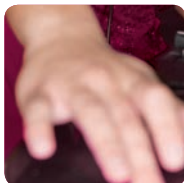
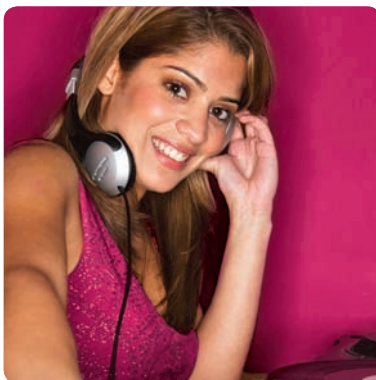
Wildfire has received rave reviews abroad, and it's an affordable Android phone that's powered by a 528 MHz Qualcomm processor, features 512 MB of RAM, a 5 MP camera, a large 3.2-inch 16M colour screen and a strong 1300 mAh battery. **d**

HTC Wildfire specifications	
2G Network	GSM 850 / 900 / 1800 / 1900
3G Network	HSDPA 900 / 2100
Dimensions	106.8 x 60.4 x 12 mm
Weight	118 g
Size	240 x 320 pixels, 3.2 inches, TFT capacitive touchscreen, 16M colours
Processor	Qualcomm MSM 7225 528 MHz processor
OS	Android OS, v2.1 (Eclair)
RAM	384 MB RAM; 512 MB ROM
Camera	5 MP, 2592 x 1944 pixels, autofocus, LED flash,
GPRS	Class 10 (4+1/3+2 slots), 32 - 48 kbps, smile detection, geo-tagging
EDGE	Class 10, 236.8 kbps
3G	HSDPA, 7.2 Mbps
Other connectivity	Bluetooth v2.1 with A2DP, Wi-Fi 802.11 b/g, microUSB v2.0
Battery	Standard battery, Li-Ion 1300 mAh
Stand-by	Up to 480 h (2G) / Up to 690 h (3G)
Talk time	Up to 7 h 20 min (2G) / Up to 8 h 10 min (3G)
Radio	Stereo FM radio with RDS
GPS	with A-GPS support
Audio support	3.5 mm audio jack, MP3/AAC+/WAV/WMA9 formats
Video support	MP4/H.263/H.264/WMV9 formats



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Multiple sign-in for Gmail

Google officially announced multiple sign-in feature for Gmail. You can now sign-in up to three accounts simultaneously

Filter spam

Blogger gets a brand new comment system that lets you filter spam with ease

Google Wave shuts down as Gmail gets a remake

At Google I/O 2009, the crowds cheered as Google unveiled Wave. This was supposed to be the future of communication. Now we hear Google is pulling the plug on this amazing project as they have not managed to garner the kind of adoption they anticipated.

Google had a great vision for Wave, which tried to incorporate all forms of communication that people tend to perform over the internet, email, instant messaging, collaboration on documents and other projects and even gaming. How do you integrate all this though, without making the system overly complicated to use? Google Wave tried to be everything at once, and was never simple enough to use for any. Google tried to promote it

as too much at once, and barely ever to the larger crowd that actually uses Gmail.

Using Wave meant you had to use an additional means of communication, since it was never ready to replace anything, so why would people switch? After a point the burden of using an additional means of communication just to reach a small group of people you know wasn't worth the features it came with.

What Google should have done instead is to make it easier for people to move to Wave. Not just with email notification, but by integrating email directly in Wave. Many more people would have been ready to switch to Wave if they could have used to send and receive email, while also getting the improved features while communicating with other with

After much hype last year, Google's ambitious communication suite – the Wave has been abandoned. There's word, however, of similar functionality on other Google products

Google accounts. It could gracefully degrade when dealing with non-Wave accounts while offering enhances features to the rest. We believe they might be giving up too fast.

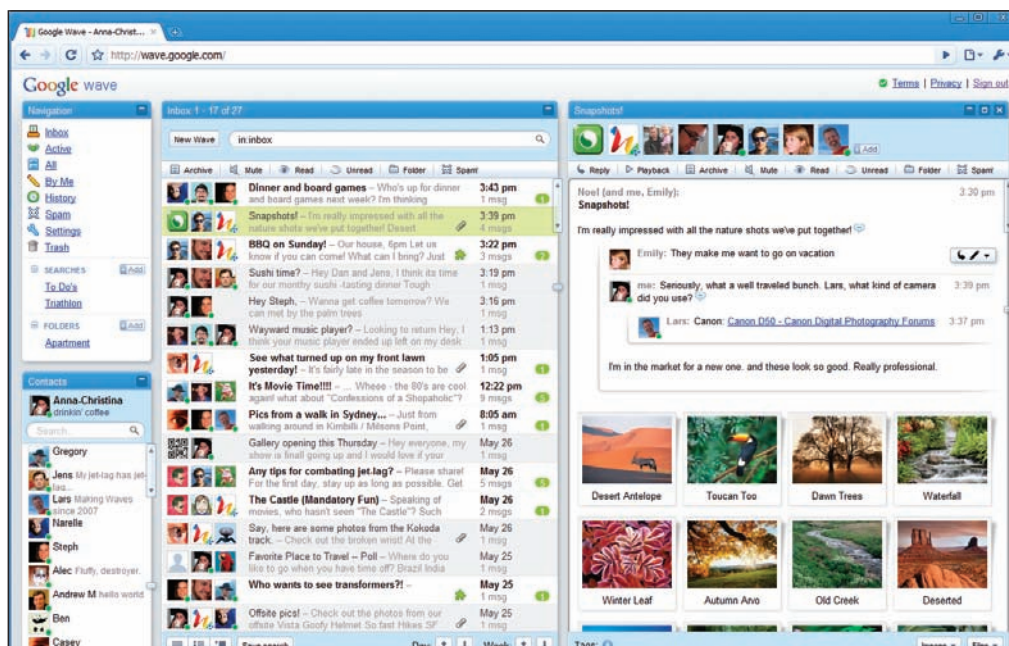
While Google Wave will only be maintained for this year, Wave's new features will live on in other Google products. Of course since Google Wave was open source, other servers and services providing the functionality can live on, and other companies can continue developing where Google will leave off.

GMail though continues to be the star performer it always

was, and Google has now done a major renovation of the interface. The new new interface makes Gmail look and behave even more like an application. The contacts manager has received a major overhaul and new has enhanced editing and merging features.

The changes aren't just in looks. Google has also been adding new functionality to Gmail recently. To give it an even better application-like feel, support for dragging and dropping attachments has been added. Earlier you could attach files to emails in Gmail by dragging them to the Gmail window; now you can also do the reverse, you can drag attached files from emails to any folder on your computer, to have them download there.

Finally, one of the major new features to be added, not only to Gmail, but quite a few other Google services as well, is multiple-account sign-in support. If you have multiple Google or Gmail accounts, you can now now be signed in to all of them simultaneously. Many Google applications will display a drop down which will allow you to select the account you want. This way you can switch between multiple accounts on the fly, and even have two Gmail accounts open in two tabs / windows of the same browser. **d**



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Age of Empires for Windows

Robot Entertainment announces Age of Empires MMO for Games for Windows

Ethical hacker publishes 100 million Facebook users' public information

A fifth of all 500 million Facebook user accounts were hacked by a security consultant, Ron Bowes, who wanted to prove how easy it still was to access user information. Using a 'piece of code' to scan and copy all data not hidden by 100 million users' privacy settings in Facebook's Directory, Bowes collected and uploaded it as a 2.79GB torrent for everyone to see. In other words, he managed to make public what was already public, and make it available in an indexed format. This does not seem very scary, but more on that later... For now, what does it contain?

User Profile URL, usernames (unique and by count), Processed lists (of first names

with count, last names with count, usernames with count, and more) and programs (used by Bowes generate the lists).

Not very philanthropic, Bowes isn't just showing how vulnerable Facebook is to such hacking, but is also taking things one step further by providing other, not so experienced hackers the perfect opportunity to use the data he has provided, which is ideal for many hacking techniques. Facebook isn't too concerned, claiming that the information that Bowes has 'stolen' is readily available anyway, and that no private data has been compromised, nothing that was kept in the 'Friends only'.

In other words, he succeeded in proving one of Facebook's security claims wrong –



Facebook user profiles cannot be indexed. Not only has Bowes made a whole bunch of indexed lists (by Unique ID and count), but he also went on to say: "So far, I have only indexed the searchable users, not their friends ... I'd like to tackle that in the future."

If you thought this data would be of little interest to anyone, think again. Although

it could just be employees, several major corporations were found downloading the torrents.

If you are starting to get spooked, this might be the perfect time to learn of Facebook's new faster account deletion feature which will allow you to terminate your account immediately instead of over weeks. **d**

Geolocation on Facebook, Places to Buzz

The web, especially the social web, is getting increasingly interested in your whereabouts. After "What are you doing?", it's now come to "What are you doing, and where are you doing it?"

Twitter added support for geolocation metadata in its tweets quite a while back, which could allow you to see tweets from people in areas around them. Google's Buzz also support metadata information in its messages, and can

show Buzz posts from users around you as a layer in Google Maps.

Facebook's take on geolocation, is called "Places". You can

use the feature with the iPhone via the Facebook iPhone app, or the <http://touch.facebook.com> web site if you have an HTML5 and geolocation capable phone,



and as we've come to expect, you need to be in the USA. There you shall see a "Places" option where you can tap the "Check In" button in order to see a list of nearby locations derived from your phone's GPS data. You can select the location you are at – or add it if it isn't already present – to have it posted on your wall.

Essentially, you can make a Facebook post which can include geodata and tag friends who are with you. Additionally you will be able to see an activity stream for each "Place". This makes "Places" or physical locations equivalent to Pages and Profiles, as points of activity. **d**

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Virgin India tie-up

Virgin India Mobile has tied up with app store GetJar offering its customers access to more than 70,000 mobile apps

WiMAX the key

Samsung believes WiMAX holds the key to faster roll-out of mobile internet access in India



Tablets and handhelds are in the news more than ever before. We got our hands on the latest threat to Apple's iPad



Olive Telecom unveils the OlivePad

Olive Telecom unveiled the OlivePad, an Android 2.1 3G tablet that's also a quad-band 2G phone. Dell Streak-like, the 7-inch smartphone/tablet is priced at Rs. 25,000 and will release in the "third week of August" in India. The company also announced the capacitive multi-touch tablet will be upgradeable to Android 2.2, FroYo, around October.

Calling the OlivePad VT-100 a "window to the world in your [largish] pocket", Olive Telecommunication has shown a will to compete with Apple in the handheld space, and Mr. Arun Khanna, Chairman of Olive Telecommunication, made several references to the iPad and the fruity computer giant as their chief competitors. We had a chance to play around with the 7-inch OlivePad, and got the impression that this is no empty boast, rather that the surprisingly sturdy and well-built OlivePad might be a serious Android contender in the tablet space, even supporting video calling over its 7.2Mbps HSUPA 3G connectivity, and access to more than "1 million free apps" in the Android Market.

Powered by an ARM11 600MHz processor, the OlivePad is based on the new Qualcomm MSM7227 chipset, and fea-

tures 512MB RAM, 512MB inbuilt flash memory, and microSD expandability up to 32GB, aside from a CMOS 3MP camera and webcam. It also has full Flash support, as well as WiFi (802.11b/g), Bluetooth 2.0 (EDR), and microUSB connectivity.

Supporting 720p video playback, the OlivePad has a 3.5-mm jack and offers good media features, playing the following formats: 3GP, MP4 AVI, and MP3. Weighing in a substantial 410 grams, the 7-inch tablet has dimensions of 110x11.5x179.4mm, and a 3240mAh Li-polymer battery that gives 16 hours of standby time, and 7 hours of talk time.

With inbuilt GPS, the OlivePad offers Google Maps and MapMyIndia navigation, and also has a gravity and ambient light sensor, apart from a compass and

Olive is focussing on catching up with leading phone and tablet manufacturers abroad, and will release its own LTE 3.9G devices soon

full-fledged internet browser with full Flash support.

Looking at its reasonable price point and its many features, the OlivePad looks like it will have a strong chance in the mobile space, and might just be perfect for those looking for visual real estate as well as a larger form factor. In our short while with the product, the OlivePad and its multi-touch screen seemed very responsive and snappy, and access to the numerous free apps on the Android Market was a major plus point.

While the OS is not fully-vanilla Android 2.1 and slightly customised, it puts the OlivePad bounds ahead of the similarly sized and fellow smartphone/tablet hybrid, the Dell Streak, which runs on Android 1.6 that's heavily customized with Stage UI. Just like the Streak though, the device's capabilities as a phone are rendered unwieldy by its size, and in fact, is two inches bigger. Mr. Artem Orange, CEO Olive CIS/CEE, recommended that you use the OlivePad with Bluetooth headsets and loudspeaker, but also confirmed that the company will not be bundling headsets, and that it would be up to the carrier to offer them.

Speaking with David Hines, CEO of Olive America, we learnt that Olive is focussing on catching up with the leading phone and tablet manufacturers abroad, and will also be releasing its own LTE 3.9G devices soon. Not elaborating about further India plans and if there were any more major products expected over the next few months, Mr. Hinds simply assured us that they will continue making innovative devices, and with a portfolio of the triple-SIM OliveWiz phone, the hybrid Li-ion and AA battery-powered OliveFrvrOn phone, the 3G embedded OliveZipbook netbook, and the OliveNexus pocket router, we find ourselves excited.

Mr. Orange also emphasized the great response Olive and its products have been receiving in Central/Eastern Europe, as well as Russia, while Mr. Khanna spoke of the company growing in Mexico and parts of Africa as well. Olive has also launched the Olive Global Design Centre in Gurgaon, NCR. **D**



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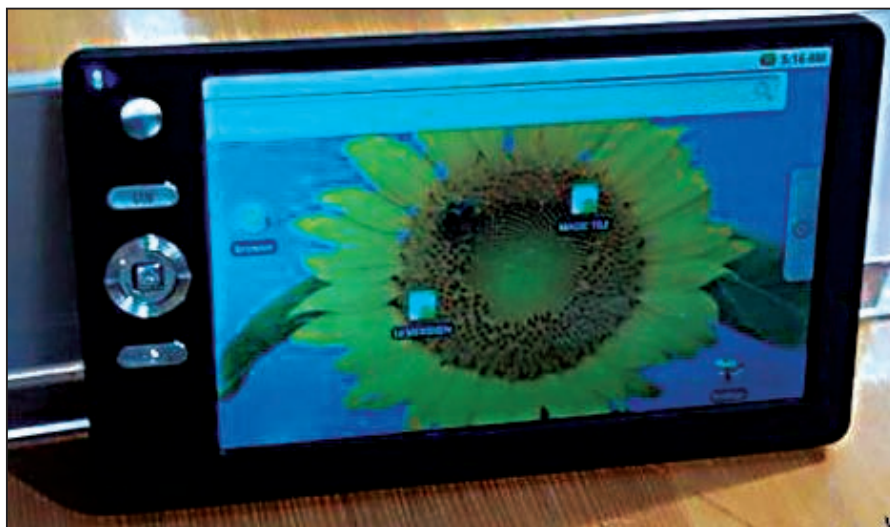
With the \$35 tablet making news globally, there's mention of a \$50 tablet by Indian company Allgo

Dell Streak in Asia?

The Dell Streak is expected to have an Asia launch early next year

India's \$35 tablet shown off

After the Nano, India was again the centre of attention. This time for the cheapest tablet



India's \$35 tablet PC made another rare public appearance on August 11th.

Apart from being eye-candy, it also had some of its specifications laid bare – and they certainly seem juicy: 2GB RAM, 3G and Wi-Fi connectivity, SIM card slot, microSD expandable storage, video out, microUSB, web cam, and as is evident, the Android 2.1 OS. The tablet was introduced to the Indian public by Kapil Sibal, the Human Resource Development Minister, who also said it is only expected to release by mid-2011, looking to put 1 million units in the hands of students and educational institutions by government order, subsidised to around \$35 each.

While the total cost of production is still not known, the value of all the parts is estimated to be around \$50. So while the \$35 dream may never come to pass, at

To make it energy efficient, the whole unit is powered by a 2-watt power supply, suitable for even the rural areas of India

least on the retail side, the effort and even a \$100 price tag are very commendable. To make it energy efficient, the whole unit is powered by a 2-watt power supply, suitable for even the rural areas of India.

It is expected to be available in three screen size variants: 5-inch, 7-inch, and 9-inch. The hosts of an Indian tech show were pleasantly surprised at the tablet's capabilities, and called it a "fairly impressive package" that ran the Android OS smoothly, while noting that the touch-screen was not very responsive.

In related news, Nicolas Negroponte and OLPC (One Laptop per Child)'s have announced they expect to sell 1 million XO laptops in India by the end of 2010. Previous attempts at selling its low cost laptops (called XO-1) to the masses were not very successful, despite Intel's Classmate PC's growing success. Negroponte recently pledged "free and open access" to his company's laptop technology to help further India's \$35 tablet dream in an open letter to an Indian daily. The letter also contained some friendly but

preachy advice from Negroponte, such as a word of caution to Minister Kapil Sibal not to treat MIT's and OLPC's supposed \$100 laptop (retailing in India for approximately \$300) as competition, instead, as an example to be learnt from, in as many words: Your tablet is not an "answer" or "competitor" to OLPC's XO laptop. It is a member of a family dedicated to creating peace and prosperity through the transformation of education. In closing, I repeat my offer: full access to all of our technology, cost free. I urge you to send a team to MIT and OLPC at your earliest convenience so we can share our results with you.

Now Sanjay Jha, the Country Head of OLPC India, has announced that OLPC intends to sell 1 million of the Rs. 15,000-priced laptops in India by the end of 2010. **d**



Union Minister Kapil Sibal unveiling the \$35 tablet

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Meeting the poles

Robert Swan, OBE, is the first person to visit both the North and South poles

Windows thrashes Mac

Another fresh case of classic old rivalry, a new section added to Microsoft website explains how Mac machines are inferior to their Windows counterparts

Ferguson Hill FH007

One of the coolest looking mini speakers for personal use, the FH007 is a 5-piece set consisting of two horn, two base speakers and an integrated amp. Designed to amplify sound the horn speakers are directional speakers that generate amazing sound staging creating an illusion of sound from a live source



The Meridian sooloos

Meant for the ultimate music geek, the sooloos media server system is one centralized solution for all your audio file management. A 15-inch touch screen panel, the Control 15 displays over 1,000 album titles and makes your music storage and identification easy. The setup also consists of storage system called the Media Source 600 that integrates with the Control 15 and is compatible with other high-end audio devices. It's available for \$7500



Devon Works Tread 1

This is not your everyday watch. Why? Because it does not operate like one. For starters, it uses a microcontroller board to recharge its batteries that are charged wirelessly. Four small motors power the movement of its hands and it's bullet-proof! Designed by a California-based aerospace engineering company and is priced at \$15000



Helping! Hand

Nokia has appointed Motally a US based mobile-analytics company to know how consumers use their handsets as it faces some serious competition from Google and Apple

Saving files in virtual land

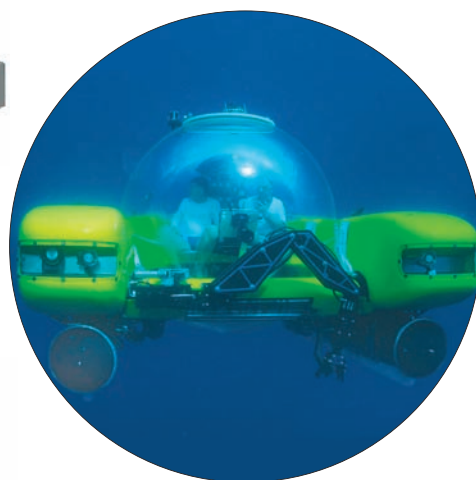
By the end of this year, Dell will shell out \$1.15 million to buy 3PAR, a virtualization storage provider

Droolmaal



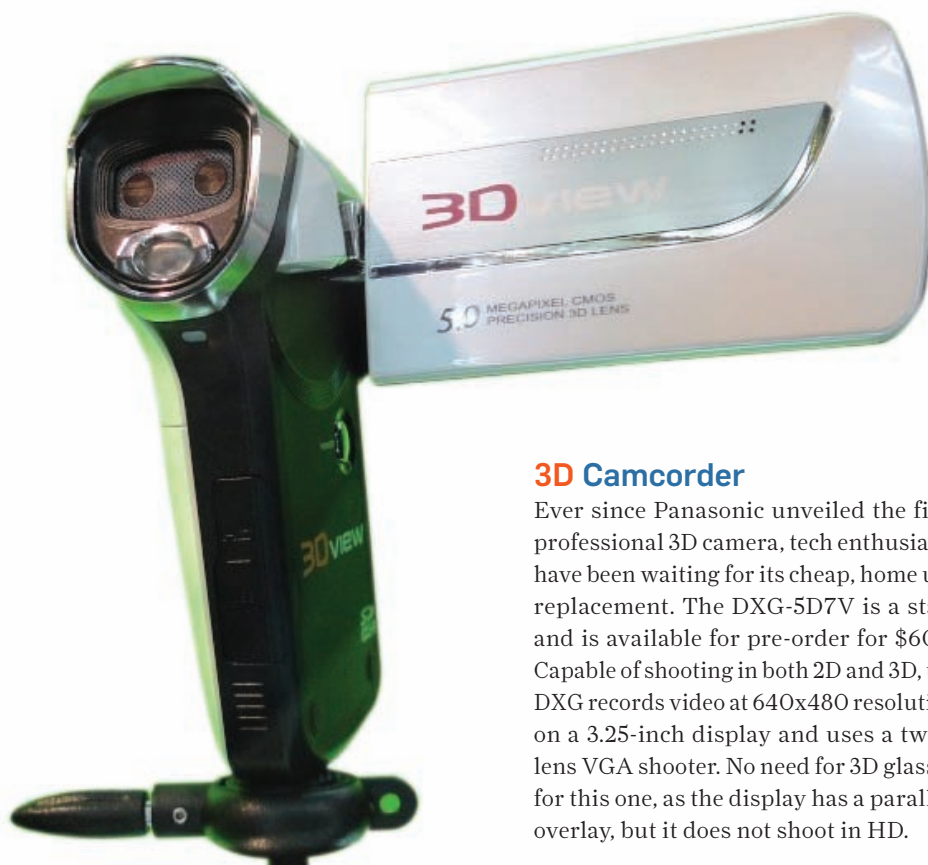
Panasonic 103 Wide-screen

What's the maximum screen size you would want to have in your living room? 42-inches, 72-inches, well how about 103 inches? This mind boggling device from Panasonic is the world's largest HD LCD. It's got a 2-MP resolution that is equivalent in size to four 42-inch plasma displays. At 1920x1080 pixels and a price of \$50,000, this LCD packs hoards of features such as image-enhancing and motion pattern noise reduction



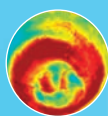
The Triton 3300

Here's good news for all those waiting to buy their personal submarine pod. Make way for the Triton 3300, developed by the US Submarines. This pod can reach a depth of 1000 m (3330ft). At just 1.8 meters in height and a length of 3 meters, the Triton 3300 is quite compact in size. However, you won't be missing out on any the comforts because of its small dimensions, with leather luxury seats and full air-conditioning. Team up with your buddy for a joy ride with a price tag of just \$2.59 million.



3D Camcorder

Ever since Panasonic unveiled the first professional 3D camera, tech enthusiasts have been waiting for its cheap, home use replacement. The DXG-5D7V is a start and is available for pre-order for \$600. Capable of shooting in both 2D and 3D, the DXG records video at 640x480 resolution on a 3.25-inch display and uses a twin-lens VGA shooter. No need for 3D glasses for this one, as the display has a parallax overlay, but it does not shoot in HD.



Hole in the ozone

As it turns out the hole in the ozone has shown signs of repairing itself

Countdown to 2041

As of 22 Aug, exactly 11,089 days left to the re-negotiation of moratorium on mining in Antarctica. Head over to www.2041.com to find out more

Siddharth Parwatay

siddharth.parwatay@thinkdigit.com

Who is Sir Robert Swan? Some of you might have heard about the legend of the only man ever to have walked to both the North and the South Pole. Sir Robert Swan is the same living legend. And yet he is much more than just that. He is someone who has dedicated his entire life working towards the preservation of Antarctica as the last great wilderness left on earth. Through his expeditions, he witnessed firsthand the effects of global warming at both Poles. In Antarctica, his eyes forever changed colour after prolonged exposure under the hole in the ozone layer. In the Arctic, his team survived near-death encounters in a melting ocean, prematurely caused by global warming.

All of these experiences, and the fact

extreme hardships to not only motivate those around him into action, but also to spread the much needed awareness about the plight of Antarctica and the melting of the ice cover there.

It's a very peculiar human condition we're afflicted with – if someone were to come to us and talk about environmental issues; we won't not give it too much importance or a patient listen. But if someone comes along and says "hey you know what, listen to what I have to say because it'll make you a better person and help you in your business", we're all ears! Sir Robert does precisely that while at the same time getting across his environmental message.

Team Digit was privileged enough to be a part of one

dreamt that he wants to be the first person in the world to walk to both poles. To achieve his goal Sir Robert single headedly raised his money, which in itself is an inspiring story. "Raising 5 million US dollars at the age of 24 was probably more difficult than my journey itself" he jokes. His 900 mile journey to the South Pole stands as the longest unassisted walk ever made on earth. The journey inspired him to do something about environmental issues which he witnessed. Three years after reaching the



THE PATH LESS TRAVELLED

An extraordinary and inspiring story of Robert Swan OBE, a Polar explorer, environment leader and the first person ever to have walked to the North and South poles

that Sir Robert is an exceptionally gifted communicator led him to come up with his own brand of motivational coaching which he delivers all around the world. He uses his anecdotal experiences of

of his talks on his recent visit to India. His passion for the subject of Antarctic preservation struck a chord with us and hence we have this article in support of this most noble green initiative.

How did it all begin?

It all began as Sir Robert says in numerous interviews, when he was eleven. Surprised? Yes at the young age of eleven Sir Robert decided or rather

South Pole, Sir Robert Swan wanted to do something to further his cause. He assembled a global expeditionary team of eight people from seven nations and decided to walk to the North Pole. "If the 'Icewalk' mission were to be successful, I would become the first person stupid enough to do it" he said to us jokingly. And as history would have it, he set off and walked 1400 kilometres – every step away from land into the middle of the frozen sea. The journey wasn't easy. "On day two, we did just 2 kilometres. If you fall down any ice hole, it's straight into the icy blue sea. And yes you can be eaten by the mighty polar bear" said Sir Robert, "but we did it" he adds triumphantly.

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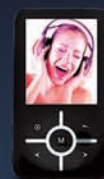
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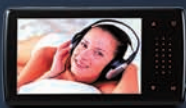
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SP-101 Speaker

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- 3" Driver Units
- Wooden Material with Elegant Design
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Some years later in 1992, Robert Swan, OBE was the keynote speaker at the first 'World Summit for Sustainable Development' held in Rio de Janeiro. There he addressed world leaders and was charged with undertaking a 10 year global and local environmental mission that would involve industry, business and young people.

Deadline - 2041

2041 is the curious name given to a long term initiative started by Sir Robert Swan, dedicated towards saving the Antarctic. "In the year 2041, the treaty that preserves Antarctica and keeps it from being destroyed, (like we seem to be destroying everywhere else on earth), comes up for review." says Robert Swan. Through his initiative (www.2041.com) he plans to inspire young people who by then will be the people running things like businesses and governments to doing something about the treaty when it comes up for review. "If you look at what is happening in the Arctic today, it shouldn't be allowed to happen in the Antarctic" that was the message Sir Robert is trying to spread. "Wouldn't it just be fabulous for people thousands of

EXCEPTIONAL FEATS

One of the most awe inspiring feats achieved by Sir Robert Swan was the setting up of the world's first renewable energy Education Station in Antarctica, called the E-Base. Since 2003, Swan has led annual expeditions to Antarctica with students and business executives to focus on leadership training, environmental clean-up and education initiatives. The 'Inspire Antarctic Expedition' teams helped design and build the E-Base. In March 2008, Robert Swan, OBE made Antarctic history again by living solely on renewable energy at the E-Base for over two weeks. Successful in the world's harshest climate, the positive message Swan sent to the world was "This is possible in Antarctica, and surely it is possible in the 'real world'!" The E-Base is fully active and fully internet connected at all times. At the time of writing this the station was busy broadcasting the temperature -2°C and wind speed of 9 mph. Head over to <http://ebase.2041.com> for live updates.



"In our own backyards we can take small achievable steps to protect and preserve the beauty and integrity of our environment and our planet for future generations!"

- Robert Swan, OBE

years from today, if we just left one place alone as a natural reserve – a continent for science and peace" he said to us.

Through this initiative he has already taken several humongous steps towards the preservation of the

Antarctic Continent. During his talk, he showed us shocking images of tons and tons of waste dotting the Antarctic landscape. "Rich powerful nations should not leave scientific garbage in a continent we all own". In one of his

expeditions, he assembled a crew of student volunteers from around the globe and successfully removed 1,500 tons of waste from the shores of Antarctica.

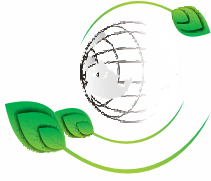
What next?

Currently, Sir Robert Swan is a crusader for clean energy and goes to different continents aboard his renewable energy sailboat to spread his message. Not just that. On December 15, 2011, the 25th anniversary of his first expedition to the South Pole, Sir Robert Swan plans to do the 1600km walk to the South Pole all over again. Except this time he will do the journey not using a single drop of fossil fuels. He will be using only renewable sources of energy, making it the world's first polar expedition using only renewable energy. We wish him luck and Godspeed. **d**



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India based browser - #Epic or #Fail?

Digit goes under the hood of India's first browser and at the same time grills its creator Alok Bharadwaj of Hidden Reflex

Siddharth Parwatay
siddharth.parwatay@thinkdigit.com

Some time ago, a little known company called Hidden Reflex made waves when it released the world's first web browser for India.

Dubbed Epic, the browser is the brain child of Bangalore based entrepreneur Alok Bharadwaj who is the CEO and founder of Hidden Reflex. "The Web browser is increasingly the most important piece of software on a computer and its usage is growing. The user experience and interface of the browser, however, hadn't changed in 15 years since the initial browsers Mosaic and Spyglass. We felt that your web browser should do more for you—that was our inspiration," said Alok.

The browser itself is based on the Mozilla platform and brings to users certain unique features such as an inbuilt virus checker and a sidebar loaded with applications. Roughly three weeks after launch, the browser crossed four lakh downloads – an impressive feat. In this feature, we take a look under the hood of this seemingly unique browser to put it through the paces and give you our in-depth review. We also chat with Alok Bharadwaj who by his

own admission has been a fan of digit for a long time.

The Epic Browser is based on Mozilla 3.6.7 and hence uses the standard Gecko engine. This essentially means that it is Firefox at heart with a couple of tweaks and changes to its back end. The Epic logo, a tricolour orb is also an allusion to Firefox while at the same time it pays homage to its Indian origin. When we first heard of this browser many of us in the team were skeptical about simply being a custom setup that will install the browser



"We felt that your web browser should do more for you—that was our inspiration."

- Alok Bharadwaj, founder CEO of Hidden Reflex

with a set number of addons selected by default. Well we decided to ask the creators at Hidden Reflex themselves. "Well that's still roughly the case in that we've been built on Mozilla and haven't really changed any of the code in the Mozilla core. Epic is thus essentially built like a set of addons, but we've also tweaked some of the default Mozilla settings (which one can do in Mozilla Firefox via about:config).

We've basically made a number of tweaks to help improve browsing and downloading speeds", said Alok. The good news here is that users will get access to the thousands of Firefox Add-ons which are fully compatible with Epic.

Main Features

Epic also brings several, thought not all fundamentally new, features to the table. It sports Sidebar apps which gives users the ability to multi-task especially in today's era of widescreen displays that have more horizontal than vertical screen real estate. When you start the browser for the first time, apart from the Indian theme, you'll quickly notice the sidebar which has a long scrolling list of icons or apps that expand when you click on any of them. The company claims that a user gets access to an astounding 1500+ Sidebar Applications. Apps include a word processor, file backup, file browser, video picture-in-picture, e-mail, chat, games, and 1500+ user-installable applications in the Epic Apps Store which are all free to add. We checked out a lot of these apps and as it turns out they're simply fixed width webpages optimised to be displayed on the iPhone! "Many were designed to run on a mobile device or the iPhone and we felt they could be really useful as sidebar apps for regular PC users," confirmed Alok. One of the more truly useful sidebar apps is the

Video picture-in-picture player app. It allows users to dock video from sites such as YouTube into the sidebar, which means you can have the video playing on the side while users can continue to navigate and browse around, devoting only as much attention as you want to the video. The app can also create playlists to which you can keep adding videos that you wish to view next. Quite a useful feature.

India Appeal

We asked Alok what he felt makes the browser a unique proposition. "Epic's unique in four ways he says. India, Security, Privacy, and Productivity. By 'India' we mean the Indian Language support, 1500+ Indian themes and wallpapers

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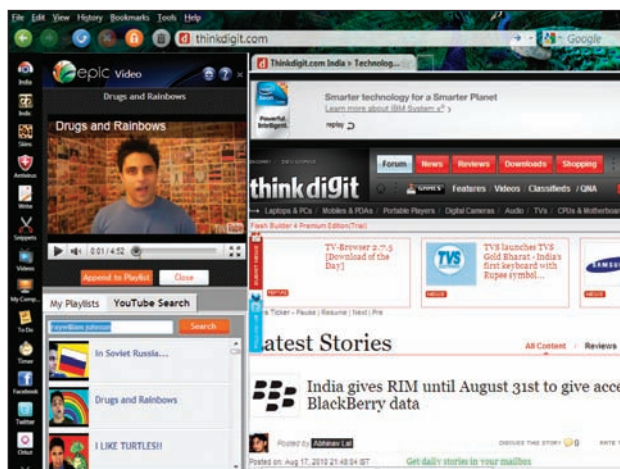
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World view

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Lightpeak

A peak at Intel's research that could change your life in the near future



Watching videos in Epic while browsing the latest news stories

representing every Indian state and every aspect of Indian culture and finally India content sidebar with the latest news from all over the world and the nation from multiple publications, regional

languages as effortlessly as English speakers. Epic is the first browser that enables all Indians, especially non-English-speaking Indians, to come online and share their thoughts and ideas (our 12 languages still

	IE 8.0.7	Chrome 5.0.3	Opera 10.60	Firefox 3.6.8	Flock 2.6.1	Epic 1.1
Startup (in secs)	3.77	4.5	2.26	5.32	3.69	4.62
Memory (single tab)	75332	63236	102884	48460	91760	68392
Memory (4 tabs)	192640	169844	191412	101412	121504	124592
Acid3	Fail	94	100	94	72	92

news in regional languages and English, live cricket scores and commentary, top music albums, live television and more.

The browser is fully geared towards



Skins Sidebar App

India and hence has a host of India specific apps and content delivered. Besides, this there is the in-built Indic languages transliteration support. "One key inspiration for India was to develop a tool that could help Indian language conversation and discourse move online. At present, almost all Indian internet activity has been in English but with Epic, Indian language speakers can share their thoughts and ideas online in Indian lan-

guages as effortlessly as English speakers. don't cover all of India but a large, large portion!)" says Alok.

Epic's Indic Language support is built on the Firefox add-on Google Transliteration which derives its name from the fact that it uses the Google Indic transliteration API. So basically the backend is powered by the Google Indic transliteration API, and the frontend is a combination of the Google Transliteration add-on for Firefox by a brilliant developer out of Chennai Sridhar with a lot of modification by the Epic team.

Security

Epic may very well be the first browser to integrate an AV suite. In built anti-virus includes on-demand anti-virus scanning which can scan your whole computer system for viruses and malware as well as automated scanning of downloaded files. This is done through an arrangement with ESET a popular Anti-virus company. Epic says it provides anti-phishing protection via a bigger address bar with a bold domain name so suspicious can instantly determine if your on

a spurious site. Kind of stupid we feel. "Epic also warns users when they're about to visit a potentially dangerous website via a database of ratings on nearly 30 million websites from our partner the Web of Trust." says Alok. Image: epic scanning for viruses.png

Misceleanous look and feel

The look and feel is where the browser falls short. The browser window looks tacky with tabs that seem to be arranged with jagged edges. The whole window has resize buttons on all corners but won't maximise properly. The browser isn't designed for Windows 7 integration so doesn't snap to place when you drag the browser window to the top margin of your screen. Similarly no jumplists or superbar integration. Sure it's got the skins app that gives you access to thousands of skins or themes, many of which are India based. Yet, they look atavistic of something from a bygone area. Amongst other things worth reporting are the inbuilt Word processor and snippets app. The word processor is pretty basic but does autosave. Although the processor is rich text enabled, it saves only in txt format which is a downer. The snippets tool is a note taking application based on the popular Firefox addon called Scrapbook. It allows you to save scraps of text and images for later viewing. You can also label or tag notes for quick and easy recovery. The browser also gives due importance to Privacy. Epic has a one-click private data deletion button which also deletes long-lived Flash cookies - "the only browser that does so" points out Alok. Epic also has one-click private browsing mode in a new tab.

Performance

The browser is pretty fast but does require 10.5 secs on a fresh restart. There after it is comparable to any other browser of today. We tested it for certain parameters such as memory consumption and rendering tests such as the Acid 3 test. It did fairly ok. You can have a look at the scores table.

Overall verdict: A nice browser for those who want a distinctly Indian look and feel. Rating: 3 on 5 **d**

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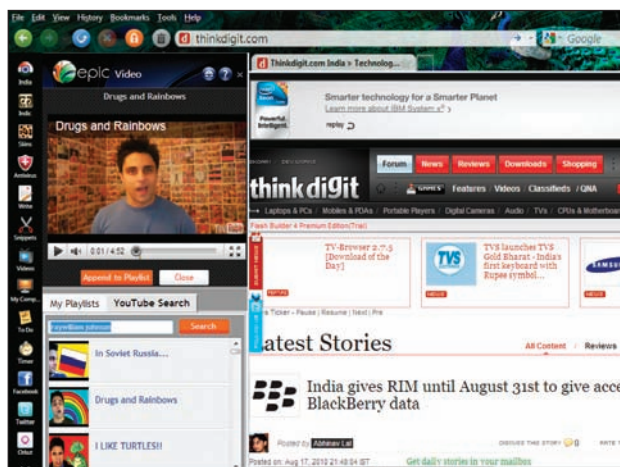
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Mobile Dress

CuteCircuit came up with The M-Dress which is a silk jersey dress and also a functional soft electronics mobile phone

Exoskeleton

Powered exoskeletons comprising an external framework powered by an external source of power were developed by GE and the US military to aid in battle, but failed

Image copyright (c), Steve Mann, 1996



Technology has become such an important part of life that it's now wearable. We get to see people in movies covering one of their eyes (the old pirate look, may be). But you can't help noticing that it's a gadget they are wearing on the eye.

Arpita Kapoor and Mohit Rangaraju
readersletters@thinkdigit.com

Steven Spielberg and Tom Cruise left us spell bound with *Minority Report*, a 2002 movie set in 2054 AD where crime was detected even before it took place. If only we had such advancement for real. That's what we need in an age of terrorism and rising crime rates. Nevertheless, what really caught everyone's fancy was Chief John Anderton (Cruise's character) using hand gestures while analysing information from a translucent wall.

Fast forward to 2010

Outside the tech world, the name Pranav Mistry may not ring much of a bell. But for those in the know (Digit readers), the 29-year old PhD candidate from Massachusetts Institute of Technology has left everyone equally amazed with his Sixth Sense Technology, where by using a minimal setup comprising a web cam, a projector and four sensors, you can do pretty much everything that you needed a desktop PC for. Welcome to the world of wearable computers, which as the name suggests, are computers that can be worn. They give us more flexibility than any

Mind reading

According to scientists at Intel labs, it would be able to identify different words you are thinking about and not just physical actions

ASUS N-Series

The latest series by ASUS feature a Core i5 CPU, NVIDIA GeForce GT325/415M graphics and Blu-ray **Tomorrow's tech**

other gadget that we commonly use, such as laptops and tablets. The limitations to the widespread introduction of wearable computers were notably insufficient battery life and processor power. Nevertheless, since the past ten years, decent number of successful implementations have been made.



The IBM WatchPad used Linux as its operating system

History of wearable computers

The history of wearable computers takes us way back to the 1500s. The pocket-watch invented back then can be noted as the first wearable computer. The concept of modern day wearable computers emerged in the 1960s. The system created was a cigarette packet-sized analogue computer that could predict

Russian roulette (a casino game) wheels.

Rapid development in this area picked up in the mid-90s. A workshop titled 'Wearable Computers within 2005' was conducted in collaboration with the US Defence Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). They defined wearable computing as "data gathering and disseminating devices which enable the user to operate more efficiently". These devices are carried or worn by the user during normal execution.

Since then, there have been many research projects taken up and many wearable computers created. Several wearable computers have been developed through out the years. Some of them are as follows:

In 2001, IBM developed and publicly displayed two prototypes for a wristwatch computer running Linux. It sported a VGA screen. The WatchPad capable of handling text, photos and animation. It was considered to be

very useful for office purposes. Ease in maintenance of appointment details was a feature it promised. Steve Mann (a scientist from MIT) worked a lot in this field. In the 1980s, he designed and built a backpack-mounted 6502-based computer to control flash bulbs, cameras and other photographic systems. He developed this system, made it more compact and easy to use.

Concept behind wearable computers

There are two operational modes in this interaction between a human and computer:

Constancy: The device runs continuously, and is always ready to interact with the user. Unlike a laptop or a PC, you need not start up to use it. The signal flow diagram explains it better.

Augmentation: Unlike, traditional computing, wearable computing assumes that computing is not the primary task.

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*Source: virusbtl.com, April 2010

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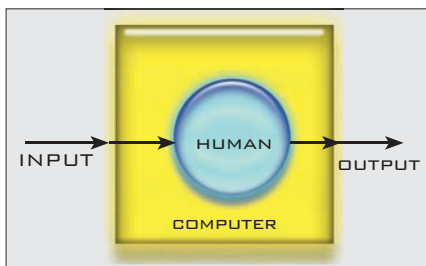
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Self-dusting solar panels

Scientists at the Boston University, in collaboration with NASA, have developed sensors that remove dust from solar panels

Cyber-police station at Kolkata

Kolkata police has launched a Cyber-Police station in association with Infosys to deal with cyber-related crimes



Constasy

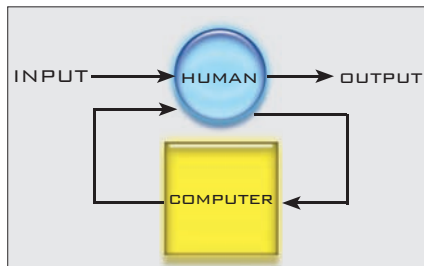
As in, user will be doing something else at the same time along with computing. Thus, the computer should serve as an augment to the user's intellect and senses.

As input, different techniques are followed as per the use of the device. Many use input methods like gesture, speech recognition and context awareness. Some of them use "Kiers" and track balls as input device. 'Kiers' are key switches mounted to a grip rather than to a board, as with a keyboard.

Research

The vast opportunities on offer in the wearable computing segment has pioneered the imaginations of designers and researchers in a wide variety of fields. Many major Institutes like MIT have started research in this field. The scientists at MIT came up with some interesting projects such as SNiF-Social Networking on Fur, Reality Mining Cell Phone Project.

Reality Mining Project is one of the largest mobile phone projects attempted. The research takes into consideration, the increasingly widespread use of mobiles to provide insight into dynamics



Augmentation

of both individual and group behaviour. This project focuses on the information flow between people and how can they change a group's interaction to promote better functioning.

"Smart Clothes and Wearable Technology Research Group"(SCWT) is a research group set up in collaboration between the University of Wales, Newport and the National Centre for Product Design and Development Research (PDR). They aim to create 'smart' clothes for the future. The project was launched in November 2004 and since then the group focuses on the role of wearable technology and how it can be deployed to create commercial possibilities in areas such as corporate wear and sports wear. They are working on clothes with embedded technologies with potential to enhance the quality of life for the elderly population.

Microsoft's SkinPut

Microsoft is one company which is showing keen interest in this field. The research going on is quite remarkable as quoted by many. Desney Tan, senior researcher in the Visualization and Interaction for Business and Entertainment (VIBE) group at Microsoft Research Redmond came up with something really interesting - SkinPut. SkinPut seeks to move beyond the mouse

and physical keyboard, letting people communicate with their gadgets by gesturing, using sign language such as tapping their fingers.

Just imagine your iPhone's keyboard being as big as your arm and you wouldn't have to touch the keys at all. That's what SkinPut is all about. It aims to replace the physical modes of input like keyboards completely with the human body.

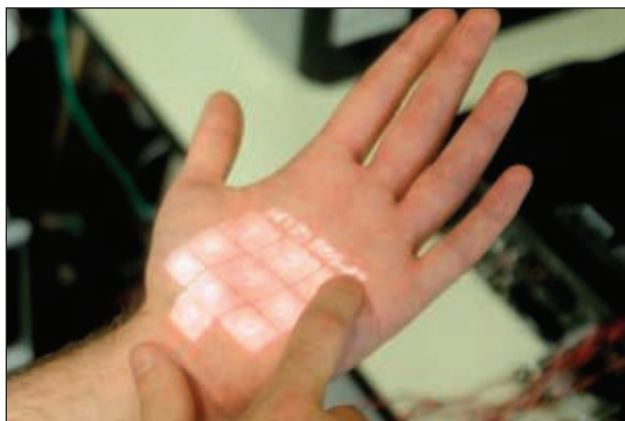
"Human beings are well evolved to communicate with their environments and other people in amazingly complex



SkinPut also supports gestures

ways," says Desney Tan. "Unfortunately, most of our current computer input devices, such as mice and keyboards, use very little of this bandwidth and provide a communication channel that could be much richer." SkinPut is a technology that appropriates the human body for acoustic transmission, allowing the skin to be used as an input surface. SkinPut takes as input, the finger-taps on the arm and the hand by analysing mechanical vibrations that propagate through the body.

This is done in two parts. One uses Electromyography, sensing of electrical muscle activity which can recognise finger gestures. The other one uses bio-acoustic sensors that can detect transmissions through the body. This would transform the human body into a tap-based input device. The bio-acoustic sensor can recognise acoustically dis-



A SkinPut prototype in use

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Developing Silos inspired by Argentina

India may bring in Argentinian technology for developing economical warehouses to overcome the storage problem for food grains

tinct signals and classify the impacts. By wearing a simple armband on the upper forearm, signals can be sent wirelessly to a computing device. The prototype version of the armband is similar to an elbow brace which is lined with 10 sensors, which pick up inaudible sounds in the frequency range of 25 to 78 Hz. Both parts of work can be achieved in this way. The armband can also include a projector which would be able to display a dynamic graphical user interface onto a surface.

When a user wearing SkinPut makes a gesture using his fingers, the impact sends ripples down the skin and through the bones analogous to resonating guitar strings. The sensors in the armband read the sound waves and recognises the action and then transfer the information to your phone. SkinPut can differentiate between distinct actions as they'll sound slightly different to the receivers.

Essentially, SkinPut will bring in a new way of operating a mobile phone, by turning a person's hand into a keyboard and forearm into a screen! With SkinPut, you can tap your thumb and fore finger, say to answer a call; flick the centre of the palm to start your favourite music track; or tap your arm in certain places to send a text message. These all can be done without pulling your phone out of the pocket. These customisable sign-like actions would control your mobile phone in your pocket through a Bluetooth connection. It's almost like having your mobile on your palm.

The team states that SkinPut is under development and commercially won't be available for 5-6 years. They claim the sensors of SkinPut to be 96 percent accurate in a trial test which used only five keys. Hence, the system is in its budding stage and needs a lot of improvement for it to be used along with a full keyboard. SkinPut proves

that the human body can be used as a sensor giving path to a new dimension of computing. In the future you may walk down home, tap your palm to open the door, tap some buttons to start your music system! It's almost like magic.

Lightglove

Lightglove Inc., a privately held prototype design house in North Virginia has come up with something interesting - The Lightglove. As the name suggests, it's a wearable device which emits light (visual or infrared). It's a new human interface device that is worn on the underside of one's wrist. The light from the device scans the palm and senses the wrist, hand and finger motion. Similar to SkinPut, actions can be customised according to needs. This data can be translated into set of instructions and used as input for electronic devices; or can be used as an on/off switch. Lightglove can be customised to control computers, notebooks, cellphones, gaming platforms, ATMs among others.

Its prototype comprises sleek design and wireless operation. Future models are planned to be more easier to handle- it can be tucked under the sleeve and be worn comfortably all day. Typing can be very easy with the usage of Lightglove. You can just start typing on an onscreen keyboard virtually. Once a finger is lowered into the beam as if air typing, the key is chosen. "Virtual Typing" mode option is also available for practiced touch typists. In this mode, the key is accepted immediately upon activation and the key is verified on the video monitor (the old-fashioned keyboard style).

Lightglove, is still under development and are researchers are in quest of companies who will be interested to invest in this idea. Lightglove, as a device can replace wide range of input devices used for computing, gaming, PDA, television.

Applications of Wearable Computers

Wearable computers have made their place in all spheres of our lives. With a wide range of useful applications, wear-

able computing is one of the most sought after fields of Information Technology for research and development.

Information access

Wearable computers are an efficient way to access personal information. They can know what you think, how you think and can even process the information accessed from human input. The clothes you wear, have now become smart enough to know your emotional state.

The Design group at Royal Philips Electronics of the Netherlands is doing a research in Emotional Sensing. They have introduced "Bubelle"- A dress made up of layers and the inner layer contains biometric sensors that sense emotions of the person wearing it.

<text before this is missing>gives it a shot and takes a look into the far future of fashion in their SKIN project, an exploration research into the area known as 'emotional sensing'. They are also working on garments that use mobile phone and camera technologies to help parents access their kids position when they are away.

Entertainment

Any technological advancement is always well-used by entertainment industry. There exist wearable machines that replicate your gestures as you play games. TN Games has come up with



Connecting with all your senses

a 3RD Space Vest which you can wear while you play one of your favorite computer games. You can feel those enemy shots hitting you hard and have a more thrilling and absorbing gaming experience. The vest is an impact generating



Smart Grid technology by Ecolibrium

You can now monitor your electrical appliances power consumption in real time with a mobile or an internet connection

Microsoft loves open source

Microsoft's General Manager quoted that criticism on open source by Microsoft was a mistake

Tomorrow's tech

hardware that senses the direction and force of bullet fire, explosions etc. The force feedback is perfectly synchronised with the screen. Alternate Reality Games use wearable computers for more fun and thrill.

Managing personal data

If you wear them, they can be no less than your secretaries. They can store your personal data and assist you in managing stuff which is crucial for you. Accenture has come up with a "Personal Awareness Assistant" that passively listens to what the user says by using a recording device that has an ability to respond to particular contexts and situations. The device uses a speech recognition engine, an inconspicuous camera, a scrolling audio buffer and 2 microphones. For example, when you introduce yourself to a new person, this device records the name of the person, takes a low resolution picture and stores the data and categorises the information in a pre-designated domain. All this is done without you giving any command. This acts like an address book with audio, digital image, date/time and location also. "Personal Awareness Assistant" can also help you shop. You can create a shopping list by speaking a reminder into the device and then access it when you shop.

Exploring and documentation

Wearable computers have been excellently used in exploration, navigation and documentation of information gathered during exploration. Japanese engineers have created a prototype device that clubs the GPS navigation technology into everyday glasses called 'Wearable Personal Navigation System'. The device contains a magnetic directional sensor, a microcomputer and LEDs. The LEDs change their color and placement to guide you the direction. For example, you are all set to go towards North, but you are facing South, then an LED will be lit up indicating that you need to go in the opposite direction.

An Indian geographical scientist Prayas Abhinav along with his team has made shoes called "Bhatka Bhatka". These shoes help you get lost and explore your city. They have a GPS, some Java code, an LED and a vibrator. The shoe recognises and saves the places you have been to already in a particular city. You visit the same place again, it gives a signal as a reminder that you have been here before. Prayas states that this project would help people in exploring different parts of a city.

Security

If these wearable computers can do so much for you, why can't they help you during emergencies! Tanizawa, a Japanese safety equipment manufacturer has developed a U-Met Rescue Helmet that



Hi-tech security systems can monitor in all directions

could be your life saver when needed.

The device has a QVGA camera, a GPS receiver and a cell radio to send images and locational data from emergency workers to a central station every 30 seconds. It vibrates indicating potential dangers. This helmet help you in emergencies to document the scene and seek help from authorities. The helmet is recommended to be used by security personnel and fire fighters.

Military

Military uses wearable computers in the form of modular infantry combat suite,

wearable intelligent weapons and path guiding equipment. French militants use FELIN, a combat suite that offers efficient ergonomics and weight saving. The garment's structure is modular, allowing the soldier to adjust the weight of the suite according to the mission. The suite is also provided a special nuclear, radiological, bacteriological and chemical protection configuration. The suite has a day- night camera, an osteo-phone and a high-speed wearable computer with open universal port interfaces that control energy and links with various components. The system is connected to a man-machine interface enabling the soldier to control the system.

Health

Wearable computers have become a part of medicine and cure in the form of health monitors. A device called "Wrist Pulse Oximeter" is used to record the data like pulse rate and transfer it to your computer for you to analyse it. We now have wearable devices that maintain and monitor body clock to prevent jet lag and disorders in body clocks. We have wearable multi-sensor heart rate monitors that keep a check on the health of heart patients.

So as you have seen, the possibilities with wearable computers



Monitor your heart rate and blood pressure

are endless. And if John Underkoffler, Minority Report science adviser and inventor, is to be believed, the futuristic interface used in the movie is not just possible, but already exists. **d**

Walking worse than driving?

Here's a short article which suggests that walking produces more CO2 than driving! Of course you can poke holes in the article's calculations, but it's still a decent read.
<http://bit.ly/duAlnu>

BEWARE the SILENT KILLER

A warning from the future, forwarded to us
from across the web-time continuum

Edgar Allen Pooh

<http://bit.ly/1yUvK>

You know how some people think they're special in some way? Not me. My life is average; I'm just another regular guy, doing regular things... at work, that is. In my free time, however, I've been working on finding a way to send an email back in time. It would be too complicated to explain the method, but I can tell you that tachyons are used, and it doesn't work, yet.

Anyway, I'm getting ahead of myself. I suppose the best place to start is at the start. It's what people expect, so why mess with tradition? This isn't, after all, some convoluted Quentin Tarantino movie plot.

I had a pretty average childhood. I used to think of it as spectacular, until I discovered, as everyone else does, that we all have those extra-special memories. Sure the names, places and faces are different, but the stories and plots of our anecdotes are pretty much the same; much like every old M Night Shyamalan flick – you know he's going to show up as a character sooner or later, and aliens are almost always to blame...

All of us born towards the end of the last century had pretty much the same upbringing. School was fun, exams were terrible, and summer holidays were spent reading these little things called books to entertain ourselves. Sundays were the best; entire families sat glued to idiot boxes, during the siesta hours, and later caught up with each



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Electrosmog

A controversial topic, and you can find enough studies that suggest the opposite, but have a read <http://bit.ly/7emkw1>

Exercise at your PC

The most important time to exercise is when you're sitting in front of a PC for long hours. <http://bit.ly/TSZbN>

EXPERT OPINION

We spoke to Dr. Alexander Martin – Psychiatrist and Associate Professor, Psychological Medicine, Dr. DY Patil Medical College and Hospital, Navi Mumbai – to get a feel of the real picture from a specialist.

Q. Do you really feel technology is killing us? What is your take on this?

A. Personally if you ask me, I would not like to demonise technology. As humans, we've evolved through the ages and through our journey, we've come to use technology to make our lives easier. But then, with every good thing, there is also a flip side. The same holds true for technology as well.

With rapid advancements, we as humans are drawn to a virtual world of our own. What we really need to do is draw a line somewhere, so that

we master technology, rather than be slaves to it.

Q. Could you give us an example?

A. With the internet becoming so popular, it also serves as a vast storehouse of knowledge. With so much of information available online, young minds do not know what information is good and what is bad. Consider web sites and forums. People are free to write information that stays online and is retrievable by search queries. But there's no way of authenticating that

People are free to write information that stays online and is retrievable by search queries. But there's no way of authenticating that information!

information! People surf for information on ailments and try medication too. You can't substitute the teacher or a human with technology.

Q. What do you have to say on social networking, often regarded as the biggest thing to happen to the web?

A. Personally, I do use Facebook. However, I control myself. I restrict it to 10 to 15 minutes a day or maximum of half an hour. Even this is a lot. The web site has helped me find friends that were long lost. However, I do find people that become anxious in the absence of internet access. The moment their internet connection is not working, they become restless. These are signs of an addiction.

Q. So you consider people who tweet by the minutes through the day as an addiction?

A. Yes certainly that is an addiction. It's something you are hooked on to. If you put in excessive time, energy, or if you become a slave to something, then you are certainly addicted. That means you cannot do without it. Signs of agitation and irritation in the absence of something are the surest signs of an addiction.

Q. How does one strike a balance?

A. If you decide to spend a fixed amount of time, such as half-an-hour, as I shared with you, that would make a difference. It's all about time management. For example, if you are supposed to be sleeping, or eating or spending time with your family, but you are on the net instead, spending time in your virtual world, then it certainly can lead to problems. At the end it boils down to how disciplined we are with ourselves.

other's lives before going off and partaking in individual hobbies.

When not indoors exercising our grey matter by reading books, or stoking our imaginations by reading comics, we would be outdoors, playing cricket – unless it was a football World Cup year...

The new millennium

Fast forwarding past all those memories between school and college – which perhaps only I would attach any value to anyway – we arrive unceremoniously at about a decade past the new millennium.

Just like anyone else my age, I'd spent the last few years smack in the middle of the rat race, elbowing my way through the pack to attain my hard fought status of mediocrity. I'd worked hard for what I had, which wasn't much, but I knew that if I were lucky, I'd still have about 25 years of working life ahead of me to try and close the gap between middle-class and rich... OK, perhaps upper-middle-class is where I ended up.

During all those years I fast-forwarded you through, one major change occurred – personal technology! Obviously, I can't live without it anymore, although I seem to have gotten along fine before it found its way into

my pocket. However, for quite a while, technology was the secret to my success. It helped me get ahead; I got more done, and did it faster than ever before. I was blessed with the ability to quickly learn any new technology, and was able to keep up with the rapid changes.

Life was good; sure I was working hard, but then again, who wasn't? Thanks to my trusty phone and my notebook, I was able to work from anywhere. And I do mean literally, *anywhere*. The advantage technology brought about was that I could now truly multi-task. I was able to reply to emails whilst eating dinner at a restaurant and nodding in acknowledgement at the conversations my family members were having. Every now and then I would run out of signal or battery life, but a mad dash out into the open, or to a nearby plug point, was quickly able to remedy that.

There used to be a time when I had reception problems at home, but that was thankfully remedied when my service provider erected a cell tower right opposite my living room window to make sure I, and others like me, would stay connected and online 365/24/7. I even remember feeling jealous of the neighbour, who was actually paid to lease his roof to the provider. His claims of also being given unlimited calls and services for all his family

members as a bonus were never substantiated, but it did turn me greener at the time.

Technology was also able to help me keep in touch with people like never before. Thanks to sites like Facebook, I was able to have short conversations or get information about friends who I was geographically separated from. Of course that geographic separation could

NEED A LEG-UP?

<http://bit.ly/dB4X>

A Honda prototype that helps people walk! What next? Something to help us get out of bed, or perhaps something to help you brush your own teeth? They are after all such tedious tasks aren't they?



be across the Indian and Atlantic oceans, or across the road... In those busy times, friends who weren't work mates, and who didn't visit the same joints as I did to unwind, might as well have been an ocean away anyway.

Yes, life was good indeed, and technology had helped free up so much wasted time. I

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Eye exercises

Don't do this, or you'll go blind! No wait, we meant DO this or... just go to the link!
<http://bit.ly/aDeAw0>

Technology is killing you

We stumbled across a video of a Canadian program that asked the same questions we are...
<http://bit.ly/bEUH3r>

LIFESTYLE CHANGES

<http://bit.ly/dB4X>

The easiest thing to do is to lie to yourself. "I'll do it tomorrow", "I had a valid reason to not get any exercise today", and a million other things you can tell yourself to justify your sedentary lifestyle. However, your body doesn't hear these excuses, and doesn't care.

Let's look at a few everyday objects we use, and how they're killing us.

Automobiles

This one's a no-brainer. You don't get exercise, you use up fuel,



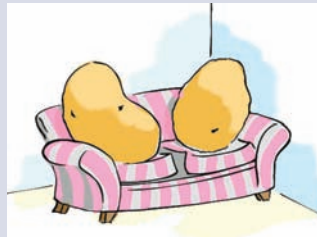
damage the environment and apart from costing you money for fuel, it's killing your body. Walking short distances and cycling longer ones are options, but not many of us choose them.

Mobile phones

Even if you ignore all the cell phone radiation studies, over-usage of a cell phone is still killing you. With mail, chat and social networking becoming the norm, we almost never put our cell phones down. Apart from the emotional friction between family members, this also causes stress to stay at high levels because you're effectively relaxing less.

TVs

Thanks to the television, we're spending our evenings doing one of the least physical activities of all time – sitting, staring at the



idiot-box and munching on snacks. Can you say couch potato, or is that too much effort?

Google, mobiles, calc and other shortcuts

Quick, what's 13 times 32? If you pulled out a mobile phone, used a calculator or typed "calc" in your PC's run dialog box, somewhere a buzzer that counts brain-dead humans just buzzed once... specially for you. The mind needs to be exercised just like the body. That's why we've tried to stimulate your mind through games like our Crack

The Code series in the past, and will continue to do so. However, you need to do more in order to sharpen your mind's skills. Don't use a computer or calculator for everything, or at least make sure you only use it for really complex calculations.

PCs

The most major way computers hurt you is when you don't follow ergonomic rules. Those aching backs, painful joints and sore wrists are all thanks to improper postures, and not enough rests when working. All of you know this already, so why not do something about it?

Share your thoughts and innovative ways in which everyday technology is killing us, and perhaps we can come up with solutions together as a community. Log on to the Digit Forum to discuss this.

couldn't even imagine the pains we used to go through, standing in lines trying to pay bills before electronic payments were commonplace. I wonder how many hours, days or even years of my life had been wasted in queues...

Wake up and smell the silicon

There was no real trigger incident that I can remember, or any specific point in time that I can pin down, but slowly I started to realise that the instrument of my success was also going to be the weapon that destroyed me. I do remember laughing at an article in an old magazine that I used to subscribe to; it was by some fellow with a weird name talking about how technology was killing us all... seemed like science fiction back then. It was so long ago I can hardly remember a word of it now, but I wish I'd paid more attention to it back then.

Anyway, as a self-proclaimed geek, I was always willing to try new technologies, and was almost always an early adopter. I was always finding new ways to do the same old

IS GOOGLE MAKING US STUPID?

<http://bit.ly/cXNeCU>

An interesting article from 2008. The author looks at how our surfing habits have changed to try and absorb a lot more, but not really understand it all. Worth a read.

things faster, and quicker. However, I paid the price for my geekdom. At first it was minor health problems. I noticed that I was sleeping a lot less; but then so was everyone else. I was also working longer hours, again, like everyone else... There was nothing out of the ordinary at the time about my life, except the nagging aches and pains and digestion problems that everyone around me had. Low immunity is what the quacks pointed at, and so I just ate a fruit or two to solve that problem – an apple a day, and all that. This worked well – long enough for me and others like me to forget all about the warning signs.

Some of my aches and pains were attributed to repetitive strain injuries (RSIs), but it's not like I could stop sending out emails from my PC and phone, or stop taking calls. So some pain killers and a few exercises minimised the discomfort. I had even stopped trying to group tasks together, in an attempt to kick my vicious multi-tasking addiction. I was only partly successful.

Of course, hindsight is always 20/20, so I am able to point out what was wrong with me back then, and possibly how I could have fixed it, but I suppose it's a little too late for any radical changes now. If only I could somehow contact someone from the past, and warn them. My message wouldn't even have to time travel much, perhaps just a decade or two back in time to around 2010... but what should such a message say?

Radiation

Although there are still conflicting studies about wireless technologies, with some proving that they're harmless and others proving the opposite, common sense should have told us to minimise the amount of radiation our brains were subjected to – just in case. Everything is wireless now, including electric power, and we have our gadgets implanted in our heads. Already some weird new cancer cases have begun to spring up. Is this the beginning of the end?

If only we'd have listened to the bees...

Exercise

I remember this movie called WALL·E that was popular back then. It took a dig at how dependant we were all becoming on tech-

ARE WE GETTING WEAKER?

<http://bit.ly/aZsJXm>

Another interesting article that asks the question, "Has modern living made the people weak, unhealthy and disease prone?" Read and decide for yourselves.



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NOT ENOUGH EXERCISE

<http://bit.ly/b6sGj8>

A Wikipedia entry that talks about the severe lack of exercise in today's society, and what's causing it. Also, remember to read the risk factors.

nology, and suggested that we'd all end up living in our beds, too fat to move, with bones that had all but turned to mush. However, more and more of us kept using technology as a crutch for everything, and our bodies suffered. It wasn't until the alarming rate of increase of heart disease and other rampant sicknesses that we realised exactly how we were misusing technology because we were just too lazy. For the love of God, get some exercise! In my time, people don't do anything, apart from sit or lie around in front of displays, getting fat, and dying faster. We are living the WALL-E story, just not in outer space.

Socialising

If you're looking for a finance tip, invest in anything web-related. Google stock especially, if you can, because life is the web these days. People just don't go out and meet each other anymore. We're pretty much just a bunch of antisocial beings, living life through our online avatars, instead of forming any real relationships. If you're reading this, stick to using social networking for people you can't physically meet. For those friends who you can meet physically, do yourself a favour, call them and meet up. I wish I had kept in touch, I miss actual human company.

Multi-tasking

This is a classic oxymoron. A task is something that needs attention and focus, and the very idea of trying to focus on many things at once is flawed. Like most people, I also thought I was good at multi-tasking until I realised that I had the concept all wrong to begin with. The idea was not to try and do many things at once, which is something all those who were killed or maimed in car wrecks back in your day found out the hard way. Certain things, like driving, or having a meaningful conversation with family, just needed you to be fully present mentally. Anyway, people rarely go anywhere these days, so there're no accidents anymore, but that's hardly a bright-side.

Consumerism

Thanks to the internet, information was available freely, but insights not so much. Some-

time in the early 2000s the world seems to have started shifting to a more "how to use" rather than "how it works" way of learning. What we got when the world shifted into this mode was a rather large bunch of consumers. I know it doesn't sound like a big deal, but what it eventually leads to is hardly any innovation and a lot more buying of useless stuff. It's what caused the downfall of some of the mightiest economies – or, to get the tense right for you, "will cause"...

The environment

Thanks to all the plastic and greenhouse gasses that go into all those billions of gadgets that were created, and the lack of anyone really taking any of the climate change indications seriously, the world now has extreme weather. Of course, this means that the rich stay indoors, with air conditioning, while the poor suffer and die of extreme heat or cold – some things don't really change with time, I suppose.

The glaciers have melted, hundreds of species have become extinct, and people today don't really bother about it too much. There's no more activism, just consumerism – give us this day our daily gadget fix, I suppose.

The Arctic is relegated to pictures in museums and the Antarctic is getting there soon. It's not like we didn't have enough warnings with all the freaky floods and extreme heat and cold for the last few decades. Those still happen, you should know. On a much grander scale too. However, even a billion people dying from climate extremes is no great cause for concern for anyone, since we have about 8 billion people crowding the planet now. With no real human contact left, we hardly even feel remorse at those deaths anymore.

WHAT THE BEES ARE SAYING

A recent study conducted in Punjab university, Chandigarh, has shown that it might be possible that cell phone radiation is killing bees by messing with their navigational abilities.

The researchers grew two identical colonies, one with two mobile phones inside and one with dummy mobiles phones. The colony with the working mobiles inside dwindled in just three month's time and stopped



producing honey. The mobile phones were only switched on twice a day for 15 minutes! If

that's what cell phone radiation can do to bees in just half an hour a day, imagine what havoc it could be playing with your brain cells if you hold your phone to your head for more than one hour a day?

Besides, no honey bees equals slower pollination of flowers and thus lower plant cover – which we can not afford. Then there's the whole thought of life without honey...

Save yourselves

I still don't know what will happen if this mail goes through successfully. If nothing changes in my time, it's either because my tachyon transmitter failed, or no one paid any attention to the message. Even if people do get together in your time and save yourselves from doom, will I ever know? Perhaps I will remain a part of a parallel universe, where people were stupid enough to do nothing to prevent their own destruction, whilst you will create a new one by changing your future. Anyway, it doesn't matter anymore. The way things are going, this world will end soon after I pass on from my multiple diseases anyway.

There's a data limit on the transmitter, so I better stop. I will barely be able to afford the electricity for this transmission anyway. Since no one found a way to get clean renewable energy, our electricity is rationed. Since the primitive version of the web that you use would not understand the data of my world, I'm attaching some of your own news articles that I got from our archives. These were warning signs that we all should have heeded.

I'm sending this out to a mailing list I used to maintain decades ago, I hope it reaches all of you. I hope you pay attention. I'd ask you all to forward it to your friends, but I remember how we all ignored forwarded mails. Perhaps someone can send it to that magazine I spoke of earlier, maybe they can help spread the word. I think they used to be called Digit back then. Just make sure to not use my real name, and don't tell 2010 me anything about this. I don't want to cause a paradox that destroys the universe or something.

And for God's sake, listen to the bees... **d**

worldview

OUR PICK OF THE BEST TECH ARTICLES FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

(MUST READS)

NEW BENCHES ARE A PAIN IN THE \$#%

If you haven't heard already, in China sitting on a park bench all day can now cause you all sorts of pain. Pay up or get poked. And no, we don't mean the fun way like on Facebook...

<http://bit.ly/9IFOx3>

THE DRESS THAT'S ALSO A CELLPHONE

The M-dress will allow women to live out their fantasies of being a Bond girl. Just put your hand to your ear and you can answer a call, straighten your arm to end the call. What? No hands-free models?

<http://bit.ly/cDQHSH>

THE WORLD'S LARGEST TIDAL TURBINE, UNVEILED



The whopping 130 ton AK1000 should be able to power 1000 homes. It will be installed off the coast of Orkney, Scotland.

<http://bit.ly/9XaVt1>

THE BEST LINE BETWEEN POINTS IS A CURVE

Hardware tessellation is a requirement in DirectX 11-capable cards. Find out how the latest games are going to look even better thanks to it.

<http://bit.ly/bl21S8>

(WiredCorner)

WHERE'S THE FUTURE? WILL FERRELL'S TOUR OF TECH THAT NEVER TOOK



I would've bet a lot of money that by now we'd have a device that would let us talk to dogs. Perhaps a helmet that would immediately decode a dog's bark into "Hey!" or "Hungry!" or "Oh my God — cat!" But I guess maybe we just don't care enough about saving animals. Or the world.

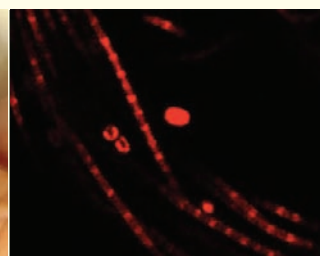
<http://bit.ly/aqGUVF>



Android Phones Can Substitute for Supercomputers.

Before you go all weak at the knees, imagining the possibilities if you and your buddies link up your Android phones and run SETI... this isn't about that. Still a good read though.

<http://bit.ly/b01jPv>



Newly Discovered Chlorophyll Catches Infrared Light

Wired Science recently published this report from sciencenews.org. This is the first new insight in the field of chlorophyll in about 60 years! It might help improve biofuel generation...

<http://bit.ly/9oTpc6>



New Isetta to Solve Our Transportation Woes

A nano Nano? Whatever it is, India needs it... Dutch designer Ralph Panhuysen feels the only way to solve the overcrowding is to make Space Efficient Vehicles. We agree.

<http://bit.ly/9KJqtB>

AN IMPLANTABLE ANTENNA

A prototype silk biosensor could someday alert doctors to signs of disease. Plus, it's biodegradable, pliable, tougher than kevlar, and can be implanted in the body. Will this be the secret to the next invisibility cloak?
<http://bit.ly/agKajr>

TERRY CHILDS GETS FOUR YEAR SENTENCE

Former systems admin for the city of San Francisco, was sentenced to four years in prison for refusing to hand administrative passwords back to the city.
<http://bit.ly/9fJPzd>

**NO BLACKBERRY BAN IN SAUDI ARABIA**

This one was a little obvious. Of course there would be no ban. And to all those rumormongers going about telling everyone that BlackBerry is going to be kicked out of India, get real, like RIM would lose a lucrative market like India
<http://bit.ly/dwzowz>

INDIA TESTING WAYS TO ACCESS BLACKBERRY

Like we said. RIM is not about to lose the right to sell its devices and services in one of the the world's fastest growing telecom markets. The trick, apparently, will be to monitor decrypted mails at a BlackBerry Enterprise server
<http://bit.ly/9j3Mcb>

SHORTS

Build a Linux Media Center PC



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Media Center PCs have been around for almost a decade—even longer if you count earlier forays like Gateway's Destination PC lineup from the mid-1990s. It's not just about PCs, either. More recently, we've seen set-top box media extenders and media-focused game consoles like the Xbox 360 and PS3, as well as targeted peripherals like the Slingbox PRO-HD and the Hauppauge HD PVR. All have garnered their share of fans.

Unfortunately, many media center setups are inflexible. The Apple TV is probably the worst example; it's tough to do much with that box unless you're a slave to the iTunes Store. (Or unless you hack it.) But even Windows 7 and the Xbox 360 can be unnecessarily limiting when it comes to your media.

That's where Linux comes in. Granted, a lot of the fun is thanks to the hobbyist nature of the OS, at least on the consumer end. There's also a distinct feeling of getting something for nothing—and in many cases, better performance than the paid options from Microsoft or Apple.

On the other hand, though Linux-based projects are enjoyable, they can take up a lot of time, and they're not always that useful once finished. Think about it: In today's market, \$500 can buy a pretty nice Windows 7 desktop machine with an HDMI port and a wireless card. It wouldn't be much of a gaming box. But you'd have a pretty slick setup for your HDTV—one that's capable of storing all your media files, and one that's much easier to troubleshoot when something goes south.

Even so, choosing Linux offers a number of advantages. In this article, we're going to show you how to build a Linux-based media center that acts as a music, video, and photo server for your entire house. It will display video on a large-screen TV without a hitch. Most importantly, coupled with MythTV, the system will record TV shows and act as a genuine DVR. This last point is key, because many so-called "media center" setups don't actually do this, and just exist to play standalone media files or stream video from the Web.

In fact, Linux has come far enough—and is powerful enough—that we bet you'll want to keep using this machine even after you're done with the project.

Sound good? Let's get started.

Choosing the Hardware

It's been five years since we last built a Linux media center PC running MythTV. Since then, we've seen DRM-encoded music virtually disappear. We've also seen the rise of high-definition cable, the widespread adoption of Linux-powered Android smartphones, and a gradual but marked improvement in usability among various popular Linux distributions.

Moreover, it has become a lot easier to set up MythTV across various distributions. The one we use in this article (Mythbuntu) already comes with almost everything you need. There's also plenty of documentation out there—probably too much. Many wiki pages point to each other. Worse, while there's tons of information, there aren't

a whole lot of "do this, and it will work"—type instructions. The forums are filled with some extremely helpful Linux fans, but it's not always obvious what to do if you want to start from scratch. What follows here is one way that will work. We want to present, from start to finish, a method the first-timer can use to build a Linux media center PC.

For this build, we aimed somewhere in the middle in terms of CPU power. Linux is as efficient as ever in terms of maximizing cheaper hardware, so that didn't pose a problem at all. But we're also talking about video recording; consequently, we wanted to give this machine enough oomph that it didn't buckle while recording the season finale of House. That meant that this is one time we would steer clear of using our dusty old P4.

We confirmed that during our initial search for a TV tuner card. "This is a pretty common misconception," Hauppauge senior software engineer Devin Heitmueller told us. "People very rarely build MythTV boxes in order to save money. In fact, it is usually suggested to use modern hardware as opposed to trying to make it work on an old PC you had in the back of the closet, as you are more likely to have success."

We culled the AMD processor and Gigabyte motherboard straight from the least expensive machine in our recent "Build the Best Gaming PC for Any Budget" article. These proved just fine, with one caveat: There's no HDMI port on that motherboard.



That just meant we needed a DVI-to-HDMI cable for the TV, instead of a straight HDMI cable, and that we also needed a second Y-cable for the audio—no big deal, since we had them lying around. Straight-up HDMI does work under Linux, so if you have the extra cash, you could opt for a motherboard like the Asus M4A88TD-M/USB3.

Choosing the TV tuner card proved tougher. Most tuner card vendors shy away from declaring Linux support for individual models. Conversely, dozens of older cards work just fine under Linux, but are no longer available online (at least new in the box). With the help of a Hauppauge PR representative, we settled on the WinTV-HVR-1600—a TV tuner card that's widely available, relatively established, and still current.

Because this is a media center PC, initially we wanted to go with a component-style home theater case. We found plenty of attractive options from Ahanix, SilverStone, and even Thermaltake. We've used a number of these for past home theater PC builds. Antec used to have many, but now they're down to just a few.

But all of these cases cost over \$100—sometimes even over \$300—and feature

Windows-only enhancements like LCD displays and touch screens. That seemed like a waste of money. On the lower-end, nMEDIAPC has the nice-looking HTPC 5000B for just \$70 at Newegg. For this initial build, we didn't see much of a reason to spend more than the \$40 necessary to get the Cooler Master Elite 360. It's a bit of a pain to navigate, because the power supply is in the front and requires a little cable rerouting to get everything working. But it's small, stays cool, and looks good.

We were particularly pleased with our choice of input devices. The nMEDIAPC HTPCKB wireless keyboard and trackball is an awesome combination that makes controlling the PC from the living room couch a blast. We built our machine using a USB keyboard and mouse, but after it was finished, we switched to this setup (which uses a little USB receiver). It worked on the first try—even under Linux.

Mythbuntu and Initial Setup

We selected Mythbuntu 10.04 for our Linux distro. You can install Mythbuntu either as a package on top of Ubuntu 10.04, or as a clean install from an ISO CD image. We opted for the former, as many folks are already familiar with installing Ubuntu 10.04. In addition, installing Mythbuntu 10.04 from an ISO image leaves out some standard Ubuntu software packages, including OpenOffice.org. Even in that case, you can add the missing

WITH THAT, HERE'S OUR LOAD-OUT

COMPONENT	MODEL	PRICE
CPU	AMD Athlon II X3 440	\$77
Motherboard	Gigabyte GA-MA74GM-S2	\$50
Memory	OCZ Platinum 4GB DDR2/1066	\$71
TV Tuner Card	Hauppauge WinTV-HVR 1600	\$75
Hard Drive	Seagate Barracuda 7200.12 500GB	\$48
Optical Drive	Lite-On iHAS424 DVD burner	\$26
Case	Cooler Master Elite 360	\$40
Power Supply	OCZ StealthXStream OCZ600	\$60
Keyboard/Mouse	nMEDIAPC HTPCKB	\$60
Operating System	Mythbuntu 10.04	Free
TOTAL		\$507

3M India
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HSBC
NSE
Barclays
Stumpp Scheule
GE Money
Religare Realty
ITC Maurya
Hyatt Regency
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Partial List

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BEING ONLINE CAN BOOST YOUR CHANCES OF BEING IN LOVE

Net connections aren't just good for studies or research. Apparently, you have more chances of finding that special someone if you're surfing the web. In the US that is...

<http://bit.ly/b87ChW>

GOOGLE UNDER PROBE IN S.KOREA OVER DATA COLLECTION

The Street View cars can take more than pictures it seems, and might actually be taking personal info from personal Wi-Fi networks... or so the South Korean police thought when they raided Google's offices.

<http://bit.ly/cIMTST>

TRANSFORM ANY SURFACE INTO AN INTERACTIVE TOUCHSCREEN

The pic says it all...



<http://bit.ly/bMmnTi>

THE WEB IS DEAD LONG LIVE THE INTERNET

Wired editor Chris Anderson and Michael Wolff look at the decline in proportions of US "web" traffic, and predict the end of the net as we know it. We don't necessarily agree, but read the article and decide for yourself...

<http://bit.ly/bknmCP>

packages later; a decision now won't prevent you from changing your mind down the road.

MythTV was an easy choice. For the uninitiated, MythTV is open-source DVR software that's been under development for about eight years. It's tougher to set up than Windows Media Center, but in some ways it's more powerful. For example, you can customize channel guides. This way, you don't have to stare at channels you don't receive with your cable package, and you can hide ones you're not interested in. If you're like me, you can hide all the standard-definition channels, and all the sports channels, for example. MythTV also lets you remove commercials from recordings automatically.

That said, there are plenty of other media center packages available for Linux. XBMC is arguably more attractive, and definitely better at organizing your standalone media. Enna, which runs on top of GeeXboX, is prettier still, and can scour the Web automatically for album covers, song lyrics, fan art, and other related information. Boxee is great for streaming Netflix, and it was great for streaming Hulu for a while. None of those options lets you record TV shows, though.

There's no other way to say it: Getting the installation right took plenty of trial and error. We'll report everything we ran into using the listed hardware and Mythbuntu distribution; this should make the process close to seamless for the reader. First, we built the computer using the parts as listed; this took just about half an hour. As part of the initial build, we installed the TV tuner card—in other words, even before we loaded the OS.

Next, we prepared an 8GB USB key for the regular Ubuntu 10.04 OS, using the awesome procedure outlined at www.ubuntu.org. We used a nearby PC to set up the key. We selected the 32-bit version of Ubuntu for this install; digging for 64-bit drivers for TV tuner cards didn't seem like much fun, so we bypassed the issue.

Installing Ubuntu 10.04 from a USB key took less than 15 minutes, required minimal dialog boxes, and worked perfectly on the first shot.

Once the installation completed, I made sure everything was live, including the network connection and sound; it was. I installed Google Chrome, browsed the Web, logged into Pandora, and heard music. Excellent. At this point, the system said that Ubuntu still needed to install 237 updates totaling 187.8MB. (Has Ubuntu been hanging out with Windows 7? Yikes.) Anyway, that process took about 15 minutes more. After the updates finished installing, we headed to Mythbuntu.



com -> Downloads -> Add to Existing Ubuntu Install and installed the Mythbuntu package on top of our new Ubuntu system.

MythTV and Remote Control

Setting up MythTV requires several main steps. As Heitmüller put it to us, setting up MythTV under Linux is a bit of "configuration overload," though it's easily worth the effort in the end. The basic idea involves several main goals, which surround three main pieces: Mythbuntu's Control Center, which defines the basic MythTV install; the MythTV Backend setup, which involves getting the TV tuner card online and populating the channel guide; and the MythTV live front end, which lets you schedule recordings and set up the remote control. There are way too many steps to reiterate here, but we found everything we

needed at the following four links:

Ubuntu 10.04: www.ubuntu.org | Mythbuntu 10.04: www.mythbuntu.org | MythTV wiki: wiki.mythtv.org | Hauppauge HVR-1600 wiki: http://www.mythtv.org/wiki/Hauppauge_HVR-1600. (There's also an extremely helpful IRC channel: [irc.freenode.net: channel #mythtv-users](http://irc.freenode.net/channel/#mythtv-users))

Originally, MythTV was designed to utilize separate machines for the backend (DVR) and front-end (user interface) roles. For this build, we'll set our one PC to do both. First, we'll need to configure Mythbuntu itself. Under System -> Administration -> Mythbuntu Control Center -> System Roles, check off both Primary Backend and Frontend, and leave Ubuntu Desktop checked along the bottom row. Then click Apply, and leave the default choices intact as you work your way through the process. During the install, we set a password for root, but it's not required. We also left it as the only MythTV system running (which was the default setting).

The next step is to configure the MythTV backend. Head to System -> Administration -> MythTV Backend Setup. Leave General Settings alone, as there isn't really anything worth changing there. Instead, choose Capture Cards; the system should find the Hauppauge HVR-1600 automatically, but it will incorrectly identify it as a V4L card. Change the top setting to IVTV MPEG-2 encoder card, since it's receiving compressed video. Leave all of the other settings intact and click Finish. (If the Finish button is tucked behind the task bar, make sure to auto-hide the task bar by right-clicking it and choosing auto-hide.)

In order for TV recording to work properly, you'll need some channel guides. The best way to do it is via schedulesdirect.org, which costs \$20 per year. A seven-day free trial is available, and the trial doesn't require a credit card. This way you can make sure this project is for you before committing. When you set up the



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PRIVACY IS DEAD: SO SAYS ERIC SCHMIDT

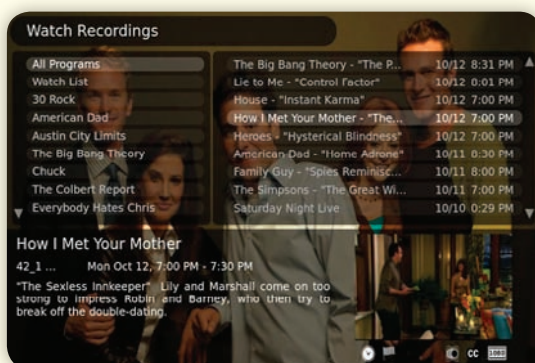
When the CEO of Google, the company that is usually under fire for searching through your personal data to try and serve up relevant advertising, says in an interview that we are putting up too much personal information on the web, something tells us it's time to sit up and take notice. Repent ye sinners, the end is nigh!
<http://bit.ly/9bg96M>

account, it will be empty; you'll need to populate it with the appropriate channel guide, which you can find by entering your zip code and choosing one from the menu that appears. I chose the appropriate Comcast Digital entry for the town I live in.

MythTV's front end works a lot like a TiVo or cable service—provided DVR, but there are about 50 times the number of menu options once you start digging. Fortunately, you can ignore almost all of it. You navigate menus with the cursor keys, not the mouse cursor. You'll be able to see channel guides for your system and schedule recordings. If you don't see the right channel guide, you may need to return to the MythTV Backend Setup. On our system, running channel scans took a few tries. Note that you'll need to run at least one scan before you can watch live TV for the first time. You can also select from a number of built-in UI themes. I liked Mythbuntu's UI theme the best, but all of the older MythTV themes are here too—even that ugly blue one from five years ago.

Finishing the Job

To complete the system, you'll need to set up the remote control. That's especially true if you have a cable box and want to change channels through MythTV. Unfortunately, getting the remote control to work under Linux is tough. Heitmueller said that IR support varies from kernel to kernel and distro to distro—not to mention by which TV tuner card you're using. In the case of the HVR-1600, there are two different types of IR to setup: IR receive, for using the remote control, and IR transmit, for MythTV to control the cable box. (Read the Hauppauge HVR-1600 wiki for detailed



instructions.) Note that in some cases, such as with Verizon FIOS, you can control the box via FireWire; we didn't try that, though.

All of that is fine for standard-definition TV, but recording in HD is trickier. We ended up steering clear of it for this story, although there are a few ways around the problem. Cable providers deliver basic broadcast-equivalent stations as unencrypted MPEG streams (called ClearQAM). MythTV can record those via the HVR-1600. Beyond that, everything else will be encrypted. The Hauppauge HD-PVR will let you record all channels, including premium channels like HBO, via the component inputs and hardware-based H.264 compression.

So there it is: a fully open-source DVR box running under Linux—specifically, Ubuntu, and with a wireless keyboard and mouse. You can add additional tuner cards as your needs increase. You can also use the system as a central media repository for your photos, music, and video files. It turns out that there's very little you can't do with a Linux-based media center, at least when compared with more typical consumer PCs. In our book, that makes this a project worth doing for just about any media enthusiast—and one that doesn't bust the budget, either.



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 0947, Raipur - 0771- 329 3674, Ranchi - 0651- 324 4199,
 Secunderabad - 040- 2789 4847.

GOOGLE TABLET MIGHT BE LAUNCHED IN NOV

With that much smoke, there must be a fire somewhere. After all the idle chatter about it, when Gizmodo ran this story people started to believe that the iPad's days might truly be numbered
<http://gizmo.do/bRggfs>

FOXCONN DOESN'T WANT YOU TO KILL YOURSELF

Tired of trained workers just offing themselves for no particular reason, Foxconn held a rally, gave employees spiderman suits and if some reports are to be believed, doubled their salaries!
<http://gizmo.do/aqmFZ2>

HARI PRASAD ARRESTED FOR EVOTING SCANDAL

Although you can't arrest someone for ethically showing how an evoting machine can be compromised, you can arrest them for obtaining the machine in the first place. Kudos to the whistleblowers.
<http://bit.ly/axGDbg>

URINE-POWERED FUEL CELLS?

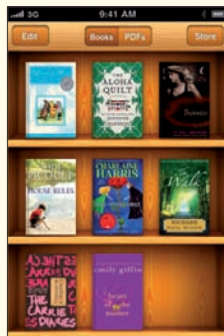
Goodcleantech.com picked up on this story where researchers are working on a way to use urine instead of hydrogen or methanol. We want to know how someone comes up with this idea?
<http://bit.ly/9CtuPz>

The 30 best, free iPhone apps

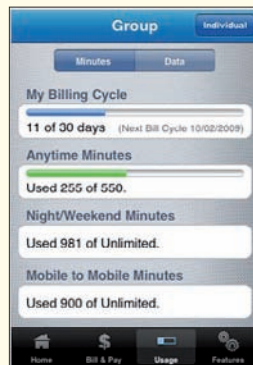
By Sean Ludwig and Matthew Murray

1 Apple iBooks 1.1.2

Apple's iBooks isn't just an e-book reader; it's also an excellent PDF reader. The app uses an attractive bookshelf metaphor to arrange your virtual books and PDFs, and Apple makes quite a few older books available for free through its online store. As with many Apple apps, iBooks becomes more useful if you have more Apple devices; you can sync your bookmarks and notations with your iPhones, iPod Touch, and iPad.

**2 AT&T myWireless Mobile 1.4.2**

AT&T's myWireless app tells you if you're coming close to your monthly 200MB or 2GB data limit, how many minutes you've used, and when your next bill is due. It also lets you upgrade your plan if you're using your iPhone much more than you expected. Checking this app periodically is the best way to protect yourself from unexpected AT&T charges.

**3 Bing 1.2.1**

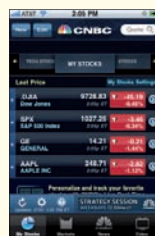
On the desktop we prefer Google, but on the iPhone we prefer Bing. Why? Because the Bing app provides a scrolling photo search, voice search, and local shopping searches; it even has a bar code scanner to look up prices on goods in stores. The Social tool lets you connect to Facebook and Twitter and search your results from friends.



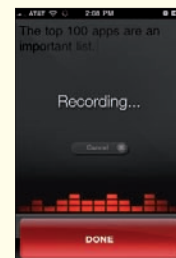
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4 CNBC Real-Time 1.3

One of the best business news sites has one of the best free business apps on the iPhone. CNBC's app starts with business news alerts, but we really like it because of its detailed stock portfolio tracker. Plus, we dig its well-rendered graphics.

**5 Dragon Dictation 2.0.0**

Ever wanted to dictate a long series of notes and then e-mail or text them?

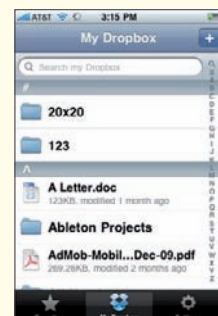


Dragon Dictation can do that for you. Just load up the app, tap the red button, and dictate for a one minute at a time. The latest version even has multilingual support, and lets you paste text directly to the iPhone SMS client. One downside: Some users have complained that Nuance goes through your contacts to ensure accuracy when you speak names. It's a breach of privacy, yes, but we'd rather have the names spelled correctly.

6 Dropbox 1.2.5

If you have a lot of gadgets and computers (and who doesn't these days?), Dropbox lets you access your personal files on any of them. Dropbox gives you 2GB of file storage that can be accessed from any computer. On iPhone, iPod touch, and iPad, the app

allows you to view documents, spreadsheets, presentations, and some videos and photos that you've put into your personal file space. Occasionally, we've seen some instances where it simply won't work, but it's useful enough that we're willing to overlook a few glitches.



TOSHIBA WORKING ON 3D TVs THAT NEED NO GLASSES

Finally, you might be able to enjoy your favourite movies in 3D, without all that headache of putting on those silly glasses and looking like a dork in your own home.

<http://bit.ly/d9MAko>

THE CPU-GPU ARRIVES BUT FROM MICROSOFT, NOT FROM AMD OR INTEL

The slimmer Xbox 360, 250 GB runs on a chip that has the GPU, CPU and memory integrated. Go to the link and read how Microsoft actually had to build it to run slower!

<http://bit.ly/dmuVMV>

THE FIRST IPAD IN 1987!

Well not really, but there's an interesting story on Ars Technica about how Star Trek: The Next Generation featured hand-held input devices that looked a lot like Apple's iPad, but 23 years ago!

<http://bit.ly/difpVI>

COMPLICATED MECHANISMS SIMPLE ANIMATIONS

This is a must see for those of you just cannot understand all those complicated looking diagrams or verbose descriptions about how simple things like sewing machines, car gears and steam engines work.

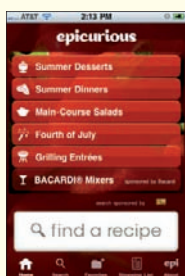
<http://bit.ly/bmKK4m>

7 eBay Inc.

Have you been losing eBay auctions because you weren't in front of your PC? Pick up eBay Mobile, and you'll be able to swoop in at the last second from anywhere with an Internet connection. The app lets users search, bid on items, update their info, check bids on items being sold, and much more. Power sellers and frequent bidders should consider this an essential tool for keeping up with auctions.

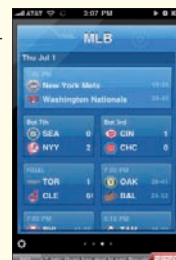
**8 Epicurious Recipes & Shopping List 2.1.1**

If you like assembling meals as much as you do assembling PCs, the chances are good you already know about Epicurious and its more than 100,000 recipes. The site's iPhone app lets you turn your favorite recipes into a shopping list that you check off. If you miss flipping through food-stained pages, you can turn your favorite recipes into a paginated cookbook. The ads here can be annoying, but we're willing to endure them for this tasty app (which is just as tantalizing on the iPad, too).

**9 ESPN ScoreCenter 1.5.4**

Sports fanatics with iPhones should download ESPN ScoreCenter.

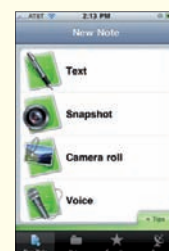
It allows you to keep track of your favorite sports teams on a single page, read the latest analyses from ESPN, and provides push notifications when games start or teams score. Sportacular is also a smart sports app with similar score-tracking abilities, but we think ESPN's design is a little cleaner.



You can read the full article with 20 more apps at <http://bit.ly/9HQo5p>

10 Evernote 3.3.8

If your personal memory is very high latency, you may want to consider Evernote. The app provides you with several ways to keep notes—including text, voice, and photos—and lets you access them from any desktop or phone with Evernote's software. The simple interface makes it easy to write down important to-dos, locations, phone numbers, or just about anything you might need to reference later.





BIG BANG

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XPOWER

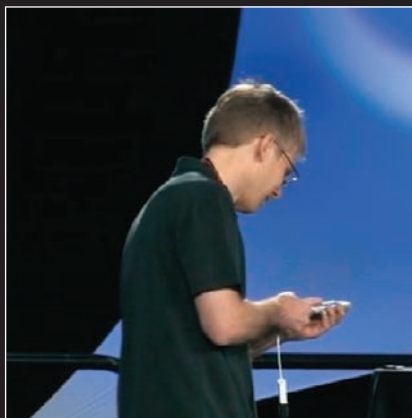




Extreme gaming performance

Join the Taliban in the new Medal of Honor game that's scheduled to be released in October. However, a lot of people (mostly in the US and UK) are not happy with the fact that players will be able to play as the Taliban and attack allied soldiers. Reminds us of another slightly popular game called CounterStrike, which let you play terrorists, and no one complained then!

<http://bit.ly/aiq07i>



Gamers were anticipating a glimpse of Doom 4 at Quakecon this year, probably based on the new Rage engine. However, John Carmack, the brains behind id Software had other things in mind. He showed off the next generation game engine Rage, but on an iPhone running at full resolution at a stable 60 frames per second. Versions of rage are expected to reach iPad and iPhone users before the end of the year. Game console and PC users will have to wait another year.

<http://bit.ly/c91xxx>

(PRODUCT LAUNCHES)

MOTOROLA DROID 2



This new hardware QWERTY phone features a 3.7-inch screen and 5MP camera like the previous Droid. It also features a 1 GHz OMAP processor, and Google's latest Android OS 2.2 codenamed Froyo. The network unlocked Milestone 2 is expected soon.

<http://bit.ly/aVhNAC>

SONY DR-GA500



The Sony DR-GA500 comes bundled with a Dolby Pro Logic 3D processing unit for surround sound. The DR-GA500 will hit shops in mid-October. Buyers will also get a free copy of the upcoming and contravertial game Medal of Honor.

<http://bit.ly/akJiXg>

NIKON D3100



The weary Nikon D3000 is being replaced by the D3100. The D3100 brings new features such as video recording in 1080p, thanks to the new EXPEED 2 image processor, and a 14.2 megapixel sensor.

<http://bit.ly/9aT5ez>

The world's toughest Sudoku

		5	3					
8							2	
	7			1		5		
4					5	3		
	1			7				6
		3	2				8	
	6		5					9
		4					3	
					9	7		

The 3 clicks

1) unhearit.com

Got a song stuck in your head? Get it out by visiting this site and getting an all new song stuck up there.

2) stripgenerator.com

Now, now. Get your mind out of the gutter. This is a comic strip generator that anyone can use...

3) viewat.org

This is a site that lets you upload your own panorama images or sit around starting at others' all day.

ABSOLUTE
TIMEPASS

Top 3 YouTube Picks

We're just filling in space here. Don't read this text, it's boring and pointless. Oh well, we warned you...



<http://bit.ly/3xBqIV>

2 min 46 sec

The crazy team at Waterloo Labs are at it again. This time they're controlling a car using an iPhone!



<http://bit.ly/ayrFJT>

5 min 9 sec

Japanese man invents machine that converts plastic into oil, and saves on CO2 emissions while doing so



<http://bit.ly/9X3nGq>

2 min 38 sec

Check out the new voice actions in Android 2.2. Some of it works on 2.1, but obviously meant for 2.2



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di9it, India's No. 1 technology magazine, launches its shopping portal for technology products.

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What's in store?

Several companies are working on better and faster high speed data transfers. We wonder what the newer options could be...

Advantage technology

An advantage of faster, emerging technologies is that USB 3.0 chip prices are set to drop through the floor

PHOTOS.COM

Data over light

Intel's latest technology could increase the average available bandwidth by a bit – quite a bit!

Nishith Rastogi

readersletters@thinkdigit.com

Since the inception every computer user and developer has yearned for more bandwidth either for communication via the internet or to up their own peripheral speeds. Remember that joyous cry you let out while migrating from USB 1.0 to USB 2.0 or if you are on the bleeding edge then from USB 2.0 to USB 3.0. Well Intel claims that they have done better with their aptly named 'Light Peak' technology. We have been using optical fiber for external communication for a long time and now Intel has come up with a technological breakthrough to do the same with peripheral communication. It

should be noted that Light Peak and USB 3.0 are complimentary technologies and Light Peak is not designed to kill USB 3.0, at least not during the early stages, though it may be a logical succession as Intel suggested.

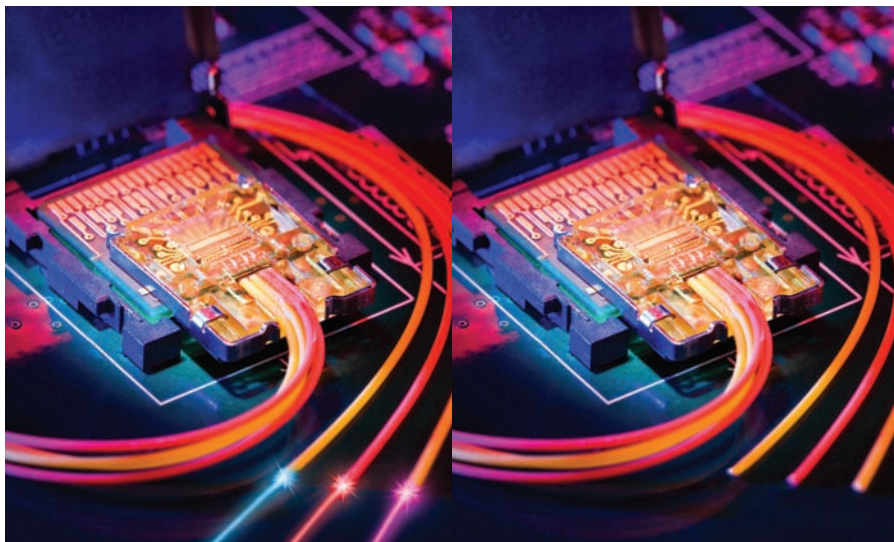
Intel describes Light Peak as the codename for an innovative high-speed optical cable technology that is designed to be the interface medium for your electronic devices.

First demonstrated at the Intel Developer Forum in 2009 as a fully functional prototype. To show off their technology, they ran two full HD (or 1080p) video streams, LAN and other storage devices over a single cable that was astonishingly long at 30 metres (demonstrating lack of any signal drop over a significant

distance). They claim the same over distances as large as 100 metres for a 125 micron wide cable) and used USB end connectors. In the latest demonstration prototype, the laptop was fitted with a 12-mm square chip as the optical module that performs the optical to electrical encoding. As for the display, there is an external converter box to perform the same function. Light Peak cables are also durable and not prone to interference. According to Intel, "You can tie a knot in it and it'll still work". By May 2010, they demonstrated the same in a laptop signifying that physical dimensions are already small enough for the mobile computation platform. This is when Light Peak became the darling of the tech community.

At its very basic state, Light Peak comprises two optical fibres carrying upstream and downstream traffic separately and dedicatedly. It should be noted that Light Peak isn't protocol dependent, but a mere change in the physical transmission medium. This means it can work on the existing protocols or standards say USB or FireWire with massive boost to their transmission speeds. Current prototypes operate at 10 Gbps in each direction. At 10 Gbps, you can transfer a full length Blu-ray movie in less than 30 seconds.

Given the massive transmission speeds, it also gives developers the liberty to implement functionality to run multiple protocols simultaneously. This means you can connect multiple devices. This is an exciting new feature as this can go a long way in minimising keyboard wire clutter and further miniaturisation, Especially in netbooks and ultra-mobile devices where space is at a premium. Imagine only a single cable except the power plug coming out of your laptop connecting all your peripherals from video, audio, printers to storage solutions. There are design concepts where a tablet performs differently based on the dock style it is connected. With Light Peak that concept might be a reality sooner than you expect since it needs only a single connect. Popular and useful features such as hot plugging and quality of service are also implemented.



Light Peak Close up with Laser switch on and off.

Uncertified products

Taiwanese companies not getting their USB 3.0 products certified

Gamechanger?

Adieu HDMI, DVI, Ethernet, USB, eSATA, Firewire. We'll explore this possibility in the months to come

From the labs



A laptop running a full HD stream using Light Peak technology

An important point to note would be that optical fibre cables themselves have nearly infinite bandwidth, so the upgrade potential is huge and Intel is already promising speeds of 100 Gbps over the next decade.

Light Peak consists of a controller chip and an optical module that converts an electric signal (primarily the information you wish to transfer) into light. Even the reverse is performed. This leaves the remaining circuitry unchanged. With mass sale and production, the economies of scale will be leveraged and the cost of each module is expected to drop significantly. Given the relatively high short distance communication needs compared to under sea cables used in the telecom industry, the detector and the laser (the signal source) needn't be of extremely high quality. This helps in reducing costs.

The primary motivation to move to an optical medium from an electrical medium comes to the fact that the limits for speed, length and issues regarding electromagnetic interference (EMI) are proving inhibitors in any major upgrade to transmission speeds now. Optical communication technology isn't in itself new

and have been used in data centres and telecommunications for a long time, Light Peak brings similar capabilities to consumer electronic devices at a reasonable price.

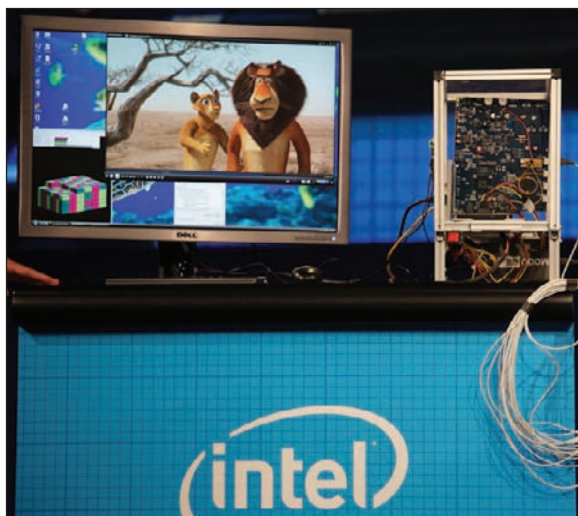
Intel is already working in full steam with component manufactures to facilitate commercial deployability as early as the end of 2010. The aim is to replace all copper wire by silicon photonic systems at a later and Light Peak is a start in that direction. Sony and Apple seem to be on the forefront along with intel for Light Peak implementation. As a matter

of fact, the first public demonstration of the Light Peak technology was made on a Hackintosh. Once a complete conversion to optical transmission is done with all components primarily communicating with each other via photons instead of electrons, it will further provide a much fillip to communication speeds as there will be no redundant signal conversions.

There's speculation also that there's more to Light Peak. It has been suggested by several insiders that Apple initially brought the concept to Intel to build it, as early as 2007. Their plans included an inter operable standard that could handle massive amounts of data and could do away with the connector mess by only using a single connector type. We are already aware of Apple's love for minimalistic design. So don't be surprised if an Apple Mac supports Light Peak slightly before your PC.

Even for Light Peak, currently it is not a glorious road. There are major concerns in several departments, especially power efficiency due to the constant need of photo generation. A declarative stand is yet to be released by Intel on this issue. Another major concern is the ability of connected devices to store and process data at such speeds. For example, your hard disk may not be able to write data as fast as it receives from Light Peak cables, though of course you are in luck if you are dealing only with solid state storage devices.

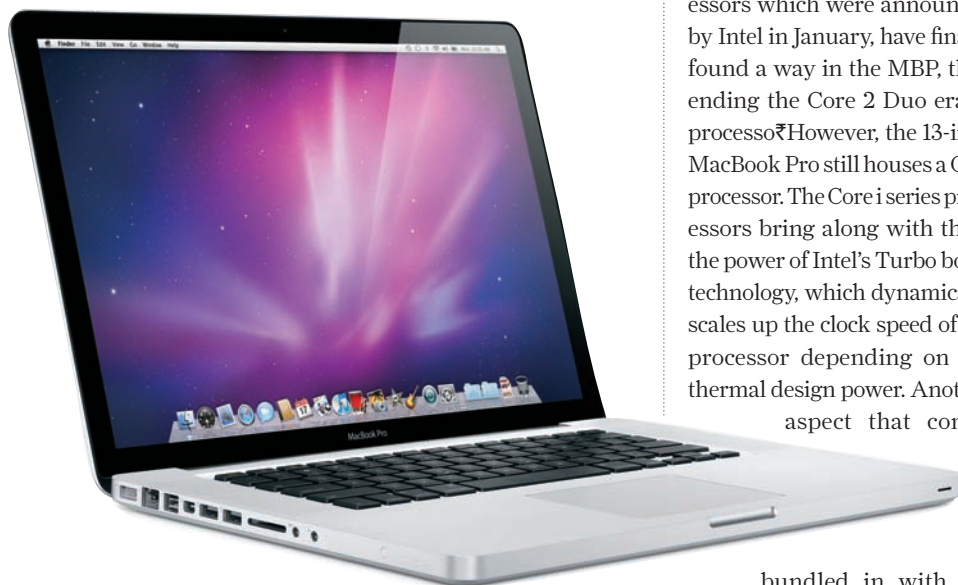
Having looked at the near future of device communications, we would wind up by informing you about another rotary initiative by Intel called 'Hybrid Silicon Laser' technology. It uses four channel. Laboratory prototypes demonstrate speeds of 50 Gbps already, but given the massive amount of effort gone in manufacture synchronisation, media publicity and marketing, don't expect it to be commercially available anytime soon. Nevertheless, breakthroughs over here can be implemented in the more glamorous sister going by the name of 'Light Peak'. **d**



Notice the magic glass-box on the right of the picture

MacBook Pro 15-inch

A Core i5 notebook for the pros



Core i series of laptop processors which were announced by Intel in January, have finally found a way in the MBP, thus ending the Core 2 Duo era of processors. However, the 13-inch MacBook Pro still houses a C2D processor. The Core i series processors bring along with them the power of Intel's Turbo boost technology, which dynamically scales up the clock speed of the processor depending on the thermal design power. Another aspect that comes

Coming to the features that haven't changed much. The new MBP still comes in the traditional aluminium uni-body casing. The edges of the MBP are quite sharp and you ought to be careful around them. HDMI port is still missing, so is a Blu-ray drive which seems illogical considering the selling price of the MBP. Somehow the DVD slot drive only seems limiting. The 15.4-inch LED backlit screen is brilliant with a great contrast ratio making the blacks appear deeper. But the resolution 1440x990 seems really odd. You can upgrade to another screen with the 1680x1050 resolution at a price however. This is one aspect which we did not like.

bundled in with the processor is Hyper threading, which allows two threads to be executed in parallel.

There are two graphics processors in the MBP. One is the Intel HD integrated graphics using 288 MB of VRAM and the other is the discrete NVIDIA GeForce GT330M which has 256 MB of RAM. Two graphics solution in the same system might appear confusing, but Apple has implemented a very intelligent feature that allows the system to switch automatically from integrated graphics to discrete graphics based on the programs being used. It looks for the frameworks used by individual apps – like OpenGL or Core Animation – to decide when to switch from Intel HD to GT330M. Another new feature that has been integrated in the MBP is inertial scrolling, which is seen in iPhones and iPods and also on the Magic Mouse. This prevents the scrolling from stopping abruptly but gradually slowing down.

The chiclet keyboard as always, is a pleasure to work on. The new generation Core i5 mobile processors gave impressive scores on all the benchmarks we ran. GeekBench gave an overall score of 4750 (a good 500 points up from the Apple iMac 27-inch system we had tested some months back, which had a Core 2 Duo processor). Xbench gave a score of 160 while Cinebench R11 gave an OpenGL frame rate of 15.55 fps. In the real life tests it took a mere 34 seconds to encode around 6 audio files to a 320 kbps MP3 files. Data transfer within the hard disk took about 105 seconds for a 4 GB sequential file and 164 seconds for a 4 GB assorted files. Copying same data from an external drive took 130 and 172 seconds respectively.

MacBook Pro 15-inch comes with a hefty price tag of ₹1,09,900. It is an ideal buy for professionals or Mac users who would want to upgrade.

Specifications

Processor: Intel Core i5 2.4 GHz; RAM: 4 GB DDR3 RAM; Hard Disk: 320 GB; Operating System: Mac OS X 10.6.3; Screen: 15.4-inch

Contact

Apple India

Phone: 1800-425-0744

Email: indiasales@mac.com

Web site: www.apple.co.in

Price: ₹1,09,900

Apple product launches are always preceded by a pre-launch hype extolling the features of the yet-to-be launched product. We all saw that at the time of the iPad or the latest iPhone4, but comparatively speaking the MacBook Pro (MBP here on) did not receive that much of attention. Strange as it may seem, but it isn't hard to digest.

The primary reason for the superb launches of the iPad and iPhone4 has its root in the beautiful design of the product. MacBook Pro on the other hand has had the same design since 2008. Having said this, we are by no means underestimating the latest iteration of the MBP.

First up, let us get the product specifications. We got a 15.4-inch MacBook Pro having the Intel Core i5 processor having a speed of 2.4 GHz and 4 GB of DDR3 RAM with 320 GB of hard disk space.

7.0
10

Features.....	7.0
Performance.....	7.5
Build Quality.....	8.0
Value for money.....	5.5

Video Charts

YouTube has introduced a section called Video Charts which enlists most viewed/subscribed videos according to week/month

Dreamcast still on

Redspotgames is rumoured to continue developing games for the Dreamcast console

Bazaar

LG HS201G

Great performer

The LG HS201G is an ultra portable LED projector with factory rated 30,000 hours lamp life, and direct USB media playback. This projector is targeted on the home and small office consumer segment. It has power saving features.

The user controls are very detailed thus giving you a crisp, sharp image. Brilliant Colour technology provides enhanced brightness in non primary colours and boosts overall colour intensity/colour depth by amplifying mid-tone colour.

The projector was setup in a fully darkened room for the video & image test. It was placed at a distance



of 3.5 feet from the screen. The LG HS201G built-in speakers delivered excellent sound clarity, low noise feedback and good bass and treble balance in the MP3 audio test. However, the sound was poor beyond 6 to 8 feet. In the font test, images looked a bit blurry and failed to deliver 100% sharp and crisp fonts. The focus wheel

managed to provide hardly 10 to 20 per cent sharpness correction. The video quality is suitable for viewing HD movies in wide-angle mode. All the images appeared very crisp and showed impressive colour gamut.

Although, the price seems to be a little high at ₹48,000, it is still worth a bang for the buck.

Specifications

Specifications :

Dimensions (WxDxH in mm): 122x183x61; Image Contrast: 2000:1; Video formats: 480i, 480p, 576i, 576p, 720p, 1080i, 1080p; Fan noise: 35 dB

Contact

LG Electronics India

Web site: www.lg.com/in/

Phone: 1800-180-9999

Price: ₹48,000

7.5/10

Features8.0
Performance7.0
Build Quality8.0
Value for money7.0

HTC HD Mini

Mini Dynamo

The HD Mini is a beautifully crafted phone, although the large battery cover makes it look unnecessarily thick. Although the HD Mini is much smaller than the Touch HD2, the display never feels too tiny to view or use, unless you have really large fingers. On the whole, the capacitive interface is responsive, and very fluid. There are no nasty surprises to speak of and little tasks like scrolling, selecting options and moving between menus is accomplished without any incident.

Opera Mini and IE are both on board and browsing is a decent experience with pinch



zooming and fast scrolling supported, but whenever you have to enter any text, it is annoying on the touchscreen. The on-

screen keypad is too small, and HTC's auto correction feature has an annoying habit of auto correcting a word with anything else but the desired one. Key spacing is also a problem.

The bundled earphones sound good with good volume levels. The camera captures decent photos – good detail, nice flash exposure and with relatively controlled levels of noise. Handsfree volume is pretty good, with good clarity on calls. In-call clarity of the handset is also good, with minimal distortion except for in zone three.

At ₹23,490, the price is another – a bit too costly for what it offers.

Specifications

Specifications: OS: WM 6.5 Pro; CPU: Qualcomm MSM7227 600 MHz; RAM: 384 MB; ROM: 512 MB; Battery: 1200 mAh; Display: 3.2-inches (320 x 480 pixels); Weight: 110 grams

Contact

Bright Point India

Phone: +91-99108 21100

E-mail : nitin.pandita@brightpoint.com

Web site: www.htc.com/in

Price: ₹23,490 (MOP)

6.5/10

Features7.5
Performance6.5
Build Quality7.5
Value for money5.0

Speed matters

The new WiMAX 2 standard will be finalized in November

**Places or Foursquare**

Facebook launched its geo-location service called Places whose logo has a 4 in a square



Sony Ericsson XPERIA X10 Mini

The tiny professional

will attract you with its display that dominates proceedings, the X10 Mini Pro will captivate by its compact, almost cute dimensions. The rear is gently rounded with the bold Sony Ericsson monogram embedded in it and the "XPERIA" moniker in silver.

The three buttons on the fascia may be attractive, but they're a touch on the hard side in terms of feedback. The power/standby button on the top is also quite hard. The rocker-type volume button has minimal travel, but is pretty intuitive and usable, while the well-labelled camera button just below it feels clicky but works fine.

Since the display is a mere 2.55-inches – small by touch-screen standards, the bezel appears quite wide, especially the lower portion. The 3.5mm jack is on the top, close to the power button and Sony supplies a set of in-ear earphones.

It runs on the archaic Android 1.6. However, an Eclair update is on the cards. Although it's a basic HTML browser, regular browsing is a snap – there is less interference when resizing text, and fonts seem to be rendered well.

There are minus points too – the browser is noticeably slower than either IE or Opera Mini and the same webpage takes twice as long to load. The display resolution of 240 x 320 pixels is low. Another issue we noticed was the colours look a little deficient, and this problem didn't occur on the HD Mini that also has a 65K (OS imposed) colour restriction.

The touch-screen is fairly

sensitive, and the interface is snappy for the most. It's possible to slow things down somewhat and once or twice we noticed the menu acting up a bit with some lag, but this seems rare. While the display might seem small to use properly, the addition of a QWERTY keypad alleviates this. In fact, in retrospect, Sony Ericsson seems to have thought this out to perfection. The X10 Mini Pro scores big here, for the keypad is even more usable than the original XPERIA X1. For while the keys are small, they are well spaced out and have good travel and offer nice, positive feedback. White backlighting isn't visible in bright light.

Music performance is good, well on par of what we were expecting, giving Sony Ericsson's experience with "Walkman" class phones. The bundled earphones offer good clarity, and decent bass. In-call clarity is good, and the earpiece offers good volume, better than the HD Mini.

Video playback isn't much of an experience on account of a noticeable deficiency in colour, and the contrast that isn't too good under fluorescent lighting. Battery life isn't that great, and just two hours of talking saw our battery dip to less than 50 per cent. Charging daily is a mandatory affair.

If you are looking for a compact touchscreen with a good keypad, you might want to look it up. ₹16,000 doesn't sound much for the features on offer. The X10 Mini Pro comes highly recommended.

Specifications

OS: Android 1.6; CPU: Qualcomm MSM7227 600 MHz; RAM: 128 MB; Battery: 930 mAh; Display: 2.55-inches (240 x 320 pixels); Weight: 120 grams

Contact

Sony Ericsson Pvt Ltd.
Phone: 1-800-111 800
Web site: www.sonyericsson.com
Price: ₹16,000

Enter the X10 Mini Pro, a phone born from the much-touted XPERIA X10. One look at the Mini Pro will have you going "It's a joke, is that really a phone, or a toy"? – It's that small.

The Mini Pro is an attractive phone. What it lacks in dimensions it makes up in curves and contour. Every part of this handset exudes quality – from the glossy black front to the rubberised finish on the rear. The entire phone is black, relieved only by a chrome bezel running around it and three adjacent chrome buttons, designed to appear as a bold slash below the screen. Owing to its compact size, the Mini Pro feels solidly reassuring in-hand. Even the side-slide QWERTY keypad has a very positive feel to it and the mechanism snaps solidly into place. While the HTC HD Mini

7.5
10

Features.....	7.5
Performance.....	8.0
Build Quality.....	7.5
Value for money.....	7.0

Nanotech Teabag

New technology for filtering contaminants and bacteria out of water using a nanotech teabag-like design created

47-inch vending machine

The Japanese government has installed a 47-inch vending machine in Tokyo to display and choose products.

Bazaar

Gigabyte GA-X58A-UD3R

The one for us mortals!

The Core i7 processor is the undisputed processor in the market today, but its popularity hasn't been as strong as Intel would have hoped. Some of the causes have been the high costs of DDR3 memory and also of the expensive motherboards based on the sole chipset for the platform - Intel's X58.

The Gigabyte GA-X58A-UD3R is an ATX motherboard with plenty of features but offered at a somewhat acceptable price. For the most part, it's like the previous X58 models from Gigabyte such as the GA-X58A-UD7

The layout of the board



is somewhat cramped. The heatsinks connected by the heatpipes block the first of the PCIe x1 slots. The memory slots are also somewhat closer to the processor. We managed to fit in a humongous Cooler Master V6 GT CPU cooler on the board without any problems. However, the first of the DIMM slots were

covered by it. The first two PCI Express x16 slots are also very closely stacked, so setting up a SLI or CrossFire setup might be difficult.

One of the key features however is the included USB 3.0 functionality. Another nifty feature is Gigabyte Cloud OC. We would have liked to see dedicated Power on and Reset buttons on the board itself. PC Mark gave an overall score of 12,828 while Cinebench gave a score of 15701 for CPU. Video encoding took 22 seconds for a 100MB file. Crysis gave a frame rate of 59 fps at 1280x1024, High setting.

Priced at ₹12,900, it's an affordable X58 board which is overclockable as well.

Specifications

Socket: LGA 1366, Chipset: Intel X58 Express, 6 x DDR3 DIMM sockets, 2 x PCIe x16 slots, 2 x PCIe x1 slots, 1 x PCI slot, USB 3.0 supported

Contact

GIGABYTE Technology India Pvt Ltd.

Phone: +91-22-4063 3222

E-mail: sales@gigabyte.in

Web site: www.giga-byte.co.in

Price: Rs 12,990

7.0
10

Features.....	7.5
Performance.....	7.5
Build Quality.....	7.0
Value for money.....	7.0

LG Cookie Plus

Want another cookie?

Specifications

Screen Size: 3.0 inches (240x400px), 3.0MP Camera, 900mAh battery, Dimensions (L x W x H): 107 x 52.5 x 11.5 mm, Weight: 92.5 grams

Contact

LG Electronics India

Phone: 1800-180-9999

Web site: www.lg.com/in

Price: ₹9,500

6.0
10

Features.....	7.0
Performance.....	5.5
Build Quality.....	6.5
Value for money.....	6.0

The Cookie Plus aka GS500v is a sleek bit of work with a nice solid in-hand feeling. The phone isn't as slim as we'd like. The materials used on the body seem pretty upmarket, and while the 3.0-inch resistive touchscreen dominates the front.

One of the major deterrents on the hardware is the resistive touchscreen. The touchscreen is sluggish, and coupled with the phones' (sometimes) sluggish interface is a recipe for a socialising disaster. Facebook, Twitter and Myspace are all widgets accessible via one of the home screens. The interface is

a little gimmicky. Browsing is decent on account of the size of the display. However, the lower resolution of 240 x 400 pixels leaves something to be desired. The onscreen keypad suffers in terms of usability on account of the touchscreen as well.

The camera lacks autofocus and a flash. The image quality is average. Music playback quality is pretty decent, we found bass to be lacking. The loudspeaker clarity is mediocre. Our signal clarity testing showed clarity loss and a couple of dropped calls and voices were generally muffled and conversations kept getting interrupted.



There were no issues in zone one or zone two.

An MRP of ₹9,500 seems a little high, especially when the phone lacks a dedicated QWERTY. However, these two grouses aside the Cookie Plus is, for the most part a decent phone.



X8 plus 5 more

Sony Ericsson launched the Android 1.6 based Xperia X8 along with five other phones this month

iPhone, iPod or both

Chinese firm develops protective case called the "Apple Peel". It lets you use the iPod Touch as an iPhone

Mac Mini Server

A sleek server for your office

Apple had introduced the server in a Mac mini form factor in 2009. This iteration is an upgrade from the original and has quite a few additions. For starters, this version of the server is comparatively slimmer and wider than the original. Also it has done away with the power brick and has an in-built power unit within the unibody aluminum cast.

The Mac mini server houses an Intel Core 2 Duo 2.66 GHz processor running on 4 GB of 1066 MHz DDR3 RAM. It also has the NVIDIA GeForce 320M graphics solution for all your HTPC needs. This is not meant to be used as a gaming solution, so do not expect high frame rates.



The optical drive is missing in this edition and it is compensated by having two 500GB hard drives. It does not come bundled in with any keyboard or mouse.

The Mac Mini server is basically targetted at small office setups who want a dedicated web server, email server or file sharing among many use. One advantage it has over the Windows Server is that you can have many users without paying any extra licensing fee to access the services. Apart from the basic

servers, Mac Mini also has a podcast composer and wiki / blogging server which adds a nice touch. Server Preferences menu allows you to manage users and groups among other things.

The Mac Mini server allows you to connect not just Mac OS desktops but also Windows OS, Linux etc. At ₹64,900 it is a decent buy for small office setups who are planning to install a server. It does not make much sense to use this product at home though.

Specifications

Processor: Intel Core 2 Duo 2.66 GHz; RAM : 4 GB DDR3 RAM; Hard Disk : 2 x 500 GB; No optical drive.

Contact

Apple India

Phone : 1800-425-0744

Email : indiasales@mac.com

Website : www.apple.co.in

Price : ₹64,900

7.0
10

Features	7.0
Performance	6.5
Build Quality	8.0
Value for money	7.5

LG Cookie Fresh

Now freshly baked

Specifications

Screen Size: 3.0 inches (240x400px), 2.0MP Camera, 900mAh battery, Dimensions (L x W x H): 108 x 52.9 x 12.5 mm, Weight: 91 grams

Contact

LG Electronics India

Phone: 1800-180-9999

Web site: www.lg.com/in/

Price: ₹7,500

6.0
10

Features	6.0
Performance	5.5
Build Quality	6.0
Value for money	7.0

The new LG Cookie Fresh (GS290) packs almost all the social networking elements in a sleek, vibrantly coloured, lightweight handset. The look and feel of the phone is plasticky with a metallic finish. The overall build quality is pretty sturdy.

It uses a 3.0-inch resistive touch screen with a wide bezel that sports the LG logo that could have been avoided, to make the handset compacter. The button placement is nice and comfortable with the volume up and down buttons on the left side which can also be used to switch between

silent or regular profile and for changing the touch tones.

Being a social networking device, one would expect it to be fast and comfortable which it isn't. The resistive touch display is laggy.

There are three home screens for different purposes. The menu is fairly easy to use and features two screens that contain all the applications and settings. And once the phone is locked one can draw certain gestures to access certain applications without having to unlock the phone.

Camera image quality in a well-lit indoor environment was satisfactory. Call clarity is so-so. In some areas, we



faced no issues while other test zones, we had an issue of some crackling. We also had calls getting dropped from time to time.

With an MRP of 7,500 the LG GS290 might seem expensive, but it's available for ₹6,000 or thereabouts on the street, which isn't bad.

Book tickets on Facebook

Delta Airlines has launched a feature, Delta Ticket Window for users to book tickets via its Facebook page

Oracle sues Google

Oracle filed suit against Google claiming that its Android software infringes patents related to Java

Bazaar

Genius G-Shot HD501

Great looking budget HD camcorder

High Definition is slowly but surely seeping into all aspects of our lives, be it cellphones, TV or the humble YouTube. Creating HD content nowadays has become very easy thanks to products like Genius G-Shot HD501, a pocket camcorder that is smaller than most smartphones.

The weather-proof HD501 houses a 1 MP CMOS sensor which is capable of recording 720p HD videos at a resolution of 1280 x 768. It comes in a very attractive looking black glossy body having a 2-inch LCD screen. A central circular navpad with a yellow button in the centre, is surrounded by a Delete and Mode button on

either sides. Mode switches from the three camera modes, to the preview mode to the – hold your breath – music mode. HD501 also bundles in an MP3 player.

You can switch between HD, WVGA and still camera modes by pressing the up/down arrow keys. To start recording you have to press the yellow button in the centre. Even a 5-year old child can learn the operations in no time, it's that simple. Don't expect any shooting modes other than the three you get.

Still camera is capable of shooting at 3 MP, but the image quality is not that great. HD videos did show some noise in them while shooting indoors. Quality was really good when used outdoors. But you will



notice a variation in overall lighting if you move from a bright spot to a comparatively darker spot due to auto focussing. Music quality is decent and so are the bundled in earphones.

For ₹5,493, this is a decent buy for those looking at an entry level HD recorder. It's a ideal companion on your treks.

Specifications

Max Resolution: 1280 x 720p; Modes : HD, WVGA, Still camera; Sensor : CMOS; Pixel count : 1 MP (video), 3 MP (still)

Contact

Pioneer Digital Media
Phone : +91-11 -4701 5350
Email: manish@pioneerdigital.in
Website : www.geniusnet.com
Price : ₹5,493

6.5/10

Features6.0
Performance6.5
Build Quality7.0
Value for money6.5

Specifications

Processor : 500 MHz SiRF chipset; Operating System : Windows CE 6.1; RAM : 128 MB; Memory : 1.5 GB Nand Flash (internal), MicroSD upto 8 GB (external)

Contact

Lakshmi Access Communication Pvt Ltd.
Phone: +91-80-4092 1111
Email: contact@lacs.co.in
Web site: www.lacs.co.in
Price: ₹8,888

6.0/10

Features6.0
Performance6.0
Build Quality5.5
Value for money5.5

LACS Magnum LA127

A wireless infomedia device

We are seeing a lot of tablets coming in the market. On first glance the Magnum also looks like a tablet, but Lakshmi Access Communication Services (LACS), the company who have developed this product, prefers calling it a Wireless Infomedia Services (WIS) device. This 4.3-inch resistive touchscreen device tethers to your mobile phone via bluetooth. By pairing your phone to the Magnum, you can make calls via the device, connect to the internet and stream music between Magnum and your cell phone.

This WIS device runs on Windows CE 6.1 operating



system and has a 500 MHz SiRF processor. Thanks to the old operating system, the user interface looks archaic. It has eight main menus on the homescreen including a media hub, a bluetooth menu, a games menu and navigation among other things. We synced the device to a cellphone and were able to make calls and receive calls on the Magnum. But we found it to be a very round about way of making a call. You can also copy

your entire contact list on the Magnum after pairing it with your phone.

Magnum has an in-built FM transmitter. GPS is another application whose maps and software are provided by Sat-Guide. It has an option of nine Indian languages for voice guided navigation. The only strong point of Magnum seems to be its navigation application.

It lasted for approximately four hours on one charge. At a price of ₹8,888, it is priced quite economically. For rural areas, this device may seem a great purchase, but for the Magnum to really draw in urban crowds, there has to be an upgraded OS and 3G capability.



Wave no more

Google announced this month that it would stop development of its Wave even though it would be live till the end of year

Rupee symbol on Lava B5

Lava B5 mobile which has an alpha keyboard will ship with the new Rupee symbol

Apacer AL670

Versatile HD media player

There is a deluge in the HD media players market which has reached to an extent where manufacturers are going beyond plain vanilla video viewing and are offering incentives. Apacer AL 670 is a media player which also packs in a video streaming feature from a local PC and it can be used as a BitTorrent client.

The flat top with a brush metal finish makes it look quite impressive. On the front you have two USB ports, a power button and the IR receiver. The range of connectivity options like HDMI out, LAN port, AV ports are located on the rear side. User interface of the player

has a circular trajectory with the regular options like music, movies, photo, online and settings.

Navigating through the menus is quite straightforward. The remote is sturdy with well placed buttons. The circular nav pad can be used to increase/decrease the size of the subtitles and move it up or down. It takes over 10 seconds to start up, but from then on it is quite snappy. Movies section has a preview mode, which plays the movie in a small rectangle as soon as you select it. You can go to the home menu while a live movie / audio is playing. Resume playback is a nice option which



allows you to playback movies, if you had stopped them abruptly.

We played all movie resolutions including 480p, 720p and 1080p and formats from .AVI to .MKV to even .RMVB. Quality of video playback is quite good, but 480p videos appeared somewhat below quality. You can change the setup like aspect ratio, controls etc. Audio playback was good in the mid-range frequencies.

At ₹7,999 we feel that the AL 670 is a very decent buy.

Specifications

External USB drive support; Connectivity : LAN port, HDMI port, Composite video port; Aspect Ratio support : 4:3, 16:9, 16:10; File types: .AVI, .MKV, .RMVB etc.

Contact

Apacer Technologis Pvt. Ltd.

Phone: +91-80-4152 9061

Email: shiva_neelangi@apacer.com

Website: www.apacer.com

Price: ₹7,999

7.0
10

Features 7.0
Performance 7.0
Build Quality 6.5
Value for money 7.0

Iomega ScreenPlay TV Link Director

Sleek HD performer

Specifications

AV connections : HDMI, Composite video and audio R/L; Aspect Ratio support : 4:3, 16:9, 16:10; Video formats : MPEG-1, MPEG-2, MPEG-4, H.264

Contact

Iomega

Phone: 1800-180-2237

Email: malaia@iomega.com

Website: www.iomega.com

Price: ₹7,300

6.5
10

Features 7.0
Performance 6.5
Build Quality 6.0
Value for money 6.5

On first glance one may mistake the Iomega ScreenPlay Tv Link Director for a portable hard drive thanks to its slim form factor and the beautiful black brush metal finish on the top surface. But a bunch of ports on the rear side bring home the realization that this is an HD media player. On the rear you have the HDMI port. It takes around 10 seconds to start up. Home screen comprises the menus Music, Movies, Photos, Online and Settings arranged one below the other. You have to search for your media format as there is no provision to club



movies, music and photos. Navigation is simplified thanks to the user friendly remote control. ScreenPlay also has an option to connect to the internet and pull in videos from YouTube or act as a BitTorrent client.

Video output across all formats was great and we did not notice any skipping of video. Music playback was decent.

Photo slideshow experience was not that great as the output tended to wash out. One setback we noticed in the player was that it tended to heat a lot, even when used for 30 minutes.

Priced at an economical ₹7,300 it is ideal for those who travel a lot and would always like to keep their HD videos viewable on any TV.



Streak in Asia in 2011

Dell Streak announced that it will launch its 5 inch Android tablet in Asia early next year

Samsung Galaxy Tab

Samsung's Galaxy Tab tablet is expected to be showcased in Berlin and has a 7 inch super AMOLED screen and 1.2 GHz A8 processor

Bazaar

Philips GoGear Muse

Did not Amuse

The Philips GoGear Muse is a good looking MP4 player with a 3.2 inch touchscreen. The stainless steel body gives it a classy look. The product seems to have a flawless design and the manufacturing is also top notch. The stainless steel body makes it sturdy, but also adds to the weight.

The 3.2 inch screen gives a resolution of 480x320 which is good to watch videos. One of the good things is that it can play 720p videos smoothly.

The sound quality is also top notch. The in-ear headphones are very comfortable and are efficient in noise cancellation. There is an equalizer with presets with the option to create custom ones.



The GoGear also comes with a built in FM radio. The reception is good. The battery life also seems to be good – running entire an entire movie only consumes 20 – 25 per cent of the battery.

Expansion is possible using the external SD card slot. An HDMI output to connect the

player to a TV - no HDMI cable is included though.

Priced at ₹9,400, the GoGear Muse isn't as cheap as we had hoped. Although a good player. The popular iPod Touch 8GB is only a little more expensive. With the option of playing games and browse the net, it's a product very hard to resist.

Specifications

Capacity: 8GB; Formats: MP3, WAV, WMA, AAC, Ogg Vorbis, FLAC, APE; Resolution: 480 x 320 pixels, 262 K colours,

Contact

Philips Electronics India Ltd.

Phone: 1800 102 2929

E-mail: customercare.india@philips.com

Web site: www.india.philips.com

Price: ₹9400/-

7.0/10

Features7.0
Performance7.0
Build Quality8.0
Value for money6.0

NVIDIA Quadro 5000

Power unlimited

NVIDIA's Quadro 5000 comes in to replace the existing FX4800 cards - it claims to give a performance jump of up to 5X.

In terms of exterior design, they're both very similar. The output ports are similar to that of FX4800 but can support two active displays. NVIDIA arranged for the HP Z800 workstation which came with two Intel Xeon X5550 CPU and 24 GB, 1333MHz DDR3 RAM. This sort of configuration shouldn't be a bottleneck for the mighty Quados. The tests were carried out on 64-bit Windows 7.

These cards are application specific and are strictly for

professionals. Most of the benchmarks used were to do with rendering final output and also highly dense wireframes – that's where Quados and workstations are used for in the CG and CAD industry.

The performance of Quadro 5000 is very much similar to FX4800 with Mediacoder encoding test using the CUDA edition – we saw a small jump of about 5% in encoding times. SPECviewperf 11 gave a frame rate of 33.11 fps at 1920x1080, MediacoderNT took 181.16 seconds to encode. Also 3D



mark Vantage gave a score of score of 12133 marks for the GPU and around 10263 marks for CPU. Quadro 5000 supports Fast 3D texture transfer which helps in fast transfer and manipulation of 3D textures and 16k Texture and Render processing to texture from and render to 16K x 16K surfaces.

The Quadro 5000 is priced at ₹1,64,934. If you're a freelancer or have a studio, an upgrade to the Quadro 5000 is recommended – just be sure you have the right tools and update to take advantage before you do.

Specifications

352 CUDA cores , 2.5 GB GDDR5 RAM, 320-bit Memory Interface, 120 GB/s Memory Bandwidth

Contact

M/S Computers Infinite

Phone: +91 98919 92406

E-mail: email@computersinfinite.com

Website: www.computersinfinite.co,m

Price: ₹1,64,934

7.5/10

Features8.0
Performance7.5
Build Quality7.0
Value for money6.5

Expedition Mars

Curiosity is a car sized rover robot which is ready to takeoff in late 2011 for Ma\$



Out to steal your Thunder

The Dell Thunder's revealed specs consist of a 1 GHz Snapdragon processor, 4.1 inch touchscreen display 512 MB of RAM

MSI Wind Series U160

Go with the wind

The MSI U160 is built with a solid body, showcasing a gold metallic finish on the inner lid & across the keyboard layout. However, the outer surface of the lid is coated with chocolate brown and the cylindrical hinges add to the flexibility & elegance of the notebook. It adds a second "Fn" key just below the "Enter" key, enabling two hand operation of special keys and the blue-lit power button is moved to one end of the bezel hinges - giving it a concealed presence. A welcome change, is the adequate spacing between the keys, which was missing in U130. We found the keys to be more responsive and accurate than the ones on



U130. In addition, the seamless & wider touchpad provides more room for comfortable navigation across the screen. It is also lighter than the U130 model, weighing hardly 1 kg.

It includes an attractive travel bag, in addition to the other bundled accessories shipped with the U130 model. There is no dif-

ference in the port configuration from MSI U130, although the location of the ports is swapped on either sides. Also, the webcam microphone location is shifted from the top to the side of the LCD screen.

At ₹24,300 it is slightly overpriced, but worth it.

Specifications

Processor: Intel Atom N450 processor, RAM: 2GB DDR2 RAM, Capacity: 320GB HDD, Connectivity: Bluetooth and Wi-Fi connectivity;

Contact

MSI

Phone: +91-11-4270 1424 Ext.

- Support:30 ; Technical : 43

E-mail: technicalindia@msi.com

Website: www.in.msi.com

Price: ₹24,300

7.0
10

Features.....	7.5
Performance.....	7.0
Build Quality.....	8.0
Value for money.....	6.0

ASUS EeeTop ET1610PT

Only Touch?

Specifications

Processor: Intel Atom D410; RAM: 1 GB; Dimensions: 40.7 x 4.3 x 33.7

Contact

Asus India

Phone: +91-22-6766 8800

E-mail: helpline_west@asus.com

Web site: www.asus.in

Price: ₹ 28,999/-

6.0
10

Features.....	7.0
Performance.....	5.0
Build Quality.....	7.0
Value for money.....	5.0

ASUS has come up with a new trendy looking touch screen all-in-one desktop PC powered by an Intel Atom D410 processor. The Atom D410 is a single-core processor which should be sufficient for desktop applications.

Being a 15.6-inch screen, it's not as big as the huge Lenovo IdeaCentre all-in-one PCs. The build quality is decent and the stand is sturdy. There are dedicated controls for the screen such as the brightness and also separate buttons for powering the PC and the monitor. In short, it's very similar to any other netbook in terms of features. WiFi is present but there is no DVD drive.

The touch screen makes it easier to browse the web but it's

not very ergonomical. The keyboard has been modified to make it smaller. The Home, Insert, Page Up and Page Down functions have been added to the directional keys.

Performance wise, it is slower when compared to any desktop these days. The performance is similar to netbooks with similar configurations. WinRAR file compression is at 372 KB/s. Real world tests like file transfers took 192.38 seconds for 4GB sequential transfer and 226.59 seconds for 4GB assorted transfer with the Doom giving a score of just 5.5 frames per second.



It is an affordable product at just ₹28,999. If you're planning on using the desktop for anything but office applications and browsing, it will lack in performance



TV in a fridge?

Refrigerator 2 from R&R Associates comes with an in-built 14.1 inch LCD TV having a 1280x760 resolution

Ovi Life tools

Nokia and Reliance have announced a collaboration to provide users with Ovi Life tools in both rural and urban segments

Bazaar

Plustek OptiFilm-7600i Ai

Old school comes to the new age

For those using film cameras, there's bound to be tons of negatives lying around. The Plustek OptiFilm-7600i Ai is a negative scanner that allows you to scan photos from negatives without having to develop photos into print.

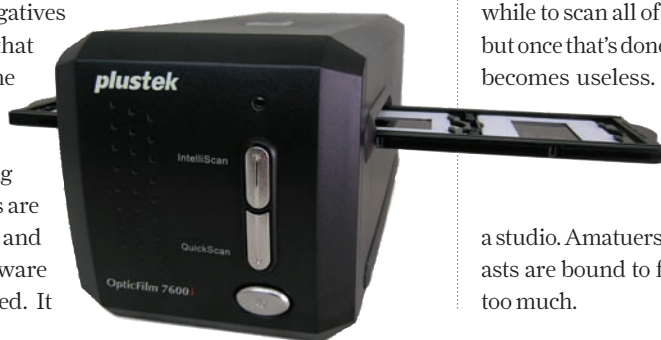
The build quality of the product is average. Negatives are lined up on trays that are slid in one side of the scanner to the other. There are two buttons – one for quick scanning where minimal settings are required to be entered and the other where a software called Silverfast is used. It

can be used to vary the results of the scans.

The scan quality is average – the 7200 dpi scans generate huge resolution scans – way more than what digital camera are capable of. We're not very impressed by the quality. The speed at the 7200 dpi scans is also painfully slow. Switching

rolls and manually pushing the tray in for every scan is cumbersome – we would have liked an automated conveyor system.

If you're scanning really old negatives, you will notice the fine tears in the scans so it's not like you'll get absolute pristine quality either. We feel that it's a nice utility that one can use for a while to scan all of their photos, but once that's done, the product becomes useless. The price of ₹23,000 makes sense for someone in a studio. Amateurs and enthusiasts are bound to find the price too much.



Specifications

CCD sensor
7200dpi scanner
Dimensions: 272 x 120 x 119 mm

Contact

Mr. Vishal Sharma
Phone: +91-99113 81135
E-mail: salesindia@plustek.in
Web site: www.plustek.com
Price: ₹ 23,000

6.0
10

Features.....7.0
Performance.....6.0
Build.....6.5
Value for money.....4.0

Samsung Wave

A wave in the ocean

Specifications

1GHz processor
Screen: 3.3-inch AMOLED
Dimensions: 118 x 56 x 10.9 mm
Camera: 5 MegaPixel
Video recording: 1280x720

Contact

Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd
E-mail: rengith.n@samsung.com
Web site: www.samsung.com
Price: ₹19,100

7.5
10

Features.....7.0
Performance.....7.5
Build Quality.....8.0
Value for money.....7.0

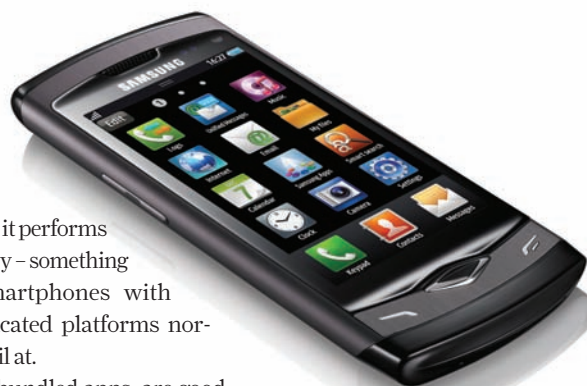
In the ocean of phones and platforms, Samsung takes a dive with its bada platform. The Wave S8500 is the first phone to run the bada OS.

The phone comes with capable hardware – a 1GHz ARM Cortex processor. The phone is built like a tank – the buttons are of top-notch quality, which is all very promising for a phone that the phone that falls in the upper mid-range category priced at around ₹19,100. There's a 5 MP camera, a 3.3-inch AMOLED touchscreen which works brilliantly. The physical buttons makes it easy to accept and drop calls. Some of the touchscreen phones require you to make gestures to accept calls.

Call quality is good and the speakerphone doesn't distort. As

a phone, it performs flawlessly – something that smartphones with sophisticated platforms normally fail at.

The bundled apps are good – the task manager allows you to quickly jump between running apps and closing them. Alerts on system resources are displayed on running heavy applications. There's emphasis on social networking which means you can send Twitter and Facebook messages to your contacts. The Samsung app store is accessible through the phone, so it's easy to install and uninstall apps. The app store isn't as populated as the



iTunes store or the Android market. That's one of the things you come to realize – there is a lack of bada apps at the moment.

At a time where Android's popularity is threatening even iPhone, Samsung's bada might face a tough challenge. As a phone, the Wave is excellent but if you're the type who loves to play with new apps everyday, the Wave may not be the one for you just yet.

Sanyo VPC-PD2BK

Sanyo VPC-PD2BK is a pocket HD camcorder which shoots at 10 Mega-pixel.

Intel buys McAfee

Intel has bought security company McAfee for \$7.68 billion

HDD for Xbox

Microsoft launches 250 GB HDD for Xbox 360

MSI GT640

A Core-i7 gaming laptop

Certainly well built, the 15.4-inch Intel Core i7-powered MSI GT640 gaming laptop is priced at ₹75,000, and is the smaller sibling of the 17-inch GT740. Seemingly well-specced, the laptop is built out of plastic and aluminium alloy, and features a brushed metal texturing on the palm-rest. All this make it heavier than it seems, weighing in at 2.7kg (including battery).

The 15.4-inch screen is unfortunately just short of a full 1080p HD rating, with a resolution of 1680x1050, and a near 'golden' 16:10 aspect ratio. The colour accuracy was excellent however, while the blacks certainly could have been darker.

The laptop sports a well-

built touch-sensitive keypad above the full size keyboard, with an array of dedicated hotkeys, including Bluetooth, Eco (display power saving presets), WiFi. The presence of a numpad is appreciated, but one must question is, why it was required on a gaming laptop. As for gaming, the GT640 acts its age, comfortably playing older games at 1680x1050 resolution with medium details. The Nvidia GTS 250M laptop GPU onboard sports 1GB GDDR3 RAM. Tom Clancy's H.A.W.X at DX10.1 and max resolution was pulled off decently (44 avg. fps), Mass Effect 2, Blur and the Force



Unleashed also had decent outings on high-res and medium settings. At the end of the day, the MSI GT640, though powered by an i7-720QM processor and featuring a 1GB of GDDR3 RAM, is quite a bit on the expensive side, without offering you comparable performance or DX11. Battery life is a plus, giving 4 hours of normal usage time, and a solid 2 hours while gaming.

Specifications

Intel Core i7 720QM, 4GB DDR3 RAM, NVIDIA GeForce GTX260M, 15-inch display, 512GB HDD, Windows 7 Home Premium 32-bit

Contact

MSI India

Phone : +91-11-4175 8808

E-mail: marketing@msi-in.com

Web site: www.in.msi.com

Price: ₹90,000

7.0/10

Features.....7.5
Performance.....7.0
Build Quality.....7.0
Value for money.....6.5

Specifications

Built-in memory capacity:
8Gb; Compression formats: MP3, WMA;
Resolution: 220x176,
262 K colours; Diagonal
Screen Size: 2 inch

Contact

**Philips Electronics
India Ltd**

Phone: 1800-102-2929

E-mail: customercare.india@philips.com

Web site: www.india.philips.com

Price: Rs 7,499

6.5/10

Features.....6.0
Performance.....6.0
Build Quality.....6.5
Value for money.....5.0

Philips GoGear Cam

Go Cam Go!!!

One of the key features of the GoGear Cam is video recording. Now, you can not only play music but also record videos and upload them to social network sites. It comes with a 2-inch screen with a low resolution of 220 x 176.

The Cam's front has a ring, although resembling an iPod Nano's click wheel, it cannot rotate like it. It is a directional control pad. There is a volume rocker on the top edge and power on/off cum lock slider in the bottom of the top edge. You can connect your GoGear cam to TV and watch the videos you have captured. Video capturing is done at a resolution of 640



x 480, and the quality output is average just like a standard point-and-shoot camera.

Bundled earphones aren't of the in-ear kind, but quality is surprisingly good. Multitasking is not possible either which means you can't click

photos and listen to music at the same time.

At ₹7,499, it's a somewhat gimmicky product. It's not very well built neither is it feature-rich. The video recording feature is a novelty. Does pretty badly as a PMP.

Quattro, no longer for apple

Apple to close mobile-advertising company
Quattro Wireless by September end

TV on iPad

Verizon Communications is ready to launch a new
live TV streaming app for iPad or Tablet PCs

Bazaar

Lenovo ideapad Z560

Go Zee!

Lenovo has launched two entry-level laptops under the Z series line – the Z460 and the Z560. The laptops come in glossy black shells and brushed metal finish on the inside. Both the laptops we received came configured with Intel Core i3 M350 (2.27GHz) processors, 2 GB of DDR3 memory and also 320GB hard drives. We will concentrate on Z560 as apart from the screen size both laptops are same.

The touchpad has a rough finish which is not the most comfortable. Just like other laptops, the dedicated controls are there on the key board itself.

All the standard ports are available – eSATA capability is an additional feature not found in many laptops. Scalloped keys



also make typing a little easier.

Performance wise too, the two laptops have very similar performance scores. 3DMark scores were almost identical and CPU. Doom3 also gave around 21 fps at 800x600 medium detail. These laptops are definitely not upto the mark when it comes to gaming performance. HD video

playback is no issue though. The overall score was also lower than the Z460.

If you're looking for a cheap laptop, with a good screen, Z560 is ideal. There difference between the Z460 and Z560 is a mere ₹300. Students looking at a laptop for college might want to consider this.

Specifications

CPU : Intel Core i3 M350
(2.27 GHz); RAM : 2 GB
DDR3; GPU : NVIDIA
GeForce 310M; Screen
size : 15.4 inch

Contact

Lenovo India

Phone: NA

E-mail: pmatthan@
lenovo.com

Web site: www.lenovo.
com Price: ₹ 34,789

7.0
10

Features 7.5
Performance 7.0
Build Quality 7.0
Value for money 6.5

Specifications

Sensor: 1/3" CMOS Megapixel; Pan range : 340 degree; Tilt range: 100 degree; Video compression: Motion JPEG, MPEG 4; Audio compression: G 711 PCM 64 kbps.

Contact

Creative Peripherals &
Distribution Pvt Ltd

Phone: +91-22-4246 0777;

; E-mail:

Web site: www.
ecreativeindia.com

Price: Rs.12,990

7.0
10

Features 7.5
Performance 7.0
Build Quality 7.0
Value for money 7.0

Compro IP530W

Watchdog in the dark

The Compro IP530W is a network security camera which can be connected using wired or wireless connections. The camera has a built-in motor that allows you to move it sideways and also tilt.

The build quality is excellent. Can be mounted on a wall or ceiling. One of the features of the IP530W is the infrared sensor which allows you to monitor people and objects in low light situations. The bundled software allows you to monitor one or many cameras on your network. Most of the the other features such as face and motion detection are enabled through the software.



User permissions can be setup for multiple users accessing the camera. A smart feature called Emap allows you to quickly switch between cameras on the network by clicking on a map of your office or home.

Frame rates are good - the camera does 30fps at a resolution of 640 x 480. Events and schedules can be setup for motion detection along with a host of other triggers.

The price of ₹12,990/- makes the camera very affordable.



D3100 to guide users

Nikon's latest entry level DSLR, D3100 has a 14.2 MP sensor and a Guidance Mode to help the user with settings

Torch fails to light up

BlackBerry's latest Torch failed to impress to an extent where its price had to be brought down

Acer Aspire 4820TG

Gaming worth so much??

The Acer Aspire 4820TG is a 14-inch display laptop, weighing at around 2.2kg. The graphics solution used on the Aspire 4820TG is an ATI Mobility Radeon HD 5650. Many laptops these days use a combination of the Function key with other keys. It has a power saver key which reduces power consumption by dimming down the display and allows the battery to run longer, it also changes the graphics mode directly.

Build quality is good. We wish that the left and right clicks on the trackpad were separate.



Nonetheless, the multi-touch feature allows you to use gestures. Sound quality from the speakers is good and the display is also pretty decent.

The 3Dmark score is 7584 and the CPU score is 2637. The

WiFi file transfer rate is average for both the 50 MB sequential and assorted file transfer. Doom 3 gave a score of 137.3 fps which is very good for a laptop. Real world tests like file transfers gave an average speed between 25 to 30 MB/s which is decent. PCmark vantage score is 5499. All-in-all, it's a good

coverage package.

Along with its good performance and light-weight design, it is a great choice for those who want some gaming capabilities from the product. At ₹48,924, it's good value for money.

Specifications

Processor : Intel Core i5 430M (2.27GHz); RAM: 4GB DDR3 Memory; Display Screen: 14 inch; Operating system: Windows 7 Home Premium (64 bit)

Contact

Acer India

Phone: +91 80 4070 8700

E-mail: ailenquiries@acer.co.in

Web site: www.acer.com

Price: ₹ 48,924

7.0
10

Features	7.0
Performance	7.0
Build Quality	7.0
Value for money	7.0

Specifications

1GHz processor
Screen: 4-inch AMOLED
Dimensions: 64.2 x 122.4 x 9.9 mm
Camera: 5.0 MegaPixel
Video recording: 1280x720

Contact

Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd.

E-mail: rengith.n@samsung.com

Website: www.samsung.com

Price: ₹31,500

8.0
10

Features	9.0
Performance	8.0
Build Quality	8.0
Value for money	8.0

Samsung Galaxy S

Great hardware let down by erratic software

The first thing that you will notice about the Samsung Galaxy S is its beautiful 4-inch



Super AMOLED screen. The second aspect that jumps at you about the phone is how thin-and-light it is. Put together, the phone comes across as something from the future; in a marketplace crowded with big, heavy, LCD-driven phones.

It comes with the most powerful graphic processor inside a mobile phone, and a now standard 1GHz processor. What the phone doesn't offer is a dedicated keyboard.

The processors, the RAM and the screen all make for a very fast, responsive unit. Occasionally, the phone chugs to load something – pausing an eternal 5-8 seconds at a black screen before showing you what it is supposed to. Samsung Kies – the phone's companion PC software

also has its share of issues.

The Samsung Galaxy S is powered by Google's Android 2.1 operating system. The phone ships with some custom apps and UI, which do a good job of adding functionality to the base OS. However, the phone makes a few bizarre missteps – for example, it doesn't let you assign specific ringtones to your Google Contacts (only to contacts stored in the phone's memory); it also has trouble integrating contact information from Google, Facebook, and Twitter.

On the whole, the phone's software integration seems a bit unfinished, and ultimately lets the excellent hardware down. If you are ok with that, the Samsung Galaxy S will please you for the most part.

GRAPHICS CARD



ASUS ARES

Price: ₹1,00,000

Specifications

GPU..... Dual Radeon HD5870
Memory4GB GDDR5
GPU clock850 MHz
Outputs.....DVI, HDMI, DisplayPort

CPU COOLER



Cooler Master V6 GT

Price: ₹5,000

CPU Sockets LGA1366/1156/775
..... AMD AM3/AM2+/AM2
Fan speed.....800 - 2200 rpm
Dimensions..... 131 x 120 x 165 mm

MFD



Brother MFC-9120CN

Price: ₹24,540

Max. Resolution.....600 x 2400
Print memory.....64 MB
Dimensions..... 429 x 490 x 398mm
Weight (in kg)22.9

PORTABLE DRIVE



ADATA SH93

Price: ₹4,070

Capacity.....500GB
Interface.....USB 2.0
Dimension.....129 x 97 x 19.2mm

Test Centre Ratings (All Scores out of 10)

Features 7.5

Although a high-end performance card, it comes with necessary connects for TVs and monitors – DisplayPort and HDMI

Performance 8.0

3DMark Vantage Score: 23541
Far Cry 2 (1920x1200): 106fps
Company of Heroes: ToV: 161fps
Fastest graphics card around

Build Quality 8.0

It's bulky, it's heavy and its tough – built like a tank.

Value for money 8.0

At ₹1,00,000, it's atrociously expensive.

Features 7.0

Each fan has a separate connector. Lights need separate power.

Performance 7.5

Idle temperatures of an Intel Core i7 965 fell to around 32°C. Under maximum CPU load, temperatures rise to around 44°C

Build Quality 6.0

Design is stylish and removal of fans is easy. Good quality clamps

Value for money 6.0

Overclockers won't mind the price, but not the desktop users.

Features 7.0

9120CN can print, scan, copy and fax. Has dedicated buttons for functions and two-line LCD screen.

Performance 7.5

Slow at printing text documents at high quality, mixed documents take 41 secs. Quality of colour copies good.

Build Quality 6.0

Brilliant build quality, strong cassette tray and sturdy top feeder

Value for money 6.0

Quite economically priced, when you consider the features offered

Features 7.0

Rubberized finish to body, color combination is impressive and the USB cable can be attached along the edges of the drive.

Performance 7.0

HD Tach, SiSoft Sandra show read speeds of 32 MBps. Real world tests: 27 MBps write, and 28 MBps read speeds.

Build Quality 8.0

Sturdy water-resistant build rugged build.

Value for money 7.0

At a price of ₹4,070, it's decently priced.

We say

6.5*

If you're looking for the ultimate gaming performance, and money is no bar, the ARES is absolutely for you. It is *the best* in terms of performance than any other graphic card out there in the market.

Also see:

- 1) NVIDIA GeForce GTX480
Digit May '10
- 2) NVIDIA GeForce GTX470
Digit May '10
- 3) ATI Radeon 5970
Digit May '10

6.5*

Assembling the Cooler Master V6 GT can be cumbersome, but by following instructions, you can have it up and running in 20 to 25 minutes. For its price, it's a decent purchase if you're looking for a very effective air cooling solution for your CPU. If you own a transparent case and go for LAN parties, this one's for you.

Also see:

- 1) Igloo 5710 Plus Silent (E)
Digit May '10

6.5

If you're a SoHo and need to print in colour occasionally, the 9120 is for you. Don't expect glossy photo quality prints or fantastic quality. Has a good feature-set overall and the network capability means there's no need for a dedicated server.

Also see:

- 1) Epson Stylus Office TX600FW.....Digit March '10
- 2) Brother DCP 7030...Digit March '10
- 3) Samsung ML 1660....Digit July '10
- 4) Epson B500DN...Digit January '10

7.5

It's not the fastest portable hard drive, but it isn't far behind the fastest. A price of just ₹4,070 makes it affordable – it's not the most compact of portable drives but with its performance, and the assurance that it won't break makes it a good buy.

Also see:

- 1) Transcend StoreJet 25M
Digit February '10
- 2) Buffalo HD PXT320U2
Digit May '10
- 3) WD My Passport Studio 640 GB.....Digit June '10

Chrome Web Store

The Chrome Webstore announced by Google in May is likely to come up in October this year

PayPal enters Marketplace

Google and eBay are in talks to get PayPal on the Android marketplace to allow phone users to make payment

Bazaar mini

EXTERNAL STORAGE



Seagate FreeAgent GoFlex 2TB

Price: ₹13,500

Specifications

Capacity..... 2 TB
Interface..... USB 2.0
Dimension..... 129 x 97 x 19.2mm

Test Centre Ratings (All Scores on 10)

Features..... 7.0
Drive comes with a removable base that can be upgraded to a USB 3.0 one to improve performance.

Performance..... 7.0
Running on USB 2.0, speeds are highly limited. Still, it's ahead of other portable hard drives by a couple of megabytes per second.

Build Quality..... 7.0
Glossy finish and solid build makes it an attractive object

Value for money..... 6.0
More than twice as expensive as an internal 2 TB drive.

We Say

6.5*

If you're looking for a fast mass storage device over a somewhat portable one, then an internal 2 TB makes much more sense when it comes to value for money. This one is only for those who need to move large chunks of data all the time from one place to another.

Also see:

- 1) Buffalo HD HX1.0TU3-AP
Digit February '10
- 2) Seagate Free Agent Desk..
Digit February '10
- 3) WD MyBook 3.0...Digit
February '10

SOFTWARE



TaskTrek

Price: ₹1,000 (10 users/month)

Web enabled PC / phone

Features..... 7.0
Supports features such as realtime email alerts, updates, searching and monitoring real time progress of employees.

Performance..... 7.0
Performance depends solely on internet connectivity. Not ideal for really slow connections.

Build Quality..... 5.5
TaskTrek has a clean and simple interface.

Value for money..... 5.5
Could be cheaper.

7.0

If you're looking for software that manages all your communication within the team, then you should definitely try TaskTrek. Reports can be generated with different priorities, but employees need to fill in logsheet thoroughly for it to work. The rates are a little expensive, but for most SoHos or mid-sized organisations, this shouldn't be a problem. Desktop widgets and chat to be developed soon, which will make things simpler.

LCD MONITOR



Samsung SyncMaster P2370MS

Price: ₹16,000

Size..... 23 inch
Native Resolution..... 1920 x 1080
Response time..... 5 ms
Connects..... VGA, DVI, HDMI

Features..... 7.0
Comes with range of connectivity options including HDMI, Composite, Digital audio. Glowing touch sensitive controls.

Performance..... 7.0
Spyder3Elite gave a contrast ratio of 612:1 at 100% settings HD clips were crisp and had great contrasts.

Build Quality..... 6.5
The stand is quite sturdy with a hint of blue present in the neck.

Value for money..... 5.5
Comparatively expensive than other 23-inch LCDs

6.5

Multiple connects means it can be used to connect as a display for consoles and as a TV. Playing games and watching HD movies on this monitor is a treat. It's ideal for someone who is setting up an enthusiast-level gaming or entertainment rig.

Also see:

- 1) BenQ 2420HD.....Digit
March '10
- 2) Alienware OptX AW2310
Digit March '10
- 3) Samsung SyncMaster B2230.....Digit
March '10

WIRELESS ACCESS



D-Link DAP-1350

Price: ₹4,500

Wi-Fi..... 802.11n
Ethernet..... 01 RJ45 port
USB port..... 01

Features..... 7.5
One of the smallest 802.11n routers in the market. Supports internet connection using USB 3G cards.

Performance..... 8.0
Tests show the router to give good data transfer rates up to 25-30 m. At larger distances, streaming videos is slow.

Build Quality..... 7.5
Compact design, decent design and build.

Value for money..... 3.0
At ₹4,500, it's expensive than most others in its category.

6.5

If you are a person who travels a lot with friends or colleagues and need internet access on the go, the D-Link DAP-1350 can prove to be a boon. USB-powered function allows for creating mobile hotspots on a bus or train. For regular desktop use, you're better off with a full-fledged router.

Also see:

- 1) SMC WBR14S-N4... Digit
July '10
- 2) D-linkDI R-600.....Digit
July '10

Search as you are typing

Google is testing live updates as you are typing your query in the search box

Bazaar mini

LAPTOP CHARGER



Cooler Master USNA 95
Price: ₹4,000

Specifications

90 W output, 9 connects, 1 USB port, Dimensions: 2.4 x 0.8 x 4.1 inch

CPU COOLER



Glacialtech Igloo 5670
Price: ₹1,032

Support: Intel LGA1366 / LGA1156 / LGA775, AMD AM3/AM2+

Test Centre Ratings (All Scores out of 10)

Features.....7.0
Performance.....8.0
Build Quality.....7.5
Value for money.....5.5

Features.....6.0
Performance.....7.0
Build Quality.....7.0
Value for money.....7.0

We Say

It's a good utility to carry along, especially if you have a bulky laptop charger. Charges pretty much every laptop with ease and little heating. Price of ₹4,000 is a little excessive, considering everyone already has a charger. Good for offices with laptops of various brands.

7.0

A easy to setup CPU cooler that doesn't cost a lot of money. Temperatures drop by over 20 per cent with and without air conditioning in the room. Temperatures of 48 degrees C under load without air-conditioning brings it somewhat close to Cooler Master V6 GT performance for a lot less money.

7.0

CHASSIS FAN



Cooler Master Excalibur
Price: ₹1,200

Specifications

120 mm 600 – 2000 rpm fan, Barometric Ball Bearing

PORTABLE MOUSE



Genius Traveler 900
Price: ₹1,380

5 mouse buttons, 1600 dpi optical sensor

Test Centre Ratings (All Scores out of 10)

Features.....7.0
Performance.....8.0
Build Quality.....7.0
Value for money.....5.0

Features.....7.0
Performance.....8.0
Build Quality.....8.0
Value for money.....7.0

We Say

Specifically built to be long lasting and quiet. Runs without any vibrations and removal of fan blades feature allows for easy cleaning. Although ₹1,200 is a lot, overclocking and case modding enthusiasts will find it priced competitively with other fans in its class – a good buy.

6.5

Pretty solid wireless mouse with good performance and features. Sensitivity can be switched from drivers, powered by two AAA batteries. Turbo scroll button helps in scrolling through pages quickly. As a portable mouse for ₹1,380, it's pretty recommended for laptop users.

7.5

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Bazaar mini

Quick insights from indepth tests

Wow servers

Blizzard sues owner of private World of Warcraft to the tune of \$88 million

PSP \$9.99 game ads

Sony PSP ads for games priced at \$9.99 make fun of iPhone

GRAPHICS CARDS



Sparkle GTX465
Price ₹16,500



ZOTAC GeForce GTX465
Price ₹16,500



Asus ENGTX 465
Price ₹20,500

Specifications

GPU Core Clock: 607 MHz, 352 CUDA cores, Memory: 1GB

GPU Core Clock: 607 MHz, 352 CUDA cores, Memory: 1GB

GPU Core Clock: 607 MHz, 352 CUDA cores, Memory: 1GB

Test Centre Ratings (All Scores out of 10)

Features..... 7.5
Performance..... 7.5
Build Quality..... 7.5
Value for money..... 7.0

Features..... 7.5
Performance..... 7.5
Build Quality..... 7.5
Value for money..... 7.0

Features..... 7.5
Performance..... 7.5
Build Quality..... 7.5
Value for money..... 4.0

We Say

The Sparkle GTX465 sports stock design with close to no difference in performance whatsoever except for a couple of games where it was up by a miniscule 1 or 2 fps. At ₹16,500, it's much better priced than the ASUS GeForce GTX465.

7.5

Frame rates match the other GTX465 cards – these cards are close to 10 per cent faster than the GTX460s. Priced exactly the same as the Sparkle, there's nothing to differentiate them – not even performance. Like the Sparkle GTX465, it's recommended.

7.5

The slightly more stylish designed cards of the three GeForce GTX465s tested. Performance is a tad faster than the GTX460, but temperatures run higher – like the other GTX465 cards. Stock cooling setup, yet priced way more than the Sparkle and ZOTAC cards.

6.5

SOFTWARE



McAfee Internet Security for Mac
Price: ₹1,980

Specifications

Mac OS X 10.5 or higher, 1 GB RAM, 150 MB free drive space required

Kingston HyperX 4GB
Price: ₹5,500



Frequency: 1600 MHz, 4 GB DDR3 (2 x 2GB), Timings: 9-9-9-27

Test Centre Ratings (All Scores out of 10)

Features..... 7.0
Performance..... 6.5
Build Quality..... 7.0
Value for money..... 6.5

Features..... 6.5
Performance..... 7.0
Build Quality..... 6.5
Value for money..... 7.0

We Say

There have only been a handful of threats for the Mac OS X, so McAfee Internet Security for Mac priced at ₹1,980, makes little sense to us. Also if you are paranoid about viruses affecting your Mac, then this is something you should get. There aren't too many options out there for Mac OS X users.

6.5

The Kingston HyperX 4GB kit makes sense for dual channel setups for Core i7 or Core i5 systems. An equally good performer at stock rates as compared to the Corsair Dominator GT tri-channel kit, it's a lot cheaper as well. Good VFM as price isn't much more than value DDR3 RAM.

6.5

MEMORY



Corsair Dominator GT
Price: ₹5,500

Frequency: 2000 MHz, 6 GB DDR3 (3 x 2GB), Timings: 8-8-8-24

Features..... 7.5
Performance..... 7.0
Build Quality..... 7.0
Value for money..... 4.0

The Corsair Dominator GT with its cooling kit and massive heatsinks may be excellent for overclocking but justifying a cost of ₹25,500 will be very difficult for a high-end rig. Buy this only if you're one of the top overclockers around playing with liquid nitrogen and the likes.

6.5

POWER SUPPLY



Cooler Master Silent Pro 1000M
Price ₹12,000

1000W capacity, 6 PCIe, 9 SATA connects, Modular design

Features..... 8.0
Performance..... 7.5
Build Quality..... 7.5
Value for money..... 7.0

A power supply that should be able to take most three-way Cross-Fire or SLI setups easily. Built well, and the modular designs helps reduce congestion in the case. At Rs. 12,000, it's not very expensive either. If you're running a single graphics card, this shouldn't be necessary.

7.5

MEMORY CARD



Verbatim 16GB SDHC
Price: ₹3,000

16GB capacity, SDHC Class 6 rating

Features..... 8.0
Performance..... 6.0
Build Quality..... 7.0
Value for money..... 5.0

The Verbatim 16GB SDHC card is an average performer, but you can rely on it while using it with your P&S or DSLR camera. It can handle RAW image dumps just fine. We found data rates to be around 12 MBps while writing to it. At ₹3,000, it's not very wallet-friendly.

6.5

2.75TB a month

A particular Telenet user in Belgium downloads around 2.75TB of data a month

Facebook Places

Facebook Places launches in midst of severe criticism from privacy groups

Bazaar mini

DIGITAL CAMERAS



Panasonic Lumix DMC-TZ10
Price ₹24,990



Samsung ST5500
Price ₹17,990



Samsung WB600
Price ₹19,900



BenQ DC L1020
Price ₹5,999

Specifications

12.1 MP sensor, 12x optical zoom, ISO range: 80 - 1600, GPS in-built

14.2 MP sensor, 7x optical zoom, ISO range: 80 - 3200

14.2 MP sensor, 7x optical zoom, ISO range: 80 - 3200

10 MP sensor, 3x optical zoom, ISO range: 100 - 3200

Test Centre Ratings (All Scores out of 10)

Features..... 8.0
Performance 7.0
Build Quality..... 7.5
Value for money..... 5.0

Features..... 6.5
Performance 7.0
Build Quality..... 7.5
Value for money..... 6.0

Features..... 8.0
Performance 7.0
Build Quality..... 7.0
Value for money..... 6.0

Features..... 6.5
Performance 5.5
Build Quality..... 6.5
Value for money..... 4.5

We Say

The price of ₹24,990 is a bit too expensive for a compact ultra zoom camera considering most entry level DSLRs come under this price bracket. Ideal companion for those who travel and want to keep a tab on the places they've been to on a map. **7.0**

Average performer with a decent zoom lens that offers unique features like Wi-Fi capability. Red and green somewhat oversaturated in most photos. HD 720p video recording at 30 fps is good. Good build quality and AMOLED, capacitive touchscreen. Not the best option for enthusiasts. **6.5**

Promises to be a good mid-range feature-rich camera. Although, performance is quite disappointing in spite of the heavy hardware configuration and leaves a lot to be desired for a performance hungry user. Price somewhat high for its capabilities and lack of basic manual controls. **7.0**

Performance isn't the L1020's forte. No control over shutter speed or aperture settings with lot of noise even with ISO 400. Videos too are average. At Rs. 5,999, this is decently priced considering camera for these specifications. Ideally though, we wouldn't recommend it. **5.5**

DIGITAL CAMERAS



Fujifilm Finepix Z700 EXRPrice: ₹5,999



Fujifilm Finepix JZ300 Price: ₹12,999



Fujifilm Finepix AV100Price: ₹5,999



Canon IXUS 130ISPrice: ₹14,995

Specifications

12 MP sensor, 5x optical zoom; ISO range: 100 - 3200

12 MP sensor, 10x optical zoom; ISO range: 100 - 3200

12.2 MP sensor, 3x optical zoom; ISO range: 100 - 3200

14.1 MP sensor, 4x optical zoom; ISO range: 80 - 1600

Test Centre Ratings (All Scores out of 10)

Features..... 7.0
Performance 6.5
Build Quality..... 6.0
Value for money..... 5.5

Features..... 7.0
Performance 7.0
Build Quality..... 6.0
Value for money..... 6.0

Features..... 6.0
Performance 6.5
Build Quality..... 5.5
Value for money..... 6.0

Features..... 7.0
Performance 7.0
Build Quality..... 7.0
Value for money..... 6.0

We Say

Face tagging and basic image editing is possible on camera itself. HD video recording feature handy. Slim camera with a slightly high price tag of ₹13,999. Product aimed at individuals who want a stylish compact product. Facebook and Youtube upload feature is quite innovative. **6.0**

Image quality is decent. Many features, but navigating is somewhat complicated. Well priced and good for users who want higher zoom, but are willing to sacrifice manual controls. HD 720p recording is possible, but it lacks an HDMI port. Better alternatives are available for a little more. **6.5**

Simple plastic body camera with boring design. Absolute basic features present - navigation difficult. Not designed for new comers to photography. No dial for modes - one needs to use the menu. Low price of ₹5,999 is very affordable if you only want something to click photos with. **6.0**

Fresh design as compared to other cameras - compact but solid. Focusing not fast, good at low light shooting. It's a lifestyle product, but at the same time it's limited in its specifications when it comes to ISO range, etc. Price of ₹14,995 is somewhat high - if you're into serious photography. **7.0**

NVIDIA Tegra

LG to make their Optimus smartphones based on NVIDIA's Tegra mobile platform

Can't block Mark

You can block anyone on Facebook except founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg

DIGITAL CAMERAS



Canon PowerShot SX210 IS
Price: ₹20,995

Specifications

14.1 MP sensor, 14x Optical Zoom;
ISO range: 80 - 1600

Test Centre Ratings (All Scores out of 10)

Features..... 8.0
Performance..... 7.0
Build Quality..... 7.5
Value for money..... 5.5

We Say

Good solid design and build. Flash pops up right under your finger. Separate buttons for different controls as well as manual controls. If it falls in your budget, this is a recommended camera for amateur photographers. Optical zoom of 14x is great for long range wildlife photography.

7.0

EARPHONES



Creative Aurvana In-Ear2
Price: ₹5,999

Frequency range: 15 Hz - 16 kHz,
42 Ohms impedance, 1.2 m cable

Features..... 6.0
Performance..... 7.0
Build Quality..... 7.5
Value for money..... 4.0

If you have a good PMP such as an iPod Touch and you're using the stock earphones, then Aurvana In-Ear2 are a good set to get. Good choice if you're looking for a borderline audiophile earphone set with noise isolation. Cheaper options available if you only want noise isolation.

6.0

BLUETOOTH EARPHONES



Smart Infocomm SB-01
Price: ₹3,495

450 mAh Li-ion battery, Weight: 75 g; Dimensions: 42 x 122 x 40mm

Features..... 7.0
Performance..... 6.0
Build Quality..... 6.0
Value for money..... 5.0

Sound quality isn't great for music, decent for phone calls. Issues syncing with Java-based phones present. The price of ₹3,495 is slightly expensive as the headset does not really deliver upto expectations as far as music is concerned.

6.0

PMP



Sony Walkman NWZ-W252
Price: ₹5,000

Formats: MP3 / AAC / WMA;
Capacity: 2 GB, Water resistant

Features..... 6.5
Performance..... 7.5
Build Quality..... 7.0
Value for money..... 5.5

Water-proof PMP with good sound signature. Price point of ₹5,000 was a tad too high considering you only get 1.68 GB of usable space for music. Moreover, the W252 is not drastically different than the W202. It would be excellent if priced at somewhere between ₹3,000 and ₹4,000.

6.5

LAPTOP HARD DRIVES



WD Scorpio Black 500GB
Price: ₹6,000

Specifications

Capacity: 500 GB, SATA2, 7200 rpm rotational speed, 16 MB cache

Test Centre Ratings (All Scores out of 10)

Features..... 7.0
Performance..... 7.5
Build Quality..... 8.0
Value for money..... 6.0

We Say

If you want a fast drive, but can do with a little less space, the WD Scorpio Black 500 GB is for you. It's faster than the 750 GB Scorpio Blue. It's cheaper than the Seagate Momentus XT 500GB by quite a bit though. In comparison to the Momentus XT, it's better value for money.

7.0



Seagate Momentus XT 500GB
Price ₹8,100

Capacity: 500 GB, SATA2, 7200 rpm rotational speed, 32 MB cache

Features..... 7.0
Performance..... 8.0
Build Quality..... 8.0
Value for money..... 6.0

The hybrid Momentus XT with its in-built 4 GB solid state memory trumps all other laptop drives with its stable read and write speeds. It isn't exactly value for money, but if you own a gaming laptop, an upgrade to the drive should see substantial improvement.

7.5



WD Scorpio Blue 750GB
Price: ₹8,215

Capacity: 750 GB, SATA2, 5400 rpm rotational speed, 8 MB cache

Features..... 7.0
Performance..... 7.0
Build Quality..... 8.0
Value for money..... 5.5

If you've always felt limited by the amount of space on your laptop or if you always wanted a larger portable hard drive, the WD 7500BPVT might be the solution. Overall, it's decent value for money, but if you're looking for better performance, then the 500 GB is a better option.

7.5

PORTABLE SCANNER



Portronics Scanny
Price: ₹5,999

300/600 dpi sensor resolution, microSD slot

Features..... 6.5
Performance..... 7.0
Build Quality..... 7.0
Value for money..... 6.0

A decent performer with the option to scan at 300 and 600 dpi. Scans stored on bundled 2GB memory card. Somewhat expensive. Not a scanner to replace desktop flatbed scanners, but very handy for those on the move and need to get scans quickly without a PC or laptop.

6.5

Search as you are typing

Google is testing live updates as you are typing your query in the search box

Bazaar mini

LAPTOP CHARGER



Cooler Master USNA 95
Price: ₹4,000

Specifications

90 W output, 9 connects, 1 USB port, Dimensions: 2.4 x 0.8 x 4.1 inch

CPU COOLER



Glacialtech Igloo 5670
Price: ₹1,032

Support: Intel LGA1366 / LGA1156 / LGA775, AMD AM3/AM2+

Test Centre Ratings (All Scores out of 10)

Features.....7.0
Performance.....8.0
Build Quality.....7.5
Value for money.....5.5

Features.....6.0
Performance.....7.0
Build Quality.....7.0
Value for money.....7.0

We Say

It's a good utility to carry along, especially if you have a bulky laptop charger. Charges pretty much every laptop with ease and little heating. Price of ₹4,000 is a little excessive, considering everyone already has a charger. Good for offices with laptops of various brands.

7.0

A easy to setup CPU cooler that doesn't cost a lot of money. Temperatures drop by over 20 per cent with and without air conditioning in the room. Temperatures of 48 degrees C under load without air-conditioning brings it somewhat close to Cooler Master V6 GT performance for a lot less money.

7.0

CHASSIS FAN



Cooler Master Excalibur
Price: ₹1,200

Specifications

120 mm 600 – 2000 rpm fan, Barometric Ball Bearing

PORTABLE MOUSE



Genius Traveler 900
Price: ₹1,380

5 mouse buttons, 1600 dpi optical sensor

Test Centre Ratings (All Scores out of 10)

Features.....7.0
Performance.....8.0
Build Quality.....7.0
Value for money.....5.0

Features.....7.0
Performance.....8.0
Build Quality.....8.0
Value for money.....7.0

We Say

Specifically built to be long lasting and quiet. Runs without any vibrations and removal of fan blades feature allows for easy cleaning. Although ₹1,200 is a lot, overclocking and case modding enthusiasts will find it priced competitively with other fans in its class – a good buy.

6.5

Pretty solid wireless mouse with good performance and features. Sensitivity can be switched from drivers, powered by two AAA batteries. Turbo scroll button helps in scrolling through pages quickly. As a portable mouse for ₹1,380, it's pretty recommended for laptop users.

7.5

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Quick insights from indepth tests

Linux on PS3

PS3 hack allows users to install Linux distributions on it

Rage on iPhone

John Carmack shows off Rage engine on the iPhone 4G

SPEAKERS



Mitashi PH-60T
Price: ₹2,790

Specifications

2.1 speakers, 30W RMS output, FM Radio, 20Hz -20kHz range

Test Centre Ratings (All Scores out of 10)

Features..... 6.5
Performance 4.5
Build Quality..... 4.5
Value for money..... 6.5

We Say

Audio quality not good – poor detail at high volumes and woofer humming with increased bass. LCD screen doesn't display track information. Convenient that you don't need to connect a PMP or PC to play music – external storage via USB/memory card reader and FM are present.

5.5

PORTABLE SPEAKER



Logitech Z205
Price: ₹2,195

USB connection; Dimensions : 64 x 180 x 34.33 mm

Features..... 6.0
Performance 5.5
Build Quality..... 6.5
Value for money..... 6.5

Z205 is not a replacement for a proper 2.1 or 5.1 audio setup. Higher range of frequency in test track vivid and the sound segregation good. At ₹2,195, it's a decent buy. Only for those who want good portable speakers for their laptop.

6.0

MOBILE PHONES



Wynncore Y22
Price: ₹2,795

2-inch screen; MicroSD upto 4 GB; 1150 mAh battery

Features..... 5.0
Performance 4.0
Build Quality..... 4.5
Value for money..... 5.5

Simple design, feels light, has a good screen with responsive buttons. Java UI is similar to other similarly priced phones. FM works without earphones connected. At ₹2,795 this is a good dual-SIM phone for budget buyers, who are looking at using phone functionalities and FM radio.

5.0



Wynncore Y50
Price: ₹4,195

2.4-inch screen, microSD upto 8 GB, 1000mAh batter

Features..... 5.0
Performance 4.5
Build Quality..... 6.0
Value for money..... 6.5

Blackberry look-alike with glowing trackball. Even the interface has some similarities. 2.4-inch screen decent but fonts used ruin the experience. FM recording feature is unique. Price of ₹4,195 makes it ideal for those who text a lot and are connected to social networks a lot.

5.5

MOBILE PHONES



Intex IN6633
Price: ₹4,500

Specifications

Wi-Fi enabled, dual-SIM GSM phone, 1300 mAh battery

Test Centre Ratings (All Scores out of 10)

Features..... 7.0
Performance 6.5
Build Quality..... 6.0
Value for money..... 7.0

We Say

Being able to check Facebook, chat friends using Nimbuzz and eBuddy is neat. Call quality is good and bundled earphone-microphone set decent. Camera is impressive. Phone is a steal at this price point – complete value for money.

6.5



Videocon V1430
Price: ₹2,525

Bluetooth, Dual-SIM GSM phone, 1800mAh battery life, FM radio

Features..... 4.5
Performance 5.5
Build Quality..... 6.0
Value for money..... 6.5

Call quality decent but bundled earphone-mic set are of inferior quality. Interface average – text too large on small screen. Price of ₹2,525 is a very economical for entry level phone. Ideal phone for those who talk a lot on the phone as battery life is high.

5.5



Videocon V1424
Price: ₹2,525

VGA camera, Bluetooth, Dual-SIM GSM phone, 1000mAh battery

Features..... 5.0
Performance 5.0
Build Quality..... 6.0
Value for money..... 6.0

If you want one of the cheapest dual-SIM phones around, then go for the Videocon V1424. For a little more, you can find a dual-SIM phone with cheap QWERTY keypad. We aren't particularly fond of its audio quality or its glitches with the video and software though.

5.5



Videocon V1425
Price: ₹3,195

2 inch screen; MicroSD slot upto 4 GB; Battery : 1200 mAh

Features..... 6.0
Performance 5.0
Build Quality..... 6.0
Value for money..... 6.5

Interface better than other Videocon phones. Interesting features such as SMS backup and SMS scheduling might be useful for some. No volume rocker means many more visits to volume settings menu – insanely loud speaker. Call quality and reception decent – no calls dropped.

6.0

NVIDIA Tegra

LG to make their Optimus smartphones based on NVIDIA's Tegra mobile platform

Can't block Mark

You can block anyone on Facebook except founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg

DIGITAL CAMERAS



Canon PowerShot SX210 IS
Price: ₹20,995

Specifications

14.1 MP sensor, 14x Optical Zoom;
ISO range: 80 - 1600

Test Centre Ratings (All Scores out of 10)

Features..... 8.0
Performance..... 7.0
Build Quality..... 7.5
Value for money..... 5.5

We Say

Good solid design and build. Flash pops up right under your finger. Separate buttons for different controls as well as manual controls. If it falls in your budget, this is a recommended camera for amateur photographers. Optical zoom of 14x is great for long range wildlife photography.

7.0

EARPHONES



Creative Aurvana In-Ear2
Price: ₹5,999

Frequency range: 15 Hz - 16 kHz,
42 Ohms impedance, 1.2 m cable

Features..... 6.0
Performance..... 7.0
Build Quality..... 7.5
Value for money..... 4.0

If you have a good PMP such as an iPod Touch and you're using the stock earphones, then Aurvana In-Ear2 are a good set to get. Good choice if you're looking for a borderline audiophile earphone set with noise isolation. Cheaper options available if you only want noise isolation.

6.0

BLUETOOTH EARPHONES



Smart Infocomm SB-01
Price: ₹3,495

450 mAh Li-ion battery, Weight: 75 g; Dimensions: 42 x 122 x 40mm

Features..... 7.0
Performance..... 6.0
Build Quality..... 6.0
Value for money..... 5.0

Sound quality isn't great for music, decent for phone calls. Issues syncing with Java-based phones present. The price of ₹3,495 is slightly expensive as the headset does not really deliver upto expectations as far as music is concerned.

6.0

PMP



Sony Walkman NWZ-W252
Price: ₹5,000

Formats: MP3 / AAC / WMA;
Capacity: 2 GB, Water resistant

Features..... 6.5
Performance..... 7.5
Build Quality..... 7.0
Value for money..... 5.5

Water-proof PMP with good sound signature. Price point of ₹5,000 was a tad too high considering you only get 1.68 GB of usable space for music. Moreover, the W252 is not drastically different than the W202. It would be excellent if priced at somewhere between ₹3,000 and ₹4,000.

6.5

LAPTOP HARD DRIVES



WD Scorpio Black 500GB
Price: ₹6,000

Specifications

Capacity: 500 GB, SATA2, 7200 rpm rotational speed, 16 MB cache

Test Centre Ratings (All Scores out of 10)

Features..... 7.0
Performance..... 7.5
Build Quality..... 8.0
Value for money..... 6.0

We Say

If you want a fast drive, but can do with a little less space, the WD Scorpio Black 500 GB is for you. It's faster than the 750 GB Scorpio Blue. It's cheaper than the Seagate Momentus XT 500GB by quite a bit though. In comparison to the Momentus XT, it's better value for money.

7.0



Seagate Momentus XT 500GB
Price ₹8,100

Capacity: 500 GB, SATA2, 7200 rpm rotational speed, 32 MB cache

Features..... 7.0
Performance..... 8.0
Build Quality..... 8.0
Value for money..... 6.0

The hybrid Momentus XT with its in-built 4 GB solid state memory trumps all other laptop drives with its stable read and write speeds. It isn't exactly value for money, but if you own a gaming laptop, an upgrade to the drive should see substantial improvement.

7.5



WD Scorpio Blue 750GB
Price: ₹8,215

Capacity: 750 GB, SATA2, 5400 rpm rotational speed, 8 MB cache

Features..... 7.0
Performance..... 7.0
Build Quality..... 8.0
Value for money..... 5.5

If you've always felt limited by the amount of space on your laptop or if you always wanted a larger portable hard drive, the WD 7500BPVT might be the solution. Overall, it's decent value for money, but if you're looking for better performance, then the 500 GB is a better option.

7.5

PORTABLE SCANNER



Portronics Scanny
Price: ₹5,999

300/600 dpi sensor resolution, microSD slot

Features..... 6.5
Performance..... 7.0
Build Quality..... 7.0
Value for money..... 6.0

A decent performer with the option to scan at 300 and 600 dpi. Scans stored on bundled 2GB memory card. Somewhat expensive. Not a scanner to replace desktop flatbed scanners, but very handy for those on the move and need to get scans quickly without a PC or laptop.

6.5

Bazaar mini

Quick insights from indepth tests

Linux on PS3

PS3 hack allows users to install Linux distributions on it

Rage on iPhone

John Carmack shows off Rage engine on the iPhone 4G

SPEAKERS



Mitashi PH-60T
Price: ₹2,790

Specifications

2.1 speakers, 30W RMS output, FM Radio, 20Hz -20kHz range

Test Centre Ratings (All Scores out of 10)

Features..... 6.5
Performance 4.5
Build Quality..... 4.5
Value for money..... 6.5

We Say

Audio quality not good – poor detail at high volumes and woofer humming with increased bass. LCD screen doesn't display track information. Convenient that you don't need to connect a PMP or PC to play music – external storage via USB/memory card reader and FM are present.

5.5

PORTABLE SPEAKER



Logitech Z205
Price: ₹2,195

USB connection; Dimensions : 64 x 180 x 34.33 mm

Features..... 6.0
Performance 5.5
Build Quality..... 6.5
Value for money..... 6.5

Z205 is not a replacement for a proper 2.1 or 5.1 audio setup. Higher range of frequency in test track vivid and the sound segregation good. At ₹2,195, it's a decent buy. Only for those who want good portable speakers for their laptop.

6.0

MOBILE PHONES



Wynncom Y22
Price: ₹2,795

2-inch screen; MicroSD upto 4 GB; 1150 mAh battery

Features..... 5.0
Performance 4.0
Build Quality..... 4.5
Value for money..... 5.5

Simple design, feels light, has a good screen with responsive buttons. Java UI is similar to other similarly priced phones. FM works without earphones connected. At ₹2,795 this is a good dual-SIM phone for budget buyers, who are looking at using phone functionalities and FM radio.

5.0



Wynncom Y50
Price: ₹4,195

2.4-inch screen, microSD upto 8 GB, 1000mAh batter

Features..... 5.0
Performance 4.5
Build Quality..... 6.0
Value for money..... 6.5

Blackberry look-alike with glowing trackball. Even the interface has some similarities. 2.4-inch screen decent but fonts used ruin the experience. FM recording feature is unique. Price of ₹4,195 makes it ideal for those who text a lot and are connected to social networks a lot.

5.5

MOBILE PHONES



Intex IN6633
Price: ₹4,500

Specifications

Wi-Fi enabled, dual-SIM GSM phone, 1300 mAh battery

Test Centre Ratings (All Scores out of 10)

Features..... 7.0
Performance 6.5
Build Quality..... 6.0
Value for money..... 7.0

We Say

Being able to check Facebook, chat friends using Nimbuzz and eBuddy is neat. Call quality is good and bundled earphone-microphone set decent. Camera is impressive. Phone is a steal at this price point – complete value for money.

6.5



Videocon V1430
Price: ₹2,525

Bluetooth, Dual-SIM GSM phone, 1800mAh battery life, FM radio

Features..... 4.5
Performance 5.5
Build Quality..... 6.0
Value for money..... 6.5

Call quality decent but bundled earphone-mic set are of inferior quality. Interface average – text too large on small screen. Price of ₹2,525 is a very economical for entry level phone. Ideal phone for those who talk a lot on the phone as battery life is high.

5.5



Videocon V1424
Price: ₹2,525

VGA camera, Bluetooth, Dual-SIM GSM phone, 1000mAh battery

Features..... 5.0
Performance 5.0
Build Quality..... 6.0
Value for money..... 6.0

If you want one of the cheapest dual-SIM phones around, then go for the Videocon V1424. For a little more, you can find a dual-SIM phone with cheap QWERTY keypad. We aren't particularly fond of its audio quality or its glitches with the video and software though.

5.5



Videocon V1425
Price: ₹3,195

2 inch sreen; MicroSD slot upto 4 GB; Battery : 1200 mAh

Features..... 6.0
Performance 5.0
Build Quality..... 6.0
Value for money..... 6.5

Interface better than other Videocon phones. Interesting features such as SMS backup and SMS scheduling might be useful for some. No volume rocker means many more visits to volume settings menu – insanely loud speaker. Call quality and reception decent – no calls dropped.

6.0

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Adobe CS5 Photoshop

Content Aware Fill

Probably the most talked about new feature of Adobe Photoshop CS5 is the Content Aware Fill. There are a several examples showing these features, but people are still confused on using them, although there's nothing really complicated about it. The Content Aware Fill function works a lot like the existing clone brush tool, but it is fully automated and a lot faster.



Let us consider this image where we want to remove the selected part from the image

After Opening the image in Photoshop CS5, select the part you want to remove using the Lasso tool. Make sure the surrounding area has something in common. Press [Delete]. The Fill Dialogue box should open up. Select Content Aware Fill and click OK. It's that simple.

The Content Aware Fill can also be used to fill empty areas. In the previous versions of Pho-

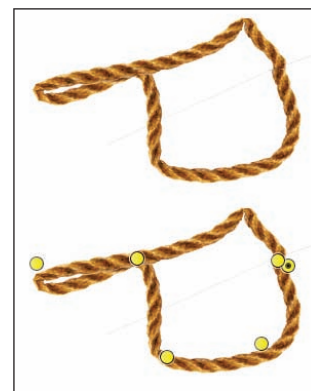


Adobe CS5.....	65
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Joomla.....	69
Printer.....	71



The same image after Content Aware Fill

toshop, the simplest way would be to cut out the exterior excess content. But now you don't have to lose any content. Just select the empty area and click Fill from the Edit Menu, and choose Content Aware Fill. You can see



After turning the rope at the pivot points

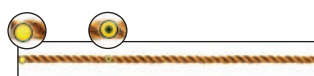
using the Puppet Warp tool to create our text effect. To use this technique properly we need to have an image of a decently long rope. We start by removing the external part of the layer, leaving just the rope. You can do this with the Magic Wand Tool. Now go to Edit > Puppet Warp with the layer selected and the default mode should show you a mesh over your object; you can hide this by deselecting the Show Mesh option.

Now you can start adding points on the rope you will be using as pivots to twist the rope around. Then holding [Alt] and hovering over the points you can see a little circle which you can use as a controller to rotate the rope at that particular point. Take some time and keep doing this at separate points to create the text of your choice using this rope. Here we just made the single letter d. You could try and do the rest with the characters igit.

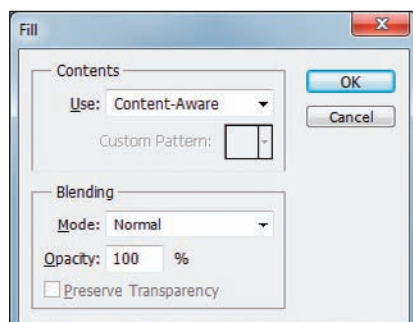
Photoshop do its Magic. Additional new tools that work in a similar way are the Content Aware Heal and the Content Aware Scaling.

Puppet Tool

The new Puppet Tool, which was originally in Adobe After Effects can now be found in Photoshop CS5. It can be used to create a basic shape form or create points, and wrap images around it. In the following example we take the image of a rope and we will be



You just need to place pivot points at places where you want to twist the rope



Here, Content-Aware Fill at work in empty areas of an image





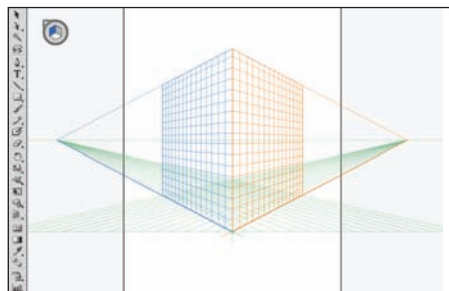
Refine Edges

While editing with real images of people, the toughest job in post-production is dealing with hair. The new Refine Edge feature in CS5 makes the task easier than ever before. Start by making a rough selection with the Quick Selection Tool keeping the Auto-Enhance option checked. Now go to **Select > Refine Edge** in the drop-down menu select the **On Layers** option. You might have to increase the radius in the **Edge Detection** section. Use the **Shift Edge** slider and try removing the white that will sit around the edge of your selections, but another effective way for doing this, is by using the new **Decontaminate Colours** feature. You can check the **Decontaminate Colours** option and adjust the **Amount** slider.

Illustrator CS5 Perspective Drawing

One of the most common problems people face in digital drawing is the issue with perspective necessary to create realistic images. You can now make use of a perspective grid in Adobe Illustrator CS5 and indulge in perspective drawing with as little as a single step.

All you have to do is make use the new **Perspective Grid** to draw with your traditional drawing tools. The **Grid** helps in drawing with perfect perspective in a one, two, or three-point perspective. You can also



The Two Point Perspective Grid in Illustrator CS5



An example of an image with text places in different perspectives

use the **Perspective Selection** tool to fit objects in perfectly. Drag them around into another place on the drawing and they will change to have that same perspective depending on where it is placed on the illustration. You can also create flat artwork and drag it into place on the perspective grid and Illustrator will automatically put it into the right perspective. The **Perspective** tool also lets you duplicate and transform objects in perspective instantaneously.

You can activate the **Perspective Grid**; define the grid and the point perspective from the **View** menu in Illustrator CS5.

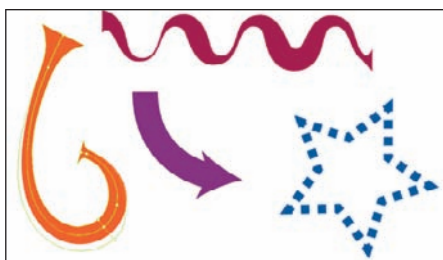
Beautiful Strokes and Bristle Brush

In CS5 Adobe has added several enhancements to the brushes. Termed **Beautiful Strokes**, unlike adjusting the width of the entire stroke, with **Variable Width** strokes you can now apply preset width profiles. Using the **Width Tool** you can create custom widths by dragging the stroke into a shape, make and save custom adjustments as profiles which you can apply to future strokes.

Creating a logo or lettering with

dashed strokes has always been a problem because they break up abruptly at corners. But now in CS5, you can use the **Dash Adjustment Control** and make corrections instantly. You can also scale art brushes and other arrow head adjustments.

Bristle Brush is a new tool that allows you to draw strokes that imitate



Presets for variable width single strokes can be created and saved



Create real life scalable vector graphics

natural brushes with different textures, transparency, and colours. You can choose the size, bristle length, density, opacity and stiffness to mimic a real world brush stroke while still maintaining your artwork as a scalable vector.

InDesign CS5 Making the most of the new features

The **Layers** panel in InDesign CS5 has been revamped to be similar to the existing layers panel in Photoshop or Illustrator. You can now create groups, select every object on a single layer and move individual objects from one layer to another.

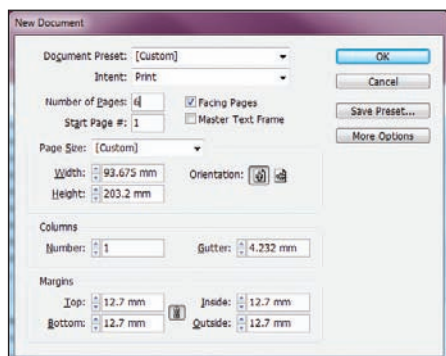
The new InDesign text abilities ease up the process of cre-

ating text-heavy documents. Paragraphs can now be made to span across multiple columns in the same text frame. Now InDesign can automatically balance many columns of text and keep them balanced while you are editing the text. It is advantageous to know that InDesign keeps track of the changes to text by user, and you can accept/reject changes using the **Story Editor**.

In InDesign CS5 you can draw a grid for picture frames or do the same for threaded text frames while adjusting the number of rows and columns as you wish while working with text and images. The new **Gap** tool also allows you to drag around white space across multiple objects to change the spacing and gap between them. InDesign can also create and help with formatting captions for graphic frames depending on the metadata present in the graphic file.

The job of the printers and output providers has been made more easy because InDesign CS5 can automatically activate any fonts present inside the **Fonts** folder of the document which is created during the **File > Package** process. Also you can now continue to work on a document during the time the PDF is being generated from it. InDesign CS5 has now been upgraded to allow animations, FLV videos and MP3 audio files.

Creating Folds for printing Accommodating for complex folds into the design layout is necessary for printing and is mostly a very challenging job for designers while making layouts. They often end up doing it incorrectly, which is a headache for the printer. Using InDesign CS5, you can now create fold marks on output. Let's illus-

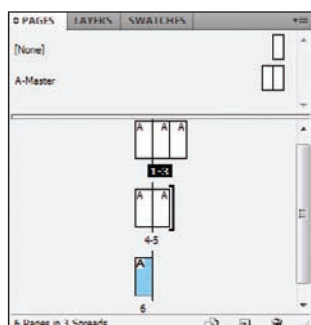


New Document Options

trate this by using a simple trifold brochure. Start by calculating the exact measurements for the panels for both the outside and the inside. Create a new document and create about six pages with the size of your individual outer panel. Turn Facing Pages Off so that you have more control for moving the pages.

Now deselect Allow Document Pages from the Pages panel menu and drag the pages around so that you create two slides of three pages each representing each side of the brochure. Now you will need to make two different master pages, one for the Outer panel we will be using the one already present. Leave it named as "A Master". Now make the second master by choosing New Master from the Pages panel menu. Give it the name "B Master Inside".

In the "B Master Inside" master page using the Control panel settings, give it the Inner Panel size settings. Now drag the "B Master Inside" master into the left page of the outside



Making a Trifold Page Spread

three page layer and the right page of the inside three-page layer. Be careful of the fact that the pages just touch and not overlap because these two pages now have different sizes.

Add a bleed area by choosing File > Document Setup. Use

the same dialog box to put in a slug at the bottom. Use the slug area to label the panels. Now while printing or exporting to a PDF, turning on Spreads and selecting the Crop Marks option from the Marks & Bleeds panel will let you put in solid fold marks in your output. Your printer should be happy because he will have a clear idea about the folds you wish for.

Catalyst

Flash Catalyst CS5 is an alternate development framework for traditional Flash designers included in the Creative Suite 5. It provides functionality very similar to what is available with the new Microsoft Expression Studio letting you create interactive content without having to write any code what so ever. This is best illustrated by making use of Illustrator to design content in scalable vector space and using Flash Catalyst to code in individual objects or making an animation or a website and Catalyst will take care of generating the code.

Dreamweaver CS5

CSS Enable/Disable

Developers have always had a problem with overriding CSS rules and rule hierarchy is always troublesome for inexperienced coders while designing a web layout. Traditionally you had to comment out or cut and paste existing CSS rules in the CSS code and re render the page in your browser to check

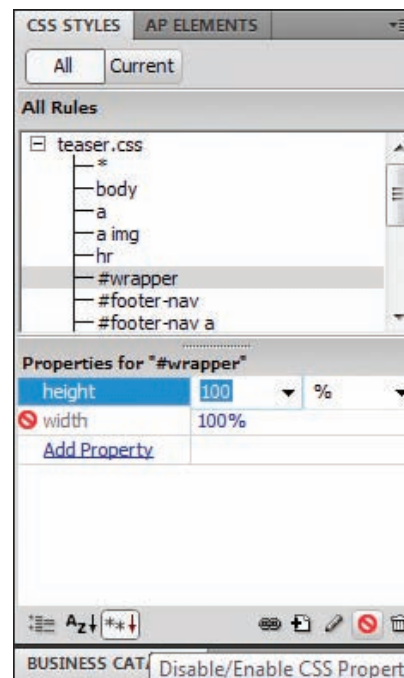
its effect. This process was very tedious and cumbersome. But there is a very simple way to do the same thing now with the help of Adobe Dreamweaver CS5. While using Dreamweaver CS5 to write your CSS code you can make use of the CSS Styles panel to enable and disable individual rules separately within the code.

All you need to do is select the particular rule or multiple rules you want to disable and use the Disable/Enable CSS Property button at the bottom of the panel to disable it. An icon indicating that the rule has been disabled appears next to the rule. Now you can make use of the LiveView Option in Dreamweaver to view the effect of disabling the specific rules. Clicking the button again after selecting the rules similarly enables the rules. You can also use this technique to test the effect of multiple rules by writing all of them within the code and quickly enabling or disabling them to check their effect on the page.

Widget

Browser

When designing and developing a web site, to increase functionality or interactivity, we often use a lot of widgets. A widget is usually a combination of HTML, CSS and JavaScript code used to build a complex web component like accordions, slideshows, tabbed panels, light windows etc. The code for many widgets is open source and freely available on



The New CSS Disable/Enable Button

the internet. So once you get proficient in using them, generally you have to download their ZIP files, tweak and configure them yourself and fit them into your web site. Sometimes this isn't a very easy task, because of their external dependencies and need to be configured.

But now using the Adobe Dreamweaver Widget Browser in Dreamweaver CS5, the entire



Adobe Dreamweaver Widget Browser – Air Plugin

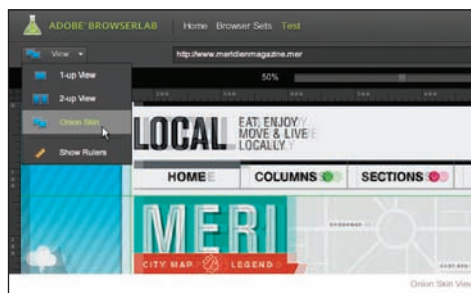
process can be simplified tenfold. It can categorise and display any widget uploaded to the Adobe Exchange. They can be sorted by name, author, rating, number of downloads, date posted, etc.

Let us illustrate this by



using the jQuery UI Accordion Widget. Start the Widget Browser and click preview to see a preview of the widget on your page. You can change and edit the code of the widget manually as well while inserting it. Before customising and using a widget though you will need to import it into your My Widgets set. The widget will then be downloaded and stored locally on your computer.

From My Widgets choose the widget and go through the existing presets which are the customised configurations for



The Onion Skin View

able in Dreamweaver only after they have been added to the My Widgets List from the Adobe Widget Browser. They can then be put into HTML pages in Dreamweaver

robust modern browsers may be, small differences always crop up in the way a web page is displayed across browsers. You always have to test your web site across all major browsers.

Now with Dreamweaver CS5 and the Adobe BrowserLab, the process of testing how your web page is rendered on different browsers is very easy.

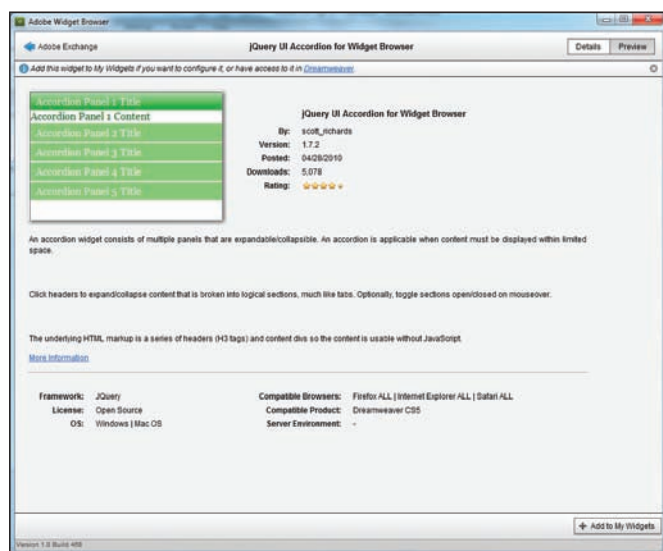
You can now get a full-view screenshot and differentiate between how your web site looks in two different browsers online in the BrowserLab as part of the CS Live online services. Using the option of the Onion Skin view you can overlap how the webpage is rendered in two different selected browsers and figure out the discrepancies at a glance. You can adjust the different opacities.

You can preview your web pages in multiple versions of Internet Explorer, Firefox, Safari and Chrome for different platforms (Windows and Mac OS X) as well.

are very common into your Flash file. This feature can be employed to design and build projects like Banner Ads and simple games, sometime not requiring you to have any knowledge of coding in ActionScript 3.

The panel has three buttons apart from the snippets which further add to its functionality. The Add to Frame button adds the particular selected snippet to the current frame's Actions layer. The Copy to Clipboard button copies the snippet onto your Clipboard. You can then use the same code wherever you like. The Options for Advanced Users button can be used by advanced users of the panel to write and save their own snippets of code for future use. It also allows for importing and exporting snippets in and out of flash.

To illustrate the use of snippets let us draw a shape on the Stage. Select this shape and from the Code Snippets panel, expand the Actions category and add the Click to Go to Web Page snippet to the shape. You can now see from the Actions Panel that the code and actions have been inserted. You can test the action by clicking on Choose Control > Test Movie. Now if you click on the shape in the preview, the browser should open up taking you to www.adobe.com. You can add multiple snippets for simple actions like "Click



The jQuery UI Accordion Widget

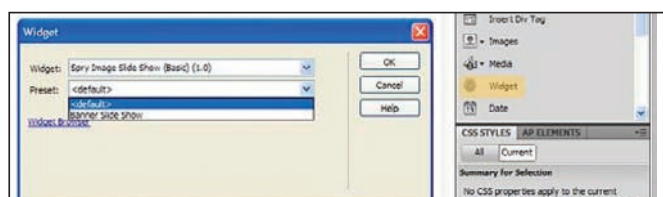
the widget. You can configure it further by creating your own preset. The properties can be adjusted in the properties group. Now back on the My Widgets panel click the Save Widget Files button to create an HTML file with the widget and the selected configuration along with all the dependent files necessary to run the widget.

The Widgets are avail-

by going to the insert panel and selecting them from the Widgets Category. Dreamweaver will then insert the widget with the selected preset and copy the dependent files to the local root folder.

BrowserLab

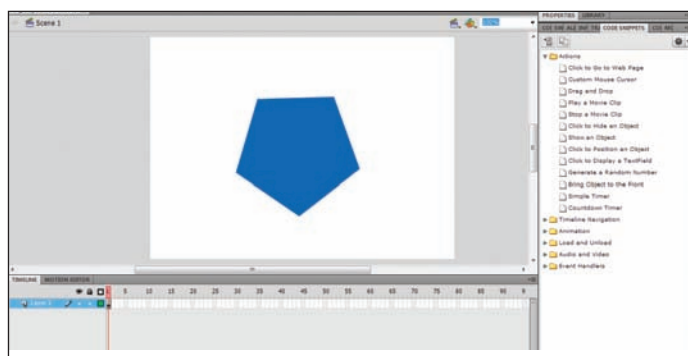
Browser Compatibility has always been a very big issue with web design and development. No matter how



Configure your widgets by creating presets

Flash CS5 Code Snippets Panel

A new feature in Adobe Flash Professional CS5 is the new Code Snippets Panel. This Panel helps in adding ActionScript 3 code snippets that



Add ActionScript 3 code snippets to your Flash file

To Go To Frame and Play”, “Custom Mouse Cursor”, “Play a Movie Clip” etc.

Building ActionScript apps

Now using the new tools bundled into Flash CS5 it is simple to build apps based of ActionScript. Now you have improved functionality with the Adobe Flash Builder that comes integrated into the Flash CS5.

The Flash Builder is an Eclipse based IDE to code web applications using Adobe Flex, You can use it to create apps that interface local databases or APIs of popular web services and set it as your default code editor for ActionScript as well.

Thunderbird 3.1

Ever since Mozilla Thunderbird launched in December of 2004, it has become the email suite of choice for many of us.

Sync contacts across web accounts

1. Download and install the ‘Zindus’ extension.
2. Now you will find the Zindus icon at the bottom of the mail



Thunderbird, the little bird that gets your mail and news

- page of the Thunderbird email client and you will also find the ‘Zindus’ option in the Tools Menu, find and open it.
3. For Google, click on the Add button and give it your username and password for the Gmail account you want to sync your contacts with. It doesn’t store the password in any web service.
4. Click on the Test Connection, and if everything seems well

then click Ok and then the Sync Now button.

5. You can do the same for the Yahoo! Zimbra Desktop, AOL and more.

Keyboard shortcuts

Since you were the first one to learn HTML in your block, and love to show off your keyboard ninja skills, here are some shortcuts to add in your arsenal. Replace the [Ctrl] key with the [command] key and the [Alt] key with the [Options] key if you are on a Macintosh.

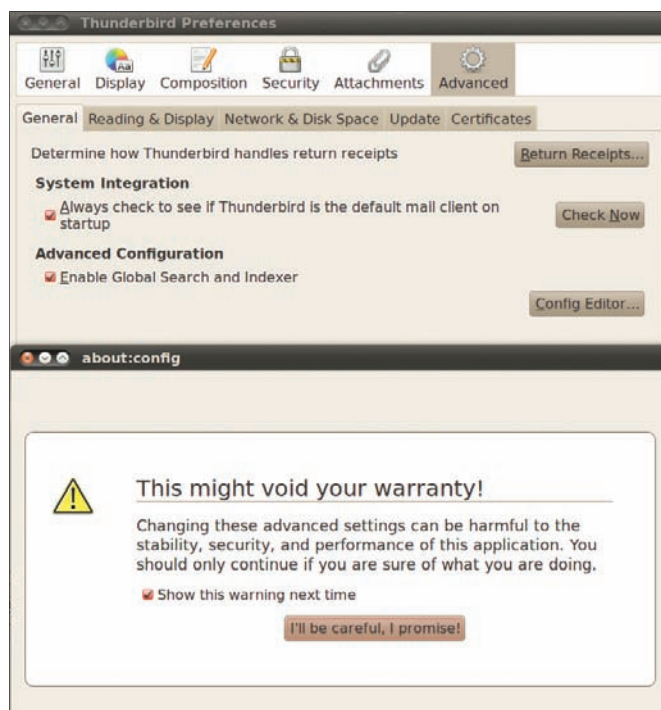
1. Send the Message or Mail Instantly: [Ctrl] + [Enter] (Or [Return]).
2. View the source of a Message: [Ctrl] + [U].
3. Hide Thunderbird Window from the screen: [Ctrl] + [H].
4. Access your address Book: [Ctrl] + [Shift] + [B].
5. Move to last Accessed Folder: [Ctrl] + [Alt] + [M].
6. Expand/Collapse all threads: \ and *.
7. Reply to All: [Ctrl] + [Shift] + [R].
8. Move to the search bar: [Ctrl] + [K].

Disable Global Indexer

One of the most talked about features of the new and shiny Thunderbird 3 is its ability to search across your mails in all folders and wherever they are in hiding. The compromise is a slight extra CPU load, so if you don’t search your mail often and are speed freak, you can disable Global Search and Indexer. This can be done by opening the preference tab and navigating to the ‘Advanced’ tab. Once there, remove the check mark from the ‘Enable Global Search and Indexer’ option and click OK.

AutoHide TabBar

If you want to save on some screen space by auto-hiding



Geeky Sense of Humour

the tab bar when only one tab is open, you can follow the following steps:

1. Go to Preferences. In Linux installations, you will typically find them in the edit menu.
2. Navigate to the Advanced Tab and Click the ‘Config Editor’ button and click through the warning.
3. Find mail.tabs.autoHide and double-click it to switch the value to True.
4. Close the about:config and enjoy your extra bit of screen estate.

Enable auto downloading of images inside an email
Thunderbird because of privacy concerns doesn’t download the embedded images in a email by default, if you find this annoying and would like to change it, here is how you can do it. Access the Config Editor as explained in the step above. Seek mailnews.message_display.disable_remote_image. and double-click on it to switch the value to True and close the about:config window.

Please be careful while playing around with the about:config page.

Customising email archives

The default archive behaviour of Thunderbird is to archive your email based on year, now if you have lot of incoming traffic in your inbox, this can be problematic and Thunderbird doesn’t give you any explicit option to change it. To alter this download and install an extension known as Message Archive Options. Once installed and inside the settings page of the add-on you will see the option to add month wise archive function or if you so desire all your archives can even be dumped into a single folder. Enjoy those forwards for eternity now.

Joomla

Joomla is a very popular content management system (CMS) employed to build web sites and robust online applications. Joomla’s many advantages include its ease-of-use and extensibility making it one of the most popular web



Get it for free

building softwares out there. To top it all off Joomla is completely open source making it very customizable for expert users and freely available to everyone else.

Jumpbox

Traditionally Joomla could only be deployed on a web server. But if you want to run Joomla locally for testing or any other reason, the JumpBox

for Joomla. Similarly, if you're running VirtualBox, download the OVF file available at <http://download.jumpbox.com>. In VMware Player, simply extract the ZIP file for the JumpBox and double-click the VMX or PVS files subsequently. From here on setting up Joomla is the same process as on a web server.

Access levels

Sometimes it is recommended that you do not leave all of your information on the website freely accessible to everyone on the internet. Using Joomla you can keep certain parts of your website private and make it accessible only to specific users

The screenshot shows the Joomla! Parameters (Article) form. The 'Access Level' dropdown menu is open, showing options: Public, Registered, and Special. The 'Author' is set to 'alledia', 'Created Date' is '2009-07-10 18:34:12', 'Start Publishing' is '2009-07-10 18:34:12', and 'Finish Publishing' is 'Never'.

Setting the access level is as easy as a dropdown box

for Joomla provides you with the ability to run it locally with a pre-built and pre-configured virtual application. You can conveniently deploy Joomla on Windows, Mac, or Linux using virtualization tools such as VMware. To deploy Joomla locally using VMware or Parallels, first download Jumpbox

like the website moderators, authors or create sections specifically for registered users.

From the Joomla Admin Panel proceed to Content > Article Manager and select the article you would like to make private and on the right side of the window under the Parameters section you can set

the Access level to Registered or Special depending on whether you want people with the registered user level and above or people with the author user level to be able to view the article.



Use the XSPF web music player if you're using Joomla

Embed playlists

An amazing way to increase interactivity on your web site is with the ability to play music. You can upload MP3s and create a music playlist on a Joomla website, one of the ways of doing this is by making use of the free XSPF MP3 player. XSPF is a music playlist platform that uses XML to store a music playlist. You can upload the MP3s to any folder of your web site. Download and install the XSPF Music Player and upload it to the root directory of your website. Now define your playlist in XML and save it as a playlist.XPSF file that should also be uploaded to the root of your web site.

Now go to Extensions > Module Manager and create a new HTML module. Use the following code to embed the player onto your web site

```
<object data="xspf_player.swf?playlist_url=playlist.xspf &autoplay=1"height="15"width="200"type="application/x-shockwave-flash">
<param name="src" value="xspf_player.swf?playlist_url=playlist.xspf&autoplay=1" /></object>.
```

Automated email

Using Joomla you can send automated emails from your personal email account. To illustrate this we shall make use of an imaginary Gmail account. For configuring Joomla to use a custom email id go to Global configuration > Server and select the Mail settings sections. Set the Mailer to SMTP Server and the mail id can be anything like tipsandtricks@gmail.com. Set the From Name (Example: Digit) and make no changes to the send mail path requires. Set SMTP Authentication to yes and choose the SMTP username and password

accordingly. The SMTP host in this case will be gmail-smtp-in.l.google.com.

Create site maps

Nowadays with a huge demand and requirement for Search Engine Optimisation, the need to create a more user friendly and accessible website is important. For the same reason the creation of a sitemap for your website is highly recommended. There are numerous extensions for Joomla which help with the creation of a sitemap. But you can do the same yourself very easily with absolutely no extension required. The menu module is crucial for this; it is like a tree with all the items present in



Administrate your site without any hassles

the system branching out. This can obviously be employed to create a sitemap.

Create a new article and call it Sitemap. In its body type out loadposition sitemap. Now create a new menu item named sitemap and let it point to this new article. In the module manager setup a new Menu Module. In the position box just type Sitemap. Keep the Always

show submenu items selected along with the expand menu. Finally add more modules for each menu and you should now have a nice sitemap which you can further style using CSS and maybe add some folding using JavaScript.

Feeds

A good way to automatically update your web site with latest information is by making use of RSS feeds. There are multiple Joomla modules that allow you to insert RSS feeds from different sources into your web site. However if you want to insert an RSS feed within an individual article rather than modules, the easiest way to do this would be using the RSS feed plugin for Joomla 1.5. This plugin gives you the ability to simply use a line of code like {RSS}http://feeds.feedburner.com/Digit-TipsAndTricks{/RSS} that allows you to have an RSS feed embedded right into your articles.

Debug Joomla

Since Joomla is an open source platform, all of the code used to build the CMS is available to you. Also any changes you make to your website can be edited in the form of PHP code and you can make your own customisations directly through code. Furthermore if you want to alter or experiment with new modules or components, you will have to get into pure code. And due to the unavailability of a proper IDE, this can be a very difficult and cumbersome affair. All the coding would have to be done on a text editor and no debugging tools would be available. But luckily you can make use of two popular projects namely XAMPP and Eclipse, to debug Joomla code. The Joomla Docs project can guide you through each step of setting up PHP

debugging for Joomla with Eclipse. The same resource lets you know more about how to install XAMPP, which is a very important tool to test your Joomla web site.

Other tips

It is recommended that you always have a 'Related Articles' module in Joomla. Related Articles Lists help with SEO (Search Engine Optimisation) and help search engine crawlers to find more accurate and descriptive links to other pages on your website. The 'Related Articles' also aid the users of the web site in finding similar articles if they liked the present one which again increases the amount of time a user spends on your website as he may visit other pages. You can automate the process of formulating the Related Articles by letting Joomla analyse the keywords

the "Add Keywords" plugin. Once you have downloaded the required parts go to the administrator area of your site and under Extensions > Install/Uninstall and upload all three of them. Then again go to Extensions > Plugin Manager and enable the System - Add Keywords plugin and finally under Extensions > Module Manger enable the "Related Articles" module. Once all of this is done, the related articles should start working.

Hide menu items

Many a time there might come an occasion where you want to hide specific parts mainly certain menus on your website from a user after he has logged on to your Joomla website. Normally this cannot be done with the standard Joomla functionality, but you can work out a

```
}
</style>
<?php endif; ?>
```

Legacy mode

Although not advised, sometimes you might want to be able to use certain templates, components or modules from Joomla 1.0 even after upgrading to Joomla 1.5 either due to unavailability of the component on the newer version or because you have been using the legacy system and switching to a newer version isn't easy. This option can be explored by enabling the legacy mode in Joomla 1.5. All you need to do is switch on the legacy system plugin. Go to Extensions -> Plugin Manager and find the existing plugin named System - Legacy, and then press the red cross to enable this plugin. Once enabled, you can use any Joomla 1.0 template or component on your Joomla 1.5 website. But note that it is always recommended that you use only Joomla 1.5 components and avoid using the Legacy plugin.

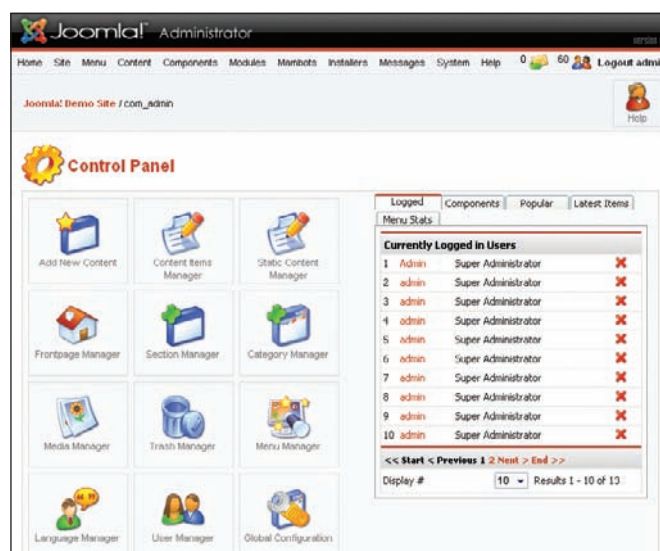
Printer tricks

Are you still printing text documents or photos using your printer? Or, is that just because you have a student in your household, apart those rare instances when you actually print anything at all; thanks to the advent of smart phones and e-book readers, all your printer does is possibly collect dust. Have you ever wondered if the box on your desk-top can be put to more use than just that, or what its full potential is?

There are several uncommon, entertaining and amazingly functional uses of your printer.

Labeling

You can customise all your communications whether corporate or personal simply printing out labels; whether it



The Joomla control panel

in the current article and automatically listing and linking to other articles which have the most matching keywords. To create such a list we will need three extensions, a component, a module and a plugin. Download the latest versions of the "FJ Related" component, the "FJ Related Articles Plus" module and

simple workaround to allow you to cheat the system into hiding the menu item after the user has logged in. Place the following code in your template,

```
<?php
$user =&
JFactory::getUser();
if( !$user->guest ) ?>
<style type="text/css">
.item10 { display:none;
```



There's more to printing than plain boring documents

is address slips for your business envelopes, artwork for CD covers, custom labels for the books on your shelf, covers for your reports, or even the labels for your kitchen and the filing cabinets. All you need is a good quality label sheet which you can select from the wide range available with 3M, and a high quality printer ink (even an authentic cartridge will do, unless you plan to use it on a glossy paper of course).

Custom Stationery

If you write a lot of letters or even run an enterprise, you can create your own custom personal or business letter heads with your printer. One template design and multiple prints is all it requires, or you could even save a Word Document Template and print with the content you intent to communicate. You eventually have a professional looking tidy letters. For stepping it a notch up, you can even make use of an executive bond paper to print.

Calendar

Want to see pictures of your loved ones, 'your' dream destinations, favorite actors/actresses, or anything that you would prefer to have on your desk to replace the preprogrammed mass distributed calendars, which may even have those AD snippets on most of its face; your printer is the best

rescue. Fill in events and anniversaries leaving some space for last moment additions, pimp it up with your customizations and print it on a thick paper, or even recycled paper to give it an elegant touch. You may even place it on top of your printer !

Kid at home?

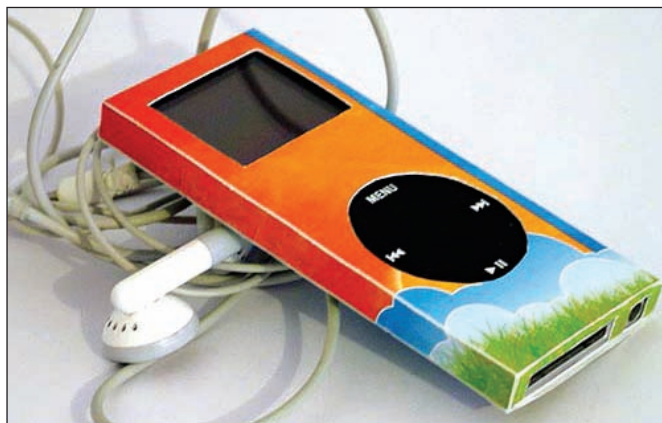
Coloring book, puzzles, comic strips, collage or any other socially useful productive work for kids (what you may call as SUPW); your printer is closer than the store in your neighborhood, and even cheaper. A simple search on key words like - coloring book, puzzles, and comic strips on Google will give you some useful options. Go ahead and try www.printactivities.com.

Greeting Cards

Birthdays, new years', Christmas and various other occasions are the time you do rounds at a card store in an attempt to find the right card to be sent. You could rather use the stock piled thick



Customise all your communication



Add some colour to life

printable paper, pictures or content widely available on the World Wide Web, and some personalized text to get your customized greeting card. Something the recipient will actually appreciate and show case on the stack of the other commercially available cards.

Posters

Ever wished to have a life size poster of your favorite actor, sports idol or even a loved one on your wall; all you need to do is to upload your image to blockposters.com, download the generated portable document format, print on the sheet you set, assemble in order and put it up on your wall. If you have worked with a graphics editing program like Adobe Photoshop or GIMP, you can even pimp up the poster yourself, or make a wall collage of your own. You could also use Picasa to do a neat and easy collage work for you.


Business Cards

Printing business cards in a traditional manner demands a great deal of time just to get used to complicated layout programs or playing around with Microsoft Word, Power Point or Publisher to get the formatting right. And then the stock of test prints you lose your fresh sheets on. You can now just choose a template online from sites (a simple search like 'business card templates' will give you the relevant results), print on a good quality business card paper, and you are ready to promote your business.

iPod Cover

You can generate covers for your iPod from an iPod cover generation website. Navigate to ipapercraft.com, choose your iPod, upload your photo and generate a cover which you can print and use as a cover for your iPod with simple folds.

Origami

All you need to do is print out the papercraft or origami of your choice from any site that gives you 'printable origami' or 'printable papercraft' (those are your search keywords), and follow the instructions on the site to get your desk top showpiece. You may need some card stock, precise scissors or paper knife and some glue. And the advantage against commercially available packages is - free online replacement! 

Monitors blanking out, hard drives collapsing, and dying pen drives.....

Digit breathes life into them

❓ Poor performance in games

I have a Gigabyte G31 motherboard, Intel Dual Core E5400 2.5 GHz processor, 3 GB DDR2 Kingston RAM (800 MHz), 250 GB hard disk and Zotac GeForce 8400 graphics card. When I play *Counter Strike* or *Prince of Persia*, these games don't run smoothly.

Anjan Sahana



The GeForce GT240 is an entry-level gaming card

⚠️ The GeForce 8400GS is a very basic entry-level gaming card. *Counter Strike* should run just about fine, but *Prince of Persia* will most likely not. You can try reinstalling the graphics card drivers to see if there's any improvement in performance. If you like gaming, we recommend that you upgrade your graphics card to something like the GeForce GT240 or the Radeon 5670.

❓ System not starting up

I have an HP Pavillion 8190in desktop PC. It's specifications are:

- Intel Core Duo E6x00 processor
- ASUS P5BW-LA motherboard
- 2 GB RAM

The problem is that it stopped booting. There were two options – one to start normally and the other to run Windows repair. I ran Windows normally, but it failed to start and again the same screen was shown. Then, I chose to run Windows repair, it restarted automati-

cally and the problem was still there. What shall I do now?

Laxman Soni

⚠️ The repair mode should fix problems, if any. If you have a recovery disc, you can use it to restore Windows to its initial state. However, there is a good chance you will lose your data in the process. Check with HP customer care to verify that. You might have to do a Windows Repair using the installation disc. If that fails, you'll have to reinstall Windows.

❓ Poor internet speeds

I recently bought a Samsung Corby mobile phone. I surf the internet using that phone. However, net speeds are really poor for downloading songs. I'm using an Airtel mobile internet plan. I need your help on how to accelerate my net speed.

Linkan Khuntia

⚠️ You're most likely using GPRS to connect to the internet. GPRS connections are extremely slow. Performance also depends on your location, signal strength, and network congestion. There isn't really a way to speed up GPRS connections. Go in for a datacard-based ISP to get better speeds at home.

❓ Sudden death!

I purchased an HP Pavillion DV6 1110AX laptop last July. For the past two months, it's been giving me problems that I can't understand.

My PC configuration is as follows:

- AMD Turion(tm) X2 Dual-Core Mobile RM-74
- ATI Mobility Radeon HD 4650 Series-1GB
- 4 GB RAM
- Windows 7 Ultimate
- Problem report: Problem Event Name: BlueScreen

My laptop suddenly shows me a blue

screen that shows physical memory dumping and restarts again within seconds. I don't even get a chance to take a snapshot, because I don't know when it's about to crash. I also formatted it, but nothing happened. Can you help me out? I'm worried because these hiccups can also damage my hard disk and I can't risk it.

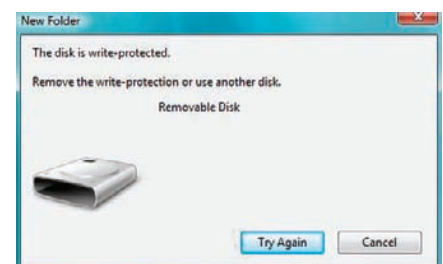
Parth Sarthi

⚠️ The blue screen that appears even after formatting and reinstalling the OS might be due to serious problems with the hardware. Take the laptop to the service centre to have it checked out.

❓ Pen drive disk protected

I have a 4 GB Kingston pen drive. It is affected by a virus. Because of this virus, my pen drive is not working. Whenever I try to format the pen drive, a message appears on the screen "the disk is write protected". I cannot copy or transfer data to it. Also, I tried many updated antivirus programs. They detect the virus, but do not delete it. Please give me a solution?

Ashutosh Khulbe



Flash drive shown as write-protected

⚠️ Your PC might also be infected by the worm or virus. Connect the flash drive to a PC running Linux and try formatting the drive using it. If you connect it to a Windows PC, make sure you don't use the Autorun function. Open Windows Explorer, then right click on the flash drive and format it.

Speed matters

WiMAX 2 standard, and its theoretical 1Gbps downloads to be finalized in November. Hardware to be ratified through 2011 and might be commercially available in 2012

Nanotech teabag

A new "tea bag" uses nano-fibers to suck contaminants and bacteria out of water, providing a desperately-needed, cheap solution for the billions of people without clean drinking water

Moving to Linux

I have one query for Linux OS. I have an Intel Core 2 Duo E7500 processor and 2 GB of RAM. Currently, I am using Windows XP on my system, and I want to install the Linux OS on my system. Can you help me out from this problem that which Linux OS will be suitable for my system, and how do I get it?

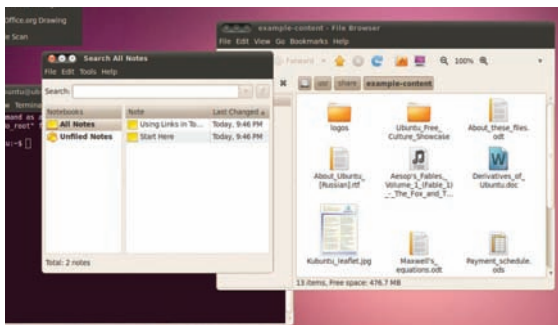
Krutarth Purohit

Ubuntu (www.ubuntu.com) is considered the best for newcomers to Linux. It's freely available for download and you can also find it on our previous DVDs. Burn the image on the DVD and boot using the DVD drive.

Display goes blank every now and then

I am a Digit subscriber from the past year. I needed help regarding my display.

When the OS (Windows 7) loads, my screen goes blank. On displaying of the



Ubuntu Linux is one of the simplest Linux distributions to get started with

welcome screen, it retains the display. But when I launch any game, it goes blank again. I always need to manually unplug the signal cord and attach it back when this happens from the monitor at runtime. I need to do it when the PC is on. Upon reboot, the same problem occurs. This never used to happen before, since the past week I got a Seagate 1TB drive (internal). I have the latest drivers updated for ATI v10.7. Could you please advise. My configuration is as follows:

- Microsoft Windows 7 Ultimate x86
- Intel Core 2 Duo E8400 3.0 GHz
- Abit IP35-E Mobo
- Corsair XMS2 DDR2 2 GB RAM
- Palit HD4850 512MB DDR3 Graphic card

- 1 TB Seagate 7200.12 internal
- 500GB Seagate 5400.12 internal
- Corsair TX650 Power Supply
- Viewsonic VA1928wm Monitor

Nereus Hixon

It's an odd problem for sure. If the monitor has an auto-detect mode which allows you to switch from DVI and VGA, set it to use the DVI by default. In the display properties and through the drivers, make sure you set the monitor as the default display.

Can't make changes to disk drive

I bought a Sony VGN-BZ15GN VAIO laptop last year. The configuration of the system is Intel Core 2 Duo P8400 (2.26 GHz), Hard Disk: 200 GB, Memory: 2 GB, Windows Vista Business / Windows XP SP2.

Since Vista is too slow, I installed Windows XP. Then, I tried to install drivers and applications that I downloaded, but they weren't working. So, I switched to Windows 7 where I deleted everything while installing and formatting. Now, I tried to revert to Vista because some applications such as Fingerprint, Cam, Card Reader, Bluetooth, and Battery management were not working. But, I can't. I made a recovery CD that doesn't work either. As of now, I can't install any OS on my laptop. I get an error "can't write disk". So, I took out the hard disk from my

laptop, made an external hard disk and tried to format it, but it can't create any more partitions. While using software such as EASEUS Partition Master, I can create and format. But still can't install any OS. Please help.

Hazel Khashim

It was a bad idea to reinstall operating systems like that on your laptop. Sony laptops have a partition where the backup and recovery data for the shipped OS is stored. During the installs, you might have deleted those partitions and there's no way to restore the OS back the right way. If Sony has provided you with a recovery disc of some sort, use it to

restore Windows back to its initial state. If all fails, inquire with the Sony customer care to see if they can fix things for you. Opening the laptop and removing the hard drive might have void warranty too.

Poor gamer laptop

I own a Dell Inspiron laptop with the following configuration: Intel Core2 i3 350M (2.67 GHz), 3 GB RAM, ATI Mobility Radeon HD 5470 (512MB), Windows 7 64-bit. I've installed some of the hottest titles in PC games such as *Splinter Cell: Conviction* and *Prototype*. When I start the game, it appears like the system has slowed down a lot. I'm unable to get smooth frame rates.

Cibi Vishnu

The Radeon 5470 is not a high-end graphics solution and isn't designed to run games such as *Splinter Cell: Conviction* and *Prototype*. Lower the quality settings and hopefully, the games will run smoother.

Memory upgrade for Maya 2010?

Kindly suggest a configuration to get the best out of Autodesk Maya 2010 (January 2010) in my PC. How much RAM should I increase to if my PC configuration is Intel Pentium Dual Core with 2.89 GHz and RAM is 256 MB.

Vinod Kumar

You should upgrade to 2 GB of RAM at least for decent performance. The processor also needs to be powerful when you start working on more advanced and intensive scenes and models.

Powering modem through USB

I have an ADSL2 Modem that I use for internet access. I had a power adapter for power. But a few days back, the adapter got burnt. A friend of mine advised me to power it from the USB connection on my PC. I do not know the cable connections and I also want to know if that cable is available in market. The modem is connected with LAN Port of PC. Is it advisable to power it from PC.

Rajesh Kumar

Energy Fact

A toaster uses almost half as much energy as a full-sized oven

Crazy Cube

Rubik's Cube can be solved in 20 moves. Proving it required 35 years of computer time donated by Google to get it done

Q&A



Powering your device using USB is not advisable. A new adapter can be bought from the market for a really low price. Look for the power rating for the existing adapter and replace it. If the ADSL2 router is under warranty, then you can simply ask the manufacturer to replace the adapter for you.



Power adapters are inexpensive and easy to find in local electronics stores



Aero themes not working

I have installed Windows 7 yesterday on my PC. But I am not able to see any Aero themes on my desktop. It's somehow disabled. I tried to fix them from the Start menu. It says that my onboard solution does not support WDDM and that I have to upgrade my graphic card. Isn't there anything that I could do to force aero on my desktop?

My PC configuration is:

- Intel(R) 82915G/GV/910GL Express Chipset Family
- Intel Pentium 4 CPU 2.66 GHz
- 1 GB DDR 400 MHz RAM
- Windows 7 32-bit
- Onboard graphics solution max 222 MB.
- Would Vista be a better option?

Aakash Dhingra



Windows 7 requires a DirectX 9.0 Pixel Shader 2.0 compliant graphics card to run Aero themes. The 915GL graphics solution isn't able to use the Aero theme. You'll face similar problems with Vista.



No net access with new router

I recently bought a SMC Wireless broadband router (SMCWBR14S-N4) after reading the test results and reviews in the July 2010 issue. I have a wired BSNL ADSL modem (UT300R2U), which has been connected to a WAN port on the SMC router using an RJ45 cable. I have run the installation CD provided along with the router and configured all the required settings including PPPoE. I use a Lenovo Thinkpad R400 laptop which has an Intel Wi-Fi Link 5100 series WLAN card. I am able to find the wireless network

and connect to it from my laptop. However, I am unable to connect to the internet. I get a "Internet Explorer cannot display the page" error on IE. I've tried connecting using Mozilla Fire Fox browser as well, without any success. Internet works fine if I connect my laptop directly to the BSNL modem with an RJ45 cable. I've tried connecting an RJ45 cable to the wireless router (LAN port) and my laptop. But still cannot launch any site. I can ping the wireless router from my laptop. However, cannot ping any websites or the BSNL modem. DHCP is enabled on both the modem and router. The router has an IP of 192.168.2.1. The WLAN adapter on my laptop obtains the IP 192.168.2.100 and the regular adapter obtains 192.168.2.101.

The (DHCP) IP range set on the router is from 192.168.2.100 to 192.168.2.199. Security setting (on the router and laptop) is set to WPA-PSK with AES. The network diagnostic tool shows the error "CHAP authentication failed". Please advise!

Mahesh Lakshmanaswamy



Every ISP has a different way of authenticating with the server end. The ADSL modem should do that by itself, unless you've set it up to dial manually using the PC. If that's the case, you need to setup the authentication information in the SMC router. Some ISPs might even lock MAC addresses, so look for an option that lets you manually enter the MAC address for your PC on the router. You need to do this using the router firmware.



Do I permission to reinstall Windows?

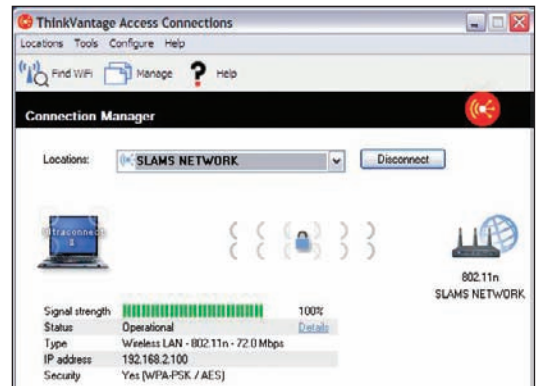
I am using Licensed version WinXP and have activated and upgraded from Microsoft. I am also using Microsoft Security essential to protect my PC. Now a days I am getting so many warning windows stating some DLL files are not found.

If I need to reformat my PC and reinstall WinXP, do I need to inform Microsoft or take their permission. Kindly help me with directions and addresses.

Ashok Chadha



You do not need to take any permis-



The router functioning, but without internet access

sion to reinstall Windows. Just make sure you have all the licensing information that is required when you reinstall it.

No DX10 and DX9 on Windows 7?

I have a HP Pavilion dv5 series laptop with the following configuration. Intel Core 2 Duo @ 2.0 GHz (T6400) 4.00 GB DDR3 RAM, 320 GB SATA hard disk, NVIDIA Geforce 9600 GT 512 MB (GDDR3) graphics card, Windows 7 Home Premium (32-bit) operating system.

Whenever I try to play FIFA 09 on my laptop, it says "graphics accelerator required". Earlier, I had Windows Vista (32-bit) installed, from which I upgraded to Windows 7 through HP's upgradation facility. At that time, while using Vista, the FIFA09 and other games would run smoothly; they don't anymore. Why is this happening?

Some people told me that NVIDIA GeForce 9600GT is a DirectX 10 card, and Windows 7 uses Directx 11, hence it is causing compatibility problems. Is it true? Does that mean that I will not be able to play any DirectX 10 (or DirectX 9) games? What should I do? Should I downgrade to Vista again? I intend to buy a few good DirectX 10 games this year.

Agniva Dey



Most likely, you haven't downloaded and reinstalled drivers for Windows 7. Download the necessary drivers for the graphics solution on your laptop from NVIDIA's site and give it a shot. Windows 7 can run DirectX 11, 10 and lower games as long as you have the necessary drivers installed. **d**

**Cameras with Projector.**

Nikon announce two new digital cameras, the Coolpix S5100 and S1100p with built in Projector.

Now 10 digit numbers for landline

TRAI plans to have ten digit numbers for all landline phones in the near future. This move would integrate the number system for all mobile and landline devices



photos.com

The news was horrifying. Delhi hit with dengue and Mumbai hit with malaria. Thousands have been hospitalised and several have unfortunately succumbed too. Seems all the fumigation, mosquito mats and lotions aren't helping. Time to fight back!

Tech can heal too

Nash David

nash.david@thinkdigit.com

Insect repellents have been existing since time immemorial. Be it in the form of pungent herbs or potions, modern society tends to use products such as mats, lotions and even racquets. But then with so many products available, why are so many people still dying? May be we need to use all possible measures.

No technology can save you from laziness of not following hygienic guidelines. You need to get rid of stagnating water, puddles and accumulation in your surrounding. Do not leave waste food items, especially moist ones uncovered. These are banquets for pests. They will thank you with disease. Forget

malaria and dengue, blessings such as gastroenteritis and nausea could be some symptoms you could avoid by simply taking precautions.

We're with you in this fight against disease. In our small way,

Things you will need

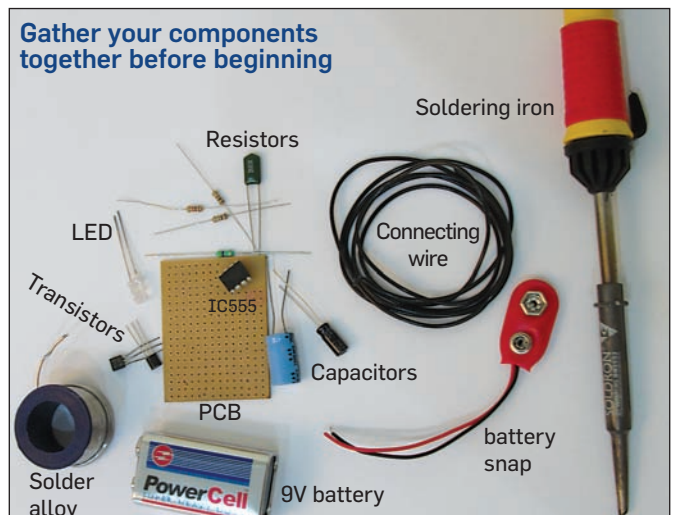
- IC 555 - 1 no.
- Resistors
 - R1 - 470k
 - R2 - 100 ohms
 - R3 - 100 ohms
 - R4, R5 - 1k
 - R6 - 47 ohms
- Capacitors
 - C1 - 10 μ F / 25V (Electrolytic)
 - C2 - 1000 μ F / 25V (Electronic)
 - C3 - 0.01 μ F (Ceramic)
- Battery
 - 9V and battery snap (1 no.)
- LED - 1 no.
- Speaker - 1 no.
- Connecting wire, General purpose PCB, wire stripper and cutter
- Soldering iron and alloy.



we found this ultrasonic pest repellent. We thought it would really help you stay healthy. It's an electronic circuit that generates a constant ultrasonic signal that research believes irritates pests and insects and hopefully



mosquitoes too! As experience shows, there's always a difference in theory and practice. Try this project and let us know if there is a reduction in the pests in your vicinity. While there may not be as much of an effect on mosquitoes, there should be a significant difference with rodents and larger creatures.

Gather your components together before beginning



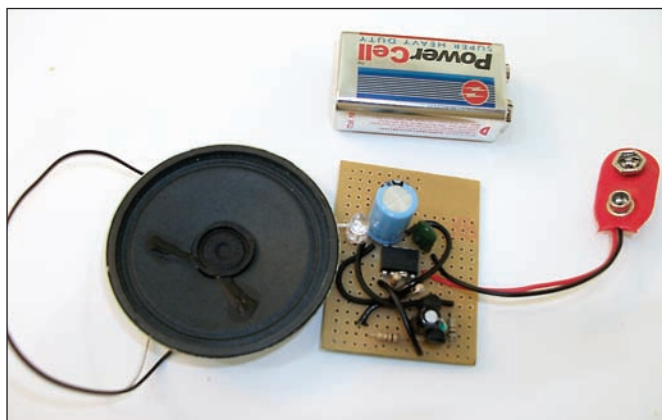
Annapurna is the yet another Super computer of India which is developed by Institute of Mathematical Sciences in Chennai.

It is speculated that by the year 2015 half of the cellphone sales will consist of smartphones in Asia with an estimated figure of 477 million units to be sold



We tried it near a dog. Although it did run away, we're still trying to figure out whether it was because of the circuit or it seeing some alien device being brought towards it! First, gather your components together. Clean the surfaces to get rid of oxidised surfaces. Clean the leads using a blade. Insert the IC, especially if you are using a small piece of board as we did. This way you get to know the approximate area you would

Next insert the resistors in to the PCB according to the circuit diagram. Lastly insert the capacitors, LED and speaker. Connect the battery snap. You should now have a working pest repellent. Try it out by switching it on. The LED should turn on indicating a working circuit. And you're ready to shoo pests away!



Navigating the camera maze

Agent 001

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With the festival season about to start, I have been getting a lot of queries from friends and readers alike on narrowing down to the correct digital camera for their needs. The era of the Kodak, Yashica, Minolta film cameras is slowly but surely coming to an end, at least as far as casual users is concerned. And with the digital camera market flooded with so many different types of cameras, range of companies and insane amount of features, it does get overwhelming for a newbie to hunt for the right camera for his or her needs.

As most of my friends were looking at purchasing entry level cameras, with a budget under ₹25,000, I set out in search for the camera that would deliver the bang for their buck. Now the very first thing before purchasing a camera is to be very sure what type of camera you want and for what use. Marketers will try to push features like megapixel count, zoom factor, touchscreen off late. But what is the point if you buy a feature rich camera and just use it in the Auto mode throughout?

The ideal price point for Noobs or camera newbies shouldn't be beyond ₹10,000 to ₹12,000. Canon A495 packs in 10 MP and a 3.3x optical zoom and has limited shooting modes which are very user friendly. It supports a wide range of storage cards like SD, SDHC also SDXC. Priced at decent ₹6,100. Another Canon camera from the IXUS range of Image Stabilization featuring cameras is the IXUS 105IS which is priced around ₹9,700. Kodak has a range of cameras in the Easyshare category like C142 priced around ₹4,500 for extreme budget buyers as well as M575 for around ₹9,000. Panasonic FH1 is a 12MP camera also having 5x optical zoom and HD recording around

the same price. It also packs in a memory card and a pouch along with it. It is not advisable to use the ISO beyond 400 for entry level point and shoot camera's as these images will tend to also include a lot of noise in them. I would not suggest anyone to look at the MP count unless they are planning to print out their photographs in A4/A3 sizes. For viewing on a computer screen or taking normal 4x6inch prints, an 8-10MP is more than sufficient.

It is a gradual process for those who have already used the basic entry level cameras to upgrade. Now it may not be a smart decision to switch to DSLRs directly from a normal point and shoot unless you are very confident that you will invest time in learning how to use it. Else spending a bomb on DSLRs and just using them in Auto modes is a waste of money. For such friends whom I would like to call Potential Pro's there is a category of cameras called Prosumer cameras or Ultra Zooms, owing to their great optical zooms which can range anywhere from 12x to 30x. Canon's SX series of cameras cater to this segment. The slightly older SX20 IS is a somewhat bulky camera with 20x optical zoom, swivel LCD screen – which is very helpful specially when shooting at the ground level or by holding the camera above your head. Fits beautifully in your hands and is priced at ₹23,000. SX210 IS is a more compact upgrade of the SX20 IS. This has a wider 3 inch LCD screen, 14MP sensor and a 14x optical zoom coming cheaper around ₹19,000. Canon SX120IS is another ultrazoom camera coming in a compact form factor. Its revolving directional navigation pad is a pleasure to work with. Do look for such ergonomic features in cameras, makes life very simple.



Agent001 helps you in deciding on a digital camera, which has become as important as buying a cellphone

Panasonic Lumix TZ10 is another wonderful ultrazoom camera with 12x optical zoom and an in-built GPS sensor which is quite

some feature for the travel buff. It comes with a hefty price of around ₹23,500. Olympus SP800 UZ takes the pants off all the other camera models as far as the optical zoom is concerned. It is a whopping 30x. But a word of caution, you have to be rock steady to be able to shoot blur free photographs at full 30x zoom. The best part about it is its sweet pricing of ₹22,000.

For the Style Icons, ultra slim cameras are passe. Make way for touch screen cameras. Although they have been around for quite a while, they are gaining in popularity thanks to many companies pushing this segment. Sony Cybershot DCS TX5 is a sleek waterproof touch screen camera priced around ₹16,000 taking feature richness to an altogether different level. Fujifilm's FinePix Z700 EXR was one camera we got to review this month and though its features like in-built tilt sensor, Facebook and YouTube tagging options were good, I felt the photo quality wasn't very good. Nikon CoolPix S4000 is an economically priced touchscreen camera at around ₹10,000. For the more adventurous ones, there is Nikon Coolpix S1100pj which is a touchscreen camera and has an in-built projector which can project images at a resolution of 640x480. The under ₹20,000 price tag is quite decent.

This is just a drop in the vast entry level digicam ocean. It is not possible to include all the cameras we considered. due to space constraints. You can always get back to me in case of doubts. So do your homework before taking the plunge in the shutterbug kingdom. **d**

Q Upgrading to faster RAM

I have system having configuration

- Intel Core 2 Duo E4400 2.0GHz
- Intel 945GCPE motherboard
- 512 MB DDR2 667MHz RAM
- 80 GB HDD

I wanted to know that how much memory can I extend on this motherboard and of what speed? Is 800 MHz DDR2 compatible with this motherboard. I want to extend up to 4 GB. What will be the approximate cost?

Pranav Prajapati
Gujarat

A You should be able to use DDR2 800MHz RAM but, your system will only run it at 667MHz. The cost of DDR2 RAM is around ₹4,500 for two sticks of 2 GB each. An upgrade to 2GB will be more than sufficient for your configuration though. Any more and you won't see a difference in performance in most applications.

Q Need config for high-end rendering rig

I've been reading Digit for the past 8 months and love everything about it. Digit helped me in many ways for better computing.

I need to buy a computer and my budget is around \$3000. The main purpose of the computer would be working on high-end software such as Maya. I will be rendering huge files on it and also for editing HD videos. So one of my friend said that I should go in for a Mac but the thing is the cost of the configuration would cost me in excess of \$8000. That's not affordable and not being able to play the games I want to, is another disadvantage.

So please suggest me a good PC configuration in and around \$3000 which can render huge files in Maya, edit HD videos without any holdups and also let me play latest games. Can you also tell me whether AMD or Intel is better?

Samuel Chadwick

A Here's a configuration to consider

- Intel Core i7 960
- ASUS Rampage II Gene
- Corsair Value RAM - 2 GB x 6

- Dell Ultrasharp U2711
- ZOTAC GeForce GTX470
- 2 x 2TB Seagate Barracuda
- Corsair HX620
- Logitech MX518
- Cooler Master 690 II

I'm emphasizing more on the components which will help you the most with your work and gaming. I would recommend installing Windows 7 64-bit so that you can use all of that memory. We've also recommended the Dell U2711 - a great 27-inch display with great colours and a massive resolution which will help tons while working on HD content. The processor and RAM will help you render out huge scenes with relative ease and the GTX470 although an overkill for 3d modelling, will do well in games. Most often, certain models in certain price ranges are better than their competitors. It's unfair to say that AMD is better than Intel, or vice-versa.

Q Upgrading system, have doubts

I need your expert advice on my new PC configuration which I'm assembling. I have shortlisted the following specifications:

- Processor: AMD Phenom II x6 1055T
- Motherboard: Gigabyte 890GPA-UD3H
- RAM: 2 x 2GB DDR3 1333MHz Gskill/ Corsair performance RAM
- Harddisk: Seagate Barracuda 7200.12 1TB or WD Green 1TB
- Optical drive: LG/Samsung 22x/24x SATA DVD writer
- Cabinet (w/o SMPS) : Coolermaster 690 or 690 II plus or
- Simple USB Keyboard (from Logitech or Microsoft)
- Logitech MX518 Gaming Mouse

I'll be using my present monitor which is Samsung Syncmaster 933SN and will add an ATI HD5770 based card for gaming. My queries are as follows:

1. Will my present powersupply VIP-500W be enough for the above configuration?
2. Is the above configuration good enough to play recent games at decent

resolutions?

3. What may be the expected cost of the whole setup?

Last but not the least, I would like to know what may be the market cost of Acer eMachine E725 laptop (with added 1GB RAM to make upto 2GB or more).

Umesh Rao

A The 500W PSU should be sufficient for your configuration. The configura-



tion should be good enough to play games at resolutions of around 1680x1050.

The approximate cost of your configuration should be close to ₹40,000 including the graphics solution. The price of the Acer eMachines e725 laptop should be around ₹23,000. Note that the laptop maybe available in different configurations and prices may differ accordingly.

Q Need a voice amplifier

I am a teacher by profession and recently advised not to over strain my voice due to some throat problems.

For this I am looking for some portable voice amplifier products that could be used in classrooms. I am a regular reader of Digit but can't remember of reading reviews of such articles in the magazine. I also searched net but was confused about the options there.

Can you please help me in this regard? I badly need your guidance. It needs to be Portable (preferably a belt version) with good amplification and preferably powered by AA rechargeable batteries. My budget is around ₹3000.

Sudipta Sarkar

Star Wars Again

Star Wars movies to be launched in Blu-ray in 2011 for the 35th anniversary of the release of A New Hope

Intel N550

Netbooks powered by Intel's Atom N550 processors launched in the market

A There is a product called the Spokeman Personal Voice Amplifier. You can contact Paramount Systems & Solutions for more information.

Q 3G touchscreen for under ₹8,000

I want to buy a 3G/touchscreen cell-phone. My budget is between ₹5,000 and 8,000. I choose Micromax H360 and Q7. Please review these for me and suggest a better multimedia set under my budget.

Krishna Singh

A Looking at the specifications of the two phones you have mentioned, Micromax H360 and Micromax Q7, I feel you should go for the Q7. Reason being with a 3G phone it makes more sense to have a QWERTY keypad than a regular one. Also, Q7 is comparatively cheaper than H360. On the downside though, the Q7 has a 2 MP camera, whereas H360 has a 3 MP camera

Q Upgrading GPU

I have an HP Pavilion a1515in Media Center Desktop PC with configuration as follows: Intel Pentium 4 Processor 524 clocked at 3.06 GHz, 2 GB Kingston DDR2 RAM, 80 GB 7200 RPM hard drive, onboard ATI Radeon Xpress 200 GPU, Windows XP Media Center Edition. I want to buy a discreet GPU for my PC. I contacted HP to inquire about what type of GPU will it support (ie DDR2, DDR3 etc) to which he answered that there's a PCI x16 slot vacant in the motherboard and any PCI x16 compatible GPU, irrespective of whether it is DDR2 or DDR3 will be



supported. I wanted to confirm whether what he told me is correct or not.

Another thing I wanted to know is that since Sapphire Radeon HD 4670 I was rated best performer by Digit in July 2010 issue, I was planning to buy that as

it suits my budget too which is between ₹3,500 to 5,000, so will I have to upgrade my PSU which is currently of 300W? If yes, then please suggest me a decent PSU that should suffice my requirement. Also, please tell me what is the minimum frame rate for a game to be termed as "playable", so that it doesn't stutter.

Jagrit Chawla

A Pretty much any modern day graphics card should work on the motherboard. The Radeon 4670 fits in your budget and the power supply should just about suffice. In case you're facing constant crashes and reboots, you can upgrade to a Corsair VX450. A minimum frame rate of 30 - 40 fps can be considered smooth and playable.

Q eSATA or Firewire drive?

I am thinking of buying an external hard drive of 320 GB or 500 GB size. Can you suggest me some drive of both 2.5-inch portable or a 3.5-inch external (what is performance difference between the two types). I want to go for a WD or a Seagate drive.

I have a Dell Studio 15, which has a e-SATA and a Firewire port. I know that both give higher speeds than the USB, but I am not sure about the use of Firewire port in Windows OS, as I heard that Firewire works with Apple's OS only.

Vishal Rawat

A 5-inch drives are faster than 2.5-inch drives. On USB, almost all the drives perform at around 30 - 32 MB/s. Go for cheaper drive and one that gives you a better warranty. If you're looking for 3.5-inch drives, look for the Seagate FreeAgent Desk 500GB external drives.

From what we've seen, eSATA offers far superior performance than even Firewire drives. Firewire is also available on PCs running Windows and not just for Macs.



Q Need to buy a good 3G phone

I need a good 3G phone so that I don't need to use my laptop all the time for internet access. I want to access Facebook, Twitter and play Mafia Wars from my phone. Its battery life should be good enough to listen to songs and watch videos. Also, I was thinking of buying a touchscreen 3G-phone. I read a piece where you didn't recommend buying a touch phone below ₹22,000. Since my budget is very low, I can't spend more than ₹11,000. I want the phone to have good video playback and a camera with flash, at as low price as possible. How much will I have to pay for the same features on a touchscreen phone?

Ankit Prateek

A The price range you have is a bit on the lower side for a 3G touchscreen cellphone. Moreover, it will be difficult to say which the best 3G phone is as we have yet to start using the 3G network to fully grasp its advantages and shortcomings. However, we would like to suggest some phones around your price bracket.

1. Samsung Lindy M5650 priced around ₹11,000, has WiFi and 3G and it is touchscreen. It looks like the Corby phones but doesn't belong to that family.
2. Samsung S3370 Nano priced around ₹7,000 has support for 3G but ordinary camera and features
3. Micromax Q7 is priced around ₹5,000 and is 3G ready but it has a QWERTY keypad.
4. INQ Chat 3G phones are priced considerably cheaper, only issue is that they have a QWERTY keypad.
5. LG GW525 is a touchscreen with a slider keypad priced around ₹11,000 which supports 3G.

Q Which 12-core processor?

I'm building my own ultra high-end gaming PC. For the CPU, I want a 12-core CPU. Please suggest a good one and also mention the type of socket it uses.

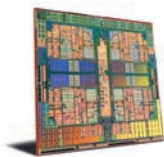
A There are no 12-core processors for desktops. Intel and AMD, both have 6-core processors. They are the Intel Core i7 980X and AMD Phenom II X6 1090T. **d**

KILLER RIGS

everything you will ever need to build your own PC. whatever your budget.

- Basic rig = ₹21,400
- Multimedia cum gaming rig = ₹31,600
- High-end Multimedia / Gaming rig = ₹49,600
- High-end gaming PC = ₹63,750
- Ultra high-end PC / Gaming rig = ₹1,67,310

PRIMARY COMPONENTS



PROCESSOR

- AMD Athlon II X2 245 / ₹2,9510
- AMD Athlon II X4 635 / ₹5,050
- Phenom X4 945 / ₹6,950
- Intel Core i5 750 / ₹10,100
- Intel Core i7 960 / ₹31,100



MOTHERBOARD

- ASUS NVIDIA 7025 M2N68-AM / ₹2,275
- Gigabyte MA78GM-US2H / ₹4,200
- ASUS M4A78-PRO / ₹5,850
- BioStar Tpower P55 / ₹6,700
- ASUS P6T Deluxe V2 / ₹19,300



RAM

- 2 x 1 GB DDR2 800 MHz (Kingston) / ₹2,500
- 2 x 1 GB DDR2 800 MHz (Kingston) / ₹2,500
- 2 x 2 GB DDR2 800 MHz (Corsair) / ₹4,600
- 2 x 2 GB DDR3 1333 MHz (Kingston) / ₹4,800
- 3 x 2 GB Kingston HyperX T1 2,000 MHz / ₹10,800

GRAPHICS CARD

- None
- Galaxy GeForce GT240 / ₹4,750
- Powercolor Radeon HD 5750 / ₹7,550
- Sapphire Radeon HD 5850 / ₹17,500
- ZOTAC GeForce GTX 470 x2 (SLI) / ₹44,000



HARD DRIVE

- Seagate 500 GB 7200.11 / ₹1,900
- Seagate 500 GB 7200.11 / ₹1,900
- Seagate 1 TB 7200.12 / ₹3,150
- Seagate 1 TB 7200.12 / ₹3,150
- WD Black Edition 1 TB x2 / ₹9,000



MONITOR

- Dell S2009W / ₹6,975
- AOC 2236Vw / ₹8,400
- AOC 2236Vw / ₹8,400
- AOC 2236Vw / ₹8,400
- BenQ G2420HD / ₹12,000

CABINET



- NZXT Camma Classic / ₹2,150
- NZXT Camma Classic / ₹2,150
- CoolerMaster 690 / ₹4,200
- CoolerMaster 690 / ₹4,200
- Cooler Master HAF 922 / ₹6,500

SOUND CARD

- None
- None
- None
- None
- ASUS Xonar DX / ₹4,500



SECONDARY COMPONENTS

POWER SUPPLY



- VIP 350 Watts / ₹850
- VIP 400W Gold / ₹850
- Corsair VX450 / ₹3,800
- Corsair VX450 / ₹3,800
- Corsair HX850W / ₹10,000

MOUSE



- Logitech 3 button scroll / ₹300
- Logitech 3 button scroll / ₹300
- Logitech MX518 / ₹1,300
- Logitech MX518 / ₹1,300
- Logitech G500 / ₹3,700



SPEAKER

- None
- None
- Altec Lansing VS2421 / ₹2,200
- Altec Lansing VS2421 / ₹2,200
- Altec Lansing MX 5021 / ₹6,500



OPTICAL DRIVE

- LG H55N / ₹1,100
- LG H55N / ₹1,100
- LG H55N / ₹1,100
- LG H55N / ₹1,100
- LG WH10LS30 / ₹11,010



KEYBOARD

- Logitech Multimedia / ₹400
- Logitech Multimedia / ₹400
- Logitech Multimedia / ₹500
- Logitech Multimedia / ₹500
- Logitech G15 / ₹4,400

MISCELLANEOUS

TABLET



- None
- iBall Design Tablet PF1209 / ₹8,900
- Wacom Intuos4 Medium (PTK-640) / ₹21,280



HEADPHONES

- None
- Sennheiser HD 201 / ₹1,500
- Sennheiser HD 280 Pro / ₹5,500



PRINTING SOLUTIONS

- Canon PIXMA iP1980 / ₹2,695
- Canon iP3680 / ₹5,595
- Epson B-500DN / ₹22,999



MOUSEPAD

- None
- Razer Goliathus Speed (Oversized) / ₹1,400
- Everglide Titan / ₹1,650
- Steel Series QCK Heavy / ₹2,000



GAMING CONTROLLERS

- MS Xbox 360 Controller / ₹1,350
- Logitech Momo / ₹5,500
- Logitech G27 / ₹15,520



POWER PROTECTION

- None
- APC 550W / ₹2,400
- Numeric 1 KVA / ₹4,200

SPEND SMART

The latest peripheral prices updated every month. Go ahead, plan your configuration today

Projectors

Brand	Model	Market Price	Type	Brightness
BenQ	MP515	₹27,810	DLP	2500 Lumens
LG	BS275	₹31,420	DLP	2700 Lumens
LG	BX275	₹40,690	DLP	2700 Lumens
LG	DX630	₹50,470	DLP	3000 Lumens
Sharp	PGD2500	₹51,300	DLP	2500 Lumens
Sharp	PGF312X	₹83,740	DLP	3000 Lumens
Sharp	XR50S	₹37,390	DLP	2700 Lumens
Sony	VPLDX15	₹98,370	LCD	3000 Lumens
Sony	VPLES7	₹32,960	LCD	2000 Lumens
Sony	VPLEX130	₹74,160	LCD	3000 Lumens
Sony	VPL-EX7	₹38,110	LCD	2000 Lumens
Sony	VPL-EX70	₹54,080	LCD	2500 Lumens

Camcorders

Brand	Model	Market Price	Zoom	Aperture
Canon	DC 320	₹22,100	37x	f/2.0-5.2 mm
Canon	DC 330	₹24,830	37x	f/2.0-5.2 mm
Canon	Dc 410	₹13,860	37x	f/2.0-5.0 mm
Canon	FS 10	₹22,890	37x	f/2.0-5.2 mm
Canon	FS 100	₹20,030	37x	f/2.0-5.2 mm
Canon	FS 11	₹35,620	37x	f/2.0-5.2 mm
Canon	FS 200	₹15,250	37x	f/2.0-5.2 mm
Canon	Legria FS 305	₹13,810	37x	f/2-5.2 mm
Canon	Legria FS 36	₹19,570	37x	f/2-5.2 mm
Canon	Legria HF M300	₹41,200	15x	f/1.8-3.2 mm
Canon	Legria HF M31	₹50,470	15x	f/1.8-3.2 mm
Canon	Legria HF R16	₹31,640	20x	f/1.8-3.6 mm
Canon	Legria HF R16	₹31,640	20x	f/2.0 - 5.2 mm
Canon	Legria HF R18	₹39,660	20x	f/1.8-3.6 mm
Canon	MV 940	₹14,880	25x	f/1.8-4.4 mm
Sony	DCR-SR68E	₹19,150	60x	f/1.8-6.0 mm
Sony	DCR-SR68E	₹20,120	40x	f/1.8 - f6 mm
Sony	DCR-SX44E	₹14,360	60x	f/3.5-6.3 mm
Sony	DCR-SX63E	₹16,280	60x	f1.8 - f6 mm
Sony	HDR-CX 150	₹28,730	25x	f/3.5-6.3 mm
Sony	XR 150	₹37,080	25x	f/1.8-3.2 mm
Sony	XR 550	₹55,620	10x	f/1.8-3.4 mm

External Storage

Brand	Model	Market Price	Cache	Capacity
Buffalo	320 GB PV320U2	₹2,990	8 MB	320 GB
Buffalo	Hd-PE500U2	₹4,450	8 MB	500 GB
Buffalo	Pv250U2	₹2,730	8 MB	250 GB
Corsair	CSSD-F120GB2-BRKT	₹20,450	32 MB	120 GB
Corsair	CSSD-F60GB2-BRKT	₹11,590	32 MB	60 GB
HP	Simple Save Backup Drive	₹3,350	8 MB	320 GB
Iomega	Ego (320 GB)	₹3,660	8 MB	320 GB
Iomega	Ego Black Belt	₹4,950	8 MB	500 GB
Iomega	Ego Mac Edition	₹6,700	8 MB	500 GB
Iomega	Prestige Compact	₹4,310	16 MB	500 GB
Iomega	Prestige Compact(Black)	₹2,860	8 MB	250 GB
Iomega	Prestige Desktop	₹4,540	8 MB	1 TB
Iomega	Select Black External Drive (500 GB)	₹3,970	8 MB	500 GB
Iomega	Ultra Max Desktop	₹7,520	8 MB	1 TB
Lacie	D2 Quadra 301825KU	₹20,460	16 MB	500 GB
Lacie	D2 Quadra 301827KU	₹24,380	16 MB	1 TB
Lacie	Design 301313KU	₹4,380	8 MB	500 GB
Lacie	Design 301830	₹3,630	8 MB	320 GB
Maxtor	Onetouch 4 STM3075040TA3E1-RK	₹7,880	2 MB	750 GB
Seagate	Freeagent Desk ST315005FDA2E1-RK	₹7,470	32 MB	1.5 TB
Seagate	Raptor ST310005EXM101-RK	₹4,230	32 MB	1 TB
Seagate	Raptor St902504Exm101-Rk	₹2,710	16 MB	250 GB
Transcend	Storejet 25	₹3,090	8 MB	250 GB
Transcend	Storejet 35T	₹5,410	32 MB	1 TB
Western Digital	My Book Essential WDBAAF0010HBK-NESN	₹4,450	16 MB	1 TB
Western Digital	My Passport Essential Se WDBABM0010BBK-NESN	₹8,450	64 MB	1 TB

Red Alert!

A malware named 'Spy rootkit' is suspected to infect most of the critical infrastructure systems in India and Iran

Laptops

Brand	Model	Market Price	Processor	OS	Memory
Acer	Aspire 4736Z (3GB)	₹26,520	Intel Core 2 Duo	Linux	3 GB
Acer	Aspire 4740	₹30,300	Intel Core i3	Linux	2 GB
Acer	Aspire 5738Z	₹27,020	Intel Core 2 Duo	Linux	3 GB
Acer	Aspire 5740	₹36,360	Intel Core i5	Linux	4 GB
Acer	EME730	₹27,780	Intel Core i3	Linux	1 GB
ASUS	A42F-VX130D	₹32,050	Intel Core i3-370M	DOS	2 GB
ASUS	G51JX-IX280V	₹99,170	Intel Core i7	Windows 7 HP	6 GB
ASUS	G73JH-TZ128V	₹92,650	Intel Core i7	Windows 7 HP	6 GB
ASUS	N61JV-JX379V	₹52,810	Intel Core i5 450M	Windows 7 HP	4 GB
ASUS	PRO5JIJ-S0133D	₹25,460	Intel Core Duo T4500	DOS	2 GB
Dell	Dell Vostro 1015	₹32,830	Intel Core 2 Duo	Windows 7 HB	2 GB
Dell	Inspiron 1464	₹41,210	Intel Core i5	Windows 7 HP	4 GB
Dell	ST XPS 13	₹48,080	Intel Core 2 Duo	Vista HP	4 GB
Dell	ST XPS 16	₹55,660	Intel Core 2 Duo	Windows 7 HP	4 GB
Dell	Studio 15 (4GB)	₹46,970	Intel Core i3	Windows 7 HP	4 GB
HP	610 Win	₹32,830	Intel Core 2 Duo	Windows 7 HP	3 GB
HP	CQ 40-601	₹27,530	Intel Core 2 Duo	DOS	3 GB
HP	CQ40-732TU	₹27,530	Intel Core 2 Duo	DOS	3 GB
HP	CQ42-173TU	₹34,810	Intel Core i3	DOS	3 GB
HP	CQ61-408TX	₹28,080	Intel Core 2 Duo	DOS	2 GB
HP	CQ62 -104 TU	₹33,590	Intel Core i3	DOS	3 GB
HP	DM3-1131TX	₹60,840	Intel Core 2 Duo	Windows 7 HP	4 GB
HP	DV3-2123 TX	₹42,220	Intel Core i3	Windows 7 HP	3 GB
HP	DV4-2101 TU	₹40,100	Intel Core i3	Windows 7 HP	3 GB
HP	DV6-2164TX	₹61,860	Intel Core i7	DOS	4 GB
Lenovo	B550 59-042909	₹32,320	Intel Core i3	DOS	3 GB
Lenovo	G460	₹36,260	Intel Core i3	Windows 7 HB	2 GB
Lenovo	G530	₹25,460	Intel Core 2 Duo	DOS	1 GB
Lenovo	G560 (4GB)	₹40,820	Intel Core i3	Windows 7 HP	4 GB
Lenovo	G560 (Dos)	₹34,140	Intel Core i3	DOS	4 GB
Lenovo	G560	₹39,020	Intel Core i3	Windows 7 HP	4 GB
Lenovo	Thinkpad T410	₹67,670	Intel Core i5	DOS	2 GB
Lenovo	Thinkpad ThinkPad Edge 15	₹39,000	Intel Core i3	Windows 7 Pro	2 GB
Lenovo	Thinkpad X201	₹58,860	Intel Core i3	DOS	2 GB
Lenovo	U450P	₹39,130	Intel Core 2 Duo	Vista HP	2 GB
Lenovo	Y450	₹41,350	Intel Core 2 Duo T6600	Windows 7 HP	4 GB
Lenovo	Y550	₹46,130	Intel Core 2 Duo	DOS	3 GB
MSI	Cr620	₹28,890	Intel Core i3	Windows 7 HP	4 GB
MSI	Cx420	₹41,080	Intel Core i3	Windows 7 HP	4 GB
MSI	Cx500	₹35,850	Intel Core 2 Duo	Windows 7 HP	4 GB
MSI	Ex310	₹32,070	AMD Turion	Vista HP	4 GB
MSI	X350	₹39,770	Intel Core 2 Duo	Windows 7 HP	2 GB
MSI	X430	₹27,580	AMD Athlon Neo X2 Yukon	Windows 7 HP	2 GB
Samsung	R428	₹33,540	Intel Core i3	DOS	4 GB
Samsung	R480	₹43,130	Intel Core i3	Windows 7 HP	4 GB
Samsung	R522	₹27,780	Intel Core 2 Duo T6400	Windows 7 HP	3 GB
Samsung	R528	₹29,040	Intel Core 2 Duo T6600	DOS	2 GB
Samsung	R528	₹28,690	Intel Core i3	DOS	2 GB
Sony VAIO	VPCEC15Fg (Black)	₹55,150	Intel Core i3	Windows 7 HP	4 GB
Sony VAIO	VPCEA12 (White)	₹36,090	Intel Core i3	Windows 7 HB	3 GB
Sony VAIO	VPCEA13 (Black)	₹40,830	Intel Core i5	Windows 7 HP	4 GB
Sony VAIO	VPCEA16Fg (Green)	₹55,100	Intel Core i5	Windows 7 HP	4 GB
Sony VAIO	VPCEA1Bgn	₹49,850	Intel Core i5	Windows 7 HP	3 GB
Sony VAIO	VPCEA23/B/P/W/L	₹40,820	Intel Core i3	Windows 7 HB	3 GB
Sony VAIO	VPCEB12En (Black)	₹35,130	Intel Core i3	Windows 7 HB	2 GB
Sony VAIO	VPCEB1Agg	₹49,850	Intel Core i5	Windows 7 HP	4 GB
Sony VAIO	VPCEB22En/Bl	₹37,020	Intel Core i3	Windows 7 HB	2 GB
Toshiba	L640-X431A	₹45,820	Intel Core i5	Windows 7 HP	4 GB
Toshiba	L650-I5310 (Psk2Cg-00W007)	₹39,090	Intel Core i3	Windows 7 HP	3 GB
Toshiba	Pro C640-I4530 (Psc01G-001001)	₹45,250	Intel Core i3	Windows 7 HP	2 GB

Get yourself heard, the legal way

Everyday, we get to hear a lot about consumer rights. Not only it makes us aware of our rights in a certain way but also tempts us to take initiative against erring service providers. Well it's a good trait if you feel positive about your rights and if you value your hard earned money. But isn't it true that many of us just end up only thinking about it as we do not have any idea how to go about the consumer complaints.

Here, we would like to express what an ideal notice should contain. A notice should always go to the service provider to intimate them about the nature of the complaint. There is no legal requirement of sending notices. However, at times, good sense prevails over the company and problems are sorted out at the stage of notice itself.

A notice to get noticed?

A notice is sent by a consumer to resolve several problems related to deficiency in services. This not only put them on a caution but also push them to have look what they deliver and serve. Before we jump over the content of the notice, the first and foremost rule that a consumer must keep in mind is that the notice must be sent by registered post or Speed Post with acknowledgement only. This way the consumer will have a record of all the communication with the company. If you have sound record of your communications, the company can never take a stand that they were not informed about the deficiency at any stage. However, besides these modes, one can additionally send the notice by other modes such as courier and email, or by hand.

Do your homework first

Before going ahead with drafting your notice, get all relevant details of products and services availed such as cash memo

number, date, place, and if there was any special offer or scheme under which the product was sold or services were availed of. Second, check the guarantee or warranty status and give information about the warranty or guarantee promised at the time of purchase. It is advisable not to go by what was promised to you verbally and check the conditions that are generally contained in the accompanying booklet or brochure. In a precise manner mention and include all the details of deficiencies in product or services availed of. Catalogue all the problems faced due to deficiencies. If you have tried to resolve the problems by approaching the company by calling the customer care executive, mention that along with the complaint reference number, if any. You can also give details of all efforts to inform about grievances to which the service provider or company has not responded.

Patience is key!

Do not be under the impression that notice is magic stick and things would change overnight, therefore, give a reasonable time limit preferably of at least 15 days to reconcile a complaint. Consumer can ask for refund of full amount with suitable interest, or replacement of the product along with suitable compensation. The notice should end with a statement that if the things are not sorted out, then you (the consumer) will be filing a complaint with the consumer court. Make a clear stipulation in the notice that the consumer complaint will be at their cost and expenses, and you will be seeking compensation for the mental distress caused due to deficiency in services.

The notice should generally be sent on registered office of the company. In internet age it is not tough to find out the composition of a company's

registered name and address and details of the higher officials. The name and addresses of the person to whom notice is being addressed should be complete and along with their designation. You must give your full name, complete contact details including your mobile no.etc so that the company can contact you.

Calculation of the damages is another issue which confuses the consumer most of the time. Well experts suggest that one should not hesitate in demanding damages and at the same time one should be rational what he is demanding. If you have reason to ask for damages then you have every reason to demand it.

Sending notice is not panacea, one has to write everything keeping in mind that things can to consumer courts and you might be required to explain whatever you write. This does not mean that you have to be an expert but what is required is right sequence of the events. Try to avoid unnecessary details which have no bearing on your case.

We've enclosed few complaints from the whole lot we received this month, so that you may find real life examples here. Write to us if you need help and guidance. **d**

This content is brought to you by



If you're facing a problem with your purchase, write to us at help@consumermate.com

Expert buying advice

Visit Consumermate.com for expert buying advice and comprehensive information on Laptops, Mobiles, TVs, Cameras and Camcorders

Start reviewing

Now you can review the mobile you use. For details, visit <http://bit.ly/bP8POZ>

COMPLAINTS RECEIVED

Laptops

Case File #612

Battery life is only 1 hour and 30 minutes

Why is the battery life of my Presario CQ41 laptop so short? I only get an hour and half on it. Why are such laptops manufactured?

Answer by Consumermate:

Well, it seems that you are not getting from your product what you have been promised. If the you had made it specific to the seller that you need a laptop that can give long battery back up, then they are liable to give you a product meeting your requirements only. You cannot not be burdened with the product having no use for you. You can file a consumer complaint against the company and seller for selling you a wrong product. Before that, you should send a legal demand notice detailing all your problems. Keep a record of all your communications that would be vital for pursuing legal action.

Laptop

Case File #707

Do not get the gift associated with the laptop

I purchased a Compaq Presario Notebook PC CQ-40-425TU for my sister's son SP Chakravarty under student offer on August 21, 2009. I paid ₹5499 for my gift i.e cellphone MOTOROKR E8 and I followed process as said and I received File No: 131355. Till today, I have not received either the phone nor a proper reply. Should I approach a consumer forum for cheating?

Answer by Consumermate:

This is a sheer case of breach of conditions on which the product was sold to you. You can avail the remedy in the consumer forum. But before that it is suggested to you that you should write a registered letter to the company and the dealer and raise your

demand for what they have promised .In your letter refer all relevant details and brochure they provided to you in regard of your purchase. Just make sure you all the correspondence should be in the name of the person reflected in the invoice as the product was sold under a special offer for the student. I hope some sense will prevail over the company and they would look in to your grievances.

Miscellaneous

Case File #792

Dishtv HD connection not providing the antenna

I bought a DishTV HD connection in exchange of an old Dish TV connection. I was given only the new STB, but when asked about the new antenna, the dealer said the new antenna is not provided, and that I have to use the old antena only. However, when I called the call centre, they said I should be provided with the new antenna as well. As of now, I have made several calls and have given a complaint too, but it was of no use. There is no sync in what the dealer and call center is saying.

Amit Chakraborty

Answer by Consumermate:

You should write a letter or email to both the dealer and the company and let them come up with their stand on the issue in their reply if at all they bother to do so. Thereafter, if they take contradictory stand in written response you can file a consumer complaint for harassment and unfair trade practices.

Case File #804

Philips DVD Home theatre not working properly

I purchased a Philips DVD Home Theatre System (HTS 4750/98) on January 27, 2008 from Ezone, Lucknow lying unserviceable at M/s. Acacia (Auth. Service Centre franchisee of Philips), Lucknow for over 50 days due to unavailability of spare part "loader" from Philips. Set handed over on 31/5

vide Work order no.363866 due to disc reading/loading problem. Estimate of Rs 3000/- was given on 4/6 stating 10 days repair time reqd.Subsequent extensions due to nonavailability was cited. Last heard on 26/6 stating loader not available with Philips.Philips throughout has maintained a queer silence refusing to divulge action taken & remained noncommittal on repairing time.Their Consumer Care section does only sweet talking & uttering fake sorrys numerous times but fail to respond & act.They refused to reveal contact details of senior personnel for me to contact directly. Set may be subjected to fiddling & tampering by technicians other than gathering dust. Radio,Auxiliary,MP3 & Pendrive modes were working fine.Only DVD section paralysed.Given to understand that said model was soon discontinued here due to random problems with many users as evident from several complaint sites on net. I feel disappointed & cheated with product & services & require suitable

replacement/refund immediately from Philips. Written several mails since June 23 but no positive response. Pl take up in the right earnest immediately with Philips & kindly send feedback for further suitable action on the erring MNC.

Answer by Consumermate:

This is a sheer case of breach of conditions on which the product was sold to you. You can avail the remedy in the consumer forum. But before that it is suggested to you that you should write a registered letter to the company and the dealer and raise your demand for what they have promised .In your letter refer all relevant details and brochure they provided to you in regard of your purchase. Just make sure you all the correspondence should be in the name of the person reflected in the invoice as the product was sold under a special offer for the student. I hope some sense will prevail over the company and they would look in to your grievances.

Time to spend

We're used to consuming free software and services and have taken many of these for granted. However, we also do have a responsibility in sustaining several of these noble services

Anoop Verma
readersletters@thinkdigit.com

It is difficult, if not impossible, for anyone to take a comprehensive conspectus of Internet, for the simple reason that the web-space continues to expand at an unimaginably explosive pace. Internet has percolated into every segment of life, making it imperative for us to be Internet savvy or risk being out of tune with latest happenings and trends. Our list of bookmarks keeps growing, as we discover new places and new software tools on the web that have the potential to enhance the quality of our lives. An unprecedented amount of information and services is available for free at the click of a mouse.

Many of these web-based entities consciously avoid the advertisement route for funding of their operations. They prefer to depend on donations. The message you get is that the focus is not on raking dollops of cash, but in providing genuine service. Maybe we should start donating as a gesture of support for the Good Samaritans, who are behind the free software and websites. In most cases, making donations is easy; you can transfer funds online in a secure manner. Of course, you are not obliged to make a donation, but if you do, then you garner the satisfaction of rewarding someone's good work.

What follows is an overview of web-sites and software that are not supported by any kind of fees or advertisements; their only source of revenue is donations.

Donationware

Spybot www.safer-networking.org/en/index.html

A malware attack is every PC user's worst nightmare. But many of us are often forced to forgo the protection, because anti-virus systems cost a bomb. However, now there is an alternative for users who wish to save their hard earned money, while doing something to protect their system from sudden attacks. The alternative is Spybot, a free and efficient tool to protect your PC. No one is obliged to give anything to Spybot; however, you can contribute to the cause by making small donations. This is how a punch line on the Spybot's home page goes, "If you don't feel like donating for software, think of it as buying us a drink!" If anything, you have to give these guys a credit not just for creating world-class software, but also for their superb sense of humour.

Socso

sockso.pu-gh.com

If you are deeply into music, then it is time you had your own music server. Enter Socso - the free Java based application, which will create a home music server for you in a matter of few steps only. After that your PC will become the medium through which music can be streamed, so that others around the world can happily tune in by using myriad web based technologies. The system can also prove beneficial when you have too many computer systems working at your home or office - you can have all the music files stored in one computer, while the other PCs and laptops can connect to it,

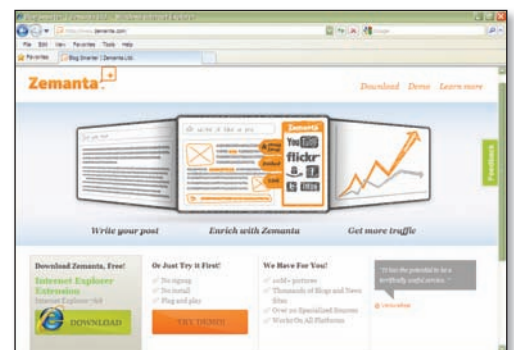


whenever they need to groove to a tune. That way you end up saving valuable disc space. The system will support music files of these types - MP3, OGG Vorbis, Flac and WMA.

Zemanta

www.zemanta.com

For many of us blogging has now become a way of life. But coming up with coherent, informative posts, which



are embellished with pertinent images and links, can turn out to be a cumbersome chore. How about having your own assistant to help you with your blogging activities! What you are looking for goes by the name of, Zemanta. This wonderful software is compatible with some of world's most popular blogging platforms, including Wordpress, Flickr, etc. Once you have installed it, as a plug-in to your favourite browser, Zemanta will work quietly in the background to ensure that you get easy access to relevant information pertaining to the blog post you are creating. Even if the software is for free, you can always pitch in with a donation.

Scratch

scratch.mit.edu

How about trying to create some animated cartoons, small video games or other

GNU Project

Richard Stallman initiated the GNU Project in 1984 with the aim of developing a sufficient body of free software by involving a team of volunteers around the world.

Open source licence

An open source licence is a copyright licence for computer software that allows users to modify and redistribute the original source code without having to seek permission from the original author

Touched by tech

interactive artworks! You can do all this, even if you don't know a bit of Flash and coding. All you need to do is visit this site: <http://scratch.mit.edu>. Scratch has a set of innovative tools through which people without any computer programming skills, and that means a vast majority of us, can create animations. Just download the free software from the site and get started. With its comprehensible menu based system, Scratch is eminently easy to use. You can either upload images from your own computer or you can use the ones that already exist in the Scratch library.

FastStone

www.faststone.org/index.htm

The advent of the digital age has surely made it easy for us to go on an image-capturing spree. So how many of these

which can be read on your PC, notebook, iPad, iPhone or any other portable device. Project Gutenberg could easily have made money by showing advertisements to users who access it for downloading free books. However, it continues to be a non-profit organization, which survives on donations. You can donate via your Paypal account or by sending a check or money order to the website's registered address in USA.

Internet Archive

www.archive.org/index.php

Ah nostalgia! Reminiscing the good old days is such an enjoyable way of passing time. How about reminiscing the websites, as they were two years or even a decade ago! What did Google look like 10 years ago, a period of time when the Internet was still in its Stone Age era?

Only Internet Archive has the answer.

The mission of the Internet Archive is to back up the entire Internet. As of now, it has more than 3 petabytes of information in its servers, that's 85 billion Web pages. A mind-boggling number, you have to agree! This website too relies on donations. You can donate through your credit card or through Paypal.

Kiva

www.kiva.org

This is one of those websites, which are dedicated to letting you pick up the role of a Good Samaritan. Out here you can do some micro lending of your own and contribute to the cause of alleviating poverty. There are so many people around the world who are in need of sums as small as \$25; Kiva introduces you to them. As of now the website claims to

have a default rate of less than 3%. In 97% of the cases, the lenders got their money back. Kiva is a charity and not a broker, so you don't get any interest on the money you have lent; what you do get is the feeling of having done something to help a fellow human being. Till November 2009, Kiva has facilitated loans of more than \$100 million.

MoodTurn

www.moodturn.com

When you are totally stressed about one thing or other, a tryst with MoodTurn might go a long way in helping you calm down. This is a website that promises to turn your mood by playing soothing music, which conjures visions of sublime nature, while visuals of a natural scene are playing on the screen. Developed by a 24-year-old Ramunas Geciauskas, who happens to be a computer programmer based in Lithuania, MoodTurn has already become a source of succour to thousands of stressed out employees. Once you have imbibed the soothing visuals and sounds, don't forget to reward the efforts of Ramunas Geciauskas, the man behind MoodTurn, by making a donation.

Craigslist

www.craigslist.org

The classifieds out here are divided into different categories. So if you are looking for a job in Bangalore, then you go to the Bangalore section of the website and there you have to browse through the jobs category. Much of the service that you get out here is free of cost, and the website is not averse to receiving donations from users. So if you have had a success through a Craigslist post, then you might go ahead and donate a small amount as a gesture of thanks.

Zwaggle

www.zwaggle.com

The truth is that most of us own items, which might not be of much use to us anymore. However, we have no idea how to donate these items to people who might be in need. That is where websites like Zwaggle comes in. Out here you can log in and find ways of giving away your superfluous items to the needy denizens of the world. **d**



images are of really good quality! You may not be able to shoot like a pro, but there are other ways by which you can enhance the quality of your pictures. For instance, there is the software called FastStone, which does just about everything you would expect from an image viewer. You can crop, resize, fix red-eye, adjust image tone and do much else. All this is available for free. However, if you wish, you can donate any sum that you can afford to spare.

Free Websites

Project Gutenberg
www.gutenberg.org

This is the website where e-book editions of over 33,000 books are available for free. The rigmarole of logging in and registering yourself has also been done away with, so you can just open the website and start downloading the e-books,



Get it working

To have this application work in a browser, use a simple Text Area component that renders basic HTML

Flash support

Flash Builder 4 has recently been updated to use the new Flex 4.1 SDK that adds support for Flash Player 10.1



Creating a simple RSS feed reader with Flash Builder 4

Most websites publish feeds of its content. Using feeds allows one to have a central place to receive all updates from web sites of their interest. By pulling such content into a desktop client, they get desktop notifications and can archive the feed contents if they want, and control how they consume the content. We'll explore how to create our own feed reader here.

We will write this application for Adobe AIR, not the Flash Player for the web. Adobe AIR includes the WebKit engine – the same engine that powers Google Chrome and Apple's Safari – so we can have an entire browser in our application. Including the browser component is simple – add a tag in our MXML code, and controlling it from your code is quite simple as well. We will make use of this feature displaying the feed content in a rich format. Since the WebKit engine isn't included in Flash Player, converting this application for use in a browser will not be a simple task, and will not be powerful enough.

First of all we will create the UI layout for the application, then we will add the code to make the application actually load the feed, display it and change the displayed article with changes in the list selection. Finally we will extend the application just a bit to give the user the option to view either the article summary / extract or the entire article at the original location.

Part 1: The UI

The UI of the application is quite simple. We have a text input box where the user can input the feed location, right next to which, is a button labelled "Load" for loading the feed into the application.

Below that is a List. The list will display the titles of all the items in the feed. Clicking on any item in the feed will display the extract in the area below.

Let us break down the UI. First we have a TextInput component placed in a horizontal layout with the "Load" button:

```
<s:HGroup width="100%">
  <s:TextInput id="feedUrl"
width="100%" />
  <s:Button id="loadFeed"
label="Load" />
</s:HGroup>
```

Notice that we have used the short form HGroup instead of creating a Group and setting its layout to Horizontal-Layout.

This composite of the TextInput for the feed URL and the "Load" button is then vertically aligned with the List and the WebKit Component. To do this we can set the layout of the entire application to VerticalLayout, and add the list and WebKit component both in the root of the application. The WebKit component can be included by using the HTML component.

Your final code should look something like the following:

```
<?xml version="1.0"
encoding="utf-8"?>
<s:WindowedApplication
xmlns:fx="http://ns.adobe.com/
mxml/2009"
xmlns:s="library://ns.adobe.
com/flex/spark"
xmlns:mx="library://ns.adobe.
com/flex/mx"

width="800" height="600"
>
<s:layout>
<s:VerticalLayout />
</s:layout>
<s:HGroup width="100%">
  <s:TextInput id="feedUrl"
width="100%" />
  <s:Button id="loadFeed"
label="Load" />
</s:HGroup>
<s:List id="feedItems"
width="100%" height="100%" />
```

```
<mx:HTML id="article"
width="100%" height="100%" />
</s:WindowedApplication>
```

Part 2: The functionality

Now we need to add some event handlers for the UI elements. We need to have the application start loading the URL when we click the "Load" button, so let's start there. Add a click handler for the "Load" button, as follows:

```
protected function loadFeed_
clickHandler(event:MouseEvent):
void
{
var ul:URLLoader =
new URLLoader();
ul.addEventListener
(Event.COMPLETE, onFeed
Loaded);
ul.load(new
URLRequest(feedUrl.text));
}
```

This function is doing the following:

1. var ul:URLLoader = new URLLoader();
This created a URLLoader, which will load the contents of our feed
2. ul.addEventListener(Event.COMPLETE, onFeedLoaded);
This adding an event handler to our URLLoader which will be called when the "COMPLETE" event occurs. This event occurs when it has completed loading the whatever URL is assigned to it.
3. ul.load(new URLRequest(feedUrl.text));
This line of code tells the URLLoader to actually start loading the URL we specify. We provide the URL to the URLLoader in the form of a URLRequest object which is assigned the URL of the feed the user entered in the text box (feedURL.text).

We will also create an object to store the data retrieved from the feed. Let us

On the move

A future version of the Flex 4 SDK will enable creating applications that are optimised to run on mobile

Develop for Android

There is a beta version of the AIR 2 SDK available which can generate Android apk packages from the Flex SDK

Developer corner

call it `feedData`. This will be an `XMLListCollection` object which can directly be used by our list later on.

```
[Bindable]
private var
feedData:XMLListCollection;
```

We are adding a metadata tag “Bindable” to this variable; this will tell Flex to generate code that will automatically update any components bound to this variable. This way whenever this `feedData` variable is changed so will the list displaying the data, with no effort on our part!

Now for the `onFeedLoaded` function that will be called when the feed is done loading:

```
private function
onFeedLoaded(event:Event):void
{
    var rssFeed:XML = XML((event.
target as URLLoader).data);
    feedData = new
XMLListCollection(rssFeed.
channel.item);
}
```

In this function:

1. `var rssFeed:XML = XML((event.target as URLLoader).data);`
The `event.target` element is the `URLLoader` object with which we loaded the feed. We are casting this as a `URLLoader` and accessing its data property, which has the raw feed data. This data is being cast as an XML object and stored in the `rssFeed` XML variable.

2. `feedData = new XMLListCollection(rssFeed.channel.item);`

Our bindable `feedData` variable is now being assigned a list of all the items in the RSS feed. The structure of the RSS has a root RSS element that includes one channel element with all our articles as item elements within. `rssFeed.channel.item` is thus a list of all the items in the RSS feed, and this is being wrapped into `XMLListCollection`.

We need to add a change handler to the List that will update the HTML component with article extract from the selected item in the list. The code for that is as follows:

```
protected function
```

```
feedItems_changeHandler(
event:IndexChangedEvent):void
{
    article.htmlText = feedItems.
selectedItem.description;
}
```

That's it! All we are doing is telling the WebKit engine added to the application using the HTML tag to use the content from the description property of the feed element selected in the `feedItems` list.


To tie everything in place, we need to add `labelField="title"` and `dataProvider="{feedData}"` to our list. The `labelField` attribute specifies that the “title” tag in the item element is what is to be displayed in the list. The `dataProvider` attribute binds the `feedData` variable as the data source of the list.

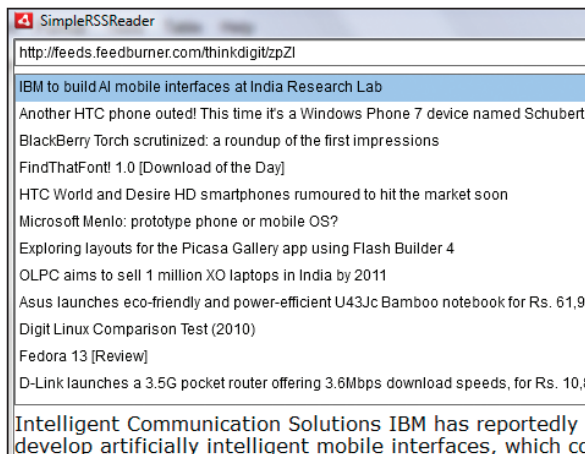
Here is what your final code should look like:

```
<?xml version="1.0"
encoding="utf-8"?>
<s:WindowedApplication
xmlns:fx="http://ns.adobe.com/
mx/2009"
xmlns:s="library://ns.adobe.
com/flex/spark"
xmlns:mx="library://ns.adobe.
com/flex/mx"
width="800" height="600"
>
<s:layout>
<s:VerticalLayout />
</s:layout>
<fx:Script>
<![CDATA[
import mx.collections.
XMLListCollection;
```

```
import spark.events.
IndexChangedEvent;
[Bindable]
private var
feedData:XMLListCollection;
protected function loadFeed_
clickHandler(event:MouseEvent):
void {
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channel.item);
}
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changeHandler(event:IndexChangedE
vent):void {
    article.htmlText = feedItems.
selectedItem.description;
}
]]>
</fx:Script>
<s:HGroup width="100%">
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width="100%" />
<s:Button id="loadFeed"
label="Load" click="loadFeed_
clickHandler(event)" />
</s:HGroup>
<s:List id="feedItems"
dataProvider="{feedData}"
labelField="title"
width="100%" height="100%"
change="feedItems_
changeHandler(event)" />
<mx:HTML id="article"
width="100%" height="100%" />
</s:WindowedApplication>
```

After this if you run the application, you will see a fully functional RSS reader which will display content from any RSS compliant feed.

Check out the extended version of this article online at http://www.thinkdigit.com/d/fb4_tut1_4 that adds two more features to this application. 



The UI for our RSS reader application.

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In this function:

1. `var rssFeed:XML = XML((event.target as URLLoader).data);`
The `event.target` element is the `URLLoader` object with which we loaded the feed. We are casting this as a `URLLoader` and accessing its data property, which has the raw feed data. This data is being cast as an XML object and stored in the `rssFeed` XML variable.

2. `feedData = new XMLListCollection(rssFeed.channel.item);`

Our bindable `feedData` variable is now being assigned a list of all the items in the RSS feed. The structure of the RSS has a root RSS element that includes one channel element with all our articles as item elements within. `rssFeed.channel.item` is thus a list of all the items in the RSS feed, and this is being wrapped into `XMLListCollection`.

We need to add a change handler to the List that will update the HTML component with article extract from the selected item in the list. The code for that is as follows:

```
protected function
```

```
feedItems_changeHandler(
event:IndexChangedEvent):void
{
    article.htmlText = feedItems.
selectedItem.description;
}
```

That's it! All we are doing is telling the WebKit engine added to the application using the HTML tag to use the content from the description property of the feed element selected in the `feedItems` list.


To tie everything in place, we need to add `labelField="title"` and `dataProvider="{feedData}"` to our list. The `labelField` attribute specifies that the “title” tag in the item element is what is to be displayed in the list. The `dataProvider` attribute binds the `feedData` variable as the data source of the list.

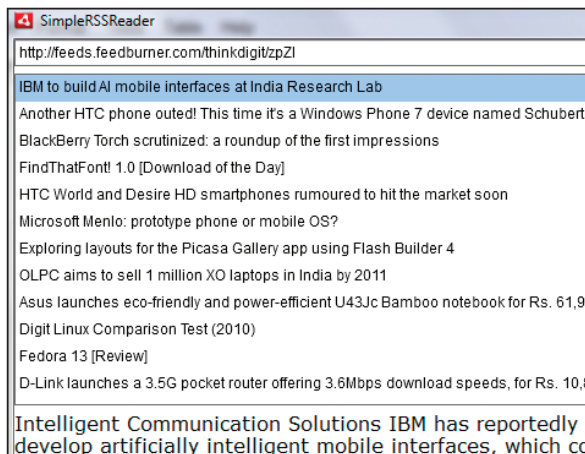
Here is what your final code should look like:

```
<?xml version="1.0"
encoding="utf-8"?>
<s:WindowedApplication
xmlns:fx="http://ns.adobe.com/
mx/2009"
xmlns:s="library://ns.adobe.
com/flex/spark"
xmlns:mx="library://ns.adobe.
com/flex/mx"
width="800" height="600"
>
<s:layout>
<s:VerticalLayout />
</s:layout>
<fx:Script>
<![CDATA[
import mx.collections.
XMLListCollection;
```

```
import spark.events.
IndexChangedEvent;
[Bindable]
private var
feedData:XMLListCollection;
protected function loadFeed_
clickHandler(event:MouseEvent):
void {
    var ul:URLLoader = new
URLLoader();
    ul.addEventListener(Event.
COMPLETE, onFeedLoaded);
    ul.load(new
URLRequest(feedUrl.text));
}
private function
onFeedLoaded(event:Event):void {
    var rssFeed:XML = XML((event.
target as URLLoader).data);
    feedData = new
XMLListCollection(rssFeed.
channel.item);
}
protected function feedItems_
changeHandler(event:IndexChangedE
vent):void {
    article.htmlText = feedItems.
selectedItem.description;
}
]]>
</fx:Script>
<s:HGroup width="100%">
    <s:TextInput id="feedUrl"
width="100%" />
    <s:Button id="loadFeed"
label="Load" click="loadFeed_
clickHandler(event)" />
</s:HGroup>
<s:List id="feedItems"
dataProvider="{feedData}"
labelField="title"
width="100%" height="100%"
change="feedItems_
changeHandler(event)" />
<mx:HTML id="article"
width="100%" height="100%" />
</s:WindowedApplication>
```

After this if you run the application, you will see a fully functional RSS reader which will display content from any RSS compliant feed.

Check out the extended version of this article online at http://www.thinkdigit.com/d/fb4_tut1_4 that adds two more features to this application. 



The UI for our RSS reader application.

Consumption vs. Creation

LG says that their tablet PCs would better the iPad as they would focus on content creation rather than mere consumption

Hit before launch

KTE the official service provider for iPhone 4 in S. Korea has booked more than 1,00,000 orders before its official release

Howzat?

From gaming to mobile transactions, technology has certainly come a long way. Not long ago, consumers were wary of financial transactions online. Two industry insiders share their side of the story with us...



We spoke to Yashraj Vakil, COO, Dream11.com, a fantasy cricket web site. He shared some details on how his site is different from the other game web sites around

You were the first to adopt Flex technology for online gaming...what advantages does it give you?

Flex is an open source framework which is used for building expressive web applications that make it much easier for people to view and interpret data. There have been some basic games and game engines developed, but seldom put to commercial use. This is the first and only time so far that a fantasy sports game is developed using this technology.

It is used at Dream11.com to build a rich yet light-weight user experience for playing fantasy cricket. Flex provides a much richer user experience when compared to any other text-based interface. With the help of this technology we have created the world's first graphical Fantasy Cricket game. Dream11.com has also been nominated for the best new fantasy sports web site award at Fantasy Sports Trade Association's (FSTA)

industry recognition awards. Founded in 1997, FSTA is the oldest and most prestigious non-profit fantasy sports trade body worldwide with members, which include CBS, ESPN, NBC and NFL.

What are the differences between public and private leagues?

A player can create his/her own league and ask other users to join their league. We have two kinds of Leagues: Public and Private. Public leagues are available to all users. One can search through a list of all public leagues on Dream11.com and join it without the requirement of any authorization. A user can also make a private league wherein he/she can invite selected

users by their choice. Private leagues are password protected, thus the owner must share the password with the people he wanted to invite to join the league. For both public and private you have the ability to invite whomever you choose by entering their email address or username.

Who develops the cricket games featuring on your site? Any tie-ups with other online gaming sites, like Zapak.com?

Dream11.com powers Fantasy Cricket and games for many websites such as Cricbuzz.com, Zeecric.com, Cricket-nirvana.com, One India, Indiatimes, Amar Ujala in India. Internationally Cricketworld.com in UK and BD News 24 use our Fantasy Cricket and casual games for their users. We are also the official Fantasy Cricket Game partner for the IPL team, Mumbai

Indians (www.mumbaiindians.com).

Our casual game Slumdog Cricketer was nominated at the FICCI BAF Awards 2009 in the Best Online Game Category.

How exactly do your users, the fantasy league gamers, benefit from playing on your site? What awards or prizes do you give out?

We always concentrate on giving handsome awards to players on our website. Players can win prizes every match based on their points as well as on aggregate total of points scored in each match during a particular tournament. Presently we are giving away cash prizes worth Rs. 50,000 for the Asia Cup. In the past we have given trips to South Africa, bikes, laptops and even Rs. 5 lakhs to the tournament champion of IPL.

How can a single team/user take part in different tours/leagues simultaneously? Shouldn't it be tour/league-based?

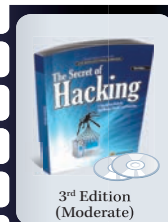
We give an option to our users to create separate teams for different tournaments and each of these will have a separate leaderboards and prizes associated with them. We try to give our users the flexibility to play different tournaments simultaneously and choose the tournament they would like to play.

How does the bank balance system work? How do teams gain money?

Every team is given a 100 crores budget within which the user needs to make this team. The measurements are co-related as user gains money on the basis of the player's performance on the field in reality. Basically, we award the smarter users who chose a performing player and penalize users who have chosen an under performing player. As the value of the team goes up the user has higher spending power and can buy bigger names playing the tournament. This is team value. Points on the other hand determine the leaderboard and winner eventually. **d**

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End of Legend?

Within months of release HTC plans to discontinue the Legend as it cannot accumulate enough resources to mass produce the phone especially its screen

What an idea!

People in India don't seem to be excited about the possibility of financial transactions over a mobile phone. What different are you doing for spreading awareness on this?

It is a misconception that Indians aren't excited about mobile payments. We have launched a pilot in Pune this year and the response was overwhelming. People from all age-groups are welcoming the concept of mobile payments as it makes their life easier. Increasingly with increasing mobile phone penetration, people are getting technology savvy and can maneuver their way easily.

Also technology providers should understand that their applications should be easy and not complicated. The more the number of complications, lesser will be the popularity of the service. It has been a comparatively easy job in spreading the awareness on mobile payments. RBI has been very encouraging and so have been the banks. In Pune to increase awareness of mobile payments, we have tied-up with almost 200 merchants and 49 utility billers. Hence these tie-ups help us in propagating our service.

How different is your product than similar ideas in the past that were launched?

Unlike all mobile payment platforms, Obopay's platform is universal in nature. It is platform agnostic and hence can work on any mobile handset, service provider and financial institution. It works on all forms including SMS IVR, External Application download and Mobile Web Browser. The Obopay application can be downloaded on an ultra low cost handset and can also be accessed via the internet for high-end phones. Hence the type of phone / service provider or the financial institution is not a barrier.

Comment on the security aspect of mobile transactions. What are the implications of losing your cellphone that is linked to your bank account? How are your customers safe?

Obopay takes the security of each account holder very seriously. All Obopay accounts are protected against unauthorized transactions and use advanced encrypted security technology whenever possible to prevent unauthorized access to account holder data. Also the process is secured via 2-Factor authentication and hence every account holder has to log-in with a password which will be authenticated by the technology present at the back-end.

When using the Obopay India service, protection against unauthorized use is provided through PIN-based authentication. Users must enter the PIN when sending or requesting money using Obopay India service from their mobile phones.

Additionally, all data transmitted via the Obopay India service is protected by advanced security technology against unauthorized access. To provide this level of security, Obopay India uses multiple layers of advanced encryption algorithms so that transmitted data cannot be intercepted or compromised. Encryption technology is used for securing transactions between the mobile application and a user's bank account and for securing data transmissions over the cellular network.

Thus, the chances of theft are almost nil. Basis these procedures, the only lag would be consumers end and even the



In our Independence special, we pondered on the possibility of mobile transactions. We believe this could help us solve the biggest threat our nation faces – corruption, by way of eliminating the need to transact in currency notes. We spoke to Deepak Chandnani, President, Obopay – one such company that holds promise to our dream!

chances for that would be minimum.

We have taken the responsibility of educating people on how to use Obopay to reduce any mistakes in transactions and have tried to keep the software as simple as possible.

There was a commercial of a popular mobile service provider that promoted the idea of vegetable vendors being paid by way of an SMS. Is India prepared for the idea?

Yes definitely. In fact one of the ways people can transact is by using SMS. This is the simpler way and applications using SMS can work on low-end phones as well. It will also be more popular since not many Indians are connected to the internet and might not know the way to transact using a mobile web browser. **d**

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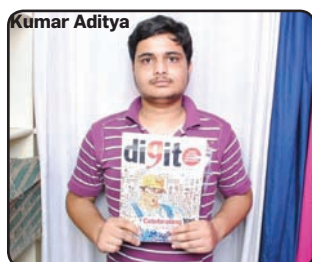


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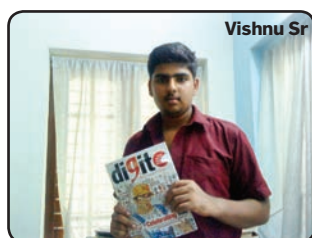
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Congratulations!



We thank you for waiting patiently. We've all had a wonder time with CTC II. For all those who kept waiting, here are the winners.



	Name	Prize
1st Place	Kishan Bagaria	Amkette Flash TV
2nd Place	Devrath N D	Amkette Wireless Keyboard
Best Picture	Rajat Kapoor	Amkette Flash TV
Consolation Prizes	Jarnail Singh Gill	Strontium Pen Drives
	Vinod Surendran	
	Vishnu Sr	
	Dibyendu Paul	
	Abhineet Mittal	
	Amol Basurkar	
	Viraniac Virus Maniac	
	Nithish R	
	Basil Joseph	
	Yash Jetwani	
	Rohan Kwatra	
	Kumar Aditya	



120 MP sensor

Canon recently unveiled a 120 MP DSLR sensor

LinuxShark

15 year old Digit reader Arit Chaudhary has come up with his own Linux Distro. Find it on the Playware DVD

Community

Become a certified ethical hacker

Thanks to the popular portrayal of hackers as young immoral computer experts associated with nearly any possible illegal and immoral activity that can be conducted through a computer, we see hackers are outlaws of cyberspace, out to steal passwords, or get access to your bank account and steal money.

In reality, however, a hacker is someone who is curious about the working of computers and software. Often, instead of simply accepting things the way they are, they will look for ways to make things work the way they want. Hacking has been

so misrepresented in the mass media that people have had to coin another term "ethical hacking" just to be clear.

With the sudden boom in Information Security, hot jobs with lucrative pay packets are opening up. According to NASSCOM findings, India & USA will require at least 85,000 ethical hackers every year. Unfortunately, only 25,000 have become qualified in the past 5 years. Digit has partnered with Leo Impact, and members of the Digit Community would get an exclusive discount of Rs. 2000 on the course. Visit www.thinkdigit.com/ceh for more info.



To quench your irresistible desire to learn ethical hacking, we recommend the Fast Track to Ethical Hacking from the June 2010 issue

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Cryptomania

Abhineet Mittal one of the winners of CTC II got so inspired that he has come up with his own game. Check it out at <http://cryptomania.co.cc/>

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TechKranti

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The Digit Editorial team has picked up a few useful suggestions and green ideas from the



community, to make an eBook which the [ithinkgreen](http://ithinkgreen.com) members can use and share with their friends. Visit thinkdigit.com/greenguide to get your copy of Green Guide, absolutely free.

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September 2010



Digit is taking interactivity to a new level, and will be organising events every month. You get to meet and interact with people that you wouldn't in the normal course of your life — industry experts, Team Digit, and other readers with similar interests. Stay updated and stay ahead of the curve by looking for this page in every month's magazine.

1 Webinar

Basics of Electronics

We have been doing a lot of electronics related DIYs/Workshops lately, and in the process showing you how to make your own little gadgets; from pocket pianos to insect repellants and many more. But fiddling around with capacitors, resistors and soldering irons is not everyone's cup of tea. So as always we're here to help. In this webinar we'll introduce you to the basics of electronics and help you catch up with everything from understanding circuit diagrams to building your own projects and have fun with hobby electronics. Join us for this exciting novice level webinar and be on your way to becoming an electronics wiz.

For details on upcoming webinars and to view past webinars, visit thinkdigit.com/webinars

Windows Phone SDK

Windows Phone 7 SDK official launch date set to 16th September 2010

553 days in space

Bacteria is said to have lasted 553 days in space under harsh conditions

Unwind

Super suits of Super Villains

These guys are the worst of the lot. They exist to do one thing that is to create havoc, ruin cities and its people and finally rule the world/universe. But they can't do it without their special power suits which enables them to give a tough time to the hero, these bad ass villains equipped with their deathly weapons tear the superhero apart before finally losing the battle. Here's a look at some of the best in business super villain suits.

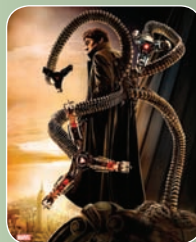
Darth Vader

This dark super villain of the galaxy wears an armored suit which is almost like a life support system for him. Made of plastoid girdle, the suit protects vital organs of this villain. The chest of the suit has a computerised control panel to monitor and control the suit. If you don't know who Darth Vader is, follow the Star Wars series.



Dr. Octopus

This creepy crawler is an arch enemy of Spiderman. The suit is controlled using mental abilities which Dr. Otto Gunther Octavius achieved during his nuclear experiment accident. The four tentacle arms are made of titanium steel that can be used to grope and also destroy objects. They come in handy while climbing tall skyscrapers. Each of these arms can lift three tons in weight!



Whiplash

Whiplash is a creation of Marvel comics and has been popularised by the movie Iron Man. Powering Whiplash's suit is a similar



arc reactor that juices up Iron Man. Using the power of the suit, Whiplash unleashes electrically charged lashes that destroy everything around him. He can also kill impostors.

Mr. Freeze

Also known as Victor Fries or Victor Freeze, he is a creation of DC comics. Batman's arch nemesis Mr. Freeze likes to freeze everything around him. His suit has special helmet which protects Mr. Freeze when he decreases everything around him to sub zero temperatures. Special weapon of his suit is his hand held cold gun which he uses to unleash his wrath.

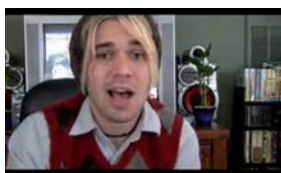
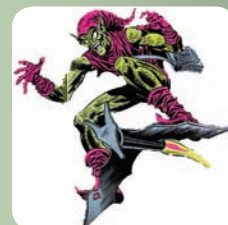


Black Spider Suit

The alien costume transforms Spider Man into a ravaging, ruthless monster. This black suit takes over its host and has the ability to control the victim's mind and make him do some evil menacing things.

Green Goblin

Flying on his Goblin Glider with Pumpkin bombs in hand is another menacing villain, The Green Goblin. His main weapon in his suit is the glider that he controls with his mental abilities. The glider houses a host of weapons and machine guns to choose from, and flies at a max speed of 140 kmph.



Longest & Shortest Video

True to his name, Charles Trippy does trippy things. He is the one responsible for creating the longest and shortest video on Youtube. the videos don't have any entertaining content in them. He has just uploaded them to make a record of sorts.

The longest video goes on for a mammoth 9 hours 15 minutes and the shortest one lasts for a second as anything less than that would merely flicker on the screen and wouldn't even catch your eye. Although, his longest video was in fact the longest, several guys have uploaded longer videos, some even going to 13 hours and one even touching 42!



Funny error message.

Above screenshot says

An error occurred while displaying the previous error

Another acquisition

Farmville Zinga has acquired Conduit Labs and is rumored to be largest deal in the social gaming industry

Facebook on jailbroken iPhones

A new version of Facebook 3.2.2 is out, and is specially designed for jailbroken iPhone 4

Stupid Tech

At one side, where technology is making our everyday life easier and smarter there are hoards of people who make stupid technology glitches or ask dumb questions. People even design concepts and prototypes of ridiculous objects. The fun part is even Hollywood sci-fi flicks depict stupid technology codes and techniques.

Pointless tech



A camera mounted on the head of a hammer of all things?



It reads your pulse and informs you when you're dead!

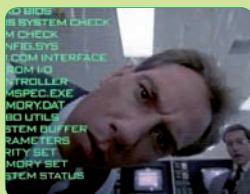


This tape dispenser tells you the exact inches of tape you use

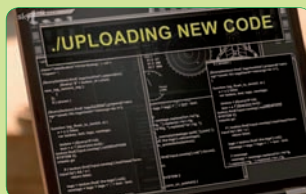
Dumb Questions

- Friend: "Does Windows 98 support Linux?"
- Customer: "Do you sell Mac OS X for Windows?"
- Friend: "Hey, cool Mac! Does it have Windows!?"
- Me: Pause
- Friend: "Oh, wait, that was stupid. All Macs have Windows."

In the movies



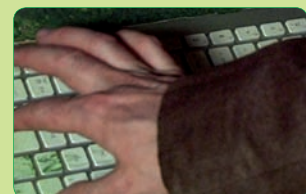
Ever wondered what juices up RoboCop for his fight against crime and notorious criminals. The code that he sees on his HUD is MS DOS. Sure to make people jump at Microsoft office



A TV series has a scene of missile guidance system operated from a laptop in one of the episodes. Funnily, when the camera pans to the laptop you see Java script code for Wordpress



The code appearing on the left side of the T101 (played by Arnold Schwarzenegger) in the Terminator series is actually the assembly code for an Apple II machine



Dr. Who (British sci-fi series) is sent 50,000 years ahead into the future where they still use Apple keyboards, lol! Probably the team comprised Apple fan boys

How we unwind

500 Days of Summer

This out of the box romantic comedy isn't your everyday average love story. The narration and flow of the film doesn't go about in a chronological manner, rather the scenes and events are shown according to days (500) which too are shown in random order. The film's style has a fresh new approach which leaves you entertained and with a feeling of time well spent.



With Teeth

This album is Nine Inch Nails fifth studio release. Following NIN's style of Industrial/Alternative Rock genre this album came out in 2005 after a gap of five years as band's frontman Trent Reznor was struggling with substance abuse in between. The album tracks feature new sounds, experimental and progressive music style is used which is typical NIN way of doing things.



Red Dead Redemption

We tried our hands on Rockstar Games latest offering Red Dead Redemption. The look and feel of the game is exactly like any GTA title but the sandbox environment is well laid and seems never ending, but you cannot venture out deep into the waters because the game's protagonist cannot swim reminding you of Tommy Vercetti of Vice City.



Well to start off, this month was marred by bad weather and people falling ill, two of our team members too succumbed to ill health. Leaving that aside, loads of good things happened in the office. Firstly, our team expanded by three new members. We wish them luck! Ahmed is back to the city and now would be operating from Mumbai. He's finally let go of his iPhone for the Samsung Galaxy S. We also shortlisted the winners of CTCII and looked at some really creative pictures of the winners holding their favourite magazine! In the meanwhile, Vijay has been resembling the laughing Buddha in his own way! Kareena has been growing, and has started following us downstairs after work. She says hi, err... meow to each one of you...

HP WebOS tablet

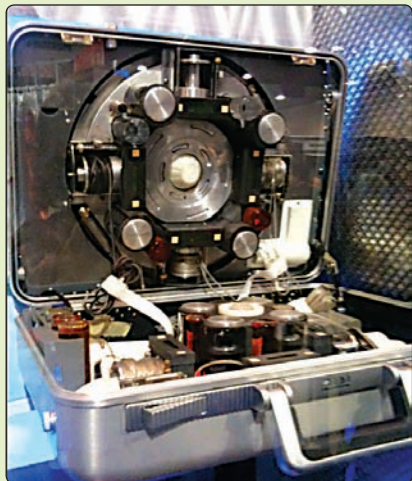
HP rumoured to launch a WebOS powered tablet in 2011

Blackpad OS

BlackBerry's Blackpad to use software created by a company called QNX instead of their new BlackBerry OS

Unwind

Decoding the Pasiv Device



For all those of you wondering what a Pasiv device is, what it does, and how to use it? Here are the answers- first of all the Pasiv device is not some alien technology which crashed in the grand canyon along with some meteor showers, it actually is the silver briefcase thingy which people carry around to use as the main device and controller to enter into the world of dreams, yes you guessed it right this Pasiv device was last seen in the movie Inception. The Pasiv expands as Portable Automated Somnacin Intravenous. Its a highly complex machine hidden inside a simple plain looking briefcase. Here's a deconstruction of this machine to really know if we are in dream land or reality. The briefcase body is made of titanium alloy. Here's a look at the specs:

- 12' lines can accommodate upto 4 people to enter into the world of dreams

- Lithium iodide batteries juice up this device and provides usage for 200 hours.

- LED Timer display - accurate upto 1/100th of second

- Manual Valve - to be used in case of power interruption

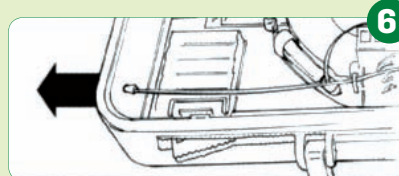
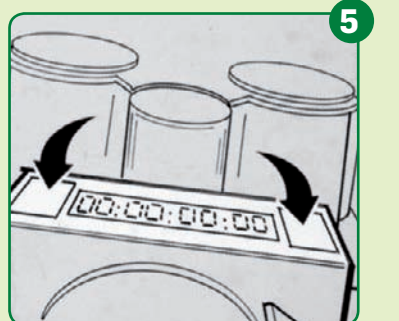
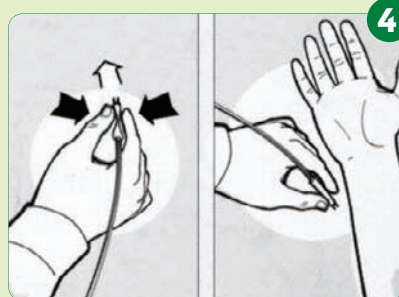
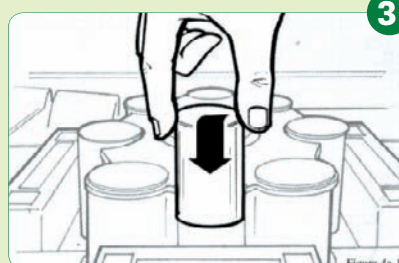
- Injection activation trigger (placed in the middle of the of the case) sits inside an airtight flange this button enables infusion.

How it works

The case opens by unlocking a special code combination, a corresponding LED light glows indicating that the case is now open. See figure 1. The base of the briefcase is where the main machine is located, this is from where the dream sharing world is initiated. See figure 2. The injection activation trigger. As you can see in figure 3, it should be inserted with the lines connected to the trigger and drawing out of it into the wrist of the traveller. See Figure 4. In order to enter more than one dream level, the chemical dosage can be increased by pressing these two buttons at the same time. See figure 5.

Towards the left side of the briefcase is where lines are stored. See figure 6.

To finally begin on the journey press the activation trigger, but don't forget to take your totem with you.



Note: The first thing to be taken care of before beginning infusion is to place the Pasiv on a clean stable surface, probably in the center of all the users so that the lines can be drawn out conveniently. Next up is to insert the needle in the travellers wrist and finally press the trigger button to begin the joy ride.

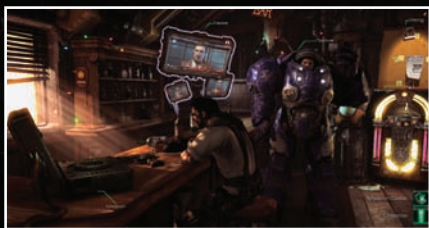
Image courtesy: pasivdevice.org

HALO leaked

Halo has been leaked before it's ready to release

Microsoft messenger

Microsoft messenger users can now chat with Facebook users, it's the only messenger directly connects to Facebook chat



Life at Mar Sara



Starcraft II's isometric perspective

Genre: RTS

Studio: Blizzard Entertainment

Publisher: Activision

*Platforms: Windows, Mac OSX

Exploring Zerg's terrain

Fans of Blizzard games have been waiting with bated breath ever since *StarCraft II* was officially announced back in 2007. Blizzard has a unique reputation in the ever-shrinking world of PC games development. Hence, news of a new project – outside of WoW – was enough to induce bouts of hysteria, even if one is not necessarily a big fan of RTS genre.

Raynor's crusade

StarCraft II is set merely four years after the incidents in the Brood Wars, which means that most of the characters from the original game are still around. Jim Raynor is a fugitive from the law and he is gathering force and resources to give a fitting reply to Mengk's betrayal, which led to Kerrigan's transformation into the Queen of Blades. Joining him on his mission are other returning characters like Tycus and Zeratul. Entwined with Raynor's quest for vengeance, is the ever increasing threat from Kerrigan's brood that looks poised to overwhelm all other life in the universe. While Kerrigan and Mengk strive for dominance, Raynor is torn between his hatred for Mengk and his love for Kerrigan.

Solo Campaign

StarCraft II single-player campaign pans across several planets – some of which are new to the series while others will be familiar to those who have played the original game. Each mission has one or more primary objectives and may also have several bonus objectives.

Completing bonus mission is either rewarded by credits or by research points. Credits are used for multiple purposes – from hiring mercenary groups to

fight by your side, to purchasing permanent upgrades for buildings and units. Zerg and Protoss research points can also be earned during certain single-player missions and these can be used to unlock powerful upgrades for your existing units and building, or they can be used to unlock entirely new units.

At any given point in the game, there can be several missions available and these can be attempted in any order. Also at certain points during the campaign, the player needs to make a choice between two missions and this choice takes the storyline on a slightly different trajectory. The missions themselves have enough variety – either in terms of specific challenges or the planets' terrain – to keep things fresh and interesting right until the end. *StarCraft II* also has a few Protoss missions and this helps in breaking the monotony of Terran missions. The only major gripe we have about the single-player campaign is that it has an inconclusive and underwhelming ending.

After beating the single-player campaign, players can choose to replay missions on higher difficulties or attempt the mission again to earn any locked achievement points. Besides this, there is also a challenge mode that works like rock-paper-scissors and helps the player analyze the effectiveness of one unit type against another.

Battle on the net

For many, *StarCraft II* is all about multiplayer face-offs and they couldn't care less about the single-player campaign. Blizzard's lauded Battle.net system has received a major overhaul to accommodate contemporary features and improvement of familiar features.

StarCraft II features a multiplayer practice league which is essentially a series of unranked competitive matches meant as practice to hone your skills. And then of course there are the ranked matches – the big leagues of competitive multiplayer matches. Winning games and meeting certain objectives rewards the player will achievement points and rank-points. In our experience so far, Battle.net has performed admirably – able to find accurate matches quickly. The matches themselves were pretty smooth and entirely lag-free. However, we should point out that we are yet to engage in frantic online battles with large armies facing each other off.

Sum of all parts

The game's war-rules are fundamentally the same – securing mineral and vespene gas deposit are keys to sustaining an army. Efficiently wiping out the opposing army or enduring attacks – is down to knowing units' weaknesses and abilities.

Single-player experience was largely an enjoyable experience and apart from the unsatisfactory conclusion, we do not have any major complaints. On the multiplayer front however, it could be a different situation all together. I am not someone who often participates in multiplayer over the Internet, so my expectations maybe a lot different from someone who spends most his game-time in the cyberspace.

If one looks beyond some of the inexplicable and annoying business decisions, they may find a pretty solid game in *StarCraft II*. However, looking beyond these issues may warrant a big heart and deep pockets. **d**

Samsung BD-C8000

Samsung BD-C8000 is up coming with world's first portable 3D Blu-ray player

Nokia N900

Nokia N900 phone does face tracking for verification

Game review

Quake

is a series developed by iD Software, which has become synonymous with intense multiplayer action, and like *Unreal Tournament*, has given people a real taste for deathmatches and capture the flag games. Though the four-game series focussed on a story that followed a *Doom*-like marine protagonist fighting against alien monsters known as the Strogg, *Quake III Arena*, the least story-centric and the

a wide list of characters and species in the game settings, and are able to customise your railgun colour as well as team colour. There are hundreds of arenas, divided over the five match types: Free For All (Deathmatch), Capture The Flag, Clan Arena, Team Deathmatch, and Duel.

You can choose to play as a beginner, and if you are still unsure, you can either watch video tutorials in the Training Center, or Practice against computer controlled opponents.



Genre: FPS

Studio: iD Software

*Platforms: PlayStation 3, Xbox 360

Price: ₹1,999

Hop, skip & jump

most tournament-driven game of the four, is the most similar to *QuakeLive*.

Free-to-play and freshly out of beta (for Windows and Linux, Mac is still in beta), *QuakeLive* is a browser based (Firefox or Internet Explorer) first person multiplayer shooter that lets you pit your skills against players all over the world. Don't let the fact that there are countless deathmatch veterans out there daunt you...you can choose your match according to your skill level: Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced.

Surprisingly easy to setup, you should be up and running (from registration to playing) in less than twenty minutes, including downloading the browser plugin and game data, if you have a relatively decent net connection. What was definitely the most pleasant surprise of the setup were the very decent ping times of 7-20ms, even playing in a US based match.

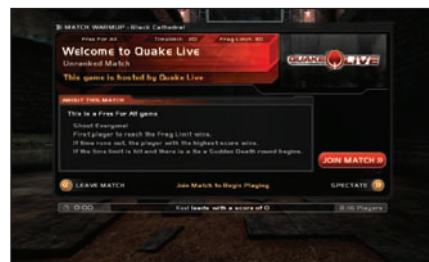
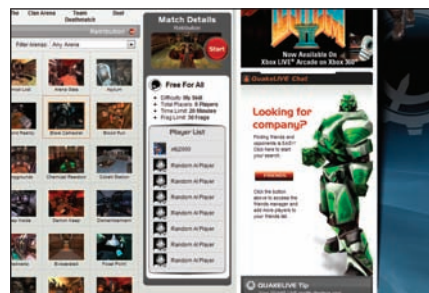
As for graphics, the game doesn't bring anything much newer than *Quake IV* or *Enemy Territories: Quake Wars* into the frame, but you can be assured of smooth graphics, with nary an 8-bit texture to remind you of those square pixel days. *QuakeLive* allows you to play in windowed or full screen mode, supporting resolutions as high as your graphics card can support i.e. 2560x1600. However, expect ping times to increase dramatically if you bulk up the graphics.

The controls are all user-defined, and the gameplay remains the same: multiplayer mayhem! You can choose your player from

If you missed out on the Quake movement over the years, here's your chance to catch up for free – online

On the whole, with its browser-based action, easy setup, simple interface, wide scale of graphics, and no-hassle match joining, *QuakeLive* is quite simply the easiest to connect multiplayer FPS you can play online, and in fact, might be the least troublesome online gaming experience you can find. If you do face any networking or game-related problems though, iD Software has a whole team waiting to help you out, who can be contacted by online form. *QuakeLive* also has an online community system, which allows you

to discuss, challenge or share amongst your online acquaintances and friends. Log on to *QuakeLive* at www.quakelive.com. **d**



Genre: Simulation
Studio: Virtual Heroes,
 Army Game Studio
Publishers: NASA
Platform: Windows

Moonbase Alpha is developed by NASA and you play an "astronaut working to further human expansion and research." Unlike most games, there are no extraterrestrial locations, no monsters, your "enemies" are the forces of the universe and time itself. Your "weapons" are the tools of any astronaut's trade, a welding machine, a wrench... Fortunately, in space no one can hear you yawn.

The Moonbase Alpha game story is a set in the near future, the year 2025, shortly after the standardisation of HTML5 – just kidding! In 2020, NASA begins construction of a lunar base at the south pole of the Moon. In 2025, when the game is set, the lunar base has just become self-sustaining, and everything is set for further expansion

to "other areas of the Moon, to Mars and beyond."

Your aim is to repair the damage to your station's power supply before Oxygen runs out. You accomplish this by hobbling along at a realistically depicted, yet annoyingly slow pace carrying one tool at a time to weld power couplers, secure cables, repair solar panels, use a robot to repair the life support systems and use rovers to transport equipment and people. A welding mini-game launches each time you start a repair.

The game is designed around a multi-player experience, and you can join public games on the intranet, or those created by your friends, LAN gaming is another option. Moonbase Alpha can as easily be played single player as it can be played in a multi-player game. When you choose to create a new game, you get an option to select the settlement size based on the number of players playing (1-2, 3-4, 5-6). You can play in both a "Competitive Mode" which poses a time limit and improves your stats, or a free play mode. You can create a password protected game, or

play in offline mode.

The game graphics are nice, with each footstep you take leaving impressions on the lunar soil, however the game has little in the way of sound. Understandable since you are in space. The voice acting for the short cinematic sequence in the beginning of the game is rather dull, and emotionless. The team at Moonbase Alpha tells talks about their impending deaths from suffocation a little too matter-of-factly.

Somewhere deep down we think this game was meant to inspire people and interest them in the wonders of space, but the fact is, unless you are already interested you're just likely to get bored. Let us end this by saying something which might seem very contrary to the impression we have built up till now: Moon Base Alpha is a brilliant game. If you are one of the few people who are attracted to space for what it is, a vast expanse of stuff waiting for exploration; which is likely to be a slow, redundant, and trying process, you may enjoy this game immensely. **d**

**LUNAR PERIL:
 DUTY CALLS**

We waited for the alien attack, but it never came,
 then I waited for the machine uprising, but no cake.
 What is it about a game that you expect a constant
 state of doom?



How to partition your hard drive?



What is a partition?

If you're new to the field of computers, these are some of the questions you'd be asking your acquaintances. A disk partition or disk division is performed to manage all your documents, media, and valuable data in such a manner so that you don't lose any of your stuff in the event of a crash. This makes your data classified in separate drives avoiding any duplication and accidental loss. Okay enough with the all serious 'definition' of what's what!. The name 'disk partition' is self explanatory to understand what it is. Still, average PC users find it difficult to go about with whole procedure.

Most users use an XP machine so lets look at a simpler way of dividing these siamese twins to put them for a better use.

How to do it?

No matter how you plan to partition your hard drive, a part of it has to be dedicated for your operating system. In this case all your system files (those which run your PC) program files (files belonging to software that you install) will be saved. It is advised that you do not store or install any unwanted/experimental data here because it's from here that you run your system. You shouldn't be messing around with it. Let's take a look at how you could partition your disk on new installations, and then how you could add a second hard disk to your existing system.

For new installations

Insert the operating system setup CD or DVD in your drive. You might be prompted to remove this CD/DVD and insert additional disks during installation depending on the kind of disk you are using. Restart your PC to begin with the setup program. The setup will detect that XP is already installed on the system and would ask if you want to repair it. Bypass this step by pressing Esc, on the top left of your keyboard.

A list of all existing disks partitioned or non partitioned will appear use the arrow key to move on and select the desired disk. Use the following keys to go around with the partitioning business: C - if you want to create a new partition on a non partitioned disk space

D - if you wish to delete any existing partition press L to confirm deletion

Enter Key - Use the enter key to create partition with the maximum size. Type the desired size in MB to specify the size of partition

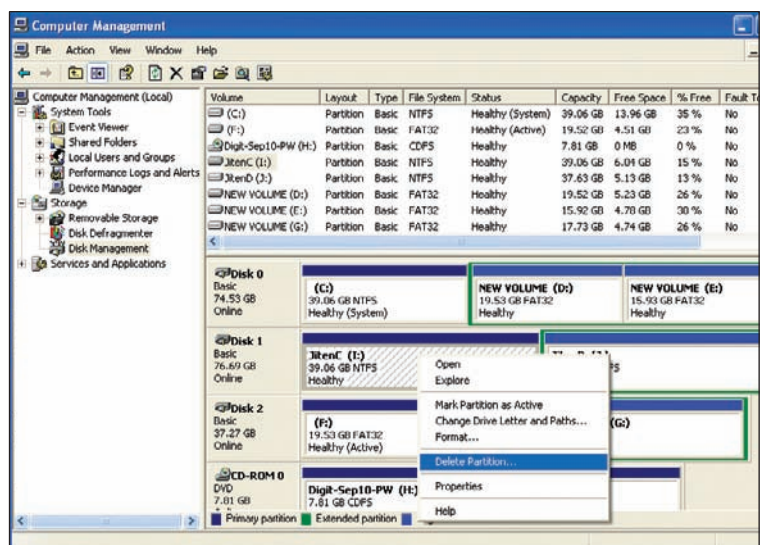


Remember that you should delete any existing partitions on a disk space if you want to create new partition/partitions in that particular space. Continue with the installation once you have made your partition settings.

Adding a hard drive

If you have installed a new hard drive in your system you might want to create partitions in it this is how you do it. Open Control panel, select classic view to list all the icons, click on Administrative Tools then select Computer management upon clicking this option a popup window will appear. On the left side of this window expand the Storage option and select Disk Management. The following popup window will appear.

From this window you can simply right click on the desired/new drive, and add, delete, format according suiting your needs.^[d]



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